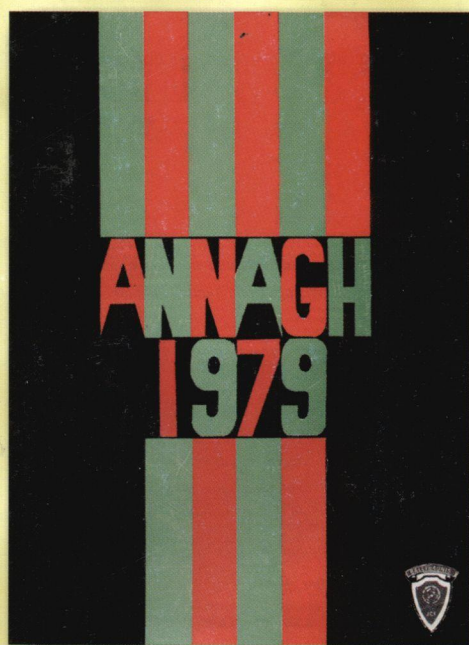
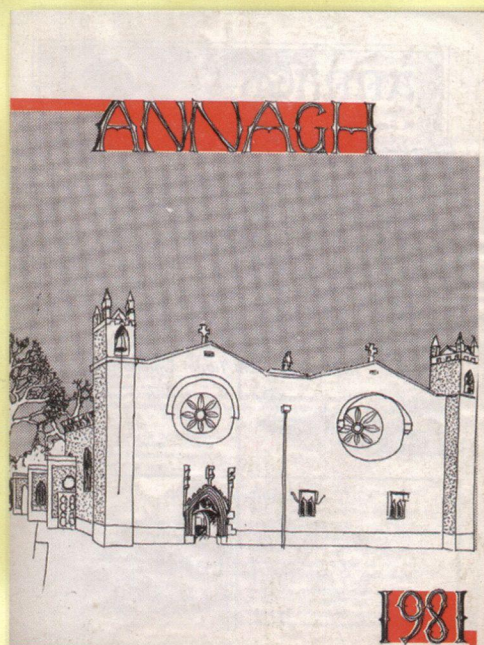
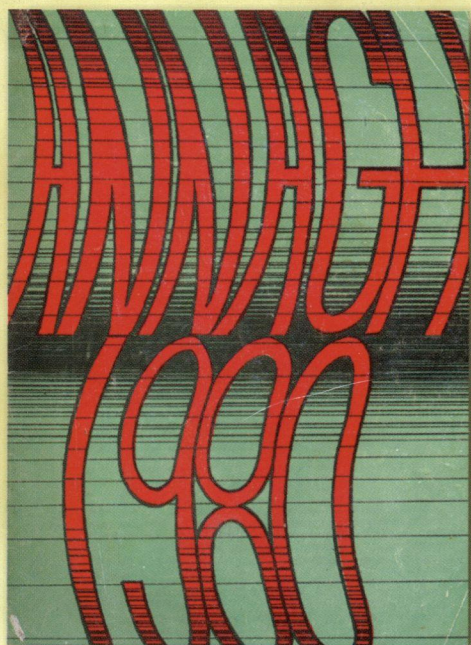


2002 Annagh



25th
Annual
Edition



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

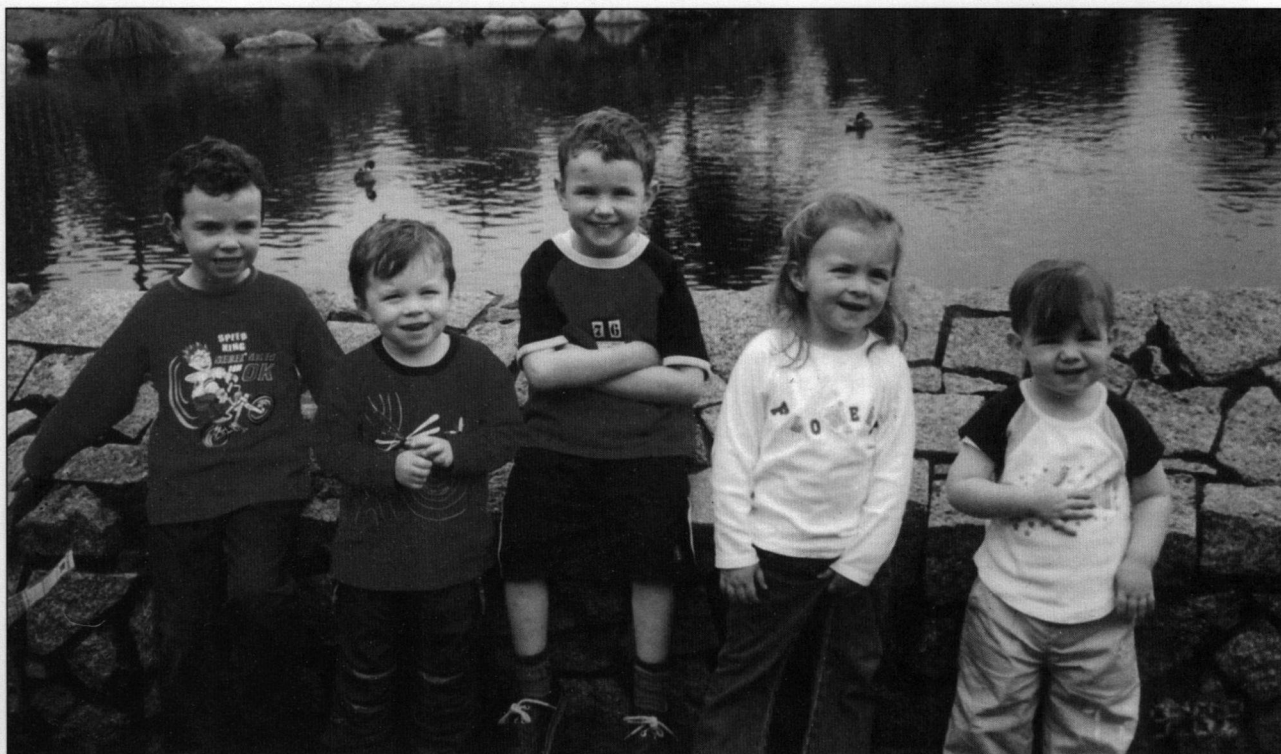
Annagh Magazine celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the present committee and all past committees on the wonderful work they have done over the past twenty-five years in producing such a high-class parish magazine. Through Annagh Magazine, Ballyhaunis people all over the world have been able to keep in touch with home through photographs, articles and news items. It has always meant a lot to them and I'm sure they are saying, "Well done, keep up the good work".

As always, many changes take place in a parish each year: babies are born, people die, newcomers arrive and some leave. This year we said goodbye to the last Augustinian Friars to minister in the Friary and on my own behalf, and on behalf of the parish, I want to wish Fr. Aidan O'Leary and Fr. Pearse O'Mahony and all Augustinian Friars who have ministered in Ballyhaunis, every blessing and every happiness in their new appointments.

Christmas is a time of coming together, a time of remembering, but above all, a time to celebrating and giving thanks for the birth of Jesus. At the Christmas Masses, we will remember and pray for all Ballyhaunis people, both at home and abroad. We will pray that God will bless you and keep you and your families safe from all harm and sickness, and may He grant the happiness of heaven to all your loved ones who have died, especially those who died in the past year.

I wish you all a very happy and hold Christmas; may the New Year bring you peace and joy and may the Lord give you every blessing now and always.

Joseph Cooney
Fr. Joseph Cooney, P.P.



A Day in Dublin Zoo, July 2002. L-R: Seán Herr, Liam Herr, Matthew Grogan, Aibhínn Herr and Michelle Grogan

CONTENTS

Editorial		3
Enamoured of the Written Word	Joan O'Malley	4
Childhood Memories of Lecarrow	John A. Murphy	5
A Few Good Young Men	Mike Finnerty	7
Oh What A Year	Martin Fitzmaurice	10
Engineering The Future	Peter McHugh	12
Gracenotes	Tina Kirrane	16
Ballyhaunis and Guilers Celebrate Twenty Years of Friendship	Bernard Freyne	17
Handing Over The Reins	James Cribbin	17
The Parish Church in the 1940's	Fr. Kieran Waldron	18
Ballyhaunis I.C.A.	Maura Fitzmaurice	21
So, Spillane Is Human After All	Murt Hunt	22
The Distant Drums	Siobhan Byrne	26
Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club	Mary Prenty	28
The Light Goes Out on The Friary Hill	Paul Waldron	35
Coolnafarna Centenarian		37
That Was The Year That Was	Mike Byrne	38
Remembering Ballyhaunis	John O'Connor O.S.A.	41
A Ballyhaunis Man	John McNicholas	45
Áras C.L.G. Chonnachta	Michael Byrne	48
The Birth and Growth of Annagh Magazine	Jim London	49
Moirá Retires	Michael Byrne	51
The Annagh Year	Paul Waldron	53
1952 Minor Title for Ballyhaunis	Malachy Nally	55
Ballyhaunis Parent and Toddler Group	Stella Walsh	56
Early Forays Around The Road	Frank Greally	57
Annagh Parish in 1901, Part Three		60
Golden Memories, Part Two	Agnes Heaney	70
Ballyhaunis A.B.C.	Mary Murphy	72
Ballyhaunis Bridge Club	Rita London	72
International Acclaim For Ballyhaunis Pianist		73
A Year In The Life of A Young Pioneer		75
Time and Tide	Michael Smyth	76

Ballyhaunis Apostolic Workers	Bridie Brennan	76
Baptisms and Deceased of the Parish		77
A Page From An Album	James Cribbin	79
The Riviera Showband	Eugene Freeley	81
Ballyhaunis Parish Choir	Michael Kelly	82
Reflections...Twenty-Five Years On	Patrick O. Costello	83
Croí Report	Helen Meehan	83
Special Olympics	Eileen Folliard	84
Twenty-Five Years A Growing	Jarlath Fahey	85
Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union	Mary Rudden	87
A Year of Triumph for Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil	Tommy Ronayne	88
Short Back and Sides	Eamonn Murren	89
Second Generation Irish	Eileen Stephenson	90
A Remarkable Sportsperson	Aidan Henry	91
A Fair Day in Mayo	Joe Costello	92
Closure of Ballyhaunis Livestock Mart	Paul Waldron	93
St. Patrick's College	Tommy Caulfield	94
Ballyhaunis Fine Gael	Helen Lyons	95
My World Cup 2002	Tom Joyce	97
Birth Certificates	James Cribbin	100
Some Thoughts on a Very Good Year	Siobhan Quinn	101
From Carn to England, to Saudi Arabia and Back	Michael Finn	103
A Dream Come True	Henry Madden	105
Washington: A City of Contradictions	Vincent Keane	107
Scoil Íosa Primary School		109
Ballyhaunis Community Council	Michael Kelly	113
On Being Sixty	Anthony Jordan	116
No. 30, Tooraree...Whats Going On?	Pat Higgins	120
Ballyhaunis Golf Club		123
Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre	Christina Concannon	124
Marriages of the Parish		125
Ballyhaunis Ladies Group	Mona Herr	130
Selection of Photographs taken by Pat Coyne		132
Patrons		134

EDITORIAL

We all look forward with happy anticipation to a red letter day in our lives; this a red letter year in the life of 'Annagh', for it is the 25th year, the Silver Jubilee of its life. This is a pretty good achievement for a parish magazine and it has been made possible by the loyalty of you, the people who buy it, the editors and committee members who worked so diligently in producing it, the patrons for their financial help and the contributors who have written interesting and informative articles during those years.

Just as the 'Annagh Magazine' hit the shelves last December, the sudden death occurred in Galway of Tony Boyle who was a devoted contributor over the years. He had even submitted an article last year which sadly he did not live to read. Tony worked in Ballyhaunis many years ago, but he always kept in touch with his friends here. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.

You will notice that this year's magazine is bigger than usual, a very fitting tribute to its 25th year. Due to its increased size and the cost of paper and production, we have to raise the price a little. Our patrons each graciously gave us a larger donation for which we sincerely thank them, they always give with a smile.

Locals living overseas form a really important part of our readership and from their families at home we hear that they look forward eagerly to the arrival of the magazine. We hope that the 2002 edition will bring them pleasure.

We hope that all our readers, patrons and contributors of articles both now and in the past will have a happy and enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Finally, if you would like to send an article or get in touch, our email address is: annaghmag@eircom.net.

Annagh Magazine Society:

President: Jim Landon, Vice President: Joe Keane, Chairman: Martin Forde, Vice Chairperson: Agnes Heaney, Secretary: Maisín Meath, Treasurer: Maura Griffin, Assistant Treasurer: John Halpin, PRO: John Halpin, Youth Officers: Siobhan Quinn and Aileen Burke, Sales and Marketing: Seamus Mulrennan, Editorial Committee: Paul Waldron, John Halpin, Jim Landon, Maura Griffin, Gerry Cribbin. Patron Management: Michael Finn, Typesetting: Brídann Halpin, Mary Donnelly and Maura Caulfield.



St. Mary's N.S. Ballyhaunis 1962. Fifth and Sixth Classes. Front l-r: Denis Hannan (Bridge St.), Eugene Freeley (Clagnagh), Kieran Moran (Knox St.), Austin Boyle (Ballinphuill), Willie Joe Armstrong (Hollywell), Patrick J. Cribbin R.I.P. (Lecarrow), Paul Gallagher (Main St.), Tommy Waldron (Cave), Michael Gavin (Tooraree), Willie Coyne (Devlis), John Nolan (Lisbane). Middle l-r: Seamus Kelly (Drimbane), Seamus Mulrennan (Gurteen), Michael Joyce (Abbey St.), Willie Rigney (Tooraree), John Stephen Greally (Drimbane), Sean Hannon (Knox St.), Tommy Murphy (Tooraree), Pádraig Brennan (Gurteen), Mike Morley (Knox St.), Eamonn Comer (Tooraree). Back l-r: John Kilduff (Barrack St.), Billy Toolan (Devlis), Francis Greally (Devlis), Martin Grogan (Clare St.), John Flannery (Tooraree), Sean Regan (Gurteen Beg), Seamus Connell (Devlis), Michael Cleary (Clare St.), Jimmy Cribbin (Togher), John Dillon Leetch (Main St.)

"Enamoured of the Written Word"

A Tribute to 'Annagh's' First Editor, Anto O'Malley

Joan O'Malley

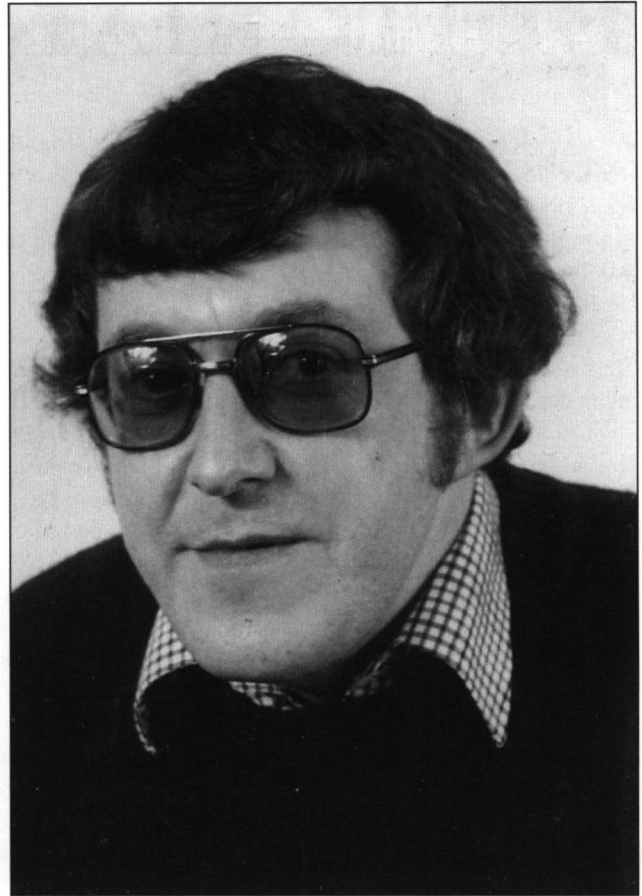
My father, Anto O'Malley, was the editor of the first four editions of "Annagh" from 1978 to 1981. It was a fitting task for a man so enamoured, first and foremost, of the written word.

Anto began teaching in the Convent of Mercy in 1973 and was one of the first teachers in the Community School when it opened in 1977. He taught History, English, Economics and Civics. He was passionate about his subjects: history and politics were my father's life-blood, and Shakespeare was the delight of his leisure hours. He particularly loved the history plays, because in them, history and politics were combined in literature. Anto's book-lined study remains exactly as he left it when he died sixteen years ago: a testament to the vitality and richness of his intellectual life.

It was there in his study, amid the tap-tap-tap of his old typewriter, that he wrote his first editorial. In it he urged his readers not to allow their justifiable pride of place to descend into a "narrow parochialism," but to broaden their views of themselves and their town, to see that the local political life of Ballyhaunis - in which he took such an active part - contributes to our national government; that our local history forms a part of the history of our country; and that the picture of Irish life as it is lived in our small community could be representative of life in any small town on this island. Imagine an historian in the year 3002, researching life in this area 1000 years ago. What a wealth of information is in this very edition - every event considered to be important (at least to us in 2002), be it religious, political or social, is recorded and illustrated. If, by 3002, a national catastrophe had occurred and the only remaining record of Irish life was the "Annagh" magazine, then to the minds of subsequent generations, "Annagh" would come to represent Ireland in microcosm.

Of course, the more obvious purpose of the magazine is to produce an annual record of the life of the town: the recording of events, in the sense of putting down on paper or film details of a given event and the people and places involved in it, is an essential ritual of life. It contributes to our sense of the reality of that event, and with the launch in 1978 of "Annagh," Anto and his Junior Chamber colleagues started an annual record of life in Ballyhaunis rivalled only by our parish registers of births, marriages and deaths.

Although "Annagh" was (and still is) a record of our pride in our Irish life and land, Anto was anxious that we



should welcome diversity. As he wrote with tremendous foresight in 1978: "we should at all times welcome contact with (the) greater world and extend to its representatives, neighbourliness." When he wrote those words, my father could not have known that our country's economy would so rapidly develop that we would become a place where immigration has replaced emigration and where the vulnerable come in search of a better life. But with the recent enlargement of our community, we in Ballyhaunis have never had a better opportunity to show in our turn the "neighbourliness" that my father hoped we would.

It is clear from the editorials he wrote that Anto and all his Junior Chamber colleagues were very proud of "Annagh." On a personal level, he may, perhaps, have regarded his work on the magazine as a contribution to the community of which he had only recently become a member. From my conversations with the other members of the editorial committee of the first "Annagh," the memories I have heard give a strong sense of the excitement and enjoyment of a very successful group effort which my father would have loved being part of. Not to mention the fact that editing "Annagh" provided him with an opportunity to combine his chief interests, which were politics and history, with his chief talents, which were teaching and writing.

In his first edition Anto expressed the hope that the magazine would continue to appear annually, and he would have been delighted with its success. I am sure he continues to watch over the progress of "Annagh."

Childhood memories of Lecarrow

John A. Murphy

It is always a pleasure to write an article for the Annagh magazine, but it is never easy. Why? Well, it has to be interesting and relevant to the readership and by and large that rules out self-centred commercial and academic ego trips. Last year I wrote about the successful Ballyhaunis Sheepdog Trials and in particular two local competitors, Peter Concannon and George Flanagan. Apart from specific success stories such as these, I personally enjoy reading about the memories from various townlands in the parish. As I am not aware of Lecarrow featuring in this sequence, I hope that my recollections of growing up in Lecarrow will be of interest to some readers.

Visitors

The townland of Lecarrow is situated within a mile of Ballyhaunis on the Galway road. My memories essentially extend to the 50s and mid 60s at which point I moved on after doing my Leaving Certificate in what was then St. Patrick's College. Earliest childhood memories revolve around the considerable influence of my late parents, Austin and Agnes Murphy (R.I.P.). This influence was certainly magnified by the fact that I was an only child. Not having brothers or sisters to play or argue with meant, that I was exposed to the company of older people, which was largely facilitated by a culture of visitation. Two regular visitors to our home in those pre-television days were Tom Coen (R.I.P.) and Michael Lyons (R.I.P.). Michael's narrative prowess and attention to detail was legendary and held a particular fascination for my young mind. So comprehensive was he when telling a story, that if he was reporting on a life experience of a day, or a week, it would take him at least the same length of time again to relive the whole experience. Some of his more memorable stories were associated with his periodic visits to hospital, particularly the Meath Hospital in Dublin. My first realisation that there was a wider horizon beyond the boundaries of Lecarrow was when Michael was recalling the origins of other patients in the hospital. Having described the physical details of each one in minute detail and having emphasised the range of counties from which they came, such as Tipperary, Kilkenny, Waterford, etc., he would then qualify this statement by proclaiming that in fact they were there from all over the world. His, was an art that few have today.

Farming

Growing up in a farming neighbourhood ensured that boredom was never an issue. In an era of pre-mechanisation, it was a matter of 'all hands on deck' Apart from the daily routine of herding and its associated chat with Jim McGuire, whose house I had to pass by on my way milking; and in the winter, cleaning out from the

housed animals, there was always the seasonal work. This started in the Spring with the ploughing and sowing of crops, the making of hay and the saving of turf in the Summer, followed by the harvesting of oats and barley and finally the digging of the potatoes in the Autumn. If 'many hands make light work', then I was certainly at a disadvantage being an only child.

Ploughing presented me with my first lesson in teamwork. Each farmer normally had one horse and worked 'in co' with a neighbour. My father did his ploughing 'in co' with Tom Rattigan. It was very much a team effort where one farmer concentrated on the ploughing and the other on driving the pair of horses. It was always a magnificent sight, overseen by a mass of seagulls. Later, when I read the poetry of Patrick Kavanagh, his poem 'Ploughman' always struck a chord with me. He described this scene very picturesquely as follows:

*I turn the lea-green down
Gaily now,
And paint the meadow brown
With my plough.*

*I dream with silvery gull
And brazen crow.
A thing that is beautiful
I may know.*

*Tranquility walks with me
And no care.
O, the quiet ecstasy
Like a prayer.*

Going to the Bog

Going to the bog provided a sense of adventure. In my father's case this meant going to Agloragh, a round trip of over four miles. The days in the bog had their social component as well. Almost always after lunch, depending on the weather, it was another opportunity to visit some of the neighbours, whose location nearby was readily identifiable from the smoke emanating from their turf fires. The topic of conversation rarely extended beyond the parish. Oftentimes, they would reflect on the quantity work they had done on the day or week. Invariably comparisons would be made. This competitive element was not confined to Agloragh alone, as recalled also by Seamus Heaney in his poem 'Digging':

My Grandfather cut more turf in a day
Than any other man on Toner's bog.
Once I carried him milk in a bottle
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up
To drink it, then fell to right away
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods
Over his shoulder, going down and down
For the good turf. Digging.

Schooldays

Going to primary school for the first time in the early 50s

is still a vivid memory. Geographically it would have been logical for my parents to have sent me to the boys' school in Ballyhaunis. In their wisdom, they sent me in the opposite direction to Derrylea, which was at least a further half-mile to walk. Their decision was influenced by the reputation of the teachers in Derrylea - John Higgins (R.I.P.) and his wife, Mary Higgins. Being in a class of six, which included Chris Cleary, Irene Eagney, Carmel Lyons, Helen Meehan and Francis Moore, ensured that I could never have any complaints about the pupil/teacher ratio. When my mother took me to school on the first day, she was naturally anxious to ensure that I would be familiar with the geography of the place. I remember her clearly asking a young girl to point out to me the location of the toilet. She unwittingly pointed me in the direction of the girls' toilet. This, understandably, was my first lesson in appreciating the importance of detail.

Walking to school was to become a daily occurrence along with the four Lyons family Tom, John, Carmel and Michael Joe. Discussion usually revolved around farming, football and local affairs. The return journey was normally more eventful with the occasional scrap being one of the highlights. Irrespective of the opposition, John Lyons was the undisputed champion. A special treat was the purchase of sweets at Judge's in Johnstown, predominately bullseyes. Those who were not sufficiently affluent on the day to own a penny and buy their own lollipops could receive the very special favour of a lick. Of course there were those who wouldn't even give you a lick and naturally they acquired the reputation of 'meanies'. How times have changed. Reflecting on Judge's, reminds me that Lecarrow had its own shop, Hunters, which was located in the house now owned by Tom and Phil Lyons. When one reflects on school, many other memories come flooding back. I can still hear the explosions of overheated bottles, lined up beside the open fire in the master's room to ensure that their owners had hot tea or coffee for lunch. The thankfully infrequent visits of the school dentist or doctor also leave their memories. For some reason I did not have to endure the services of either. Initially, I was disappointed until I saw one of the older boys carrying what appeared to be a basin of blood to dispose of in the nearby river. Relief quickly replaced the disappointment.

Again, I can recall, following a visit from the doctor, a group of pupils being sent to Castlebar by ambulance to have their tonsils removed. I was playing outside my home when the ambulance passed by with its cheering passengers and I immediately felt I was missing out on a memorable trip. How nice it is to be innocent at times. Understandably, age difference is a significant differentiator in primary school where months rather than years can make a big difference. Those who were close to me age-wise and with whom I had a lot in common included, Tom Cleary (now in Birmingham) Liam Gildea (now living locally in Gurrane) and Pat Cribbin (now in Australia).

Football

My initial love of Gaelic football was acquired in Derrylea. By the time we reached third class and moved to the master's room, lunch break was predominantly devoted to

football. This love of football was further heightened by the wonderful commentaries of Michael O'Hehir (R.I.P.) and later through the medium of television. One of the first TVs in the townland was owned by John Hunt (R.I.P.), Murt's Dad, and a live broadcast attracted a huge non-paying but appreciative audience. The action was relived over and over again for weeks. Sunday afternoons were almost always devoted to playing football. This passion was facilitated by Tom Moylett (R.I.P.). What an enthusiast he was! He complemented his magnetic personality with the purchase of an O'Neills (size five) football. Upwards of thirty footballers ranging in age from ten to thirty plus would congregate in Lecarrow. There was always a field available either in Tarpey's, Lyons', Moran's or my father's.

As you can imagine, there was a good mix of skills and abilities but Paddy Waldron was the local hero. He was a regular member of the Ballyhaunis Senior team and had the unique distinction of having won a County Medal. I often remember staying awake at night dreaming of the possibilities of playing for Ballyhaunis and Mayo. As I approached sixth class in Derrylea the prospects of going to St. Jarlath's in Tuam would, I thought, have enhanced my footballing ambitions. The foresight of Fr. Rushe (R.I.P.), the then parish priest in Ballyhaunis, in opening what was at the time another diocesan college, St. Patrick's, quickly put an end to those dreams. Mind you, going to St. Jarlath's would not necessarily have guaranteed the successes I dreamt of. A year before St. Patrick's opened, I remember Tim Byrne (now owner of the Hazel, along with his wife, Margaret) going to St. Nathy's and I thought how lucky he was - he would be a great footballer. I can still remember my surprise at his apparent lack of progression when he next played Sunday football in Lecarrow. My father always encouraged my love of football and often referred to the Lecarrow Rovers with whom he played.

Altar Boys

Apart from the rotation of school and work, there were other happy memories, some of which, thankfully, still live on. The biannual stations were and are significant in both the spiritual and social life of every townland in the parish. Another outstanding memory was being persuaded to serve mass in the Augustinian Abbey. This meant having to learn Latin, which was made possible by one of the retiring altar boys - Tom Greally. Unknown to me at the time, serving mass provided a pleasurable experience and an understanding of team and hierarchical principles. Jobs were apportioned by the senior server, the juniors normally getting the more menial tasks. Eventually I reached that privileged senior role at the advanced age of twelve.

It is on mature reflection and with the benefit of hindsight that I can appreciate the many lessons from childhood. In this regard, nothing has changed; quite simply you cannot, 'put an old head on young shoulders'. Looking back has certainly reinforced memories of great happiness growing up in Lecarrow. The recollection of that air of rural tranquillity has many times provided wonderful fodder for the overworked mind.

A Few Good Young Men

Mike Finnerty

When the footballing fortunes of Ballyhaunis Community School are being analysed in the future, one year in particular will leap from the pages of the record books. In 2002 the School's senior team dominated the Colleges footballing landscape in Mayo and won all before them. They brightened countless long winter evenings and united a bunch of young men that will discuss their adventures long after many of the vagaries of youth are forgotten. They were winners.

Hugh Rudden, Micheal Murren, Anthony Finnerty and Eugene Lavin invested a lot of time, energy and effort into the Ballyhaunis CS panel. The footballers repaid them in equal measure. They did everything they were asked and sometimes more. And it worked. By the time the curtain fell on the Colleges Football season, the Flanagan Cup (Mayo Colleges), the Connacht 'B' League title and the Connacht 'B' Championship Cup adorned the trophy cabinet. An All-Ireland Final defeat to an exceptional Moyne College of Longford merely served as a means to end the year. The hard work had been done by then.

Searching for highlights is an exercise in futility. Because there were nothing but highlights. From the moment Rice College of Westport were beaten (after extra-time and a replay) in October of 2001, Ballyhaunis CS marched on, purposefully. Through Connacht where St. Muredach's were beaten in the provincial Final (3-7 to 2-7) and then doing enough to beat a highly-rated Cashel in the All-Ireland semi-final by 2-9 to 2-8. Ian Prenty, the team's full-forward, recalled that game against the Munster champions vividly when he spoke to the writer before the Final. "We played well in that because the snow was coming straight into our faces, the way we were shooting in the second half. I think they brought it back to level and then we came back and scored two or three points to go ahead. We did well to do that because everything was blowing into Stephen Shanaghy's face in goal. We did well to get through that battle. But we're hard

to beat, we just won't give up." That was an attribute that served the team well during their hard-fought victory over St. Muredach's in the Connacht Final too. "We got off to an awful bad start and we let in two awful soft goals in the first half and were down by four or five at half-time," recalled Shane Morley. "We knew we could play better. Eoin Costello got a goal, John Prenty put over a few points and Ross Nolan played well too."

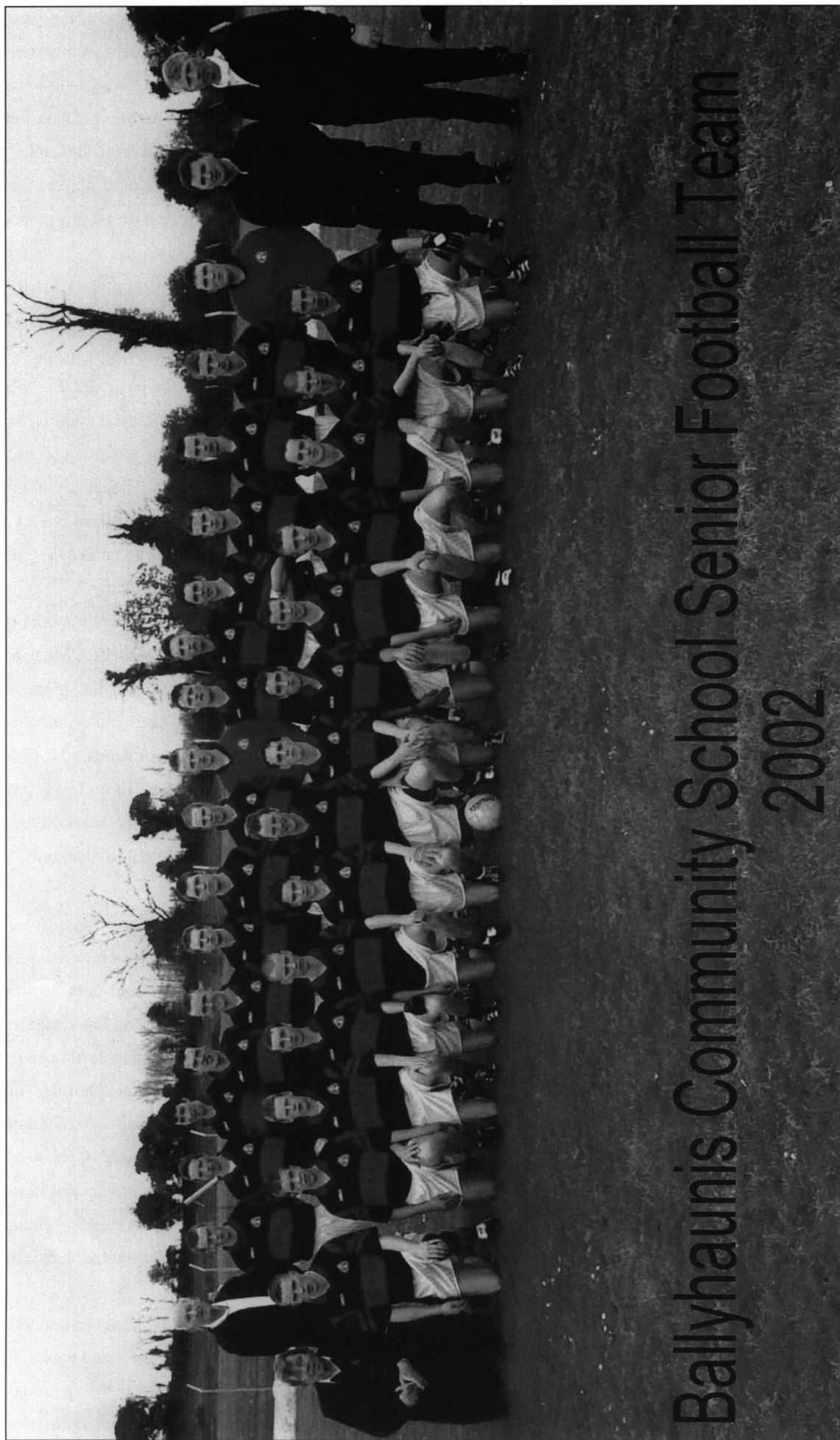
That victory brought Ballyhaunis Community School their third Connacht title, adding to the Championships won in 1980 and 1993. Hugh Rudden (team manager) admitted that hopes were high again in 2002. "We expected to do fairly well this year. We had a good panel last year, we added a few lads from our junior squad and they've all given us great commitment. They enjoy it too and will do whatever is asked of them. We have twenty-eight players, some of whom never get a game, but they're always there, pushing the other guys at training."

The School drew their squad from a large hinterland and Eastern Gaels, Kilmovee Shamrocks, Michael Glavey's and Ballyhaunis Club itself all supplied players. They trained four times a week and their run of success was the talk of the town. "Every school needs a bit of a lift," said Hugh Rudden. "Players come in go in cycles, like clubs. This has done wonders for the school here. Sports play a huge part in the curriculum in Ballyhaunis."

All-Ireland Final

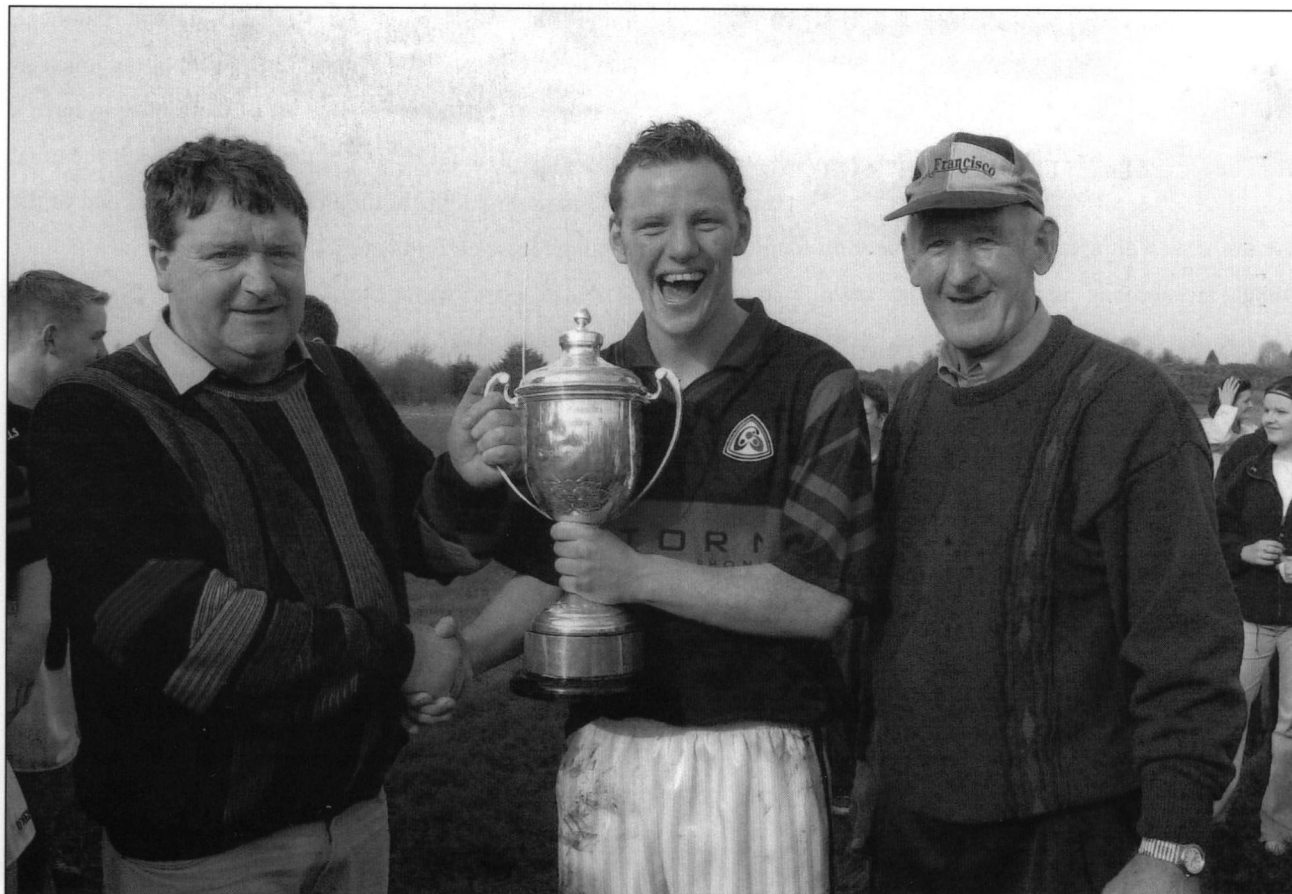
That was evident on Sunday, April 28th on a rotten day in Carrick-on-Shannon. Dozens of buses and cars ferried parents, family and friends to the All-Ireland Final and the air was heavy with expectation. History and destiny were set to intertwine and there would be no shortage of witnesses either. Unfortunately, Moyne Community School of Longford were far from ordinary opposition. Their team was jam-packed with county minors and even Under-21s from Cavan and Longford. The rumours about their awesome strength proved more substantial than idle chatter. They were a class apart.

The fact that Moyne ran riot in the final seven minutes and racked up 3-4 merely added to the one-sided nature of the final scoreline. The game ended 7-10 to 0-9 in favour of the Leinster champions but Ballyhaunis lost little in



Ballyhaunis Community School Senior Football Team 2002

Back l-r: Hugh Rudden (Manager), John Prenty, Stuart Daly, Declan Caulfield, Keith Robinson, Shane Morley, Kenneth Hickey, John Hickey, Alan Lyons, Stephen Shanaghy, George Robinson, Alan Daly, Brian Mulrennan, Jonathan Cunningham, Declan Ward, Owen Costello, Padraic Carney, Anthony Finnerty (Manager), Eugene Lavin (Coach). **Front l-r:** Michael Murren (Coach), Paul Jordan, Stephen Leneghan, Frankie Nolan, Keith Higgins, Ian Prenty, Paul Walsh, Ross Nolan, Kevin Nolan, David Page, Peter Walsh, William Nestor, Stephen Coyne, Niall Richardson, Ivan Connor.



Richie Bell Cup, presented by Kieran Byrne (Vice-Chairman Connacht Colleges) to Ross Nolan (Captain). Also pictured is Hugh Rudden (Manager and Chairman Connacht Colleges)

defeat. Apart from the final minutes they were their usual courageous, determined selves. Behind by 2-1 to 0-0 after eight minutes, Ballyhaunis were on the ropes from the get-go. But they knuckled down in the worsening conditions and Peter Walsh and John Prenty shot a brace of points each to narrow the margin significantly. Two missed goal chances later and the half-time whistle left Ballyhaunis behind by 3-2 to 0-5 at the interval. The road to salvation was an uphill one.

Moyne hit three early scores on the restart but the local lads threw their heart and soul into the contest during the third quarter. Ross Nolan led the way as Paul Walsh and John Prenty rattled off points to shave the margin to six points again on forty-four minutes. Another missed goal chance proved the last chance of redemption and the closing stages are best consigned to history. They blot an otherwise exemplary season.

Speaking to the writer twenty-four hours after the game, Anthony Finnerty was pragmatic. "You have to be philosophical about these things. We were beaten by the better team and I'm just disappointed really for the lads.

The scoreline didn't do justice to the effort that they put in. The statistics are going to show that we lost by seven goals. There wasn't a lot we could do about it in the end. Moyne were simply brilliant. "But I told the lads that days like last Sunday are like life itself. Along the way you're going to get taught lessons and you have to learn from them. They didn't deserve to lose so heavily. They battled so hard for twenty or twenty-five minutes in the second half. Overall, it was a great year." It is hard to argue with him. And history will agree.

Ballyhaunis Panel

Stephen Shanaghy, Eoin Costello, Paul Jordan, Stuart Daly, Shane Morley, John Hickey, Keith Higgins, Ross Nolan (captain), George Robinson, Peter Walsh, David Page, Ian Prenty, Paul Walsh, Kevin Nolan, Keith Robinson, John Prenty, Padraic Carney, Brian Mulrennan, Johnny Cunningham, Alan Lyons, William Nestor, Kenneth Hickey, Frankie Nolan, Stephen Coyne, Ivan Connor, Alan Daly, Declan Ward, Declan Caulfield, Stephen Leneghan, Niall Richardson.

Oh What A Year!

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce

Martin Fitzmaurice (P.R.O.)

We are now well established in the new millennium and things are moving very fast. The town is presently developing very rapidly and it is an exciting time to be living in the area. Many positive things are happening and I might just summarise a small number of them.

Summer Festival

In May we had our first Summer Festival in a number of years. Negotiations with sponsors and preparations began back in October of 2001. The festival was spearheaded by publicans initially, and was supported greatly by most businesses of the town. It ran over the May Bank Holiday weekend and was jammed full of events: music trails in

pubs, live music on the streets, kiddies entertainment. There was a special emphasis on providing as much as possible - free - to encourage all of the family to have a good time without having to fork out money all the time. The main highlight of the Festival was the revival of the Annagh Rose on Friday night – opening night in which we had a beautiful winner in Clare Gallagher. The Vintage Car Rally on Sunday afternoon, when we had approximately forty cars from all over Connacht on display.

I suppose the highlight of the festival was the opening day – fair day on Friday. You would have to be there to believe the array of items on display. We were also blessed with beautiful weather all weekend.

At this time plans are already well under way for next year's festival. It will run over the same weekend and is anticipated to be much bigger and better than this year's. At present our wish would be that every club, group or



Mayoral visit to Ballyhaunis. Members of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce and Ballyhaunis Community Council with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester, at St. Mary's Abbey. Pictured left to right are: Seamus O'Boyle, Eugene Carney, Austin Grogan, Lady Mayoress Hylsa Walters, Michael Kelly, Lord Mayor Roy Walters, Johnny Mee M.C.C., Mary Smyth, John Durkan and Pat Ryan.

organisation in the town would participate in the weekend's events. We look forward to everyone's support again next year and thank the hard working committee who put everything into place.

Mayoral Visit

On the 23rd August we were honoured with the visit of the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Roy Walters and the Lady Mayoress Hylsa Walters, who were on an official visit to Castlebar for the weekend. This was an unique occasion given the strong links between many families in Ballyhaunis and county Mayo generally with the City of Manchester. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress arrived in Knock International Airport on Friday, 23rd August and were taken to Ballyhaunis where they were given a brief tour of the town and treated to a reception. The Lord Mayor spoke highly of the town and its many successful local business people.

Progress

Clare Road is undergoing major development, including the new Enterprise Centre, the G.A.A. Connacht Council Offices and the state of the art Mid West Studios. A good indicator of a progressive town is the number of new businesses being established each year. After a bumper year last year, we have a large number again this year, some of which include Storm – video rental and phones Mayo Computers – training and supply of computers, Geraldine the Barber, Nour Foods – who specialise in Eastern foods, Mayflower – Chinese Restaurant, BoJangle's Nite-Club, Aileen O'Brien – Boutique and Nolan's Funeral Home. We would like to give a special mention to the management of Monsoon Nite Club, formerly known as Midas which has now been transformed into one of the best Nite clubs in the West.

Another indicator of progress is employment and housing. Planning permission has been sought for 210 houses in Ballyhaunis this year, which is a large number for a small rural town in the West of Ireland. A unique statistic to Ballyhaunis is that each year we maintain a high level of employment at all times. At present we have approximately 170 skilled non-EU nationals working in

the town. During the year we have also facilitated approximately eighteen nationalities in the form of Asylum Seekers. There are support groups in place to cater for the needs of both groupings. It's no wonder that Fergal Keane from RTE Radio 1 called it a cosmopolitan town earlier this year when he did live interviews every day for one week. He was very impressed with the town and this came across very well on national airwaves.

A Great Town

All in all we are living in a great town during a very prosperous period and we should be proud of our achievements to date and the people who work hard every day to keep us up there with the best. Congratulations to everyone in the community who strives to make our town a better place to live in and good luck with everything you try to achieve in the future.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of The Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce to wish every member of our community and all our visitors a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights and Crib

The Christmas Lights Committee in Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce has worked on a number of initiatives to ensure that our excellent display of Christmas Lights continues over the Christmas Season has been enhanced with additional features and improvements. A Nativity Crib will be positioned in the Square and will be a centrepiece to show the true meaning of Christmas. The figures for the Crib belong to The Augustinian Fathers and are very old and special as they signify the long association with Ballyhaunis Town. They have been donated by the Augustinian Order to the Ballyhaunis community along with all the other contents of the Abbey. The Abbey Partnership, representing all of the community groups within the town, has kindly agreed to provide them to the Christmas Lights committee for the Christmas Season this year. A specially lit Christmas tree will be positioned in the Friary Field. Additional lighting is being provided this year and it is important that all of the community respect the lights and ensure that they are protected from damage.

Engineering the Future

Peter McHugh

What does an engineer do anyway? Irish Universities and Institutes of Technology, like their counterparts around the world, have been turning out different kinds of engineers for years, and everyone knows that a civil engineer designs and builds roads and bridges. A mechanical engineer designs and builds machinery, an electronic engineer works with microchips and uses them in products like mobile phones and computers, and an industrial engineer figures out how a factory should be organised to mass produce millions of products, be they phones, computers, cars, or whatever, in an efficient and cost effective way. Certainly this is the traditional view and would have been true enough for quite a long time. But as we all know, things change, "time and tide waits for no man" and the modern world is presenting problems that we really didn't have to face before and that demand people with new kinds of skills to solve, and in particular, people with skills in a number of different areas. Issues such as increasing urbanisation, the environment and health are presenting bigger and bigger problems for society and engineering and technology have to, and are, evolving to meet the new needs. To educate people to be able to deal with the problems of tomorrow, new types of engineering courses are being developed that are based on multi-disciplinary. For example, to deal with the increasing importance of industrial relations in industrial development, courses combining engineering and management (management engineering) are offered. To deal with developing infrastructure that is environmentally friendly, courses combining engineering and environmental science (environmental engineering) are offered. To deal with developing technology to improve health, courses combining engineering, biology and medicine (biomedical engineering) are being offered.

I work as a lecturer in the mechanical engineering department at NUI, Galway (or should that be UCG – the name changed some years ago but it is difficult to get it out of the head!) and I have been involved in the development of the biomedical engineering course there. One of the main reasons NUI, Galway decided to develop such a course was the strength of the industrial base in the West of Ireland which would employ graduates.

Angioplasty

It might interest people to know that Ireland is the European capital of the medical device and healthcare product industry, in particular the West of Ireland. Towns like Castlebar, Sligo and especially Galway, are the European bases for most of the major multi-national companies who manufacture medical devices for the treatment of cardiovascular disease; including companies like Boston Scientific, Medtronic/AVE and Abbott. This is a multi-billion dollar industry world-wide and devices



Peter McHugh and James McGarry at N.U.I. Galway with the Siemens Young Engineer of the Year Award 2001.

made in the West of Ireland find their way to operating theatres all over the World. In saying medical devices, I am not necessarily referring to the humble syringe or surgical knife, vital though they are to medical treatment and to the local economy where they are manufactured. No indeed, nowadays medical devices really mean high-tech products that require huge investment in terms of design and production, and that make significant contributions to advancing medical treatment and improving the quality of life. One example of this, which is particularly relevant to Galway, where thousands of these devices are produced each week, is the angioplasty balloon catheter for the treatment of heart disease, Ireland's number 1 killer.

When introduced in the 1970's angioplasty was a revolutionary treatment for helping to prevent heart attacks and, if the diagnosis is caught in time, it may greatly reduce the necessity for bypass surgery. To treat blocked arteries in the heart, instead of major bypass surgery, angioplasty involves the surgeon inserting a very thin plastic catheter tube into an artery in the thigh and guiding it up to the heart by using X-ray. The tip of the catheter is in fact a tiny balloon, initially at most a millimetre wide. When the balloon meets the blockage it is inflated up to a diameter of about three to five millimetres (depending on where the blockage is) and the blockage is opened up. Frequently, to prevent the artery from re-closing, a second

catheter is introduced with a tiny coil of wire at the tip called a "stent", compressed onto a balloon. When this second balloon is inflated, the stent expands, and stays expanded, holding the artery open. The stent remains a permanent implant in the heart. This procedure has proven extremely successful and has resulted in very many lives being saved, and is far less traumatic for the patient than heart bypass surgery. The scale of usage is huge, for example when stents were first introduced in 1994, one million were used internationally in the first year alone.

Research

At NUI, Galway we do research with the medical device companies to design new products and improve existing ones. This work, of course, includes a vital input from cardiac surgeons, and to see how the products are used I have been present at a number of angioplasty procedures as an observer. It was a humbling experience to see the cardiologists at work and to watch them save lives. However, there was a great sense of satisfaction realising that the treatment wouldn't be possible without the input of the engineer in terms of designing and producing the device. I was trained as a mechanical engineer in the traditional way and I never thought I would end up in an operating theatre (be it as an observer), but I am happy to be moving with the changing times – as a famous US businessman used to say "Every few years you must re-invent yourself!"

The angioplasty device is a perfect example of a product (and industry) requiring a new breed of engineer and technologist for product design and manufacture – a biomedical engineer with multi-disciplinary skills. First of all it is obvious that these devices require very careful mechanical engineering design. The very thin small-bore catheter tubes have to be designed to be inserted up to almost one metre inside the body – they can't be too stiff or they might puncture the soft arterial wall – they can't be too flexible or they will buckle while being inserted. Getting the balance just right and repeating it exactly in mass producing millions of devices is no mean engineering feat! Likewise, the metal stents have to be flexible enough to follow the contours of the heart on the way in, to allow them to be placed correctly – but they have to be strong enough to stay expanded and hold the artery open permanently – and at the same time the wires have to be small enough not to disrupt normal blood flow after implantation. Getting it all just right is a delicate balancing act. Stents are normally made from stainless steel and the wires end up being less than one tenth of a millimetre wide, no thicker than a human hair! This is the cutting edge of engineering technology, challenging and fascinating, and made all the more rewarding when you know it is saving lives. But knowing how to design and produce very thin tubes or very thin metal wires is only the start of it. The designer must be fully acquainted with where the device is going. He/she must know the anatomy of the heart and the arterial system – all the twists and turns the catheter is likely to meet on the way to its destination – and

also the strength of the artery wall so that the catheter can be designed not to puncture it. He/she must also become familiar with surgical techniques because it will be the surgeon who will be using the device and he/she has to be happy with it to use it effectively. And then there are other questions. Here we are talking about inserting plastic and metal into the body and implanting them permanently. How will the cells of the body react to the presence of the implant? Will the material poison the person? Will it cause infection, etc.? How can all this be found out at the design stage? To find out if the device will be "biocompatible", he/she must learn biology and how to do biological experiments.

NUI, Galway was the first university in the country to introduce a degree in biomedical engineering five years ago, by developing the existing mechanical engineering programme to include anatomy, biology and surgical methods, and including visits to, and demonstrations in, hospitals to see first hand how these products would be used. More recently other universities in the country have followed suit. This is typical of what is happening internationally as this new discipline of biomedical engineering grows, and is driven by the explosion in the medical device industry world-wide and the need for trained designers and technologists with sufficient multi-disciplinary skills to hit the ground running once employed.

The main reason for the explosion in the industry is the fact that the population in the western developed world is getting older. People living longer and fewer children being born. Dealing with longevity issues and treatment of diseases normally associated with the middle age and post middle age, such as heart disease and cancer, has led to the development of the medical device industry. There is nothing like a problem (and a potential market that can be exploited to make a profit) to focus the mind!

Science in the Future

New courses like biomedical engineering, because of their futuristic outlook, are attracting great students from the Leaving Cert., and so may it continue. But it is important for people to realise that maths and science are vital for this kind of career. Figures indicate a drop in the take-up of these subjects in secondary school in Ireland. This is indeed a tragedy as it means that there will be fewer engineers and technologists produced at the other end. This will affect the economy, as it is well recognised, and patently obvious when one thinks about it, that it is the application of science, engineering and technology, in terms of conceptualising, designing and producing new products and generating new markets, that is the root of industrial and economic growth.

Even though at the time of writing we seem to be in somewhat of an economic downturn, and people complain about governments and public finances, it has to be said that governments have done a lot for the universities and institutes of technology in the last few years to equip them to teach new courses and to develop spin-off research

programmes that help Irish industry. Ireland can now hold its head up and say that it has university research facilities that are the equal of the best in the World. This is great for our students and for our economic development.

Ballyhaunis Connection

There is, of course, a strong Ballyhaunis connection in all of this. James McGarry, from Devlis. James completed his BE degree with us in NUI, Galway last year (2001) and I was privileged to be supervisor of his final year project which was concerned with the development of a new and more accurate method to design cardiac stents. He did an outstanding job and won a series of important prizes for the project: The Siemens Young Engineer of the Year Award 2001, the Ryan Hanley Prize, the Queen's Jubilee Prize of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and the Medtronic/AVE Prize for Biomedical Engineering and Biotechnology. James' family are well connected with the engineering faculty at NUI, Galway: his father Gerard is a civil engineering graduate himself and James' older brother Patrick is currently completing his doctorate with us in the mechanical engineering department. And the Ballyhaunis connection doesn't end there: the engineering faculty at NUI, Galway has been privileged to have other Ballyhaunis people pass through its doors down through the years including Eamonn and Liam Smyth from Knox Street, who both studied civil engineering, Mary Elwood from Upper Main Street who studied industrial engineering, and George Delaney from Coolnaha and Neil Cruise from Knockbrack who both studied mechanical engineering. Joseph Freeley from Hazelhill is one of the first graduates with the new biomedical engineering degree, having graduated with first class honours this year (2002). Currently, Colm Rudden is a student in civil engineering.

On the topic of academic achievement, it is interesting to note that Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area has produced some of the finest academically able and highest academically achieving individuals in the country, down through the years, all having gone on to make significant contributions to society in their various professions. This is something to be proud of and it is a testament to the quality of the primary and secondary education available locally and to the drive and "can-do" attitude that Ballyhaunis people have in abundance. This was brought home to me once, while in chatting to a professor from Cambridge University, who through coincidences and the usual unpredictable twists and turns of life, had cause to know of a number of the high academically able people from the locality and his eminent scientific conclusion on the matter was that it "is something in the water!"

Early Influences

In drawing this short article to a close I realise that it is a privilege to be included in the Twenty-fifth anniversary edition of Annagh, because this is a special edition that represents a significant achievement for the organising and editorial committees, and shows their determination to

keep the magazine going, down through the years. With this in mind I wanted to close by remembering a few people who are no longer with us but who played a big part in my young years, growing up in Ballyhaunis. A number were tragically taken from us far too early in life, but they have left me with the fondest memories, and have left great legacies to their families and to the community. Kieran Carney from Classaroe and James Cruise from Knockbrack were a little older than me and I looked up to them – role models who could do no wrong, and Pascal Keegan from Main Street, my almost constant playmate as a boy – he and I created, in my backyard, everything from castles to space ships, only limited by our imaginations. I also want to mention my own first cousin, Brendan Hopkins from Larganboy, who had settled in Castlebar and who recently died tragically. Brendan was fascinated with gadgets of all kinds and as a regular visitor to our house when I was a boy was in his element helping out my father Eddie in his car battery workshop. Brendan was one of the most compassionate individuals anyone has had the privilege to know and his community spirit, as demonstrated by his outstanding contributions to life in Castlebar through the Credit Union, training the local athletics team, giving blood, involvement in the Alzheimer's Association, etc., is a model to anyone.

Neighbours

Finally I want to mention two people who were close neighbours of mine on Main Street, with whom I had regular contact up to recent years and who left a big impression on me.

I have the fondest memories of Joe Greene and of numerous visits to his house. His positive and exuberant character gave me hours of enjoyment; his enthusiasm and genuine wonder for things new was extremely refreshing. Joe will be remembered by many people in different ways, but one abiding memory for me was when I was a student myself – I was doing a doctorate in engineering in the U.S.A. which was a bit unusual at the time – I will always remember his enthusiasm, his encouragement and his genuine desire to know what it was really like, what it was all about, and what it might lead to.

In closing I must mention Jack Halpin, my next-door neighbour for many years. Jack was one of the most interesting individuals anyone has had the privilege to know. He was a man ahead of his time and listening to him tell of his life experiences was enthralling. His desire for travel seemed limitless and his courage and stamina to make long trips, including a number to Australia, in his later years would put many younger people to shame. He never seemed to let the years confine him and I will always remember conversations where he would be describing his next trip and what he would do and who he would visit. Travel was a topic of commonality between us as I did a fair bit of travel throughout my twenties, although still relatively small by his standards.

All these people contributed to Ballyhaunis and to its character. They will indeed be sorely missed.



Kilcourse Family, Station Rise. Front l-r: Brenda, Ann (mother), Claire, Valerie, Edel, Michael. Back l-r: David, Brian, Eddie, Paul, Padraig.



At the GPA Awards, City West Hotel, Dublin, 8th November 2002.
L-R: Derek Walsh, Lisa O'Dowd, Frank Browne, Deirdre Browne, Clare Gallagher and Pierce Higgins with McCarthy Cup.

Gracenotes

Tina Kirrane

September 2001 - June 2002 was one of the busiest and most successful years to date for our choir. Soon after reconvening from the Summer break, we participated in a work-shop with Niamh O'Kelly, Director of Mayo County Choir, which proved to be most beneficial. We also had the great pleasure of performing at the wedding of our own members, Georgina Dee, at Began Church.

November brought us to Sligo for the International Choral Festival and, following on from this, we hosted a concert at the Parochial Hall in aid of the Afghan Appeal Fund. We were joined for the occasion by our fellow Ballyhaunis choir, Cantairí Béal Átha hAmhnais, together with the Castlebar Gospel Singers. This event was an overwhelming success, raising over 1,500 towards Concern's efforts in Afghanistan.

In the month of December last year we were invited to perform in Knock at the "Shine A Light" open-air ceremony - the official switching-on of the lights on the spectacular Christmas tree at the Marian Shrine. All funds raised through this project went to the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Fund.

Ballintubber Abbey was yet another venue at which we performed in the run-up to Christmas last year where we were joined for a special Christmas carol service by the

Mayo County Choir, Cantairí Umhall as well as the Mayo Junior Bell Choir. This was one of the most memorable and enjoyable concerts of the season. Earlier this year we held our second workshop with Niamh O'Kelly which was, once again, very worthwhile.

In April, the group appeared with Cois Cladaigh Chamber Choir, the Galway Baroque Singers, Galway Choral Association and Cantando Galvia for a concert in St. Nicholas' Collegiate Church in Galway.

In early Summer we were invited performers at Áras Antracta in Swinford with the Moy Singers.

At our recently held AGM, a full programme of events has been lined up for the coming season, including the upcoming Sligo Choral Festival, Christmas concert and a Spring concert, after which the group plans to travel abroad once again to a foreign festival. Meanwhile, our group continues to hold rehearsals every Thursday night in the Parochial Hall (usually followed by some light refreshments!). Anybody who would like to become a member of this female choral group is most welcome to do so. Our musical director, Anna Butler, can be contacted at (0907) 30239.

Officers elected for the coming the year are as follows - Chairperson: Laura Brogan; Secretary: Nuala Fitzgerald; Assistant Secretary: Maureen Thornton; Treasurer: Moira Stratford; Librarian: Mary Dawson; P.R.O.: Tina Kirrane; Committee Members: Ita Fahey, Christina Concannon, Marie Kelly.



Ballyhaunis and Guilers Celebrate Twenty Years of Friendship

Bernard Freyne

The Twinning of Ballyhaunis with Guilers in Brittany (north-west France) is twenty years old this year (2002). Earlier this year, over the Easter holidays, thirty-seven people spent yet another memorable week with host families in Guilers. Some of the group have been going almost every year for the last twenty years to the same families; and those host families, in turn, have been visiting Ballyhaunis for the same length of time. Because of the uncertainty of the boat crossing on this occasion, Easter Mass for the group was postponed until Monday morning. Afterwards, there was an official meeting in the new Socio-Cultural Centre where gifts were exchanged between the two twinning committees. The Guilerians presented a beautiful barometer mounted on a brass frame resembling a ship's port-hole. The Ballyhaunis presentation was a beautiful framed picture of the sunset on Cullintra Lake by Henry Madden, and also a selection of twelve books by modern authors, donated by Eleanor Freyne (from our local library) to the library in Guilers.

Tours

During the week, guided tours to local places of interest were organised by the French Committee. One of the more interesting experiences was a visit to the Municipal Council Building where a full council chamber of elected children was in session. These children run their own council meeting, have their motions debated and then either passed or defeated - the same as the senior elected members. Their ages ranged from ten to fifteen years. Afterwards, there was a meeting with the Senior Municipal Council, at which Mr. Mobian, Mayor of Guilers, expressed his thanks on behalf of the people of Guilers, for the gifts that were brought to Guilers from Ballyhaunis. He thanked the Irish for coming on this, the twentieth anniversary of the Association between the two towns. He added that he believed it would last for another twenty years, at least. The office of the council was presented with a Thomond Cut-Crystal decanter, six glasses and an inscribed tray, marking the occasion of the twenty years.

School Links

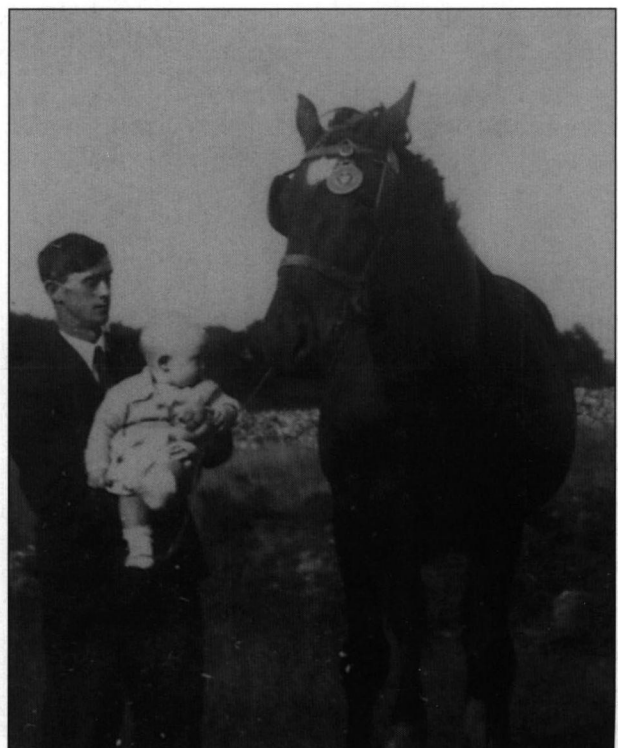
At a meeting with the schools, interest was expressed by the school management to twin with local schools here in Ballyhaunis via the internet, so if any local school, with internet access would like to make the connection, please forward the email address to the twinning committee, and it will be passed on. This applies to both primary and secondary schools.

The week, which was financially supported by the E.U., was, all in all, a huge success. So much so that there wasn't a dry eye on the Friday night of the departure. Seasoned visitors to Guilers, and others there for the first time all vowed to return again in the near future possibly as soon as next Summer.

Handing Over The Reins

James Cribbin

This photograph was sent to Joseph's sister Bea, a Dominican Nun in New Zealand. She kept it with her other mementos of 'the old country' for over forty years. The baby was unaware of the existence of the photograph until he visited his aunt at her convent in Dunedin in 1982, where she presented him with this rare photograph. The horseman and the horse have 'passed-by' The nun now lies at rest in the South Island of New Zealand. The baby still keeps a grip on the reins at the place where the photograph was taken over sixty years ago. The brass medallion seen on the horse's forehead still exists. Alas, the medallion continues to hold the years better than that baby.



Joseph Cribbin with baby Jimmy Cribbin (Johnstown)

The Parish Church in the 1940s

Fr. Kieran Waldron

In an article concerning Main Street of the 1940s for Annagh 1999, I found that space prevented any mention of its finest building – the magnificent St. Patrick's Church. The accompanying photograph of the interior, taken sometime in the 1940s or 1950s, triggers some memories on the many changes in the past fifty years.

The Building

First of all – what a glorious building! Although the Parish Church was but a youngster in comparison to the beloved Friary on the other hill, it seemed to me as a child, to have been there forever. I now know that it was built in 1909, only twenty-seven years before I was born. My parents, for many years, would have attended Mass in the old pre-Famine parish church, situated to the front of the existing building. That generation must surely have gloried in the magnificent scale and proportions of the new Church – the marble altar, the granite pillars, the huge pulpit, the great white reredos behind the altar. A new era must have begun for a small town like Ballyhaunis. People from all over the diocese came to wonder at what was achieved. The cut-stone, the interior glory and the ambience must have created for those early generations of worshippers a sense of awe, and though the church had to remain without a spire for almost one hundred years, the unfinished tower and the consequent loss of proportion in no way diminished the pride of the parishioners in this glorious building.

Natural Genius

It was a matter for some childish pride when I learned that I was related to its principal builder, John Charles Fitzmaurice, who had been the Contractor in everything but name. Canon Canning was, of course, the great organiser and motivator, but the builder was the husband of my father's sister, Mary Waldron of Devlis. He died in 1917. I had never known him, of course, but knew all my cousins. His daughter Bridie still lives in London. Surely, a reminder that a century is a relatively short time in history. John C. Fitzmaurice became the builder of much of Ballyhaunis town. Recognised as a natural genius – a one-time ship's carpenter turned into a builder and an inventor of sorts, he was the ideal choice for such a complex work as the building of the Parish Church. The

central heating system, for instance was a special mark of his ingenuity, fed as it was, from the turf-fuelled boiler under the sacristy. It operated satisfactorily for generations before the advent of electric pumps.

What are the poles for?

Turning to the photograph, notice the banners in the main aisle on the poles attached to the seats in the main aisle. The marks for the holding rings may still be on the seats but the poles and shield-like banners are long since gone. These were the markers for the individual "guilds" of the Sacred Heart Sodality, which flourished for the first half of the Twentieth century. Who remembers the Sodalities now – the great campaign of the early years of the last century to encourage again the practice of frequent Communion? Coming out of a recent Jansenistic past, the Irish Church had recognised the urgency of promoting the reception of Holy Communion at least once a month.

Because of the strictures of the Eucharistic Feast, few if any received Holy Communion at the 11.30 a.m. Mass, but at the 8.30 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of each month, the Church was filled to the very top with grave men in their Sunday suits. They attended religiously with their respective guilds for the special prayers and Holy Communion, in accordance with their respective Station areas. Each "guild" had its own individual "Sodality Prefect", with his attendance book for his own guild. The women were banished to the side aisles for this first Sunday of the month. Their Sodality took place on the second Sunday when the locations were reversed. The children similarly had the monthly Sodality at the 10 a.m. Mass on the third Sunday of each month. Until well into the 1980s the announcement continued to be made for the three "Sodality Sundays" and the special arrangements of the three-hours for Confessions on the previous day.

The whole process was highly regimented and regulated and seems foreign to modern sensibilities, but the Sodalities achieved their principal aim. Frequency in attending Holy Communion increased dramatically – as many of their long-dead members, assuredly, now share in the Banquet of Heaven.

The "Catapalque"

Looking at the photograph, one can see, beside the pulpit, the heavy black wooden stand for the coffin at funerals. A permanent fixture in the Church, it was a constant reminder of the reality of death. Those were the days of the High Mass at a funeral – four priests attending: the Celebrant, the Deacon, the Sub-deacon and the Master of Ceremonies. Even in the humblest Church, the Mass was sung in Latin, with the full requirements, if not always the



St. Patrick's Church interior prior to alterations carried out after the Second Vatican Council.
Photograph taken c. 1950-60.

full elegance of the Gregorian chants. Congregations may have been unaware of the harsh meaning of some of the words – "Dies irae dies illa, solvet saeculum in favilla, that day of wrath in which the world will dissolve to ashes" The black vestments of the three priests, the mournful tones, the sombre liturgy, all emphasised the reality of death and judgement. There was no sermon and, hence, no panegyrics or funeral eulogies – just a concentration on praying for the dead. Yet, for the young boy altar-server or the choirboy, both of which roles I often had, the whole aura was one of dignity and mystery helped by the fragrant aroma of the incense and candles.

The Pulpit

You will notice the pulpit, still in use, but now much reduced in scale and modified to serve as the Ambo. Placed then at the second pillar from the top and under the clock, it stood on a four-foot plinth, so that even a small priest presented a majestic figure as he preached. There was no encumbrance on the marble rail to interfere with movements and Fr. Hugh Curley or Fr. Thomas Jennings, Fr. Rushe, Fr. Godwin or the Parish Priest, Archdeacon Prendergast could and did range dramatically from side to side as they preached to the occupants of the three aisles of the Church, without the benefit of microphones. For total freedom in movement, they even de-vested themselves of their heavy chasubles as they mounted the pulpit, after the Communion, for their twenty-minute sermon. And we certainly heard and absorbed what they said. Television, and even radio, was not then a factor and when somebody addressed you at Sunday Mass, you listened – it was the only address one heard for that week, unless there happened to be a General Election in the offing! It was easier to preach the word of God in those days. Yet, as a youngster, the prospect of ever having to preach was one aspect of a priest's life that went very near to frightening me off ever thinking of such a difficult role.

The Altar Rails

As one looks towards the sanctuary, one is conscious of the dividing barrier of the altar rails. They were beautiful and had their function at that time when the practice was to receive Holy Communion while kneeling, the wide marble rail resembling in some way, the altar itself. One of the coveted chores of the servers was to turn up the linen Communion cloth on to the rails from where it hung, on the inside, for the entire length of the sanctuary. The communicants devoutly held this cloth to their chins as they received, to ensure that the Sacred Host did not fall to the ground. And if it did, the server/escort was on hand to gather it with the gold Patten which he carried as he

walked beside the priest.

Some major changes in pastoral practice, no doubt – but the essence remains the same. The Second Vatican Council of the 1960s replaced the accretions in practices, which had grown over the centuries, and the original practice of the Church of standing, the "circumstantes" – literally, those standing around for the celebration – again became the practice. The concentration now was on the place of the laity and the unity of the Christian assembly. With the new ministries, the other reforms in the Liturgy and the emphasis on the baptised lay-person's dignity, altar rails gradually lost their function, indeed seemed something of a barrier. There were eventually removed in Ballyhaunis in the early 1970s.

The Priest, with his Back to the People

The altar itself, one can detect, was then attached to the still existing "reredos" The practice had existed since the Middle Ages of having the celebrant priest face away from the congregation throughout the celebration, as if leading his people to the Lord. Nowadays, the priest is again seen as one of the pilgrims himself and the people gather, as it were, around the altar. The Latin Mass, which was in vogue until 1967, formally began at the foot of the three altar-steps, where the priest quietly shared Psalm 42 with the servers: "*Introibo ad altare Dei, ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam*: I will go unto the altar of God, the God who gives joy to my youth", the servers stumbling their way through the long Latin responses.

The boy-servers, of course, were the only lay people who ever ventured past the golden gate of the sanctuary. Their "jobs" were then, as now, jealously shared. For instance, there was the ritual, after the first Reading, of moving the Missal from the Epistle (right) side of the altar to the Gospel side. Thus, after the ritual bows as he ascended the altar, the server then retraced his steps in a 'V' movement for a genuflection at the bottom step, from which he ascended again to place the Book with its heavy brass stand on the altar for the reading of the Gospel. Out of deference for the 100% non-Latin-speaking congregation, the priest having read the Gospel, turned to read the English version to the people and, occasionally, on less formal occasions, gave his sermon from this position. Those English words, with the formal Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity and the long Prayer Before Mass, were the only concessions to the vernacular.

The ornate Reredos, at the rear of the altar, still dominates the sanctuary. It takes the eye upward – as if to Heaven. It was more than a backdrop to the altar; it was the shrine for the Tabernacle. The "Throne" above, with the mini-pillars surrounding, was the natural place for the Crucifix, but was really designed as the receptacle for the

Monstrance especially during the great annual "Forty Hours Devotion" in honour of the Blessed Sacrament.

Even when the Mass was over, all was still not over. The server had now to remember the alternate verses of the long Psalm for mercy – the De Profundis – which he recited with the priest, now returned to the foot of the steps. This was followed by "Prayers after Mass" three Hail Marys, the Hail Holy Queen and a special prayer for the conversion of sinners, the liberty and exaltation of our Holy Mother – the Church, the Holy Souls and the conversion of Russia.

Each age celebrates and emphasises its own partial understanding of the great truths of Christianity. No age has the monopoly of all truth and the varying emphases are reflected not just in the Church's liturgy but in the Church design itself. The great thing is that the Parish Church is such a wonderful building that it can encompass all the changes so well.

The Unseen Places

And then there were the unseen places in the Church: the Sacristy and the Baptistry. The sacristy was presided over by Jim Clarke from Devlis. Jim was a character who had no difficulty dealing with all-comers: priest, child, or parishioner. But never the Archdeacon. He had an undying regard for him. In fact, Jim is credited with having opined to a number of local pundits who were bandying names of Cardinals for the office of Pope when Pius XII died in 1958, - "and what about our own man?"

meaning, of course the same Archdeacon Geoffrey Prendergast! May God rest them all.

No sign of the Baptismal Font in the photograph. No, the font was then located in a rather obscure corner, a railed-off baptistery near the front door in the area of the present Eucharistic chapel. Small numbers attended Baptisms in those days. Mothers rarely attended. The concentration then was on having the newly born child baptised within a few days of the birth itself so it was generally only the father and two sponsors who attended.

Changed Times

My memories of my parish Church were happy and fruitful. Every parishioner shares a sense of belonging to one's parish church and each is grateful to all who put it there and have maintained and embellished it in its first century of existence. As I was one of the parish Church servers, my association with the Friary was somewhat less but not my attachment to it. It too had a major part in my faith journey. It was such a sad and heart-rending occasion to be present on 16th June 2002 when the last public Mass was celebrated there after six-hundred years of uninterrupted worship. It is a great loss that the Augustinians are no longer with us. God's ways are not our ways but we must all still look forward in hope to a Church renewal, a growth in vocations and better times in the years to come.

Ballyhaunis I.C.A

Maura Fitzmaurice (Sec.)

We had a very good year in the I.C.A. Some of the ladies took part in a sponsored I.C.A. walk for Breast Cancer, which was a great success. Our membership is growing and new members are always welcome. We do various activities during the year. Our committee is - President: Margaret Kenny; Vice-Chairperson: Angela Waldron, Secretary: Maura Fitzmaurice; Treasurer: Margaret Dyer.

We would like to thank all who supported us during the year. Hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



Ballyhaunis I.C.A. at their Christmas dinner party. L-R: Angela Waldron, Winifred O'Brien, Maura Fitzmaurice, Margaret Kenny, Patricia Plunkett and Julia Kelly.

So, Spillane Is Human After All!

Murt Hunt

We have heard so much and read so much, in the past few years, about Pat Spillane's likes, dislikes, rantings and ravings about this, that and the other, that another chapter in his controversial lifestyle may seem only like a pittance. However, I personally can vouch for the fact that Pat Spillane is a very clever individual, and that the more controversy he creates, the more Euros line his trouser pockets each week. I have also found out too that he is very much human and I have found this out at first hand experience. So we can set aside for the moment the numerous times he has insulted the various counties, especially in Connacht, and derided managers, players, etc., in his continuous quest for headlines and attention in various newspapers, especially the Sunday World. In so doing he has drawn the wrath of every county in Connacht and also other counties from Armagh to Cork, from Dublin to Donegal. His recent outburst about his mother being able to run faster than the Armagh corner backs was really the icing on the cake. The subsequent collapse of his beloved Kerry in the second half made an already ruddy face turn an embarrassingly livid red as the final whistle sounded in the 2002 All-Ireland. His do-no-wrong-Kingdom had also collapsed in the 2001 All-Ireland Semi-final, and stuck him for words, and also made his face a brighter shade of red.

No doubt, however, Pat's job is secure at the Sunday World, he will be offered an increase in salary, his face will turn red several times before the 2003 season is over, but he will laugh all the way to the bank. He is a very popular and valued teacher in a secondary school in Cork, and is a brilliant coach to his college teams. So why then does he put his foot in it week-in, week-out in the Sunday World, or as a panelist on the Sunday game on R.T.E.? He has been described as a big-head, a buffoon, and several other unprintable names, but in all sincerity Pat is a top-class journalist who thrives on controversy. Even in his heyday as a top Kerry footballer he was surrounded in controversy, and a friend of mine swears that he spent more time lying prostrate on the ground than he did standing upright! A clocking hen of the highest order is what she described him as. How many other clocking hens have as many All-Ireland medals as

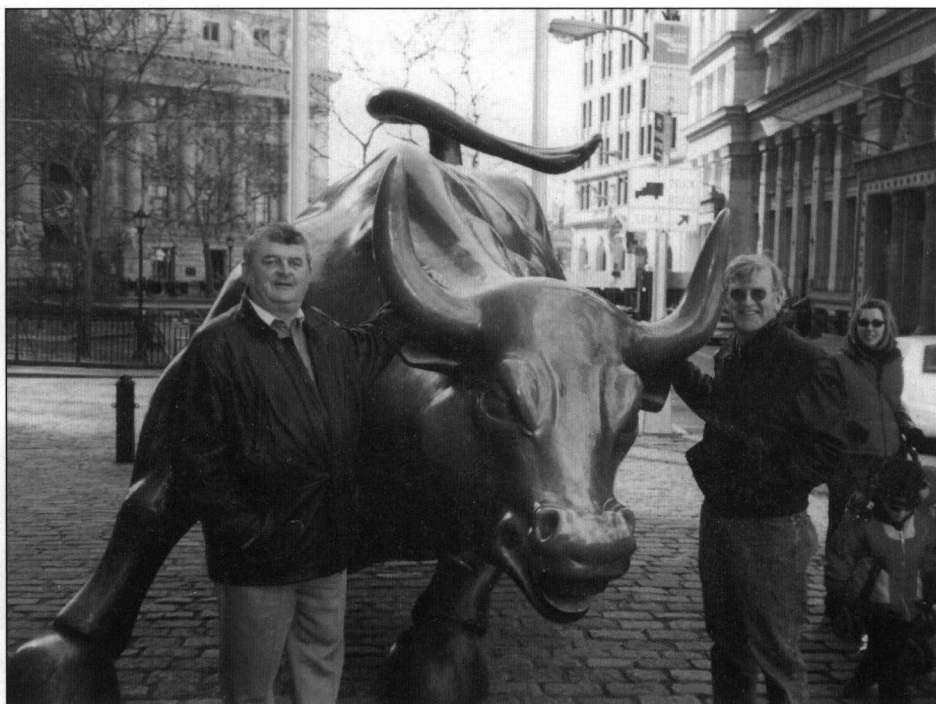
him, however? He has eight. After all he fought half his playing career against horrific knee injuries, and had to be dedicated to carry on against all the odds, and keep his place on a very competitive Kerry panel. Yes, in my opinion he was a very fast, fit, accurate forward who was immensely talented and would rate with the very best available down through the years.

My Win

My story begins in the Summer of 2001 when I entered a competition in The Sunday World, and in it one had to forecast the correct score in two selected G.A.A. matches each week. Whoever got the nearest, or indeed the correct scores each week, won a weekend in New York for two people, all expenses paid. Imagine my surprise when I received a phone call one morning to say that I was the winner that particular week, as I had got the score absolutely correct. It failed to sink in and I rang back the number to see if it was all a joke, only to be reassured that it was no joke, and that I and a companion would be winging our way to the Big Apple early the following Spring.

I was the only one in our house that had not been to America; every one of my kids had been there, in their turn, to visit their Auntie Carmel and Uncle Pat, and to work for the Summer holidays. I had all kinds of relations there and had promised all and sundry that I would visit them, but never got around to doing so, through various happenings and misfortunes down through the years.

I had three aunts and an uncle on my late father's side around Boston, two of whom I never met, and the other two whom I met only once when they came home to my wedding in 1972. I also had uncles and aunts on my late mother's side, whom I never met. The whole lot of them, unfortunately, have passed away now, but I have literally hundreds of cousins whom I have never met, but it would take more than a weekend to put that right. However I was



What a load of Bull!!! Murt Hunt (left) and Pat McDermott (right).

really looking forward to my weekend in New York in Spring 2002.

As the late Eamon Kelly would say "Things rested so", but little did I understand that the events that were to unfold on September 11th would put such a damper on events, and nearly put paid to my first ever visit to 'The Big Apple', and the land where most of my forefathers had emigrated to.

Various people had volunteered for the job of escorting me to the good old U.S.A. and look after me, and not let me get lost etc.(!?), but after the happenings of September 11th, the volunteer list had dwindled rapidly and by the time the day of my proposed departure arrived, I was on my own and, may I say, having second thoughts about going at all. Only last minute negotiations with my daughter Noelle saved the day, and finally she was the one who accompanied me on my trip. It was my first time going to U.S.A. but not my first time on a plane, as I had made ten pilgrimages to Our Lady's Grotto at Lourdes, so I was well versed in that department, and had a passport, etc.

On Route

The very first time I met Pat Spillane face-to-face was at the departure lounge at Shannon Airport, where the various passengers on the flight had congregated. These included journalists from the Sunday World, including Sean McGoldrick, Ray Curtis, and, of course, the aforementioned Pat Spillane. He was embroiled in good-natured banter with a few other Mayo natives, one of whom had also won a trip. They were reminding him of the disgraceful way he had treated the Mayo team and management the previous Summer but, of course, it ran off him like water off a duck, and, using one of many expletives he indicated, in his own way, that the present Mayo team would achieve very little! You know, I partially had to agree with him on that issue, but my debate would continue on throughout the weekend.

We were bussed to our hotel – Fitzpatrick's Hotel on 5th Avenue – and settled in for the night after a light snack and a few bottles of Budweiser. Pateen was actually there having a bottle and I said I would be one step ahead of him and bought him one. He thanked me and asked me where I came from, and when I told him he actually smiled and said: "Jaysus, not another Mayo man!" But I reassured him I was, and proud of it. We were to have many more discussions on the merits and ups and downs of Mayo football over the next few nights.

Ground Zero

The next day Friday we all were left to do our own thing after breakfast, so Noelle and I went on the open-top bus and saw the sights of practically all of New York, which really impressed me and left a vivid impression on me. We had to queue to get tickets for the viewing platform at the remains of the Twin Towers at Ground Zero. It was a horrific sight. People were just wandering around with sheer terror in their eyes. New York will just never be the same again, I thought, and I thanked God I was not a native New Yorker and just said a silent prayer for the victims and their families. By the time we got back to our hotel we were

starved and frozen as it tends to get very cold there in the evenings at that time of year, especially on the top of an open double-decker bus, but we were happy to have taken in so much, even though it was not all so pleasant.

We had a very pleasant time with our companions on the trip that night, and we went to some Irish bars and, just like home, one will always run into someone one knows. Pat Spillane was our guide to some of the Irish bars, and he got lots of offers to buy him a drink, for he is so well known there, going practically every year. We also had the privilege of the company of Gerry Ryan at the residents' bar in Fitzpatrick's that night. Pat and I had our usual discussion on the state of Mayo football, and by the end of the night, I think I had him partially convinced that we had an up and coming panel in the county.

My sister Carmel and her husband Pat came down from Boston the next morning and we decided that we would go out on the ferry to Liberty Island and Ellis Island, and it was a good choice as it turned out to be the highlight of the trip – of mine at least. It was the most beautiful day and we were all in our tee-shirts as we queued for what seemed like hours for the ferry. The security was very strict as it was everywhere we went, and we had to remove all items like biros, pins and badges, and watches. We got close up pictures of the Statue of Liberty, but were not allowed to disembark on Liberty Island as there was extra security on that particular day, so we motored ahead to Ellis Island, which to me was another moving experience.

Ellis Island

Ellis Island was used as an emigration centre for emigrants from all over the world at the turn of the century, including thousands from Ireland. It was indeed a harrowing experience to see pictures of Irish men and women who had come to start a new life in this foreign land. We saw the various types of clothes and equipment that they had brought with them from home - those of them that made it, as thousands more had died on the journey from disease and hunger. I was particularly upset to see so many had been deported for various reasons (health and otherwise), back to Ireland. I was particularly upset with a copy of a letter from a mother to her two daughters begging them to reconsider their decision not to claim her and to send her back to Ireland, and I thought of how they must be completely poverty-stricken not to be able to claim their own mother 5,000 miles from home. Whatever happened to the poor unfortunate woman? I suppose we will never know, but I certainly know she would not have been alone. I left Ellis Island that evening on the ferry a better person and not so much preoccupied with my own misfortunes. I thought how we can all pick up the phone now and call a friend or hop on a plane for a five hour journey to America but, at that time, a goodbye said to relatives at the quay at Cobh would be a final parting for so many lovely Irish people. Now we complain about fickle little things like the weather etc., or the multiple price increases since the introduction of the Euro - so we are a nation of moaners by nature.

Talking about moaners – back to Pat Spillane again. That night (Saturday) my sister Carmel and her husband Pat, Noelle and myself met some friends of ours from

Castlebar and had a meal out at a steakhouse. The food was good but the price was twice as good and I was sorry for Pat, who picked up the tab. Oh no, not Pat Spillane, catch him picking up a tab like that. He is not called a cute Kerry man for nothing! We did however meet him later and had a further discussion on football in general, and he prophesied that Kerry would win the All-Ireland in 2002 - wrong again Pat!!

Final Night

We spent a lot of time and a lot of money at the bar on this our final night, and the thing that really baffled me was the tips issue. Everyone just left a tip on the counter after each drink, and every now and then the barmaid would gather the tips up and put them in a separate box. Yes, you would get a free drink after a few rounds, but I thought where's the logic in it all? Especially when you are paying \$7 for a pint of Guinness in the first place. We retired to bed early - in the morning that is, and we had not even a cross word with Pateen before retiring.

Sunday morning we were all up bright and early and did some last minute shopping and saw the awesome sight of a fleet of limos pull outside our hotel, to convey Gerry Ryan and his entourage back to the airport. I thought of my late mother's remark on an occasion like that - win gold and wear it. I got pictures of both Gerry Ryan and Pat Spillane both sporting the Mayo colours, but like all the other hard luck stories in my life, the batteries were down in my camera, and none of these particular pictures came out, so I have no evidence to back up my article.

Soon we had said our goodbyes and were on the coach to the airport, and I was after making another discovery: you don't make long distance phone calls from your hotel room. I was left with a lighter wallet as a consequence, and now know that the answer is a phone card from a public kiosk. So, I also left The Big Apple a much wiser if not richer man. There were a few empty seats on the plane coming home, and Pat Spillane stretched out on three of them, and engaged in friendly banter beside me, and worn out - I suppose from revelry and all that talking - slept nearly all the way. I myself slept, now and again, but was awake to hear the Captain announce over the intercom that the weather at Shannon was wet and windy, back to what we are used to I thought to myself. We were given a lovely meal on the way home also, but Pateen did not have it as he was away in another world.

The Landing

The plane circled for landing at Shannon and the Captain had given us another warning about the weather situation - very bad squalls is what he said. We were all very anxious and said a silent prayer for a safe landing, all save Pateen who was still asleep. The stewardess woke him to fasten his seat belt for landing, but he was still half asleep. Just as the plane came low to taxi on to the runway, all of a sudden the engines revved up again, and the plane went straight up into the air once again. There were some very anxious moments, I must say and rosary beads were produced from nowhere. Pat had now woken fully from his slumbers, and his normally red complexion had changed to a very bright

shade of pale. "Are we going up again?" he whispered to me. "Yes Pat", I said, and with that he blessed himself. I might have asked him then what he thought about Mayo football, but I did not as I knew at that precise moment that the great Pat Spillane was human after all. The Captain did us no favours by announcing that he could see absolutely nothing and had to take her up again. Noelle was particularly amused by this remark at the time, but did not realise the seriousness of it all. Eventually we circled and came in safely to land the next time around, to a fantastic round of applause from the entire crowd of passengers and crew alike. I realised, in hindsight, that the Captain was entirely right, and it was better to go up where he could see something than try and land where he could see nothing. At any rate we all arrived safely, thank God, and I thought we survived all the hassle at the airports etc., in New York and had to come home to our own country for a frightening experience!

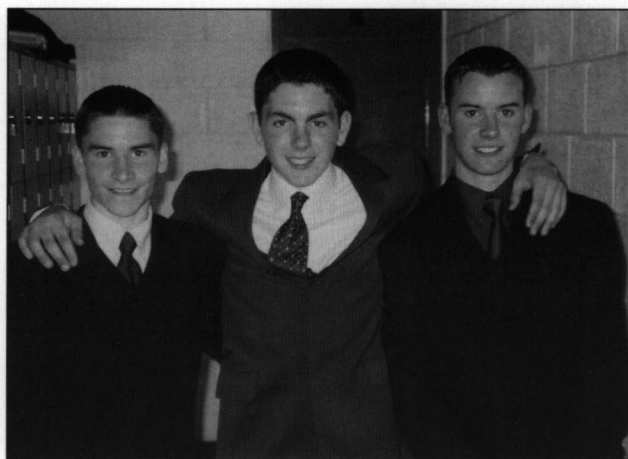
The last I saw of Pat Spillane was gathering his luggage at the arrivals lounge. His reddish complexion had partially returned, and when I shouted to him, "Mayo for the All Ireland", he was quick as ever to retort, "No way, Murt!"

Of course I have seen him on television since, and putting his foot in it once again about the Aussie Rules games, both on television and in the Sunday World. But I have one up on him. I know beneath that false face there is a caring, loving person whom I witnessed getting the wind taken out of his sails literally, on that fateful day in February 2002 on our return journey from New York to Shannon Airport. Hup ya boy Pateen, send us on a few bob!

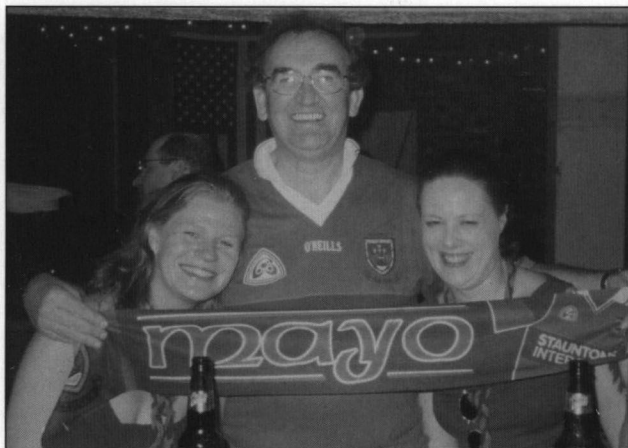
Leavetaking

Slanting rays of setting sun through western door
Fitting symbol at Novena's end
Stark announcement - June 16th 2002
To be final chapter of 600 years
Other images come to mind:
Rising Sun through Eastern Window greeting new day
And life we thought would never change.
Our thoughts to Murrisk, Orlar and Clonmacnoise
Where rook and raven resonate the prayer and chant
Of hooded monk now sleeping still in great anticipation
Quiet places but strangely vibrant and alive.
Dead generations do not mock us now.
600 years of toil and work withstood the might of hunger,
Fire and even Cromwell's sword
But now is felled by newfound "wealth".
Your lives were not in vain; you served us well.
Your story is enshrined in silent walls and hallowed graves,
A source of peace and strength.
Let's not destroy but seek for new beginnings
The past is o'er.

Jarlath Fahey



Graduation 2002. L-R: Paul Walsh, Brian Mulrennan and Peter Walsh.



Taken at Mayo / Roscommon match showing, Washington D.C.
Laura Lyons, Vincent Keane and Maire Gildea.



Alice and Tom Lyons, Clare Street.



Taken in 1958 in the Central Hotel after forming Ballyhaunis Fire Service. Front l-r: Michael Mulhern, Liam Smith, Cllr. Michael Dalgan-Lyons, Capt. C. Garvey (M.C. Fire Officer), Clarence Grogan (Station Officer). Back l-r: John Maguire, M. Moran, Mick O'Connell (W.P.), J. Toolan, Dan Moran, Sgt. Pat Nally and J. Gilmore.

The Distant Drums

Siobhan Byrne

Two years in South Africa – A Thrill or a Threat!? Certain negative issues spring to mind - poverty, apartheid, racism, and violence. However, what about the positives? – President Nelson Mandela, diverse cultures, eleven official languages, blue skies, and beautiful scenery. The latter is what makes South Africa such a wonderful country and, despite all its problems in the past, it is proving to be a country of immense stature and with potential to grow.

It was for these reasons that I decided to accept a post as a Sports Development Worker in the country for two years. This appointment was in conjunction with APSO (Agency For Personal Service Overseas), which is a government-funded organisation that recruits qualified personnel on behalf of developing countries. Therefore, I was responsible for filling skills gaps and contributing towards sustainable development for underprivileged communities.

Kimberley

I was based in Kimberley in the centre of South Africa, renowned for its diamonds, "The Big Hole" and being one of the hottest places in the country. I worked with the !Xun and Khwe communities (4,500 people in total), who are two tribes belonging to the San Bushman. They are based in Schmidtsdrift (ninety kilometres from Kimberley) and Platfontein,

which will be the new resettlement area (twenty kilometres from Kimberley). Their background is a very complex and historical one, but in short, they are natives of Namibia and Angola. Many of them were soldiers who were forced to side with the South African Defence Force (SADF) in the war with Namibia. Namibia gained its independence and the consequences proved fatal for the !Xun and Khwe. In 1990 due to safety reasons, the soldiers and their families were forced to move to South Africa.



Siobhan with friends outside a family home in Schmidtsdrift, South Africa.



Team Talk: Soccer competition, encouraging girls to participate in sport. Team kit paid for by Ballyhaunis funds.

Consequently, the !Xun and Khwe were transported to Schmidtsdrift, a dry, barren and isolated land with little or no basic living amenities. The SADF provided the communities with army canvas tents until proper housing could be allocated. They have been living in these temporary tents and conditions for the past thirteen years. Intertwined with the above are the growing social problems they endure, e.g. rape, family violence, alcohol abuse, and tribal conflicts. This is primarily due to the boredom factor, unemployment and the isolated area they are based in. So you may seriously debate the request for a sports facilitator – a bazaar choice! They need architects, engineers, social workers, conflict managers - but I was the only European who was part of a group of people involved in the whole resettlement process.

New Challenge

Sport is an ideal vehicle through which to alleviate boredom and combat social problems. So, while my inclusion would seem to be very informal and incorporate fun into their daily lives, it would prove to be an imperative one. My function was to develop sports structures such as training techniques, rules, introduce different sports, competitions, enhance individual traits, fundraise and network with government departments and sports federations. There was definitely no shortage of variety in my job description and I thrived on the different challenges I faced everyday. Despite several problems and constraints such as finance, languages, timescale, conflict and cultural differences, I can thankfully say they were overcome.

Language

The language factor was a huge challenge, Afrikaans being a communal language. However, I also had to acquire some !Xun and Khwe, which would definitely provide me with good elocution lessons involving plenty of click sounds. Towards the end though, the community were eager to learn Irish! So, there was a familiar greeting of "Conas a tá tú?" or "Dia Dhuit" with an African accent meeting me every morning! Mind you, my rural Irish accent made up for it when speaking the Afrikaans. I can still hear the chorus of laughter from the community!

As for timescale, we could forget about a watch. What's that???? Waiting for them to arrive at a certain time

one day left me pulling hair out of my head, but then I soon learned that I had to call to collect them. I only had to turn around to see about forty kids running behind me – "The Pied Piper"! Many a spear or an arrow from a bow also had to be dodged on the odd occasion. Ouch!! Thankfully, I survived.

Achievements

There is no doubt that many things were achieved throughout the two years, small as some seemed, the effect was magical. Not only did the community acquire sports skills and training, it has helped to develop individuals' confidence, esteem, social and life skills. In addition to this, there are tangible achievements, which have been left behind, such as the purchase of a new school bus and the construction of a playground.

So two years are over before I know it and certain moments will never be a distant memory - smiling faces when you throw a ball, eating traditional African dinners with families, the conversations regarding their past, hopes and aspirations, their African dance and rhythm (I even managed to acquire their hip movements!!). However, the greatest compliment will always be having accompanied a tribal friend from the community to the maternity hospital; I discovered the baby was to be named after me. What a privilege! So, as my tribal friend said on my departure, there will always be a Siobhan with us.

It has been a roller-coaster ride, but an unforgettable experience. Africa is a special place, vibrant in its past and present and enriched with unique cultures.

Thanks

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of the people in Mayo who contributed towards our fundraising efforts for the project. You have helped make such a positive difference, ensured many happy memories and sustainable treasures for the !Xun and Khwe. You never know what the results of our combined efforts could be – A San participant in a future Olympics. I would not rule it out.

Baie Dankie van die !Xun and Khwe.

Go raibh maith agaibh ón na !Xun and Khwe

Thank you from the !Xun and Khwe

Ballyhaunis G.A.A Club 2002

Mary Prenty (Sec.)

2002 was a very successful year for Ballyhaunis GAA Club. We fielded twenty teams in all grades of competition. Pride of place must go to our Senior Hurling Team which won the County Senior Hurling Title for the first time in the history of the Club. This was a tremendous achievement and was a just reward for the many people who have invested their time in the promotion of hurling over the years.

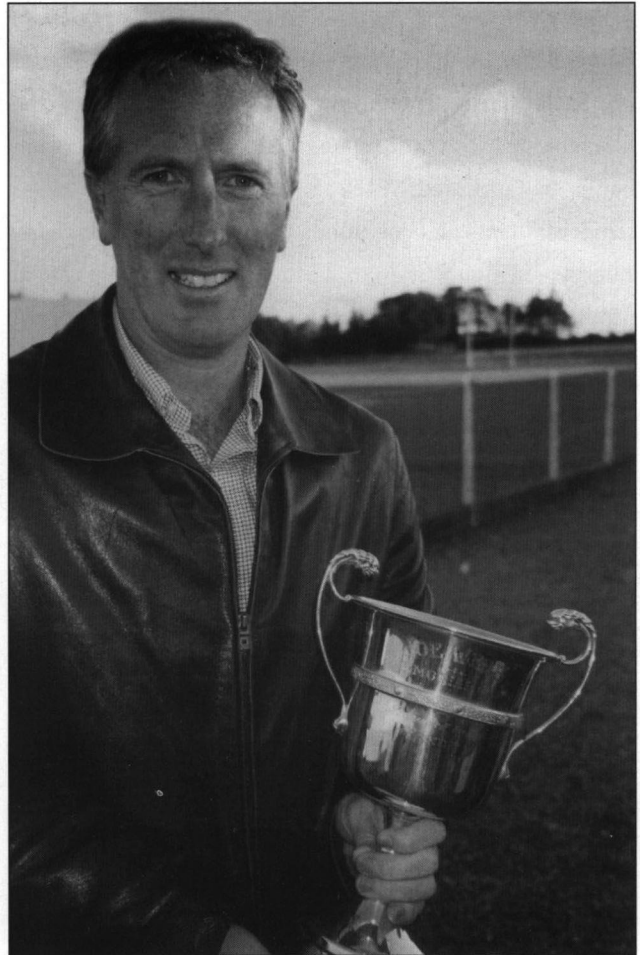
On behalf of the club I wish to thank our players, team mentors, parents and supporters for their efforts on behalf of the club during the past year.

Under 8/10 - Football

2002 was a successful year for Under 8 and Under 10 footballers in Ballyhaunis. This year training for boys and girls was held on Saturday evenings and ran from early March to mid October. Training sessions were very well attended - with up to sixty players involved. During training the players are split in to groups reflecting their ages and experience so that as far as possible no player is out of his or her depth. The format of training is that for the first half hour basic skills are taught and this is followed by a game. Over the course of the season we had a number of friendly matches at both Under 8 and Under 10 - against Claremorris, Charlestown and Castlereagh - and we played in blitz competitions in Ballinlough, Charlestown and Kiltimagh. The annual Ballyhaunis Under 10 Blitz was won this year by a strong Charlestown team and Ballyhaunis were the winners of the "B" section. Thanks are due to the trainers Barry Butler, John Collins Gerry Lyons, Tommy Moran, Sean McNamara, and Billy Phillips, and to all the parents specially those who provided transport to away matches.

Mick O'Connell Cup

Our season ended on a high note on Sunday 13th October when there was a big turnout for the Mick O'Connell Cup. In the Under 8 section the team captains were Eanna McNamara and Conor Nolan and after an exciting game Eanna McNamara's team were the winners. Team captains at Under 10 were Damian Keadin, Isaac Carroll, Kieran Kiely and Ryan Worden. Damian Keadin and Kieran Kiely's teams reached the final, which Kieran Kiely's team won by a score of 8-3 to 4-9. All the contestants got medals and the Mick O'Connell Cup was presented to Kieran Kiely by the O'Connell family. Refreshments were given



Sean Webb, who presented the Joe Webb Cup 2002 to the winning Captain, John Gallagher.

to all the players in Supermacs.

Under 8 Panel

Eanna McNamara, Conor Nolan, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, Adrian Phillips, Patrick Kiely, Shane Lyons, Darren Nolan, Cyril Collins, Jason Fahey, Lisa O'Connell, Eric Eaton, Morgan Lyons, David Bance, Jason Coyne, Enda Mulkeen, Niall Cherbatji, Joey Fahey, Andrew Lannon, Ryan Kilbane, Jim Reidy, Aishling Tarpey, Sara Deegan, Michael O'Rourke, Michael Waldron, Robert Morley, Joseph Kelly, James Lyons, Daniel McCormack, Sean Lannon, Stephen Ryan, Mark Ruane, Stephen Nolan, Eddie Cleary, Caoimhe Henry, Jack Hughes, David Cleary, Joseph Lyons, Kevin Kilbride, Mark Davey, Sean McDermott, Jamail Kezze, Clare Moran and Jamie Skeffington

Under 10 Panel

Damian Keadin, Isaac Carroll, Kieran Kiely, Ryan Worden, Gearóid Keane, Robyn Moran, Eoin Collins, Conor Freeley, Brendan Waldron, Oisín McDermott, Aaron Eaton, Cathal Fahey, Ciaran McDermott, Pdraig Waldron, Joseph Flynn, Sean O'Rourke, John McCormack, Barry Deegan, Mohammad Cherbatji, Shane



Pictured at the G.A.A. Summer Sports Camp 2002, coaches Tony Duffy, Eugene Lavin and Padraig Horkan with some of the camps' competitors.

Lyons, Eric Eaton, James Cribbin, Jarlath Carney, Conor Nolan, Eanna McNamara, Lisa O'Connell, Patrick Kiely, David Bance, Adrian Phillips, Cyril Collins, Declan Cleary, Darren Nolan, Jason Fahey, Kieran Davey.

Hurling

Indoor Hurling resumed in the Scouts Den in November. Over fifty children participated and were divided into Division 1 and Division 2 depending on age and strength of the players. This enabled a coaching schedule to be incorporated during the sessions each Saturday morning with emphasis placed on teaching all of the skills of the game. A series of Shield and Cup Finals took place and, in the Division 2 Cup Final, the team captained by Shane Nolan defeated the team captained by Liam McDermott. In the Division 2 Shield Final the team captained by Seamie Webb defeated the team captained by Kamron Afzal. In the Division 1 Cup Final the team captained by Kieran Lucey defeated the team captained by David Herr. In the Division 1 Shield Final Sean O'Kane defeated David Healy.

The following players participated: Shane Nolan, Jonathan Maughan, John Lyons, Paul Carney, Kieran McDermott, Sean Griffin, Jarlath Carney, Sean Ronayne, Liam McDermott, Eamonn Fitzmaurice, Paul Higgins, David Fitzmaurice, Conor Nolan, Kieran Turner, Daniel Ward, Kamron Afzal, Gavin O'Connor, Kevin Nestor, Sean Nolan, Joseph Flynn, James Cribbin, David Grogan, Damien Callaghan, Seamie Webb, Christopher Mongan, Tadhg Morley, Kevin Fitzmaurice, David Lyons, Gerard Grogan, Kieran Webb, Morgan Lyons, Kieran Lucey,

Conor Mulrennan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Brian Waldron, William Lyons, Nicola Kilbride, David Herr, Luke Cribbin, Robert Frayne, Niall Feeney, Brian Hunt, Noel Byrne, David Maughan, Sean O'Kane, Brian Gallagher, John Lyons, Arslann Afzal, Zaheer Javaid, Jason Swords, David Healy, Patrick Kelly, Stephen Hoban, James Ronayne, Keith Grogan, Josh Sloyan.

National Schools/Under 11 Football

The East Mayo National Schools competition was held as a Blitz in Charlestown on 5th October. We played seven games defeating Charlestown, Kilmovee, Ballaghaderreen, Moy Davitts. We drew with Kiltimagh and lost to Swinford and Aghamore. A very enjoyable day was had by all of the players.

Under 12 Football

In the Under 12 County League we played six games in our section and enjoyed good wins over Moy Davitts, Ballinrobe, Claremorris and Belmullet. We lost to Islandeady and Westport thus qualifying for the Quarter Finals with Knockmore. In the semi-final we were defeated by eventual County Champions - Westport.

Team: A. Ruane, K. Nestor, J. Maughan, C. Hughes, J. Gallagher, B. Hunt, B. Waldron, R. Finan, D. McNamara, F. Fitzmaurice, Z. Javaid, K. Afzal, E. McNamara, I. Carroll, D. Keadin, P. Carney, K. Moran, P. Freeley, P. Higgins, K. Kiely, S. Webb, K. Murphy, J. Flynn, T. Morley, R. Collins, S. Nolan, C. Mongan, K. McNamara, N. Asilia. Managers: Michael Gallagher, Matt O'Dwyer and John Griffin.



Ballyhaunis Under 14 Team, East Mayo Finalists 2002. Back l-r: Michael Gallagher (Manager), John Jordan, Robert Frayne, David Maughan, Adrian Fitzmaurice, Michael Waldron, Padraic Cribbin, Conor Mulrennan, Kevin Gallagher, Sean O'Kane, Joe McEvey (Chairman, East Mayo Board), John Prenty (Connacht Secretary). Front l-r: Jonathan Maughan, Kevin Nestor, Niall Prenty, David Healy (Captain), Stephen Hoban, Adrian Brennan, Declan Murphy, John Gallagher and Paul Walsh.

The year finished with a very successful Joe Webb Cup competition. Four teams participated and were captained by Kevin Nestor, John Gallagher, Brian Waldron and Brian Hunt. In the Final John Gallagher's team defeated Brian Waldron's team and Sean Webb presented the Cup to the winning captain. The final was followed by refreshments in Supermacs.

Under 12 Hurling

We participated in the Under 12 Ground Hurling Blitz 2002 at Padraic Pearse's, Woodmount, Ballinasloe in June. We were regarded as one of the favourites coming into this Competition. Ballyhaunis had a comfortable win in their first round game against Tremane. However, a defeat by Annaghdown, in the Semi-final relegated Ballyhaunis back to the B division. We eventually took the title for the first time.

Ballyhaunis Team; Paul Carney, Paul Freeley, Zaheer Javaid, Kamron Afzal, Kevin Nestor, Brian Waldron, Tadhg Morley, Brian Hunt, David Lyons, Paul Higgins, Shane Nolan, Eamonn Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Liam McDermott, Sean Ronayne. Management: Peter Higgins, Ray Lucey, Gerry Kilbride, Martin Kilbride, Micheál Walsh

Under 13 Football

This year's Under 13 team had victories over Kilmovee

Shamrocks, Shrul/Glencorrib and Davitts, and narrow defeats by county finalists Garrymore and champions Ballinrobe. This is a very talented team and next year's Under 14 campaign has a lot of promise.

Team: R. Ruane, D. Murphy, N. Cherbatji, K. Nestor, R. Frayne, J. Maughan, J. Jordan, N. Prenty, C. Hughes, J. Gallagher, B. Hunt, B. Waldron, S. Hoban, S. O'Dwyer, L. Finan, D. McNamara, F. Fitzmaurice, P. Walshe, N. Byrne, M. Cherbatji, I. Mooney, Z. Javaid, E. Griffin, A. Afzal, E. McNamara. Managers: John Prenty, Michael Gallagher, Martin Finan.

Under 14 Football

In the Under 14 League we were victorious over Bonniclonlon, Crossmolina, St. Gerard's and Kiltane, who later went on to win the Championship and League double. We lost narrowly to Garrymore and Achill and qualified for the play-offs where Crossmolina defeated us in atrocious conditions.

In the Championship we played Kilmovee Shamrocks in the semi-final and, after an easy victory, we qualified to play Aghamore in the East Mayo Final. Although conceding home venue we had a tremendous victory to take the East Mayo title.

In the County Semi-final a much stronger Kiltane side - that went on to claim the County Title - defeated us.

The Under 14 panel was: Conor Mulrennan, Stephan



Ballyhaunis Minor Hurling four-in-a-row Team, 2001. Back, L-R: Mark O'Connell, Liam Lyons, Mark Kelly, Peter Walsh, Joseph Kelly, Christopher Morley, Anthony Murphy, Patrick Waldron, Padraic Carney, Tom Phillips (Manager). Front, L-R: Jason Swords, Keith Higgins, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Walsh, Ciarán Griffin, Owen Nolan, Paul Lynch, Austin Lyons, David Lynch, Fergal Lyons, Fergal Walsh.



Ballyhaunis Minor Football Team which lost out to Swinford in the East Mayo Minor 'B' Final after three replays, and three extra-times. Back, L-R: Fergal Walsh, John Prenty, Paul Jordan, Padraic Carney, Liam Lyons, Patrick Waldron, Christopher Burke, Shane Buckley, David Hannan, Robert Grogan, Ian Prenty, Ciarán Griffin, Michael Jordan, Stephen Shanaghy. Front, L-R: Keith Higgins, Niall Richardson, Brian Mulrennan, Declan Ward, Cian Higgins, William Nestor, Colm Gallagher. On Sunday 17th November Ballyhaunis once again met Swinford in the County League Final. On this occasion the victory went to Ballyhaunis. The scoreline: Ballyhaunis 3-6 and Swinford 2-6.



Ballyhaunis Supporters Paddy Ryan, Ryan's SuperValu, Ballyhaunis (Sponsor) with the T. J. Tyrrell Cup, and other Ballyhaunis supporters. L-R: Ciara Nicholson, Peter Higgins (half hidden), Siobhan Halpin, Claire Swords, Lisa O'Dowd, Peggy Lyons, Gerard Lyons, Holly Browne, Jim Landon, Deirdre Browne, Eileen Lynch, Tommy Lynch, Paddy Ryan (SuperValu), Willie Ryan (SuperValu), Jimmy Walsh, Brian Hunt, Francie Curley, Mary Walsh (half hidden).



Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Panel – County Champions 2002 Back, L-R: Tom Phillips, Michael Freeley, Christy Morley, Anthony Lyons, Ray Lucey, Packie Waldron, Pat Feeney, Andrew Shanaghy, Michael Regan, J. P. Coen, Jason Powers, John Joe Hoban (Manager), Martin Kilbride, Liam Lyons, Tadhg Buckley, Paul Lynch, Billy Hickey, Gerry Kilbride. Front, L-R: Frank Browne, Peter Healy, Michael Curley, Hughie Carney, Stephen Carney, John Burke, Pierce Higgins, Derek Walsh (Capt.), Micheal Walsh, Christy McCrudden, Keith Higgins, Padraic Carney, Hughie McKerritt.

Hoban, John Jordan, Declan Murphy, Adrian Brennan, Robert Frayne, Niall Prenty, Michael Waldron, David Maughan, Neil Jordan, David Healy, Kevin Gallagher, Padraig Cribbin, Brian Gallagher, Seamus O'Dwyer, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Sean O'Kane, John Gallagher, Jonathan Maughan, Mohammad Cherbatji, Nadeem Cherbatji, Luke Cribbin, Paul Walshe, Kevin Nestor, Enda Griffin, John Lyons, Ian Mooney, Brian Waldron. Selectors: Matt O'Dwyer, John Griffin, Michael Gallagher.

Under 14 Hurling

We had high hopes of having a good run at the Under 14 Feile and Championship.

Unfortunately, in the Feile Blitz, Tooreen and Castlebar defeated us to put us out of the competition.

In the Under 14 Championship, we had a great run of wins, and made the County Semi-final against Castlebar. In an outstanding game, played in McHale Park, we pipped Mitchell's with a great last minute goal by Josh Sloyan to make the County Finals.

On the day of the Final, we were defeated heavily by a strong Tooreen side in Ballyhaunis.

Under 14 Panel; David Healy, Sean O'Kane, Patrick Kelly, Conor Mulrennan, Stephen Hoban, Luke Cribbin, Robert Frayne, Brian Gallagher, Seamus O'Dwyer, Nicola Kilbride, Brian Hunt, Keith Grogan, Niall Feeney, Lisa Carney, Brian Waldron, James Ronayne, Noel Byrne, David Maughan, Josh Sloyan, Jason Swords, Seamie Webb, Shane Nolan, Liam McDermott, Tadhg Morley, Paul Carney. Management: Pat Feeney, Gerry Kilbride, Peter Higgins.

Under 16 Football

In the Under 16 league we played Kilmovee Shamrocks, The Neale, Eastern Gaels, Garrymore, Davitts and Castlebar, but did not qualify for the knock-out stages.

Panel: David Hannan, Michael Jordan, Anthony Murphy, Aidan Healy, Darren Doyle, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Jarlath Mellett, Graham Egan, Joseph Kelly, Michael Cunningham, Lorcan Finan, Paul Fitzmaurice, John C. Halpin, Mark Kelly, Joseph Neenan, John Mongan, David Herr, Michael Waldron, Conor Mulrennan, Adrian Brennan, Padraig Cribbin.

Under 16 Hurling

This was probably our weakest performance at this level for a number of years. We were defeated by Tooreen, West Mayo and North Mayo, and so did not make the play-off stages.

Panel: Joseph Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Stephen Hoban, Sean O'Kane, Mark O'Connell, Brian Gallagher, Austin Lyons, David Herr, David Healy, Fergal Lyons, Luke Cribbin, Keith Grogan, David Herr, Josh Sloyan Anthony

Murphy, Jarlath Mellett, Mark Kelly, David Maughan, Lisa Carney, Jason Swords.

Under 17 Football

Our Under 17 team was beaten by Breaffy in the preliminary round but, following an investigation by the County Bórd na nÓg, we were awarded the game. In the Quarter-final we had a comprehensive victory over Balla, but were beaten by Davitts in the County Semi-finals.

Panel: K. Higgins (Capt.), I. Prenty, C. Griffin, F. Walsh, L. Lyons, C. Higgins, W. Nestor, C. Gallagher, D. Warde, D. Connolly, M. Jordan, D. Hannon, D. Doyle, S. Hurley, A. Lyons, J. C. Halpin, R. Grogan, A. Murphy, H. Kezze.

Minor Football

Our Minor Footballers have had an outstanding year to date. In the County League we had victories over Ardnaree, Kiltimagh, Kilcommon Gaels, Islandeady, Westport and the Neale to qualify for a County Semi-final with Kilmeena. This has not been completed to at the time of going to print. Unfortunately, our League campaign saw two of our players Fergal Walshe and Alan Lyons suffer injuries, which put them out of the team for some of the year.

In the championship we defeated Charlestown in the first round to qualify for an East Mayo Semi-Final with Eastern Gaels whom we defeated easily. The East Mayo Final was a long running saga, which saw us draw three times with Swinford in epic games. Large crowds came to Aghamore to see tremendous sporting football games. Unfortunately, in the fourth game we relinquished an early lead in very bad conditions to trail by ten points at half time. The second half saw us chasing the game and, after a spirited fight back we lost by 3-6 to 1-9. Swinford went on to win the County Championship. At the time of going to print, Ballyhaunis will now meet Swinford once again in the County League Final.

This year's panel was: Shane Buckley, Padraic Carney, Christopher Burke, Cian Higgins, Alan Lyons, Brian Mulrennan, Keith Higgins, Stephen Shanaghy, Robert Grogan, Patrick Waldron, John Prenty, Paul Jordan, Fergal Walshe, Liam Lyons, Ian Prenty, William Nestor, Ciaran Griffin, Colm Gallagher, Declan Warde, Niall Richardson, Michael Jordan. Selectors: John Prenty, Tommy Waldron, Ann Shanaghy.

Minor Hurling

Only two teams competed at Minor Level in the County this year. The Final was held in Ballyhaunis and we started the stronger and led at half-time on a margin of 2-3 to 0-3. In the second half Tooreen made a great comeback and had the game back to a three-point game, before Christopher

Morley crashed home a goal to ensure victory for Ballyhaunis.

Panel: Joseph Kelly, Fergal Lyons, Padraic Carney, David Lynch, Ciaran Griffin, Paul Lynch (Captain), Owen Nolan, Brian Mulrennan, Peter Walshe, Patrick Waldron, Keith Higgins, Paul Walsh, Christopher Morley, Liam Lyons, Austin Lyons, Mark Kelly, Anthony Murphy, Jason Swords, Mark O'Connell, David Herr, Colm Gallagher (away), Fergal Walsh (injured). Manager: Tom Phillips.

Under 21 Football

Our Under 21 team had a great run in the championship with away victories over Tourmakeady and Lahardane to qualify for a County Semi-Final with Kilmeena. In a high scoring game we were defeated by 6-7 to 1-17

Senior Football

The year began with new selectors Mike Webb, Johnny Cribbin and Donal Moran in charge of the team, with Liam McHale as Coach. In the Centenary Cup we defeated Ballaghaderreen and Kilmovee Shamrocks, but lost to Aghamore and Swinford. In the Canon Henry Cup we defeated Kiltimagh and Charlestown.

This year's Senior League Division 2 was very competitive due to the restructuring of the County Leagues. Only the top five teams were guaranteed to remain in Intermediate Football next year. We had a very good campaign and finished in third position behind Claremorris and Shrule/Glencorrib. It was vital that we retained our status, as Junior Football would be detrimental to the prospects for the young players we have coming through.

In the championship we were drawn away against Ballinrobe in the first round and, after a game we should have won, we emerged with a draw. In the replay we never played to our potential and were defeated at home. Ballinrobe went on to win the Championship. In the losers' round we drew Tourmakeady and after a frustrating game we went out of the championship.

Junior Hurling

In this competition, Ballyhaunis had a great start with a win over Tooreen on a margin of 4-10 to 0-4. Further wins over Castlebar on a margin of 2-17 to 1-10, Belmullet by 0-14 to 3-4, and Westport by virtue of a walkover, ensured that Ballyhaunis were into a Junior Genfitt County Final despite losing to Ballina by a margin one point.

Unfortunately, due to the inclemency of the weather, the final stages of the Genfitt Cup were put on hold to facilitate the running of the Senior Championship Competition. At the time of writing this Final has not been played.

Senior Hurling

At the beginning of training this year, Team Manager, John Joe Hoban made a conscious decision to concentrate all efforts on winning the Senior County Title. In the opening game against Tooreen, Ballyhaunis laid down a marker for the year with a win of 1-5 to 1-4.

County Champions, Belmullet were defeated by 2-12 to 0-7 and subsequent victories against Castlebar, 4-18 to 2-7, Ballina, 3-12 to 2-9, and Westport, 2-12 to 1-9, ensured that Ballyhaunis went directly into the County Final. Tooreen also qualified for the Final.

A number of challenge games were arranged and we were well prepared for the Final, which was played in Ballyhaunis. Ballyhaunis had never won a County Senior Hurling Title and, fifteen minutes into the second half, we trailed by eight points, when from a 21-yard free Frank Browne sent a shot to the back of the net. The fight-back had started. Further points by Frank Browne, Pierce Higgins, and Tom Phillips were punctuated by goals from Derek Walsh and Michael Curley. Ballyhaunis ran out worthy winners on a margin of 4-10 to 3-8.

Congratulations to Team Manager, John Joe Hoban and his Selectors, Frank Browne and Derek Walsh, who also had the honour of captaining the team.

Mayo Players

During the year a number of players represented the Club on county football and hurling panels and we wish to congratulate them on their achievements: David Nestor (Senior) Michael Webb (Under 21), Brendan Rudden (Junior) John Prenty (Minor), Joseph Kelly, Patrick Kelly, Mark O'Connell, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Anthony Murphy, and Mark Kelly (Under 16 Hurling), Joseph Kelly, Padraic Carney, Paul Lynch, Owen Nolan, Patrick Waldron, Keith Higgins, Christopher Morley, Liam Lyons, Colm Gallagher (Minor Hurling), Frank Browne, Pierce Higgins, Derek Walsh, and Keith Higgins (Senior Hurling).

Croke Park

One of the highlights of the year for our Bórd na nÓg was the visit to Croke Park for the International Rules game between Ireland and Australia in October. Thirty-three players from the Under 13 and Under 14 panels travelled and while the weather conditions were terrible all of the players had a great day, the highlight of which was a fine victory over Kilmacud Crokes in a challenge match.

Thanks

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Béal Átha hAmhnais would like to thank all its sponsors, contributors and helpers during the past year.

The Light Goes out on the Friary Hill

*Augustinians withdraw from Ballyhaunis
After 654 Years*

Paul Waldron

St. Mary's Abbey – The Friary – closed on Sunday, 16th June, 2002, with the withdrawal of the Augustinian Order from Ballyhaunis, bringing to a close six-hundred and fifty four years of history. The miserable and dreary weather conditions of the day reflected the sombre mood of those who ventured forth from their homes either to attend the closing ceremony, or to participate in the peaceful protest at the Friary Gates.

There was a sizeable attendance at the ceremony in the church, with people coming from far and near to witness a most historic and melancholy event. Many people who have been long associated with the Friary, however, were not in attendance and were either involved in a well attended peaceful protest, or simply could not bring themselves to be present at this occasion which has caused such sadness and anger in recent times.

Celebrants

The Chief Celebrant at the Mass was Fr. Desmond Foley, O.S.A., Provincial of the Augustinian Order. He was joined on the altar by fellow Augustinians Fr. Aidan O'Leary (Ballyhaunis), Fr. Dick Lyng, Fr. John Hughes (who led the singing), Fr. Ben O'Brien O.S.A. (prior of the Galway house, and titular prior of Ballyhaunis), along with Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., Ballyhaunis. Dr. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, presided. Other Augustinians in attendance included: Fr. Pierce O'Mahony (the last friar to be appointed to Ballyhaunis), Fr. Michael Collender, Fr. Augustine O'Sullivan, Fr. Sean Dowling, Fr. John Hennebry, Fr. Padraic Daly, Fr. Niall Coughlan, Fr. John Fitzgerald, Fr. Michael Leahy, Fr. Gerry Ryan, Fr. Gerry Horan, Fr. Paddy O'Reilly and Brother Nicholas Kearney. Fr. Michael Mernagh was occupied with taking photographs and recording the event for posterity. Fr. John O'Connor, who

assisted at 11 o'clock Mass earlier in the day, was present in the congregation. Members of the diocesan clergy in attendance included Frs. Declan Carroll, Kieran Waldron, Colm Burke and Joseph Moran.

Fr Foley opened the ceremony by welcoming all those present, especially Dr. Michael Neary; all the Augustinians, some of whom worked here in the Abbey over the years; Canon Joe Cooney and the diocesan clergy; friends of the Augustinians and of the Abbey. In his address, Fr. Foley referred to the great sadness which prevailed amongst all those present. He said that the Augustinian Order have hit bad times, referring to the steady decline in their numbers, and the fall-off in vocations to the order. He prayed for "the healing of any hurts that have been caused by our departure both to local people and to Augustinians", and added: "These buildings - this holy place made holy by prayer - will remain at the service of the local community. The land around us will be a place where, we hope, people will find peace and find God. These amenities and the graves of the friars who died here will be a perpetual memorial to the Augustinians of Ballyhaunis."

Homily

The homily was delivered by Fr. Dick Lyng O.S.A., from the Galway house. He spoke about the long history of the Augustinian presence in Ballyhaunis, and of the many friars who have served here since the fourteenth century. He traced the origins of the Order in Ireland back to their arrival with their Anglo-Norman overlords and patrons in the twelfth century. As they became 'more Irish than the Irish themselves', he said, they cut away from their English origins and influences, departed from the towns and sought-out more sparsely populated places to build their abbeys. Their first house in the West was at Ballinrobe, and from here they spread to Ardnaree (Ballina), Burriscarra, Banada, Dunmore



Taken after the ceremony to mark the closure of the St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey.
L-R: Joe Keane, John Forde, Seamus Durkan, Anthony Jordan, Fr. Kieran Waldron, Pat Higgins.

and Ballyhaunis.

Fr. Lyng made reference to one Fr. Hugh O'Malley, a Ballyhaunis born Augustinian who, in February 1547, negotiated with Rome and secured a certain degree of independence for the Augustinians in the province of Connacht. He continued: "Today, we pay homage to the faith and persistence, and sometimes the heroic lives of the friars who served in this house, in this town.

Among them were heroic martyrs like Walter Jordan (Nangle), who was executed here by Cromwellians in 1649; patriots like Myles Prendergast who participated to good effect in the 1798 rebellion; scholars and artists, like E. A. Foran whose paintings still decorate this place." He also recalled Fr. Thomas Cassidy, the renowned eighteenth century poet who, on many occasions had difficulties with his vocation.

Apologies

Dr. Neary, Archbishop of Tuam spoke next. He opened his address by telling the old tale about a certain man in Ballyhaunis - in the not too distant past - who, on hearing the Angelus bell tolling from the Friary Hill, blessed himself. He felt a tap on his shoulder as he did so and, on turning around, discovered it was his parish priest who said to him in a stern tone of voice, and pointing to the parish church: "wait for your own Angelus bell!" He referred to the tension that often exists in parishes where a public church run by a religious order may conflict with the diocesan church in that parish. He dwelt on the fact that the church is made up of many different types of people with different hopes, aspirations and expectations and that this is bound to cause a certain degree of disagreement and dissension amongst the faithful.

He added that, while the date of the foundation of Ballyhaunis Abbey was not certain, there was no doubt about the continuity of service down through the centuries, nor about the excellence of their service to the people of the area. Significantly, he said: "If at times during those long centuries, the actions of the secular clergy of the Archdiocese towards their Augustinian brethren was less than friendly, less than brotherly, then we should say now, before it is too late, that we are sorry for it, that we wished it had been otherwise and better." "As Archbishop of Tuam, speaking here to you in the Augustinian Friary church of Ballyhaunis where two former Archbishops of Tuam may well be buried, I say this on behalf of all and I mean it from the depths of my heart", he added. He further noted that this sentiment was reciprocated by the Provincial of the Augustinian order, Fr. Foley, and the Superiors of that order.

He continued: "I know that many of you are bitterly disappointed and deeply upset by the decision of the friars to leave. I can only say that your grief is shared by the several parishes in the Archdiocese of Tuam that have lost a priest." He closed by saying: "For myself as Archbishop, for the parish priest Canon Joseph Cooney and Fr. Declan Carroll; for the Sisters of Mercy, and all people of Ballyhaunis, and the Archdiocese of Tuam, I offer the Augustinian order a most sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the hundreds of years of faithful service, and for the example of their lives, and for the blessing, perhaps not always appreciated, for a different Angelus."

Participants

The altar servers on this historic occasion were: Enda Griffin, Margaret Cribbin, Isobel Morrissey and Lydia Concannon. Participants in the Offertory Procession were children from Scoil Iosa who made their First Holy Communion this year: Grace Lyons presented a candle, symbolising Christ's love; Jennifer O'Neill and Maria Lyons brought up the Augustinian Book of Prayer; John Flynn presented a picture of St. Monica and St. Augustine; Lisa Hunt and Louise McNamara carried up a set of keys symbolising the presence of the Augustinians in Ballyhaunis from 1348 to 2002; Aine Waldron and Winnie Mongan brought a St. Brigid's Cross, symbolising lay involvement in the church. Joe and Marcella Keane, brought up the bread and wine. The narrator was Christina Concannon.

Later on, a lighted candle was presented to Grace Lyons and Louise McNamara, to symbolise the passing-on of the faith from the Augustinians to the people. The same keys that were offered in the offertory were presented to Helen Hoban and Seamus O'Boyle, in a gesture symbolising the handing over of "the sacred space" that is St. Mary's Abbey, to the people of Ballyhaunis.

The first reading was read by Jarlath Fahey; prayers of the faithful were offered by Dorothy Durkan and John Biesty; the reflection after Communion was given by Patricia Waldron.

Last Mass

Earlier in the day, the last weekend Mass in the Friary Church was celebrated at 11 o'clock by Fr. Aidan O'Leary O.S.A., assisted by Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A. Fr. O'Leary said: "We are aware that today is a day of great sadness; it is a day of great disappointment in the long, long history of St. Mary's Abbey here in Ballyhaunis, because, as we know, after more than six hundred years, today is the final day of the presence of the Augustinians in this holy, sacred and historical site. Very, very few people if anybody thought that they'd live to see or to experience what is going to happen today, and there are a lot of emotions shared by a lot of people in this area, and surrounding areas: there is sadness, disappointment, frustration, and in some there is very, very deep seated anger. Those emotions are shared not just by the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas, and the people for whom the Abbey is and always has been part of the very soul of this area. Those emotions are shared too by many, many Irish Augustinians." He went on to outline the sad state the Augustinian order currently finds itself in, with an average of four or five priests dying each year, with no ordination in the last three years, and not even one student of the order at present.

Peaceful Protest

A peaceful protest was held at the gates of the avenue, before the ceremony, and outside the main door of the church afterwards. Made up of members of the Friary congregation and supporters, the protestors wished to draw attention to what they see as the unnecessary closure of the church as a place of worship, and the uncertain future regarding the use of the Church, the Priory and the Friary land. The protestors argue that the order could keep the Ballyhaunis foundation

open for the foreseeable future, as there are still almost one-hundred Augustinian friars in the Irish province, and many of those were totally opposed to its closure. They also believe that not enough consideration was given to the possibility of bringing another order in to keep the place going as a vibrant, religious community.

Over forty people in total took part in the demonstration, braving the atrocious weather conditions to draw attention to the changing priorities within the Augustinian order which has led to the controversial closure of St. Mary's Abbey. Placards were carried bearing the inscriptions "Lies, Lies, More Lies", "Thirty Pieces of Silver", "You can't serve God

and Mammon", "Another Church Scandal". Another banner bore the legend "Tolle Lege, Tolle Lege", with the word 'Lege' crossed out; Tolle Lege, meaning 'take and read' is the motto of the Augustinian Order.

The 16th of June, a day in which the rest of the Catholic world rejoiced over the canonisation of Padre Pio, will be remembered in time to come for more sorrowful reasons in Ballyhaunis: the ending of a centuries old presence in the town, and the extinguishing of the light on the Friary Hill that has shone continuously across the countryside of Central Connacht for 654 years.

Coolnafarna Centenarian

Heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Mary Boyle who celebrated her one-hundredth birthday, at her home in Coolnafarna, Ballyhaunis on Saturday, 2nd March 2002.

Mrs. Boyle was on hand to play host to the many visitors who called to wish her a happy birthday on the day. So numerous were the callers that, at one point, there were over sixty people in the Boyle family home, which is situated just in County Mayo, within yards of the boundary with County Roscommon. She greeted all the well-wishers herself - addressed them all by name and shook their hands. A huge cake, baked specially for the occasion, was cut and handed out by the lady of the house herself.

Present with their mother on this most special occasion were Mrs. Boyle's son Paddy, with whom she lives; daughter Margaret, and son-in-law Geoff Thompson (who live in Erdington, Birmingham); and her five grandchildren: Sean (who lives in Budapest), Kieran, Mary Rose and Maeve. Mrs. Boyle's late husband, Peter Boyle, died in 1988.

Mrs. Boyle, better known locally as "Baby", has lived in Coolnafarna all her life. She was born on 2nd March 1902, just over the road from where she has lived since her marriage. Her father Patrick Moran belonged to an old Coolnafarna family, while her mother Mary Anne Heneghan came from Doogary in the parish of Aghamore. She had eight brothers - John, Patrick, James, Michael,

Donald, Dominick, Gerald and Kevin; and two sisters Peggy (Mrs. Chatwin) and Eileen. Two brothers are still living, and they were present with their sister on her special day: Gerald and his wife Josie came over from Newbury, England, along with their daughter Theresa, her husband Jonathan Moreshead and their daughter Rosaleen. Kevin, the youngest in the family, flew in from Chicago with his son Kevin Jnr. Frankie Moran, came down from Dublin with his wife Sheila - Frankie is son of Mary's brother the late Dominick Moran, Dublin. While Cecily, widow of Mary's brother the late Don Moran, Knox St., Ballyhaunis, and her family were also present.

President's Message

A letter extending congratulations and good wishes from the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, as well as the presidential cheque, was presented to Mrs. Boyle by Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P. The letter was read out by her daughter Margaret, though Mrs. Boyle would have been more than capable of doing so herself, such is the good condition of her eyesight. Indeed, she reads the paper and a variety of magazines regularly, and likes to keep abreast of current affairs. Amongst her other interests are gardening and horticulture, and, while she mightn't be able to get around the garden as well as she used, she still likes to cultivate and look after house-plants of all types. The very next day after the celebrations, Mrs. Boyle came into Ballyhaunis with her daughter, and remarked on how much had changed since her childhood days.

Mrs. Boyle has seen many changes over the past hundred years and, as well as recalling events in her own life, has picked up many stories from the older generations, which make her a link with people and events which would otherwise be long forgotten. An in-depth interview with her was featured in the Annagh Magazine of 1996, which includes many of her memories and recollections.

The Morans of Coolnafarna, an extensive family of which Mary is the senior member, have organised a reunion regularly for many years now. She was guest of honour at their most recent 'get-together' which took place on the weekend of 12th, 13th and 14th July this year in the White House Hotel, Ballinlough.



Mrs. Mary Moran being presented with the presidential cheque by Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P. Annagh. Also pictured are her son Paddy and daughter Margaret.

That Was The Year That Was...

Mike Byrne

January

Televised Mass got the New Year off on the right note!

"What was on in there today was as good as you'll get anywhere in the World", was the comment expressed by one parishioner outside St. Patrick's Church following the memorable live broadcast Mass from Ballyhaunis Parish Church on Sunday January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. St. Patrick's Church took centre stage for one hour on national television for what was undoubtedly, not only a unique occasion, but also a wonderful and uplifting occasion for the celebration of Holy Mass, the first ever live telecast from the town of Ballyhaunis. A special feature of the Mass was the musical content which was interwoven throughout the ceremony. A total of almost one hundred voices, comprising of three different choirs, all from Ballyhaunis, contributed to making this occasion very special and memorable indeed. The live broadcast was preceded by a two minute film of the town, giving the viewing public a brief history of the parish. The broadcast was produced for R.T.E. by Kairos Communications Ltd., a religious communications company with a total of thirty-two operators, ranging from Technicians, Producers, Supervisors, Floor Managers, Camera Operators etc. Chief celebrant was Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., whose homily, based on the theme on the theme of the Epiphany, was delivered with a very high degree of excellence. Canon Cooney was assisted by Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C.

A highlight of this special occasion was the performance of Noel Henry's highly acclaimed musical composition, "Mass of Thanksgiving and Praise", which was performed by the Parish Choir, under the direction of Ms. Anna Butler. Noel, son of Milo and Peggy Henry, Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis, now works as a teacher of music in Nottingham, composed the special opus in celebration of the new Millennium and, not surprisingly, the musical composition has been heralded in many quarters as a musical work. The parish choir was appropriately accompanied by Noel for the historic live performance. The Psalm was sung with elegance and perfection by Ms. Joan O'Malley. The other two choirs who performed during the broadcast and who did Ballyhaunis very proud indeed were the Ballyhaunis Folk Group, under the direction of Ms. Sinéad Lundon and the children's choir from Scoil Íosa N.S. who were conducted by their teacher, Ms Ita Fahey. The readings were delivered by Mr. Vincent Healy, Bernie Concannon and Ms. Mary Donnelly.

The honour of delivering a live broadcast from Ballyhaunis is a wonderful privilege indeed for the town and for the parish, given that no more than a dozen broadcasts of this nature are done throughout the year by the broadcasting company. Full credit is due to Canon Cooney and to his assistant Fr Carroll on this outstanding and wonderful achievement - an occasion which will remain as a lasting memory with each and everyone involved for many many years to come...

On a dark Monday night in mid-January, St. Patrick's Church was once again filled to capacity as people from many parts of the county and beyond gathered to hear David Parks give an account of his testimony. Dublin native David, who once played with the Republic of Ireland soccer team, performed from his large repertoire of songs and told and recounted to an enthralled audience his wonderful story of miraculous healing in Medugorje.

Ballyhaunis took centre-stage on the front page of most of the nations newspapers as the remains of esteemed member of the travelling community, Thomas McDonagh, Tooraree, was carried through the town on horse and carriage to his final resting place in the parish cemetery... A special general meeting of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A Club attracted a very large crowd to the Community School to discuss the present state and future direction of the Club... Bank official Eamon Glancy is transferred on promotion to AIB Bank, Castlebar... Full scale Garda investigation at Ballyhaunis Post Office following suspected anthrax in one of the parcels. False alarm, it was only maize powder sent by a Portugese mother to her son working in Ballyhaunis for the purpose of making pasta... Ballyhaunis folk become household faces throughout the country when six local people are selected to feature on The Angelus slot on RTE television. Those featured were Mary Donnelly, Sinéad Lundon, Tom Hopkins, Aisling Caulfield, Tim Byrne, Gerry Glennon and Paddy Phillips. On New Year's Day, the new "Euro" became the currency in Ireland and other EU countries.

February

The big story in the month of February was on the sporting field when former Mayo inter-county footballer, Liam McHale took up the appointment of Coach of the Ballyhaunis Gaelic football team. The team management for the new season comprised of Donal Moran, Mike Webb and Johnny Cribbin... Postman Paddy Fitzmaurice is honoured by members of staff of Ballyhaunis and Castlerea Post Offices on his retirement after twenty years of sterling service to An Post.

March

Annagh Magazine goes on the World Wide Web when its official site is launched at a committee meeting... Ballyhaunis native Tommy Joyce [37] is appointed Official

Escort to the Irish Soccer Team in the World Cup Finals to be held in Japan later in the year. Tommy, who has been residing in Japan for fifteen years with his Japanese born wife, Satomi and their two children, Mona and Lisa, is son of Angela and the late Dr. Tommy Joyce, Doctors Road... Saturday March 2nd was a big day in the long and fruitful life of Mary Boyle from Coolnafarna when she celebrated her 100th birthday. Born Mary Moran in Coolnafarna on March 2nd 1902, Mary was joined by her two surviving brothers, Gerard [84] from England and Kevin [80] from Chicago as well as her son, Paddy [Coolnafarna] and her daughter, Margaret [England] for the great occasion... Ballyhaunis Community School students win 2nd Prize in the Aisling Challenge competition, run by An Garda Síochána in Mayo. The theme for the students' project was Abuse of Drugs The team comprised of Edel Kilcourse [Capt.], Gearoid Fitzmaurice, Siobhán Quinn, Yvonne Loftus, Sheena Forde, Mary Murtagh and Marguerite McGuire...

April

David McConn returns to Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis, in the capacity of Branch Manager... Fr. Paddy Sheridan, O.M.I., Tooreen, is the homilist at the Triduum in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel in the Friary... The Students' Council is re-established at Ballyhaunis Community School after a lapse of a number of years... Meanwhile, on the Feast of Good Counsel it is learned that the Augustinian Order are in negotiation with Mayo County Council with a view to the local authority acquiring the entire Friary property... Fr. Michael Mernagh, O.S.A., announces on MWR that Sunday June 16th is set aside as the closing date for the Ballyhaunis Abbey... Ballyhaunis Community School footballers make history when they qualify for the All-Ireland Colleges Final. An exceptionally good Moyne Community School from Co Longford however, proved too strong for the East Mayo boys in the final at Carrick-on-Shannon...

May

The month of May got off to a flying start when Ballyhaunis hosted its first Music Festival Weekend over the Bank Holiday period. Among the highlights were the Traditional Fair Day and the Annagh Rose Competition... Brazilian soccer star, Coultinho, was a popular visitor to Scoil Íosa where he was promoting the Samba Soccer Roadshow to be staged at various venues throughout the country in the month of July. Coultinho was a member of the Brazilian team which won the World Cup in 1962... Ballyhaunis-based asylum seekers are featured on RTE's 'Nationwide' programme. The programme, presented by former MWR girl Maria Mullarkey, features the non-nationals' contribution to keeping the streets of Ballyhaunis tidy... Bertie Ahern sweeps back to

government as Ballyhaunis man Jim Higgins loses the Dail seat which he has held since 1987. Knock native, John Carty wins a Dail seat on his first attempt as does Mulranny based Independent candidate, Dr. Jerry Cowley... The General Election result quickly fades into obscurity as Roy Keane, who is sent home from the World Cup by soccer manager, Mick McCarthy, grabs the attention of the nation's media for a whole week... The senior footballers of Ballyhaunis Community School, captained by Ross Nolan, round off five years at the Ballyhaunis school in great style when they win the Flanagan Cup and the Connaught League within a few days of each other to add to the Connaught Senior Football crown which they captured earlier in the year... May Moyles celebrates her 90th birthday.

June

Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work Association celebrate forty years of activity in the town. President of the Association, May Moyles receives a special presentation of a gold chalice from the Diocesan Branch for her dedication and service to the Association in Ballyhaunis over forty years... The town is enveloped in grief and shock following the very sudden death of Rita Mooney of Doctors Road on Monday June 10th... Sunday June 16th: As Padre Pio, the great Italian stigmatic is being Canonised to Sainthood by Pope John Paul II in Rome, the official closure of St. Mary's Abbey in Ballyhaunis is presided over by the Provincial of the Augustinian Order, Fr Desmond Foley, OSA., at a special Mass in the 654 years old church. Also presiding among the large clerical presence is Archbishop of Tuam Dr. Michael Neary... History is made in Scoil Íosa when the first ever graduation ceremony at the newly amalgamated Ballyhaunis Primary School is celebrated. Chief celebrant of the ceremony is Scoil Íosa Board of Management Chairman, Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C... Athletes representing the Ballyhaunis Western Care Association excel at the Special Olympic National games in Dublin, winning Gold Medals in Athletics and Swimming... The main talking point so far this Summer, in fact, the only subject which everybody seems to be talking about is the Weather. Tuesday June 25th was the very first day without rain in Ballyhaunis since Friday May 17th [Election Day]... And on Wednesday June 26th, well, it was back to the rain again... Popular MWR Sports Editor, Willie "The Shoe" McNeela dies after a long and courageous battle against cancer... Meanwhile, back in the Far East at the World Cup Finals, Ireland are defeated in the Second Round of the competition following a penalty shoot out against Spain. The score after ninety minutes was Ireland 1, Spain 1... In the final of the tournament, Brazil win the trophy for the fifth time when they defeat Germany in the final by two goals to nil.

July

The Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Sports Camp gets underway at the local pitch and under the watchful eye of Director of Coaching, Eugene Lavin, forty-eight youngsters between the ages of eight and thirteen brave the elements of the rain for the five day event... The Tidy Towns Committee announce the winners of the first Shop and Business Front Awards. Gill's Bar, Clare St. win Best Pub Front, Best Shop Front was won by Paddy Phillips, Butcher, while the winner of the Best Tidy House Front went to Enda Caulfield, Knock Road... Former Ballyhaunis based Friar, Fr. John O'Connor, OSA, celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Fr O'Connor is a former member of the editorial committee of Annagh Magazine... Ballyhaunis Under 12 Hurlers are crowned Connacht Champions in Ballinasloe, Co Galway... Ballyhaunis golfer Tommy Grogan, wins Michael Mahony's President's Prize at the Golf Club... The newly elected officers of the Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council are Kay Curley [President], Patricia Plunkett [Vice-Chairperson] and Jacinta Flynn [Treasurer].

August

Ballyhaunis Parochial Hall, founded in 1940, has restructuring and refurbishing programme complete... While on the golfing front, in the Captain's [John Collins] Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Eamon Freeman carries off first prize with a score of 134 nett ahead of, in second place, John McNicholas [Jnr.] on a score of 131... Ballyhaunis native, Brendan Hopkins [51], Castlebar, is tragically killed in a car accident outside Swinford... The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester, Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Hylsa Walters are hosted at a civic reception in Ballyhaunis by local Chamber of Commerce... The Abbey Partnership group is formed to examine future uses for St. Mary's Abbey. The Partnership Chairman is John Coll, Mayo County Council and Secretary, Donal Shanaghy, representing Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce... In the neighbouring parish of Knock, Mons. Dominick Grealy retires from his position as P.P. after sixteen years of service; Monsignor Joe Quinn, a native of Castlebar, takes over the vacant position... Kay Buckley wins the Lady Captain's [Phil Glynn] Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... And Ballyhaunis golfers make history when they win the Connaught Shield Trophy for the first time in the club's history.

September

The month of September brings good news for MWR fm and indeed for Ballyhaunis as the local radio station successfully obtains its broadcasting license for another ten years. The Ballyhaunis radio station was challenged for the right to broadcast for the next ten years by Castlebar based consortium, Coast FM... Former Northern Ireland

soccer goalkeeper, Pat Jennings makes a guest appearance at Ryan's SuperValu... Ballyhaunis Minor footballers, captained by John Prenty [18], lose out to Swinford in the East Mayo Minor Football Final - after THREE replays... Alma Gallagher, daughter of Martha and Martin Gallagher, Drimbane, is appointed Rural Development Officer for North Mayo... Ballyhaunis is highly commended in the National Tidy Towns competition, obtaining a very respectable mark of 190 out of a possible 300 maximum total mark... Mr. Charlie Keane is appointed manager of AIB, Ballyhaunis, replacing the former manager, Mr. Eamon Glancy who moves to the Castlebar branch... In the Ladies All-Ireland Football Final at Croke Park, Mayo defeat Monaghan by a single point in a thrilling final encounter. Yvonne Byrne is once again one of the star performers for the Mayo Ladies... Mayo County Council grant planning permission for the demolition of the former Vocational School ['The Tech'], formerly Manor House Hotel and for the development of the site.

October

After thirty-four years of sterling service as teacher at Began N.S., Moira Delaney (Abbey St.) retires from her post as Principal of the school on October 1st. The vacancy is filled by Mr. Vincent Kelly from Lissaniskea, Began... History is created on the sports field when Ballyhaunis Hurlers win the Mayo Senior Hurling Championship for the very first time by beating neighbours and arch rivals, Tooreen on a scoreline of 4-10 to 3-8 at Ballyhaunis... Siobhán Byrne returns home having completed her two year programme as Sports Facilitator in South Africa... Ballyhaunis man Vincent Keane is honoured in Washington DC for his pioneering work in providing medical cover and care for underprivileged and the homeless in the U.S.A... Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee establish Litter Awareness in Ballyhaunis... And Ballyhaunis native, Anthony Jordan, is the guest speaker at the 2002 Kenny Naughton Autumn School in Aghamore, speaking on the theme "The Life and Times of Sean MacBride".

November

On Saturday November 9th - exactly one hundred years to the day after the establishment of the Connaught Council of the G.A.A. - the official opening of the Connacht Council offices takes place at Clare Street. Pdraig Brennan, the President of the Council performs the official opening... The Mayo County Development Plan goes on public display at the local Library. The Plan focuses on the development of Mayo over the next ten years. Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights Committee announce that a Nativity Crib is to be unveiled at the Square for the Festive Season of 2002.

Remembering Ballyhaunis

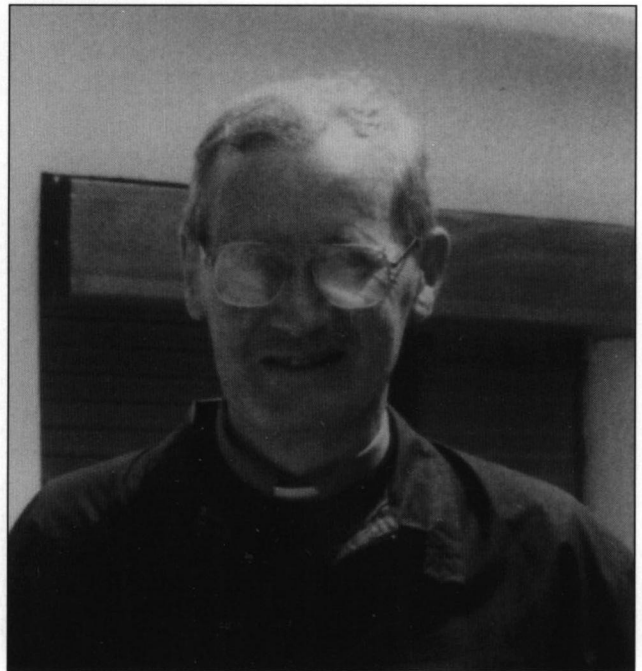
John O'Connor, O.S.A.

*"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very heaven."*

I will remember the year 2002 as one of unbelievable, unmerited joy, because in July I had the happiness of celebrating with my family the Golden Jubilee of my Ordination. But that was indeed the silver lining to the darkest possible cloud that brought me (and yourselves) the profoundest sadness that entered to the marrow of our bones (and indeed forever into the town's psyche), when in June the Augustinian presence in Ballyhaunis came to an end in the Friary – the beginnings of which can be traced back, I believe in an unbroken line, if not to 1348 (the time of the Black Death), at least to the 1400s (the time of the Costellos and Mac Jordans and Mac William Burkes in Mayo, and the Clanricard Burkes in Galway, and elsewhere the great earldoms of Kildare, Ormond and Desmond). Because of my own affection for the people, and for the town and for the Friary, and because I spent some of the happiest years of my priestly life in Ballyhaunis, and received here, I believe, many unearned graces, I did everything I could within the Order to keep the Friary open, and in this I was in harmony with many of our own priests, and with the local people in their own efforts to do so. But we did not prevail. However, my purpose here is not to go over all this again, but simply to record the quenching of the light on the Friary Hill and my own unspeakable sadness. For the record, suffice it to say that Archbishop Neary, the gentle scholar and humble pastor, whom you are blessed to have, entirely summed up my feelings when he preached on that most tragic of days in June 2002.

A Golden Year

But to turn to the rejoicing. I first ask the people of Ballyhaunis to rejoice with me and thank God, because this year I celebrate the Golden Jubilee of my Ordination. That I have reached this haven is indeed a miracle in itself, as during my adult life (almost right from Ordination) I have had periods of ill-health (indeed spending the first two years of my priestly life in hospital with tuberculosis, and losing most of one lung – but afterwards appreciating every tender step I have taken). Because my youth and teens were entirely free from sickness, and I was as hardy as a trout (working at home on the farm in holiday time, and imbibing the Sliabh Luachra music and the Duhallow lore, and free as an antelope, reading Buffalo Bill and cowboy books for light entertainment) at first the ill health and loss of liberty (when one has to become dependent on others, and when one's lung capacity was no longer great enough at times even to make oneself heard) was a cross, and I was disappointed that I could not then qualify



Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A.

to go off to convert the whole world on the Missions (which had been an ambition of mine in my youth down on the border of Cork and Kerry). Later, I saw things differently and now (although I have never felt older than, say, forty years) in the tranquility of maturer years, I can accept the possibility that, in my necessarily slower pace, the Lord may well have used me to put Him in touch with more people than would ever have happened on the Missions. That is a distinct possibility.

But thankfully, we don't have to work these things out. We are in God's hands, and everything is His doing, not ours. He shapes us and moulds us for certain purposes (it can be a great purpose, like being the Pope, or converting all China, or a small purpose like simply being kind to the people down the street or lane, or an in-between purpose, like sitting hearing Confessions for an hour), and all we can be making sure of is that we don't come in His way. If He has used me for his kind purposes (small or medium size) in Dungarvan and Carlisle and Drogheda and Dublin and Galway and Ballyhaunis, and if I have not posited too many ifs and buts, then thank God with me – if I have, I know that a Jubilee time (like Confession time) is one of a generous wiping out of past debts (of 'setting the records straight', as the Country and Western song puts it), and of the beginning of a new Spring in a more conscious walking with the Lord (which is also a good Jubilee resolution).

In the context of my inner Jubilee thoughts which I am sharing with you (because you are dear to me, young and old – and remember, I knew all your young people growing up, as I was fifteen years in Ballyhaunis), of the many still unexpressed thoughts that are crowding my mind, there is one last one that, for the record, I will put on paper. And it is the fact that, in my own life, I have experienced the truth that the Lord is never undone in generosity. What I mean is that, it was surely to compensate for the lack of lung capacity and

poor voice projection (brought about by the tuberculosis, and which I was able to see as God's will, more clearly as I went along), it was surely to 'balance up a little' that, out of no-where, I found a new voice through the gift of the pen, which I saw as God-given (because, as a schoolboy I did not show too much sign – being a more outdoor youth) and which I welcomed as an opportunity to bring joy and laughter and confirmation in the faith (and maybe some instruction) to people. In this I found, among other things, a vein of verse – still not totally mined. For the rest, I have seen archaeology and history and geography as the most basic studies of all, in which everything is set (the whole history of the human race).

As a postscript may I add (I suppose, for the record – and I suppose as a luxury on a Jubilee Year) that, with regard to areas of life – like local history and my Catholic faith and morals – by conviction I have been a conservative, with the precise orthodoxy of beliefs being my own guiding star (while sharing the Lord's gentleness for those who may have different views). For the rest, the great mystical body of suffering in the world is constantly in my mind, and so on an on-going basis, I am always overwhelmed in compassion for the sick and handicapped of every country, although I know that these are nearest of all to God, and because they are special, should be surrounded with the greatest love, and often are (but we see foreign orphanages where this is distressingly not so). And then, entirely believing in social and economic liberality, I find my compassion again going out to another layer of the mystical body of suffering in the world: to those who are unspeakably dying of hunger (despite such sinful richness elsewhere), to the destitute of the world, and the homeless in all our streets, and to all who suffer, men, women and children, at the hands of people with power (if there is any sin that is not forgiven, it must be in the area of utter cruelty of one person to another weaker person). On this year of grace for me, you are the people (apart from my extended family with whom I celebrated my Jubilee in the glorious weekend in mid-July) with whom I share these thoughts, because I remember my time with you as pure magic, and because I see you 'par excellence' as my special people, and because we have shared a great tragedy in the closing of the Friary in this year of 2002.

Annagh

But there is another Jubilee that we celebrate this year: the Silver Jubilee of 'Annagh', and it was the invitation to contribute to this special edition that has happily given me the opportunity to share my own Jubilee thoughts with you. Indeed, I contributed my ha'penny worth to 'Annagh' in my years in Ballyhaunis from 1981 to 1997 (as also, while it lived, I was associated with 'Profile' – and ongoing, contributed pieces to the 'Western People' and the 'Connaught Telegraph'). Long before my involvement in the editorial board of 'Annagh', it had already established itself, not only as a Christmas tonic to all Ballyhaunis people living abroad, but as a recognised, historical source that was (and still is) mentioned in every Mayo bibliography. But others, no doubt, may expand on those aspects. For myself, I see

'Annagh' as a kind of sign or symbol or flag-ship of a vibrant community spirit that, indeed, it chronicled and helped to nurture. So, looking back now I can truly say that it was good to be in the town in those years – and to sing with Wordsworth: "Bliss it was in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven."

Vibrant Town

Those were surely vibrant years, and we all seemed to be involved in everything. I seemed to be so caught up in so many associations myself that I wonder now did I say any prayers at all! But I certainly was with friends. There were Jim Lundon and Matt O'Dwyer, Johnny Biesty, Michael Smyth, Joe Hosty and Shay O'Callaghan, and the late Noel Waldron, Joe Greene and Jack Halpin, on the board of 'Annagh', when we plotted and planned and cajoled and sweet-talked the sponsors; there were Gerry Lyons and James Reidy and Michael Waldron, Paddy Phillips and the Phillips brothers on the G.A.A. scene, every local match of which 'The Minister' made sure I would announce at the Masses, which I religiously did (as I religiously attended the club meetings). And I remember religiously following Mayo the year they reached Croke Park to contend with Cork, with my heart torn between loyalty to my home place and my adopted county. That morning, with Pádraig and Kathleen Kelly, heading off after an early Mass, passing through Roscommon, with its generous good wishes in flags and banners, with my ticket in my pocket from John Prenty, it was unbelievably beautiful: the sun shining down and the incomparable sense of anticipation in the air. And there was the travelling all over Mayo and right into the heart of Galway city (to Leisureland) with our great Scór and Scór na nÓg teams, when for the first time I heard sung the songs of the rakish Augustinian friar, an Caisideach Bán. And, of course there was the driving to all the local Sunday matches with Gerry Winston and Kathleen Cribbin, and Martin Winston, who is now enjoying the fields of Heaven.

Then I remember Rita Lundon and the town's young lions, and participating in the Junior Chamber of Commerce (and for a while was maybe an honorary member, maybe the only priest in Ireland as such). And there was the Macra na Feirme with my good friends Walter Waldron and Sheila Waldron and Flavia Curley and the O'Reilly sisters, and so many others, young men and women whose names escape me but whose faces I can fully see. These were all cells of activity that were faithfully recorded in the 'Annagh' each year. And close to my heart always was the Archaeological and Historical Society with Bernie Freyne and Joe Greene and Gerry Cribbin and Paul Waldron and Canon Paddy Costello (to mention just a few, as the saying goes).

And there were the great Leader programmes and our Festivals – John Dillon-Leetch, Pat Higgins, Mary Smyth, John Mooney, Pat Martin – with the whole town en fete; and the Community School and town musicals – I can still recall the enjoyment in the Scout Den, with Calamity Jane, and the sheer excellence of young Mark Donnellan and Lorcan Higgins and Declan Byrne in the Community School (then headed by my good friend Eddie Thornton, with the efficient

presence of Fr. Des Walsh and Jarlath Fahey and the Sisters). Indeed, I remember the Sisters with affection, as I do the parish clergy who were always my friends, and Jim Lundon and Betty Regan and Jimmy Duggan and the other teachers in Abbeyquarter, and our helping at the Confessions in the then two primary schools, and in the Community School (and at Christmas and Easter going out to give a hand with the Confessions in Cloonfad and Tooreen and Granlahan).

And the Abbey Patterns are special in my memory, with the gentle Fr. Berrill praying to Brother Lawrence for fine weather, and Joe and Pat and Tim Byrne, and Seamus Durkan, Seamie O'Boyle, Jim Connell, Michael Conlon, and of course, the late and great Frank Connolly, Joe Horkan and Peter Regan, and all the ladies: Maria Cribbin, Sr. Assumpta, Maura Griffin, Kitty Corless, Mary Freeley (Abbeyquarter), Serene Moroney, May Moyles, Margaret Byrne, Maura Noone, Veronica Freyne, Mary Freyne, Geraldine Conlon, Agnes Heaney, Kit Freeley, Marie Connell, Josie Eaton, Mary Higgins, Josie Jordan, Kathleen Kelly (Station Rise), Helen and Margaret Hoban, Kathleen Byrne (some now gone to God) with their stalls and persuasive ways to coax the money out of willing patrons (with some others out the field, with horse-shoe throwing and golf-putting and drive-the-nail-in-the-block-of-wood, and so on, all out to extract still more coins from little pockets). Those were special days to remember (indeed special days to revive): the last, carefree, social gathering of families on the last Sunday of August, before the schools opened, with great excitement in the tossing of the sheaf and the tug-of-war, and the teenage penalty shoot-out, and especially the athletics, with all the youthful contenders. And in my own time I saw the tradition passed on. Early on, James Reidy and Paddy Phillips would have been involved in the penalty shoot-out – at the last Pattern (which I was happy to attend from Galway) I was happy to see Paddy Phillips with his own child-in-arms, and James Reidy, sponsoring his own young son in one of the races.

An Adieu

Yes, in my years in the Friary in Ballyhaunis (1981-97), the town was a vibrant place, and I seemed to know everyone. I knew by name all the children growing up: like my good friends, the Maughan and McDonagh boys and girls, Clare, Evan, Patrick and Conor O'Dwyer, Colm Flynn, Lorraine Moroney, Patricia Mulhern, the Conlon brothers and Michelle, Sinead and Seamus Lundon, Albert and Paul Madden, whom I first remember as friendly toddlers as I did my evening walk around by Hazelhill and back into town (passing by the house too of Kevin Curley whom I remember praying specially for when he was ill), Keith and Alan Delaney, John, Tom, Brian and Henry Forde, young Pdraig Kelly, Mark Patterson, David Nestor, the loveable Declan Mulhern, who is smiling on us from Heaven. There were so many other people in every house that meant so much to me that I have not mentioned. People like Maureen Comer and Bill, Bridie Lyons, Rosaleen Curley, Mrs. Curley of Clare St., John Cleary and Maureen, now with God, Carmel and

Margaret Johnston, Dermot O'Sullivan, Cecily Moran and Kieran and Donal, Mick O'Connell, Pat Higgins, Austin Grogan and sons, Kay Buckley, Kathleen Flynn, Mary Fitzgerald and Patricia and Nuala, Mary Smith and Gabriel and Jim, Mary Waldron, Patricia Waldron, Jimmy Ruane, Phil Rattigan, Kathleen Caulfield, Eddie and Frances Mulhern, Georgie Hannan, Tony Morley, the late Nora Sweeney, Mrs. Regan, George Delaney and sons, Dave McGuire, Regina Hunt, Seamus O'Hora (all who helped me with my famous garden), Mary and Eileen and Pat at the Gem, and now Eugene and staff, Joe and Marcella Keane, Ray Lucey and Alan, Kitty Mitchell, Eileen and Billy Nestor, Chris and Xanthe Pratt, some German friends out in Scregg, Kathleen Murphy (Aisling Drive), Alice Judge, Sean O Domhnaill, Kieran Sherry, Alex Greene, Kathleen Cribbin, Tom and Mary Jordan, Tony and Joan Flynn, Maura Griffin, Michael and Mary Griffin and my own God-child, Mary and John O'Dwyer, Delia Grogan, Ger Donnellan, Maisin Meath, Michael Byrne, Bernie Freyne, Mary and John Regan, Nora and Pado Cunningham, Mary Freeley, Anne Madden, Kathleen Madden, Seamus Mulrennan, Mrs. Connolly (Devlis) and Serene Moroney, the late lamented Rita Mooney, Peter Hannon, my friends Gerry Glennon of MWR and Michael Commons, Charlie Conroy, and so on and on. And how can I forget Mary Higgins and Eileen Comer who looked after our every need in the Friary. I remember all with affection, as I do Frs. Vincent McCarthy and John Walsh, and the two saintly men in Heaven – Frs. Anthony Berrill and Batt Delaney.

All these I have loved. This might seem like a goodbye. But no, it is just an Adieu – God be with you. You are all alive in my heart and, indeed, every man, woman and child whose names I have not mentioned. The above is really only a sample representing all the others, whom I greet one-by-one, and to each and all send a blessing, with the prayers from Heaven of all the Augustinians that have made Ballyhaunis holy down the graceful centuries. (One of the signs of aging that I feel is that I cannot recall names so well now, but I do remember faces with clarity – I suppose this is a proof of the superiority of the heart over the mind, since it is with the heart that we remember people best). My heart is large enough for all, as it was expanded in the loving atmosphere of Ballyhaunis, which mothered and fathered me in the years 1981 to 1997. Be proud of it, nurture it, promote it. It is a place apart, a blessed place, a place in the sun.

An t-athar Seán Ó Conchubhair O.S.A., An mainistir

Slán agus beannacht ár sagart ró naomhtha
Slán agus beannacht ár chara go buan
Béimid ag guidhe gach lá ar do shon
Ag guidhe go mbeidh tú ar ais go luath

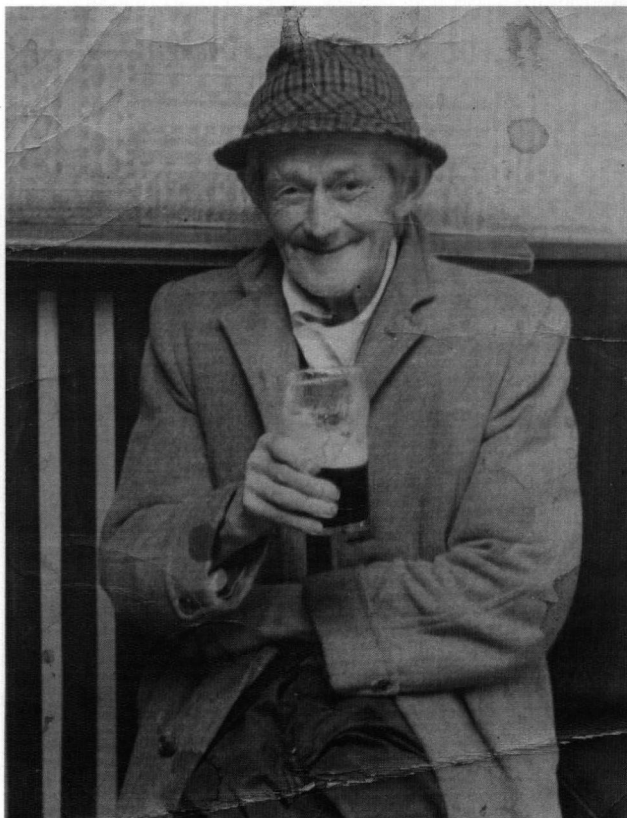
Síghle bean Uí Mhóráin



Carol Donnelly recently graduated with a Higher National Diploma in Leisure Management from Inchicore College, Dublin. A past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community Scl, Carol is daughter of Jimmy & Mary donnelly, Ballinphuill



First Holy Communion of John Davitt, Brackloon with his father Anthony Davitt.



The late Joe Byrne, a member of a well known family of Coopers from Beken.



L-R: Tony Rattigan, Des Warde (RIP) and Martin Ruane "Giant Haystacks" (RIP), taken outside the 'Harp and Shamrock' 1975



Margo Fitzgerald, Patricia Grogan, Audrey Wall and Mary Dempsey. Taken in the 60's.

A Ballyhaunis Man

John McNicholas

Last April I was alerted to an article in both the *Western People* and the *Connaught Telegraph* relating to my activities with the Dublin G.A.A. County Board. Having being born and raised in Walkinstown, which is about four miles from Dublin's O'Connell Street, I was a little surprised on reading the pieces to see myself described as a "Ballyhaunis man". However, following some reflection on the matter, I have come to the conclusion that if Mick McCarthy, and some of the Irish soccer team are Irish, then I have as much, if not more, right to be described as a Ballyhaunis man given my close family connections with the area.

Both of my parents were born in Co. Mayo. My father, Paddy (R.I.P.), came from near Kiltimagh, and my Ballyhaunis connection comes from my mother, who was born Agnes Cribbin (R.I.P.), in Bushisland, which is in the townland of Grallagh just a few yards from its western boundary with Drimbane, and about one and a half miles from the town. My mother was the youngest of four children born to Thomas (Tommy) and Margaret (Maggie nee Lyons) Cribbin. Her family background was – Cribbin/Waldron on her father's side, and Lyons/Caulfield on her mother's side; all families that have been an integral part of the Ballyhaunis area for many generations.

Despite the fact that my grandfather, who worked as a local postman (as did his father and some of his brothers), was one of the few local people then in permanent employment, my mother, along with most of her generation was forced to leave her home place during the fifties in search of employment. She settled and married in Dublin, but continued to maintain her close contacts with home and kept in constant touch with her relations and childhood friends, many of who visited us in Walkinstown on a regular basis.

Roots

As a boy growing up I was always aware of the importance of my Ballyhaunis roots and our family spent almost all of our various school holidays staying in Bushisland with

my Granny Cribbin or just down the road in Churchpark at my Aunt's (Noreen Horkan) home. On a personal level I have many great memories of those times spent in Ballyhaunis and realise now that I was lucky to have been there at what was a time of transition from the old traditional way of country life, which had remained unchanged for many decades, to today's more modern world.

This was brought home to me recently when I saw an exhibition of photographs of what was described as "Country Life in Ireland in the Distant Past". As one who still considers myself to be young – my children will laugh when they read this – I was amazed to see many pictures of practices and items etc. that I remember being part of everyday life in Ballyhaunis when I was growing up during the sixties and seventies. That exhibition set me thinking about the differences between then and now, particularly around the Ballyhaunis area. Thankfully, most of the changes have been an improvement on what was there before, however, the sentimental part of me regrets the passing of other aspect of what was the way of life for many years.

Change

The biggest change, I would suppose, is the huge numbers of cars now on the road in comparison to the early seventies. Today it would appear that every family has a least one car, whereas back then the most common mode of transport was either the bike, (which was always a black Raleigh) or shanks mare. One sight that sticks in the



L-R: Noreen Horkan (nee Cribbin), Fr. Austin Cribbin, Agnes Lyons, Maggie Cribbin (nee Lyons), Tommy Cribbin, Agnes McNicholas (nee Cribbin).

memory are the crowds of people who used to walk to and from Mass on Sunday mornings coming from places like Knockanarra, Agloragh and Drimbane. This is something we don't see today and it is a pity because there was always a friendly air along the road as neighbours met and passed the time of day with each other. Not having a car meant people made fewer trips to town, which was meant the town had to come to them in the form of the weekly visit of the mobile shop. Friday was the day we would watch the road, for what seemed like hours, waiting to see the familiar van that would signal the arrival of Michael (Micksie) Caulfield and maybe the treat of a bag of sweets or some chocolate from Granny.

Horsepower

Mention horsepower today and the mind thinks of how powerful a car or tractor may be. Thirty years ago horsepower to some local farmers was using a horse, or even an ass, to carry out various tasks around the farm. I have vivid memories of being with my uncle, Joe Horkan, as he used his horse to plough and harrow in Springtime and to pull in hay and turf in Summer. At times I helped him out by working alongside with an ass and cart. Amazing as it may seem now, but until about twenty years ago Joe worked with his horse and cart maintaining the roads around Ballyhaunis on behalf of the Mayo County Council.

Tractors of thirty years ago were very different to today's models. There were no cabs in those days and the driver was wide open to the elements. My poor mother used to have heart attacks every time she saw me standing alongside a tractor driver holding on to the mudguard for dear life. She was especially frightened when she discovered that one neighbour carried me when his non-existent braking system involved him guiding his tractor into a ditch anytime he wished to stop or park his machine. Farming methods in those pre EU days were different too. Most rural families had a few cows for milking purposes, usually doing so by hand. They also had hens, maybe some turkeys or a gaggle of geese, who were usually led by a cross gander who would let everyone know who he thought was boss. Sadly, now one very seldom sees the sight of poultry picking their way around a garden, or never hears of a hen laying out under a bush. A clocking hen is a thing of distant memory, as it seems, is worrying about the nighttime visits of the fox. It's all factory-produced eggs and birds these days and I, for one, don't think that the taste now is half as good as it was. Most families were self sufficient in that they grew their

own spuds and vegetables, baked their own bread in the range or over the open fire, or killed a hen, a sheep or pig for meat. The sight of salty bacon hanging from a ceiling was not uncommon, and I have seen a churn used to make butter. My relations kept pigs for a while, and in my own case I don't have particularly fond memories of this because one day, as a young city boy, I got curious about where sausages came from and climbed onto the wall to take a closer look into the sty. I only succeeded in falling headfirst into the watery muck that often goes with pigs. I can still remember my mother with the "kind" assistance of my aunt, in those pre water-scheme days, pouring buckets of water, taken from a rain water barrel, over me before they allowed me anywhere near the house. It being a Christmas week the memory still brings fears of hypothermia to me when I think of it, and as for the aroma.....!!!!

Old Ways

Mention of water schemes recalls the Drimbane/Churchpark/Bushisland scheme, which saw water pumped to homes in those villages from the well known as "Jack Lyons'" well in Churchpark. That scheme, introduced in 1972 approximately, was one of the most important events ever to happen the local residents as it ended the horrible backbreaking task of carrying buckets of water to their houses and allowed for the introduction of bathrooms etc. to their homes. Jack Lyons died in July 1966 but even today the well is still called after him, despite ownership of the field in which it is situated passing through several hands in the twenty-six years since his death.

Today, most of us would never imagine living in a house without central heating of some description. Back then you would be considered "posh" if you had any form of heating other than the open fire or the range. My grandmother's home was one with a thatched roof and, while it was cosy enough, I can never recall anyone being too anxious to jump out of bed on a cold Winter's morning. We all waited in the hope that someone else would get up to put a few sods of turf on the fire to generate a bit of heat. Another memory is the way the electric light used to dim if a neighbour plugged in, or switched something on, in their house. Very often the dimming of the light would serve as a signal to nip next door on some pretext or other because you would know the electric kettle was on the boil!

The monthly fair day was another fascinating experience. The early morning start. The cattle, sheep and pigs around the Fair Green and The Square. Watching the

haggling over prices, and the slapping of hands as deals were done, the cattle dealers with their huge rolls of bank notes and the general buzz about the town was much more exciting than subsequent trips to boring and dull cattle and sheep marts.

Some of the fond memories I have are of the many characters that I met during my youth. To mention just two; I think of the clip on the ear that I got one day for sniggering when one old gent, whose home we were visiting, produced his finest set of jam jars to pour our tea into. Or the other local man who spent months looking for his missing plough (horse drawn) only to discover that some of his "helpful" neighbours had built his reek of hay over and around it the previous Summer!

Friends

From my point of view, one of the drawbacks of the mass emigration of the fifties was that there were no families with children of my age living near Bushisland and when I was younger, I did pal with some English visitors to the Glynn's house next door, but they never stayed more than a week or two and, apart from my own younger sister and brother, most of my local contacts were with adults. As a teenager I did get to know a small group of girls about my own age that lived near the edge of town, but we have long since gone our separate ways and have lost contact. I was very saddened to hear that one of the girls has since passed away and I can't help wondering what became of the others. Are they still living in or near Ballyhaunis or did they too, like so many in previous generations, have to leave home in the pre-Celtic-Tiger eighties in order to make a living?

Thankfully things have improved, and it is good to see so many young people who did get the opportunity to stay at home building so many new homes around the area. While, from a personal point of view, I wouldn't like to see the area becoming too built up, it is important that there is a constant turnover of youth to keep a place alive and vibrant in the future.

G.A.A.

In my own involvement in the G.A.A., I owe a lot to the interest that was developed by my parents, who were fanatical supporters of Mayo football teams. As a child I can remember my mother pointing out Ballyhaunis businessmen such as Jack Waldron, George Delaney, Tom Forde, Tom Fitzgerald and also Fr. J. J. Cribbin who had all been well known inter-county footballers in their day. I can also recall being brought to the old G.A.A. field on the

Claremorris road to see a team made up of some of the 1950/51 Mayo All Ireland winning teams playing against the Jimmy Magee All Stars in a charity match. My grandmother was one of the first people that I know who had a television in the 1960s and there was always great excitement and a full house of locals when the All Ireland series of matches were broadcast on Telefís Éireann (now R.T.E. 1) every Summer. If I ever had any doubts about my Ballyhaunis roots, they would have been dispelled in 1989, and later in 1996 and 1997 when Mayo reached the All Ireland Football Final. Such was the demand for tickets from the area, that my phone was red hot for weeks. For future reference, John Prenty gets more tickets than me!! (sorry John).

Return Visit

While I make several one-day visits to the area every year, this Summer after a break of some years, I got the chance to holiday in Ballyhaunis with my own family. We all enjoyed visiting the places that I spent time in when growing up and were delighted to see the prosperity that is now in the area. Long may that continue. On the down side, it was a shock to have seen the gates of the Friary closed for the first time that I can remember. I hope the Committee that is charged with taking over the running of that fine building and grounds honour in some way the memory of those of our ancestors, who ensured that the Friary survived over six hundred years, in spite of, as the song goes, 'dungeon, fire and sword'.

I would respectfully suggest that the Friars' Field be developed into a Memorial Garden or Public Park where people can get some rest and relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of life. The field is the first part of the town that is seen when coming into it under the railway bridge, and at times, depending on the time of year, it can be a bit of an eyesore. A well kept park, incorporating the old graveyard and Friary grounds would, in my opinion, be a great boost to the town, of benefit to the people and of historical significance as well as playing an important part in the Tidy Towns competition.

In conclusion, Ballyhaunis has played a very important part in getting me to where I am today. I am proud of my Mayo background, and while you can't always believe everything you read in the newspapers, the Western and the Telegraph did have some justification in calling me a "Ballyhaunis Man". Although I must emphasise that when it comes to Gaelic Games I will always be a Dub and a St. James' Gaels/Robert Emmets (my home club) man.

Áras C.L.G. Chonnachta

Michael Byrne

Representatives of the four provincial councils of the GAA were present in Ballyhaunis on Saturday evening November 9th for the official opening of the Connaught Council's central office on Clare Street, exactly one hundred years to the day after the foundation of the Provincial Council. The Connaught Council of the GAA came into existence on November 9th 1902 at what was then Ryan's Commercial Hotel in Claremorris, now occupied by the AIB Bank in Claremorris. A total of six members were present at Ryan's Hotel on that auspicious occasion but one hundred years on, upwards on two hundred people were present at the Ballyhaunis venue for the very historic occasion, both for the town of Ballyhaunis and for the GAA in Connaught.

MC for the evening, Mr Tommy Moran [Leitrim], Vice President of the Connaught Council, welcoming the large attendance said that it was the beginning of new era for the GAA in this province and he hoped that it would add to the commercial life of Ballyhaunis. He paid tribute to, among many others, provincial secretary, John Prenty, who, along with his wife, Mary, had been directing the affairs of the GAA for the province from his house at Knock Road for the past number of years. John, he said had done a tremendous job for the organisation since his appointment to the position of secretary and said that it was fitting that Ballyhaunis was selected as the chosen venue for this office, given as it is, situated right at the very centre of the province. This office, said the Vice-President, will serve as the centre for all activities for GAA in Connaught for the future. As well as the Provincial Secretary, the new building will also be the base for John Tobin, the recently appointed Director of Coaches by the GAA, who will have the responsibility of coordinating the work of more that 25 coaches from the five counties of Connaught. All future meetings of

Connaught Council personnel, including officers, coaches, referees as well as Connaught Colleges officials, will take place at the Ballyhaunis headquarters.

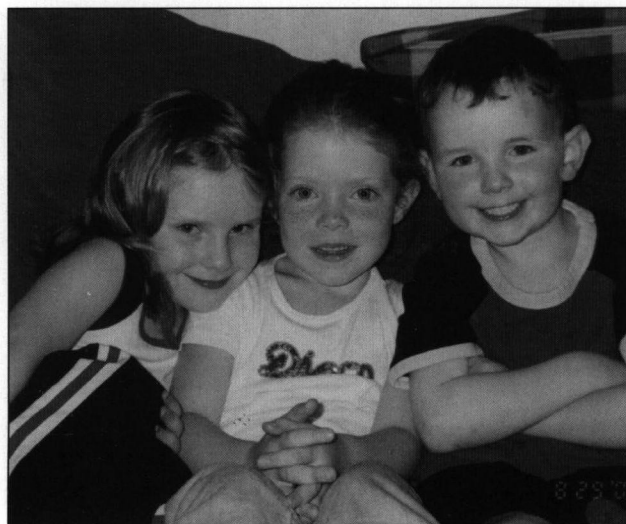
Mr Pdraig Brennan, President of the Connaught Council, who performed the official unveiling of the plaque on the office building, in his address, also welcomed the gathering to the new office. He said that it was an honour for him to be in this position on this very historic occasion for the Association. "It was time that we had some place that we could call our home", he said, "instead of working all the time out of somebody's house". Mr Brennan, who steps down from office early next year, wished all future officers well with the future direction of the Association.

The new ultra modern complex is complete with a fully fitted kitchen for catering for all future activities within the building. The catering contract will be carried out by Ms Maureen Hunt, who is widely known in GAA and sporting circles for her craft and expertise in the food and catering business. Comprising of a large Executive type meeting room upstairs, where the Council officials will meet once a month, the GAA Office also comprises of a number of smaller rooms which will facilitate the many sub-committee meetings of the Provincial Council in the future.

Among those present were the architect of the building, Mr Paddy Naughton, as well as the building contractor, Mr. Tommy Goonan, a member of the Mayo County Board and a former officer of the Connaught Council.

MC, Tommy Moran, had a special word of welcome for Mr Johnny Mulvey, who had held the post of Secretary of the Connaught Council for several years prior to the appointment of Mr Prenty to the position a few years ago. He extended best wishes and a speedy recovery to Mr Paddy Muldoon, former Chairman of the Mayo County Board and extended his gratitude to AIB for their sponsorship of the food and drink for the official opening.

The official blessing of the premises was carried out by Fr Declan Carroll, CC., Ballyhaunis, himself an active member and elected Patron of the Ballyhaunis GAA Club.



Tessa Lyons, Ruth Horkan and Matthew Grogan
August 2002



First Day at School. Eugene Freeley, Bridie Egan,
Jim Egan all from Clagnagh. Taken 1950's

The Birth and Growth of Annagh Magazine... The First Decade

Jim Lundon

Annagh Magazine was founded in 1977 by Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber at a meeting in the Central Hotel, chaired by the President of Junior Chamber, Donal Ahern. Encouraged by the newly appointed Parish Priest in Ballyhaunis, Fr. Paddy Costelloe (now Canon), a sub-committee was formed. The seed was sown...

The Early Years

We elected the late Anto O'Malley, an inspirational English teacher in the newly opened Community School as Editor. His colleague, Chris Pratt, Art teacher, designed our covers from 1978 to 1986. The original magazine was produced by Marian Conboy, Fr. Des Walsh, John Higgins, Dr. Seamus Ryan and Jim Lundon.

Our printers were Cashin's Printing Service, Castlebar and the 1978 forty-two-page magazine with advertisements, cost sixty pence. We sold the Magazine after the Sunday Masses and in the shops. Included in the magazine was a tribute to the late Canon J. G. McGarry who died tragically that year, and a vision statement on the newly opened Community School by the Principal, Mr. Eddie Thornton. The Parish births, deaths and marriages were recorded.

The 1979 Magazine was produced while Matt O'Dwyer was President of Junior Chamber. It included a new section that we called Soundings – reports, photographs and articles from local organisations. Bernard Freyne wrote about the Ancient graves in Ballyhaunis B.C., while Mick O'Connell wrote about P. A Waldron. The magazine was launched on the R.T.E. 1 television news by the late Eddie Biesty, Anto O'Malley (Editor), Fr. Costelloe P.P., Rita Lundon (P.R.O. Junior Chamber) and Jim Fahey.

The Eighties

In 1980, Siobhán O'Connor was President of Junior Chamber. The Committee was Anto O'Malley (Editor), Chris Pratt (Cover), Jim Lundon, John Higgins, Joe Hosty and Matt O'Dwyer. Ballyhaunis Boxing Club was featured by Jim Higgins, while Billiards and Snooker in Ballyhaunis was described by the late Kevin Barry and the late Willie Murphy. Included also was an interview with the late Bill Mulligan N.T. and a photo of the All Ireland Junior Chamber Debating team, Jim Higgins, John Mooney, John Higgins, Chris Pratt.

In 1981, Eddie Campbell was Junior Chamber President. The Committee was Anto O'Malley (Editor), Chris Pratt (Cover), Jim Lundon, Pat Higgins, Joe Hosty and Matt O'Dwyer. The last Seán Durkan wrote a fine article on places of historical interest in the parish. John Higgins recorded the G.A.A. trip to New York and Boston. Canon Costelloe wrote about St. Patrick's College 1961 –

1962, while Mick O'Connell profiled Patsy Cunningham. There were fifty-two pages in the magazine and it was also the end of an era with Anto O'Malley as editor.

The 1982 magazine featured Leow Lake on its cover designed by Chris Pratt. John Mooney was Junior Chamber President. The Editorial Committee was Jim Lundon, Pat Higgins, Joe Hosty and Matt O'Dwyer. Advertising and Sales: Rita Mooney (R.I.P.), John Mooney, Ann O'Dwyer, Siobhán O'Connor and Mike Griffin. Jimmy Cribbin wrote about his Australian trip, the late Senator Dalgan Lyons was interviewed; Tony Boyle wrote about Ballyhaunis in the 1940s, Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A. about aspects of the Abbey and Michael Joyce about Athletics in Ballyhaunis.

In 1983 the magazine expanded to seventy-three pages. Eamonn Healy was President of Junior Chamber. The Editorial Committee was Jim Lundon (Editor), Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., John Mooney, Joe Greene, Matt O'Dwyer, Eamonn Healy, Pat Higgins, Joe Hosty, Chris Pratt (Cover). Advertising: Mary Heneghan, Peggy Lyons, Mairead Flynn, Rita Mooney, Mike Griffin. Printing: Cashin Printing, Castlebar. "Hunting and Coursing and other old pastimes" was written by Murt Hunt, "Memories to Bless and Burn" by Joe Greene and "Was that a Fire Siren? By Sean Freyne were among the contributions. The 1983 magazine was a National Junior Chamber Award winner in Galway.

G.A.A. Supplement

In 1984 Annagh Magazine included a Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club Centenary Supplement in the magazine. The President of Junior Chamber was Rita Lundon and the Editorial Committee was Jim Lundon (Editor), John Mooney, Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., Joe Greene, Joe Hosty, Matt O'Dwyer, Mary Freeley, Pat Higgins, Shea O'Callaghan. Covers were designed by Chris Pratt and Paul Waldron, Devlis. Advertising: Regina Hunt, Anne Marrinan, Kathleen Hunt. "The Friary Graveyard" was written by Paul Waldron, Cave; "The Tech" as written by Patricia Waldron. In the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club supplement, Hugh Rudden introduced it as Chairman of the Club. The Editorial Board for the supplement was John Prenty, Hugh Rudden, Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., Mick O'Connell, Willie Ryan, Ger Lyons, Aiden Kelly, Johnny Biesty and Michael Waldron. It included a profile of the playing career of Johnny Biesty, "The War Years" by Willie Coppinger, "The Intermediate Team" by John Prenty, "The Great Peg Morris" by Mick O'Connell.

The 1985 Magazine featured a scene of the town on the front cover and a photo of the newly opened Knock Airport on the back cover. Mary Freeley was President of Junior Chamber. It featured an article on the Ballyhaunis winners of the 1984 Mayo Meitheal Award. "Schools in the area 1831–1900" was an article by Pauline Morley, while Bernard Freyne's article was "Ballyhaunis twins with Guiliers" An interesting photo featured David Fitzgerald with the All Ireland Minor Trophy at the Square. The Editorial Committee was Jim Lundon (Editor), Chris Pratt (Cover), Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., Joe Greene, Matt O'Dwyer, Donal Ahern, Shea O'Callaghan, Joe Hosty, Mary Freeley and Pat Higgins.

The 1986 Magazine recorded the sad death of founding editor, Anto O'Malley. The magazine was dedicated to his memory. "The Ordination of Fr. John Fitzgerald O.S.A." was recorded by John Durkan, while Seamus Durkan remembered the year 1932 in a article. Youth Forum featured poems from Sinead Lyons (12), Patrick Gallagher (12), Rosemary Nestor (11), Patrick Gallagher (12), Brid Coen (11), Michael Lyons, Lecarrow (12), Oliver Jordan (7), Sinead Lundon (11), Michelle Regan (10), John Higgins (11), Bernadette Flanagan (10), Conal Higgins (8), Seamus Lundon (7), Catherine Healy (12), Sinead Lyons (12), Carmel Hunt (6th Class), Olivia Lyons (11), Lorraine Tighe (12), Olive Greally, Drimbane (11), Siobhán Cleary (11) and Jason Morley (12). The back cover featured a great photo of Main Street in 1928. This was to be the final Annagh Magazine produced by Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber. The Editorial Committee was Jim Lundon (Editor), Chris Pratt (Cover), Fr. J O'Connor O.S.A., Joe Greene, Matt O'Dwyer, Shea O'Callaghan, Joe Hosty, Pat Higgins, Typing Marian Cunniffe, Printer, Cashing Printing Services Ltd.

It was in a sense the end of an era where enthusiastic young volunteers worked together to create a forum for the people of the parish to express themselves. Many busy nights were spent working around the kitchen tables of firstly the O'Malley household in Knock Road and then in our house (Lundon's), also on the Knock Road. With the demise of Junior Chamber there were fears that Annagh Magazine may cease to be published. However, in 1987 Annagh Magazine was printed and the magazine grew to be bigger, and more colourful.

New Look

The 1987 Magazine changed to being A4 size and colour covers were featured. "The Western People" printed the magazine. Maurice Buckley wrote about Knock Airport, "I remember, I remember" was written by Micheal Smyth. Another big change was the replacement of advertisements by a list of Patrons of the magazine. The Editorial Committee was Joe Greene (Editor), Jim Lundon (President), Matt O'Dwyer (Secretary) Shea O'Callaghan (Treasurer), Joe Greene (Chairman), Joe Hosty, Pat Higgins, Typing: Mary Henry.

Constitution

The 1988 Magazine featured wedding photos for the first time. It also featured an article on a village/Townland in the parish for the first time. "Bargarriff" was written by Agnes Heaney. Ballyhaunis-born writer, Bill Naughton was profiled by Pat Higgins, while John Dillon Leetch wrote about the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival 1988. "Ballyhaunis of Old as seen through the Western People" was compiled by David Duane, while John Duggan wrote about the start of Mid West Radio in Midas Night Club on 25th November 1985. This was the first magazine produced by the Annagh Magazine Society, whose constitution is recorded on page 82. The elected officers were: Pat Higgins (Editor), Jim Lundon (President), Fr. John O'Connor (Vice President), Johnny Biesty (Chairperson), Mary Finan (Vice Chairperson), Matt O'Dwyer (Sec), Bronagh McKermitt (Asst. Sec); Joint Treasurers: Noel Waldron and Anne Curley, Micheal Smyth (P.R.O.); Committee: John Cleary, Joe Hosty, Donal Ahern, Shea O'Callaghan, Our meetings were held in Manor House Hotel until we moved to

Issue	Year	Pages	No. of Articles approx.	No. of Photos (inc. wedd's)	Front Cover Design	Editor
1.	1987	44	15	16	Annagh Sword on background of Celtic design	Anto O'Malley
2.	1979	49	15	15	Vertical red and green stripes on black background	Anto O'Malley
3.	1980	49	20	23	Curving red charactyers on green background	Anto O'Malley
4.	1981	53	17	23	The Friary	Editorial Comm.
5.	1982	57	18	24	Leow Lake	Jim Lundon
6.	1983	73	26	44	Whitethorn and grass, white background	Jim Lundon
7.	1984	81	22 (incl. GAA)	77	Blocks of abstract design	Jim Lundon
8.	1985	85	32	55	Buildings in Ballyhaunis	Jim Lundon
9.	1986	81	25	45	Market day in the Square	Jim Lundon
10.	1987	79	40	77	Red border (11 photos)	Joe Greene
11.	1988	99	75	129 (14)	Green border (11)	Pat Higgins
12.	1989	81	40	11 (14)	Blue border (13)	John Cleary
13.	1990	79	58	100 (13)	Orange border (14)	John Cleary
14.	1991	95	70	109 (15)	Red border (13)	John Cleary
15.	1992	105	72	114 (15)	Purple border (17), first year to be perfect bound	Peter McCafferty
16.	1993	93	71	143 (24)	Orange border (17)	Peter McCafferty
17.	1994	87	64	126 (17)	Blue/green border (19)	Peter McCafferty
18.	1995	113	71	151 (12)	Pink border (16)	Paul Waldron
19.	1996	109	78	174 (20)	Red border (14) (<i>last by Western People</i>)	Paul Waldron
20.	1997	112	85	139 (20)	Green & Red border (14) (<i>first by KPS</i>)	Paul Waldron
21.	1998	121	62	119 (17)	Red border (11)	Joint Editors
22.	1999	94	79	155 (30)	Dark Blue & Red border (13)	Joint Editors
23.	2000	104	72	148 (22)	Front: Churches, Celtic tracery. Back: 7 photos	Editorial Comm.
24.	2001	97	67	176 (22)	Old coloured postcard views of town	Editorial Comm.

Halpin's, Main Street courtesy of the late Jack Halpin and later Breege and John Halpin where we meet to the present day.

Looking Back

It is hard to believe that a quarter of a century has gone by since the seeds were sown in the back room of the Central Hotel. At the time videos, camcorders, microwave ovens, computers, the Internet and mobile phones were unheard of here. The magazine under founding Editor, Anto O'Malley was nurtured by members of Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber for ten years and further developed and expanded by the Annagh Magazine Society.

The well has never run dry thanks to our contributors of articles, poems, photographs, our supportive patrons and our loyal readers in Ballyhaunis, Mayo, all parts of Ireland, and where Ballyhaunis people are throughout the world. If it has brought Ballyhaunis people together for a few hours every year to read it, wherever they are, then it surely has been worthwhile!

The twenty-four issues of the Annagh Magazine so far – up to and including the 2001 issue - total 2,040 pages; there have been 1,194 articles and reports published, 2,483 photographs have been featured, including 255 wedding photographs and 194 cover photographs in full colour.

Moira Retires

By Michael Byrne

A large crowd turned out at the Belmont Hotel in Knock on Friday night November 1st from many parts of the region to honour and to pay tribute to Ms Moira Delaney from Ballyhaunis on the occasion of her retirement from her position as Principal of Began National School. It was indeed a huge surprise to Moira, to whom it had been indicated that the night would comprise of a celebration Mass followed by a quiet meal among teaching staff and members of the Board of Management. What a surprise it was for the respected school teacher when she turned up at the Knock hotel only to be greeted by hundreds of well wishers, comprising of past and present school pupils, their parents, former school colleagues and a host of dear friends to whom Moira Delaney had endeared herself over a period of time.

Newly appointed Principal of Began NS, Mr Vincent Kelly, who acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening, welcomed the large gathering and thanked them for their attendance. Mr Kelly, who had been Vice-Principal to Mrs Delaney for the past number of years, paid a glowing tribute to the retiring school Principal. Moira, said Mr Kelly, was a wonderful and an outstanding tutor. Among the many wonderful talents which she possessed was the remarkable ability of imparting her musical expertise on to her pupils. Moira combined her duties as School Principal and gifted teacher as a splendid tutor of music which as a result took her to Fleadh Nua and Scor na nOg competitions all over Connaught. The new School Principal said that Moira made a huge contribution, not only to Began NS, but also to the entire wider community of the parish of Began throughout her 32 years of service at the local academy.

Moira began her teaching career when in 1962 she took up duties in Williamstown NS. Six years later, in 1968, she was successful in her application for the vacant post at Began NS, replacing Ms Peggy Cruise of Ballyhaunis, who was among the hundreds of well wishers

who turned out at the Knock venue for Moira's retirement function. Moira took over the role of principal of Began in 1989 following the tragic sudden death of former Principal, the late Mr Ray Forde, RIP.

Fr Paddy Mullins, PP., and Chairman of the Board of Management, who had presided at a special Mass in Began earlier in the evening in honour of the special occasion, spoke of Moira in glowing terms. Fr Mullins spoke at length on the outstanding role which Moira Delaney had played in terms of primary education in Began over the past 32 years. He complimented her on the wonderful and lasting contribution which she had made to school and community life in the parish over such a long period. Fr Mullins thanked her for this invaluable contribution and wished her well in the future on behalf of all the priests who have served in the parish during her term of office.

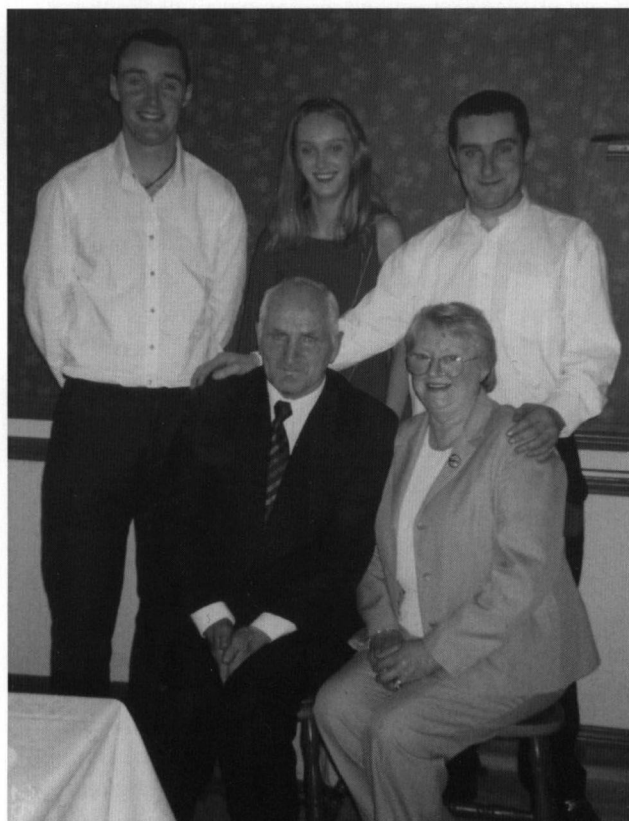
Presentations were made to Moira on behalf of the Board of Management and also on behalf of the Parents Association of the Began school.

In her address, Ms Delaney said that she was truly overwhelmed by this wonderful turnout and this wonderful gesture. Moira, whose late mother hailed from the parish, said that she always felt that she was among her own here in the parish of Began. She expressed her gratitude to the many colleagues who had served with her over the years and paid particular tribute to her successor, Mr Kelly, with whom she had worked for over 27 years, as well as thanking the other members of staff who had been present with her over the recent years. She thanked the parents for their support over so many years and also extended her appreciation to the School Board of Management and to the Parents Association for their cooperation and assistance at all times. Ms Delaney also expressed her sincere thanks to BOM Chairman and Parish Priest, Fr Mullins for the courtesy which he had shown her since his appointment to Began four years ago and for the great involvement and interest which he had shown since his arrival in the parish.

On a night which was filled with the sound of music of all sorts, Moira was joined, by means of special surprise, by her friends in the Ballyhaunis Abbey Male Choir, for whom she has acted as conductress for the past seven years, for a very special tribute and recital.



Annagh Rose 2002 Claire Gallagher, Bargarriff with Rosaleen Kelly, Kiltaboe, winner of the Best Dressed Lady Competiton at the May Festival.



Celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary, Bridie and Seamus O'Boyle with their family Aidan, Aileen and Gerard.



Fr. Paddy Mullins P.P., Began, Chairman of Began N.S. Board of Management making a presentation to Moira Delaney (Abbey Street) on her retirement after 32 years of service at Began N.S.



Pictured at the Eircell - Vodafone Awards for volunteering are President Mary McAleese with Mary and Michael Brennan from Agloragh, Ballyhaunis. Volunteering Ireland, in association with Eircell - Vodafone, held the celebration in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin to mark 2001, the U.N. International Year of Volunteers.



Ballyhaunis I.C.A. members taking part in a sponsored walk for breast cancer. L-R: Margaret Kenny, Maura Fitzmaurice, Winifred O'Brien, Geraldine Connolly, Margaret Dyer and Patricia Plunkett.

The "Annagh" Year

How The Magazine Is Put Together

Paul Waldron

Putting together the Annagh Magazine begins each year in January with the 'Post Mortem' held towards the end of that month. At this meeting the merits and shortcomings of the most recent issue are analysed and discussed. Note is taken of errors or omissions, and consideration given to things that could be done differently and better the next year. Prospective and possible articles for the upcoming issue are discussed as early as this, and members of the committee volunteer or are assigned to ensure that these eventually come through. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month, and progress on the collection of written material and photographs reported on an on-going basis.

All the year through members of the committee are on the lookout for articles and photographs. There's usually a lull in activity during July and August, but come September, things begin to get serious. Negotiations get under way with the printers, and we find it useful to get quotes from a variety of printers every year, to see who offers the best service at an appropriate price. In recent years Knock Printing Services have come out on top in this. Their proximity to Ballyhaunis, willingness to facilitate us and act on our feedback - not to mention their reasonable price - are major factors in our staying with them over the past few years.

Deadlines

A number of important aspects have to be considered early on - in particular, the design of the cover. The first few covers, back in late seventies and early eighties, were designed by Chris Pratt and Paul Waldron (Devlis); then, from 1987 until 1999, the format was a collage of colour photographs with a different colour margin each year; the 2000 (remember the Millennium?) and 2001 covers were different again, but both shared a Celtic motif border and masthead designed by Declan Lyons. The cover is a tricky enough printing job, and the printers need to know our requirements early on so that it can be completed in good time.

The deadline for material is decided on - usually the second week or so in October - and plenty of notice of this is given in the local press. Letters are sent to the P.R.O.s of all local associations to make sure they send in their club/society reports in good time. Contact is made and sustained with regular contributors, and those from whom contributions (i.e. articles, reports, photographs) are sought. A special effort is made to ensure all wedding photographs from the area are obtained on time. Lists of those baptised and married, and the names of the past year's deceased come courtesy of the Parish Priest. Every year, a number of writers submit their first ever articles for inclusion: these are especially welcome and ensure the

magazine continues to evolve as time goes on. Meetings are held every fortnight through September and into October. From the middle of October onwards, meetings are held every week, with the final one held on the last Tuesday of November to fine-tune arrangements for distribution.

Articles

Much of the written material continues to come in on paper - either hand-written or typed. Every year, the proportion of articles, reports and photographs coming in on disk or in emails increases as computer and internet technology becomes evermore widespread. Where stuff has to be typed-up, this is done by committee members and a number of volunteers. All articles and reports that come in end up on the computer purchased by the Annagh Magazine Society two years ago. This computer is a great help to the editorial committee, as it eliminates long evenings and nights spent proof-reading at the printers' premises, and, it empowers the committee to effect changes themselves, and therefore have texts in perfect condition before they get to the printer at all.

As articles come in, and are being typed up, the process of proof-reading gets under way. Spelling and punctuation are checked and, only very occasionally, has anything to be changed or, very rarely, edited out. Proof-reading is an exacting and tedious job, and it takes many late nights peering at the computer screen, and checking original scripts to make sure each submission appears without error.

Photographs

Inevitably, more photographs come in each year than we have room to publish in the magazine. There is always that feeling that maybe the well will dry up and that there mightn't be enough interesting photos to include in the next year's issue. People sometimes say, "sure ye must be running out of stuff by now", but, as will be seen again this year, this does not seem to be the case. When you consider that any old photograph is of potential interest to an Annagh reader, as long as it has some connection with the parish, then there must be plenty out there yet for publication.

For a photograph to be considered for inclusion, it has to be clear and in focus. Photographs of people not aware that their picture was being taken are not accepted. It is Annagh Magazine's policy that every photograph is captioned as fully as possible. Sometimes remarkable efforts are made, and many miles covered, to ensure that everyone in a picture is identified correctly and named. Great care is taken of photographs, both old and new, and procedures are in place to ensure that every photo is returned to the owner in perfect condition.

Patrons

The importance of patrons' subscriptions to the Annagh Magazine cannot be over-stated. Without their sponsorship, we wouldn't break-even charging the 5 price. Up to this year, most members of the committee had their quota of patrons to collect from, with each one

responsible for the accuracy of the patron's entry in the list at the end of the magazine. This year, one committee member was assigned to the task.

Material, as it is ready, is forwarded to the printers so they can lay out the relevant pages. By early November a good deal of the magazine is put together. Care has to be taken to ensure that articles are accompanied by their relevant photographs at all stages in the production process. Two and sometimes three full days are spent with the printers, making final adjustments and ensuring that the finished magazine looks its best, and that nothing is left out unintentionally. At this stage too a decision has to be taken on the size of the magazine. This is not as easy as it sounds, since the printers require the number of pages to be a multiple of eight (this has to do with the way the paper is folded into pages and bound). We usually end up with around the hundred pages – generally either ninety-six or 104. We feel it important to keep the number of pages within reason to keep the cost of postage down (and many Annaghs go through the post). Once the number of pages is decided – bearing in mind the amount of material to hand – a certain amount of fine-tuning has to take place, with photographs or articles held over or added in to make sure those pages are filled properly.

Come the second or third week of November, it's more-or-less out of our hands and into the hands of the printers. It takes a full week of constant printing, folding and binding to produce the finished magazine. As soon as it's ready a phone-call from the printers sets the distribution process in motion. Annagh patrons get their magazines first, then the shops are issued with their quota

of magazines and, within days a steady trickle of feedback comes in – most of it good, some of it not so good.

Future

Throughout the year it takes to produce the "Annagh", every effort is taken to ensure that the finished magazine will give a balanced picture of the parish. The Annagh is different things to different people – some are interested only in articles of historical interest, and old photographs, while others like to read of current happenings, to learn of progress in the town and parish. A balance, therefore, has to be struck in the selection of articles, between historical and contemporary. With photographs, however, there is an emphasis on older ones as these never fail to be of interest. The Annagh magazine committee, as currently constituted, works well together. The workload doesn't get any easier as the years go by, especially since the committee has reduced considerably in number since the Society was formed in the late eighties. Fresh ideas and new ways of doing things are vital for the survival and development of the Annagh. Most people who read the Annagh would like to see it continue into the future. If this is to happen – and if the Annagh is to continue brightening up the long, dreary winters' nights for so many readers – membership of the committee will have to grow.

As with most organisations in the parish, all of the work done by the committee is carried out voluntarily. The overall aim of the people who put the Annagh together is to record the ongoing story of the parish and it's people – men and women, young and old, town and country.



Gurteen Residents First Christmas Party (2001) held in the Belmont Hotel, Knock. Back l-r: Donal Moran, Paddy Freeley, Michael Brennan, Seamus Mulrennan, Albert Madden, Martin Brennan, Michael Henry, Cathal Phillips. Centre l-r: Anne Phillips, Paddy Phillips, Martin Keane, Aidan Mathews, Carol Keane, Liam O'Boyle, Liam Lynskey, Jacinta Flynn, Michael Flynn, Mary Mulrennan, Orla Moran. Front l-r: Maud Henry, Rita Madden, Mary Kay Phillips, Brigid Lynskey, Mary Matthews, Bríd o'Boyle and Maria Brennan.

1952 Minor Title for Ballyhaunis

First Championship Since 1917

Malachy Nally

The above headline appeared fifty years ago in 'The Western People' of Saturday, September 6, 1952 when it reported on the Mayo Minor Final played at Prenty's Field on the previous Sunday, 31st August, when Ballyhaunis defeated Claremorris by 3-4 to 1-2. But what a week it had been because, on the previous Sunday the team had triumphed over Swinford, in the East Mayo Semi-final with a score of 2-3 to 1-3. Then, on Tuesday evening at Kilmovee we took on Ballaghaderreen in the East Mayo Final, winning by 5-4 to 2-2. On Thursday, in the county semi-final at McHale Park, Castlebar, our opponents were Ardnaree, but again we were victorious with a score of 2-12 to 2-3. And so we were in the Final against Claremorris.

The Match

The match report said that Ven. Archdeacon Prendergast threw in the ball, and in a matter of seconds the Ballyhaunis forwards had it in the square. Veldon, however, cleared in fine style, but Ballyhaunis came back through Curtis, Byrne and Robinson. Claremorris attacked but were repulsed by J. Healy and F. Fahey. However, they were not to be denied, and D. Donoghue sent over their first score, a point. From

the kick-out P. Healy started H. Forde away, but his shot for goal was cleared. Curtis equalised for Ballyhaunis from a 21 yds. Free. Claremorris swept back to the attack but Healy at fullback was unbeatable and with A. Foudy and A. Smyth in support the ball was cleared. Curtis received from H. Forde and pointed to put Ballyhaunis in front. Ballyhaunis had settled down and were outrunning their heavier and bigger opponents and from a grand clearance by A. Smyth, H. Forde pointed. Another Claremorris attack was beaten off by T. Jordan, whose clearance was gathered by V. Byrne. With Benson, Lyons and Robinson in support, he soloed goalwards but was taken down. From the resulting 14 yds. Free he crashed the ball to the back of the new, to leave the halftime score: Ballyhaunis 1-3 ; Claremorris: 0-1.

On the resumption Claremorris swept through the Ballyhaunis defence but diminutive goalie Nally cleared in fine style. In a lightning breakaway, Ballyhaunis, led by Benson and S. Smyth had a goal by B. Lyons. Claremorris attacked but were repulsed by P. Healy and J. Forde, but when a Ballyhaunis back fouled in the square, Wilson sent the ball to the net from the resulting penalty to leave the scores Ballyhaunis 2-3; Claremorris 1-1. Almost immediately Ballyhaunis had a goal by B. Lyons when he boxed a pass from P. Benson past Long in the Claremorris goal. V. Byrne had a point for Ballyhaunis, and V. Fogarty had the last score of the game when he pointed for Claremorris. The referee was John Vallely, Armagh, who was visiting relations in the town and who was pressed into service when the appointed referee did not put in an appearance.

Ballyhaunis Panel

Malachy Nally (goal), Tommy Jordan, John "Doc" Healy,



Ballyhaunis, Mayo Minor Champions 1952. Back, L-R: Frank Fahey, Henry Forde, Andy Smyth, John 'Doc' Healy, Paddy Healy, Denis Curtis, Tommy Jordan, Anthony Robinson, Arthur Foudy, John Flatley; Front, L-R: Paddy Benson, John Forde, Bernard Lyons, Malachy Nally, Val Byrne (Capt.), Sean Smyth, Willie Byrne, Tom Healy.

John Forde, Arthur Foudy, Frank Fahey, Andy Smyth, Denis Curtis, Paddy Healy, Anthony Robinson, Val Byrne (Capt.), Henry Forde, Bernard Lyons, Paddy Benson, Sean Smyth. Subs. – Willie Byrne, John Flatley, Gerry Cribbin, Tony Healy.

After the game there was a big reception in the Parochial Hall at which Archdeacon Prendergast spoke and congratulated the team on winning the final. Others I remember from that day were Tom Forde, Mick Tarmey, Larry Freeley and Mick O'Connell. For a 14 year old there was so much to take in and of course, the medal to cherish. Although it was fifty years ago the memory lingers on, and

when I think back about that hectic week in August 1952 and the excitement of winning the town's first county trophy in thirty-five years, I cannot help but wonder where the rest of the team are nowadays. I pray for those who have gone to their eternal reward – Paddy and "Doc" Healy and Andy Smyth but for the others, maybe reading this will recall a nostalgic week in their lives too.

Since 1956 I have been living in England, and for the last thirty years in Newport Pagnell, near Milton Keynes, a town of 12,000 people, and I can be contacted on 0044-1908 611802 or by e-mail at: mal.nally@lineone.net

Ballyhaunis Parent and Toddler Group

Stella Walsh

This year sees the fourth successive year of the Parent and Toddler Group running in Ballyhaunis Parochial Hall, and it seems to be growing in popularity each year. Due to interest and demand this year the group is open twice a week – Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This has proved very successful so far as one morning may suit some parents/carers more than others, and then there are those like me who like to go along both mornings. I myself have found it a great social outlet as, having given up work for the moment to look after my son, I had wondered how I would cope at home each day. You get to meet new people through the group and also get great advice from the parents of the older children from everything from the best nappies, tips on teething problems, sleeping problems etc., and, being a first time mother, believe me it comes in very handy.

Everyone works together and we have a weekly rota so that we all get to help out in the opening up, making tea, collecting the money, and so on. This way everybody is involved in the running of the group and so, makes it feel like a team effort. The toys and equipment are updated yearly, replacing old with new and adding to our already huge array of toys. We have been very lucky to receive various grants each year, which cover the cost of any new equipment or toys needed. We have introduced more toys and learning equipment for babies in the last year as we welcome babies and toddlers of all ages from newborn right up to pre-school age. Parents are encouraged to come along and avail of their great opportunity, not only for their children to play and learn to interact with others of similar age, but also for parents/carers to sit and have a natter, cup of tea and relax for a couple of hours. It is a very welcome thought on those cold and wet mornings.

At the end of every morning everyone helps with the big tidy up and the hall is as empty as if we were never there after ten

minutes or so. Each year we see the older children move on to playschool and new ones arrive all shy and clinging to Mammy, Granny or their childminder. Then, as the weeks go by, it's amazing to see how confident they become and soon they go straight to the toys the minute they come in and hardly wait for their jackets to come off. There is a lovely friendly and positive atmosphere and this year we even have some parents of children going to school who pop in to give a hand, and any kind of help is always greatly appreciated and it is also an ideal way of getting to know a new circle of friends.

A couple of times throughout the year we get together for a deserved night out without the children and husbands or partners. We have already planned our Christmas party night and hopefully we'll have a few more nights out between now and the end of May. There are meetings held on-and-off throughout the year where new ideas and suggestions are always welcome. For example this is where the suggestion of a second morning was brought up. A new committee is nominated at the end of every year and last May saw one of the founding members of the group, Mona Herr, bidding a sad farewell as her children have now progressed to playschool. I, on behalf of everybody would like to extend a very big thank you for her commitment and dedication to the running and management of the group over the last few years leaving it a very tough act to follow. And indeed a big thank you is extended to all who help to keep up the good work. Long may it last and who knows in the future it might be running every morning!



L-R: Patrick Caulfield, Aoife Nolan, Meadhbh Caulfield, Helen Gallagher, Megan Morley, Hannah Doyle, Brian O'Neill, Eoin O'Boyle.

Early Forays Around The Road

Frank Greally
(Editor of *The Irish Runner*)

I can still see him after all these years and him running by our house in Devlis in the early morning on his way to work - a pint bottle of milk sticking out of one pocket of his heavy work-coat, and his wrapped lunch poking out of the other pocket. He had read that distance running legend Emil Zatopek trained in heavy boots, so the boots he wore on those morning runs were sturdy enough to help absorb the impact of his six foot frame on the tarmac. His name was Pat Cribbin and in those innocent days more than thirty years ago he was a mould breaker and sports fanatic - and the closest friend I've ever had. I thought of him a lot this past Summer while running in the Phoenix Park in Dublin - recalling our friendship and our mutual passion for running.

Motivator

It was Pat Cribbin first introduced me to running. He'd call to our house in Devlis on his way home from Connell's Joinery and hold forth for hours on his favourite sports: running and boxing. He excelled at both. We were seventeen and football on a Sunday was about my only outlet - until one Winter evening Pat invited me to join him on a two mile lap that skirted his village - Lecarrow, as well as nearby Curries. That first night I managed about half a mile of running after which Pat - the original meet-and-train motivator - coaxed and cajoled me the rest of the way. Little did I suspect when I staggered to the finish that night, that for years to come running would, in one form or another, be central to my life.

For weeks after that maiden voyage, on the circuit that Pat simply christened "Around the Road", I joined my pal on the nightly odyssey. And then one night I managed to run the whole lap without stopping from the main

Galway road through Lecarrow and Curries and back down the Johnstown road to finish at the Michael Coen Monument. For me it was a breakthrough; to my friend it was small apples - he did at least three circuits every night. We must have looked an odd couple: both decked out in sweaters and army boots, myself - all seven stone - trying to match strides with the giant. Of course the locals thought we were touched - a neighbour warned my mother that I would strain my heart. But by now I was hooked - and waiting at six o'clock most week mornings for the low whistle from Pat that signalled it was time to hit the road. Soon we began to look the part, having made an excursion to Galway City for tracksuits and running shoes. We even formed a club - and to prove it was really a club, another great friend, Michael Joyce, joined.

Strange Encounter!

And I can remember one very dark Winter night as Pat, Michael and myself were clipping along the road over near Curries. Michael was feeling lively and had raced ahead. Big Pat and myself were in cold pursuit. Suddenly, we heard a blood-curdling scream, mingled with a deep roar that could only be bestial in origin, and almost immediately met Michael hurtling back in our direction like the proverbial bat-out-of-hell. When he eventually stopped running and regained breath and composure he explained what had happened up the road. He had just been congratulating himself for stealing a rare march on Pat and myself when he ran full tilt into a monstrous shape in the middle of the narrow road. To make things worse, the stray donkey - for that is what it was - started to bray as



Taken in Abbey Street 1975. L-R: Benny Patrick (U.S.A.), Justin Joyce, Gerry Dillon (R.I.P.), Frank Greally, Tom Smyth (R.I.P., partially hidden).

Michael picked himself up and fled back towards civilisation. We often laughed about that incident from those days and nights of beautiful innocence.

Pat, Michael and myself read voraciously about running. We subscribed to the British running magazine 'Athletics Weekly', and every Sunday morning I presented myself at Ballyhaunis sorting office where the late Eamon Dwane would retrieve my copy for me from Monday's already sorted mail.



"Around The Road". L-R: Pat Cribbin R.I.P. (Lecarrow), Frank Grealley, Tom Grealley R.I.P. (Drimbane and Devlis), Michael Joyce (Abbey St.).

Success

At last came the day of our first race: a cross-country in Tuam. I went off like a startled hare and by halfway was watching from the ditch as Eddie Leddy of Ballinamore powered to victory. Of course I persevered - Pat insisted. And a few weeks later, in the Mayo cross-country championships in Hollymount, our little team won its first medals. Actually, a few hours before that race, we were still a man short of a full team. It was then that Pat mentioned a young fellow who was by all accounts the fittest lad ever to kick a football. And so in the late Mick Nestor's untrusty Ford Consul we went in search of our anchorman.

Padraig Keane's parents did not exactly welcome us with open arms to their farmstead near Ballinlough - there were chores to be done and we were spiriting Padraig away. But the relented - and Padraig won the race. I doubt if anyone in Hollymount that day imagined that within a few years young Keane and Grealley would be running for Ireland in the International Cross-Country Championships in Cambridge. But it did happen, and when it did there was no prouder man than Pat Cribbin. Padraig went on to great things. He ran for Ireland many times and for years after moving to Dublin he was the lynchpin of the famous Clonliffe Harriers. And he helped Ballyhaunis Athletics Club in many a memorable race.

Ballyhaunis A.C.

For a while our little club had great success and I remember a day when we even wooed Michael ('Ronnie') Curley out of retirement to help us win the Mayo Intermediate Cross Country title. And I remember a few other team members from that time - Francis Timoney,

Walter Waldron and Richard Grogan - to name a few. But too soon our little group scattered. Padraig Keane and I emigrated to Dublin and Michael Joyce went south to Cork. Pat Cribbin took the boat to Wales and England. Pat kept in touch, his letters vividly describing training sessions at his adopted club, Birchfield Harriers, where the legendary Ian Stewart was a member.

Departed Friends

In 1972 I took up an athletics scholarship at East Tennessee State University. One morning a letter arrived from home with the news that Pat had been killed in England in a road accident on his way to work. Three decades on I still miss my dear comrade. He was on my mind a lot too a few months ago, when, within a couple of weeks, we buried my two first cousins, Luke Grealley and Michael Grealley late of Drimbane and Owen Judge from Agloragh. All three departed friends grew up in Pat Cribbin's era and mine, and their untimely deaths conjured up many memories of happier times when we were all young and thought that we would never die. Luke, Michael and Owen once lived along a mile of road that Pat and myself often did our training sessions.

And when I think of Pat Cribbin I remember dark Winter's nights in Ballyhaunis running 'Around the Road' - and bright Summer mornings when a low whistle would rouse me from slumber. Years on, after my footsteps have taken me down many a winding road, I think of Pat and realise that, no matter how far I have travelled in my own lifetime, in my mind I'm always going home to that house in Devlis and the circuit 'Around the Road'.



Taken during a visit of 'Perk's' Carnival 1962. Back l-r: Lily Wilson, Mrs. Freeley, Kathleen Byrne, Seamus Durkan, Liam Smith, Mary Ryan, Maria Cribbin. Front l-r: Denis Hannan, Mrs. Perks, Marie Connell, Russ Perks and Ea Hannan.



St. Joseph's N.S. mid thirties. Front l-r: John O'Brien, John Morley, Pat Smyth, Tommy Byrne, __, Mick Hopkins, Tommy Rattigan, Paul Meath and Padraig Caulfield. Middle l-r: Noel Waldron, Tommy Greene, __ Brennan, Bill Hayden, Eddie Phillips, Seamie Waldron. Back l-r: Walter O'Boyle, Tommy McManus, __, Sean Regan.

Annagh Parish in 1901, Part Three

In the last two issues of the Annagh Magazine, we presented the household returns, in an edited format, from the 1901 census of population for Ballyhaunis, and townlands lying adjacent to the town. In this issue we continue the series (part 3) and present returns from part of the rural portion of the parish of Annagh. Because there wouldn't be enough room to reprint all the townlands together, it will take two further instalments to complete the parish as it was in 1901. Part 3, presented here, covers those townlands lying to the north-east of Ballyhaunis, i.e. all that part of the parish lying between the Ballinlough Road and the Charlestown Road – the townlands of Arderry, Ballinphuill, Barheen, Brackloon East, Brackloon North, Brackloon South, Bunnadober, Carrowreagh, Cave, Clagnagh, Classaghroe, Coolloughra, Derrylahan, Derrynacong, Forthill, Gorteenbeg, Gorteenmore, Grallaghgarden, Killunagher, Kilmannin, Lisbaun East, Lurgan, Moneymore, Mountain, Skeaghard, Spaddagh, Tawnaghmore and Togher. The rest of the parish will be given next year and the year after.

In the extracts given here, the following information is given only: name, age, relationship to head of household; occupation; county/country of birth if born outside of Mayo. Other details – ability to read and write, ability to speak the Irish language, details of any infirmities – have been omitted for want of space. The great majority of the population was Roman Catholic, and religious profession is given here only where it deviated from this.

As with the last two instalments, a number of points should be noted: (1) Many of the ages given in this census, as in many other records of the time, are incorrect and should be taken with a pinch of salt - there was a tendency to understate them or 'round them off' to the nearest multiple of ten. (2) Generally all school children recorded as "Scholars".. (3) Some abbreviations used below are as follows: ww – widow; wr – widower; md – married; unm – unmarried; b. – born. In the extracts given here, the following information is given only: name, age, relationship to head of household;

Arderry (4)

1. Lyons'

Patrick Lyons 33, farmer
Ellen Lyons 27, wife
Patrick Lyons 2, son
Patrick Lyons 97, father

2. Cruise's

Michael Cruise 58, farmer
Catherine Cruise 50, wife
James T. Cruise 20, son
Annie Cruise 13, daughter
Patrick Cruise 5, son
Norah Cruise 4, daughter
Bridget Grogan 80, other relative [ww]

3. Higgins'

Catherine Higgins 67, land owner [ww]
Catherine Higgins 26, daughter

4. Grogan's

(house owned by John Lyons)
Bridget Grogan 70, house keeper

Ballinphuill (4)

1. Lyons'

Ellen Lyons 50, farmer's widow
James Lyons 20, son
Martin Lyons 12, son
Bridget Lyons 14, daughter
Mary Ellen Lyons 7, daughter

2. Lyons'

Patrick Lyons 60, farmer
Kate Lyons 26, daughter-in-law
Patrick Lyons 2, grandson
Mary Lyons 6, granddaughter
Sarah A. Lyons 4, granddaughter

3. Boyle's

John Boyle 60, farmer

4. Boyle's

James Boyle 68, farmer
Mary Boyle 62, wife
Austin Boyle 26, son, blacksmith
Bridget Ruane 40, lodger, charwoman, b.
Galway [unm]

Barheen (5)

1. Fitzmaurice's

Mark Fitzmaurice 40, farmer
Bridget Fitzmaurice 31, wife
Patrick Fitzmaurice 19, son
Mary Fitzmaurice 17, daughter
Bridget Fitzmaurice 2, daughter
Mary Fitzmaurice 70, mother [ww]

2. Morley's

Martin Morley 60, farmer
Ellen Morley 45, wife
Bridget Morley 18, daughter
John Morley 22, son

3. Jordan's

Patrick Jordan 60, farmer
Mary Jordan 65, wife

4. Fitzmaurice's

Patrick Fitzmaurice 55, farmer
Bridget Fitzmaurice 54, wife

5. McDonnell's

(house owned by Mark Fitzmaurice)
Bridget McDonnell 52, housekeeper [ww]
Mary McDonnell 28, daughter, dress-maker
Maggie McDonnell 24, daughter, seamstress

Brackloon East (7)

1. Sloyan's

Thomas Sloyan 63, farmer
Winifred Sloyan 57, wife

Patrick Sloyan 30, son
Bridget Sloyan 28, daughter
Thomas Sloyan 24, son
Mary Sloyan 22, daughter, dress-maker
Michael Sloyan 21, son
James Sloyan 23, son, stone-mason
John Sloyan 14, son

2. Hart's

Patrick Hart 60, farmer
Mary Hart 58, wife
Mary Hart 62, sister [unm]
Thomas Hart 25, son
Bridget Hart 19, son
Peter Hart 30, cousin

3. Dyer's

Dominick Dyer 30, farmer
Mary Dyer 31, wife
Bridget Dyer 59, step-mother [ww]
Mary Ellen Dyer 7, daughter
Celia Dyer 6, daughter
Bridget Agnes Dyer 4, daughter
Timothy Dyer 3, son
Annie Mary Dyer 1, daughter

4. Smyth's

John Smyth 65, farmer
Honor Smyth 64, wife
Catherine Smyth 34, daughter

5. Dyer's

Patrick Dyer 62, farmer
Bridget Dyer 52, wife
Celia Dyer 20, daughter
Patrick Dyer 18, son

6. Flanagan's

Patrick Flanagan 33, farmer, b. Roscommon
Mary Flanagan 33, wife
Mary Flanagan 60, mother-in-law [ww]

7. Unoccupied

(house owned by Patrick Hart)

Brackloon North (18)

1. Dyer's

Patrick Dyer 55, farmer
Catherine Dyer 50, wife
Edward Dyer 20, son
Delia Dyer 18, daughter
Martin Dyer 16, son

2. Cafferkey's

Peter Cafferkey 49, farmer
Margaret Cafferkey 45, wife
Mary Cafferkey 21, daughter
Michael Cafferkey 19, son
Patrick Cafferkey 16, son
Bridget Cafferkey 14, daughter
Peter Cafferkey 10, son
Anne Cafferkey 8, daughter
Kate Cafferkey 6, daughter
Teresa Cafferkey 3, daughter

3. Devaney's

Austin Devaney 60, farmer
Mary Devaney 50, wife
Ellen Devaney 17, daughter
Kate Devaney 14, daughter
Mary Devaney 12, daughter
Sabina R. Devaney 10, daughter
Martin Devaney 7, son

4. Fitzmaurice's

Andrew Fitzmaurice 40, farmer
Bridget Fitzmaurice 38, wife
Mary Ellen Fitzmaurice 15, daughter
Kate Fitzmaurice 10, daughter
Bridget Fitzmaurice 8, daughter
John Thomas Fitzmaurice 7, son
Michael Fitzmaurice 5, son
Andrew Fitzmaurice 3, son
William Fitzmaurice 4m, son

5. Murphy's

Pat Murphy 60, farmer [wr]
John Murphy 21, son
Catherine Murphy 25, daughter-in-law
Patrick Murphy 2m, grandson

6. Devaney's

Pat Devaney 40, farmer
Mary Devaney 41, wife
Thomas Devaney 5, son
John P. Devaney 4, son
Michael Devaney 3, son
Margaret E. Devaney 2, daughter
Mary K. Devaney 1, daughter
Julia Devaney 70, mother [ww]

7. Morris'

Austin Morris 48, farmer
Margaret Morris 36, wife
Mary A. Morris 14, daughter
Michael Morris 12, son
James Morris 10, son
Agnes Morris 8, daughter
Laurence Morris 6, son
John Morris 6m, son

8. Fitzmaurice's

John Fitzmaurice 50, farmer
Catherine Fitzmaurice 40, wife
Bridget Fitzmaurice 18, daughter
Mary Fitzmaurice 16, daughter
Margaret Fitzmaurice 14, daughter
Norah Fitzmaurice 9, daughter
John Fitzmaurice 3, son
Patrick Fitzmaurice 1, son
Catherine Fitzmaurice 1m, daughter

9. McNamara's

Patrick McNamara (James) 60
Margaret McNamara 50, wife
Hanoria McNamara 17, daughter
Thomas McNamara 15, son
John McNamara 12, son

10. Sloyan's/Kenny's

Denis Sloyan 76, farmer [wr]
Michael Kenny 35, son-in-law, labourer
Catherine Kenny 32, daughter
Maggie A Kenny 7, granddaughter
Denis T. Kenny 5, grandson
John F. Kenny 4, grandson
Mary E. Kenny 1, granddaughter

11. McNamara's

Pat McNamara 80, farmer
James McNamara 40, son
Mary McNamara 34, daughter-in-law
Maggie McNamara 12, daughter
Anne McNamara 10, daughter
John McNamara 7, son
Patrick McNamara 5, son
James McNamara 4, son
Mary McNamara 2, daughter

12. Sloyan's

John Sloyan 61, farmer
Margaret Sloyan 56, wife
Denis Sloyan 24, son
Kate Sloyan 27, daughter

13. Lyons'

Patrick Lyons 30, farmer [ma]
Norah Lyons 32, sister [unm]
Mary Lyons 70, mother [ww]
John O'Dwyer 19, nephew

14. Neary's

John Neary 60, farmer
Bridget Neary 53, wife
Patrick Neary 30, son
James Neary 18, son
Bernard Neary 17, son
Siss Neary 19, daughter
Ellen Neary 13, daughter

15. Sloyan's

James Sloyan 54, farmer
Mary Anne Sloyan 45, wife
Mary Ellen Sloyan 14, daughter
Sarah Ann Sloyan 12, daughter
Thomas Sloyan 10, son
Kate Agnes Sloyan 9, daughter
John Sloyan 7, son
James Sloyan 6, son
Michael Sloyan 5, son
Peter Sloyan 1, son

16. Dyer's

Bernard Dyer 30, farmer
Maria Dyer 28, wife
Margaret Dyer (Senr.) 70, mother [ww]
Margaret Dyer (Jnr.) 24, daughter, b. England
Patrick Dyer 3, son
Mary Dyer 1, daughter
Bridget Meehan 8, niece

17. Gilmore's

William Gilmore 40, coach-builder
Sabina Gilmore 39, teacher N.S., b. Roscommon
Fanny Gilmore 10, daughter
Anna Mary Gilmore 9, daughter
Willie Gilmore 6, son
Paul Gilmore 2, son
Monica Gilmore 1, daughter
Bridget Loury 15, servant, nurse-domestic

18. Dyer's

Mark Dyer 50, farmer
Sarah Dyer 50, wife
Martin Dyer 24, son
Eliza Dyer 19, daughter
John Dyer 17, son
Ellen Dyer 14, daughter

Brackloon South (14)

1. Kelly's

John Kelly 39, farmer
Bridget Kelly 40, wife, b. Roscommon
John Kelly 16, son
Mary Ellen Kelly 15, daughter
Thomas Kelly 13, son
Hanoria Kelly 11, daughter

2. Smyth's

Pat Smyth 30, farmer
Hanora Smyth 26, wife
Mary Smyth 6, daughter
Hanora Smyth 4, daughter
Ellen Smyth 1, daughter

3. Dyer's

Michael Dyer 60, farmer
Bridget Dyer 58, wife
Mary Dyer 30, daughter

4. Freely's

John Freely 55, farmer
Catherine Freely 45, wife, b. Roscommon
Michael Freely 23, son
Patrick Freely 21, son
Kate Eliza Freely 19, daughter
Ellen Angela Freely 17, daughter
John Thos. Freely 15, son
Peter David Freely 7, son

5. McGuire's

Pat McGuire 35, farmer
Kate McGuire 34, wife
John McGuire 6, son
Mary Kate McGuire 1, daughter

6. Higgins'

Michael Higgins 50, farmer
Onny Higgins 40, wife
Patrick Higgins 20, son

Anne Higgins 16, daughter
Norah Higgins 14, daughter
John Higgins 11, son
Michael Higgins 6, son

7. Waldron's

Pat Waldron 55, farmer
Mary Waldron 45, wife
Catherine Waldron 75, mother, nurse
tender
John Waldron 19, son
Kate Waldron 20, daughter
Austin Waldron 18, son
Hanora Waldron 12, daughter
Patrick Waldron 10, son
Thomas Waldron 8, son

8. Connor's

Patrick Connor 70, farmer
Mary Connor 70, wife.

9. Dyer's

Pat Dyer 40, farmer
Ellen Dyer 38, wife
Mary Ellen Dyer 16, daughter
Patrick Dyer 15, son
Edward Dyer 13, son
Maggie Dyer 12, daughter
Kate Dyer 11, daughter
Martin Dyer 4, son

10. Tully's/Rogers'

Patt Tully 70, farmer [wr]
Thomas Rogers 29, son-in-law
Annie Rogers 25, daughter
Mary Ellen Rogers 2m, granddaughter

11. Hunt's

Catherine Hunt 60, house-keeper, b.
Roscommon [ww]
Maggie Hunt 20, daughter
Kate Hunt 12, daughter
James Hunt 10, son

12. Waldron's

John Waldron 60, smith & farmer
Julia Waldron 36, wife
Mary A. Waldron 10, daughter
Kate Waldron 8, daughter
Julia Waldron 6, daughter
Martin Waldron 3, son

13. Waldron's

John Waldron 41, tailor & farmer
Kate Waldron 41, wife
Honorina Waldron 13, daughter
Kate Waldron 11, daughter
Thomas Waldron 9, son
Myles Waldron 6, son
Josephine Waldron 4, daughter
Patrick Waldron 2, son

14. National School

(on land owned by Michael Dyer)

15. Flanagan's

Hanoria Flanagan 40, farmer's wife, b.
Roscommon
Pat Flanagan 13, son, b. Roscommon

Bunnadober (9)

1. Morley's

Thomas Morley 40, farmer
Sarah Morley 35, wife
Michael Morley 16, son
John Morley 14, son
Delia Morley 13, daughter
Anthony Morley 11, son
Mary K. Morley 9, daughter

2. Morley's

(house owned by Thos. Morley)
Catherine Morley 60, farmer's wife [ww]

3. Moran's

(house owned by Thos. Morley)
Michael Moran 62, labourer [md]

4. Lyons'

(house owned by John McGarry)
Margaret Lyons 34, wash-woman [unm]
Anne Lyons 28, sister, wash-woman [unm]

5. Kearns'

Bridget Kearns 60, farmer's widow
Patrick Michael Kearns 27, son, farmer
Sarah Kearns 26, daughter-in-law
Martin Kearns 2, grandson

6. Lyons'

Margaret Lyons 40, farmer's wife [md]
Mary Lyons 19, daughter
John Lyons 17, son
Austin Lyons 10, son

7. McGarry's

John McGarry 45, farmer
Bridget McGarry 35, wife
Mary McGarry 8, daughter
James McGarry 7, son
Patrick McGarry 4, son

8. Waldron's

Michael Waldron 40, farmer [unm]
Kate Waldron 28, sister [unm]

9. Waldron's

Annie Waldron 40, farmer's widow
James Waldron 20, son
Thomas Waldron 13, son
Richard Waldron 10, son
Austin Waldron 12, son
Mary Waldron 18, daughter
Annie Waldron 4, daughter

Carrowreagh (11)

1. Freely's

Austin Freely 58, farmer
Jane Owens 62, sister
Richard Owens 30, nephew
Patrick Owens 26, nephew

2. Judge's

Mary Judge 50, farmer's widow
Murtagh Judge 18, son
Owen Judge 15, son
Thomas Judge 14, son
Bridget Lyons 80, mother [ww]

3. Loughlin's

Catherine Loughlin 60, farmer's widow
Martin Loughlin 25, son

4. Heneghan's

Thomas Heneghan 60, farmer
Bridget Heneghan 55, wife
Mary Heneghan 28, daughter
Patrick Heneghan 25, son
Bridget Heneghan 20, daughter
Ellen Heneghan 18, daughter

5. Morley's

Thomas Morley 52, farmer
Bridget Morley 45, wife
Martin Morley 25, son
John Morley 23, son
Patrick Morley 19, son
Honora Morley 18, daughter
Margaret Morley 16, daughter
Mary Ellen Morley 4, daughter
Kate Morley 1, daughter
Margaret Walshe 18, visitor

6. Boyle's

Catherine Boyle 75, head-of-family [md]
James Boyle 27, son
Annie Boyle 24, daughter-in-law
Mary Boyle 9, relative

7. Waldron's

James Waldron 50, farmer
Mary Waldron 45, wife
Mary E. McDonnell 19, niece

8. McGarry's

Patrick McGarry 80, farmer
Luke McGarry 32, son
Mary McGarry 35, daughter-in-law, b.
Roscommon
Mary Kate McGarry 2, granddaughter
Margaret McGarry 8m, granddaughter

9. Nolan's

Catherine Nolan 80, farmer [ww]
John Nolan 49, son, army pensioner
Bridget Nolan 33, daughter-in-law
Hubert Michael Nolan 7, grandson
Catherine Mary Nolan 6, granddaughter

10. Noone's

(house owned by Edw. Judge,
Ballyhaunis)
Bridget Noone 60, charwoman [ww]

11. Judge's

(house owned by Edw. Judge, Ballyhaunis)
Eliza Judge 35, spinster [unm]

Cave (4)

1. Waldron's

Mark Waldron 68, farmer
Mary Waldron 53, wife
Thady Hughes 50, servant, labourer [unm]
John Connor 19, servant, labourer [unm]

2. Regan's

Dominick Regan 40, farmer

Jane Regan 35, wife
Patrick Regan 15, son
Mary Jane Regan 13, daughter
Delia Regan 11, daughter
Maggie Ellen Regan 9, daughter

3. Waldron's

John Waldron 47, farmer
Margaret Waldron 36, wife
Bridget Waldron 9, daughter
Mary Ellen Waldron 8, daughter
Patrick A. Waldron 4, son
Michael Waldron 3, son
Peter Waldron 25, brother
Michael Molloy 12, farm servant

4. Unoccupied

(house owned by Richard Henry)

Clagnagh (6)

1. Morley's

Ellen Morley 72, farmer's widow
Michael Morley 27, son, farmer
Ellen Morley 28, daughter-in-law
Thomas Morley 4, grandson
Mary Morley 3, granddaughter
James Morley 5m, grandson

2. Infant's

(house owned by Ellen Morley)
Michael Infant 57, carpenter
Catherine Infant 58, wife
Annie Infant 36, daughter, b. America
James Infant 28, son, carpenter
Katie Infant 30, daughter
Maggie Infant 21, daughter
Mary Infant 20, daughter, dressmaker, b. America
John Infant 27, son, carpenter, b. America

3. Morley's

Anthony Morley 30, farmer
Mary E. Morley 28, wife
John Morley 4, son
Ellen Morley 2, daughter
Mary Morley 1, daughter

4. Moran's

John Moran 55, farmer
Margaret Moran 45, wife
Mary Moran 19, daughter
Bridget Moran 16, daughter
Kate Moran 12, daughter
Joe Dolly 74, boarder, oven works foreman [ma], b. Roscommon

5. Freely's

Thomas Freely 56, farmer
Bridget Freely 50, wife
James Freely 29, son
Patrick Freely 27, son
John Freely 24, son
David Freely 22, son
Mary E. Freely 19, daughter
Katie Freely 16, daughter
Bernard Freely 14, son

6. Freely's

Thomas Freely, Jnr. 36, farmer

Ellen Freely 33, wife
Margaret Freely 10, daughter
Eliza Freely 8, daughter
Margaret Freely 70, mother [ww]

Classaghroe (13)

1. Lyons'

Patrick Lyons 52, farmer
Mary Lyons 50, wife
Mary Lyons 20, daughter
Honora Lyons 17, daughter, dressmaker
Delia Lyons 12, daughter
Cicely Lyons 10, daughter
Patrick Lyons 4, son
Cicely Lyons 75,

2. Lyons'

James Lyons 55, farmer
Catherine Lyons 55, wife
John Lyons 26, son
Mary Lyons 24, daughter
Kate Lyons 17, daughter, seamstress

3. Scally's

Bridget Scally 55, housekeeper [ma]
Ellen Scally 26, daughter
Martin Scally 21, son
John Scally 18, son, post-boy

4. Curley's

Thomas Curley 38, carpenter
Kate Curley 30, wife
John Joseph Curley 4, son
Thomas Francis Curley 3, son
Patrick Henry Curley 1, son
Michael Austin Curley 4m, son
Catherine Finn 65, mother-in-law [ww]

5. Lyons'

Mary Lyons 55, housekeeper
John H. Lyons 26, son
James Lyons 24, son

6. Grogan's

Ellen Grogan 61, housekeeper [ww]
James Grogan 22, son
Ellen Grogan 17, daughter
Richard Grogan 15, son

7. Jordan's

Ellen Jordan 69, housekeeper [ww]

8. Bones'

Martin Bones 46, farmer [unm]
William Scally 15, servant

9. Lyons'

Thomas Lyons 40, farmer
Kate Lyons 30, wife
Martin Lyons 5, son
John Lyons 4, son
Thomas Lyons 1, son

10. Walsh's

Thomas Walsh 59, farmer [wr]
Patrick Walsh 29, son
Bridget Walsh 26, daughter-in-law

11. Walsh's

James Walsh 61, farmer [wr]
Patrick Walsh 30, son
Mary Walsh 25, daughter

12. Lyons'

Thomas Lyons 30, farmer [unm]
Margaret Lyons 33, sister [unm]

13. Finn's

John Finn 43, farmer
Mary Finn 35, wife
Mary K. Finn 8, daughter
Bridget Finn 7, daughter
John Finn 5, son
Andrew Finn 3, son
Patrick Finn 7m, son
Bridget Burke 14, servant

Coolloughra (9)

1. Lyons'

John Lyons 53, farmer
Bridget Lyons 48, wife
Michael Lyons 20, son
Anthony Lyons 14, son
Delia Lyons 16, daughter
Kate Lyons 11, daughter
Norah Lyons 9, daughter

2. McGarry's

Stephen McGarry 45, farmer
Maria McGarry 40, wife

3. Lyons'

Michael Lyons 40, farmer
Mary Lyons 35, wife
Thomas Lyons 14, son
Michael Lyons 13, son
Mary Lyons 11, daughter
James Lyons 9, son
John Lyons 7, son
Kate Lyons 5, daughter
Bridget Lyons 3, daughter
Hubert Lyons 2, son
Patrick Lyons 7m, son

4. Grouke's/Kilfoil's

Catherine Grouke 70, farmer's widow
Mary Kilfoil 50, daughter [ww]
Austin Kilfoil 20, grandson
Mary A. Kilfoil 17, granddaughter
Ellen Kilfoil 14, granddaughter
Rose Kilfoil 11, granddaughter
Margaret Kilfoil 28, daughter [unm]

5. Swift's

Patrick Swift 64, farmer
Catherine Swift 62, wife
Kate Swift 22, daughter
John Swift 19, son

6. Naughton's

Margaret Naughton 48, farmer's widow
Mary Naughton 22, daughter
Delia Naughton 21, daughter
Patrick Naughton 19, son
William Johnston 30, visitor [unm]

7. O'Donnell's

Bridget O'Donnell 62, farmer's widow
James O'Donnell 24, son
Nora Keane 4, granddaughter

8. Kelly's

Bridget Kelly 50, housekeeper [ma]
Annie Kelly 20, daughter
Patrick McGarry 14, nephew

9. Murphy's

Celia Murphy 50, farmer's widow
Patrick Murphy 18, son

Derrylahan (10)

1. Ryan's

Thomas Ryan 62, farmer
Honoria Ryan 55, wife
John Ryan 26, son, brick & stone-mason
Thomas Ryan 23, son
Mary Ryan 28, daughter
Honoria Ryan 18, daughter
Maggie Ryan 16, daughter

2. Jordan's

Dominick Jordan 58, farmer
Catherine Jordan 50, wife
Francis Jordan 19, son
Catherine Jordan 17, daughter

3. Ryan's

Pat Ryan 81, farmer
Bridget Ryan 72, wife

4. Ryan's

James Ryan 50, farmer
Hanoria Ryan 50, wife
Maggie Ryan 28, daughter
Jane Ryan 20, daughter
John Ryan 19, son
James Hunt 1, grandson

5. Carroll's

John Carroll 50, farmer
Bridget Carroll 49, wife
Bridget Carroll 76, mother [ww]
Annie Carroll 23, daughter
Andrew Carroll 28, son
Patrick Carroll 21, son
John Ryan 2, grandson

6. Ryan's

Sebina Ryan 67, farmer's wife [ww]
John Ryan 35, son

7. Ryan's

Hugh Ryan 80, farmer
Mary Ryan 70, wife
Thomas Ryan 36, son
John Ryan 34, son

8. Grogan's

John Grogan 80, farmer
Ellen Grogan 70, wife
James Grogan 50, son
Mary Grogan 40, daughter

9. Waldron's

Patrick Waldron 42, farmer
Mary Waldron 36, wife
Mary E. Waldron 15, daughter
Kate Waldron 13, daughter
Anne Waldron 11, daughter
Maggie Waldron 9, daughter
Patrick Waldron 7, son

Bridget Waldron 6, daughter
Hanoria Waldron 4, daughter
John Waldron 2, son
Margaret Grogan 76, visitor [ww]

10. Waldron's

Mary Waldron 66, farmer's wife [ww], b.
Roscommon
James Waldron 27, son

Derrynacong (19)

1. Waldron's

Austin Waldron 52, farmer
Catherine Waldron 50, wife
Maggie Waldron 22, daughter

2. Connell's

Peter Connell 70, farmer [wr]

3. Kedian's

Peter Kedian 40, farmer
Lizzie Kedian 28, wife
John Kedian 14, son
Celia Kedian 10, daughter
Nora Kedian 9, daughter

4. Tully's

Pat Tully 32, farmer
Anne Tully 31, wife
Catherine Tully, daughter
Michael Tully, son
Bridget Tully, daughter
Onnie Griffin 35, sister-in-law [unm]

5. Waldron's

James Waldron 54, farmer
Catherine Waldron 50, wife
Delia Waldron 23, daughter
John Waldron 20, son
James Waldron 18, son
Katie Waldron 16, daughter
Norah Waldron 14, daughter
Patrick Waldron 12, son
Mary Fitzmaurice 70, mother-in-law [ww]

6. Quinn's

John Quinn 55, farmer
Catherine Quinn 45, wife, b. Roscommon
Kate Quinn, 9, daughter

7. Forde's

Thomas Forde 40, farmer
Bridget Forde 35, wife
Mary Ellen Forde 13, daughter
Patrick Forde 10, son
Delia Forde 7, daughter
Kate Forde 7, daughter
Anne Forde 2, daughter
Hanoria Forde 1, daughter

8. Kedian's

Patrick Kedian 55, farmer
Bridget Kedian 52, wife
Delia Kedian 16, daughter
Ellen Kedian 13, daughter
James E. Kedian 10, son

9. Hunt's

William Hunt 65, cattle dealer & farmer
Mary Hunt 60, wife
Bridget Lyons 27, daughter [md]
John Hunt 25, son
Kate Hunt 23, daughter
Mary Hunt 20, daughter
Thomas Hunt 17, son

10. Deasy's

John Deasy 38, farmer & weaver
Mary Deasy 37, wife
Thomas Deasy 10, son
Patrick Deasy 9, son
Bridget Deasy 6, daughter
Mary Kate Deasy 9m, daughter

11. Fitzmaurice's

John Fitzmaurice 80, farmer
Mary Fitzmaurice 67, wife
John Fitzmaurice 30, son
Martin Fitzmaurice 27, son
Mary Fitzmaurice 25, daughter

12. Regan's

Michael Regan 40, farmer
Mary Regan 37, wife
Pat Regan 8, son
Mary Regan 5, daughter
Michael Regan 3, son
Pat Fitzmaurice 76, father-in-law

13. Kenny's

Patrick Kenny 59, farmer
Mary Kenny 57, wife
Thomas Kenny 22, son

14. Hunt's

Thomas Hunt 49, farmer
Mary Hunt 45, wife
John Hunt 16, son
Hanoria Hunt 15, daughter
Michael Hunt 13, son
Thomas Hunt 9, son

15. Hunt's

Thomas Hunt 30, farmer
Annie Hunt 25, wife
Patrick Hunt 6, son
John Hunt 4, son
Katie Hunt 2, daughter
Bridget Boland 62, mother-in-law [ww]

16. Ganley's

Thomas Ganley 32, farmer
Ellen Ganley 35, wife
Annie Mary Ganley 4, daughter
Kate Ganley 2, daughter
Ellen Ganley 4m, daughter
Richard Filbin 13, servant
William Boland 65, father-in-law [wr]

17. Ganley's

James Ganley 38, farmer
Ellen Ganley 40, wife
John Ganley 18, son

Michael Ganley 9, son
Kate Ganley 7, daughter
James Ganley 3, son

18. Caulfield's

Michael Caulfield 36, farmer, b. Roscommon
Mary Caulfield 30, wife
Maggy Caulfield 1, daughter
Margaret Waldron 67, mother-in-law [ww]

19. Dyer's

Mary Dyer 80, caretaker [ww]

Forthill (6)

1. Waldron's/Flatley's

Bridget Waldron 55, farmer's wife [md]
Mary Anne Flatley 20, daughter

2. Fitzmaurice's

Hanoria Fitzmaurice 52, farmer's wife [ww]
Thomas Fitzmaurice 16, son

3. Flatley's

Peter Flatley 60, farmer [wr]
John Flatley 26, son
Kate Flatley 16, daughter
Delia Flatley 15, daughter

4. Fitzmaurice's

Michael Fitzmaurice 74, farmer
Sarah Fitzmaurice 68, wife
John Fitzmaurice 40, son
Kate Fitzmaurice 38, daughter
Sarah Fitzmaurice 15, niece

5. Fitzmaurice's

Michael Fitzmaurice 60, farmer
Norah Fitzmaurice 55, wife
Peter Fitzmaurice 30, son
Patrick Fitzmaurice 27, son, bootmaker
Michael Fitzmaurice 25, son, road contractor
Mark Fitzmaurice 22, son
Norah Fitzmaurice 19, daughter, confectioner
Kate Grealty 9, niece

6. Lydon's

Michael Lydon 60, farmer
Margaret Lydon 50, wife
Thomas Lydon 13, son
Bridget Lydon 16, daughter

Grallaghgarden (2)

1. Flatley's

Martin Flatley 75, farmer [wr]
Michael Flatley 33, son

2. McDonagh's

Patrick McDonagh 46, farmer
Mary McDonagh 38, wife
Bridget McDonagh 16, daughter
Michael McDonagh 14, son
Patrick McDonagh 8, son

Catherine McDonagh 12, daughter
Mary McDonagh 10, daughter
Margaret McDonagh 4, daughter
Honorina McDonagh 2, daughter
Anne McDonagh 1m, daughter

Gurteenbeg (3)

1. Regan's

Michael Regan 40, farmer
Sarah Regan 35, wife
Kate Regan 10, daughter
Mary E. Regan 6, daughter
Anthony Regan 4, son
Dennis Regan 2, son
Margaret Regan 60, mother [ww]

2. Kenny's

John Kenny 36, farmer, b. Roscommon
Celia Kenny 28, wife
Delia Kenny 7, daughter
Thomas Kenny 5, son
Michael Kenny 2, son
Bridget Hopkins 70, mother-in-law

3. Fitzmaurice's

Pat Fitzmaurice 75, farmer
Ellen Fitzmaurice 60, wife
Pat Fitzmaurice 26, son
Onney Fitzmaurice 18, daughter
Bridget Fitzmaurice 15, daughter
Anne Fitzmaurice 13, daughter
Ellen McDonagh 4, granddaughter

Gurteenmore (7)

1. Leonard's

Ellen Leonard 60, farmer's wife [ww]
Mary Leonard 16, daughter
Owen Leonard 20, son

2. Flatley's

Mary Flatley 60, farmer's wife [ww]
Josephine Flatley 21, daughter

3. Flanagan's

Michael Flanagan 60, farmer
Mary Flanagan 50, wife
Maria Flanagan 20, daughter
Sarah Flanagan 16, daughter
Michael Flanagan 14, son
Patrick Flanagan 12, son
Timothy Flanagan 9, son

4. Flatley's

Thomas Flatley 47, National Teacher
Kate Flatley 29, wife
Mary Flatley 70, mother
John Burke 9, nephew, b. Roscommon

5. Flanagan's

Michael Flanagan 70, farmer [wr]
Michael Flanagan 38, son
Bridget Flanagan 38, daughter-in-law
Kate Flanagan 28, daughter
Maggie Flanagan 3, granddaughter
Bridget Flanagan 7m, granddaughter

6. Lowery's

Pat Lowery 65, farmer
Mary Lowery 66, wife
Dominick Lowery 23, son
Sarah Lowery 30, daughter

7. Flatley's

Michael Flatley 35, farmer
Anne Flatley 33, wife, b. Roscommon
John Flatley 3, son
Dominick Flatley 1, son
Bridget Flatley 70, mother [ww]

Killunagher (26)

1. Murphy's

James Murphy 65, farmer
Catherine Murphy 60, wife
John Murphy 29, son
Ellen Murphy 28, daughter
Bridget Murphy 1, daughter

2. Connelly's

Michael Connelly 58, farmer
Catherine Connelly 57, wife
Thomas Connelly 22, son

3. Hansbury's

John Hansbury 48, farmer
Bridget Hansbury 45, wife
Anney Hansbury 19, daughter
Mary Hansbury 63, mother [ww]

4. Comer's

Martin Comer 60, farmer
Martin Comer 25, wife
Michael Comer 27, son
Bridget Comer 18, daughter

5. Disken's

Michael Disken 22, farmer
Bridget Disken 22, wife
Bridget Grogan 60, mother

6. Grogan's

Bridget Grogan 82, farmer [ww]
James Grogan 41, son [unm]
Mary Grogan 39, daughter [unm]
Mary Grogan 19, niece [unm]
Peter Grogan 22, nephew [unm]

7. Grogan's

Michael Grogan 37, farmer
Maggie Grogan 39, wife
Michael Grogan 2, son
Thomas Grogan 3m, son
Mary Grogan 60, lodger [ww]

8. Doorey's

John Doorey 65, farmer
Sibina Doorey 52, wife
Maggy Doorey 22, daughter
Anney Doorey 18, daughter

9. Doorey's

Patrick Doorey 49, farmer
Norah Doorey 40, wife
John Doorey 10, son
Mary Doorey 4, daughter

10. McGarry's

Michael McGarry 50, farmer [wr]
John McGarry 15, son
Delia McGarry 11, daughter
Austin McGarry 9, son
Stephen McGarry 8, son
Andrew McGarry 7, son
James McGarry 19, son

11. Grogan's

Michael Grogan 65, farmer
Mary Grogan 59, wife
John Grogan 36, son,
Bridget Grogan 28, daughter-in-law
Mary Dyer 69, visitor [ma]

12. Regan's

John Regan 40, farmer [wr]
Michael Regan 20, son
Thomas Regan 16, son
Patrick Regan 10, son
Mary Anne Regan 18, daughter
Kate Regan 12, daughter
Sibina Regan 9, daughter
Bridget Regan 6, daughter
Catherine Regan 80, mother [ww]

13. Grealy's

John Grealy 30, farmer
Catherine Grealy 30, wife
John Grealy 5, son
Michael Grealy 3, son
Mary Grealy 2, daughter

14. Regan's

Thomas Regan 80, farmer
Catherine Regan 60, wife
Martin Regan 30, son
Thomas Regan 26, son
John Regan 20, son
Michael Regan 17, son
Kate Regan 19, daughter

15. Regan's

Francis Regan 52, farmer
Maria Regan 45, wife
Mary Regan 13, daughter
Bedilia Regan 11, daughter
Maggie Ellen Regan 9, daughter
Anne Jane Regan 7, daughter
Patrick Regan 6, son
John Regan 4, son
Francis Regan 2, son
Catherine Regan 1m, daughter

16. Murphy's

Thomas Murphy 54, farmer
Catherine Murphy 45, wife
John Joe Murphy 9, son
Mary Ellen Murphy 11, daughter

17. Kelly's

John Kelly 39, farmer
Bridget Kelly 38, wife
Austin Kelly 16, son
Maria Kelly 11, daughter
Thomas Kelly 9, son
Anne Kelly 4, daughter

John Kelly 3, son
Bridget Kelly 2, daughter
Austin Kelly 63, father
Mary Kelly 58, mother

18. Giblin's

James Giblin 42, farmer
Winey Giblin 38, wife
Patrick Giblin 16, son
Mary Anne Giblin 13, daughter

19. Hunt's

Bridget Hunt 80, farmer [ww]
Ann Hunt 30, daughter
John Hunt 35, son

20. Browne's

Bridget Browne 60, farmer [ww]
William Browne 24, son, mason
Michael Browne 22, son
Cornelius Browne 15, son
John Browne 4, grandson, b. Liverpool
William Browne 3, grandson, b. Liverpool

21. Moran's

Andrew Moran 62, farmer
Margaret Moran 63, wife
Patrick Moran 20, son
Bridget Moran 19, daughter
Kate Moran 18, daughter

22. Regan's

Martin Regan 42, farmer
Catherine Regan 40, wife
Michael Regan 3, son
Patrick Regan 2, son
John Regan 1, son

23. Kelly's

Thomas Kelly 65, farmer
Mary Kelly 64, wife

24. Comber's

Michael Comber 46, farmer
Bridget Comber 36, wife
Kate Comber 8, daughter
Delia Comber 6, daughter
Michael Comber 4, son
Patrick Comber 1, son
Patrick Comber 80, father [wr]

25. Boyle's

Thomas Boyle 60, farmer
Ellen Boyle 50, wife
James Boyle 25, son
John Boyle 22, son
Mary Boyle 18, daughter
Winifred Boyle 16, daughter
Bridget Boyle 13, daughter

26. Grealy's

Catherine Grealy 70, housekeeper [ww]
Bridget Grealy 9, granddaughter
James Grealy 8, grandson
Mary Grealy 6, granddaughter

Kilmannin (2)

1. Fitzmaurice's

Patrick Fitzmaurice 40, rural postman
Kate Fitzmaurice 38, wife
Delia Fitzmaurice 8, daughter
John P. Fitzmaurice 9, son
Thomas Fitzmaurice 7, son
Kate A. Fitzmaurice 5, daughter
Michael Fitzmaurice 3, son
James M. Fitzmaurice 1, son

2. Unoccupied

(house owned by Anthony Morley)

Lisbaun East (7)

1. Ganley's

Thomas Ganley 60, farmer, b. Roscommon
Mary Ganley 50, wife
Michael Ganley 21, son
Mary Ganley 16, daughter
John Ganley 14, son
Thomas Ganley 11, son

2. Fitzmaurice's

John Fitzmaurice 60, farmer
Mary Fitzmaurice 43, wife
Bridget Fitzmaurice 22, daughter
John Fitzmaurice 20, son
Mary E. Fitzmaurice 15, daughter
James Fitzmaurice 13, son
Kate Fitzmaurice 11, daughter
Maggie J. Fitzmaurice 9, daughter
Michael Fitzmaurice 6, son
Sarah Fitzmaurice 4, daughter

3. Fitzmaurice's

Pat Fitzmaurice 65, farmer [wr]
Pat Fitzmaurice 24, son
Anne Fitzmaurice 15, daughter

4. Hoban's

Thomas Hoban 62, farmer
Ellen Hoban 60, wife
Michael Hoban 22, son
Agnes Duffy 13, servant

5. Hoban's

Thomas Hoban 35, farmer
Mary Hoban 29, wife
Kate Hoban 21, sister
John Hoban 3m, son

6. Mohan's

Pat Mohan 62, farmer [wr]
Ellen Mohan 23, daughter
Mary Mohan 20, daughter
Pat Mohan 18, son

7. Higgins'

Mary Higgins 50, farmer's wife [ma]
Patrick Higgins 22, son
Anne Higgins 23, daughter

Lurgan (10)

1. Drudy's

John Drudy 37, farmer
Mary Drudy 40, wife

Winifred Drudy 6, daughter
Bridget Drudy 3, daughter
Hanoria Drudy 1, daughter
Hanoria Drudy 50, mother [ww]

2. Finnegan's

Patrick Finnegan 60, farmer
Bridget Finnegan 55, wife
Thomas Finnegan 21, son
Mary A. Finnegan 20, daughter
Kate Finnegan 18, daughter
Dominick Finnegan 15, son
Bridget Finnegan 12, daughter
Elisa Finnegan 8, daughter

3. Boyle's

Bridget Boyle 40, farmer's wife [ww]
Bridget Boyle 19, daughter
John Boyle 9, son
Martin Boyle 7, son
Catherine Drudy 66, mother [ww], b. Roscommon

4. Murphy's

William Murphy 56, farmer
Ellen Murphy 38, wife
Thomas Murphy 21, son
William Murphy 19, son
Edward Murphy 15, son
John Murphy 13, son
Peter Murphy 11, son
Joseph Murphy 10, son
Martin Murphy 8, son
Catherine Scahill 50, cousin, gen. serv. [unm]

5. Fitzgerald's

Pat Fitzgerald 69, farmer
Honorina Fitzgerald, wife 62
Geraldine Smyth 10, granddaughter
Patrick Smyth 14, grandson
Honorina Smyth 20, granddaughter

6. Ruane's

Michael Ruane 45, farmer
Margaret Ruane 50, wife
Bernard Ruane 18, son
Bridget Jane Ruane 14, daughter

7. Lyons'

John Lyons 70, farmer [wr]
Mary Lyons 30, daughter
Timothy Lyons 27, son

8. Murphy's

William Murphy 40, farmer
Catherine Murphy 38, wife
Timothy Murphy 5, son
Mary Murphy 4, daughter
William Murphy 3, son
Hanoria Murphy 1m, daughter

9. Flatley's

Bridget Flatley 50, farmer's wife [ww]
Thomas Flatley 22, son
John Flatley 20, son
Bridget Flatley 14, daughter
Maggie Flatley 9, daughter

Michael Flatley 7, son
Patrick Flatley 4, son
Ellen Flatley 1m, daughter

10. Higgins'

Patrick Higgins 61, farmer
Mary Higgins 56, wife

Moneymore (4)

1. Hunt's

Mark Hunt 56, farmer
Bridget Hunt 46, wife
Bridget Hunt 16, daughter
Michael Hunt 14, son
Ellen Hunt 11, daughter

2. Cribbin's

John Cribbin 80, farmer
Anne Cribbin 70, wife
John Cribbin 30, son
Luke Cribbin 25, son
Annie Cribbin 24, daughter
Mary A. Kennedy, niece, b. Galway

3. Kedian's

Pat Kedian 40, farmer
Maggie Kedian 30, wife
Thomas Kedian 10, son
John P. Kedian 6, son
James Kedian 4, son
Mary Kedian 3, son
John Kedian 80, father [wr]

4. Waldron's

Maria Waldron 60, farmer's wife [ww]
Austin Waldron 27, son
Maria Waldron 20, daughter

Mountain (8)

1. Neary's

James Neary 60, farmer [wr]
Austin Neary 27, son
Maria Neary 25, daughter, N.T.
Kate Neary 20, daughter
Pat Waldron 50, farm servant [md]

2. Nolan's

Michael Nolan 64, farmer
Mary Nolan 45, wife
Michael Owen Nolan 16, son
Patrick Nolan 8, son
Mary Kate Nolan 7, daughter

3. Nolan's

Owen Nolan 54, farmer
Catherine Nolan 52, wife
Ellen Nolan 73, mother [ww]
John Nolan 30, son
Dominick Nolan 28, son
Ellen Nolan 18, daughter

4. Fitzmaurice's

John Fitzmaurice 60, farmer
Bridget Fitzmaurice 50, wife
Francis Fitzmaurice 21, son

5. Grealy's

John Grealy 48, farmer
Mary Grealy 38, wife
Thomas Grealy 16, son
Michael Grealy 14, son
Patrick Grealy 9, son
John Grealy 7, son
Peter Grealy 4, son
Mark Grealy 6m, son
Mary Grealy 11, daughter

6. Finn's

John Finn 50, farmer
Catherine Finn 50, wife
Patrick Finn 20, son
Anne Finn 18, daughter
John Finn 16, son
Michael Finn 15, son
Winifred Finn 70, mother [ww]

7. Nolan's

Patrick Nolan 55, farmer
Bridget Nolan 35 wife
Patrick Nolan 12, son
Mary Nolan 10, daughter
Bridget Nolan 7, daughter

8. Finn's

Pat Finn 54, farmer
Mary Finn 50, wife
Mary A. Finn 26, daughter
Maggie Finn 25, daughter
Ellen Finn 20, daughter
Rose Finn 17, daughter
Michael Finn 16, son
Michael Finn 8, nephew

Skeghard (6)

1. Cunnane's

Bernard Cunnane 65, farmer
Bridget Cunnane 60, wife
Bridget Cunnane 27, daughter

2. McGarry's

Andrew McGarry 55, farmer
Ann McGarry 47, wife
Ellen McGarry 12, daughter
Kate McGarry 11, daughter
John McGarry 9, son
Bridget McGarry 8, daughter
James McGarry 6, son
Mary A. McGarry 4, daughter

3. Lyons'

Ellen Lyons 40, farmer [ww]
John Lyons 28, son
Thomas Lyons 14, son
Eddy Lyons 11, son
Bridget Lyons 22, daughter

4. Lyons'

(house owned by Catherine Lyons)
Patrick Lyons 28, shoemaker [unm]

5. Hunt's

John Hunt 55, farmer [wr]
Katie Hunt 12, daughter
Patrick Cuddy 67, lodger [ma]

6. Lyons'

Catherine Lyons 59, farmer's widow
Michael Lyons 27, son

Spaddagh (8)

1. Lyons'

John Lyons 60, farmer
Catherine Lyons 56, wife
Michael Lyons 16, son
Luke Lyons 11, son
Kate A. Lyons 20, daughter
M. Dillon Cassidy 20, visitor, surveyor

2. Lyons'

Andrew Lyons 58, farmer
Bridget Lyons 50, wife

3. Fitzmaurice's

Michael Fitzmaurice 56, farmer
Anne Fitzmaurice 50, wife
James Fitzmaurice 17, son
Ellen Fitzmaurice 16, daughter
Sarah Fitzmaurice 15, daughter
Lizzie Fitzmaurice 14, daughter
Tommy Fitzmaurice 12, son

4. Grogan's

Bridget Grogan 50, farmer's wife [ww]
Pat Grogan 25, son
William Grogan 23, son
John Grogan 19, son

5. McDonnell's

(house owned by Bridget Grogan)
Luke McDonnell 82, no occupation, b.
Roscommon [wr]

6. Lyons'

Andrew Lyons 32, farmer
Ellen Lyons 40, wife
Mary Lyons 4, daughter
Maggie Lyons 2, daughter
Anne Lyons 60, mother [ww]

7. Lyons'

Martin Lyons 35, farmer
Ellen Lyons 34, wife
Kate Lyons 8, daughter
Michael Lyons 7, son
Martin Lyons 5, son
Ellen Lyons 6m, daughter
Catherine Lyons 67, mother [ww]

8. Lyons'

Edward Lyons 55, farmer
Catherine Lyons 50, wife
Pat Lyons 27, son
Mary Lyons 23, daughter
Anne Lyons 19, daughter
John Lyons 13, son
Ellen Lyons 7, daughter

Tavnaghmore (17)

1. Fitzmaurice's

James Fitzmaurice 28, farmer
Norah Fitzmaurice 29, wife
Peter Fitzmaurice 1, son
Celia Flatley 60, aunt [ww]

2. Finn's

Pat Finn (Pat) 33, farmer
Mary Finn 35, wife
Mary Finn 3, daughter
Bridget Finn 2, daughter
Pat Finn 75, father

3. Finn's

Pat Finn (James) 60, farmer
Mary Finn, 50, wife
Catherine Finn 27, daughter
Bridget Finn 21, daughter
Mary Finn 20, daughter

4. Finn's

Bridget Finn 56, farmer's wife [ww]
Bridget Finn 25, daughter

5. Swift's

Patrick Swift 60, farmer
Michael Swift 30, son
Martin Swift 21, son
Mary Swift 50, wife

6. O'Donnell's

Mary O'Donnell 62, farmer's widow
Mary O'Donnell 27, daughter
Martin O'Donnell 21, daughter

7. Lowry's

Patrick Lowry 60, farmer
Mary Lowry 44, wife
John Lowry 15, son
Maggie Lowry 13, daughter
Pat Lowry 10, son
Tom Lowry 8, son
Ellen Lowry 6, daughter

8. Burke's

Dominick Burke 50, farmer [ww]
Ellen Burke 16, daughter
Michael Burke 14, son

9. Culliney's

James Culliney 50, farmer, b. Roscommon
Bridget Culliney 45, wife, b. Roscommon
Catherine Culliney 33, sister-in-law [ww],
b. Roscommon
Patt Culliney 18, nephew

10. Forkan's

Catherine Forkin 75, housekeeper
Bridget Greally 20, granddaughter
Maggie Greally 15, granddaughter
James Greally 22, grandson

11. Moran's

John Moran 60, farmer
Catherine Moran 62, wife
Mary Moran 30, daughter
John Moran 28, son

. Waldron's

Martin Waldron 56, farmer
Bridget Waldron 45, wife
Patrick Waldron 15, son
Martin Waldron 14, son

John T. Waldron 13, son
Julia A. Waldron 11, daughter
Mary K. Waldron 10, daughter
Bridget Waldron 61, grandmother (sic)

13. Coyne's

John Coyne 34, farmer
Bridget Coyne 30, wife
Mary E. Coyne 9, daughter

14. Fitzmaurice's

Patrick Fitzmaurice 40, farmer
Mary Fitzmaurice 35, wife
Mary A. Fitzmaurice 3, daughter
Maggie Fitzmaurice 2, daughter
Thomas Fitzmaurice 1, son
Bridget Fitzmaurice 70, mother

15. Waldron's

James Waldron 65, farmer
Bridget Waldron 60, wife
James Waldron 27, son

16. Byrne's

Thomas Byrne 34, farmer
Bridget Byrne 30, wife
John Byrne 8, son
William Byrne 6, son
Thomas Byrne 5, son
Norah Byrne 4, daughter
Bernard Byrne 2, son

17. Waldron's

William Waldron 49, farmer [unm]
Bridget Waldron 45, sister [unm]

Togher (4)

1. Cribbin's

Thomas Cribbin 45, farmer
Annie Cribbin 32, wife, b. Roscommon
Mary Marg. Cribbin 5, daughter
Delia Kate Cribbin 2, daughter
Annie Cribbin 4m, daughter
Katie Cannon 12, servant

2. Hannon's

Martin Hannon 65, farmer
Margaret Hannon 53, wife
Thomas Hannon 30, son
Michael Hannon 15, son
Christopher Hannon 14, son
Alfred Hannon 10, son
Delia Hannon 17, daughter, seamstress
Timothy Hannon 26, son

3. Fitzmaurice's

David Fitzmaurice 60, farmer
Maria Fitzmaurice 50, wife
Norah Fitzmaurice 20, daughter
Timothy Fitzmaurice 17, son

4. Fitzmaurice's

Michael Fitzmaurice 41, farmer [unm]



'Oliver Twist'. Christmas 1976. Back l-r: Carol Webb, Ann Marrinan, Patricia Curran, Emily Clarke, Ann Kerrigan, Vivienne Fitzpatrick, Pauline Morley, Carol Keane, Deirdre Durkan. Third row l-r: Brian Loughran, Noreen Keegan, Maeve Loughran, Paula Moran, Ann Curley, Caroline Levins, Eithne Griffin, Flavia Curley, Mike Phillips. Second row l-r: Sean Moran, John Fitzgerald, Declan Phillips, Joe Keane, Joanne Webb, Anthony Cribbin, Eamon Murray, Grace O'Connor, Peter McHugh, Nuala Fitzgerald, Brigid Griffin. Front l-r: Damien Rattigan, John O'Connor, Kevin Henry, Richard Phillips, Paschal Keegan (RIP), Tony Smyth, David Fitzgerald, Noel Phillips, Alan Rattigan, Seamus Caulfield and Brian Phillips.



St. Patrick's Dramatic Society. Cast of "Autumn Fire". Front l-r: Bridie Molloy, Maisin Meath, Catherine Biesty, Noreen Morley. Back l-r: Joe Greene, Vincent Freyne, Jack Greene, Fr. Herrity (producer), John Morley, Annie Kennedy, John Gilmore, Gerry Dillon, Michael Waldron.

Golden Memories – Part Two

Agnes Heaney

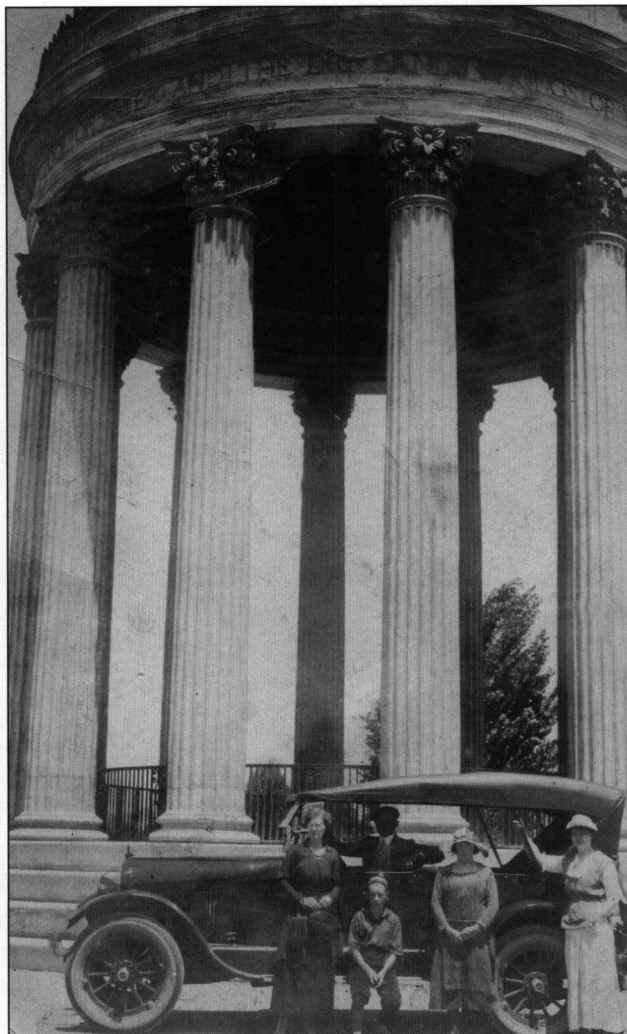
In my 'Golden Memories' article in Annagh 2001 (and featured on the Internet), I recalled a story that my paternal grandfather, James Mullarkey, often recounted during my childhood. It concerned two of his brothers, John and Patrick, who emigrated to America from Tullaghane in their youth. On arrival in New York, they had to live in a slum area and work at the most dangerous jobs for low wages. On hearing of gold, a great discovery in California, they decided to join many others going West to seek their fortunes in the gold mines. They set out in mule-wagons to cross the vast continent. Ahead of them lay many months of danger and hardship that many would not survive. But those brave men were full of hope and sustained by dreams of gold as they made their way to the foot of the Rocky Mountains in circa 1849.

After spending years prospecting, they raised enough gold to achieve their goal and invested their money in land near Fresno, California, where they settled down to a new way of life. (As a number of people found this dramatic story of great courage and endurance fascinating, I've been requested to write another chapter of our family history.)

After the brothers left New York for the West, many years went by and our family never heard from them, in fact, our relatives thought they were dead. Meanwhile, grandfather had married my grandmother, Bridget Carney, and by this time, they had a grown-up family. Imagine their surprise when a letter arrived from the brothers, telling grandfather about their adventures and inviting him to visit them in California. When he said that he was getting too old for that long journey, my father Patrick and my three Aunts, Catherine, Elizabeth and Bridget decided to make the trip instead.

My Father's Story

Early in March 1909, they set off by train from Ballyhaunis to Queenstown, (Cobh now) where they boarded an emigrant ship en route for New York. They were on the first leg of a six thousand mile journey to the far side of the world. The voyage took fifteen days and on arrival all passengers had to go to Ellis Island for a medical, to check for general fitness and eyesight, etc. Those who failed were sent to a hospital. If they didn't recover, they were deported back home. Before leaving for the West, the family spent a few days with relatives in



Members of the Mullarkey family, Bargarriff, Ballyhaunis, photographed in Fresno, California, circa 1912.

New York. They were in time to see the St. Patrick's Day Parade and were taken on a sight-seeing tour of that great city. At this time it was said that New York was the largest Irish City in the world.

A Memorable Journey

On a crisp and sunny morning our travellers set off on the final lap of their trip. They were in high spirits with a promise of excitement and adventure. They had to travel on a slow steam train carrying passengers and freight and stopping at every station along the way. As it was going to take a number of days to cross the vast plains, the passengers were glad to get comfortable compartments and sleeping accommodation. On the trip, Father made friends with a group of men, some were Irish, who were heading for the Rockies for three months, prospecting and trapping grizzly bears. Wearing buckskin and woollen clothes with hiking boots, they carried large rucksacks containing sacks of flour, coffee, tinned food, tobacco and ammunition etc. Camping far from civilisation, they loved the rough life as

they trudged through tangled forests, deep snow and steep crags. The grizzlies were dangerous to hunt, but when they killed three or four of them, they got about forty pounds of fat from each, which they used for oil in their lamps and camp stoves. The trappers were good company and helped to pass the time while recounting their thrilling tales of hardships, mishaps and luck escapes from hostile Indians and other wild animals.

On the train, life was pleasant. Some of their fellow travellers were reading or card-playing, while others sat gazing through the windows at the endless panorama of America. Sometimes moving through rich pastures or the cornfields of Kansas, crossing the mighty Mississippi, across miles of arid wastes without a sign of habitation in sight. Through the darkness of night the train seemed to slow down going through villages and sleepy towns. After a few days travelling, the ragged blue line of the Rockies appeared on the horizon and grew slowly higher. By this time it was getting hard to sleep as the weather was getting hot and humid. There was no time to stop to visit the famous Grand Canyon in Colorado. Before them lay vast deserts called "Death Valley", the "Arizona" and "Painted Desert".

As the train sped on, the temperature was in the high nineties, often the whirling sand storms obscured the light. At this time of year most of the region was covered with large wild flowers known as desert candles, Joshua trees in clumps and cacti that often hid venomous reptiles of several species, snakes, the kangaroo rat, tortoises and lizards and others. Father said he thought about his Uncles who had survived going through this wilderness in their covered wagons, where many had died from heat and thirst. It was the only way they could go, the railways were built on the well-travelled trails of the mule-wagons and later the stagecoaches.

After their meandering trip through the deserts, they arrived in Nevada where they met the natives - the North American Indians came to collect food supplies from the train. The building of the railroads across the prairies disturbed the Indian way of life. They had to sign away many acres of their hunting ground and live in reservations. On that particular day about a dozen mounted, half-naked, bronze-skinned Indians rode into the station. My Aunts and others were terrified of them with their painted faces and crowns of feathers. There was no need to panic - if the Chief was smoking his pipe of peace, it was the sign that they were not on the war-path. The peace pipe was about two and a half feet long, it had a red bowl and the stem was decorated with hair and feathers. By this time they were in New Mexico, and getting closer

to the towering Rockies. Villages were few-and-far-between passing by some dude ranches, cowboys wearing ten-gallon hats and high-heeled boots were rounding up cattle on the range. After journeying far, our travellers finally arrived in California, know as "the golden state where the sunshine never ends." The countryside was beautiful on that brilliant Spring morning as they sped through huge forests, wild prairie covered with brown sage and rattleweed, where buffalo still roamed. On through old mining towns and villages with many miles of rugged scenery, steep crags, waterfalls and swift-moving rivers, until they finally came to the extensive vine-covered valleys that sloped down to the majestic Sierra Mountains whose snow-capped peaks were breathtaking.

Arrival at Fresno

By this time our foursome were tired and weary. It seemed an eternity since they began this trip. The hills of home were far away now. Would they ever see them again? There was an air of excitement among the passengers as the train was entering a station in downtown Fresno. They could hardly wait for it to stop! The Uncles were waiting with their horses and buggy to take their visitors back to the "homestead". After they received a warm welcome, they were driven through city streets thronged with shoppers. Most of the men, like the Uncles, were dressed in Western style with big sombrero hats and a gun strapped to their hip. The women wore long dresses and sunbonnets and carried parasols. As motor cars were still a rarity, most people travelled in horse-drawn open carriages - the horses wearing their fly-chasing straw hats!

After travelling a few miles through the open countryside, the family eventually arrived at their Uncles' ranch and to the end of a long and unforgettable journey. The ranch house or "homestead" was set in a grove of cottonwoods that gave shelter from the Summer's heat and Winter's cold winds. While going through the pink and white orchards, they saw some strange birds knows as the condors, one of America's largest birds. She lays one egg every two years. Later that evening friendly neighbours called to welcome the new arrivals, they were mostly French and German, and one man was from County Roscommon. They were all settlers that came either in gold rush days or after the railways were built. When the brandy and ruby wine circulated, the women drank the jungle juice (fruit) and cigars were lit. It was time to reminisce and listen to rich and varied experiences, difficulties and hardships too. Their first day ended in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere - tomorrow was another day.

Ballyhaunis A.B.C.

(Aid For Belarussian Children)

Mary Murphy (Sec.)

This year Ballyhaunis again hosted thirteen children from the Magilof region of Belarus. The children were aged between eight and thirteen years and they stayed for four weeks. This time was split between two host families, two weeks with each family. This year we again hosted children from an orphanage, two boys and girl. The children were brought in through Mr. Ernan Meehan, chairman of Donegal A.B.C.

During their time here Canon Joseph Cooney in the Parish Church celebrated a special Mass for the children, their host families and everyone involved in the group. Just before the Mass ended Anna the interpreter spoke to the people to thank them for their hospitality. She went on to say how their visit means so much to them as a month here in clean air with good food adds two years to their lives.

The group would like to thank all who supported their different fund raising events during the year, without your support we couldn't continue this worthwhile job. Anyone interested in hosting children in 2003 or becoming involved in the group should contact any member of the committee. For anyone who would like to make a donation our account no. in the Bank of Ireland is 95330378, code 90-37-28.

Officers: Chairperson: Denise Haugh; Assistant Chairperson: Bernie Mulligan; Secretary: Mary Murphy; Assistant Secretary: Olive Lyons; Treasurer: Frances Mulhern; Assistant Treasurer: Breege Nolan; P.R.O.: Veronica Regan.



Making St. Brigid's Crosses, Mary Murphy, Karen Murphy, Marie Clegg, Breege Nolan, Olive Lyons.

Bridge Club

Rita London
(President, 2001-2002)

The organisation, time and commitment given by members of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club made 2001-2002 another successful year. The monthly competitions made it an exciting year. Our thanks to our sponsors, Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union, Bank of Ireland, AIB and Ulster Bank.

The Murphy Cup and the President's Prize were both played over two nights. On the night of the A.G.M., the President thanked the Committee – Secretary: Peggy Cruise; Treasurer: Joan Flynn; Vice-president: Martin Connery; P.R.O.: Rita Mooney; Co-ordinators of the Tournament: Corinne Flatley, Donal Geraghty; Directors: Ina Freyne, Kay Lyons, Justina Lyons, Marina Coyne, Angela Joyce. She thanked the Tournament Directors and Anne and Robert Cosgrove. She also thanked the members for the lovely suppers during the year. She paid a special tribute to Josie Eaton who died suddenly on April 13th. Josie was a long time member of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club. She was an outstanding Bridge player; she was a welcoming, encouraging and friendly person; and she had a word and question for everyone. Ní Beidh a leithéad ann arís.

In May we celebrated with May Moyles on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday. May has since gone to live in Castlebar. We wish her happiness. The out-going President congratulated Martin Connery and wished him and his new committee every success in 2002-2003.

The Bridge Club members were shocked and stunned on June 10th when Rita Mooney's untimely death was announced. Rita was an active member of the club. She was P.R.O. for many years. She, with Joan Flynn, bought the prizes. She was ever proud to help and always available to lend a hand. She was my Bridge partner and friend. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



L-R: Maura Burke (left) and Joan Flynn (right), winners of the President's Prize, receiving their prize from Rita London, President, Ballyhaunis Bridge Club.

Maria McGarry International Acclaim for Ballyhaunis Pianist

"A model of how to let music speak for itself..... One could see why she is among the highest-ranking students at the Juilliard School, New York.....": a quote from Martin Adams, Music Critic, The Irish Times, following the recent Debut Recital at the National Concert Hall Dublin by Ballyhaunis pianist Maria McGarry.

Maria drew a capacity audience to the National Concert Hall in Dublin and received a standing ovation. An annual event on the National Concert Hall calendar event, the Debut Recital is awarded to only one Irish musician each year. Less than a week later, Maria returned to New York to perform at the annual Fulbright Awards Ceremony when the guest-of-honour was Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan.

Such is typical of a week in the life of one of Ireland's leading female pianist, Maria McGarry, who manages a busy international career as a performer. Since being awarded one of the two places on the prestigious Artist Diploma Programme at the famous Juilliard School, New York, the international performance career of Maria McGarry has blossomed. Recent performances have included the Tel-Aviv Museum of Modern Art, Israel; the Paul Hall at the Lincoln Center New York; at 'The Hamptons', Long Island; the 'World Federation of United Nations Annual Conference as well as several appearances at home in Ireland. A busy Summer included a performance as guest soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra as well as recitals at Kilkenny International Arts Festival and Westport Summer Festival. Maria hits the London scene next with a recital in Leighton House this June and the famous Wigmore Hall next year. The awards have continued to pour in since Maria won the



Ulster Bank Music Foundation Bursary on the Late Late Show a few years ago. The most recent include the Brennan Prize at the Dublin International Competition 2000 and the prize for the most outstanding performance at the Tel Hai International Piano Festival 2001. She was awarded scholarships from the Fulbright Commission, the Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholars Trust and the Arts Council of Ireland to fund her studies in New York.

Future plans include recitals throughout North America, another year of residency in New York and the release of a CD in the near future. But whatever the future holds in store, Maria remains committed to spreading interpretation of the great composers as far afield as possible and allowing people to experience the many benefits of music which is a powerful universal language.

Maria is daughter of Gerry and Pauline McGarry, Devlis, Ballyhaunis.



Extra Mile Award

In July of this year (2002), Ms. Patricia Kennedy (nee Hopkins) RN, CHPN, a native of Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis, who lives in Northboro, Massachusetts, U.S.A., was presented with the "Extra Mile Award" by VNA Care Network in recognition of her commitment and exceptional service to the non-profit home health care and hospice agency. With twenty years of experience in health care, Ms. Kennedy is a clinical co-ordinator for the VNA Care Network's hospice.

The "Extra Mile Award" is given annually to employees who consistently go above and beyond the expectations of their job responsibilities. Their dedication to the VNA Care Network, their co-workers and patients help support and continue the century old mission of the local Visiting Nurse Association to provide quality and compassionate home health, hospice and community care.

Patricia is daughter of Tom and Noreen Hopkins, Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis.



Staff of Ballyhaunis Post Office at the Retirement Function of Paddy Fitzmaurice, Abbeyquarter (postman). Front l-r: Joseph Byrne, Geraldine O'Donnell, Maura Fitzmaurice, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Frank Donohoe (branch manager), John Paul Lyons. Middle l-r: John Cleary, Alan Hunt, Fiona Naughton, Patricia Plunkett, Helen Byrne, Geraldine Flynn, Gabrielle Lyons, Pat Compton (national executive of C.W.U.). Back l-r: Liam Lyons, Alan Quinn, Michael Connolly, Val Kenny, Phillip McDonnell, Dom Murphy.



Taken c. 1944. A group of shop assistants and friends from Ballyhaunis outside the Forster Park Hotel, Salthill. An annual outing organised by the late Tony Boyle who was the branch secretary of the local branch of the Irish Union of Distributive Workers and Clerks. Included are (from front) - Jackie Gibbons, Willie Costello, Eugene Dolan and Willie Copping, Sean Hogan, Catherine Byrne, Babe Owens, Rita Cribbin, Peter Burke (western organiser of union), Tony Boyle, Nano Meleady, Joe Eagney, Beryl Meleady, Una Donnellan, Tom Raftery, Sally Quinn, Joe Regan, E. Carney, Paddy O'Connell, Jimmy Grennan, Teresa Folliard, Paddy Delaney, Padraig Grealish.

A Year in the Life of a Young Pioneer

Siobhan Quinn

Phew! What a year it has been for us young Pioneers since September 2001. We have undertaken so many activities that I feel we deserve to retire! Our hectic year began with our entry into the Réadóirí competition. The qualifiers in group singing were Siobhan Quinn, Siobhan McNamara, Sarah Kelly and Laura Freyne, who reached the Connaught Semi-finals. Elaine Donnelly made it to the Regional Finals in solo singing. Sarah Kelly was a finalist in the Connacht Final for recitation. Congratulations to the girls for doing so well. Another date in our calendar was the quiz, which was held in the Parochial Hall for all the primary schools in the Ballyhaunis area. This took a lot of time and responsibility to organise. However, the response was overwhelming and all had a fun night.

A huge social event in our diary was the Pioneer Dance in the Belmont Hotel, Knock. With all our charm who could resist us? Certainly not the gentlemen who attended this dance in February! The food and company were exceptional. However, we couldn't afford to leave without showing our elders a thing or two about dancing! Wait until next year and we are sure to have some more new moves in store for them.

Our path to success didn't stop there. Two teams

from our school qualified for the All-Ireland Pioneer Quiz Final in Meath on 25th April. On the Under 16 team there was Aoife Noone, John Judge, Linda Healy, Laura Egan and the sub Marie Raftery. On the Intermediate team there was Siobhan Quinn, Siobhan McNamara, Aidan Noone, Sean Rochford and our sub Aileen Burke. Without a doubt our two teams did our school proud with the Under 16 team coming second and the intermediate team coming fourth. Next year the cup will be ours!!!

Congratulations must also go to Aileen Burke who came second in The Regional Pioneer Essay Final. In years to come we will all be reading her award-winning novels. With all this hard work, we felt that we deserved to pamper ourselves. What better than a relaxing day in Castlebar! We spent the day bowling, go-karting, laser world and not forgetting the most important task of all - shopping! All enjoyed the day; it was a fun way to end our school term.

After a long Summer break, we Pioneers are back all refreshed and excited to begin another year of adventure. This year's adventure has already begun with the upcoming Réadóirí and I wish all the girls who are taking part the best of luck. Believe me as I sit here writing this, I believe that joining the Pioneers is one of the best decisions a person can make. It is a decision you will never regret.

Finally, the young Pioneers would like to extend words of gratitude to Mrs. Mulroy, without whose hard work and motivation we would be lost. May the next year be as successful and fun as this year. Remember: you don't need to drink to have fun.

Ballyhaunis – A Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile

In 1996 Ballyhaunis had a total population of 2,022: Males 1007 (49.8%); Females 1015 (50.2%). Between 1996 and 2002 there has been a 6.2% rise in population, the actual figure being a rise of 125 people. This is most likely attributed to the rise in inward migration to the town. The increase in population in the town is 6.2%, while the net migration into County Mayo in the same period is 7.9%, and there is at present 70 people seeking

asylum resident status in the area, while a relatively large number of people were recruited from abroad to work locally.

The total population of Ballyhaunis in 2002 (taken from the Census Preliminary Report) was 2147: Males 1138 (53%); Females 1009 (47%).

Through 1986, 1991, 1996 and 2002 the population has remained relatively static. In 1986 the population was 2131; in 2002, the total population was 2147. Census 2002 can provide figures on population in relation to numbers of people, gender and overall migration figures, however, the 1996 figures are still the most up-to-date reference for any more detailed analysis of the population.

	0-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Ballyhaunis (population) 1996	474	338	517	415	278
Ballyhaunis (%)	23.4	16.7	25.5	20.5	13.7
National (%)	26.7	17.1	27.2	17.6	11.4

Time And Tide

Michael Smyth

Annagh's first editor, the late Anton O'Malley, hoped for a "long-running series of annual editions of Annagh". This Christmas 1978 aspiration has become up-to-now a twenty-five year reality. I'm quite sure that the very high standard set by the most meticulous and knowledgeable Anton has had a lot to do with the magazine's appeal over the years – journalist Michael Commins' remark on Mid-West Radio to John Higgins on count day of the May General Election when referring to the PD's surprising Galway success, "I could see your hand all over it", comes to mind.

Both Anto and one of his successors, Joe Green, have now passed on, but the community they and others have annually put under the spotlight lives on and thrives. That first edition included a photo of a 1939 Ballyhaunis Feis Committee comprised for the most part of primary school teachers – surely it is no coincidence that that most genial of Kerry men, Principal of Scoil Íosa National School, Jim London, is the only link between the 1978 Annagh and its Silver Jubilee counterpart.

Annagh 1987 was the first to have coloured photographs of people and events of that year illustrating the innovative colour-tinted outside front and back covers – this was the first edition to publish a list of local

sponsors, which replaced the advertisements, which up to then were a feature. The levy charged for inclusion in this list helped in a large way to finance the production and updating of the annual magazine.

Millennium

For the millennium year 2000 and the 23rd edition two drawings of local landmarks, St. Mary's Abbey and St. Patrick's Church, adorned the front cover whilst the back cover had a superbly arranged montage of photos of the year of town and country folk, from the very young to the not-so old, and all of them looking radiant. Fifteen or sixteen years ago an idea came forward, from John Biesty, I think, to have every three or four copies of the magazine bound and covered and presented to the local library, thus ensuring that this community yearly record would always be easily assessable.

I don't know whom in the Ballyhaunis Chapter of Junior Chamber Ireland twenty-five years ago came up with the idea of the annual parish magazine, but I do know that it was an inspired notion. This production has brought many hours of pleasure to Ballyhaunis both at home and abroad, particularly those away from home. For me personally there was the added bonus of being involved, for a few years, in preparing it, an absolute labour of love.

My hope is that every Christmas in the future will see another Annagh on the news-stands highlighting all the events of the previous year and the people involved.

Ballyhaunis Apostolic Workers

Bridie Brennan (Secretary)

Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work held its fortieth exhibition in the Parochial Hall in June 2002. It was a very successful exhibition, as many people called to support the Missions.

We were all very sad as our President Miss May Moyles retired after all the years. She was one of the founder members and Apostolic Work was always her first priority. On the occasion of her retirement she was presented with a lovely Chalice, which was given to her from President of the Head Office in Castlebar. The Chalice was inscribed and May donated it to the Foreign Missions.

We had a very enlightening Vigil in Knock during the year and most of the members attended the Diocesan Display, which was held in Castlebar in September. Special Thanks to Canon Cooney and Fr. Carroll and Sisters of Mercy for their continued support. Also, thanks to the Ballyhaunis Golf Club and Ballyhaunis Bridge Club for their financial assistance.



Ballyhaunis Apostolic Workers Association celebrating their 40th Anniversary. 1962 - 2002.

Baptisms
**in the Parish of Annagh,
November 2001 – October 2002**

Matthew James Walsh
Niamh Catherine O'Neill
Rachel Lisa Dillon
Jamie Lee McGowan
Samantha Damilola
Conor Patrick Keane
Emer Teresa Conlon
Conal Sam Walsh
Darren Nathan Maughan
Luke Walsh
Liam Conor Laird
Eoin Thomas Coffey
Destiny Georgina Davison
Jack William Greally
Gillian Mary Donnellan
Jack Patrick McGoldrick
Anabelle Riona Comer-Halliwell
Stephen Pio Maughan
Diarmuid John Phillips
Thomas Nathan McDonagh
Clodagh Marie Conway
Daniel Patrick Murray
Matthew Joseph Webb
Anthony Agbolade
Kevin Obatusin
Aoife Elizabeth Carney
Amy Elizabeth Nevin
Daniel Paul Gough
Aine Sarah Phillips
Matthew Gareth Mullarkey
Jack Deegan
Aine Laoise Phillips
Ruth Margaret Henry
Darren Sean Gilhawley
Niall Morgan Griffin
Daniel Jordan Concannon
Hannah Margaret Mary Waldron
Tara Marie Coyne
Ellie Barbara McDonagh
Joshua Paul Webb
Lauren Mary Concannon
Thomas William Dunne
James Patrick Doyle

Deceased
**of the Parish of Annagh,
November 2001 – October 2002**

Kit Freeley
Thomas Durr
John Austin Freeley
Stephen Healy
Thomas McDonagh
Celia Thornton
Michael Dempsey
Mary Margaret Hannon
Mary Doherty
Ellen Fitzmaurice
Charles O'Reilly
Joe Cribbin
Thomas Diskin
Michael Fahy
Margaret Finn
Jim Dyer
William Murphy
Con Browne
Stephen Waldron
John Burke
Josie Eaton
Teresa Condon
Sean Barrett
Mary Burley
Lily Lyons
Mamie Curley
Mary Delia Waldron
Michael Coffey
Rita Mooney
Peg Culliney
Carmel Regan
Nora Sweeney
Noreen Brennan
James Flanagan
Mary McGuire
Tom Morley
John Dyer
Kathleen Donoghue
Frances Mulligan
Kathleen O'Kane
Michael Greally
James Moylett
Margaret Freely
Edward Shaw
Kathleen Mulligan
Mary Casserly



Taken in Gildea's house, Johnstown in the early 50's. Included are: Ann Gildea (Claremorris), Sean Jordan (Johnstown), Eddie Byrne RIP (Caraun, Brickens), Brendan Carney (Forthill), Seamus Lally RIP (Caraun, Brickens), Pake Byrne (Cloonfaughna), Michael Coen RIP (Lecarrow), Nancy Jordan (Johnstown) and Mick Lyons RIP (Johnstown).



Taken at Anne Hynes Birthday Party in the 1940's. Front l-r: Pat Waldron, Joan Dillon. Second row l-r: Corrine Lyons, Bernadette Concannon, Attracta Jordan, Cora McGarry, Ann Fanning, Susan Fahey. Back: Celine Webb, Attracta Smith, Anne Hynes, Norrie Dillon, Frances Moran.

A Page From An Album

James Cribbin

There is a reason why the photograph album is opened at this page. A lady had no photograph of a long deceased parent; she would dearly like to have one. Enquiries were made here and there until an album containing the sought-after photograph was tracked down in a place called Cloonflynn, near Ballyglass, Claremorris. We were lucky - we might have had to travel further - the album in question had been in Australia for twenty-two years.

The photographs in this page were taken nearly forty years ago on a sunny, Sunday afternoon in Johnstown. They speak for themselves. An old proverb says that a picture speaks louder than a thousand words. This may very well be true, but these photographs may never have been taken had a few score of words not been written down a short time previously. Margaret Cribbin had some success in a National essay competition, sponsored by the Irish Sugar Company. She won first prize - a camera. It is now in retirement gathering dust on top of the dresser, but it has left a nice legacy of black and white prints scattered throughout the English speaking world.

John Fitzmaurice and his sister Mary were the two youngest people there on that Sunday. It was John who had the most vivid memory of the occasion when shown the photographs. He was able to recall details that for most of us had faded from memory. He quoted Sean Jordan as having said how great it was to see so many happy people together enjoying the sunshine and each others company. John said he was going to get copies of them enlarged, so that he could, as Percy French put it "hang them up and look at them, and not feel so forlorn." Alas, John's trip home from England on that occasion was a sad one. He had come home to bid his only sister Mary a final farewell. Members of the Cribbin family had made similar journeys a short time before to take leave of their sister Teresa. Photographs can bring tears as well as smiles.

There are five people in the photographs who will not be answering the roll-call. They are all remembered as young people - they



Back, L-R: Teresa Cribbin, John Fitzmaurice, Nuala Flanagan, Pat and Jim Cribbin; Front, L-R: John Fitzmaurice, Mary Fitzmaurice, Kitty and Monica Cribbin.



Back, L-R: Tom Coen, Chris Cleary, Mary Byrne, Sean Jordan; Front: Mary Fitzmaurice, Nuala Flanagan, Cribbin Bros., Tommy Joe Ruane, Michael Fitzmaurice.



Back, L-R: Joe Cribbin, Michael Fitzmaurice, Teresa Cribbin, Monica Cribbin; Front, L-R: John Fitzmaurice, Jim Cribbin, Mary Fitzmaurice, Nuala Flanagan, Pat Cribbin.

never grew old. The youngest of the five departed at twenty-three years; the oldest at fifty-nine. John Fitzmaurice, Snr., left us in 1966, Joe Cribbin in 1967, Michael Fitzmaurice in 1973, and Mary McGuire and Teresa Condon in 2002.

Before we close the page, it should be mentioned that it came to us courtesy of Margaret O'Dowd, nee Cribbin, Cloonflynn. She did not appear in any of the photographs since she did not stand in front of the camera; it is reasonable to assume that she was the person who stood behind the camera and took the photographs.



Back, L-R: Michael Fitzmaurice, Teresa Cribbin, Mary Malone (Cavan), John Fitzmaurice Snr.;
Front, L-R: Mary Fitzmaurice, John Fitzmaurice, Jim Cribbin



Moran Family, Coolnafarna, Ballyhaunis - Reunion, July 2002 Seated at centre is Mrs. Mary Boyle (nee Moran), Coolnafarna, who celebrated her 100th birthday five months earlier. In the cots either side of her are her twin grand-nephew and grand-niece, Lawrence and Cecily Whyte, exactly 100 years younger. Back, L-R: Robin Moran, Mary Buckley, Catherine Moran, Carl Moran, Dick Moran, Joseph Moran, Patrick Moran, Tony Durant, Teresa Moran, Catherine Moreshead, Sheila Moran, Jonathan Moreshead, Frank Slockett, Deirdre Buckley, Joe Buckley, Rosaleen Moreshead, Rosaleen Moran, Cecily Geoghegan, Frankie Moran, Fergal Geoghegan, Lawrence Whyte, Darragh Geoghegan, Kieran Moran, Finola Wagner, Tom Wagner. Middle, L-R: Donal, Orla, Anne Marie, Lisa, Sean, Michael, Chris, Eileen, Gerald, Deirdre, Kevin and Josie Moran, Paddy Boyle, Carla Moran, Margaret Curtis, Christine Moran, Bridget Speers, Chloe Speers, Josie Horan, Tamara Moran, Carl Moran, Mary Whyte, Kevin Moran, Cecily Moran. Front, L-R: Elaine, Enda, Denis, Catherine and Michael Moran, Grainne Geoghegan, Katie Moran, Cecily Whyte (in cot), Mary Boyle, Claire Moran, Lawrence Whyte (in cot), Andy Curtis, Aoife Geoghegan, Dominique Moran, Rory Geoghegan, Carl Thompson.

The Riviera Showband

Eugene Freeley

The "Riviera" was a Ballyhaunis-based showband back in the late sixties. The band were purely Pop with a few good country numbers. The Riviera's first song was an original, "Love And The Country", written by Malachy Tiernan, the band's leader. Featuring Shea Cribben, it was a massive hit. It was the most requested song on Radio. Gay Byrne always played this number on his sponsored programmes as well as Larry Gogan, Val Joyce etc. The 'B' side was also an original, written by Patsy Haugh, titled the "Girl Next Door", a bouncy song with strong brass and saxophone section.

The next song Shea Cribben recorded was "Give Your Love A Chance". This song was a fast pop song with great drive, and with a strong brass section - trumpet and saxophone. This song landed the band in RTE and, after this, they played only in the top halls in Ireland and England. In fact, they played all the Albert Reynolds' halls.

The band went in again to the Eamonn Andrews Studios to record their third record, this time with a song called "Baby Won't You Leave Me Alone". This was known as 'Bubble Gum Music'. It was fabulous and it

drove the fans wild around the hall and especially the English, when they came on holidays. Bubble Gum Music was a kind of reggae, but different. Only two other Irish bands recorded 'Bubble Gum Music'.

The next time around, The Riviera decided to record a country number, this time featuring Gerry Foley with a Charlie Pride number, "Just a Girl I used to Know". This song went down a storm. Gerry has been known as the guy with the golden voice. In fact, Gerry sang 25% "Pride" songs on their one night stand. Soon after, the band recorded the ever-popular song "The Latchaco". This time it featured Kevin Maloney - what a great recording! It was the best ever, compared with the song's other singers.

Finally, the band recorded their last song titled "Maybe", an original slow pop ballad written by an English guy who wrote songs for Englebert Humperdink, Tom Jones, etc. It was a good song, and they thought this would break into the British Charts, as it got a lot of air-play in England.

The Riviera was a treat to dancing feet. The line up as follows: Shea Cribben (Lead Guitar, Lead Singer), Malachy Tiernan (Sax/Vocals), Patsy Haugh (Trumpet/Vocals), Gerry Foley (Rhythm Guitar/Vocals), Kevin Maloney (Bass Guitar/Vocals), John Conway (Piano/Vocals), Brendan O'Brady (Drums), Seamus Cox (Manager), Tom Tighe (Road Manager).



Shea Cribben &

THE RIVIERA

Ballyhaunis

Front, L-R: Brendan O'Grady (Charlestown), Malachy Tierney (Charlestown), Gerry Foley (Charlestown). Back, L-R: Shea Cribben (Carrowbeg, Kilkelly), John Conway (Bridge St., Ballyhaunis), Kevin Lohan (Charlestown), Patsy Haugh (Castlereagh). Courtesy of Tom Tighe.

Parish Choir

Michael Kelly

It's that time of year again. The autumn leaves are falling from the trees, the evenings are drawing in, the children are back at school again, that can only mean that Parish choir practices are starting again. Despite our Summer recess, our regular appearance at Sunday Mass continued throughout the Summer months and we are now, as always, back on track with an agenda packed with an exciting new repertoire.

Televised Mass

Starting last September we faced the dual task of preparing for the Christmas season and the unique opportunity of participating in the televised broadcast of the Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany from the Parish Church. This was a wonderful opportunity wholeheartedly embraced by the people of the Parish. The preparation entailed many hours of practice and dedication for everybody involved. To this end, the consistent dedication of our choir-mistress Anna Butler, coupled with her wonderful ability to bring out the best in the choir, resulted in an overwhelming sense of achievement for all involved.

The occasion was greatly enhanced by the beautiful music composed by the very talented local composer, Noel Henry, son of Peggy and Milo Henry, who travelled

especially from his home in England to add the special touch of a composer to the performance of his music. The Parish choir were joined on the day by the folk group, whose vocal talents were a great addition to the performance. We would like to thank Sinead Landon for her enthusiasm in preparing the folk group for this occasion. The participation of the children from Scoil Iosa National School introduced a youthful dimension to the Mass. For this, we must commend Ita Fahey for her talent and unfailing dedication to bring her choir to such a high standard. The soloist for the Mass was the talented Joan O'Malley whose renowned vocal talents raised the musical performance to an even higher standard.

Our thanks also to our priests Canon Joseph Cooney and Father Declan Carroll who were instrumental in organising the occasion and all the behind-the-scenes work that this entails. We would like to extend our thanks to the readers, altar servers, Ministers of the Eucharist, sacristans, those who were involved in preparing the Church for the occasion and all who contributed to making this occasion such a wonderful success.

Our Parish Choir members form part of the choir that sings at Novena Masses on Monday evenings, at Funeral Masses when requested, and at numerous other occasions throughout the year. The Parish Choir practice every Monday night at eight o'clock in the Parochial Hall and, as always, we are delighted to welcome new members to join our choir. You don't have to be a Pavarotti or a Charlotte Church to join the choir but if you are, all the better.



The Parish Community Choir, consisting of the Parish Choir and Folk Group, after the televised Mass from St. Patrick's Church, 6th Jan. 2002. From the back, L-R: Michael Brogan, Brendan Donnellan, Seth Pratt, Michael Kelly, Mike Byrne, Chris O'Neill, Tim Byrne, Chris Pratt, Luke Pratt, John Halpin, Martin Connery, Kevin Henry; Roisin Thornton, Una Butler, Siobhan Coyne, Noreen Freyne, Laura Brogan, Maureen Thornton, Mary Lyons, Mary Healy, Una Shields, Susan Laffey, Kay Healy, Maura Burke, Sally Higgins, Maura Patterson, Eimear Thornton, Ludmila, Frances Mulhern, Moira Stratford, Christine Concannon, Frankie O'Malley, Nuala Fitzgerald, Anne Lyons, Martina O'Rourke, Breege Kenny, Tina Kirrane, Anna Henry, Celine Murray, Clare Stratford; Aisling Finan, Carol Quinn, Lisa Carney, Maria Hunt, Lisa Freyne, Lisa Carney, Frances Grogan, Laura Freyne, Siobhan Quinn, Sarah Kelly, Sinead Landon, Sandra Hora, Elaine Carney, Marian McNamara, Martina Cunnane, Patricia Nolan, Joanna Kirrane, Edel Moroney, Elaine Donnelly, Siobhan McNamara, Ruth Gill, Mary Hurley, Maire O'Dwyer. Kneeling, L-R: Joan O'Malley (soloist), Ita Fahey, Anna Butler.

Reflections...Twenty-Five Years On.

Patrick O. Costelloe
(C.C. Kilcoona, Headford, Co. Galway)

There are certain events that stand out in the lives of every person, whatever his/her talents, longevity or achievements are, and it is with pleasure and gratitude I join in the celebration of the silver jubilee of "Annagh", the annual magazine of the parish of which the town of Ballyhaunis is the Centre.

Beginnings

I call to mind that day long ago in the early Autumn of 1961 when, with Fathers Francis McMyler and John Kennedy, I slipped quietly into the Parochial House on Main Street and was welcomed by the then Administrator Very Rev. Tom Rushe and his curate, Fr. Tom Heraghty. Our purpose was to establish a secondary School, St. Patrick's College for boys. The story of that establishment and its development, with the cooperation of St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School for girls and the Co-educational Vocational School, into the magnificent Ballyhaunis Community School has already been recorded and its benefit to the community has already been marked. Long may it prosper!

"Annagh"

In August 1977 Canon J. G. McGarry, P.P. lost his life in a tragic motor car accident while on a pastoral call to the sick and house bound of the parish. His achievements, nationally, internationally and local are well known and perhaps an abler pen than mine will record his pastorate. Suffice to say, I was unexpectedly chosen to succeed him as parish priest in September of that year. It was a daunting task but as I had known Canon McGarry for a long time, I felt I knew his ideals and outlook. He had

been my teacher in St. Jarlath's, Tuam, later in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth where I was ordained in 1942, and from then onwards I enjoyed his friendship. I had spent 15 years in his native Claremorris in the newly founded St. Coleman's College and finally when he came as Parish Priest to Ballyhaunis in 1969 our mutual association became even stronger.

The sowing of the seed!

In the autumn of 1977 I was invited by the Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber to address one of their meetings and, mindful of Canon McGarry's skill as a writer, I diffidently suggested that they undertake the launching of a Parish Magazine. The suggestion was enthusiastically adopted and approached with an imaginative and workmanlike spirit. The seed took root, sprouted, grew, blossomed and the fruit is the twenty five years of regular editing and issuing of a parish magazine that is a credit to all its editors and producers of the last twenty five years.

Aims and Objectives

At the outset it was agreed that the magazine would have due regard for local tradition, history, legend and culture, but would stress, underline and record the passing events, great and small, that marked the living people of a mainly rural scene. What is now modern and contemporary soon becomes history itself. "Annagh" has proved itself worthy of these aims. A trawl through past issues brings to mind the development of a seemingly sluggish and stagnant society to the vibrant, forward-looking community that is Ballyhaunis today. The Fire Station, Swimming Pool GAA Sports Complex, Education Facilities, The Parish Hall, Golf Links are but a few of the achievements of which a modern town could be proud. To crown it all, the noble spire that completes the tower of the Parish church is a sign that Ballyhaunis is alive and well.

Valete!

God Bless the priests and people of the Parish of Annagh and may their Parish Magazine prosper and flourish. Ar Aghaidh leo! Ad multos et faustos annos!

Croí

Helen Meehan



Croí is a heart charity based at University College Hospital, Galway. Dedicated to the fight against heart disease, Croí is committed to three main areas, namely: 1. Education; 2. Research; and 3. The Development of Cardiac Services and Facilities.

In terms of education, Croí's focus in the past year has been on promoting primary and secondary prevention initiatives, through the Croí Nurse Programme, including cardiac screens for heart patients and their families; and the publication of Cardiac Health Care booklets for patients and the general public. Research is ongoing, particularly relating to the causes and predictors of heart attack.

As regards the development of cardiac services and facilities in the West of Ireland, Croí has supported the ambulance service and has provided equipment for hospitals in the Western Health Board region. It has supported cardiac rehabilitation at Mayo General Hospital and will be supporting Advanced Cardiac Life Support training before year-end, also at Mayo General Hospital.

We wish to thank all those who supported us during the past year and look forward to your continued support during the coming year. Christmas cards are available from all committee members and selected outlets.

Special Olympics National Games – Dublin, June 2002

Eileen Folliard

There were eight athletes from Ballyhaunis Day Centre and four staff members who attended the Special Olympics National Games in Dublin, June 19th – 23rd. This is an indication of the level of commitment that Ballyhaunis Day Centre has put into the Special Olympics. They were involved in four disciplines: Bowling, Athletics, Equestrian and Swimming. All athletes must be congratulated for their excellent achievements. The results are as follows:

Bowling – Thomas Campbell (one First and one Second); Joseph Brennan (one First, one Second, one Third); Sean Phillips (one First, one Second, one Third).

Swimming – Irma Folliard (one Gold in Backstroke; one Gold in Relay Team; Fourth in Freestyle).

Equestrian – John Healy (First in the Pre-novice event).

Athletics – Jerome Murphy (First in 25m Walk; Fourth in Softball Throw); Val Hughes (one Gold in 50m Run; Silver in Softball Throw).

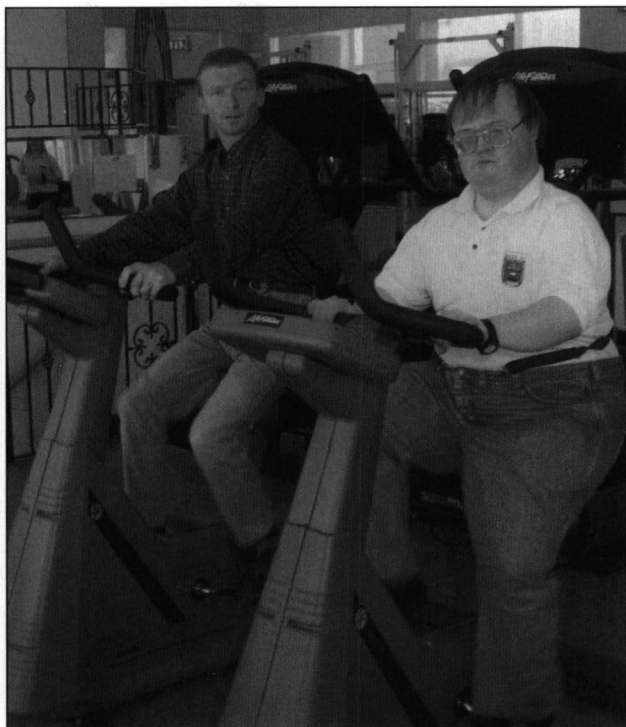
Great credit must go to all the staff that was involved in the preparation for these Games and in the training and organizing for all the athletes.

Celebrations

There were great celebrations for all the athletes when they returned to their respective towns, starting of course with Ballyhaunis, as it was the first train stop. It was really fantastic to have MWR, our local radio station, there to broadcast their homecoming live. It was indeed great to see all the family and friends out to greet the athletes and to celebrate with them on their achievements. The selection for the World Games took place a few weeks after the National Games. We were given quotas in all sports from Special Olympics International, and thus many athletes were disappointed.

All Gold Medal winners were eligible for selection for the World Games in their respective sports. For instance, in sports such as Swimming and Athletics we had a quota of twenty athletes, ten male and ten female, to be selected from Ireland. Unfortunately, we had no athletes selected from Ballyhaunis and that was indeed such a pity. As a county, we had thirteen athletes selected, and that is great, to have a county focus.

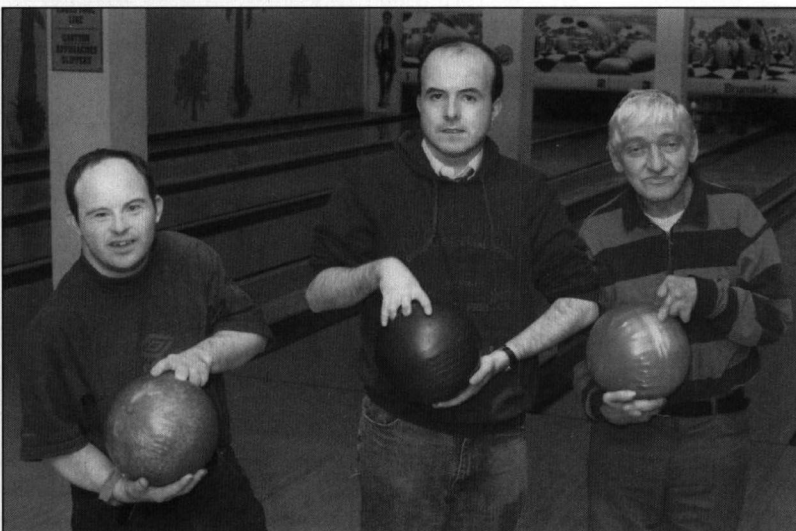
We are indeed very proud of all the athletes who participated in Special Olympics. As the Oath goes: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".



Athletes – L-R: Val Hughes and Andrew McHale.



Ballyhaunis Athletes and Coaches enjoying the Opening Ceremony in Parnell Park with Mayo Trainer, John Maughan.



The Bowling Team – L-R: Joseph Brennan, Thomas Campbell and Sean Phillips.

Twenty Five Years A Growing

Jarlath Fahey

In the first issue of the Community School Yearbook in 1978, Mr. Eddie Thornton wrote, "Our aim is to create an excellent educational establishment, where every student is important and one which will fully provide for the Community it was instituted to serve".

Ethos

I believe that the school has been very successful in realising this aim and that it is as true of the school now as it was twenty-five years ago. The emphasis always was, and is, on the individual student being enabled to achieve his or her full potential at whatever level. You may be aware of recent debates regarding the number of students going to universities from various schools. We cannot dismiss the importance of academic success and we can say that our school has always performed very well in that area, but to say that this is the whole picture is totally misleading and devalues what education is really about. The achievements and successes of all students with their varied talents are equally cherished. The school has vigorously promoted sporting and cultural activities over the years. A wide variety of sports are played, again catering for different aptitudes. Our Gaelic football teams have developed a great reputation in winning several Connacht Championships. School musicals have been performed every two years. Students get an opportunity to be involved in these and in a wide range of other activities. It can be a very busy place. The real challenge is to enable young people to develop character, to live full and happy lives in an ever-changing world. There may be some element of disappointment that some school facilities, such as the Gymnasium, are not more readily available. Insurance has been a problem, but recognised groups can get cover at reasonable cost. When this is in order we are anxious to provide facilities for community use.

The Present

Twenty-five years on, as Irish Education evolves and adapts, the aim as outlined above has been replaced by a mission statement, which aspires to the same ideals. The delivery, however, may be somewhat different. New courses such as LCA, LCVP and PLC have come on stream helping to make education more relevant to the talents and abilities of the students and the needs of a rapidly changing society. Community involvement is part and parcel of these courses. Local industries and businesses provide work experience for students, and

representatives from the community regularly come to the school to address students on relevant issues. The Education Act of 1998 places parents, teachers and pupils as partners in the delivery of education. Never before have schools been so much an integral part of the communities they were set up to serve.

Being computer literate now is almost as important as traditional literacy. We are delighted to have a new state-of-the-art computer room with e-mail and Internet facilities online. Increasingly, adults now attend the PLC computer based secretarial course, side-by-side with students straight from Leaving Certificate. This may very well be a sign of things to come in the mainstream courses. We now live in a less stable society and young people are subject to much more pressure than in former times. This takes its toll on behaviour, performance and achievements. Our pastoral care team make every effort to help and spend time with students. It is an area where great skill and resources are required.

The Future

What of the future? Schools have adapted well to the massive changes of the past twenty-five years and will continue to do so. The idea of partnership as outlined by the Education Act will continue to develop and evolve. The rights conferred on all parties bring their own responsibilities and it is hoped that they will take these seriously in the interest of the children. After all, school only exists for the children and our final hope is that they will fully avail of the opportunities now on offer as never before. Perhaps some present pupils reading this as parents twenty-five years from now may smile wistfully? In the basic essentials of school life, the more things change, the more they remain the same!

Manchester United

Man U have loads of skill,
And the other teams they practically kill,
Neville passes to Scholes and to Cole,
Cole scores a mighty goal.
He celebrates running round the pitch,
End of the pitch, Cole is fouled and needs a stitch,
So Michael Owen is sent off for fouling,
The Man U fans are fairly howling,
Extremely angry look, Ferguson gives to Owen,
Ryan Giggs now to the pitch he is going.

Under a minute to go in the match,
Now Barthez saves with a catch,
Into the net at Liverpool's side,
Teddy Sheringham scores with pride,
End of the match, Liverpool's stammering,
Dreadful looks cos' United gave the hammering.

Jeremy Freeley



'Bringing in the Oats'. Taken in Clagnagh in the late 40's. L-R: Owen Lyons, Eddie Egan, Ian Morrisson (Canada), Mary Morrisson (nee Lyons)



Taken in late 60's. L-R: Johnny Melvin, John Morley, Bud Waldron, Willie Morley, Jack Morley and Tom Boyle.

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union

Mary Rudden

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union has continued to expand and increase in membership every year since it was first established, and to grow and make remarkable progress. Membership has now reached 4,300 and the increase in member savings has continued every year since the foundation of the Credit Union in Ballyhaunis in 1983. With assets of over 9,250,000 the Credit Union continues to grow from strength to strength. Over 65% of savings in the Credit Union are given out on easy obtainable loans to members for provident and productive purposes, at a low rate of interest, tailored to meet their needs, e.g. house or site purchase, car purchase, car insurance, home improvements or extensions, furniture, school or college fees, holidays, etc. All money that is saved in the credit union or borrowed stays, and is usually spent within the local area of common bond. Interest on loans is charged on the reducing balance of the loan, weekly or monthly as the case may be, members only pay interest on what they owe. There are no hidden or transaction charges and all loans are insured at no extra cost to the member. This makes borrowing from the Credit Union a very competitive option to the members.

Thrift

The Credit Union was set up initially to promote thrift among its members in the common bond of the community, to encourage members to save regularly and borrow wisely. Services to members include - free life insurance on savings

and loans and free loan protection insurance at no extra cost to the member. 10% discount off membership fees of VHI or BUPA, also Auto Insurance, Foreign Exchange, and Western Union money transfer.

All surplus funds are paid out to the members at the end of the financial year in the form of a dividend. This is approved at the Annual General meeting to which all of the members are invited to attend. The Board of Directors and Supervisors are an entirely voluntary group, giving their time freely in the service of the Credit Union.

Directors and Supervisors for the year 2002 are as follows - Chairperson: Maire Murphy; Vice Chairperson: Aidan Kelly; Treasurer: Pat O'Connor; Assist. Treasurers: Madeline Niland, Mary Matthews; Hon. Secretary: Cynthia Fitzgerald; Asst. Secretary: Mary Rudden; Directors: Ina Freyne, Helene McCafferty, Francis Mulhern, Eddie Mulhern, Justina Lyons, Rita Lundon; Supervisory Committee: Helen Lyons, John Tuohy, Barry Butler; Office Administrator: Katherine Kilbride

Tellers: Ina Freyne, Cynthia Fitzgerald, Helene McCafferty, Mary Rudden, Patricia O'Connor; Committee members: Patricia O'Connor, Margaret Byrne, Wendy Dowler, Tina Kirrane, Jarlath Walsh, Fr. Declan Carroll; P.R.O.: Mary Rudden.

The Credit Union Movement suffered a tragic loss at Chapter Level in the untimely death of Brendan Hopkins, a native of Larganboy, Ballyhaunis who died tragically in a car accident at a young age. Residing in Castlebar, he was a tireless worker for the Credit Union Movement attending Chapter meetings and was for a long period a very capable Treasurer at Chapter. He was also a Director of Castlebar Credit Union for many years. Sincere sympathy goes to his wife Ina and family and also to his parents family and friends in Larganboy.



Credit Union Poster Competition Winners, Special Category. Front l-r: Andrew McHale, Irma Folliard, and Karen Campbell. Back l-r: Patricia O'Connor, Edward Mulhern, Maura Murphy (Chairperson), Tina Kirrane and Mary Rudden.

A Year of Triumph for Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil

Tommy Ronayne

For any political organisation, the acid test of its appeal and effectiveness is undoubtedly the arrival of a General Election campaign. For the Fianna Fáil organisation in the Ballyhaunis area, the focus of activity was ensuring that our candidate was elected as T.D. for the Mayo constituency. Since the departure of P. J. Morley from national politics in 1998, our organisation had been left without an effective voice in Dáil Eireann for the eastern part of the county.

To achieve this aim it was necessary to regenerate the party at a local level. The emphatic election of John Carty to Mayo County Council in 1999 gave party members a glimmer of hope, and set in motion the efforts necessary for building a strong and effective local organisation. John's ability to be very much in touch with local as well as national issues left no doubt in members minds that we had a perfect potential candidate to present to convention as a person with a realistic chance of success.

To this end the Fianna Fáil organisation in the Ballyhaunis area, at both Cumann and Comhairle Ceanntair level, held regular meetings where preparations for the General Election, as well as local and national issues provided the focus for vigorous and committed debate and discussion.

The task of returning a T.D. to Dáil Eireann was made more difficult by the dual facts that it was unusual for a candidate to be elected at first attempt, and that the population density of East Mayo is considerably lower than the rest of the county. The willingness shown by party members to become actively involved in the election campaign was particularly heartening. The level of commitment shown by the teams of canvassers ensured that no vote in the area was left uncanvassed. The level of cross party support achieved by our candidate was a major boost. The desire to have a Fianna



Fáil candidate returned to Dáil Eireann became quickly apparent.

And so, after a long and nail biting day spent at the Count Centre in The Royal Theatre, Castlebar, John Carty was elected as T.D. for the Mayo constituency, taking the fourth seat. To quote one unsuccessful candidate in his post count speech, 'The Carty campaign hit the ground running and we could do nothing to catch up'.

The aim for the Fianna Fáil organisation in the Ballyhaunis area is now to consolidate our position and to build on our success with an emphasis on issues of local interest. We have seen a rise in the returns for the National Collection and the elevation in the profile of the Party at a local level. In John Carty we have one of our own and a person who has been involved with the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair Fianna Fáil since his youth, a man who undoubtedly has the potential to achieve a national profile.

The acid test of an active vibrant political organisation has been passed with flying colours.

Comhairle Ceanntair Officers

Hon. Presidents – Bridie Lyons, John Hennelly, Peter McNeive; Vice-president – George Dee; Chairperson – Marian Maloney; Vice-chairman – John Toughy; Secretary – Tommy Ronayne; Treasurer – Moira Noone; Asst. Treasurer – Seamus O'Boyle; P.R.O. – Kenneth Dennedy; Youth Officer – Elma Kilbride.



Special Presentation to Mr. John Brennan, Gurteen, Ballyhaunis, to commemorate many years service to Fianna Fáil. L-R: John Carty, T.D., Michael Smith, T.D. Minister for Defence, John Brennan, Marie Brennan, Michael Brennan. The presentation read "This certificate was presented as a tribute and in honour of long years service and membership of the Fianna Fáil Party" - John Brennan. Signed Bertie Ahern T.D., Rúnaithe Oinigh, Mary Coughlan T.D., Gene Fitzgerald.

Short Back And Sides

Eamonn Murren

The Oxford Dictionary defines a barber as "a person who cuts men's hair and shaves and trim's beards as an occupation". Most people in the modern era will associate a barber with the washing, cutting and styling of hair. Some months ago in Dublin one of the last old barber shops, where a man could get a shave closed down. The move from "Mac's smile" to "Mach III" has led to the demise of many of the old type barbers. I did, however, see recently a barber in Castlebar advertising a hot-towel shave.

First Encounter

My first encounter with a professional barber was in the late 50's or early 60's (I'd like to think it was in the early 60's): Billy Baker was the man in question. The price was a shilling and Billy gave me back tuppence. Billy's shop was located over where the "Storm" video shop now is on Main Street. I said Billy was my first experience with a professional barber, because prior to my first visit to Billy, I did get some haircuts at home. I remember the late Jack Kearney from Larganboy giving me a haircut with his clippers. I don't think I was too pleased with the outcome. Given some of the hairstyles that the modern pop stars sport, Jack would probably make a fortune out of haircuts today! The Baker family left Ballyhaunis in the 1960's. The McCloskey family took their place. Mr. McCloskey was an excellent barber. Unfortunately, he died a young man shortly after coming to Ballyhaunis. His family stayed on in Ballyhaunis for many years after his death. His daughter Mary now resides in Galway, while his son Paul has a thriving business in Ennis.

Following Mr. McCloskey's death, Willie Feeney took over the barbershop in Main Street. Willie stayed in Main Street for a good many years before moving to Knox Street. I recall that it was during Willie's time that the Nestor family arrived in Ballyhaunis from Swinford. Mr. Nestor set up his barbershop in Bridge Street, where "Daly Electric" is now situated. Nestor brought a new dimension to the Barber business in Ballyhaunis. You could have your hair washed, styled and you could also get a shot of hair lacquer if you wished. The price, of course, was higher and in tough times most had to resort to washing their own hair, or in my case, bringing my custom back to Willie Feeney. Joe Prendergast took over Nestor's business for some time. It was also during this era that Johnny McGuire from Ballindrehid was in the barbering business.

Johnny operated out of Clare Street where Bridie Levins now lives. Johnny was a lovely man who had a great way with children. Of course, one could not talk about barbers in Ballyhaunis without mentioning the doyen of them all. I refer, of course, to Pat Meath. Pat was a great

conversationalist and no bad weatherman. Getting a haircut from Pat had the extras of getting all the latest news and gossip and in the case of many farmers getting Pat's views on the weather outlook. Pat's son Eamonn ran the business for some time after his father's death. Alas, Eamonn too departed earth in the prime of his life.

Nowadays

Ballyhaunis nowadays is well catered for with barbers. Pat Kearney has been working in Ballyhaunis for close on thirty years. Noel Folliard from Kiltaboe has a shop in Knox Street. On top of this, we now have many unisex salons in Ballyhaunis. "Gerry's", "Valerie's", "Kay's", "Alma's", "Trena's" etc. all cater for men as well as women. The modern man having no fear of entering a women's salon to have his hair cut. One would find it hard to imagine forty years ago, men going in to Myra Flatley, Kitty Healy, Kitty Corless, Josie Smyth or many of the other fine hairdressers to have his hair cut.

I will finish with two stories relating to barbers. The first story involves a barber who was fond of an odd drink or two. This often resulted in him having a shake in his hand. One day while giving a customer a shave, he nicked the customers face and drew blood. "That's what drink has done to you" said the customer. "Yes" says the barber, "It makes the skin very tender".

The second story involves a man who went into a barber for a haircut. The man had only three ribs of hair on his head. "How would you like your hair parted", asked the barber. "One to the left, one to the right and one down the middle" replied the man. "I'm sorry" said the barber, "I'm after cutting one of them off by mistake". "Just part one to the left and one to the right then" said the man. The barber continued cutting and then said, "I'm afraid sir there is only one rib left, how will I part it now?" To which the man replied, "Just toss it around anyway at all!"

Foot And Mouth

Foot and Mouth, now is a crisis,
On the land to move cattle, you need a licence,
One farm in Ireland has it in Louth,
The lumps or sores come up in their mouth.

Animals like cows, sheep and pigs get it,
Now they say humans can get it,
Down not up the prices of meat went.

My stomach is rumbling at the meat,
Of not knowing if it's fit to eat,
Up the country, there are four cases,
There is a frown on lots of faces,
Here are the people back to basics.

Jeremy Freeley

Second Generation Irish

Eileen Stephenson

My name is Eileen Stephenson. I grew up on the North East coast of England and throughout my childhood listened to stories of Ballyhaunis, my mother's birthplace, my mother being Angela Stephenson, (nee Gibbons). Her parents (my grandparents) Michael R.I.P. and Margaret (nee O'Grady) R.I.P., her sister Loretta R.I.P. brothers Austin, R.I.P., Patrick R.I.P., Jack, Desmond (Boo – now living in South Africa) and Kevin; they all grew up there in the 30's and 40's. I would listen to tales of her schooldays at the Convent of Mercy School with her pals Josie Moran, Máisín Meath, Peggy Barret, Muriel Higgins and many others; my grandfather's taxi business and how they would drive off to meet the boats coming from America; fair days; trips to Westport and the day she took the donkey to collect the turf and it stopped dead still in the middle of Upper Main Street and refused to move one way or another, how mortified she was; on to the Vocational School; then her first job in Tommy Johnston's, Knox Street; how she would describe in great detail the layout of the town she grew up in to such an extent, I felt I belonged there.

England

She came to the South of England as a nurse and I would often hear her remark on the "curse of emigration". Her path was not an easy one (like many emigrants) coming from a small town in the late 40's and thrown into a cosmopolitan world far removed from the gentle pace that was Ballyhaunis. After her training, she moved to the north of England to nurse and eventually met and married my father Ken. I am blessed today with having both parents living close by me.

As I grew up and helped mum with housework, we would listen to the Old Irish ballads. I knew them all off by heart and (with the help of Mum) delved into the history of Ireland and its troubles and atrocities, the Famine, the reason the country is divided, and the great Michael Collins. I developed a great admiration for this very brave man and others like him.

We would visit my grandmother after she moved south. I never had the opportunity to visit Ballyhaunis (lame excuses), but Mum and Dad on occasions made a trip back (grandmother eventually returned and sadly passed away in 1979). However, on our last visit to Ireland in the summer of 2001, while staying in Galway and on my insistence, we did get to visit the town I had heard so much about and never forgot.

Emotional Return

It was very exciting for me, sentimental and emotional for my mother, father and lovely Uncle John (now living in Limerick), who accompanied us. I was in awe from the moment we arrived as Mum pointed out the different family houses where they lived; Main Street; the shops she would run errands for grandmother; where they would play as



Taken in 1946. L-R: Muriel Higgins, Vona Waldron and Angela Gibbons.

children; the beautiful church. It was lovely to be able to take Mum's photo standing in the Convent of Mercy School grounds as once again she recalled memories of the very first day she started. It was great to meet people who could remember her and the family and reminisce about old times and I walked the "Clare Road" I had heard about so often, much changed from when she was a girl. What a mixture of emotions we all went through that day, but it was lovely to see first hand what I could only imagine all down the years.

I have always felt a great affinity with Ireland (naturally, being second generation) and have on occasions felt deeply disturbed when having to listen to some derogatory remarks about the Irish. I was raised in England along with brother Kevin by an Irish mother and English father. My loyalties can only lie between the two countries and know how very fortunate I am to have lived in an atmosphere where they have never been put to the test. There will always be part of my heart proud of my Irish heritage and I would like to return to Mayo and Ballyhaunis someday and would love to hear from anyone who remembers my Mum Angela and the Gibbons family.

A toast to you all

May Ireland and her people continue to grow and prosper, and live in peace and freedom they so richly deserve.

Yvonne Byrne A Remarkable Sports Person

Aidan Henry (Connaught Telegraph)

As Mayo Ladies took the field against Monaghan in the All-Ireland Senior Championship Final on Sunday, September 29th it marked a remarkable success story for one of the team members. This team member was none other than our own Ballyhaunis star, Yvonne Byrne.

Yvonne is now the proud holder of three All-Ireland Ladies Senior Football Championship medals and is, without doubt, one of the greatest sports people that Ballyhaunis has ever produced. In order to see what Yvonne has achieved over the past four years let's look at her achievements to date and also see what she went through in order to achieve this unbelievable feat. When Mayo came to prominence in Ladies Senior Gaelic Football four years ago, when they won their first ever All-Ireland Championship Final, the Ballyhaunis lass was just sixteen years old. However, on that great day for Mayo football in Croke Park when Mayo defeated Waterford, Yvonne played at centre-half back.

The following year she again held the same position as Mayo saw off the challenge of Tyrone. Two All-Ireland Senior medals and still only seventeen! In 2000 there was out-cry when Yvonne failed to get an All-Star award as she was without doubt by far the best number 6 in the country. 2001 saw Yvonne's fortunes change. She was plagued with a leg injury, which at the end of the day needed an operation on her cruciat ligament. Indeed, she had put off having this operation throughout last year in the hope that she might be able to assist Mayo. It was not to be and so Yvonne had to watch from the sidelines.

Yet, Yvonne, despite having this injury still wanted to be involved in football all the time. It came as no surprise when she was made manager of the Athlone I.T. Ladies Senior team that took part in division 2 of the Universities

Championship. Yes, you can believe it, she guided Athlone I.T. to win their first ever Ladies Cup in College Football.

Comeback

So to 2002. Mayo had regrouped in January and pledged to put in almighty effort to regain the All-Ireland championship title. However, for Yvonne, it was a case of hoping to get back training once again. Her doctors told her that she

was making such good progress that they felt that she could be back in the training ground in May. This was the news she wanted. When May came, Yvonne was back. By August she was back on the Mayo team and lined out against Roscommon in the Connaught final. It was evident for all to see in this game that while her fitness level was still below par, she was back and back with a bang.

In the All-Ireland Semi-final against Dublin, she proved what a quality player she is. She also showed what a great asset she is to the Mayo team. Their reward for the win over the Dubs was an All-Ireland place. As 15,000 people from Mayo watched their heroes take the field in Croke Park on September 29th, each and everyone of them must have been encouraged as to their team's chances as they watched Yvonne take her place on the team. Mayo had won two All-Ireland titles with Yvonne on board and lost when she was unable to play last years decider.

Yes, Mayo went on to beat Monaghan in a rip roaring final. Yvonne as ever played a major part in this victory. And so, her remarkable comeback was complete. It is easy to give out plaudits when your team is successful. However, Yvonne Byrne's case is a little different. She was devastated when she couldn't play in 2001. Yet, she went through torture, courage, determination and above all else, a will to win (no matter if it on the playing field or hobbling up and down a side road in order to get fit), you will succeed. Ballyhaunis' own, Yvonne Byrne, is a prime example and one that I am sure everyone in the town and surrounding areas is proud of.

Yes, this year's All-Ireland final was a great day for Mayo football but especially great for this staunch Ballyhaunis player. She made it back against the odds and Mayo Ladies football certainly reaped the benefits. They won by the narrowest of margins but as Yvonne herself said, "A win is a win". Long may her courage, determination and attitude continue.



At the Welcome Home in Ballyhaunis. L-R: Yvonne Byrne, Margaret Byrne, Orla Casby (Knock).

A Fair Day in Mayo

Joe Costello

A visiting American penned this particular account of a fair day in Claremorris in 1880. While it refers to the neighbouring town, it holds true for what was to be seen in Ballyhaunis on any Fair Day in the nineteenth.

"Today is fair day. As I looked out of my window on rising I saw a picture peculiarly Irish. A stalwart, strong framed, woman, dressed in a long blue cloak and with a bright coloured little shawl tied across her head was driving a County Mayo team – two squealing pigs, tied by the hind legs with a couple of straw ropes! The streets are crowded with country folks from three adjoining counties. One part of the main street is given up as a pig market: grunts and squeals by the hundreds. Another part is sacred to the sale of the donkeys; there are more than one hundred of them there. Opposite the hotel there are held flocks of sheep in small plots, and further uptown is the horse fair. The cows and calves are in a muddy market square on another side of the little town. Then, here and there are candy stands and auction wagons of the 'cheap jacks', and booths for the sale of second-hand clothing. Vegetables are exposed for sale in donkey carts.

Dress of the Period

The country people are dressed in their best today. They are mostly of well-to-do classes. They are tenants who have something to sell. There are few women who are barefooted among them. It is the merriest day of the year for the rural population round about here. The elderly women, as a class, wear white caps on their heads, with little shawls thrown over them, and long blue cloaks. The younger women are mostly bareheaded, although there is quite a sprinkling of bonnets among them. They are plainly but neatly dressed. The old men are out in great numbers, and they revive the recollections as Irish novelists have pictured. They wear 'stove-pipe' hats and generally faded 'swallow-tailed' frieze coats, sometimes a trifle gay, with bright brass buttons, their

legs are clad in corduroy breeches, or trousers. Often they sport knee breeches, with long blue stockings or leggings, sometimes of the same and sometimes different from the colour breeches. They look as if they have come out of the last century for a holiday. There is no drunkenness here. That is not a sign of the triumph of Father Matthew, but rather of the poverty of the people."

Diffusion of Market Economy

This fascinating article on a fair day in Mayo (Claremorris) revealed the diffusion of a market economy throughout the rural economy of Mayo, in particular the growing commercialisation of agriculture. This indicated a movement away from domestic consumption of the produce of the land. Increased reliance on the purchase of consumption goods and farm inputs on the one hand, and on the sale of agricultural commodities on the other immersed the local farming population more deeply into the market system.

The advent of the fair was highly significant to the smaller farmers. The change of focus saw the farming population purchasing a great deal more and with this new spending power created by large-scale fairs, farmers became a highly significant class for the shopkeepers. A successful fair meant the farm families had a more varied diet with Indian meal (maize), herrings, tea and sugar supplementing potatoes and milk. Rural people were also more likely to buy rather than make their own clothing. One eyewitness claimed: "you will rarely see a suit of home-manufacture worn by the peasantry, either male or female, particularly the latter, who spend their earnings in the neighbouring towns in the purchase of cotton dresses and striped petticoats, and have got quite out of the system of making their own clothes." All of this serves to highlight the way in which the town and the country became economically interdependent. For the farmers, the town and its fairs held the promise of a sale and market outlets.

As the editor of The Connaught Telegraph explained in 1879, the shopkeepers of Mayo know full well that: "trade depends altogether on its agricultural class". The day of the fair was the greatest example of this new post famine development.



The late Michael Hunt, with Mrs. Nolan, both of Bracklagh. Taken in 1994.



Fair Day 2002. Ted Maughan, tinsmith, at work on Clare Street.

Closure of Ballyhaunis Livestock Mart

Paul Waldron

Ballyhaunis Livestock Mart has closed, bringing to an end three decades of service to the local farming community. In recent years the mart - which was opened in 1973 - was operational for the Autumn season only. This year the mart, which was due to open in early September, remained closed, and there is no hope for its ever opening again.

Last year (2001) Ballyhaunis Livestock Mart recorded a very successful season with approximately 3,500 cattle being put through the sales ring over twelve weeks. The sales, which took place each Saturday from mid-September until mid-December, were all well attended and supported by both farmers and dealers from far and near.

Mounting Losses

Due to mounting losses, the owners of the mart - Connacht Gold Co-op Society Ltd. - continue to look seriously at rationalising their livestock mart sector. Ballyhaunis is amongst the first of the marts to come out badly in this. Furthermore, as part of the Department of Agriculture and Food's efforts to improve traceability in the beef industry (including the Cattle Movement Monitoring Service) they called for the installation of electronic notice boards in all marts to display the names of those presenting cattle for sale. The cost of installing such a notification system in Ballyhaunis, and the associated computerisation of the office here was seen as prohibitive and the Society felt that it would be too big an investment to make for the sake of the few weeks the Ballyhaunis mart would be open. In addition to these costs there were significant other items of expenditure outstanding that were likely to be enforced in the near future.

Commenting on the situation before the closure was confirmed, local man, Stephen Finn, Director of Connacht Gold, stated: "In recent years printouts showing the names and addresses of those presenting animals for sale have been on public display in the mart office. This has satisfied the 'transparency' and 'traceability' requirements of the Department and CMMS up till now", he said. "However", he added, "it is the Statutory Instrument, recently signed, requiring visual display of seller and livestock details, that presents the most difficulty. An appropriate solution would be for the Department to allow verbal announcement of these details". "If this was conceded, then it is conceivable that Ballyhaunis might open this year, though its long-term viability remains in doubt", Mr. Finn continued.

Mr. Finn went on to say: "Notwithstanding this, the core problem remains that farming has changed and that there is an over-provision of marts in the country. This is especially true of Mayo where there are seven marts. Connacht Gold is a farmer-owned co-operative society; and it would be irresponsible not to take account of the changing factors and to ignore financial realities to the extent that closures would be forced, as has happened only too often in the past". "Whatever the outcome, Connacht Gold will remain committed to meeting the requirements of all its shareholders and operating

a viable mart service to its farmer members", he concluded.

Rationalisation

Although it has had a number of very successful seasons in recent years, failure to make an overall profit has not helped Ballyhaunis Mart's situation. Most marts throughout the country - even those open all year round, and on more than one day a week - are failing to make a profit. Such a trading environment has forced marts in many parts of the country to seek alternative sources of income to keep their operations afloat, e.g., the successful location of a number of National Car Testing (NCT) centres throughout the country. The alternative to this has been closure or rationalisation between marts, even if not under single ownership. In conjunction with the Irish Co-operative Organisations Society (ICOS), some counties are actively considering closing all marts and building one new facility geographically located within the catchment of all the closing centres. It is inevitable, therefore, that several livestock marts will have to close: even some of those where the electronic notification system has already been installed. This is by no means an Irish problem, with similar trends being reported across the U.K. and mainland Europe. These factors taken into account, it seems likely that, in the future, there will be just one or two marts in County Mayo, and in these locations, sales will be held on more than one day a week, in order to meet whatever requirements there may be.

Foundation

Ballyhaunis mart was opened with its first sale on Tuesday, 6th Feb. 1973. In 1976 it was taken over by the still expanding North Connacht Farmers Association (NCF). Sales were originally held on a Tuesday, but this was changed to Saturday in the late seventies. In 1979 the Mart Store was opened. From the early eighties onwards, the mart closed down for the Summer, and in recent years sales took place only in the four months up to Christmas. NCF became Connacht Gold Co-op Society Ltd. on their amalgamation in 2000 with Kiltoghert Co-op. Connacht Gold - a farmer-owned co-operative - became involved in the marts to provide a service to its farmer members; they had eight livestock marts in all: Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Swinford, Balla, Westport and Ballinrobe in Co. Mayo; Ballymote in Co. Sligo and Mohill in County Leitrim. As well as marts, the Society operates a highly successful dairy processing sector, processing much of the western milk pool at their Shannonside plant in Ballaghaderreen. They are also involved in mushrooms, timber, animal feeds, as well as having a network of stores across the province. These various co-operative divisions are run with the joint responsibility of providing a service and contributing to a vibrant rural economy. However, the co-operative is also a business and these services must, at least, make a profit to allow for the provision of future services.

With marts already experiencing trading difficulties, the Department of Agriculture and Food's strict imposition of the display board/computerisation requirement would put the final nail in the coffin as far as Ballyhaunis Livestock Mart is concerned. The closure of Ballyhaunis mart has been a terrible blow to the local economy and continues to cause great inconvenience to the farming community, especially the increasing number of part-time farmers, for whom the Saturday sale was very accommodating.

Saint Patrick's College

Tommy Caulfield

I'm sure that PE is a favourite subject for most students of Ballyhaunis Community School. But I wonder do any of them realise that the spot where they exercise was once upon a time the site of Saint Patrick's College. Fuit Illium. Troy once stood.

The Community School itself sits on what used to be our playing fields. The 400 or so men who call ourselves past pupils of St. Pat's will have to wait a little longer for the definitive history of that "august establishment". I was a member of the class of '77, the final group to sit the Leaving Certificate before St. Patrick's closed its doors for the last time. Others in my class from the parish were Willie Ryan (Upper Main St.), Thomas Jordan (Knox St.), Ivan Freeley (Main St.), John Lyons (Skeghard) and Joseph Jordan (Johnstown).

Back in 1972 the options were pretty clear for anyone leaving the "Master's" in Abbeyquarter. You could become a

boarder, most likely at St. Jarlath's, Tuam or go to the Knock Road and choose between the Vocational School or St. Patrick's College. I don't recall making the decision but I spent the next five years as a student of St. Patrick's which, unbelievably, closed twenty-five years ago this year.

Range of Subjects

There was a staff of eight teachers and the range of subjects on offer was certainly narrow by today's standards. Fr. Patrick Costelloe was Headmaster and taught French. Today he is enjoying retirement in his native Co Galway. Fr. Francis McMyler and Fr. Des Walsh were also staff members and both minister today within the Archdiocese. The remaining staff members were Jarlath Fahey, Morgan Jennings, Terry Coleman and John Cleary, all of whom continue to ply their trade in the local Community School. Sadly our Maths teacher Mr. Michael Glynn passed away some years ago.

There were never more than 150 boys on the roll at any one time. This meant that you got to know almost everybody. It also meant that we were confined to the lowly Division C of Connaught Colleges for most sporting competitions. All of the staff were involved in the promotion of Gaelic Football in



St. Patrick's College 1977, Final Leaving Cert Class. Front, L-R: Mr. Michael Glynn R.I.P., Fr. Des Walsh, Mr. Morgan Jennings, Fr. Paddy Costelloe (Headmaster), Mr. Terry Coleman, Mr. John Cleary, Fr. Francis McMyler, Mr. Jarlath Fahey. Second Row, L-R: Ivan Freeley (Main St.), Gerry Kneafsy (Coogue), Brendan McHugh (Bekan), Joseph Jordan (Johnstown), Gerry Conlon (Harp & Shamrock, Main St.), Liam Campbell (Knox St.). Third Row, L-R: Sean O'Boyle (Vintage Bar, Knox St.), Noel Sloyan (Brackloon), Peter O'Boyle (Larganboy), Willie Ryan (Upper Main St.), Andrew Bailey (Granlahan), Bartley Boyle (Carrownedan), Tommy Caulfield (Upper Main St.), Sean Dolan (Knock). Back Row, L-R: John Lyons (Skeghard), Michael McHugh (Granlahan), Tommy Moran (Carrownedan), Bernard Maloney (Bekan), Vincent McDonnell (Coogue), John Fahey (Coogue), Tommy Jordan (Knox St.)

the school. I remember Fr. Des once give a half time pep talk in which he likened our performance to "poetry in motion". I'm not sure that the speech had the desired effect but the English lesson on metaphors was appreciated.

In my third year we reached the Connaught Colleges Football Juvenile Final. Our opponents were Oughterard and the game was played in Tuam Stadium. Unfortunately we were well beaten on the day and to make matters worse Michael Grogan, Brendan Morrissey, the late Padraig Moran, Ted and Sean Webb, all boarders at St. Jarlath's, had come to cheer us on.

The following year however we did have a memorable victory over Foxford Secondary School in the Connaught College's Senior soccer final. Mr. John Cleary was the teacher in charge of that team which included Tommy Prenty (Knock Rd), John Griffin (Clare St), John Toolan (Devlis), Joseph Jordan (Johnstown) and Ivan Freeley (Main St).

While each of the three secondary schools in the town operated independently, the way was being paved for Community School education. During my first year we made the short trip each Tuesday to the Vocational School for a double class of woodwork with Mr. Christy Ruane. In second year we were bussed to the other end of town to the convent for Latin with Mrs. Maura Griffin. The late Philip Morley of Knox Street was our bus driver. The convent girls made the

return journey along with teacher Mrs. Mary Freeley for the more serious matter of Leaving Cert English. This co-operation among the three schools was a sign of things to come and the ground work came to fruition when the Community School opened in September 1977.

In St. Pat's there was no LCA, LCVP, TY, PLC'S or any of the other programmes designed to spice up life for today's secondary student. Our career guidance consisted of one informal chat followed by a blind leap into the big world beyond the school gates. Grinds and Grind Schools were unnecessary and unheard of. After all we were sent to school to learn.

They say that we often view the past with rose-tinted glasses. That may be true. They also say that our school days are the happiest days of our lives. Try telling that to a modern student!

St. Patrick's provided the secondary education for boys of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas for just fifteen years. During its short life span St. Pat's became more than just a school. Even without the weight of history and the power of a mighty sporting tradition St. Patrick's will always be fondly remembered by its gifted teachers and those of us studied there.

Fuit Illium.

Ballyhaunis Fine Gael

Helen Lyons

2001 was a year of mixed fortunes for the Ballyhaunis Fine Gael Branch. The Branch faced into the May General Election confident that local T.D. Jim Higgins would be re-elected. The optimism was based on his fifteen years experience in the Dáil, his acknowledged huge constituency workload and his high national profile for which the national media voted him one of the Dáil top performers. It was not to be! When the votes were counted on May 18th Jim was ahead of his Party colleague Enda Kenny by 393 votes going into the final count only to be piped by a mere 87 votes. Had he held the seat he could well be Leader of Fine Gael today. His speech after the count at The Traveller's Friend Theatre was a model of generosity as he magnanimously congratulated successful candidates Enda Kenny, Michael Ring, Gerry Cowley, Beverly Cooper-Flynn and John Carty.

Seanad Election

Typically, Jim immediately picked himself up, contested the Senate election and ended up as the top Fine Gael performer on the Labour Panel, a Panel to which both he and the late Senator Michael Dalgan Lyons had both been elected in the past. His appointment to the Finance Spokesmanship, to the Council of Europe and to the Forum on Europe will ensure that Jim's name will continue to hit local, national and international headlines.

fine gael ★

Local Scene

On the local scene Councillor John Cribbin continues to shine. It is acknowledged by all and sundry that he is one of the finest public speakers to have graced the chamber of Mayo Co. Council. On several occasions after he had spoken he sat down to rapturous applause for the manner in which he devastated the opposition by his quick turn of phrase and impressive rhetoric. John continues to champion every issue in the area demanding better services, better infrastructure and a halt to the shoddy treatment of the agricultural sector. He has truly vindicated the trust and the confidence which the electorate have placed in him. As for his prospects for re-election, we can confidently say roll on 2004!

The Branch held six meetings during the year, conducted a record national collection and participated in all activities at district and constituency level. John holds a weekly clinic at the Parochial Hall each Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. and Jim's clinic is at the same venue at the same time each Saturday.

Officers

President: Mike Webb; Vice-President: Jack Greene; Chairman: Michael Lyons; Vice-Chairman: Peter Hannon; Secretary: Helen Lyons; Assistant Secretary: Mary Buckley; Treasurers: John Joe Flanagan and Oliver Cribbin; P.R.O.: Tony Cribbin; Organiser: Michael McQueeneey.



Upper Main Street c. 1933. From left: Donald Hopkins, Ber Phillips, Rita Caulfield, Tommy 'Mixie' Caulfield, Vincent Caulfield, Margie Phillips, Ina Phillips.



Main Street boys in the Sixties.
Tony Cribbin and Paul McCluskey



Edward Fitzgerald and Tom Lyons, both of Clare Street

My World Cup 2002

Tom Joyce

My World Cup started when the letter from Japan World Cup Organizing Committee (JAWOC) arrived in early February. To my delight, I was asked to attend an interview for a team escort volunteer position for the Irish team while in Yokohama. Ikeda-san, chairman of our local community soccer association and friend of my family, had given me an application form back in December which my wife took and promptly filled out, including somewhat embarrassing embellishment of language capabilities. Apologies here to Jim Higgins and Sr. Rosario as my French and Irish would never have measured up to much. Anyway, with the interview hurdle passed, I got the call to attend 'orientation' meetings with three other members of the Irish Team Escort group. I was the oldest of the four volunteers and the only foreigner. The three Japanese volunteers included a school teacher, university student, and ex-foreign student of Trinity College. The orientation was to be held at the Yokohama Stadium and our mission was to assist the Irish team during their time in Yokohama for the World Cup First round match against Saudi Arabia. Japanese people are meticulous in preparation for big events and this time was no exception - we had day-long meetings over several weekends and visited all the locations where the players were expected to be during their time in Yokohama. The run of events included a seminar on Ireland that I attended with family, and which was arranged to inform several hundred Japanese staff and volunteers about Ireland. The Japanese presenter had spent six years in Cong and explained our culture with great enthusiasm and wit. (My wife reminds me she didn't know pub crawls start well before the matches!)

Euphoria

After doing team escort duty for a warm-up friendly between Japan and Costa Rica, we were truly ready for the World Cup. As the local Japanese newspapers headlined, the opening match with Cameroon was a 'thriller'. The Germany match was closer to home and I picked up my nephew (who I found kicking a ball outside Tokyo station) and we travelled to Kashima together. All my Japanese friends and acquaintances agree that it was one of the most memorable matches of the World Cup and it certainly was. I was lucky to be in the stand section right behind the goal where



Mick McCarthy and Tom Joyce.

Robbie Keane slotted in the last minute equalizer. The euphoria was unbelievable: 80% of the fans in the stadium seemed to be Ireland supporters and they just erupted. The more boisterous than ever chant of "you'll never beat the Irish" sounded so true (then).

The Saudi match was next and Mick McCarthy decided that the team would not stay overnight in Yokohama. Instead, the team and delegation members would travel on the morning of the match from their base camp in Chiba which was a two hours' drive away on the other side of Tokyo. The unfortunate consequence was that our escort work would be for that day only. The day before the match, someone in the Irish delegation correctly pointed out that the Irish flag was an improper green, white and yellow. It was the escort job to rush a new flag to Chiba and we got the official nod of approval just in time.



Tom Joyce (far right) pictured with Robbie Keane and escorts at Yokohama stadium after the Saudi match.

Preparation

On June 11th, I arrived at the stadium at 9 a.m. The players' bus had just left Chiba and we headed for the hotel where the players would arrive. The players arrived and went to their rooms making the trip to the stadium around 6:30 p.m. (I had only the team priest and two ex-goalies to talk to in the lobby).

At the stadium, our job was to help prepare the dressing room, move team equipment and escort VIPs and players' family members to the stands. The preparation for the team seemed perfect, even down to having a bucket of Snicker bars, a sack (literally speaking) of sandwiches and lots of Gatorade ice cooled. Fortunately, when the game started, I was free from duties and could watch the match from close-up.

The Saudi team were not too determined by the looks of things - their minds were probably on the \$1 million spending cash they are reputed to have carried into Japan - and Ireland's three goals kept the fans happy. After the match, there was a great feeling of contentment and we had time to talk with Mick McCarthy and other staff outside the dressing room. Robbie Keane, much to his disgust, got picked again by coincidence for doping test and was led off to the doping test room with Kevin Kilbane. We packed up all the players' gear on the bus and waited for the players to come out from doping control.

Irish Jersey

The hot clammy Japanese weather clearly de-hydrated these lads as it was after 1:30 in the morning before the first of the two, Robbie Keane, came back to the dressing room. Everyone else had gone except assistant coach Ian Evans, the escorts and our handler Mr. Amanocchi. We chatted and ate sandwiches while waiting for Kevin Kilbane. Robbie was very obliging and graciously signed autographs including my Irish jersey, which I wore under my blue uniform. (Thanks go to Cathal Philips for posting it out to me). One of the first questions he asked was, of course, where I was from and when I said Mayo, well, with typical dry Dublin humour, he echoed back "no wonder you are out here". Thanks for the memories Robbie.

The second round match against Spain re-enforced a wholly positive image of Ireland in many Japanese minds as a nation with a never give-up fighting spirit. The emails and compliments have made me feel proud. Here in my adopted country, I have to say I am proud too to be associated with JAWOC staff, volunteers and the people of Japan who made the games a resounding success and for giving wholehearted support to all the teams and foreign visitors. For me, Ikeda-san summed it up when I enquired on his feelings after the Spain match. "No comment", he toned sadly. Clearly another convert!



St. Mary's Primary School, Sixth Class 1981 - 82. Front l-r: Ivan Biesty, Joe Tighe, Patrick Murphy, Barry Mulligan, Michael Ryan, Austin Finn. Second row l-r: Ronan McDermott, Tom McDonagh, Austin Jordan, Stephen McCrudden, Barry Hanley, Phillip McGoldrick, John Elwood, Brendan Donnellan. Third row l-r: Gabriel Morley, Gabriel Smith, Tommy Leonard, John Forde, Alan Henry, Thomás Ruane, Martin Durkan, Mel Keegan. Back l-r: Pat Biesty, Enda Caulfield, Noel Phillips, Tony Morley, Paul Damron, Jonathan Cleary, Vincent McNamara and Jim Landon (teacher)

Leaving Certs 1973

A class reunion is being arranged for the Leaving Certs of 1973 next summer (2003), date to be finalised. Anyone who hasn't received a letter regarding this reunion, please write to Bernadette Hopkins, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis.



St. Patrick's College 1973. Back l-r: Tom Fitzmaurice (Toonragee), Kieran Folliard (Upr Main St.), John McDonagh (Brackloon), Michael O'Connell (Upr Main St.), Tomás Phillips (Urlaur), Tommy Jordan (Tooreen), Timothy Murphy (Brackloon), Kieran Connolly, Tom Finn (Culintra), Martin Duggan (Knock), Sean Duffy (Aghamore), Tommy Curran (Main St.). Middle l-r: Vinnie Kelly (Bekan), Eamonn Murren (Up Main St.), Brian Conway (Bridge St.), Sean Egan (Knock), John Mulligan (Aghamore), Francis Gavigan (Devlis), David Dwayne (Clare St.), Alex Eaton (Main St.). Front l-r: Anthony Hegarty (Bridge St.), Noel Armstrong (Holywell), Jimmy Hopkins (Coogue), Martin Kelly (Ballinlough), James Campbell (Knock), Gerry Lyons (Knockbrack), Tommy Cunnane (Coogue).



St. Joseph's Convent. Leaving Cert 1973. Front l-r: Marie Curran, Bernadette Hopkins, Anna Herr, Marian Morris, Caroline Maguire, Mary Byrne, Catherine Healy, Margaret Robinson. Back l-r: Teresa Fitzharris, Mary Magee, Bridie Kearney, Maura Nolan, Mary Doherty (R.I.P.), Bridie Cribbin, Mary McGreal, Eleanor Lyons, Angela Groarke, Carmel Lyons, Marian Carney.

Birth Certificates

James Cribbin

It's birth certificate shows that Annagh Magazine is now twenty-five years of age. It is unlikely that corrections will ever have to be made to this birth certificate with nobody insisting that a little should be added to, or a little taken from. Pity the same cannot be said about all birth certificates. Many of us have now come to realise that ordinary care is not good enough when dealing with a birth registration. Unless extraordinary care is taken, trouble is likely to ensue later on. It will show up when the "mouse" is put to work to sniff out faults and mistakes.

Middle-aged bachelor farmers are the last people in the world you would expect to hear complaining about the number of birth certificates they have to keep on file. They are not the only ones with complaints. In the case of married farmers, the wives, who as a rule make the better secretaries, look after the filing cabinet. So great is the problem for those who have no secretaries and those who have secretaries that many mistakes show up when that cursed "mouse" is put to work! A subsection of the civil service has been set up, complete with a phone-in help-line to deal with this great problem. Also, neighbours with time on their hands lend a helping hand to those overworked fellows who have to combine the duties of housekeeper, cook, secretary, accountant, telephonist, receptionist, P.R.O. and gardener, along with the great responsibility of farm management.

Red Tape

I have been helping one of those fellows wade through a tangle of red tape in an attempt to have a D.O.B. (date of birth) mistake corrected. I put pen to paper on three separate occasions dealing with this D.O.B. mistake and talked on the phone to a girl (in an office) with an angelic voice. On reflection, I think I may be leaving myself open to correction by a "mouse" in describing the girl's voice as "angelic". To the best of my knowledge, all angels are males. My thinking on this goes back a long time, to the days when I answered the roll call in Derrylea N.S. The priest was bantering on about saints and angels. He asked each pupil in turn what was their Christian name and gave a little homily on the saints who had that same name. There was a girl in the class whose name was Gabrielle. "That's a man's name" said he in a tone of voice that did not invite contradiction. He went on to say that all Angels are men, but even he could not claim that all men were angels.

I have digressed. That girl with the melodious voice is to blame. In the matter of the D.O.B. that we were dealing with, the mother was of no help to us. She could not tell us or even remember what day she was in the maternity unit. Neither could I, even though I was present at the delivery. At least the Department is aware of the problem and has made available bundles of envelopes marked "Freepost" and addressed "Correction to Calf Birth Registration", National Calf Birth Registration Service, Bandon, Co. Cork.

My involvement in the birth registration business goes back longer than I care to remember. It's a long time since I was given a piece of paper with the name of my infant sister and the date of birth by me parents and asked to hand it in to the late Mick O'Connell, who was for many years the Registrar of Births and

Deaths in Ballyhaunis. Mr. O'Connell looked at me in surprise and asked me what age I was and said, "you're too young to register a baby, much too young. Tell your father and mother to come in themselves".

The Right Name?

Later on my mother required a certificate for some purpose and I headed off to Ballinlough on my bike. The Parish Priest of the Parish of Kiltullagh, Fr. Ryan, made no compliment of opening the Parish records and commenced to write out a certificate. He paused and said, "That's strange", pointing to a space where my grandmother's name should be, it was blank. He pondered for a while and asked me did I know who my mother's mother was. Of course I did, she was "Jiber" Glynn's sister from beside the church of Kiltullagh. He knew the people but what was her Christian name? She had passed away some years before that and I had never called her other than "Grandma". I was certain of one thing, her name was either Brigid or Nora. Fr. Ryan pressed me for an answer. I was confident I was giving the correct name when I said "Brigid". "Are you certain?" "Yes", and down goes the name Brigid Glynn in records of the Parish of Kiltullagh. Delighted when I had the certificate in my hand and delighted that I hadn't to cycle back home in order to put the matter of my grandmother's Christian name beyond all reasonable doubt I proffered Fr. Ryans a red ten-shilling note. "No, No that's too much, if you have half a crown that will be fine". Those words were spoken on 24th day of September 1967. I have the certificate here before me. It is causing me some unease. I cannot remember my mother looking at the certificate when I handed it to her or her making any comment whatsoever. I made a discreet enquiry some time late as to what her mothers name was. Surprise, Surprise, I had picked the wrong name.

Australia Bound

My difficulties with birth certificates do not end here. Thirty years ago, my brother Pat, residing in England at the time, wrote to me asking me to get his birth certificate and send it on to him. He was thinking of moving on a bit further by going to Australia and needed the birth certificate to get a passport and visa. I wrote to the relevant office in Castlebar giving full name, address and D.O.B. A reply came back stating that they had no record of a person answering to the information given. I should not have been surprised at this at all. I remember very well when the boy arrived and remember very well being told that he had been found under a head of cabbage. This of course would have excluded him from entitlement to a birth certificate. Fortunately, it did not exclude him from being baptised; otherwise he may never have been able to see a "Joey" hopping about in its natural habitat. The letter from Castlebar went on to state that if a baptismal certificate were sent on a birth certificate would be issued. Canon McGarry made no compliment about writing out the certificate but put the screw on me to write something for the "Ballyhaunis Newsletter of which he was editor at the time. There were no inaccuracies in the certificate that Canon McGarry wrote out. There were however, a few in the piece I later wrote for his newsletter.

That Baptismal Certificate made irrelevant the issue of whether the boy was found under a head of cabbage or not. By the way, he is now a strong opponent of the Green Party. This would indicate that he has no desire to get back to his roots.

Some Thoughts on a Very Good Year

Siobhan Quinn

"Veni Lumen Cordium" translates into "Come the light of the heart"/"Come Holy Spirit". These are the words which best describe our school. Each student in our school has unique gifts and talents which together contribute to make us a community. This year our school celebrates twenty-five years of these gifts and talents.

Calamity Jane

The year started off with a kick-start, beginning with our Oscar winning performance of "Calamity Jane". This is a story about a "cowgirl" who proves that you don't need fancy dresses to get along in the wild west, all you really need is a loud mouth and to be handy with a gun. However, it always pays to dress up once in a while and when she did she blew people's minds away. There was one problem however -

love. Calamity believes that she is in love with the local lieutenant, Danny Gilmartin, who doesn't return her love, but to add another twist he falls for Katie Browne (Adelaide Adams) who Calamity befriends. A broken heart and guns aren't always a good combination, however, true love always shines through. At the end of the play Calamity falls in love with her good friend Wild Bill, while Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin falls for Katie Brown. They all decide to celebrate by getting married!

The main cast indeed was very professional, reaching their highest acting abilities but not without having some fun. They were Marianne Knight (Calamity Jane), Cian Higgins (Wild Bill), Mary Freeley (Katie Brown), Michael Murphy (Lieutenant Danny Gilmartin), John McNamara (Francis Fryer), William Nestor (Miller), Laura Freyne (Susan), and Jane O'Connor (Adelaide Adams). But you can't have a production without a chorus, and without a doubt Ballyhaunis had the best in town with their version of "Windy City". On a final note, I think everyone will agree that the great performance of the evening would go to none other than John McNamara for his version of "Francis Fryer" in a dress! Our gratitude must go to Mrs. Siobhan Devine, Mrs. Anna Henry, and Ms. Aine Whelan for all the



Cast of "Calamity Jane", Ballyhaunis Community School, 2002 Back, L-R: Michael Marianno, William Lynskey, Rory O'Connor, Phelim Carroll, Michael Jordan, David Hannan, Darren Doyle, James Finan, Joe Garvey, David Lynch, Sean Rochford. Fourth Row, L-R: Christopher Morley, Mary Burke, Lorna Clancy, Laura Freyne, John McNamara, Michael Murphy, Mary Freeley, Cian Higgins, Marianne Knight, Jane O'Connor, William Nestor, Niall Richardson, Sonia Cribbin, Michelle Daly, Katie Keane, Nicola Nolan, Corina Duggan, Louise Cunnane. Third Row, L-R: Joanna Kirrane, Claire Gallagher, Lisa Carney, Chantal Sloan, Tara Murphy, Michelle Vahey, Frances Grogan, Bernadette McNamara, Doireann Markham, Siobhan McNamara, Siobhan Quinn, Lorraine Fitzmaurice, Sarah O'Connor, Anne Marie Tighe. Second Row, L-R: Eimear Morris, Margaret Murphy, Mary Murtagh, Anne Marie Rochford, Sheena Forde, Karina Doherty, Claire Caulfield, Clodagh Caulfield, Jennifer Folliard, Patricia Finan, Anne Marie Brennan, Tommy Naughton, Gearoid Fitzmaurice. Front Row, L-R: Sarah Kelly, Siobhan Lyons, Maria Coyne, Laura Robinson, Edel Moroney, Tracey Folliard, Aine Connaughton, Jenny Burke, Andrea Egan, Lynsey O'Leary.

exhausting hard work they put into the musical.

Aisling Project

As well as breaking into the acting side we also proved to be a help to our Gardai Siochána. Last September fourth year students were called to the assembly area to be greeted by two Guards. They came to talk to us about the Aisling Project. The Aisling Project was described as a project based on the three problems facing youth today - Drugs, Alcohol abuse and Road Safety. The project was to be divided into three sections: Project, Visual Display and Debate.

A few days later the students who were interested agreed to meet, they included Gearoid Fitzmaurice, Sheena Forde, Edel Kilcourse, Yvonne Loftus, Marguerite McGuire, Mary Murtagh and Siobhan Quinn. Drugs were chosen as our topic. The first step was a 5,000 word project to be completed before January. Research was to be a major part. This was completed by reading books and magazines, doing interviews and looking up the Internet. It was a very exhausting job. When the project was completed, we started working on our visual display of a large red poppy. When we reached the adjudicating day held in Westport, we were amazed at the number of people involved in the project. For the first two hours we had to stand at our display while being questioned by three separate judges. That evening we were announced as winners qualifying with Kiltimagh. Each team that won got a €400 voucher from Stauntons and a certificate each.

We now had to have a debate, live on Mid West Radio, with Kiltimagh, our topic being "Taking Drugs is a health and personal issue not a matter of law enforcement", our team taking the opposition. The people picked to debate were Siobhan Quinn, Edel Kilcourse, Gearoid Fitzmaurice along with Sheena Forde as a silent researcher. Each speaker had

four minutes to put forward his or her argument which was recorded live on radio. At the end of the evening we were announced as second. Our school won a €1,500 voucher for computers and a trophy. Although we didn't win, we still learned a lot, much of which will be valuable in the future. The success of this project couldn't be achieved without the help of Mrs. Eileen Byrne, Mr. Chris Pratt and Mr. Hugh Rudden.

Sporting Success

The most successful part of our year by far would be the success of our Senior Gaelic Football Team. Our team achieved a Connacht Final victory, the first since 1993 and the third in the history of our school. Our lads also succeeded in achieving the Connaught League title against Banada, Charlestown, and the Flanagan Cup against St. Coleman's College, Claremorris. The team's year began with a good start, with wins against Castlerea, Ballina, Westport and Garbally. They reached the All-Ireland B Championship against Moyne Community School. Although the day didn't work in our favour, none-the-less the lads never gave up. They fought the whole way through like true champions, never giving up. Their courage and determination was clearly seen throughout the match. Of course behind every great football team there are great leaders who guide and show them the way. This was achieved by the following people: Hugh Rudden, Micheál Murren, Anthony Finnerty and Eugene Lavin, to whom our deepest thank you goes.

This year and the last twenty-five years have been a very successful period for us. However, as a school we are sure to achieve more in the future through our sporting and extra-curricular activities. The sky is the limit for our students of the future. Without a doubt the next twenty-five years will provide many more success stories.



Senior Citizens from Ballyhaunis in Knock. L-R: Margaret Greene, Annie Freeley, Tom Coen, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Fleming, Peg Raferty, Florrie Morris, Mary Ellen Dyer, Ms. Jordan, Sr. Enda, Sr. Eithne, Mrs. Regan, Jimmy Noone and Elizabeth Hunt.

From Carn to England to Saudia Arabia and Back

On an October evening at the end of our Indian Summer in 2002, Michael Finn, now living with his wife Mary in Devlis, Ballyhaunis, spoke to Jim Lundon and recalled memories of his interesting life.....

Early years on the land

Growing up in Carn, Charlestown Michael's memories are of farming. Though there was no Irish spoken in the house Irish had a great influence on the language used. Poreen were small potatoes. A tuatóg was a lump of bog made when the cattle walked through it. A young sow with her first litter was a ceisóg. A fuarán was a white flower, which grew to six feet and was fed to turkeys and pigs. Neantógs were nettles. When they were sowing oats and the rain was coming a few stooks would be put together and this was called a smidín. Potatoes were set in ridges, dung put on them, and then they were moulded. When the stalks came up there was the second moulding. In Spring they were sprayed with bluestone and washing soda using a barrel. The smell of copper filled the air.

He recalled the phrase "no rush to a bad market" - if the fair was good, the jobbers would be out the country roads trying to buy cheap cattle before the fair. Irish was still a huge influence on the daily language.

England

Like tens of thousands per year Michael went to England in the early fifties - CIE bus to Dublin, Dun Laoire, Holyhead to Euston Station in London. He recalls his first week's wages in Hemel Hampstead was fourteen pounds a week. Many Irish people lived in digs and worked in the buildings like Michael did from seven thirty in the morning to six o'clock in the evening for six days a week. Weekends it was the Galtymore Ballroom for many Irish people.

Michael settled well and moved to Vauxhall Motors in Luton. The big sellers there were the Vauxhall Victor and Vauxhall Velux at about five hundred pounds each. Along came the Suez Canal crisis in 1956, which sent the price of petrol sky high and led to rationing and loss of jobs. Michael moved on and went to Lincolnshire picking potatoes at thirteen pounds per acre. He actually met an older Sligo man who had picked potatoes for six pounds an acre.

Marriage and Athletics Connection

Michael met Mary his wife, a native of Ballincurry, Co. Tipperary, and they got married in 1958. Mary's brother J. J. Barry the great athlete was called "The Ballincurry Hare", the first Irishman to get a scholarship to Vilanova



J. J. Curry "The Ballincurry Hare".



Siobhan Finn, Devlis now specialising in After Care Heart Surgery in Papworth Hospital, Cambridge.

University in the U.S.A. He held Irish, U.K. and American records in the mile. He raced against Roger Bannister when Bannister broke the first Four-Minute Mile. J. J. sent him a telegram on his success. Bannister sent one back saying that it could have been J. J. that broke the record. Mary and Michael have five children: Mary, Siobháin, John Joe, Michael and Aengus.

In 1970 Michael worked in Galway. He recalls that there was only one Artic truck in Galway at the time. Soon the family were on the move again.

Saudi Calls

In 1981 Michael and family moved to Saudi Arabia. He worked on a pipe-line supplying water to the city of Aljubail in the Arabian Gulf - an area of conflict now. He saw oil tankers half a mile long servicing the biggest oil terminal in the world at Rastanura. There were three Irish firms there, Thermo King, Cross and Dubarry (all Galway Connections). For five years that he was there it was crime free, there were no taxes, the best of roads with high

standards of living. However there were many cultural restrictions that were different to life growing up in Carn.

England Again

It was back to England again where Michael worked in the refurbishment of homes. By this time Knock Airport was opened so Michael and family could be in Mayo in two hours as opposed to the times when it took two full days to come home. Home they came as Michael and Mary decided to come to Ballyhaunis to settle in Devlis. Why Ballyhaunis? Well it's convenient to Knock Airport and the centre of Connaught. They both love it here.

Interests

Michael has always had a passion for gardening and sport particularly Gaelic Football and Athletics. In Athletics Emil Zatopek from Hungary was his all-time favourite while his Irish heroes were Ronnie Delaney, Eamonn Coughlan and Sonia O'Sullivan. He is a great follower of Mayo and Charlestown. His all-time Mayo players are Seán Flanagan, Tom Langan, Padraic Carney, Paddy Prendergast, Eamonn Mongey, Willie Joe Padden and John Morley. His all-time players are Seán Purcell, Mick

O'Connell, Gerry Reilly (Wicklow), John O'Keefe, Gerry O'Malley, Sean Murphy, Pat Spillane, Pakie McCarthy, Mikey Sheehey, and John Egan. Having grown up on a farm and with his experiences in England, Michael had developed a great interest in gardening. He grows all sorts of flowers and plants at his home in Devlis. He became an active member of Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee shortly after arriving here and sees a huge improvement generally in the quality of gardens in Ireland now. He is also an active member of Annagh Magazine Society.

Changes

Michael feels that life didn't change much up to the 1970's. However, he has seen some changes from hand to machine and from horse to tractor on the land, from hand to J.C.B. in the building industry, from bus to plane in travel. He recalls fifteen C.I.E. buses bringing emigrants home three days before Christmas passing through Charlestown.

It's been an interesting journey from Carn to England to Saudia Arabia and back to Ballyhaunis There can't be much in life that he has not seen and maybe we will hear more about it in a future issue of "Annagh"!



St. Joseph's Convent School Choir, December 1974. L-R: Eithne Griffin, Agatha Clarke, Alta Regan, Genevieve Morrissey, Bernadette McGarry, Anne Griffin, Patricia McGarry, Jacqueline Dwane, Mary Regan, Maureen Brennan, Helen Brennan, Cora McGarry, David Dwane.

A Dream Come True

Henry Madden
(Ballyhaunis/Magugu Project)

The obvious fact that strikes the visitor to any Third World country is that all the human being needs to survive is air, water and food. Anything else is a bonus. The air that surrounds us is shared by the animals and every living creature; in many parts of the tropical world the water is too. It's hard for us in our climate to get excited about water but for millions of people world-wide, water, or the lack of it, or the quality of it, can be the difference between life and death.

In the village of Magugu, in Tanzania, the greatest need was clean drinking water. That's why Saturday, 19th January 2002 was a special day, as the workers from the Drilling and Dam Construction Agency, based in Arusha, had returned to begin work on the second well. The first well had been completed just before Christmas, and the bore-hole was concreted and capped, awaiting the arrival of the pumps which had been dispatched from E.P.S. in Ballyhaunis. A terrific flow of clean water was obtained and, as a special treat for my wife Kathleen and myself (who had arrived here the previous Wednesday) they would pump the well for us.

Clean Water

This was no easy task as the electricity had not yet been brought to the site, but ten men hoisted the heavy generator on to a lorry, fitted the pump and motor, attached the cable and piping and lowered the lot into the borehole. The sight of the clean water coming from the 200 feet deep well will forever be etched on our minds. It was a dream come true for the people of this poverty-stricken area, made possible by the people of Ballyhaunis area and friends throughout Ireland and the U.S.A.

Work on the drilling continued each day from dawn to dusk and we watched fascinated as the old Ruston Bucyrus percussion drill inched its way slowly into the African earth. Water was reached at fifteen metres, and it rose to within five metres of the surface. This supply would be used to fit a hand pump, and the water was sealed

with a liner and the drilling continued. On January 24th we travelled to Arusha where, at Africa Bulk Supplies Ltd., we purchased all the electric cable, piping and water fittings needed, along with a 5,000 litre tank for direct drinking water. We contacted the airport in Kilimanjaro, fifty km from here, but the pumps had not arrived.

The following morning there was a phone call from customs informing us that the pumps had arrived in Dar-Es-Salaam, and that duty would have to be paid on them. It would cost 2,000 to release them. In discussion with the customs, I pointed out that these pumps were a gift from Ireland to the poor people of Magugu and that, as such, no duty should be demanded. He would phone me back. He didn't. We decided we would not pay. Months of stalemate would follow. The E.P.S. pumps would not be functioning in the first well before we left for home. It was disappointing. Work began on laying the electric cables and the piping network, and the foundations for a new water tank were laid.

Prayers Answered

On February 4th as we said good-bye to Fr. Barry and our friends in Magugu, the drilling rig had reached a depth of forty metres. Shortly afterwards a breakdown resulted in a ten day delay, but the well was completed at the end of March at a depth of 260 feet. Another terrific flow of water was obtained. Their prayers were answered. All that was needed now were the pumps. Deirdre Moran in E.P.S. was in constant touch with agents and the breakthrough came in May. Fr. Barry drove 600 km to Dar-Es-Salaam, and the pumps were on their way to Magugu. The tax was reduced to 220. In a short time the two wells were operational, and 40,000 litres of clean water a day were being pumped into Magugu. For the first time ever the



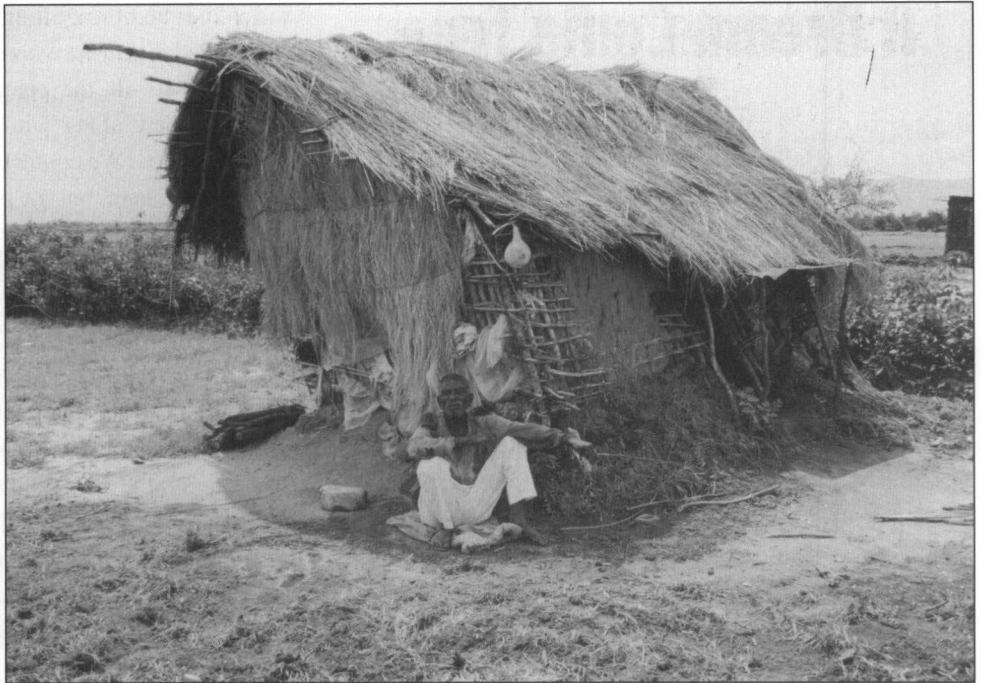
Water being pumped from the first Ballyhaunis/Magugu Well, Jan. 2002.

people coming to collect water could drink it without boiling. "The water is a God-send. I never thought I would see the day when we would have a clean water supply here in Magugu", said the priest who has laboured all his life in tremendously difficult conditions to better the lot of his people.

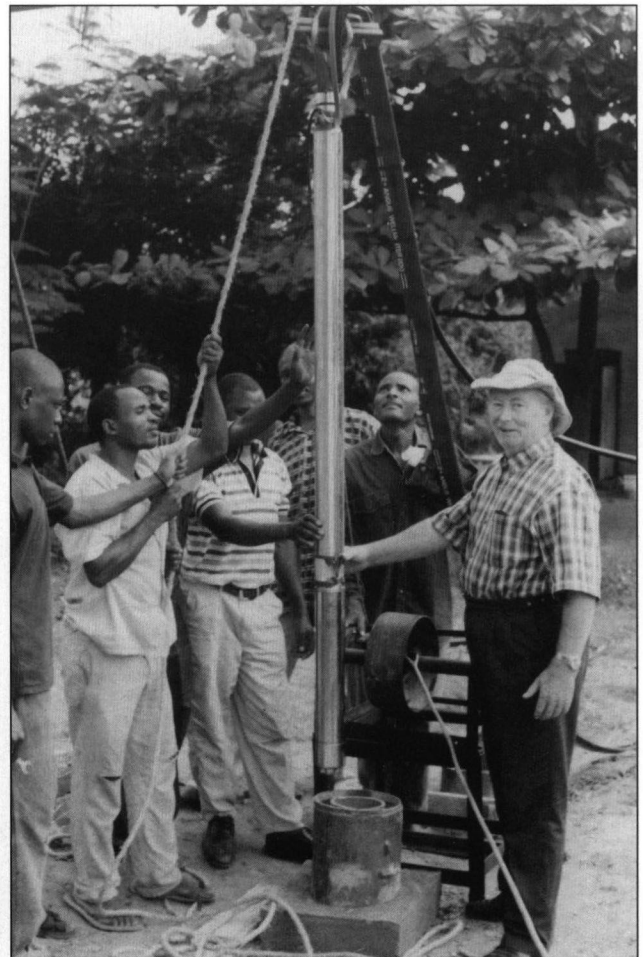
On February 1st we accompanied Fr. Michael on his First Friday calls to the sick, the old and the disabled. As he has done all through his ministry here, he brought food for the body as well as for the soul. He suggested we buy blankets for the "worst cases", and they were distributed throughout a long day. We saw with our own eyes where the Ballyhaunis/Magugu Fund was reaching. Six Euro bought a blanket that would literally last these people for the rest of their lives. As people welcomed us into their dwellings it was distressing to witness the poverty in which they lived. Our own "worst case" was a toss-up between Paschali, lying paralysed in his mud hut and unable to wipe the flies from his face, or Clementi lying on a mat on the floor of his mud hut, wrapped in a blanket.

Ongoing Help

In September 2002, Paulo Musa and his blind mother arrived on Fr. Michael's doorstep looking for help. They were a pitiful sight. Constant hunger and hardship had taken their toll. He was 45 years old but looked over 70; they had known Fr. Michael when he was in Chem Chaw, their home place. They knew he would help them if he could, so they set out on foot to Magugu, 150 km away. It took them three days. Fr. Michael recognised them; two years ago the famine was bad and Paulo and his wife called on their way to relatives in Arusha. Six months later Paulo called again on the way back, minus his wife. She had died in Arusha and in this Third World area you are buried where you fall. This time Paulo was looking for 20,000 shillings (25) to plough his 'shamba', which consisted of two acres, and build a mud hut. Fr. Michael takes up the story: "I was fairly broke at the time and was tempted to give him 10,000 or 15,000, but some instinct told me that a man who came 150 km on foot, with his blind mother, should not be turned away or fail in his mission. So I gave him the full amount. The unfortunate thing here is that there are many more like him, and some even worse off."



A Third World dwelling in Magugu.



Fr. Michael Barry and workers about to lower the Ballyhaunis E.P.S. sponsored pumping equipment into the well, May 2002.

These are the kind of people the Ballyhaunis/Magugu Project is helping, and we intend to help them on an ongoing basis. Your help would be much appreciated by a people who have absolutely nothing.

Washington: A City of Contradictions

Vincent Keane

Jesse Taylor was unsteady on his feet as he approached the podium. His face was weather beaten from long exposure to the sun, his hands calloused from years of manual labour. There was silence as he began to speak: "I arrived in Washington D.C. over sixty years ago, I came from rural North Carolina, all of my belongings were with me in a mule drawn cart." He went on to tell us that he had raised twelve children, and had spent his life laying bricks. Jesse was the first patient to visit our new clinic on Stanton Road (a poor neighbourhood of South East Washington). He told us that this was the first time he visited a doctor in twenty years. He said; "I want to thank all of you, and the good doctor who takes care of me."

Jesse is one of the fifty thousand patients who, each year, visit one of Unity Health Care's network of thirty health clinics scattered throughout Washington D.C. They come to Unity because they are poor or homeless, or they lack health care insurance. They come because they know they will get good care, and be treated with respect and dignity even if they have no money to pay for their care. Jesse Taylor is but one of the many stories that could be told about the good work that is being done by the physicians, dentists, mental health and substance abuse counsellors of Unity each day in Washington D.C.

Since 1987, when I resigned from the priesthood, I have been working in the area of health care for the poor. Since 1990 it has been my privilege to serve as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unity Health Care, Inc. (Unity). I feel that in many ways my work with the poor, the forgotten, and the disadvantaged allows me to continue a ministry of service that is important to my own sense of self-fulfilment. It also provides me with an opportunity to fight for social justice, which is at the heart of the gospel message.

Washington D.C.

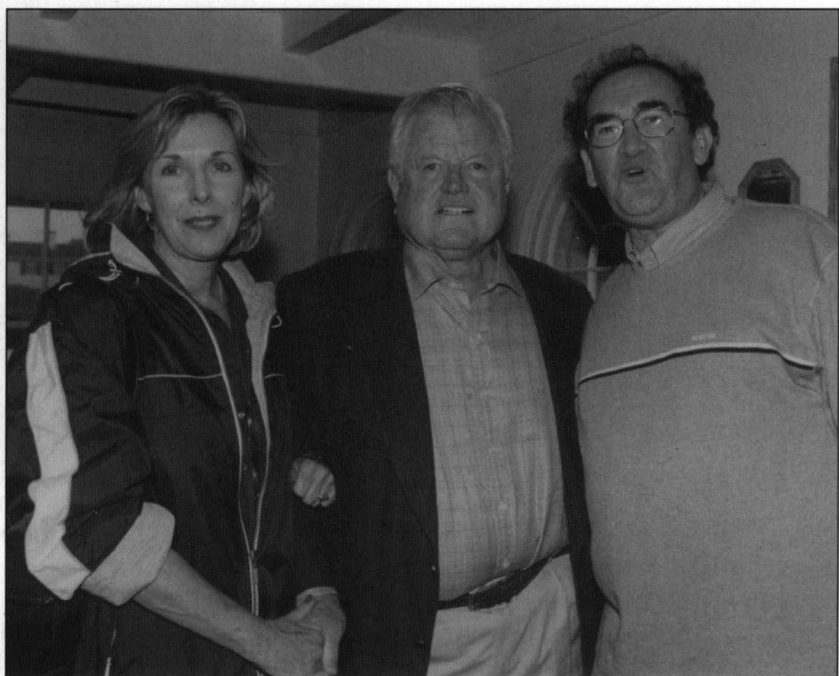
Washington D.C. is a city full of contradictions. Millions of visitors come to our city each year and are captivated

by the beauty of our monuments, the splendour of the White House, the majesty of the lighted dome of the Capitol. Yet, two hundred yards from many of these national landmarks, homeless people sleep on heating grates, children die from lack of basic nutrition and health care, and young people die from gun violence. Last winter alone, five homeless people died from exposure to the cold.

During the month of October this year we have endured the trauma of the "Serial Sniper" in the Washington area. Ten people were killed and three were badly injured. This event got world-wide attention. Yet, during that same period, twenty people were murdered in the city of Washington from random gun violence, stray bullets, or drug related gang wars. Children under the age of one year die at a much greater rate than in any other city in the United States. As the capital of the richest nation in the world it is hard to accept and understand these disparities in social and economic conditions.

The mission of Unity, the organisation that I lead, is to try and address many of these social ills. With a dedicated staff we strive each day to alleviate the human suffering that often lies hidden beyond the beauty of our national monuments. Our job is not only to provide good health care, but to also offer hope to many who feel their lives are hopeless. So many people in today's society feel displaced, the complexity of life often contributes to many becoming lost souls, our job is to build trust so that body and soul can be nourished and healed.

Last year, the Washington D.C. government, because of budget cuts, closed the inpatient wards of a large public



L-R: Shirley Keane, Senator Ted Kennedy, Vincent Keane.

hospital, D.C. General Hospital. This hospital had served the residents of Washington for over one hundred years, and most recently was the only hospital to provide free care to the poor. We at Unity were asked to take over many of the outpatient services of the hospital. By agreeing to do this we took on the care of twenty thousand additional patients, but we were convinced it was essential to take on this challenge in order to maintain a safety net of care those patients who otherwise would have nowhere to go once the hospital was closed.

Unity Cares

On the day of the hospital closing I walked through the hospital and I witnessed staff with tears in their eyes, as they felt the sense of pain and loss that this closure would mean to all the residents of Washington, especially the poor. My memory went back to the time when as a priest I first visited this hospital. I had done so to give the "Last Rites" to a fellow Ballyhaunis man, Tommy Greene of Carrowreagh. Tommy died a few days later. I paused and said a silent prayer for Tommy, and all the other thousands

of people who had passed through the corridors of this historic hospital.

We at Unity are privileged to serve the thousands of people like Jesse who come to us for care. In caring for them we often find our own pathway to healing and wholeness. We are also able to challenge the governmental systems that continue policies which contribute to such disparities and contradictions in Washington, and throughout our nation. We also could not do our job without the strong support of our donors, and many politicians who advocate for our cause each year in the federal budget. One of these is Senator Ted Kennedy, who in keeping with the tradition of the Kennedy family, continues to fight for a more just and equitable society. The day may come when everyone in America will have health insurance coverage, but until that time Unity will continue to care for those who are left behind in Washington D.C.

To the readers of the Annagh Magazine I extend a warm welcome to visit me if you are in Washington D.C., or check us out on the web at www.unityhealthcare.org



This photograph was taken in New Haven, Connecticut, or New York, U.S.A. around 1917, and shows nine men, all from the Ballyhaunis area, and all related to each other. The following list of names is given at the back of the photograph: P. Haverty, M. Toolin, P. Freeley (P.), P. Freeley (T.), T. Freeley (P.), J. Plunkett, P. Mullarkey, F. Freeley, J. Waldron. While all the names seem to be given, they are not in the right order, and it's not clear who is who in every case. The following have been identified: Thomas Freeley (Leow) is second from left in the front row. His brother Patrick Freeley (Leow) is fourth from left in the back row. Their cousin, Patrick Freeley (Scrigg) is in the centre of the back row. Patrick Mullarkey (Bargarrieff) is at extreme right in the front row and behind him is John (or Edward?) Waldron of Redford, back row, extreme right. J. (John) Plunkett, who hasn't been identified in the picture, came from Devils Mill.

Scoil Íosa Primary School Ballyhaunis

Scoil Íosa has been growing and developing since the amalgamation of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Primary Schools in September 2001. Our school motto is 'Ní heart go cur le Chéile' (our strength is in our unity). There are now nineteen teachers and four Special Needs Assistants in the school. The school has ten mainstream teachers, eight Resource Teachers and an Administrative Principal. There are pupils in the school from Ireland, England, Scotland, Pakistan, Syria, Latvia, Croatia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Palestine, Russia, Czech Republic and Nigeria.

The school choir sings every second Sunday in St. Patrick's Parish Church (conducted by Mrs. Ita Fahey). During 2002 the choir sang regularly in Masses broadcast by M.W.R. and on January 6th 2002 on R.T.E. television when the Mass was broadcast from St. Patrick's Parish Church. Pupils have access to Irish Dancing, Music, French (in 5th and 6th classes), Swimming, Gaelic Football, Hurling, School Library, Tag Rugby and our networked Computer Room. Pupils also take part in Quizzes, Art Competitions and fifty of our pupils are Altar Servers in St. Patrick's Parish Church

Teachers

Teachers in the Scoil Íosa are: Mr. Jim Landon (Principal), Ms. Sally Fahy (Deputy Principal) Mr. Augustine Kearns (Assistant Principal), Ms. Betty Regan, Ms. Kathleen Lyons, Mr. Jimmy Duggan, Ms. Caitlín Jennings, Ms. Ita Fahey, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, Ms. Maureen Reddington, Sr. Nora Coleran, Ms. Aisling Toal, Ms. Margaret O'Flaherty, Ms. Marie Byrne, Ms. Ailish Creane, Ms. Stella McGrath, Ms. Mary Fleming, Ms. June Duffy, Ms. Sheena Flanagan.

Special Needs Assistants: Ms. Bridget Lynskey, Mrs. Kay Healy, Ms. Catherine Kelleher, Ms. Marina Coyne.

Board of Management

The Board of Management of the Scoil Íosa is as follows: Fr. Declan Carroll (Chairperson), Mr. John Griffin (Patrons Nominee), Ms. Bridie Waldron (Treasurer/Elected

Parent), Mr. Mike Byrne (Elected Parent), Mr. Jim Landon (Principal), Mr. Jimmy Duggan (Elected Teacher), Sr. Bernardine Morrisroe (Community Representative), Ms. Kay Curley (Community Representative).

Parents Association

The Parents Association of Scoil Íosa, 2001-2002: Christina Concannon (Chairperson), Martin Keane (Vice Chairperson), Manar Cherbatji (Treasurer), Matt O'Dwyer (Secretary), Bernie Lyons (Assistant Secretary), Mike Byrne (P.R.O.); Committee: Bridie Waldron, Marie Jordan, Agatha Higgins, Martina Gallagher, Kevin Henry, James Reidy, Liam Lyons, Pat Ryan.

The Parents Association surveyed all parents regarding the provision of a new uniform for the school. The decision was that girls should wear a gray skirt, pinafore or trousers, blue polo shirt and navy jumper. Boys should wear gray trousers blue polo shirt and navy jumper.

Parents Association for 2002-2003: Kevin Henry (Chairperson), Marie Jordan (Vice Chairperson), Ann Lyons (Secretary), Nuala Nolan (Asst. Secretary), Manar Cherbatji (Treasurer), Mike Byrne (P.R.O.); Committee: Bridie Waldron, Paddy Phillips, Paula Grogan, Pat Ryan, Olive Lyons, Séamus Grogan, Gabrielle Lyons, Sarah Kelly.

First Holy Communion

Children in 2nd Class who received their First Holy Communion on the 18th May 2002 were: John Flynn, Ann Folan, Séan Griffin, Lisa Hunt, Grace Lyons, Maria Lyons,



Scoil Íosa Parents' Association (2001-2002) presenting CD players to School Principal Jim Landon. L-R: Agatha Higgins, Pat Ryan, Christine Concannon (Chairperson), Jim Landon, Kevin Henry, Manar Cherbatji (Treasurer), Mike Byrne (P.R.O.)



Altar Servers (Girls) Back, L-R: Jennifer Lyons, Fiona Freyne, Emma Jenkins, Sarah Jane Lynskey, Sinead Higgins, Orla Lyons, Amy Tighe, Aideen Murray. Third Row, L-R: Clare O'Dwyer, Leanne Lynch, Sinead Healy, Sinead Byrne, Caitriona Cleary, Siobhan Morley, Aisling Kelleher, Lisa Jordan. Sitting, L-R: Siobhan Finn, Ramona Frayne, Robyn Moran, Marie Cleary, Kathleen Maughan, Niamh Lyons, Louise McNamara, Lisa Hunt, Aine Waldron. Front, L-R: Stephanie Mooney, Edel Lynch, Vicki Tighe, Grace Lyons, Maria Lyons.



Altar Servers (Boys) Back, L-R: Liam McDermott, Kevin Moran, Kenneth Murphy, Kevin Morley, Sean Ronayne, Gavin O'Connor, John Lyons. Third Row, L-R: Tadhg Morley, Sean Griffin, Paul Carney, Stephen Cregg, Joseph Flynn, Niall Cribbin, David Lyons. Sitting, L-R: Shane Murphy, Padraic Waldron, Kieran McDermott, Brian Hunt, Gearoid Keane, David Fitzmaurice, Isaac Carroll. Front, L-R: Gerard Grogan, John Flynn. Missing: Ruairi Finan.



Scoil Iosa Primary School Choir, conducted by Mrs. Ita Fahey (far left), who sang at the televised Mass in St. Patrick's Church, in January 2002. Front, L-R: Laura Patterson, Rebekka Johnston, Maura Naughton, Edel Lynch, Leanne Lynch, Niamh Lyons, Ramona Frayne, Ciaran Davey. Second Row, L-R: Lisa Finn, Sinead Byrne, Fiona Freyne, Siobhan Finn, Lisa Jordan, Vicki Tighe, Clare O'Dwyer, Sinead Healy, Robyn Moran. Third Row, L-R: Mrs. Ita Fahey, Isaac Carroll, Michelle Connell, Amy Conroy, Emma Jenkins, Orla Mulcahy, Siobhan Lyons, Aideen Murray, Aisling Kelleher, David Lyons. Fourth Row, L-R: Colleen Waldron, Amy Tighe, Orla Lyons, Paul Higgins, Lydia Concannon, Margaret Cribbin. Back Row, L-R: Joseph Flynn, Noel Byrne, Brian Waldron, Sarah Jane Lyskey, Robert Lilly, Ciara Lyons, Louise Kelleher, Aoife O'Boyle.

Caroline Maughan, Winifred Mongan, Siobhan Morley, Shane Murphy, Martin McDonagh, Louise McNamara, Jennifer O'Neill, Gary Patterson, Áine Waldron, Cathal Walsh. Their Teacher was Ms. Margaret O'Flaherty.

Graduation 2002

Pupils from 6th class who Graduated in June 2002 are as follows: Arslan Afzal, Noel Byrne, Lydia Concannon, Amy Conroy, Robert Cregg, Margaret Cribbin, Niall Feeney, Robert Frayne, John Gallagher, Enda Griffin, Stephen Hoban, Sahira Idress, Isobel Morrissey, Zaheer Javaid-Iqbal, Louise Kelleher, Sharon Kirrane, Robert Lilly, Ciara Lyons, Siobhán Lyons, Orla Mulcahy, Aoifa O'Boyle, James Quinn, Kieran Turner, Brian Waldron, Colleen Waldron, Paul Walsh and Tommy Webb. Their Teacher was Ms Kathleen Lyons. The Graduation Mass was held in the school on the 18th of June 2002 and was celebrated by Fr. Declan Carroll.

Stamps and Tokens Collections

All at St. Íosa thank everyone who helped collect used postage stamps. Two large refuse sacks of stamps have been sent to Oxfam. Funds raised are used to buy water pumps for poverty stricken areas in the Third World.

Thanks also to all who helped collect the tokens in the Irish Independent (Building for the Future). The school got its digital camera in June.

Credit Union Art Winners 2002

The following pupils of Scoil Iosa were winners in the 2002 Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union Poster Competition: Orla Judge (1st, 7 and under); Danielle Byrne (2nd, 7 and under); Lisa Jordan (1st, 8-11); Leanne Lynch (2nd, 8-11); Sammy Asilia (3rd, 8-11); Kamron Afzal (3rd, 11-13).

Pupils Participation

Other activities that Soil Iosa pupils have participated in during the year include: Credit Union Quiz, Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis, 18th January 2002 (5 Teams); Junior Pioneer Quiz in Parochial Hall, 1st February; Sports Quiz in Claremorris (Boys' National School) 6th February (2 Teams); A Team from Scoil Iosa took part in the Tag Rugby Blitz in Sligo R.F.C. on 19th February. Their coach was John Colleran, assisted by Rory Coyne; The Pioneers' Seminar in Knock organised by the Connacht Council of P.T.A.A.; Senior pupils visited the Mosque on 9th May where they were shown around by Manar Cherbatji; Eight

pupils trained by Grainne Freyne won 1st Prize in the Mayo Fleadh Cheoil, Set Dancing Under 12 category in May; The Under 12 Cumann na mBunscoil team took part in a blitz in Ballinasloe on 8th June. Their coaches were Pete Higgins and Ray Lucey. Scoil Íosa took part in the GAA Primary School Indoor Hurling Tournament, held in Barnacarroil Sports Complex on February 8th

Visitors

A very popular and generous Santa paid his first visit to Scoil Íosa on 20th December. The Samba Soccer Road Show visited on 22nd February. The show was presented by Fernando Ederry from Buenos Aires, who described life in Brazil and the huge interest in soccer. The Samba dance movements are incorporated into soccer training. Brazilian Soccer legend, Coutinho, visited the school on the 2nd of May to promote the July Samba Soccer Summer Camp in Ballyhaunis. To celebrate World Book Day, Mayo County Council School Library Department arranged a visit to the Senior pupils by reading promoter Sarah Webb on March 12th. Her theme was "Writing a Book" from the original idea to the final printed book. Musician Seamus Moran, Ballinlough, Claremorris gave a course in percussion and rhythm to the senior classes in Spring. In June, Hugh Rudden, Eugene Lavin and John

Prenty visited the school and brought along the three trophies won by Ballyhaunis Community School during the year: The Flanagan Cup, The Richie Bell Cup and the Connacht League Cup. Pdraig Murray of Cycling Ireland, visited on the 21st June, when he showed the pupils a cycling promotional video.

Mayo County Council Programmes

Mayo County Council Arts Office provided some very enjoyable courses for the pupils during the year. In January 2002 Sue Hawkshaw and Joanne Keegan conducted Drama Workshops for each class. The Arts Office also provided eighteen hours of free visual Arts Classes for the pupils in 5th Class, between February and April. The Presenter was Tania Nally. Mayo County Council also provided a water safety awareness session for the pupils in 3rd and 4th class. Jerome Petite conducted the session in May. On the 31st October 2002 the Principal was informed that Scoil Íosa had been highly commended in the "Tidy Schools Category". The Board of Management is grateful to Mayo County Council and congratulate them on their new initiatives. Finally, we wish all pupils, past and present, every success in the future.



First Communion Class 2002 Pupils from Second Class. Front l-r: Cathal Walsh, Winnie Mongan, Jennifer O'Neill, Lisa Hunt, Louise McNamara, Grace Lyons, Anne Folan, Garry Patterson. Second row l-r: Martin McDonagh, Caroline Maughan, Siobhan Morley, Shane Murphy, John Flynn, Maria Lyons, Aine Waldron, Sean Griffin. Back l-r: Canon J. Cooney P.P., Margaret O'Flaherty (teacher), Fr. Declan Carroll C.C. (photo courtesy of Glynn's)

Ballyhaunis Community Council

Michael Kelly

"Ní neart go cur le chéile" (our strength is in our unity) would be an apt motto for an organisation such as the Community Council, which was formally established in November 2001 when its first AGM took place. For the previous eighteen months or so, an energetic group of people sowed the seeds of the Council preparing the groundwork and identifying tasks and projects for the future. At the AGM a Management Committee of twelve members was elected, some of whom were already involved on the ad-hoc committee and the existing sub-committees, e.g. Tidy Towns, Environment, Resource, Social and Financial, and some 'new blood'.

It was down to business straight away for everybody when in December Fr. Michael Mernagh, O.S.A. invited the Community Council to enter into negotiations with him regarding the future use of the Priory house following the departure of the Augustinian Fathers. A working group was established to explore what could be done and to access funding from statutory agencies. A Community Services Centre was proposed and at least one application bore fruit when the Council was awarded a grant of 5,000 towards the project by the Department of Social & Family Affairs. Subsequently the Council was invited to participate in a partnership with a number of statutory agencies to manage and develop the entire Augustinian property as a facility for the use and enjoyment of the people of the area. Many meetings have taken place and ideas exchanged between the various bodies, and it is fair to say that the work is only beginning.

Meanwhile the Community Council has been active in other areas, liaising with groups such as Childrens' Needs, Active Retirement Group, Childcare Facilities, Family Resource Group and the Tidy Towns Committee.

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

Having entered the Tidy Towns Competition in 2001, Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee decided to fundraise for the 2002 competition. The 'Mystery Man' idea was born. Dressed as

Fred Flintstone, a very well known Ballyhaunis man visited public places around the town for five weeks. Each week a cryptic clue was given until, at the end, it was revealed that Austin Finn was the Mystery Man.

The competition was sponsored by Ryan's Super Valu, Main St., Ballyhaunis. Among the people that helped were John Higgins, Edward Mulhern, Jim London, Enda Murphy, Mary Donnelly, Rita London, Michael Kelly, Rosaleen Kelly, Mary Higgins, Liam Lyons, Frances Mulhern, Dermot Waldron, Sinead London, Una Shields, Noreen Freyne, Peter Jenkins, Marie Cribbin, Gerry Lyons, Seamus O'Boyle. From the proceeds flowers were purchased and set around the twenty-four trees in the town. Equipment was also purchased for the cleaning of the riverbank and car parks by our Refugee and Asylum Seekers 'Keep Ballyhaunis Clean Committee.'

In Spring, through the offices of Gerry Costello, Environmental Officer of Mayo County Council, skips were delivered to the town and collected by Mayo County Council. A monthly audit was done on the town and presented to Mayo County Council. Area Engineer Michael O'Grady toured the town with the Committee to see at first hand the situation. An audit was also presented to Senator Jim Higgins, John Carty, T.D., and Cllr. John Cribbin. Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee attended a public meeting in Claremorris Public Library regarding the outline Development Plan for Mayo and made a submission to it for the Ballyhaunis area.

Local Competition

In June, Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns organised a local competition in three categories - Tidy Pub Front, Tidy Business Front and Tidy Private House Front. It was adjudicated by Mayo County Council under the direction of Sharon Joyce, Environmental Awareness Officer. A function



Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Cleaner Community Award Winners 2002. Back l-r: Peter Gill (Mayo Co. Council), Sharon Joyce (Mayo Co. Council Environment Office), Eddie Murphy, Enda Caulfield, Tim Byrne, Michael Kelly (Community Council Chaiman), Enda Murphy (Tidy Towns Committee, John Gill. Front l-r: Margaret Byrne, May Chu, Susan Laffey, Anne Curley and Paula Donnellan.

was held in July to present the awards, which were presented by Enda Murphy. The food and wine for the occasion was sponsored by Ryan's Super Valu and The Hazel, Main St. The winners were: Tidy Pub Front - 1st Gill's Pub, Clare St.; 2nd Curley's, Bar, Clare St.; 3rd The Hazel, Main St. Tidy Business Front - 1st Phillips' Butcher Shop, Main St.; 2nd Eddie Murphy's, Main St.; 3rd The Mayflower Chinese Restaurant, Clare St.; Tidy Private House - 1st Enda Caulfield, Knock Road; 2nd Susan and Paddy Laffey, Abbey St.; 3rd Paula and Paul Donnellan, Clare St.

In September the Tidy Towns 2002 report was issued and our marks increased from 181 to 190. The following are the highlights from the report:

Tidy Towns Report 2002

Overall Developmental Approach

"Thank you for your detailed map and comprehensive list of objectives as recommended in last year's report. Ballyhaunis is undergoing a total makeover. The 'feel-good' factor gained from successful implementation of last year's proposals is very much in evidence in the town. On the day of adjudication, a number of prime commercial properties were being painted. The colour scheme complements the town's character. The continuation of monthly meetings with Mayo Co. Council to monitor improvements is strongly advisable. Liaison between the Local Authority, schools, FAS and the community in the town is an excellent means by which experience, ideas can be exchanged and more importantly maintained. The town has acquired a 'Tidy Town' ethos. Well done PRO!"

The Built Environment

"The town has become more pedestrianised due to the fortuitous development of convenient car parks. For this reason the many fine premises around the Square are handsomely exposed. The Bank of Ireland and McGarry's Drapery looked particularly well. Clare St. is indeed a

revelation with a number of tastefully painted buildings stretching as far as the Public Library and Fire Station. Improvements need to take place beyond this point. Abbey St. boasts the superb Friary with its manicured lawns and decorative borders. The Convent school grounds are impeccable. The majority of commercial premises on the outskirts of the town were dull in appearance. Gill's Bar on Clare St. has been nominated for a regional/national award with its well-preserved upper storey and its traditional sign shop front and lettering. Its gleaming windows and window boxes are most eye-catching. The church and its grounds are flawless."

Landscaping

"The walk alongside the Clare River is crying out for further development. Now that the clearing is nearing completion, the value of this amenity cannot be overstated. The Committee should consider developing a number of designated walks around the town for the enjoyment and pleasure of its residents. Flowers set around trees along the main street complement the decorative lighting. However there are areas where landscaping is in a state of neglect. The flowerbed at the intersection under the bridge is totally overgrown. The grass along approach roads from Castlereagh and Knock needs to be cut. The entrance to Beech Park estate was well maintained. An agency needs to take responsibility for the green area surrounding the Railway Station."

Wildlife and Natural Amenities

"Not a great deal seems to have been undertaken this year. Please furnish us with information on the entry form so that it can be assessed. Ballyhaunis and its environs are rich in urban, wetland, woodland and grassland habitats. This is certainly a project that you could get schools involved in."

Litter Control

"The provision of new litter bins at regular intervals along Main St. have helped to alleviate the litter problem. However,

Tidy Towns Results Date of Adjudication: 27th June 2002	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Development Approach	50	41	39
The Built Environment	40	27	25
Landscaping	40	28	28
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	15	15
Litter Control	40	22	21
Tidiness	20	9	8
Residential Areas	30	20	19
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	21	21
General Impression	10	7	6
TOTAL MARK	300	190	182

litter was observed in car parks and side-streets. The existing Litter Management Plan must be reviewed."

Tidiness

"Ballyhaunis has been transformed with the re-organisation of car parking, attractive kerbing, lighting, paving and appropriate tree planting. However, the poor presentation of major industrial premises on the outskirts of the town diminish the high standard achieved by individual properties in the town centre. The car park is under-utilised and unkempt."

Residential Areas

"Most of the residences along Main St. and the Knock Road are generally well looked after and should be a source of pride to their owners. There are a number of new housing estates under construction that, when completed, should enhance the town further."

Roads, Streets and Back Areas

"New paving and kerbing adds to the appearance of the town considerably and one would like to see this extended. Car parks need urgent attention. Surfaces along major approach roads are quite good with the exception of the Galway route that appeared uneven. Plans to improve Barrack Street are encouraged."

General Impression

"The efforts of the Committee to involve all sectors of the community in the presentation of Ballyhaunis are commendable. The Square has cultivated a cosmopolitan

feel and plans to erect a bronze sculpture will greatly enhance this focal point. The initiative to organise a 'Best Window Display' competition during the Ballyhaunis Music Festival heightens awareness of Tidy Towns considerably. The side streets and open spaces in almost all housing estates would benefit from additional tree planting. Screening unattractive premises with trees is advisable. All good wishes with further developments."

The Committee wishes to thank John Carty T.D., Councillor John Cribbin and Senator Jim Higgins for all their help.

Strong, United Voice

As stated at the outset 'our strength is in our unity', and the Community Council is open for membership to everybody for a very nominal membership fee. It can only thrive on the co-operation and support of the community at large. There is no limit to the initiatives and projects that can be undertaken and achieved if enough people are prepared to come on board and make their time and talents available. With a strong, united voice at local level, pressure can be exerted on public bodies and agencies for a variety of services and the benefits for the wider community can be enormous. Anyone interested in becoming involved should contact any member of the Management committee listed below.

Management Committee: Honorary President - Fr. Joseph Cooney; Chairman - Michael Kelly; Secretary - Mary Donnelly; Joint Treasurers - Kevin Henry and Nell Rochford; Committee - Breda Murray, Willie Ryan, Maire Caulfield, Edward Mulhern, Deirdre Moran, Liam Lyons, Pat Gaffney, Seamus O'Boyle.



Mystery Man Competition. Presentation to Martina Waldron on behalf of her father Austin (Carrownedan) by sponsor Pat Ryan, Supervalu. L-R: Mary Donnelly, Seamus O'Boyle, Jim London, Austin Finn, Edward Mulhern, Pat Ryan, Gerry Lyons, Martina Waldron and Eileen Waldron.

On Being Sixty

Anthony Jordan

I never imagined that I would become sixty years old. But it came to pass and I did nothing to halt its arrival, on 15th April 2002. In fact, I considered myself lucky to reach such a milestone, as my father, whom I never knew, died aged fifty in the blizzard year of 1942, leaving my mother with six children to rear. My older sister, Josephine, died two years ago.

The most immediate thing I looked forward to on my birthday was a phone call from Tony Greene in America. Tony was a contemporary of mine from Pollnacraoghy in Lower Knox Street, Ballyhaunis. As youngsters, we played football and hurling in the Lochán or on the street, using the poles at Jimmy Byrne's house and Brody Morley's butcher's shop as goalposts. We had collected hazel nuts from the woods near the Giant's Hollow at the rear of John Morley's lands, opposite Annagh Lake.

Tony and I had served our country in far-flung places like Finner Camp, Ballyshannon and Custume Barracks, Athlone. We had enjoyed those lovely Scottish girls tutoring us in the Gay Gordons, as we danced the whole night through, in beautiful Bundoran, before walking back to Camp to don our uniforms for dawn manoeuvres. So many memories, such happy time, so much to reminisce about. As good as his word, as ever, the call came and we laughed and talked and laughed again, and promised that we must meet, before, before the gap grew much longer. "Tell him to come next week", Tony's wife, Pauline shouted over the phone, "you're off next week!" Tony told me that he recently had the pleasure and privilege of putting his own surname on the road on which he lives – Green Avenue!

A Modest Celebration

My family, wife Mary and daughters Judith and Fiona, had our usual modest birthday celebration at home. I was quite satisfied with that. Judith told me that she and her sister were taking Mary and I out to dinner on the following Friday night. Afterwards we were all to attend a concert featuring the songs of Frank Sinatra at the National Concert Hall. Mary and I were habitual concertgoers, and had our favourite row. She was unsure, saying that the tickets were to be collected on the night. During the week I decided to check our precise location. When I called the N.C.H. and gave Judith's name as reference, the lady had difficulty in locating our seats. In fact she could not make a reference at all with Judith's name. I phoned Judith at work to tell her of my difficulty. She asked me to leave it to her and she would ring the Hall herself and give them her credit card number as reference. She later told me that the Hall had taken her name as Gordon rather than Jordan. The four tickets were in row V, which was close enough to where we normally sat.

When talking earlier to Tony Greene, I had promised to send him a copy of my biography of Christy Brown. I mislaid his address and phoned his brother-in-law Joe Keane, our own next-door neighbour in Ballyhaunis. I got the information and chatted briefly to Joe.

Familiar Faces

On the Friday night, as usual, we were running somewhat late and as we waited to be called to our table at the nearby Bewley's Hotel in Ballsbridge, I was getting restless. Latecomers at the Concert Hall had to wait until the intermission to gain entry. It was seven o'clock, as Judith again approached the reception desk, to check on table availability. I told Fiona that if we were not called within the next five minutes, there was no possibility of us dining and making the concert in time. She conveyed my concerns to her sister. Mary was saying nothing, though I knew she was aware of my increasing agitation. Judith went again to the reception desk, though I asked myself what was the purpose of that, as the staff there, were hardly controlling access to tables in the restaurant. As she returned to us, Judith said that the table was almost ready and we should proceed down the staircase and take a seat there. We did so and had sight of the staircase and in the distance, the restaurant. Mary and I and Fiona were sitting there a matter of moments, when I saw my younger brother Jimmy, from Manchester, coming down the stairway. I commented on this fact to Mary, who made no response. Yes, it was Jimmy, no doubt! Before we had time to react and question what he was doing here, I saw my brother Tommy, from Ballyhaunis, come down the stairs, followed by his wife, Mary. At that very late stage, the penny dropped and it dawned on me that these arrivals had something to do with me. My wife was also by this time, coming to the same conclusion. Greetings, handshakes, hugs and kisses proliferated, as it dawned on me that Mary and I had been taken-in by all the family. Judith and Fiona had conspired with them, to mark the occasion in a way I never contemplated nor thought possible. We were not going to the Concert Hall, Judith assured me. That was a ruse. "I nearly exploded that day when you told me you had been on to the Concert Hall, checking on the tickets", she said, "you nearly blew the whole thing."

We moved positions to allow the whole group to sit and order drinks. I wondered whether there would be any more surprises, but thought it better to say nothing. I knew my sister Bernie would not be able to travel from Kilmeevee. Dinner would be in about a half hour, Judith said, ordering me to relax. Just as we were toasting the birthday, my brother Paddy, the Elder of our family, and his wife Mena, arrived from Birmingham. More consternations from me, and a repeat of the above greetings. When we eventually got to the restaurant, we were seated at a large round table, where it was most congenial for everybody to participate equally in the conversation. Much steak and beer and wine were consumed, as the hours sped by. One item I recalled, and

retold, was the fact that Joe Keane, whom I had spoken to earlier that day, was probably well aware that his neighbours were then travelling to Dublin, as a surprise for my birthday, and kept quiet about it. "Well done" Joseph! A turn of phrase used by my sister-in-law from Cuslough, Mena McGee, that evening sounded absolutely unique to me. She was describing the old days in the country, when one would be finished in the house with water in a basin, and wanted to get rid of it: the thing to do was go to the door and give it street liberty, she said. Later that night, we adjourned to our own house for more talk and wine, until the small hours of the morning, before those billeted in the hotel returned there.

Man Missing!

Saturday was supposed to be a free day, or so I was led to believe. The three spouses went shopping to nearby Blackrock. Paddy and Jimmy, later to be joined by Judith, went to a local watering hole to watch Manchester United play Chelsea on Sky, in an afternoon kick-off match. Tommy and I watched the horse racing on Channel 4, before he decided to take a short walk to his hotel. He was due to return within the half hour for a trip, with me, to Kilmainham Jail. Over an hour and a half later the three women returned from Blackrock. No sign of Tommy. Had he got lost? Hardly! Maybe he joined the others in the pub? Probably. The three ladies decided to visit the pub to check. They found the two brothers and Judith having lunch, but no sign of Tommy. Judith phoned me to check if he had returned. No, he had not. Some mild concern; where was that man? About ten minutes later, Tommy arrived back at the house. I did not inform him that a search party was then scouring Sandymount for him. On his way back from the hotel, he decided that he would fancy his inaugural trip on the Dart. Checking the timetable and, in consultation with the local "Dartman", he decided that Howth or Bray would be too far away, given his schedule, but he thought Dun Laoire would be grand. That is what he did, a quick trip southwards, to the sight of the old familiar mail-boat harbour of the Princess Maud, et al. Within minutes the search squad arrived back, manless, but happy to hear that he who was not lost, had returned. The three footballers remained off side.

Kilmainham Jail

Kilmainham Jail is unique as an unoccupied place of detention, which retains all the atmosphere and horror of prison. It is often in demand by filmmakers. It was built to house hundreds of prisoners, but often incarcerated thousands of men, women and children. Many famous prisoners passed through its doors, often emerging in body bags for burial in mass graves. Some though, received better treatment than others, being housed in sitting room style accommodation, rather than bleak cells. Two Mayo men shared that contrast: John McBride the latter and Michael Davitt the former. I took a photograph of Tommy Jordan in the sitting room occupied by Davitt, and also the

location in the prison yard where McBride was executed in 1916. It is a huge prison rescued from ruin by a voluntary effort, but now thankfully maintained by the Office of Public Works. Tommy Jordan felt privileged to visit the place which carries so much of our history. I look forward to seeing the numerous photographs we took.

Ballyhaunis Greetings

We were to have dinner at home that Saturday evening, cooked by Judith and Fiona. I saw rather elaborate preparations being made in the kitchen, lots of food and wine. Our visitors decided to go to seven o'clock Mass, in our Star of the Sea Church. I ferried some of them there and intended to retrieve them afterwards. But Mary told me that I should open the various presents and cards the visitors had brought from themselves, and other well wishers and relatives from home, including an elaborately inscribed pen from my god-daughter, Ann Ryan. Sister Assumpta, a stalwart of the Ballyhaunis community and Finola Leetch, from the very distant past of the October Devotions in the Parish Church, were also represented. As Mary arrived back with her charges, I was busy opening boxes and envelopes and reading cards. I heard several people come into the house and thought nothing about it. Then, after a little while Mary came to me and advised me that there were people here to see me. "What do you mean?" I asked. "Come out and you'll see", she replied. I emerged to see several more visitors in the sitting room; people I knew well, but had no idea were coming to the house. I was very surprised, taken aback. I thought the surprises were over. But no, for the next hour, up to twenty friends arrived to join in the celebrations. Evidently, my two daughters had proved arch conspirators with all these people too. It was wonderful. As I greeted one person or couple after another, my happiness grew, as I saw how so many facets of my life being represented. I was also becoming rather nervous. I knew that I would have been expected to say a few words that evening, to mark the occasion, but I had expected those to be addressed to family only. This was to make it very different. The presents too overpowered me. I was not used to, nor had I ever expected to be the centre of attraction on an occasion like this. But here I was, and there they were. What to say, how to say it?

Canine Visit

The proceedings within the house had an immediate affect on a most important family member, one Michael Murphy, alias, our dog, the apple of my eye. He had earlier been consigned to the glasshouse by my wife, as he was prone to be over friendly with visitors and might ruin some fine apparel. However, one female guest, who shall remain nameless, but who had heard much about Murphy, insisted on making his acquaintance. I took her out to the back garden and opened the glasshouse. Murphy did his usual friendly act, and the recipient loved it. Judith and Fiona had been hard at work in the kitchen, as we had passed

through on our mission. I learned subsequently that after five or ten minutes, my daughters noticed that we had not returned and wondered what might be afoot in the back garden! Fiona, being a font of wisdom, cautioned a non-interventionist role. Judith, being the executive type, decided that it might be wise to "check it out". She went to the back door and found, to her surprise and amusement that it was locked from the inside. However it happened, they both missed our re-entrance, after the brief canine visit.

But first, there was a buffet dinner. How had I been so obtuse? I had seen the extent of food and wine, but had not suspected anything. Maybe that was the way you got when you arrived at sixty? Why had no one warned me? So much to say to so many people, to people who were really precious to me, from so many facets of my life, going back many, many years. I wrote down two lines from G. K. Chesterton, which I intended to quote at the end of my cupla focail. One friend, an ex-Chairman of my School Board, had brought a book inscribed with words from Willie Yeats' poem, 'Among School Children', ".....the children's eyes, In momentary wonder, stare upon a sixty-year-old, smiling public man on being sixty". He also added, "Ego labores feci. Alter tulit honores".

In Closing

I had to circulate to give everybody attention and time. It was such fun and all appeared to be enjoying themselves and my reaction to being so taken aback, especially my two beautiful daughters. All of them were part of the conspiracy, some for weeks past, and some whom I had met in the intervening period! When the time came for me to speak, I did not know what I was going to say. Then I saw a dear friend from my youth, who had travelled from Limerick for the occasion. I thought of my father, and his father - Bob Holmes, late of the Ulster Bank on Bridge Street - from whom I learned how much I had missed by not knowing a father's presence in the family. For the first time I articulated those thoughts. It was a measure of how assured I was in that company of friends and family. I thanked all for coming, thanked Judith and Fiona, and most of all Mary, my dear wife, whom I was so lucky to find in that dance hall in Tooreen, some years ago, with Tommy, his Mary and Bernie. I ended with Chesterton's words and my hope for all present: "For there is good news yet to hear, and fine things to be seen, before we go to Paradise, by way of Kensal Green."



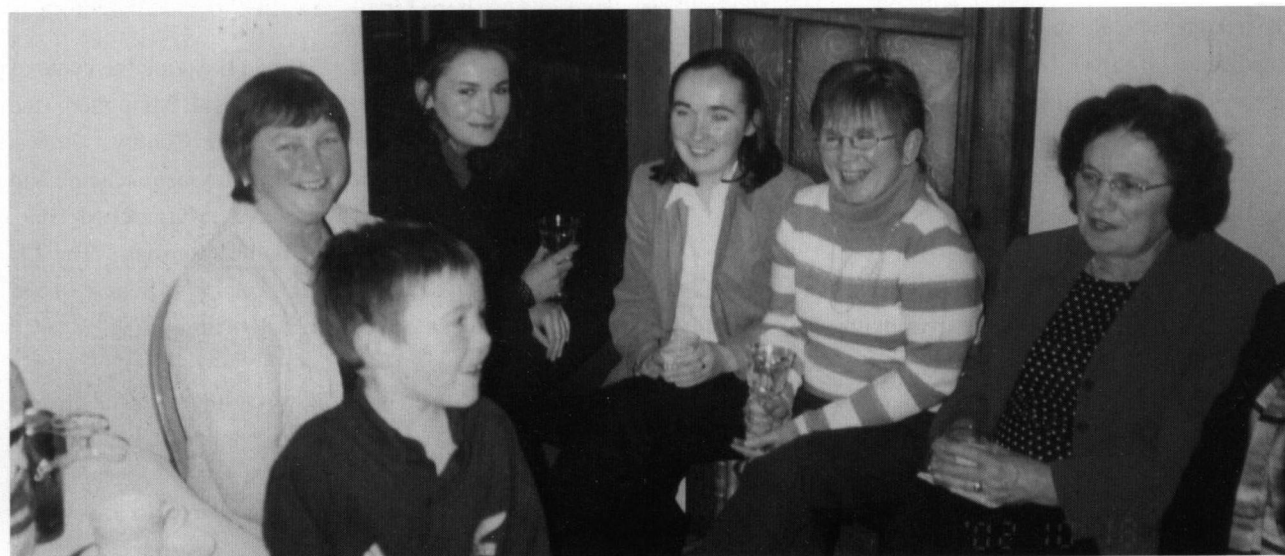
A Ballyhaunis Football team, c.1939-40 Back, L-R: Liam Smyth (Knox St.), Joe "Ginger" Walsh (Barrack St.), Paddy Walsh (Barrack St.), Kevin O'Connell (Bridge St.), Jarlath Waldron (Main St.), Oliver Cooney (Abbeyquarter), Tom Byrne (Main St.), Patrick Duffy (Annagh), Vincent Caulfield (Upper Main St.), Tom Buckley (Abbeyquarter). Middle, L-R: Paddy Henry (Devlis), Paddy Hunt (Clare St.), Kevin Walsh (Barrack St.), Frank Waldron (Knox St.), ___ Keane (Knock)?, Seamus Salmon (Coogue). Front, L-R: Seamus O'Connell (Bridge St.), Mark Waldron (Cave). Photo courtesy of Paddy Henry.



'The First Gig', Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis. Standing: John Conway (Pre Riviera), sitting: Pat Halpin (Pre Niagra)



The Greally's of Drimbane. L-R: Luke (RIP), Michael (RIP), Gus and John Stephen.



Jordan Stations, Lecarrow October 2002 L-R: Christina Concannon, John Cribbin, Catherine Higgins, Nuala Higgins, Marie Brennan, Mary Fahy.



Lecarrow Stations 2002. L-R: Karen Jordan, Michael Jordan, Fr. Declan Carroll C.C., Marie Jordan, Lisa Jordan, Colin Jordan.

No. 30 Tooraree... What Is Going On?

Pat Higgins

I am sure that those who regularly travel the Island road through Tooraree housing estate couldn't fail to notice that No. 30 Tooraree stands out in contrast to the sheer devastation of the rest of that once proud estate of public housing. No 30 Tooraree, the last house in the row, looks well maintained, and its garden is occupied by two well-maintained porta-cabins. Its driveway and the road outside are always lined with cars.

If such passer-by pauses to listen, he or she will hear the lively hum of women in activity driven conversation and the laughter of children in the enjoyment of play. Since the opportunity of pausing to listen outside 30 Tooraree would, at most, be limited to the few who own land or are resident in the Island area, such pausing, and listening, and wondering, would not have occurred for most of the population of Ballyhaunis.

When asked by the Editorial Committee to contribute an article to this, the 25th edition of Annagh, I decided that instead of a review of the years since my Annagh Editor days, that I should take the lid off what is happening at No 30 Tooraree, formerly the home of my mother's late cousins, Baby and Anne Glynn, and invite the general Ballyhaunis public inside its gates and doors to experience developments which I believe are as significant for Ballyhaunis and its Traveller Community as was, to the whole Irish nation, the announcement of free Secondary education by the late, Education Minister, Donagh O'Malley.

O'Malley's initiative revolutionised Irish society by making Second Level education available to all children, thereby opening up career opportunities to young people who could never have dreamed of them before. The developments at 30 Tooraree, are, I believe, as significant to our adult Traveller community. What is this initiative? What are those developments?

Developing at No 30 Tooraree is

what is called an STTC; [a Senior Traveller Training Centre]; an initiative under the management of Mayo Vocational Education Committee for the second chance education and training of adult travellers, most of whom either for family financial reasons, traveller community tradition reasons, or an excluding sense of difference, dropped out of school at so early an age that, frequently, only the rudiments of writing and numeracy skills had been acquired; and sometimes not even those.

Developing at 30 Tooraree, also, are Crèche and Preschool facilities and services, which are such necessary support services to any return to education and training programme. Adult Education services would not be adult and family friendly without such support services and many parents, and most particularly, many mothers would be excluded from participation.

The Beginnings - Sonas

The project was started in 1999 as a breaking the cycle of marginalisation initiative by Meitheal Mhuigheo, the Local Development company for the County. It was financed as a FAS Community Employment scheme and co-ordinated by Mercy Order Sister, Margaret McHale, with Mary Jackson of Ballina as her assistant. The CE Scheme was in two parts, under the name of Sonas; one in Castlebar and the other here in Ballyhaunis.

The Ballyhaunis Sonas was the first to get off the ground as the Castlebar one was delayed by opponents protesting at its siting in a town housing estate. Mayo County Council made a rural property available to it and Sr. Margaret took up residence so that her permanent presence would allay fears that the property might be used for other than education and training purposes.



Front Row: Winnie Mongan, Eileen Maughan, Pat Higgins, AEO, Mayo VEC, Teresa Maughan, Margaret P. Cleary, Bridget McDonagh. Back Row: Mairead Allen, Kathleen Daly, Kathleen Maughan, Mary Maughan, Rebecca Maughan.

Meanwhile Mary Jackson took up her position as the supervisor of the Ballyhaunis Sonas Centre. Many difficulties had to be overcome to get the project off the ground such as a distrust by the traveller families themselves as to what they would be getting themselves into. As one gets to know Mary one realises her sensitivities to such distrust and her tremendous skills at reassuring and confidence building. From slow beginnings Mary grew the number of participants and took on part-time tutors in a range of skills in which the participants sought instruction and needed tutition. Mary is strong in her compliments to Mayo VEC Adult Services and particularly to ALO, Marian Cusack for their much needed help, encouragement and services over the years.

Skills and Self Development

As participants developed these practical skills their confidence grew and they sought progression to other skills and higher standards. As I entered the STTC Room at the Tooraree Centre last week the delicious smell of Christmas cake baking wafted around me. When I spoke with the students, they spoke appreciatively of acquiring those skills but more tellingly they were unanimous and adamant about what they regarded as the most useful of skills acquired, the skill of listening and the skill of concentration. As student Winnie Mongan told me; traveller women generally marry at a young age, she herself married at 17; and from then on, as family arrives they have little opportunity to meet with other women, and to share experiences, worries, concerns, sorrows and joys. Sonas and now St. Catherine's STTC has given them this opportunity. They are unanimous in their view that "getting out of the house" and "getting together with other women" are as important as the other practical skills being learned. Eileen Maughan of Ashling Drive told me that she has had quite a variety of self-development experience through Sonas and now through the STTC. She said that as well as the general training programme, and the opportunity to meet each other at this Centre, they also had opportunities to work on county committees and to get to know women from other towns. She herself had the opportunity to make a public address to an audience of several hundred people from other organisations, state



Kathleen Daly, Winnie Mongan and Margaret C. Cleary Crocheting Cot Quilts

agencies and general public, which was challenging and rewarding in self esteem. This she said was something that she would have found difficult to do in the past. Another achievement was that of Sonas participant, Mary Lawrence, of Circular Road, Ballyhaunis, who was conferred with her National Diploma in Community Development at National University of Ireland, Galway. This course was out-reached to Mayo by NUIGalway in co-operation with IRD Kiltimagh and Mayo VEC Adult Education Services. Mary has since served as a member of the Traveller Health Unit of the Western Health Board, through which she trained as a facilitator to facilitate with Health Board Officials, the Traveller Friendly Workshops throughout the Western Health Board Area.

The STTC Participants

The most senior participant is Great Grandmother Bridget Mc Donagh, of Tooraree and formerly of Galway, who is joined by her daughter Winnie Mongan and Winnie's daughter, Mairead Allen. Also present during my visit was Kathleen Keogh, formally McDonagh [Bridget's daughter], now living in Dublin; where Kathleen, an Irish speaker, works as Childcare Assistant, at St. Kevin's in Killnamanagh, a Gael Scoil Naoinra, for 0 to 7-year olds, having acquired her professional childcare qualification through City and Guilds. She said that she experienced no difficulty in being accepted at the school as a traveller. The rest of the group were unanimous in their view that they find the general Ballyhaunis community accepting of them and friendly to them as travellers. When asked about her experience of visiting the Ballyhaunis STTC Centre, Kathleen, who was on a visit to her parents, Martin and Bridget, says "there is a wonderful atmosphere of support,

friendship and the opportunity to have a laugh". She says that from her experience of similar initiatives in Dublin the opportunity to have a laugh is as important as any other. Another family group at the Centre is the three sisters, and former Community School students, Margaret P. Cleary, Kathleen Daly, and Mary Maughan of Cherryfield. Margaret C. Cleary of Stone Street is also a member and a volunteer helper at the Sonas Preschool in the main building at 30 Tooraree. Margaret, as well as being a student at the VEC's STTC, has already successfully completed the IPPA Basic Course in Childcare and has just been accepted on to the 2-year FECTAC Level 2 Childcare evening course which is a joint initiative between Mayo County Childcare Committee, Mayo V.E.C., and Ballyhaunis Community School. Other participants are Rose McDonagh of Abbey Quarter another Ballyhaunis native; another former Community School student, Rebecca Maughan of Station Rise; Kathleen Maughan formerly McDonagh of Tooraree; Ellen McDonagh, formerly of Tuam now married to a Ballyhaunis man and living here; May Cleary mother-in-law of the two Margaret Clearys and her daughter Maureen; Bridget Maughan, wife of Owen, Cherryfield and Teresa Maughan, wife of Terry, Cherryfield.

Blessed Among Women

When I commented that there wasn't a male adult traveller in sight the women laughed at me being "blessed among women.". However, the subject of the lack of similar facilities for men soon returns a serious note to the discussions. Kathleen Keogh tells us that similar opportunities, as those for women at Tooraree, are available in the Dublin area for the male travellers, particularly the male teenage travellers. The other women are unanimous in the view of the importance of expanding the current initiative to provide training and education for the male travellers. All agree that it is important that this be done, as a matter of urgency, for the male teenage travellers, in particular. As they discuss this they all agree that males generally, whether settled or traveller, have a difficulty in sharing their real feelings, even among themselves, and they call for a programme similar to theirs for the male teenage travellers. When I comment to Margaret, Kathleen and Mary that their Dad, Ted Maughan, is a renowned tin smith as was Winnie's father-in-law, the late Martin Mongan, they all regret that the sons of these great craftsmen have not followed in the trade and they wonder if something could be done about it.

The Sonas Crèche

As I said earlier the Sonas Crèche is a vital barrier breaking ancillary service for any return to education

program for adults. This is a Meitheal Mhuigheo initiative, and is under the management of local woman Barbara Plunkett. The well equipped brightly painted facility belies the crèches difficult birth. Indeed, its current lovely condition is thanks to the initiative and hard work of Barbara and her then assistant Alma Gallagher, who is now putting that experience to good use as Dyslexia Project Leader with Moy Valley Resources. The crèche began as a two-session service; 9.30 to 2pm and 3pm to 5pm. When the STTC developed it was necessary to change the nature of the service to a Full-Day Care service. The service is now operating to its maximum, which is 9 children, 4 of whom are babies. Such high proportion of babies is labour-intensive; with two members of staff dedicated to their care. Seven of the nine are traveller children and two are from other communities, one from the Pakistani community and one from the Asylum Seeking community, who is of Croatian nationality. The ethos of the crèche is quality childcare and self development activity and play. The Staff are employees of Meitheal Mhuigheo. The Crèche Management Committee comprises Mary Conlon, Meitheal Mhuigheo; Stephen Grogan, East Mayo LDP; Pat Higgins, Mayo VEC; Mary Jackson, STTC; Barbara Plunkett, Manager; and two Service Users [to be elected]

The Sonas Pre-school

The Sonas Pre-school operates within the main building of 30 Tooraree. It was founded in 1999 and opened in September of that year. The driving force behind its foundation was Mercy Order member, Sr. Geraldine, who is attached to Scoil Iosa. Currently it has one staff member, Manager, Anne Lyons of Knockbrack. This post is 98% funded by Department of Education and Science. Further costs have to be funded from elsewhere. Mayo VEC grant aids the services provided to STTC participants by this facility and by the Crèche. This service caters for children from about three or three-and-a-half years. Five children are attending on a regular basis currently and the service can cater for a maximum of eight. The Pre-school Management Committee comprises, Moira Noone, Chairperson; Sr. Geraldine, Secretary; Betty Regan, Treasurer; Stephen Grogan, East Mayo LDP; Mary Jackson, STTC; Anne Lyons, Manager, and two Service Users [to be elected]. Activities include social skills development, such as caring, listening, sharing; concentration skills and conceptual thought through activity; observed free play; responsibility-taking, and self esteem activities such as a daily role of classroom helper.

We wish all the participants and workers on these important projects the greatest success into the future.

Ballyhaunis Golf Club

The year 2002 for Ballyhaunis Golf Club will be remembered as a most successful year on many fronts under the guidance of Club Captain Mr. John Collins, Lady Captain Mrs. Phil Glynn and President Mr. Michael Maloney.

On the golfing front the year saw a first ever win for Ballyhaunis in the men's section of the Connacht Shield with a six four win over forty years ago. The Ballyhaunis win was akin to Armagh's win in the All-Ireland Football Championship.

The Club's major prizes won by Tommy Grogan (Captains Prize), Eamonn Mulrennan (Presidents Prize) and Kay Buckley (Lady Captains Prize).

On the commercial front, the club continues with its plans for an eighteen hole golf course. To this end it ran a most successful fundraising draw under the direction of Finance Officer Siobhan Herr. The support of

members and the wider community was most appreciated.

A page of history was turned on Ballyhaunis Golf Club with the death of our landlady Mrs. Kathleen Flynn (nee Cassidy) last Spring. Kathleen was more than a landlady, she was a noted golfer in her younger years and had the pleasure of playing with Christy O'Connor Snr many times over. Ballyhaunis Golf Course. May she rest in peace.

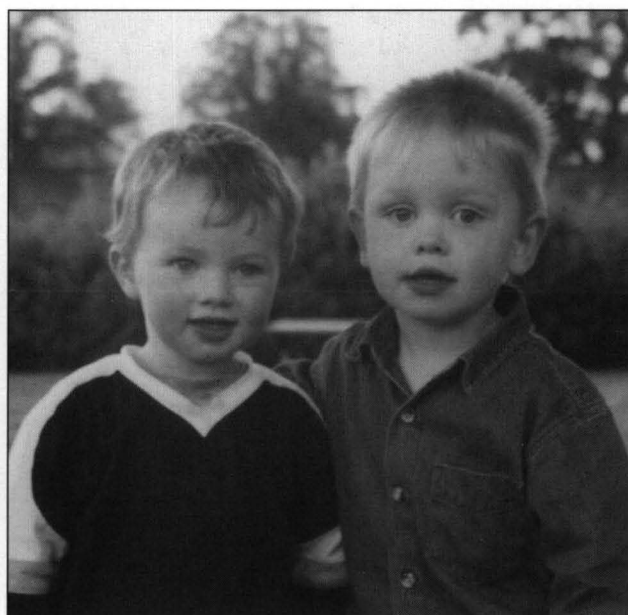
In June we had the untimely death of Rita Mooney who was Lady Captain in 2001. In 2002 Rita was a prominent committee member and will be greatly missed by all our members, especially the beginners section in which she worked tirelessly. May she rest in peace.



Back l-r: Emmet Keane, P. Curley, Shane Freeman, Kevin Henry, Shane Buckley, Eamonn Freyne, John McNicholas, John Jordan, Ja Henry, Pat Curley, Paul Walsh. Front l-r: Michael Mahony (President), sponsor, John Collins (Captain), Tommy Basquille (Chairman Connacht Branch), sponsor, Tom Prenty and Patsy Glynn.



Celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary Paddy and Bridie Hunt, Larganboy (centre) with their family, back l-r: Patricia, Jarlath, Adrian, Pdraig and front, Regina and Kathleen.



Cousins, Conal and Patrick Caulfield (aged 2 years)

Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

Christina Concannon

In 1994 –The Year of the Family, The Dept. of Social Welfare allocated funding for a number of Family Resource centres. The decision was motivated by the apparent gap in statutory support for community Development Projects which focussed on support for the Family. The aim of F.R.C.'s is essentially to help communities who have to contend with multiple disadvantage. Centres can provide a range of services for all family members considered in need of extra family support, (young mothers, teenagers, lone parents, elderly, disabled, unemployed, etc.) The F.R.C. can act as a first step to community participation and social inclusion for the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and families.

Activities are aimed at enhancing the self esteem and potential of individuals in order to increase the capacity of local communities to become self reliant and self directed. Programmes are based on the principle of personal development, education, community empowerment and social inclusion.

In 1999, as part of the Government's Partnership 20000 Programme, The Dept. of Social Community and Family Affairs pro-actively targeted a number of areas for inclusion into Community Development Programmes. Three new projects were recommended for Mayo,

including the Ballyhaunis area. The area was recognised as a priority on the basis of research carried out by West Training and Development Ltd.

In 2001 the task of identifying and training a management committee began. Individuals, groups, and local development organisations were contacted and informed about the Programme. Following this a number of people were invited to training sessions and a management committee was subsequently formed. Committee members continue to meet fortnightly. The training sessions concentrate on becoming familiar with the national F.R.C. programme, the role of management committee, carrying out a community profile, and needs analysis, and consequently identifying and prioritising issues for a three year work plan.

The Committee are now ready to submit the Plan for the Ballyhaunis centre, details of which will be available at a later date. Members are also in the process of trying to secure a suitable premises.

The FRC will employ a project worker and a part time administrator following approval of the work plan. The F.R.C. promises to be a major social support to our community and will add to the overall development of Ballyhaunis.

For further information or suggestions, please contact any committee member i.e. Padraig Kelly (Community Development Support Worker), 091-539048, Mary Morrissey (Chairperson), Catherine Kelleher (Treasurer), Betty Regan (Secretary), Christina Concannon (P.R.O.), Nell Rochford (Community Council Rep.), Sr. Kathleen Hunt, Marie Jordan, Manar Cherbatji, Ludmilia Burkovski. Further committee members would be most welcome.



L-R: Jack Greally R.I.P., Jack Ruane R.I.P., Jack Fitzmaurice R.I.P., Michael Greally R.I.P., Patrick Greally and Carmel Greally.

Annagh Marriages



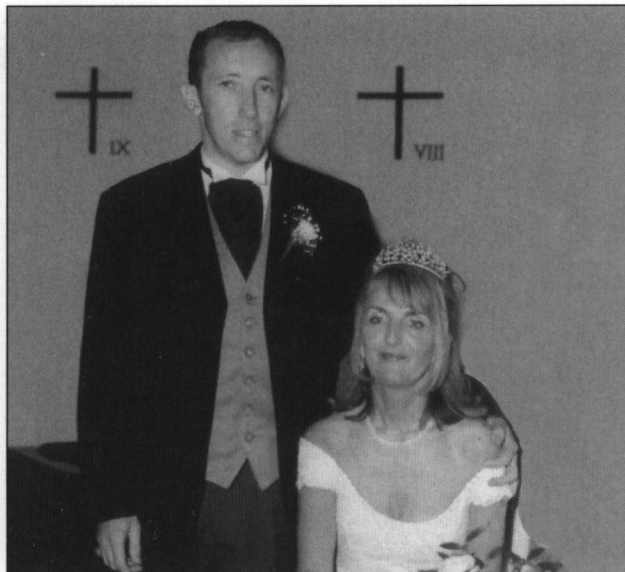
*Linda Morris & Ryan Fitzgerald
Married in St. Mary's Augustinian Friary, Ballyhaunis*



*Margaret Healy & Seamus Kelly
22nd March 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Sharon Higgins & Michael Fahey
St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Ann McGarvey & Paul Coggins
St. Michael's Church, Creeslough, Co. Donegal*



*Helen Pope & Michael Finn
June 2002. Married in Cambridge.*



*Nathalie Collum & Gerry McGuire
15th June 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*

Annagh Marriages



*Emma Curley & Stephen Murray
St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Ann Marie Crosbie (daughter of Maureen Flanagan,
Main Street) & Fran Rea. August 2002, Wexford.*



*Bronagh McKermitt & Owen McCarthy
3rd November 2001, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Joanne Fitzmaurice & Michael Gorman
22nd June 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Ingrid Tighe & Christopher Drummond
September 2001, Ballintubber Abbey*



*Lorraine Gaffney & Jeremiah O'Connor
21st June 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*

Annagh Marriages



Susanne Murray & Tommy Byrne
17th November 2001, St. Joseph's Church, Oradell, N.J.



Caroline Barrett & Michael A. Jennings
June 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis



Marie Harte & Jarlath Henry
October 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis



Mary Devaney & John Fitzmaurice
14th February 2002, Knock Church



Josephine Fitzmaurice & Eric Feeney
21st September 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis



Ursula Delaney & Liam O'Grady
Married in Ballintubber Abbey

Annagh Marriages



*Karen Byrne & Matt Keane
31st May 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Tina Moran & Ray Flanagan
St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



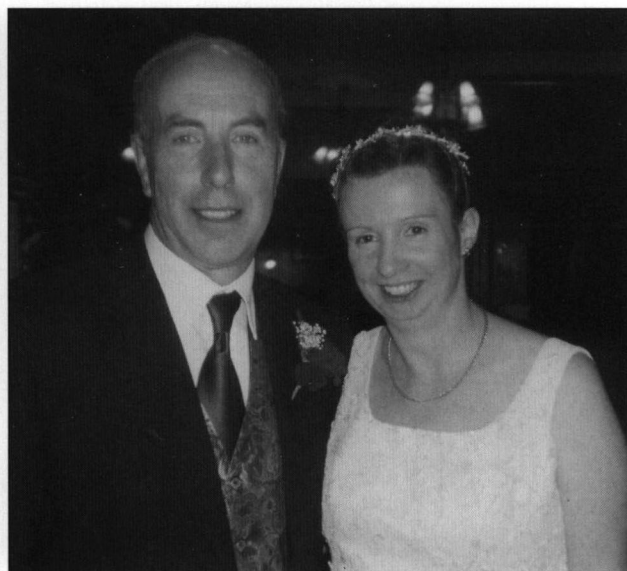
*Deborah Ann Petrailis & Brendan Greene
June 2002, New York*



*Joanne Presho & Adrian Brennan
26th September 2002, Belfast*



*Mary Molloy & Brendan Sloyan
3rd May 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Anne O'Connell & Seamus Kelly
20th October 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*

Annagh Marriages



*Rebecca Moffett & Adrian Hunt
Married in Belfast*



*Carmel McGrath & Stephen McCrudden
25th May 2002, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*

Weddings in the Parish

November 2001 - September 2002

Christopher Drummond, London &
Ingrid Tighe, Carrowreagh

Owen Patrick McCarthy, Macroom, Co. Cork &
Bronagh Eileen McKermitt, Hazelhill

James Francis Kelly, Long Walk, Galway &
Margaret Mary Healy, Ballindrehid

Brendan Sloyan, Cashel, Ballinlough &
Mary Molloy, Gurrane

Michael A. Jennings, Pollinalty, Cloonfad &
Caroline Barrett, Devlis

Stephen McCrudden, Aishling Drive &
Carmel McGrath, Knock

Matthew Keane, Castlegar, Co. Galway &
Karen Anne Byrne, Johnstown

Stephen Murray, Doctor's Road &
Emma Curley, Crossard

Gerard McGuire, Ballykilleen &
Nathalie Collum, Devlis

Jeremiah O'Connor, Killarney, Co. Kerry &
Lorraine Mary Gaffney, Ballinphuill

Michael Gorman, Coolaney, Co. Sligo &
Joanne Fitzmaurice, Abbeyquarter

Raymond Flanagan, Gorthaganny &
Martina Moran, Hazelhill

Roger Fahey, Kilkerrin, Co. Galway &
Sharon Higgins, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis



*Louise McHugh & Vincent Biesty
2nd August 2002, St. Mary's Church, Tooreen*

Eric Feeney, Dublin &
Josephine Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong

Liam O'Grady, Kilmovee &
Ursula Delaney, Doctor's Road

John Fitzmaurice, Forthill &
Mary Devaney, Knock

Vincent Biesty, Pattenspark &
Louise McHugh, Tooreen

Jarlath Henry, Beechpark &
Marie Harte, Cloonbonniffe, Castlereagh

Adrian Hunt, Larganboy &
Rebecca Moffett, Belfast

Ballyhaunis Ladies Group

Mona Herr

Ballyhaunis Ladies Group is now entering its second year and it was great to see lots of new faces at our AGM on 2nd of October last. A new committee was elected as follows: Chairperson: Mona Herr, Secretary: Mary Mulrennan, Joint Treasurers: Geraldine Murphy / Agatha Higgins, PRO: Stella O'Neill.

The outgoing Chairperson Maire Caulfield dedicated many hours of hard work, commitment and enthusiasm to the group in its first year and with the help of other members organised a number of different events.

The Euro Changeover Board gave a talk on the Euro last November which was useful and informative. Leading up to Christmas 2001, Breege Halpin of "Breege's Florists", Main Street, kindly demonstrated a selection of Christmas Floral Wreaths and varying types of Christmas centrepieces. Everyone had a great evening and each left with either a Christmas floral arrangement for their front door or one for the Christmas dinner table. Our next event was organised for February 2002 when Anita Duffy, beautician from "Beauty For You" demonstrated day and night-time make-up as well as night-time cleansing routines. Members of the group volunteered as models for Anita and emerged as 'supermodels' by the end of the night!

On a more serious note, Dr. Daragh Corcoran, Gynaecologist and Obstetrician with Mayo General Hospital visited the group on 11th March 2002. A very interesting night was delivered and it concluded with a question and

answer session which lasted longer than anticipated due to the large volume of questions from the audience. Ten members of the group undertook a personal development course during April 2002, which ran for four weeks. This course was given by Mai O'Neill Cllr. who specialises in this area. The final event in May 2002 was a talk on drugs given by Garda P. Deery of Swinford Garda Station. He highlighted all aspects of drug abuse and in particular emphasised the extent of the problem in the Mayo area, not excluding Ballyhaunis and some surrounding towns.

Evidently the groups first year was very busy covering a vast range of events, both formal and informal. As a novice group we feel it has been a successful year for us mainly due to the interest and hard work of the group's members, in particular, maire Caulfield who originally founded the group. We are hoping the coming year will be as successful.

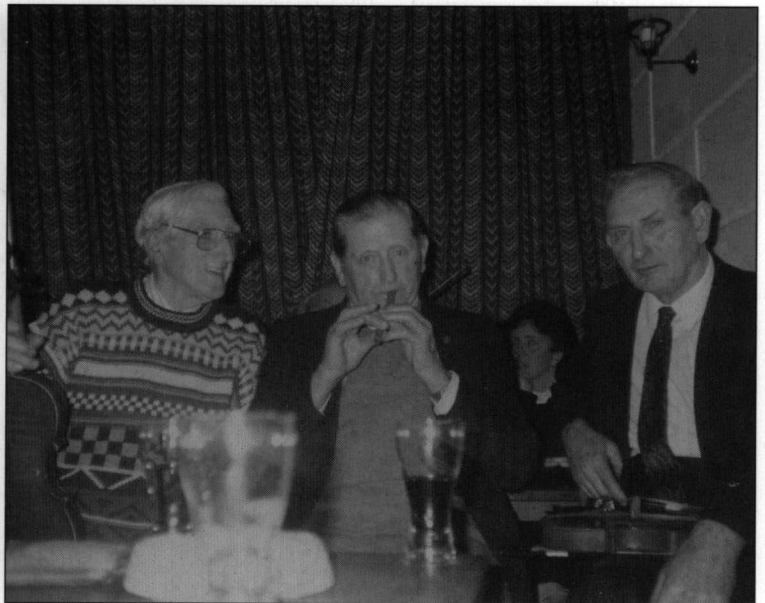
The Ladies Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Parochial Hall at 9pm. New faces are especially welcome and invited.



Back l-r: Caroline Davis, Anne Burke, Martina Gallagher, Eileen Lynch, Mary Mulrennan. Front l-r: Mona Herr, Agatha Higgins, Marie Brennan, Bridie Morley, Paula Grogan.



Taken in Halpins early 80's. John Austin Freeley RIP and his brother Joe Freeley



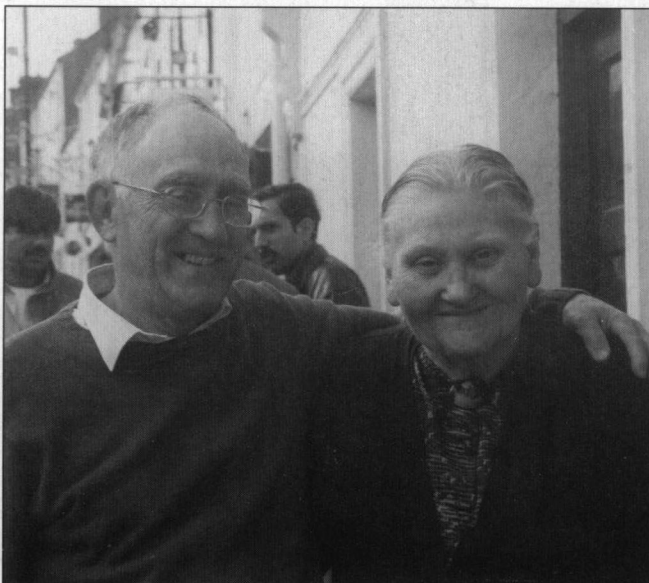
Taken in Halpins, early 80's, Mattie Coyne, Dominick Rushe RIP and Paddy Lyons



Summer 2002. Tom Cribbin, Noreen Morley and Michael Waldron.



Summer 2002. Martin Healy and Eamonn Phillips



Summer 2002. Johnny Biesty and Maria Cribbin.



L-R: Helen Biesty, An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern T.D, Sean Biesty, Carrowkeel on a visit to Leinster House.

Photos taken by the late Pat Coyne in his native Gurteen in the 1920's



Tom Coyne spraying potatoes



Teresa Mulrennan, Mrs. Maggie Mulrennan, Nora Mulrennan
and Michael Mulrennan.



Clare Coyne and Kate Brennan outside family home.



Kate Coyne feeding the hens.



Kate and Pat Coyne taken on their farm.



Cis Brennan, Eileen Finn, Teresa Mulrennan, Mike Finn, Kit Brennan, Claire Coyne, Julie Finn and Pat Coyne.



Patrons

Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.

Please Support Local Business and Industry

All numbers are 0907 code unless otherwise stated.

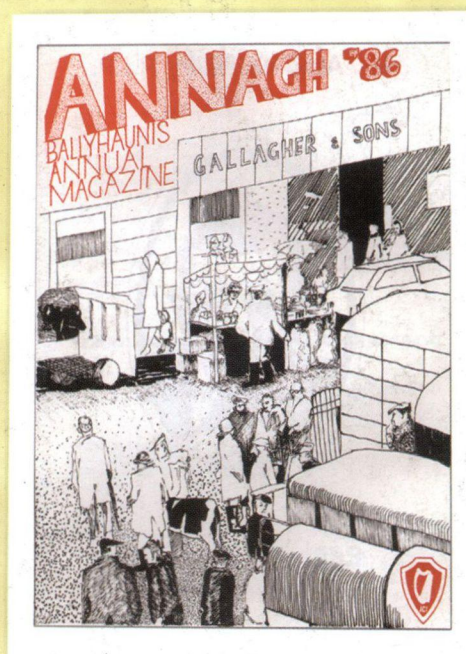
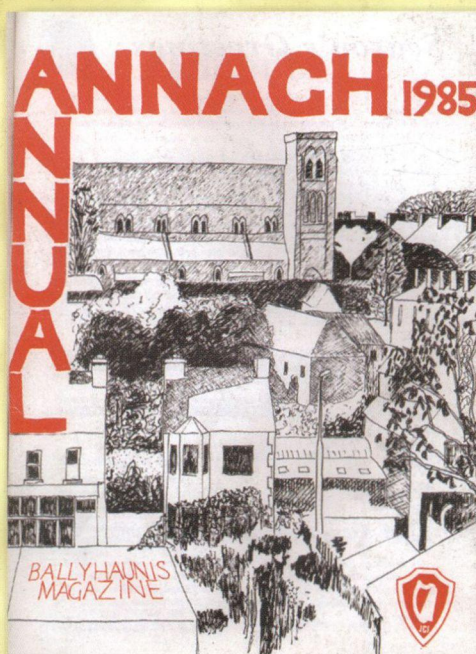
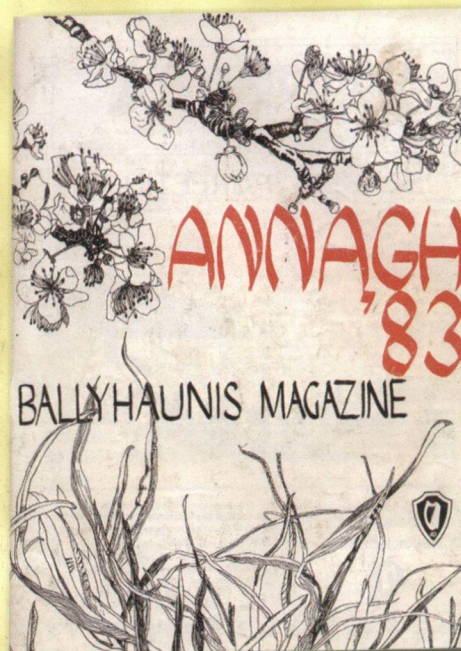
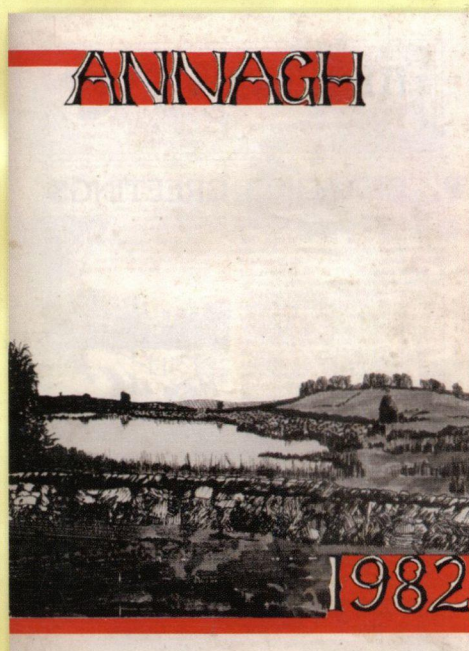
AIB Bank, Bridge St.	Fax 30726; Tel 30464
Alma's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Clare St.	30354
Ancofer Ltd., Tooraree	Fax: 30733; Tel 30850; 30860
Avondale B & B and Holiday Homes, Clare St. (prop. Bridie Levins)	30345
Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union, Main St.	30998
Ballyhaunis Irish Dancewear (Dresses, Shoes, Accessories, Wigs)	(086) 3891462; 31073
Ballyhaunis Plant & Tool Hire, Knox St.	Mob (087) 2548355; Tel 30979
Ballyhaunis Transport Services (to & from Dublin)	Mob (087) 2549077; (086) 3898535; Tel 30477
Ballyhaunis Trophy Centre, Knock Rd. (prop. Kay Buckley)	30090
Bank of Ireland, The Square	30073
Beauty For You, Bridge St. (prop. Anita Duffy)	31424
Bridge Club, Ballyhaunis	
Burke, Tom, M.R.C.V.S., Abbey St.	30225
Byrne, Pat, Victualler and Grocer, Knox St.	30283
Campbell's Auctioneers and Insurance Brokers, Knox St.	30082
Carney's, The Gem (Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery), Bridge St.	30840
Carroll, Fr. Declan, C.C., Upper Main St.	30095
Carty, John T.D., M.C.C., Carrowmore House, Knock	(094) 88149
Caulfield's Grocery and Newsagents, Upper Main St.	31400
Clock Tavern, Knox St.	30344
Colleran's Pharmacy, Bridge St.	30028
Community School, Knock Rd.	30238
Connacht Gold Trading, Store, Cave	30166
Connacht Scaffolding Ltd., Knock Rd.	Fax 30336; Tel 30198
Connaught Arms, Knox St.	31053
Connolly's Kitchens, Galway Rd.	Tel/Fax 30327
Cooney, Canon Joseph, P.P., Parochial House	30006
Cribbin, Cllr. John, Knockanarra	Office 30052
Cunniffe Construction Ltd., Tooreen	Mob (087) 2612838; Tel 49035
Cunningham's Londis, Foodmarket, Abbey St.	30730; 30162
Curley's Bar, Clare St.	30077
Curley's Chemists, Main St.	Fax 31191; Tel 30110
Curley's Jewellers, Bridge St.	Fax 31191; Tel 30110
Daly's Electrical, T.V., Domestic Appliances, Bridge St.	30987
Dawn Ballyhaunis, Clare Rd.	Fax 30561; Tel 30555
Delaney's Ltd., Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St.	30296
Delaney's, Paddy, Select Bar and Lounge, Abbey St.	30024
De-Luxe Cleaning, Carpets, Upholstery, etc., Vincent Higgins	30284
Dillon's Travel Agency, The Square	Fax 30721; Tel 30021; 30269
Doherty's Betting Office, Main St.	30628; 30738
Dolan, Eugene, Long Island, New York	
Donnellan's - Joinery, Undertakers, Funeral Home, Clare St.	30045
Donnellan's Service Station, Devlis (Heating Oil, Motor Diesel)	31157
Eagney Insurance Services Ltd., Bridge St.	Fax 30795; Tel 30793; 30794
Electrical and Pump Services Ltd.	Fax 30761; Tel 30226
Farrell, Kieran, Tyres, Clare Rd.	30573
Finn, Footwear Specialists (Ballyhaunis & Kiltimagh)	30141; (094) 81970
Fitzgerald's Grocery & Confectionary, Bridge St.	
Fitzpack Cartons Ltd., Tooraree, Folding and Laminated Cartons	30808; 30809; 30811; 31120
Flanagan Motors, Tooreen, New and Used Cars	49433
Flatley, Pdraic, Design Consultant, Clare St.	Mob. (087) 9580986 31244
Fleming, Seamus & Annette, Lavallyroe, B & B - Cab Hire	Mob (086) 8195500; Tel 46040
Flogas Ireland Ltd., Ballyhaunis	Fax 30040; Tel 30883
Folliard, Noel, Barber, Knox St.	Mob (087) 6415039
Forde Bros., Ballinlough, Alum., PVC Windows & Doors	Mob (086) 8120324; Tel 40525
Forde's Ltd., The Square (The House for All the Family)	30013

4-D's Off-licence , The Square (Best Value Selection of Wines, Spirits, Beers)	30013
Forkan's B & B , Rooms en-suite, Private Parking, Knox St.	30888
Freeley, Terence , Braga, Portugal	
Freyne Ceramics , Hazelhill (For All Your Tiling Needs)	30722
Freyne Garage & Service Station , Clare St.	30043
Freyne, Bernard , Gas Service, Hazelhill	Fax 30040; Tel 30152
Freyne, Nicholas , Concrete Products, Coolnaha	30318
G.A.A. Club	
Gallagher, Michael , Knock Rd., Building Contractor	30605
Gallagher's Builders' Providers , Furniture, Main St. & Clare Rd.	30020; 30314
Garvey-Moran, C. , School Supplies, Knox St.	30079
Gerry's Barber Shop , Barrack St.	(087) 2450079
Gill's Pub , Clare St. (prop. John and Bernie Gill)	30039
Glynn, Pat , Photographer, Doctor's Rd.	30026; Castlereagh -20094
Godfrey, Michael , Ballinlough	
Golf Club , Coolnaha	30014
Greene, Tony & Pauline , Box 127, Green Drive, Schola, PA 18458, U.S.A.	001-5705597643
Griffin, John , Orthodontist, Knock Rd.	30534
Griffin, Mike , Taxi Service, Clare St./Devlis	30213
Grogan, Austin, & Sons , Concrete Products, Cave	30072
Gurteen Kitchens Ltd. , Gurteen	Mob (086) 8244386; Fax 30751; Tel/Fax 30797
Halpin, John & Breege , Floral Occasions (Teleflorist), Coffee-Dock Inn	30012
Harvest Fresh Fruit & Veg. , Main St.	30736
Hazel Bar & Restaurant , Contact Margaret/Michael/Collette, Main St.	30885
Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd. , Europallets, prop. Milo Henry	Fax 30825; Tel 30094
Healy, Joe , Registered Building Contractor, Annagh	30481
Helen's Laundrette , Barrack St.	30841
Heneghan's Carpets & Furniture , Knox St. (Car Park)	Fax/Tel 30770
Herr, Fred , Grocer, Knox St.	31305
Higgins O'Brien Business Property Ltd. , Clare St.	Fax 31383; Tel 30088
Higgins, Jim , Senator, Devlis	Office 30052
Higgins, Pat , Adult Education Officer, Devlis	(094) 23159
Hopkins, Tom & Noreen , Upper Main St.	
Hunt, Murt , Adv. Rep., Western People	Murthunt47@eircom.net Mob (086) 2200197; Tel/Fax 30442
Iris' Florists , Interflora, Main St.	30015
J. B. Heating & Plumbing , Devlis	(086) 6035126
Jennings, Bernard , B.D.S., Knox St.	30315
Johnston, Carmel , Knox St.	
Johnston's Machinery , Farming Community Specialists, Knox St.	30019
Jordan's Windows , Clare St.	30641
K.F. Antiques , Ballaghaderreen Rd., Ballyhaunis (contact Kieran)	Mob (087) 8037335; Tel 31149
Kay's Beauty Salon , Knox St.	30065
Keane Kitchens Ltd. , Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd.	30038
Keane, Joe , Merchant Tailor, Knox St.	30751
Kearns, Tom , Plant Hire, Lavallyroe	Mob (087) 2528894; Tel 46193
Kelleher's Spar , Grocery, Newsagent, Wine, Main St.	30023
Kelly, Padraic , Furniture Manufacturer, Drimbane	30089
Kelly, Rosaleen , RPN, MIRI, SK, CPP, Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties	Tel/Fax 30022
Kirrane Bros. , Seamless Gutters, Fascia, Soffitt; Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis	Mob (086) 3858922; Tel 46079
Levins, Vincent, & Co. Ltd.	
Lilly, John Joe , Plant Hire, Johnstown	30352
Loughran, Frank , M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., Upper Main St.	30017
Lyons, Michael G. , Agricultural Contractor, Cloonfaughna, Knock	(094) 80249
Lyons, Michael , Coach & Minibus Hire, Lecarrow	30347
Lyons, Tommy , Publican, Main St.	
M.W.R. fm (96.1 Mhz), Abbey St.	30169; Ads 30553
Mac Giolla Bhríde's Pub , Clare St.	31444
Mac Siurtain's , Publicans, Main St. (Live Music)(prop. Stephen Nolan)	30854
Madden, Gerald , Snooker Tables, Gurteen	30228
Mayo Computer & Computer Training , Clare St.	Mayocomputers@eircom.net Fax: 30215 Tel. 32843
McGarry Development Consultants , Engineers, Architects, Clare St.	30170
McGarry's Ladies Wear , Main St.	30084
McHugh, Terence , High Class Victualler, Abbey St.	30061

McKay Construction , Lavallyroe	Fax/Tel 46320
McNamara Car Dismantlers , Dublin Rd.	30439
McNamara, Eamon , Car/Tractor Repairs (24-Hour Service)	Mob (087) 2451908; Tel 30386
Mercy Sisters (Hon.) , Upper Main St.	30108
Moran Bros. Ltd. , Building/Public Works Contractor (6 Year Structural Guarantee Scheme)	30146; 30725
Moran Coaches & Minibus Hire , Knock Rd.	Fax/Tel 30346
Moran, Donal K. & Sons , Building Contractor, Knox St.	30079
Moran, Donal , T.V. Systems, Knox St.	30569
Moran, Tommy , Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St.	30493
Morley, P. J. , Cruckaunrannell, Knock	
Morley, Tony & Sons , Exterior and Interior Decoration, Knox St.	30944
Morrissey Distribution Ltd. , Cave	Mob (087) 2469441; Tel 30565
Mulhern, Edward , Taxi Service, Knock Rd.	Mob (087) 6961579; Tel 30249
Mulrennan, James & Sons, Ltd. , Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens)	30038
Munroe, Brian & Sons Ltd. , Insurance Brokers	30343
Murphy, Eddie & Sons, Ladies – 'Part Two', Main St.	30651
Murphy, Eddie & Sons , Menswear Specialists, Main St.	30651
Murphy's Auto Sales , Service Station & Shop, Dublin Rd.	Fax/Tel 30307
Nestor & Co. , Accountants, Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.	Fax 30294; Tel 32000
Nestor's Corner Bar , The Square	31011
Newsround (prop. Pat Freeley), Newsagents/Toys/Gifts, Main St.	30897
Nicholson's Bar , Bridge St.	30357
Nolan's Funeral Home , Charlestown Rd.	30205/30935
Noonan, Martin , Tarmacadam contractor, Block Paving, Kerbing, Began	(087) 4188046 Tel. (094) 80254
Noone, Moira & Pat , Ard Patrick, Hazelhill	
O'Connor, John, Ronoco Ltd. , Doctor's Rd.	30037
Oak Bar , Bridge St. (prop. Niall Delaney)	30099
P & P Plastering Services Ltd.	30144; 30715
Parochial Hall	
Patterson, Noel , M.R.C.V.S., Main St.	30113; 30865
Phillips Clothes Shop , Dalton St., Claremorris	(094) 72020
Phillips, Charlie & Sons , Drapers, Main St.	30368
Phillips, Charlie & Sons , Shoes, Main St.	30368
Phillips, Eamon , High Class Victualler, Main St.	30381
Phillips, Paddy , Publican, Main St.	30118
Phonepak Technology , Main St.	Tel/Fax 31322
Prenty, John & Mary , Knock Rd.	
Rattigan's Bar , Knox St.	30157
Red Square , Fast Food/Restaurant (prop. Seamus Grogan)	30360
Rochford Motors , Main Mitsubishi Dealers, Knock Rd.	Fax 30570; Tel 30350; 30163
Royal Breffni Pub , Knox St.	31078
Ruane, P. , Radio & T.V. Dealers/Repairs, Knox St.	30129
Ryan's Supervalu , Main St. (Free Parking at Rear)	30359
Scoil Iosa Primary School , Abbeyquarter	Fax/Tel 30505; Tel 30310
Storm, Movies & Phones , Main St.	32886
Stratford Photography	Mob (087) 2469355; Tel 30293
Supermacs (prop. John Durkan), Parties/Takeaway	Fax 32860; Tel 32855
Tasty Dish , Restaurant, Knox St.	32963
Timoney, Martin , Carrownedan, RECI, Electrical Contractor	Mob (087) 2398402
Tynan Dillon , Chartered Accountants, Clare St.	30261
Ulster Bank Ltd. , Abbey St.	30049
Val's For Food/Accommodation (Live Music Thursday Nights), Main St.	30068
Valerie's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon , Barrack St.	30681
Waldron, Anthony , Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh	Mob (087) 4141462; Tel 31326
Waldron, Austin , Derrymore	
Waldron, Paul , Ballyhaunis Correspondent, Western People	Mob (087) 4114628; Fax/Ans Mach. 32989
Wash Tub , Laundrette & Dry Cleaners, Same Day Service/Ironing Service	30449
Webb, M. J. , Master Butcher, Main St.	30003
Webb, T. J. , Catering & Retail Butcher, Bridge St.	Mob (088) 679190; Tel 30041
Western Brand Chickens Ltd. , Fresh & Frozen Daily	Fax 30834; Tel 30069
Winston, Gerard , Fuel Merchant, Devlis	30395

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Annagh Parish Magazine



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