

2003 Annagh



Christmas Greetings

As another year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, I would like to wish all the people of the parish, and all Ballyhaunis people living abroad, a very happy and holy Christmas and may Christ the new-born child of Bethlehem be your guiding light during the coming year.

I extend a hearty cead míle fáilte to all who will be home for the Christmas festivities and it is my earnest prayer that nothing will happen during Christmas or the New Year to dampen the happiness of any family.

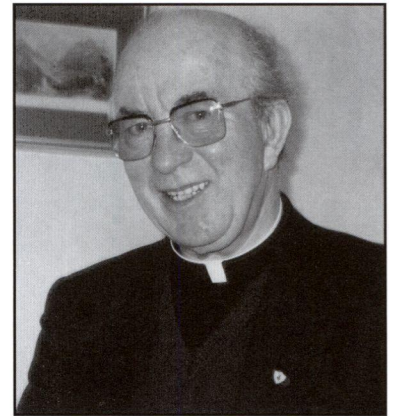
As we, at home in Ballyhaunis, prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ, we remember with love and affection those who will not be coming home, and we assure them that they are not forgotten and will have a special place in our Christmas Masses.

For most people, Christmas is a time of joy and happiness but for some it is lonely and sad. It can be lonely for people who are living alone and may not have anyone to visit them, and sad for those who lost a loved one since last Christmas, but we want them to know that they will not be forgotten on Christmas morning.

Christmas is a time of celebration and happiness; a time which lights up the long winter nights and it is quite right that we celebrate. However, we must never lose sight of why we are celebrating and the reason is the birth of Christ in a stable in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. He is the Reason for the Season and He must never be left out of His own birthday celebrations.

On behalf of Father Kieran Burke and myself, I pray God's blessing on you and your families and wish you every blessing and every happiness this Christmas and in 2004.


Joseph Cooney, P.P.



Annagh Magazine Society - Officers

President: Joe Keane; Chairperson: Martin Forde; Vice-chairperson: Agnes Heaney; Secretary: Maisin Meath; Treasurer: Maura Griffin; P.R.O.: John Halpin; Sales & Marketing: Seamus Mulrennan; Youth Officer: Siobhan Quinn; Patron Management: Michael Finn; Editorial Committee: Maura Griffin, Jim Lundon, John Halpin, Paul Waldron; Typesetting: Brídann Halpin, Mary Donnelly, Mary Rudden.

Cover 2003

Our cover this year shows some views of modern Ballyhaunis. On the front are our Main Street, Abbey Street / Bridge Street. The centrepiece shows the sculpture on The Square entitled 'Lá an Aonaigh' or 'The Fair Day', commissioned by Mayo County Council. It commemorates the Fair Days of times past.

The back cover shows Clare Street and The Square / Knox Street. Photograph's are courtesy of Michael Byrne.

Contents

Editorial		3
Knockbrack	Gerry Lyons	4
Golden Memories - Part 3	Agnes Heaney	12
Growing Up In Ballyhaunis In The 70's & 80's	Gerry Winston	14
A Brief Personal Sketch	Fr. Kieran Burke C. C.	17
Sr. Assumpta Celebrates Her Diamond Jubilee		17
Spoiled For Choice	Eamonn Murren	18
Ballyhaunis Bridge Club	Joan Flynn	20
From Ballinphuill To Gurteen	Mary Callaghan	22
What's Another Year	Mike Finnerty	28
Annagh Parish 1901 - Part 4		30
Ballyhaunis A.B.C. (Aid For Belarussian Children)		39
The Abbey Partnership	Stephen Grogan	40
Priests From The Parish of Annagh	Kieran Waldron	41
Lorren Cunningham Kelly		42
Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil		43
That Was The Year That Was	Michael Byrne	45
Darran Is World Boxing Champion		50
Sr. Kathleen Lyons' Golden Jubilee		51
St. Patrick's Dramatic Society	Mary Caulfield	53
Yvonne's Great Comeback Is Complete	Aiden Henry	54
Gracenotes	Mary Lyons	55
Th Freely's of Scregg	Terence Freely	56
Scoil Íosa Primary School		57
Island and Mannin Lakes - European Treasures	Christine Gibbs	61
Croí Friends	Helen Meehan	62
A Derrymore Emigrant	Della Weisenberger	63
Mass in St. Mary's Abbey	Paula Grogan	64
Annagh Wedding Photograph's		65
The Mayo Feis of 1903	Paul Waldron	70

Community Television - A History	Anne Hora	74
From Playing Football in Clare Road To Connaght GAA	Secretary in Clare Street	77
The Changing Face of Ballyhaunis	Mike Byrne	79
Ballyhaunis GAA Club	Mary Prenty	82
A Marriage At Midnight	Willie Costello	89
Ballyhauns District Credit Union	John Tuohy	90
St. Patrick's Well Church - Hollywell	Gerry Cribbin.	93
Fr. Fulgentius Jordan O.S.A.	Gerry Cribbin	95
Ballyhaunis Fine Gael	Helen Lyons	96
Ballyhaunis Parent & Toddler Group	Stella Walsh	97
Ballyhaunis District Gun Club	John Joe Kelly	98
School Reunion 1968 - 73	Eamonn Murren	99
The Boat Race	Gillian Keane	100
Ballyhaunis Community Council	Willie Ryan	102
Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns . . . . .	. . . . .	103
Annagh Parish Townland Signage Scheme	Seamus Caulfield	105
The O'Malley's of Upper Main Street	Renee (O'Malley) Benedetti	107
Golden Jubilarian	Colette Purcell	108
A Case of Arson in Ballyhaunis 1897	Joe Costello Jnr.	110
Down Memory Lane	Jimmy Hunt	113
Ballyhaunis Women's Group	Mona Herr	114
Ballyhaunis Summer Festival . . . . .	. . . . .	116
Pilgrimage To The Holy Land	Bro. Augustin Freeley	118
September 11th 2001: The Day That Changed The World	George F. Delaney	120
Mr. Mike Chakeri - The Hunter	Michael Finn	122
Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool . . . . .	. . . . .	125
St. Catherine's Training & Rescource Centre . . . . .	. . . . .	126
Twenty Fifth Community School Yearbook . . . . .	. . . . .	128
Baptisms, Deaths and Marriages . . . . .	. . . . .	129
Ballyhaunis I.C.A.	Maura Fitzmaurice	130
Rallying Rory O'Connor . . . . .	. . . . .	132
Patrons . . . . .	. . . . .	134

Editorial

Work on the compilation of the Annagh Magazine starts after Christmas every year. The committee, who carry out all the work on a voluntary basis, and in their own free time, meet regularly throughout the year. We always welcome new members – there's more than enough work to go around! By August, when we begin to re-assemble after the Summer recess, there is mild panic – has the well run dry? Will we be able to get articles and photographs this year? We make our appeal and contributors get down to business. The old photograph albums are opened. Recent snaps are forwards. And slowly but surely the scheme takes shape.

This year there is a little innovation: the wedding photographs are in colour! Colour printing is more expensive, but as an experiment to see if our readers like it, we think it is worthwhile: we hope it enhances the production. There is an emphasis on modern Ballyhaunis by the use of up-to-date street photographs on the cover.

The Editorial Committee welcomes contributions – articles, photographs, old and new – for its 2004 magazine, as early as possible in the new year. They can be forwarded to any member of the committee, or emailed to annaghmag@eircom.net. It is the Editorial Committee's policy not to include obituaries. The Annagh Magazine website is due to be updated in the new year, and can be visited at www.annagh.com

We would like to thank everyone who made this magazine possible: those who wrote articles and supplied us with pictures, the hard-working committee, our faithful patrons for their invaluable financial support. Was it Napoleon who said, "an army marches on its stomach"? We feel the same about our patrons and readers for their continuing interest and encouragement.

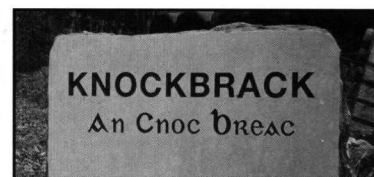


First Communion Class Scoil Íosa - May 2003.

Back L-R: Canon J. Cooney P.P., Ita Fahey (Teacher), Fr. Declan Carroll C.C. Third row l-r: Patrick Kelleher, Charlene Maughan, Eddie Cleary, Conor Nolan. Second row l-r: Jarlath Carney, Margaret Cleary, Lisa O'Connell, Christina McDonagh, Ultan Griffin, James Cribbin, Megan Carroll. Front row l-r: Kieran Webb, Eadaoin Lyons, Phelim Webb, Fiona Creighton, Jason McGoldrick, Diarmuid Byrne, Darren Nolan.

'Knockbrack – An Cnoc Breac'

- Gerry Lyons -



Knockbrack is a townland located 1_ miles east of Ballyhaunis, with a landmass of approximately 312 acres. Knockbrack has a road frontage of one mile long. 'An Cnoc Breac' translates to 'Speckled Hill'. When viewed from a distance, brown hills and hollows can be seen around the eastern boundaries of Knockbrack.

1856

During this period the land not only supported the families in the village but also supported the landlords of that time. If you did not come up with your dues you were likely to lose your household and lands. This table shows a summary of who lived in Knockbrack in 1856:

Names	Description of Tenement	Names	Description of Tenement
John Meehan (1)	Land, House & Offices	Bridget Frehely (8)	Land, House & Offices
Thomas Lyons (2)	Land, House & Offices	Austin Frehely (9)	Land, House & Offices
Philip Lyons (3)	Land, House & Offices	Luke Frehely (10)	Land, House & Offices
Catherine Doolan (4)	Land, House & Offices	Patrick Jordan (11)	Land and House
Thomas Higgins (5)	Land, House & Offices	James Finnegan (12)	Land, House & Offices
John Higgins (6)	Land, House & Offices	John Lyons (13)	Land, House & Offices
Patrick Kearney (7)	Land and House	Michael Lyons (14)	Land and House

(Offices were out buildings, such as barns)

Reference: General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland, 1856.

The Rateable Annual Valuation on 320 acres in that period came to £52. 3s. 0d, which was paid to the Immediate Lessor, Viscount Dillon.

Thomas Lyons (2) was known as "Longing" Lyons, a tall man who lived between what is now Kevin McNamara's and Cruise's. Tom Murphy now lives where Catherine Doolan (4) resided. Thomas Higgins (5), who married Julia Glynn, were parents of Mary Higgins who married Bartley Lyons. John Higgins (6) would be an uncle of Andy Higgins. Austin Frehely (9) married Winifred Moran and they were Kathleen Cribbin's great-grandparents. Luke (10) and Bridget Frehely (8) were her great-granduncle and aunt. Patrick Jordan (11) was a granduncle of Tom and Ned Plunkett. James Finnegan (12), who married Mary Higgins (an aunt of Mary Higgins currently living in Knockbrack), was Teresa Leonard's grandfather. John Lyons (13) who married Catherine Hopkins were parents of Bartley Lyons and would be my great-grandparents.

Mid 30s and 40s

Emigration was the norm where large families of eight to twelve in size would live in a two bedroom house, and from age fifteen to seventeen years onwards would have to leave for England or America. Those fortunate to arrive in foreign lands to existing family members were the lucky ones. The Higgins and Lyons families took flight in the late 1800s and early 1900s to England and America.

1960s

In the 1960s only seven families, namely the Lyons, Mulkeen, Plunkett, Freeley, Higgins, Cunnane and Cruise families, lived in the village. There were no cars or telephones at that time. Some households would have a radio and thus became the focal point for news and matches on a Sunday. The TV, when it first arrived in the village, became very popular and who would want to miss Tolka Row or when Mayo was playing? It was a time when neighbours visited each other on a regular basis and communication and discussion were part of day-to-day occurrence. G.A.A. and politics



Taken outside Bartley Lyons house in 1945 Back, L-R: Mary Lyons, Bill Lyons, Mrs. Gormley, Peg Lyons, D.Morley, M.Mulkeen, J.Gormley and M.Lyons. Front, L-R: Eileen Lyons, E.Glynn and Julie Lyons.



Bill Lyons 1945



Bartley Lyons, taken in the mid thirties.



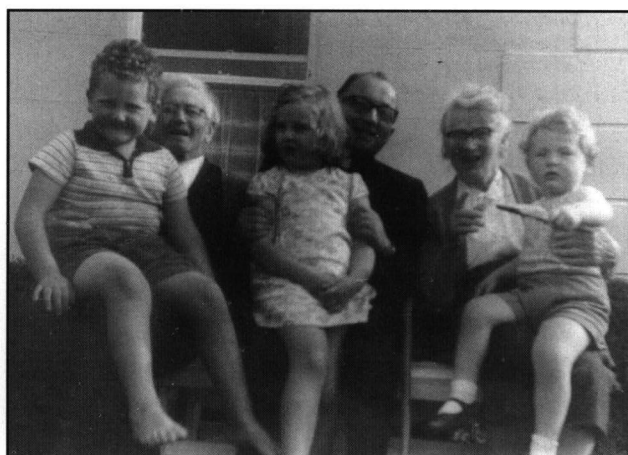
John, James and Patricia Cruise



L-R: Johnny Mulkeen, Mae Mulkeen, Mick Mulkeen, Frank Leonard, Theresa Mulkeen, Bridie Mulkeen and Muriel Leonard. (Taken in Nov. 1962)



Off to school in the sixties. L-R: Frank Lyons, John Joe Lyons, Liam Lyons, Sean Cribbin, Micheál Lyons and Caitriona Cribbin



L-R: James Cruise, Jim Cruise, Patricia Cruise, Fr. Johnny Lyons, Ellen Cruise, Neil Cruise



Kathleen Cribbin.



Mary Higgins



Andy Higgins (1965).



L-R, back: Francis Lyons, Liam Lyons, Ger Lyons, Micheál Lyons, Bill and Kathleen Lyons. Front: Eugene Lyons, John Joe Lyons, Noel Lyons and Mary T. Lyons. (Taken in 1969).

were seldom left out of the discussions. Most families lived off the land and the main income was the selling of cattle, horses and pigs to pay the bills. The cutting of turf, hay and digging of potatoes with a fork were normal day-to-day tasks and were part of the lifestyle of this period.

Mary Higgins Remembers

As a young girl she would travel home from school via Knockbrack to where she lived in Curries. As she turned in the Knockbrack road her recollections were of the high ditches on both sides of the road. The first house she met was Cunnane's where Kevin McNamara now resides. A Sarah Cunnane lived there with her sister.

Mary continued in the road and visited her uncle Andy Higgins who lived on the right between Cunnane's and Freeley's (now Cribbin's). Andy died in 1968. Her next stop was Jim and Mary Finnegan's (Theresa Leonard's grandparents). Mary Finnegan nee Higgins, was an aunt of Mary's. To the right of Finnegan's Michael Jordan lived on his own, and in later times Tom and Ned Plunkett came from Curries to live in Knockbrack.

Who lived in Plum Hunt's house?

Kathleen Cribbin recalls that possibly her granduncle, a Luke Freeley, built the house around the 1900s. Mary Carroll came to the village and later married John Hunt from Lecarrow. The house was then rented to a Mrs. Callaghan and some years later to Tony and Mary Cribbin of Lecarrow.

My own Father

In recalling my own late father I look back on his life and often wonder if today we could work half as hard. I recollect early one morning, about 3 a.m., when we were called to give him a hand to get the horse and cart ready for him to go to the fair in Dunmore. He travelled up to Curries to take the short cut to Dunmore and later that evening came home with load intact and no sale. He enjoyed meeting people and when the card games started it would be the 'round robin' to different houses in the village and also to Curries and Lecarrow. It was a great way of communicating and keeping up with the local news and current affairs.

The power of Annagh

I recall during my time in Birmingham when a certain 'Annagh Magazine' visited Joe and Josie Rattigan's home in Kingsheath, it got undivided attention from

first page to last. It brought home to me the importance of how 'Annagh' created its home-away-from-home news for our emigrants of Ballyhaunis connections.

John Cruise recalls

He remembers as a young lad visiting Tom ('Longing') Lyons, an elderly gentleman in the village, and also visiting Andy Higgins' house. He remembers when a number of the neighbours called to Andy's they would sometimes climb the hill at the back of Andy's house and survey the village and its occupants. Lately John received a St. Patrick's Day card from a Thomas P. Kennedy who was recently elected to the House of Representatives in America. Mr. Kennedy's relations came from an old house in Foudy's garden between Pat Feeney's house and Cruise's. He recollects that possibly their relations' surname was Hopkins. Thomas, a brother of John's, met his death in a plane crash in Florida in 1943. He was accorded a military escort headed by Corp. John Dwyer of the Pocachico base where he was stationed.

First Christmas Party Night

This get-together was held in Knock House Hotel on Dec. 7th 2002 and was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. We hope to make it an annual event. A nice sociable get-together to catch up and enjoy each other's company in one's normally busy lives.

2003 Stations

The station area consists of Knockbrack, Cooloughra, Skeaghhard and Ballinphuill. Muriel Murphy of Cooloughra hosted this year's Autumn Stations, and the young and not-so-young enjoyed a very spiritual and sociable occasion. Fr. Kieran Burke celebrated his first Mass in the village and was welcomed by one and all.

2003

Today there are fourteen families living in Knockbrack. Cars, four-wheel-drives, mobile phones, sky TV etc.... are the buzz words these days. Continental holidays are commonplace nowadays, where before it was trips to the bog for your Summer holidays. We now live in a more affluent society where farming is associated with slatted houses and large four-wheel-drive tractors. Old farm tools such as the shovel, fork, wheelbarrow and labour-intensive work like pulling beet are things of the past, but are we better off today?

A verse from one of the more recent families to Knockbrack. Agatha and Vincent Higgins composed the following poem " Our Village"



Ned Plunkett



Mick and Mae Mulkeen with daughter Theresa, taken in 1938

Our Village

*Out in the country
With some woods at the back
Is a beautiful village
That's known as Knockbrack*

*With fourteen families
Some there from years past
Others joined later
And settled in fast*

*You can drive by the village
On a road that runs through
And see all the houses
Some old and some new*

*Knockbrack needn't worry
About times flying by
For there's plenty of young ones
To wave its flag high*



John (Jack) Lyons a member of the U.S. Army 1945 (brother of Bill)

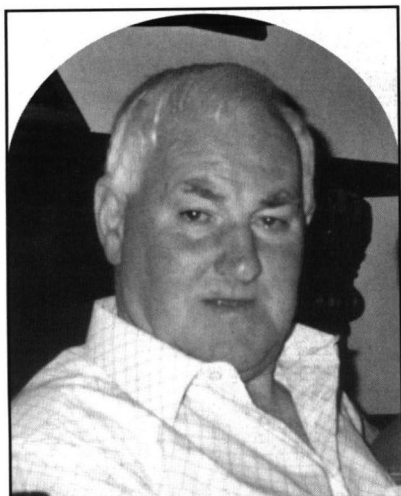


Ladies from the Knockbrack, Cooloughra, Skeaghard and Ballinphuill Station area.

From left to right, back: Gabrielle Lyons, Joan McNamara, Mary Higgins, Kathleen Cribbin, Bernie Lyons, Mary Walsh, Mary Donnelly, Carol Donnelly, Anne Lyons, Anne Murphy and Muriel Murphy. Front: Tina Kirrane, Kathleen Egan, Bernie Lyons, Agatha Higgins, Kay Higgins and Frances Gaffney. Missing from the photograph are Teresa Leonard, Peggy Cruise and Mary Hurley-Finnegan. Unable to join us on the night were Teresa Grogan, Carmel Hurley & Sheila McDonald. Mary and Marie Webb from Devils also joined us on the night



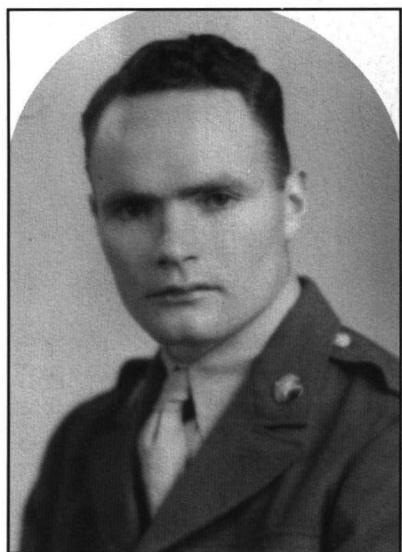
Murphy's Station's 2003, Cooloughra. L-R, back: Ursula McGuire, Deirdre Donnellan with her daughter Lorna, Sandra Murphy, Tom Murphy, Barbara Plunkett-Murphy, Patrick Murphy. Middle: Padraic Murphy, Anne Murphy, Muriel Murphy and Mary Theresa Brady. Front: Fiona Murphy and Caroline Fleming with her daughter Claire.



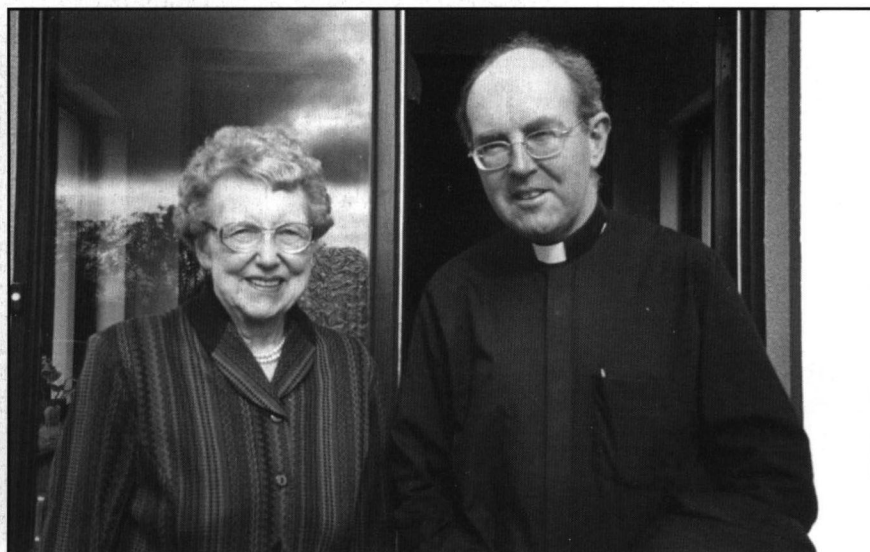
Vincent Lyons



Joe and Josie Rattigan



Corp. Thomas Cruise, a brother of John.



Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C., with Muriel Murphy



The young generation of Knockbrack. L-R, back: John Lyons, Kevin McNamara, Ciara Lyons, Paul Higgins, William Lyons, Micheál Lyons and Orla Lyons. Middle: Louise McNamara, Grace Lyons, Eadaóin Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Joseph Lyons and James Lyons. Front: Shauna Lyons, Gary Higgins, Michelle Lyons and Róisín Lyons



Friary Group, taken outside the Priory in the early 1940s.

Back Row: May Waldron (Scragg), J. T. Smyth (Knox St.). Third Row: Peter Regan (Agloragh), Michael Tarmey (Holywell), Laurence Kilroy (Main St.), Larry Freeley (Main St.), Jack Waldron (Abbey St.), Willie McNamara (Tullaghane), Bill Mulligan (Coolinarna), Frank O'Hare (Ulster Bank), Fr. E. A. Mansfield OSA, [A banks employee], Bob Biesty (Pattenspark). Second row, L-R: Sean Loftus (Knox St.), Paddy Freeley (Main St.), Joseph Redmond (Abbeyquarter), Gerry Dillon (Abbeyquarter), Jack Biesty (Pattenspark), Odie Biesty (Scragg), Joe Tarmey (Pattenspark), Paddy Waldron (Abbey St.), Jim Ganley (Derrynacong), Austin Cribbin (Tooraree), Mide Freeley (Main St.), Fr. L. W. Carr OSA, Tommy O'Malley (Devils). Seated, L-R: Sally Waldron (Brackloon), Kathleen Grogan (Spaddagh), Teresa Biesty, Winifred Fleming (Scragg), Mary Henry (Devils), Kathleen Cunningham (Abbey St.), Michael McGreal (Upper Main St.), Fr. M. B. O'Sullivan OSA, Dottie Dillon (Abbey St.), Tessie Tarpey (Lecarrow), Bridie Loftus (Johnstown), May Byrne (Johnstown).

'Golden Memories'

Part Three

- Agnes Heaney -

Introduction

The 2001 issue of 'Annagh' featured a story 'Golden Memories, part one' that my grandfather James Mullarkey often recounted during my childhood. It concerned two of his brothers, Patrick and John, who emigrated from Tullaughane during the nineteenth century, and their subsequent lives in California from where they never returned. Because they were not heard from for many years our family presumed they were dead. In the meantime, grandfather had married and 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 four of his family, my father and three of my aunts, decided to go there instead. In last year's 'Annagh' I recalled my father's story surrounding their six-thousand mile trip in 1909 from Ballyhaunis to the far west of America. As a number of the readers were intrigued by these dramatic stories from the dim and distant past, again, I've been asked to write one more chapter of our family history.

My Father's History, Part Three

Again I recall how my father often held us spellbound recounting many colourful incidents from his years in California. He would take us back to the day of their arrival in Fresno. Tired and weary from travel, they were so happy to meet their uncles for the first time, to eventually arrive at their new home and 'journey's end'. Their uncles' picturesque ranch-house was almost hidden by tall cotton-wood trees. It had a covered porch on one side, an open one on the other. Inside, it was roomy and comfortable, and furnished with exotic taste. No 'mod cons' in those years: it was oil lamps, wood stoves, and the drinking water came from a pump. Chinese did the household chores, cooking, feeding stock and chopping wood. Two big prairie dogs slept outside to warn off approaching dangers. Beyond the orchards were barns for the poultry and pigs, also large corrals for the horses and burrows (mules). Chinese and Mexican workers were employed to look after the vineyards and orange-groves, working from sun-up to sun-down was the norm. Elsewhere on the ranch alfalfa was sown for fodder, and cattle and sheep grazed on the rolling pasture land.

According to father they spent their first days gazing in awe at the magnificent mountains – their snow-capped peaks high up against the clouds. In the valley, the orange groves were in bloom: their sweet scented blossoms filled the air. My aunts were fascinated by the brightly coloured birds – Green Parakeets with red beaks, singing Bulbuls and Hummingbirds (the rapid beating of their wings produces a humming sound). There was a wonderful variety of wild flowers including the Poppy, which is the Californian state flower - self sown, they were everywhere. Everyday brought something new and exciting – it was a different world! The aunts wanted to explore the orchards, but were afraid of snakes. They were



Elizabeth Mullarkey Frohlich.

told to carry a stick and to be careful when they were coming out of hibernation.

Settling In

It took the visitors some time to settle into their new surroundings. Every evening, after supper and the Rosary, the family gathered around a blazing log fire. The predominant conversation often centred around home – their family and friends now so far away. Would they ever see them again? The uncles also revealed how they were often overcome with nostalgia for home. In the days of the 'Old West' overseas communication was almost nil: letters and small packets were transported on horseback (Pony Express) from state to state. On their journey eastwards these brave postmen faced hidden dangers from hostile Indians, bandits or wild animals; many never reached their destination. The uncles had a fund of thrilling stories to relate from their prospecting years, to when they arrived in Fresno - it was scarcely more than a village with a population of about six-hundred – and later how they turned their two-hundred acres of parched prairie land into bountiful ranches. These early settlers were blissfully unaware of the hardships they would endure as they set out

with only oxen and mules to clear dense forests, build log huts and fight off Indian attacks. After some time uncles needed horses to plough and cultivate their land. Incredible as it may seem they began to trade with the local Navajo tribe. In return the Indians taught them many necessary skills in survival, training horses, growing corn and rearing the native wild turkey. Originally the turkey came from Mexico, but it was the Indians that tamed them, called them 'gobblers' and used their green and bronze feathers to decorate their head-dresses. It was through their honest dealings that they gradually earned the respect of the Indian chieftains and friendships were formed. Over the years the uncles learned some of their language, and were some of the first white men to make friendly contact with the Indians.

An Indian Wedding

Shortly after our family arrived in Fresno, they were all invited to an Indian wedding. Uncles considered it an honour and a sign of confidence – they simply could not refuse, because they could be dangerous enemies too. Father was told that it would be an opportunity for him to meet and make friends with them if he intended to become a rancher in the area. Needless to say he was very nervous, but felt it was a challenge and he reluctantly accepted. He thought they were risking their lives because these people were reputed to be savages and hated the whites for taking their land. On a morning of brilliant sunshine four brave men – Uncle Patrick, father, and two neighbours – guns strapped to their hips, set out by horse-and-buggy on a three day trip to Seeping Springs, the Navajo encampment. They brought plenty of food for the journey, grain for the horses and a pile of blankets to sleep on. Two young braves (Indians) led the way and they carried water in five-gallon saddlebags: in the desert, water meant life. Following ancient trails through rugged terrain uncle pointed out the flocks of small, hardy sheep living on the high ranges where cattle could not climb. They were herded by range-riders from the ravages of wild beasts – coyotes, wolves, grizzly bears (one grizzly could kill up to fifty sheep in a night, killing only the mother sheep, and eating only their milk-bags). Their first overnight was spent in a small log cabin sometimes occupied by forest rangers. In a sheltered nook the Indians built a fire, they fed their horses and hobbled them, ate their meat and bread; rolled up in blankets and were soon asleep on the ground.

On the third day the 'guests' crossed part of the 'Painted Desert' and, almost covered in red dust, arrived at the Navajo oasis – a beautiful vale beside a foaming waterfall. Indian chiefs came from their hogans to welcome them. At the white men's salute they gave the sign of friendship saying 'does the white fathers come to honour the Navajos?' After smoke signals were sent out, a stream of mounted Indians poured into the glade. Moki and other tribes rode wild looking Mustangs and drove ponies and burrows carrying blankets and supplies. These russet-skinned warriors were dressed in their full regalia, their jet-black hair held close with bands around their foreheads. Uncle and their friends gave them gifts of groceries, vegetables and fruit, with a plug of tobacco to each great chieftain. The 'pipe of peace' was then passed around. The Navajo worshipped the Sun as their god. As they began their chant to the sun, the bride was brought in. Her hands tied before her – a sign of obedience! She



Taken in Mrs. Frohlich's living room. Standing, Patsy and Delia McHugh (brother and sister from Dunmore, Co. Galway); seated: Mrs. Frohlich Jr., Karl Frohlich and Mrs. Frohlich Sr.

appeared to be very young and had a sad expression. On her long braided black hair she wore a crown of white feathers. The bridegroom's name was Desert Hawk, because he had a nose like a hawk's beak and his hands resembled claws. He was grim old warlord of the tribe and owned many squaws (wives) already. The ceremony was brief, children were flinging flowers, and the women sang strange songs as they brought the food and drink. The generous meal was served in black earthenware vessels. Fear had taken Father's appetite, but Uncle Pat and the others were not fussy: they ate everything with relish, including their home-made popcorn, from a deerskin bag (the Indians were the first to make popcorn). Sitting by the campfire they looked so relaxed and cheerful, while father was on edge: he did not trust these fierce warriors who were staring at them as if they were white objects of curiosity. And biting mosquitoes were everywhere! Looking back, Father said he could never forget when it was time to leave the reservation and head for home. He believed they had had a lucky escape, but the uncle said the risk was worthwhile. Anyway, it was an experience never to be forgotten!

What happened to the visitors?

After some years father bought an eighty acre ranch and settled down to fruit growing, also working part-time in a local brewery. Two of the aunts, Elizabeth and Bridget, married neighbouring ranchers, sons of German and French settlers. Soon after Bridget became pregnant she contracted Typhoid fever and sadly died. Father was so upset and shocked at her death that he sold his property and moved to San Francisco. He loved the mild climate, a kind of perpetual Spring. The 'City of the Hills' was being built-up after the 1906 earthquake. There he joined his other Irish friends in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, always meeting at the famous Mission Deloures Franciscan Church. When Aunt Catherine made up her mind to come home to Ireland, father joined her, but they had to spend some time in New York as the 1914-18 War was not over and the sea journey was not safe. So it was, in 1919, they made the trip, never to return.

'Growing up in Ballyhaunis in the Seventies and Eighties'

- Gerry Winston -

Listening to radio stations playing 'eighties' music made me realise that the eighties to teenagers today is what the sixties were to my generation. While I did not walk to school in my bare feet or bring a sod of turf under my arm, I think I am well equipped to give a brief review of life as a seventies child and eighties teenager in our locality.

I was born in the late sixties during which time Ireland, like the rest of the world, was changing fast. Under the Lemass government the country had enjoyed a huge economic upturn after the depression and emigration of the 1950s. We were also on the verge of joining the Common Market (now the EU) and, for us children of the seventies, times had improved considerably from those of our predecessors.

Like so many before and after, I started school with Sr. Carmel in the Convent. I am sure she is enjoying the lights of Heaven as she was a very gentle soul, and made all of us little ones feel at ease in our new surroundings. The classes were smaller in those days as many of the country schools were still open at the time.

In my own area we had a lot of children in or around my own age group: the Webbs – Marita, Joseph, Aisling, John, Damien, Mary; James Clarke; the Waldron brothers; the Morans; Dennis Fitzpatrick; Laura and David Burke; Maria Flynn, Brian Marrinan; the McGoldricks; the Caseys; and Martin Durkan. On a sad note, two of these have gone to their eternal reward – Brian and Damien tragically died young men.

The Railway Station, up around the old stores and water pump, was usually a place of devilment, or trying to annoy poor Paddy Folliard in Coen's Garage; but our real place of adventure was the Ballast Pit: if you were able to climb it, you were like 'a made man' in the Mafia.

Football Mad

It was around this time I became interested in sport and a lifelong suffering of following Mayo teams. I remember vaguely being brought to Hyde Park in Roscommon for the Connacht Semi-final between Mayo and Roscommon in June 1975. Mayo won by 1-12 to 1-9 and I was bitten by the football bug. Ted Webb played left half-forward for Mayo that day and became my instant hero. I could not wait for the Connacht Final against Sligo in Markievicz Park. My memories are a haze about the actual match, although I know it finished all square at 2-10 to 1-13 and another day out in Castlebar.

The replay – on another sweltering day in Castlebar – was equally as tight. However, Sligo edged it by 2-10 to 0-15. I still remember the wild celebration by the 'Yeats County' men. My father, a Roscommon man, and a friend of his from County Armagh were delighted that Mickie Kerins had won an elusive Connacht Medal

after a long career, but it was hard for a six year old to take this in as tears flowed all the way home. That first Connacht Final will always hold a special place in my heart, though it was only a few very short months later when the town was stunned by the death of Ted Webb in a tragic accident in February 1976.

Many a tear has been shed over the next twenty-eight years, even though we neared the Holy Grail in 1989, '96 and '97, only to fall at the last hurdle. Down through all those years, Ballyhaunis has been well represented at all levels of Mayo football, and at Senior level where Micheal Webb became Ted's successor; Tommy Moran; Tony Morley of my own era and, more recently, David Nestor and Fergal Kelly. Tommy Grogan won an All-Ireland Under-21 medal in 1983; David Fitzgerald, a Minor in 1985; and Tony Morley and David Nestor – All-Ireland medallist at Junior level.

People who knew my house were aware of the big Roscommon connection, as my late father and uncle were fervent supporters of the 'primrose and blue'. Any meetings of the teams' League, but especially Championship, would bring out the true colours: both flags hung from the house; the banter would be lively. Martin, my uncle, would be besieged by Mayo's finest: the three Lyons brothers (John always looking for 'twos'), Seamus Coen and Oliver Hannon, who would remind Martin of 'the sheep-stealers'. But Martin could fight his own corner and was always backed up by Pat Gaffney, Mary Elwood and by another great friend of mine, the late Eamon Burke. Win or lose, the 'post-mortem' lasted for days and surely someone would say something controversial.

Throughout the eighties I became involved with the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club, from Under-10 level upwards. Our teacher, Mr. Jim Lundon – a Kerryman – instilled a great passion for the game within us. Looking back we achieved a great deal of success at under-age level in the eighties, winning a couple of Under-14 East Mayos, representing Mayo at an All-Ireland Sevens at Under-15 level in Gormanstown in 1983. But the highlight was winning the County Under-16 'A' title in 1984 by beating Ballinrobe in the Final in Claremorris. The Final itself was not one of my better games as I missed a penalty early on, but we dug deep and ground out a victory in a very low-scoring game. It was a marvellous achievement, put into present-day context, but we had a very good side powered by Val Byrne, David Fitzgerald, Paddy and Noel Phillips, Joseph Webb, Tony Morley, Neil Cruise, Seamus Caulfield, Brian Murray, to name just a few; a great Management Team of Gerry Lyons, John Durkan and, prior to this, Sean Cribbin. Many of that team were again to the fore when Ballyhaunis captured the Intermediate Title in 1988 by beating Shrulue in Charlestown.

Jim London, Noel Lyons, John and Tom Prenty, Ned Murren, his brother Haulie (the shrewdest judge of football around), Hugh Rudden, Aidan Kelly and possibly Ballyhaunis' two greatest gael's – Tony Morley Snr. and Johnny Biesty – all names who gave up so much time to the football through the seventies up to the present day. Mentioning a few of the great Ballyhaunis players in this era, you think of Tony Morley Snr., the Phillips', the Caulfields, Tony Waldron, Eamon Cunnane, the Freeleys, the Prentys, Tommy 'Bo' Moran, David Fitzgerald, David Nestor, Fergal Kelly, the lion-hearted Declan Doyle – the list goes on. But three players in my mind merit special mention: Val Byrne who, if he had stayed around, would have gone onto play for Mayo, Tony Morley Jnr. and Johnny Cribbin who were consistently outstanding in the Red and Black. Indeed, Johnny is now performing very well with the Mayo Over-40s.

Boys School

Back to school days. After leaving the Convent it was up to the Boys' School, up amongst the big boys. The old school, as it was then, was not the warmest on Winter's mornings but we did not mind as many's a day we had off when the heating failed. Alas, this did not last as the new boys' school was opened in the Autumn of 1979. This school was, and still is, one of the most modern in the country – one we can be proud of.

I look back with great fondness on my primary school years, and with good memories of lovely people such as Sr. Carmel, Sr. Rosario, Mrs. Regan, Mrs. Cruise, Mr. Kearns and Mr. London.

The Abbey

On the day Ireland met Spain in the World Cup, in June 2002, an era ended in Ballyhaunis with the closure of the Augustinian Abbey. For me it was a sad day as I spent eight years as a Server there. Memories of Winter nights at Benediction and Rosary, right through to our highlights – the Christmas and Easter ceremonies. I was part of the 'St. Oliver's Crew' and this was where I built up a life-long friendship with the Forde brothers, the Smith brothers and Jonathan Cleary. The Friars themselves will live long in the memories of mine and every other generation in the town – Fr. Berrill was a lovely man, Fr. Carolan, Fr. Hand, the ever-green Fr. Delaney and a man who was later to become a great friend of mine – Fr. John O'Connor. The last Sunday of every August was always a big day for us youngsters. The Abbey Pattern was 'the last hurrah' of the Summer and, for a full month, we would be getting ready for the events. It was always a great day-out. Maria Cribbin on the 'Wheel of Fortune' was a permanent feature. But when mentioning the Friary and Abbey Pattern, I cannot leave without a word for one man, a neighbour of mine, Frank Connolly, who gave many years of great service to the Abbey and the Scouts Den.

On a positive note the Friary and grounds have been entrusted to the people of Ballyhaunis and it's nice to see a walk-way being developed around the grounds which will open soon.

Bonfires

Towards the late seventies I was consumed by a new passion – the Bonfire. The bonfire was an old Celtic pagan ritual to mark mid-Summer. But in later times, St. John's Eve, June 23rd, was Bonfire Night. It hit a peak at the end of the seventies and early eighties and we were in the heart of it. Every street had their own bonfire and everyone was vying to see who had the biggest. Strangely, I was in with the Clare Street bonfire because all my friends were down there: the Fordes, Flatleys, Donnellans, Johnny Cleary, Gabriel Smyth. The Christmas holidays was our start-up point. We would go to hell and back for the sniff of tyres, especially 'lorries'; out in hail, sleet, snow. Daring raids were plotted against opposing streets, sometimes they paid off, sometimes not. Jarlath and Eamon Freyne were two lads who would go to great lengths in pursuit of a raid. It was the time of the Cold War and, I tell you, the CIA or KGB had nothing on us when it came to gathering intelligence. I remember one occasion Main Street came to raid, but fortunately we had got the tip-off. We were lying in wait when the boys appeared in search of the tyres, but they were met with the full blast of Pat Donnellan's watering hose. Poor Brian Phillips got most of the drowning and had to go home with his tail between his legs. On the other hand, I still remember Tom Forde relating to me in horror, two days before the bonfire, that we'd been hit for thirty car and lorry tyres. Two 'grand-chaps' pulled off 'an inside job'. However, after much negotiation, everything was back on track and the bonfire went ahead. Somehow, after all the work, the event was inevitably something of an anti-climax – the magic was always in the build-up. Sadly, the bonfires now seem to be a thing of the past and only a very few areas have one. I suppose the burning of over a hundred tyres didn't do much for the environment, or for freshly painted houses!

Teenage Years

In September 1981 I started in the Community School – a whole new school, new teachers, new friends. Some of our friends went away to boarding schools – Tom Forde to Garbally, Joseph Webb to St. Jarlath's. It was the beginning of our teenage years: discos in the Scouts Den, the occasional concert to see U2, Simple Minds, Big Country, etc. Looking back now at the eighties, some of the fashion seems quite horrendous – it was the 'New Romantic' era. The girls had a bizarre collection of leg-warmers. I can think of a few names but I won't cause any embarrassment. Having said that, I have a picture of my own graduation suit: a speckled black and white jacket, slim leather tie, drain-pipe trousers, white socks and black slip-on shoes – not a lot to be proud of now. Hairstyle too: so much time and effort for something that did not last, in some of our cases!

At this time my house became a kind of 'visiting house' (still is to a certain extent), where all our gang would meet up – 'Louie's Kitchen'. I think of Aisling and Eavan Webb, Philip McGoldrick, Anto O'Rourke (a friend of mine from Dublin), Laura and David Burke, Martina and Brian Freyne, Tom Forde, Noel Phillips, Gabriel Smith, Tony Cribbin, Tommy Leonard, Alan Henry, Donal

Delaney, as well as my dear old friend Jimmy Ruane. Many a row was had, many a deal brokered, many a courting couple. I remember on one occasion law being threatened in a heated encounter: the deal was brokered over one party buying the other a block of ice cream.

We had a few smokers in our company, which meant somebody always had to be on the look-out for Bernard Freyne or Eamon Burke, God rest him. Somehow, Davy Burke usually always got caught, and was marched home. Sixteen years on, the crowd has changed slightly. We now have local politicians, accountants, cattle-men and semi-retired cattle-men (great talkers), but the crack remains the same. We always try and meet up Christmas morning to relive some of the old times.

My late Mother, God rest her, always maintained the devil was stuck in cards; well, in that case, he lived in my house. And true enough, she was right: many a late night we had over there playing cards. Davy Burke and Gabriel Smith were particularly fond of a game, but in reality, we were small fry because the real McCoy were also there. Like the ad for a well known drink - 'any time, any place, anywhere' - a game of cards could be had. Someone very dear to me, Kathleen Cribbin, Tomas Cribbin, my uncle Martin, David Tarpey (Kilkelly), P. J. Moran (Charlestown), Tommy Cribbin, Micheal Lyons, Paddy Waldron, and of course the terrible twins - Seamus Coen and Mickey Joe Lyons - all were card players in a few different 'schools' around town. And the following day it was the post-mortem, which usually ended up in another game - 110 or 25. Laughter and rows would follow, but thankfully, no permanent damage was done. And to this day the same post-mortems are still in it.

There is so much I can recall about this era. Some happy times, some filled with sadness, but that's for

another day.

Into the Future

Had I written this article twenty years ago, I would be telling of how all these people are scattered all over the world - New York, London, Boston, Brisbane, etc. But looking at all these names, most of them live if not locally, local enough to be around at the weekends. A number of these have gone into business in the locality and are thriving. These are the Celtic Tiger Generation and many have married and settled down in the area.

Ballyhaunis has changed a lot since the 1970s and '80s, mostly for the best. The town is now a thriving multi-cultural society. We have flourishing local industries; we have huge housing and business plans, as well as a technology park in the pipe-line. This, to add to modern development in a number of locations. Our existing shops are among the most modern in the West of Ireland or indeed in the country for a town of its size. With the continued growth of Knock Airport, Ballyhaunis can become a focal point as the centre of Connacht. We have a state-of-the-art radio station on Clare Street. Midwest Radio, Paul Claffey, Chris Carroll and the gang deserve great credit for remaining in Ballyhaunis and giving us something to be proud of. They have come a long way since the early days. And the Abbey development already underway will be a major tourist attraction in years to come. And above all, Ballyhaunis' best asset - its own people.

I myself am proud firstly to be a Devlis man, over there in the best neighbourhood, and secondly, as a Ballyhaunis man and, if God spares me the health, I hope to write again in the future on more reflections, as the Boss would say, about 'My Home Town.'



The Square and Bridge Street in the 1980s

'A Brief Personal Sketch'

- Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C. -

I was born in North Mayo in the 1950s, and am one of a family of six. Ballycastle is the small town where I was brought up, and where I attended both National and Secondary School. Afterwards, I worked for a time in England, and decided, in the 1970s, to study for the priesthood with a Religious Society known as the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. On June 23rd 1984, I was ordained with three others by Bishop Dermot O'Mahoney in Blackrock Parish Church, Dublin.

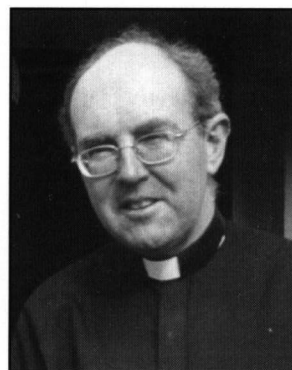
My first pastoral assignment was to a parish called Killinarden – this forms part of the large suburb of Tallaght, on Dublin's south-western outskirts. Most of that parish consists of housing estates, and many of the people living there had moved out from inner city areas. After five very challenging but worthwhile years in that place, I was sent to the Institute of Pastoral Liturgy, then in Carlow, for a year's study. After that, I received my first appointment in England. It was to the parish of the Sacred Heart and St. William, centred in the small town of Uppermill, near Oldham outside Manchester, where I spent three years. My next appointment was to the parish of St. Albert, Stockbridge Village, outside Liverpool. My ministry there lasted for two years.

In the year 1995, I decided to return to Ireland, so as not to be too far from my elderly parents. And in that year also, I entered the Archdiocese of Tuam. At first I had intended to return to my native Diocese of Killala, but was

told by the then bishop, Thomas Finnegan, that there were no vacancies for priests there at that time.

My first appointment in this Archdiocese of Tuam was to Finney, a lovely place on the Mayo/Galway border, and part of the parish of Leenane. After just a year there, I was transferred to the historic parish of Aghagower, near Westport, where I ministered for four years. Next, I was changed to beautiful Mulranny (part of the parish of Burrishoole, which includes Newport). In that scenic place, I spent three happy years. It was in the month of July of this year 2003 that I took up my new appointment as curate in this parish of Annagh (Ballyhaunis). Without doubt, this has been and is a tremendous change from Mulranny. However, thanks to Canon Joe Cooney, P.P. and the good people of Ballyhaunis, I am gradually finding my feet here, so to speak.

So, as I begin a new chapter in my life as a priest in East Mayo, I would ask you all to keep me in your prayers.



'Sr. Assumpta celebrates her Diamond Jubilee'

Sunday, 31st Aug., was one of great celebration at the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis, where Sr. Assumpta celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of her profession to the Mercy Order.

Sr. Assumpta was joined for the celebration by her sisters Tess (England) and Sr. Ursula (Swinford), other family members, fellow Sisters of Mercy, and a large circle of friends. Mass was celebrated in the new Convent House at Hazelhill, by Fr. Eamon Conway, after which the party enjoyed a special function in The Belmont Hotel, Knock. Sr. Assumpta Flannery, a native of Kilkelly, was professed sixty years ago on 2nd Sept., 1943, at the Convent of Mercy, Westport. She taught in the Westport Convent Primary School for a number of years before undertaking studies at University College Galway to gain her secondary teaching qualifications. In the early fifties she came to Ballyhaunis and taught in St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School and later in the Community School until her retirement in the mid eighties.

A most able and inspiring Maths teacher, many pupils have had the benefit of her thorough and effective teaching skills during her career which spanned four decades. Always a great worker for the disadvantaged and

vulnerable in society, Sr. Assumpta has carried out many works of a charitable nature - always quietly and unobtrusively - amongst those less well off in the community. Though retired, she still does a lot of useful work and continues to be a most popular member of the Ballyhaunis community. Congratulations are extended to Sr. Assumpta on reaching this milestone in her religious life, and she is wished many more years of health and happiness.



Sr. Assumpta with her cousin Fr. Eamon Conway at the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of her Profession.

'Spoiled for Choice'

- Eamonn Murren -

The song says that "there are three pubs in Bohola" but in Ballyhaunis in the fifties and sixties there were over fifty licensed premises. I shall try here to name them starting at the top of Main St. and working down.

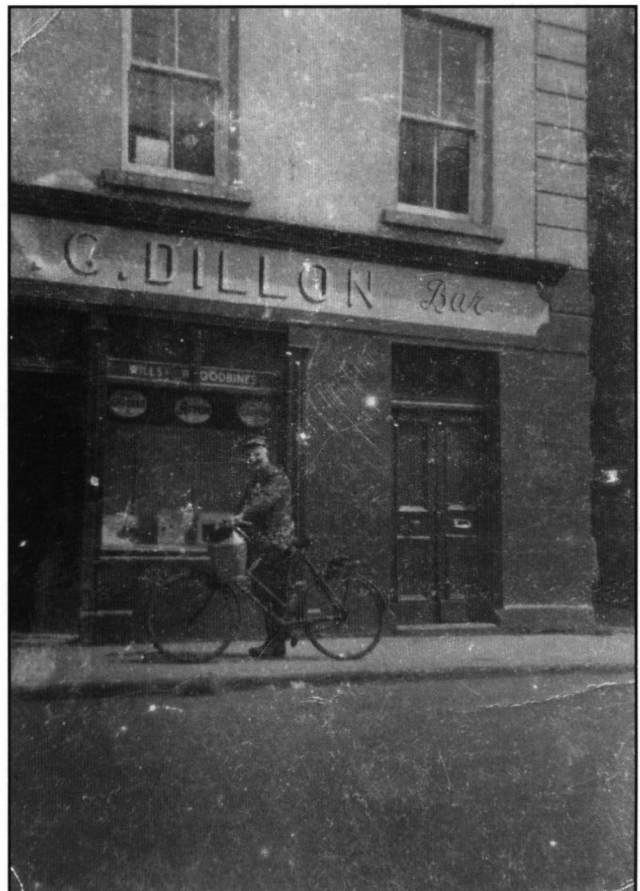
1. Larry Moran's – later owned by Mick Murray, Peter Farrell and John Crowe. It was then run as a supermarket by D. H. Burke. Now a derelict site, it is now owned by Mayo County Council who propose to knock it and build houses.
2. Paddy Phillips' – Paddy has been in Main Street since 1958. Former owners include Moran's and Flanagan's. The pub was once known as "The Cape of Good Hope". Paddy and his wife Una run this famous pub.
3. Neary's – later run by the late Charlie Phillips. Phyllis Phillips (nee Neary) and family live here.
4. Tom Murphy's – now a man's shop ran by Tom's son Eddie.
5. Tom Finn's pub (previously Walsh's) – now another shop owned by Eddie Murphy.
6. Caulfield's – later Jack Halpin's. Now a flower-shop ran by John and Breege Halpin.
7. Byrne's – run for many years by Val Byrne. It is now owned by Liam Folliard, a native of Aghamore.
8. Sonny Phillips' – run by "Yank" and later Sonny Phillips. This is now the private residence of the McQueeney family.
9. Michael Fahey's – later known as "The Harp and Shamrock". Among the owners were Liam Hebron, Kevin Hannan, Crowley Family, and Des Warde. This building was knocked and a nightclub built by Billy Nestor. It is now known as "Bojangles" nite-club.
10. Thomas Lyons – known locally as "Captain's". This business is now run by Tommy Lyons and is one of the oldest family run pubs in Ballyhaunis.
11. Dillon's, The Square – now a hardware and travel agents; no longer trading as a pub.
12. Connacht Arms – Past owners include Pat Callally, Peter Moran, Tom Moran, Paddy Lenihan. Present owner is Dunmore man Pat Walsh.
13. Johnny Gilmore's – 'Guthan 2' was the phone number of this business owned by the late John Gilmore. The licence is no more. This is now occupied by dentist Bernie Jennings.
14. Tarpey's – run by Nora McGillicuddy (nee Tarpey). It was later managed by Nora's daughter Myra. Later owners were Sean Hanley, Adrain Murray. The pub is now managed by Daithi Coyne and his wife Maggie.
15. Pat Glavey's – now the site of Paddy Ruane's electrical shop.
16. Jack Finnegan's – Following the untimely death of Jack this pub was later run by his wife Geraldine who died recently.
17. Breffni Arms – once known as Waldron's, this pub later was called the "Cosy Bar" and "Crazy Jack's". Now the licensee is Kay Stenson, a native of Tooreen following the untimely death of Gerry Brady.
18. The Lantern – this was owned by Mary 'Watt', Pat Noone, Len Walmsley, Michael Nolan, John O'Brien, Stephen Nolan. The present licensee is Roscommon native Clement Connaughton.
19. The Vintage Inn – previous owners were Greallys, Bill Campbell, O'Boyle family, Des Crawford, Charlie Doherty, Patsy Quinn. This premises is now owned by Tommy Johnston as part of his machinery business.
20. Philip Morley's – once rented by Joe Regan before he bought the Corner Bar. This is now the private residence of Tony and Josie Morley.
21. Tommy Johnston's – there has been no bar business for many years as the family concentrated on their thriving machinery business.
22. Rattigan's – previously known as "Neary's", this business was bought by Tommy Rattigan and his wife Sadie in 1943. It is now run by their son Val.
23. Jack Morley's – run by Jack and Nancy Morley and later by their son John. This premises is at present unoccupied.
24. Forde's – once known as the "Arch Bar", John Forde and his son Tom have a thriving off-licence business as part of their business.
25. Coyne's – run by Cyril Coyne and family for many years. This is now the location of the AIB Bank.
26. The Eagle Bar – owners included Tom Lyons, Kevin Griffin, Tony Cunnane, Tom Hegarty, Paddy Gormally, Paddy McMenamin, Paddy McKenna, Enda Murphy. This is where Colleran's Chemist shop now sits.
27. Rattigan's – I recall Aggie Rattigan being in this premises. This is where John O'Dwyer's office stands.
28. Michael Lyons' – this is where Tommy Webb's butcher shop is situated.
29. Gerry Dillon's – later run for many years by Jim Smith and his family. This is now the site of the "Oak Bar".
30. Oak Bar – owned by Foody family. George Delaney

- combined his hardware business with bar business. It is now used exclusively as hardware and gift shop.
31. Peter Hannon's – bought in early seventies by the late Mick Morris. No longer trading as a licensed premises.
 32. Cunningham's – the late Mido Cunningham ran this business. It is now the "Londis" supermarket owned by his son Pado.
 33. Durkan's – Headquarters of John Durkan bottlers. This has not operated as licensed premises for many years.
 34. George Delaney's – George passed on the mantle to his son Paddy. Following Paddy's untimely death last May his wife Moira and son Gareth continue to run this long established business.
 35. Giblin's – run by Dotie Dillon. This building was demolished some years ago.
 36. Caulfield's – I remember Monica Dillon being in business. This was the premises from which MWR operated until they recently moved to their new premises.
 37. The Commercial House – run by the late D. P. Hannan for many years. Now the site of a clothes shop.
 38. Byrne's – Phil Hurst ran this after the Byrne family. Later the name was changed to "The Silver Dollar". Past owners included John Moore, Jim McKermitt, later owned by Tommy Curran. Now owned by Christy Nicholson.
 39. Curley's – purchased in 1927 by the late Michael Curley. This is one of the oldest family owned pubs in Ballyhaunis. Following the death of Bertie Curley in 1985 the pub has been run by his wife Pauline and daughter Ann-Marie.
 40. Mulhern's – run by the late Mick Mulhern. The licence was later taken over by his son Eddie.
 41. Bernie Byrne's – bought by Bernie off the Foody family. This pub was subsequently run by Bernie's son Mike. Now owned by Hollymount native John Gill.
 42. Corner Bar – owned in the past by Paddy Jordan and later by Joe Regan. The present owner is Ger McGarry. The current occupier is Billy Nestor.
 43. Gallagher's – now one of the main builders' providers in the county.
 44. Toss O'Boyle's – this is the site of the "Man's Shop" on Main St. Tom O'Boyle and his wife ran this in the sixties.
 45. Central Hotel – run by the Freeley family for many years. This was later run by the late John Vahey. The building was demolished a few years ago and is now the site of "Supermacs" fast food outlet.
 46. Conor Flynn's – I recall Paddy and Jimmy Flynn. Paddy Ryan opened a V.G. supermarket here in late sixties. Phillips' clothes shop now operates out of

here.

47. Paddy Freeley's – sold by Paddy Freeley to Jordan family. The business was renamed "MacSuirtain's". Now owned by Stephen and Nuala Nolan.
48. Concannon's – run by the late Tom Concannon. This is the site of Phillips' shoe shop.
49. O'Brien's – another long established business. Now a clothes shop.
50. Tom Moran's – run by Tom Moran who is still hale and hearty. Later run by his son Tommy and wife Marguerite. This business was converted into a shop a few years ago.
51. Nora Healy's – run by Mick and Mary Keegan for many years. This is now the site of Ryan's SuperValu supermarket.
52. Freeley's – run in my time by sisters Ann and Patricia. Their nephew Joe rebuilt it and called it "The Tudor Inn". Later owned by Michael Horan, the present licensee is Margaret Byrne. Now called "The Hazel".

These are my memories of the licences held. No doubt I have made some mistakes and left people out. People will also point to two new licences namely "Monsoon Nite Club" and "Manor House". Of course Ballyhaunis Golf Club also has a licence. So, Ballyhaunis imbibers have still plenty of choice if not as much as years gone by.



Gerry Dillon outside his Public House on Bridge Street in the early 1960s. He was just after making his daily milk-delivery. Note the covered milk bucket.

'Ballyhaunis Bridge Club'

- Joan Flynn -

The Bridge Club was founded at a meeting in the Parochial Hall in 1962. The Chairman of the first meeting was Rev. Patrick Costelloe, former Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis. The Club then started playing at the then Central Hotel in Main Street. The first captain of the Club was the late Dr. Eamon Waldron and the first President was Rev. Thomas Rushe. Two of the founder members, Mr. Michael Cameron and Mrs. Angela Joyce, are still stalwart players every week.

Bridge is a great game of cards, enjoyed by so many world-wide and can be played up to any age. Mrs. Mary Dillon-Leetch, who admits to being over 90 years old, still enjoys her weekly Bridge games and has been a great supporter of the Club down through the years.

The President for 2003-2004 is Mrs. Chris Finn and her committee is: Treasurer - Mrs. Leonie Connery; Secretary - Mrs. Joan Flynn; Principal Tournament Director - Mr. Martin Connery; Committee members - Mrs. Corrine Flatley, Mrs. Kathleen Cribbin, Fr. Paddy Mullins, Mrs. Kay Lyons and Mrs. Justina Lyons.

Bridge is played in "The Hazel", Main Street every Tuesday and Thursday nights, commencing at 8 p.m. where members are looked after very well by management and staff. New members are always welcome.

Main competitions of the year are the President's Prize and the Murphy Cup. The Club is also very grateful to our local banks: Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Bank and Ulster Bank for their generous sponsorship. The local Credit Union also sponsor a very enjoyable night. The

President's Prize for 2003 (Mr. Martin Connery) was won by Mrs. Joan Flynn and Rev. Fr. Paddy Mullins and was played for over two nights in April.

During the year, we lost one of our long-standing members, Mrs. Mary Higgins. Mary was held in very high regard by everyone and sincere sympathy is extended to all her family. The Club continues to grow in strength and with the help and co-operation of the members the future of the Club is assured.



Martin Connery presenting his President's Prize to Mrs. Joan Flynn and Rev. Fr. Paddy Mullins, P.P. Began.



Taken in the late 1950s. L-R: Mrs. Bridie Byrne (R.I.P.), Mrs. Brigid Mary Halpin (R.I.P.), Jack Halpin (R.I.P.), Claire Byrne, Brendan Byrne, John Byrne, Tommy Webb.



Annagh Station Mass, April 2003, Caulfield's: Elizabeth Jordan, Kay Healy, Eavan Caulfield, Margaret O'Connor, Kathleen Caulfield, Joanna Hunt.



Intermediate Cert. Class, June 1960. L-R: Teresa Biesty, Josephine Byrne, Teresa Hoban, Mary Lynskey.



Mai Byrne (96) with her daughter Della and son-in-law Joe Weissenberger.



All Ireland Final 2003 – At Knock Airport. Pat Feeney, Tommie Grogan, Robbie Herr, Michael Waldron, Seamus Grogan, Michael Egan, Michael Grogan, Brian Hunt, Tom Eagney.



Ballyhaunis Festival 1988. L-R: Micheal Smyth, Gerry Geraghty, Fiona Grogan 'Annagh Rose', John Dillon-Leetch, Patricia Teahan, Michael Brogan.



Dressing Room – "My Fair Lady, Feb. 1998. L-R: Tom Colleran, Pat Doyle, Luke Murray, Mike Byrne.

'From Ballinphuill To Gurteen'

- Mary Callaghan -

Sligo and Castlerea (daughter of Bridie Judge)

Each year coming up on Christmas our mother would always say to us, if passing through Ballyhaunis, "don't forget the Annaghs!" Faithfully every year one went to Uncle Tom in Connecticut, U.S.A., another went to Uncle Mike in Manchester, and the other we all had a good read of over the Christmas.

Sadly, this year will be different as Tom died on the 5th of March and Mike died on the 9th of September. Two great uncles and two great men - may they Rest in Peace. The morning of Mike's funeral, there in his sitting-room, were all the 'Annaghs' from over the years stored neatly in year order, and it made us realise what 'Annagh' means to everyone who has connections with Ballyhaunis. At his funeral we reminisced with his friends and childhood neighbours and it brought back many memories 'from Ballinphuill to Gurteen'.

Grandparents

My grandparents were Owen and Bridget (nee Fitzmaurice) Judge of Ballinphuill, Ballyhaunis. Owen was a quiet, hardworking man, but unfortunately he died in 1966 and my memories of him are not as good as those of Bridget, who came originally from Gurteen. Granny was a lady full of fun and energy; she had this wonderful exuberance about her even in the way she worked in and out of the house - nothing phased her! There was never a dull moment when she was about, and from her I learned to bake, sew, knit and crochet. As I got older and went to the supermarket with my own mother, I wondered why people were buying small bags of flour as I had only ever seen the four stone bag with my grandmother. Again, the innocence of a child who thought everyone should be buying that size bag!

A Country Childhood

Running through the house as children there was always this wonderful smell of fresh baked bread. It was 'run out the fields and get the vegetables' and 'dig the potatoes for the dinner', and then to another plot for the fruit she put in those big pies she made. We were up early, and from butter-making to milking to collecting the eggs (those poor hens - how we used to tease them with the hay fork and got a few pecks in the process!), to haymaking; saving the turf, the threshing and the house stations - all these occasions were wonderful get-togethers for family, friends and neighbours and always created an air of excitement about the place for us as kids.

We would always be watching for those railway

gates to open, and never a day would pass that we didn't race to those gates whether it was to meet Jim Byrne, the postman (R.I.P.); Val Waldron (from Cave, R.I.P.) on his bike to check his cattle; Pake Lyons (R.I.P.) and his son Billy, or whichever of the lads were home, from John to P. J. to Declan. Then of course Uncle Mike would arrive from Manchester every year, and Uncle Tom and Mary from America, and Dave would always warn us to watch for the train before opening the gates.

The Railway Hill

How many times did we climb the Railway Hill and slide down it?! We would hear them talk of people climbing Croagh Patrick and, as a child, I would think why would we need to do that when we had our own Croagh Patrick in the Railway Hill! To climb to the top and hear the horses, and the chat and laughter from Brod Boyle's forge; and my grandmother would tell you lift your arms and feel as though you fly like birds free as the wind. On the way up and down she would sit on the big rock she called 'the stone outside Dan Murphy's door', and she would sing that song for us.

We went to the well a few times a day: the one at the railway gates or over the line to the well on Lyons' land, which was always covered in watercress and she always encouraged us to eat it!

Shopping Day

Saturday was shopping day in Ballyhaunis. Granny would dress you up and either we went on the bus or Mick Mac (McNamara) came in his aqua blue car and brought us to town. First call was to Halpin's in Abbey Street and into Mon (Mon Freely, nee Henry from Gurteen) and she would sit you up on the counter for your treat. Then to the Post Office, and on to Waldron's on Main Street for the shopping. Home again, off with the good clothes and back to that happy-go-lucky way of life we all shared and enjoyed.

Going to Gurteen was a big treat - out to 'Uncle Jim's', Henry's and other neighbours. Back then down the Carrowkeel road, on to Holywell Cross, then to Ballyhaunis and back again to Ballinphuill.

Now, as I reminisce on those times, I know I was privileged to have been with those people who helped to enrich my life, and who gave me such a wealth of childhood memories of happy hours 'from Ballinphuill to Gurteen'.



Clare St 1932

(L~R) Jimmy McGreal Clare St RIP, (His father standing at door behind), Fr. Dan Cunnane (Home from USA-Born in Cloonbullig) RIP, Thomas Morley Cloontumper RIP, Agnes Finn Hazelhill RIP, Eddie Finn Hazelhill RIP, Sean Griffin Clare St RIP, (Children in front) Paddy Delaney (Abbey St) RIP, Joe Griffin (Clare St) RIP. House in background to right 'Pat Boyle's house'.



Neighbours meet in Chapel Street.
Mary Ellen Dyer (RIP), Peg Greene, Anne Donoghue.



Blackpool 1932

Included in Photo; Miko Finn (on horse) Hazelhill RIP, Stephen Tarmey (standing behind) Holywell RIP, John Lyons (standing to his right) Greenwood RIP, Pete Finn (on little tractor) Hazelhill RIP, Billy Biesty (sitting left front) Carrowkeel RIP



1956
(L~R) Jim Fitzmaurice, Gurteen RIP, Tommy Henry, Gurteen, Fr. Tom Henry
New Jersey RIP



Neighbours Day out Late 1950's
May Freely, Pauline Henry, Lena Finn, Monica Henry, Mike Freely, Mike
Finn RIP.



1964
John Lynskey, Gurteen RIP, Tom Donnellan, Clare St RIP, Tom Carney,
Classaroe



1964
Jack Morley (Knox St) RIP, Billy Flatley (Main St) RIP formerly 'Flatleys
Café'



Gurteen 1950's
(Back Row) Austin Finn, Michael Finn,
Teresa Rochford (nee Finn), Lena Finn,
Christy Finn. (Front Row) Mary Ann Finn.
Michael Finn Snr.
(All photographed are deceased.)



Holywell Mid 1940's

(Back L~R) Michael Connolly, Tommy Kelly, Peter Connolly. (Front L~R) Jim Connolly, Martin Connolly, John Connolly, Helen Biesty (Pattenspark), Michael Biesty (Pattenspark), Maureen Tarmey (Holywell and Manchester)



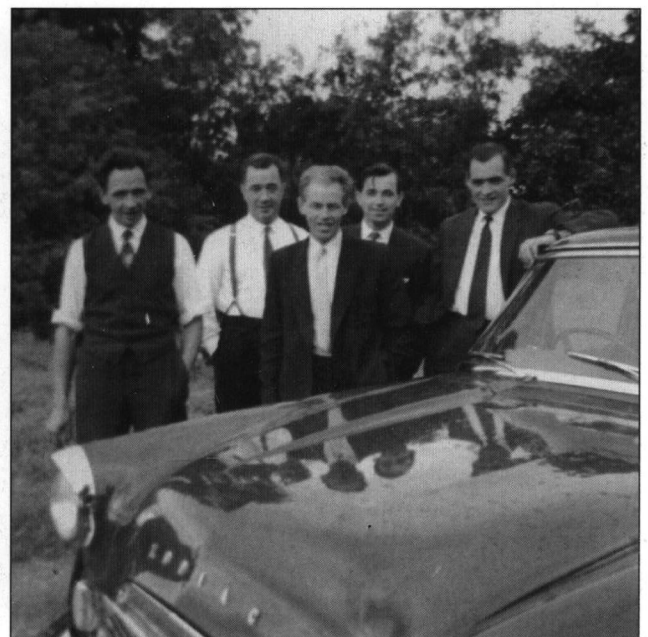
Left: Gurteen 1950's

Christy Finn R.I.P., John Lynskey R.I.P., Austin Finn R.I.P., Michael Finn R.I.P., Lena Finn R.I.P.



Three Generations of Biestys-Late 40's.

Jack Biesty (Pattens Park) RIP, Patsy Biesty (Pattens Park), Bob Biesty (Pattens Park) RIP, Stephen Tarmey (Holywell) RIP, Riding on Horse; Stephen Tarmey Jnr, Tommy Biesty.



Late 1950

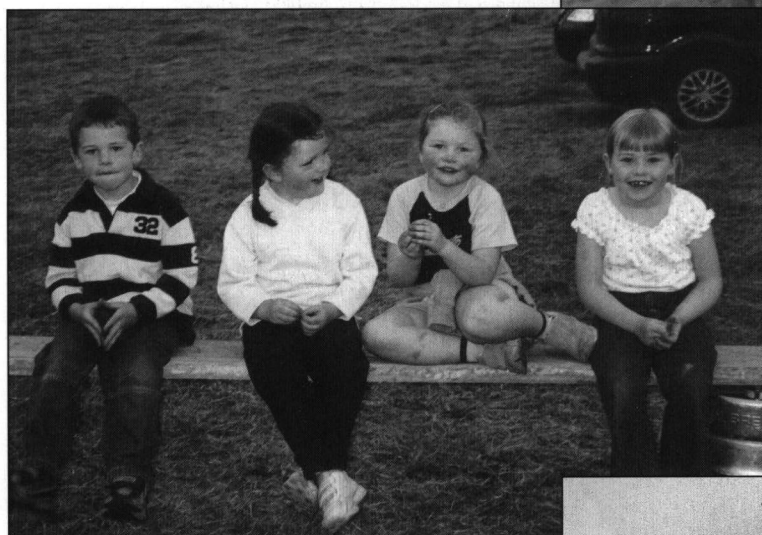
Jim Lynskey RIP, John Lynskey RIP, Tommy Henry, Peter Freely, Mike Finn RIP. All from Gurteen.



Left: Men at Work from Gurteen/Carrowkeel!
(L~R) Martin Brennan, Tommy Henry, John Brennan, Paddy Freely, Martin Caulfield, Jimmy Finn, Michael Henry, Michael Brennan, (BACK) Enda Caulfield, Ruairi Caulfield, (FRONT) Conor Mulrennan



Right: August 1967
(L~R) Mary Anne Finn, Michael Finn, James Lynskey, Austin Finn. (All were from Gurteen and are deceased)



Bonfire Night, Gurteen
(L~R) Eamonn Phillips, Aoife Mulrennan, Katie Moran, Ailish Phillips



Right: Tom and Margaret Freely (Gurteen) R.I.P.



Kathleen Caulfield's 70th Birthday Party

Back (l~r) Jimmy Finn, Sean Biesty, Noreen Caulfield, Mary Mulrennan, Austin Biesty, Martin Caulfield

Middle (l~r) Sadie Cameron, Paddy Freely, Michael Hopkins, Helen Biesty, Margaret Hopkins, Kathleen O'Boyle, Bill O'Boyle, Michael Cameron, Teresa Finn, Seamus Mulrennan, Noreen Culliney, Joan Biesty

Front (l~r) Michael Caulfield, Austin Caulfield, Patricia Judge, Kathleen Caulfield, Marie McNamara, Julia McCarthy, Kathleen Caulfield

Children (l~r) Austin Caulfield, Lorna Judge, Evelyn Judge, Aaron Judge.



St. Patrick's College U-14 team (1968)

(Back row L~R) Jarlath Waldron, Liam Forde, James Michael Waldron, John Lyons, J.T. Smith, Tom Murphy, Tom Grogan, Joe Henry (Front row L~R) Aidan Judge, Tony Carney, Ted Webb RIP, Eamonn Healy, Michael Webb, Willie Cribben, Liam Lynskey, Michael McHugh, Michael Kelly.

'What's Another Year'

- Mike Finnerty -

Spending a year in Australia on a Working Holiday Visa was never as popular as it is right now. Mike Finnerty, son of the former Marie Mulrennan of Gurteen, returned from his travels in October and recalls some of the highlights.

As I write the rain falls in sheets and the wind is cold and biting. Ireland is being enveloped by the chill of winter and the memories of last twelve months are fading slowly. Where we have been and what we have seen is now frozen solid in photographs and it is these images that remind us of the days, times and places that have gone.

The stamps on our passports conjure up images of sun, sand, beautiful weather, amazing wildlife and stunning scenery: Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The list reads like an appetising travel brochure, almost too good to be true. But it was true and we were there. And it was every bit as beautiful, amazing and stunning as we had imagined. Sometimes it was even more.

The idea to take a year of our lives and use it for personal gain was first mooted on New Year's Eve 2001. Now it is always a dangerous evening for making ambitious resolutions but there was more than a little intent to this particular vow. Three years of all work and no play (well, maybe just an odd bit of play here and there) had made this particular couple aware of how quickly time flies when you're in your mid-20s and taking part in the rat-race every single week of the 52.

The topic of Australia bobbed in and out of conversations for maybe two months before an information sheet was downloaded from the Internet and the mechanics of such a move were examined a little closer. There seemed to be plenty of pros and few cons. In essence, a time to go had to be chosen and money had to be saved. Apart from that there was precious little to worry about; it's not like there were mortgages to be paid and kids to be fed. Thank God!

And so direct debits to saving accounts were set up; The Mayo News was informed of my decision and the six months to take-off began to count down. Then, suddenly, Ballinrobe won an Intermediate Championship one October Sunday and we flew to Hong Kong less than twenty-fours later. There were three of us; all enthusiastic, Mayo green-horns with nothing but the bags on our backs and the VISA cards in our pockets. We left work, deadlines and all the other ins and outs of the real world behind us. The adventure was underway.

Highlights

Now to try and tell you everything would be impossible but I will endeavour to pick out and clean up a few highlights. First and foremost had to be the sheer experience that is a sky-dive. I would recommend this particular adrenaline-rush to everybody and it remains one

of our fondest excursions. Imagine jumping out of a plane tens of thousands of feet above the ground with only a bleach-haired, hard-drinking Australian strapped to your back for safety. If it's a heart-thumping, blood-rushing, life-flashing buzz you want then sky-diving is your man. It made the East coast of Oz all the more spectacular and complimented the tranquil week we spent lazing on the white sand of the Whitsunday Islands nicely. Reality would come later.

Hands up who has done door-to-door sales, loaded and unloaded forty-foot trucks, wrapped Christmas presents and worked in a bank...all in the space of just one month? Yes this was the world in which I lived last December in Sydney. Christmas was coming, work was scarce and the rent had to be paid. It was all a far cry from working on the sun-tan but New Zealand awaited us in 2003 and so dollars had to be saved. Thus I found myself trying to flog telephone systems to middle-aged Australian mechanics one day and lifting boxes of frozen meat that weighed 30kgs the next. Not to mention being a member of the staff of St. George's Bank and looking after the finances of New South Wales. Hey, it was a tough job but...

It was around this time that some of Ballyhaunis' finest young men arrived in Sydney for the festive celebrations. In fact Liam Rochford, Shay Walsh and Fergal Kelly shared an ice-box with us as the New Year arrived in Australia. We were all sitting in the shadow of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, sipping Tooheys and texting Ireland, as the fire-works exploded and the singing started. Apart from a brief scare when the fire-works were almost cancelled due to high winds it was the perfect evening. And well worth the trip.

In late January the temperature climbed to an almost unbearable 40 degrees and after a few days at the Australian Open Tennis Championships (where we saw the legendary John McEnroe swearing and throwing his racket) we left for New Zealand. We had given ourselves six weeks to see the best of both the North and South Islands and were not disappointed. In no particular order we saw whales, sweeping snow-capped mountains and some of the best rugby players in the world. We also rode the luge (basically a tea-tray that you slide down a hill on – at speed), climbed a glacier, went jet-boating, horse-riding and saw the awesome sight that is Milford Sound. Not to mention the plethora of beaches and treks we managed to squeeze in too. Meeting some Maoris was a personal highlight and the Haka is even more spectacular up close.

Melbourne

March brought us to Melbourne for the Grand Prix and work, in that order. The GP was like being at a Mayo County Football Final what with the dozens of Lahardane t-shirts, Mayo jerseys and strong local accents. Everyone



Taken at Great Ocean Road, Australia, January 2003. L-R: Alan Grady, Fergal Kelly, Joe Freeley, Shirley Keane, Cliona Keys, Ciara Healy, Ethna Byrne, Liam Rochford.

West of the Shannon seemed to end up at the same corner which made for a very unusual seven hours. Those Grand Prix do go on a bit you know!

The next four months rolled by in Melbourne as I sold pay-per-view television to the Aussies during the week and we spent our weekends going to festivals, Aussie Rules games or visiting the likes of the set of *Neighbours*. The weather was mild, the craic was good and the quality and cost of living was practically unbeatable.

By the time we arrived in Darwin in August we had travelled the Great Ocean Road, seen the sun rise at Ayers Rock and driven across the dry, harsh Northern Territory for four days to see the flora and fauna at Kakadu Park. We were tanned, tired and thirsty and there are few places better equipped for those symptoms than Darwin.

We had only been there for a few days when two familiar-looking faces appeared by the pool. The Ballyhaunis GAA Club t-shirts gave the game away: Joe Freeley and Alan Grady were in town, looking brown as berries and fresh from an appearance in the local newspaper. You'll have to ask them for the details!! A very enjoyable weekend was had by all and no better lads to help you organise your leaving party.

Western Australia

Western Australia was our next and final stop for work. We arrived in Perth sure that the next month would involve an office, a computer and all that goes with it. Instead, after the intervention of a clean-cut Australian farmer, we ended up on a farm deep, deep in the Outback. I drove a tractor for a month, 'topping' as we call it back here on a 127,000 acre farm. It was like taking a nail-scissors to Croke Park. But the deal to go to the countryside was not without its perks and we were given accommodation, our meals and a pick-up truck as part of the job. We worked six days a week and in a village of only 100 people found it practically impossible to spend our wages.

Our days off were spent in the Bush, spotting kangaroos, emus, wild turkeys and other natives. It was, without doubt, the most enjoyable part of our year in Oz; meeting and working with the real Aussies.

South Africa

Our final port of call in October was South Africa. We managed a week in Cape Town where the beauty and hardship of the country lives cheek by jowl. We visited the Townships, went to the top of Table Mountain and saw where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for nineteen years. The coastline and landscape was stunning too.

Johannesburg was, thankfully, only a brief stop on our way to a Safari in Kruger Park. For five days we slept under the stars and got to see the whites of the eyes of elephants, rhinos, lions, buffalos and leopards. It was a fitting end to a year which just got better and better as it unfolded and will, undoubtedly, change our lives from here on.

And then we were home. The year went by in a flash and nobody, least of all us, can fathom where it went. We have agreed we would not change a thing about our trip, even if we could. We had no major trials or tribulations and got to see more in one year than most people see in a lifetime. Certainly, in terms of aesthetics, enjoyment and sport we could do very little more. And we would do it again.

And maybe we will. But, for now, it's all about settling back in. But if you are thinking of going – do. You won't regret it.



Michael Finnerty and Celine Keane at Cape Point, South Africa.

'Annagh Parish in 1901, Part Four'

In the last three issues of the Annagh Magazine, we presented the household returns, in an edited format, from the 1901 census of population for the town of Ballyhaunis, townlands immediately adjacent to the town, and those townlands in the rural portion of the parish to the north-east of the town. In this issue we continue the series (part four) and present returns from another 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 another one instalment to complete the parish as it was in 1901. Part four, presented here, takes in those townlands lying to south of the Ballinlough road, and out the Galway and Granlahan roads – the townlands of Aderg, Ballybeg, Bargarriff, Coolnafarna, Curries, Derrintogher, Derrylea, Garraun, Gortnageeragh, Grallagh, Kiltybo, Lecarrow, Knockbrack, Leo, Scregg and Tullaghaun. Next year, the concluding part of this series, will feature the townlands in the western portion of the parish, from Annagh and Island in the north, to Holywell in the south.

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 was deviated from this.

As with the last three 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 as approximate - there was a tendency to understate them or 'round them off' to the nearest multiple of ten or five. (2) Generally all school children recorded as "scholars". (3) Some abbreviations used below are as follows: dau – daughter; g'dau – granddaughter; g'son – grandson; ww – widow; wr – widower; md – married; unm – unmarried; b. – born; lab – labourer; ag lab – agricultural labourer; hk – housekeeper; Rosc – Roscommon; serv – servant; CI – Church of Ireland.

Aderg

(7 houses)

1. Groarke's
James Groarke 49, farmer, wr
James Groarke 17, son, lab
2. Connell's
Thomas Connell 41, farmer
Bridget Connell 35, wife
Catherine Connell 14, dau
Michael Connell 12, son
Delia Connell 10, dau
Patrick Connell 8, son
Thomas Connell 6, son
Ellen Connell 4, dau
Martin Connell 3, son
Mary Connell 6m, dau
Bridget Reilly 33, serv
3. Folliard's
Norah Folliard 35, hk, ww
Patrick Folliard 15, son, lab
Thomas Folliard 10, son
4. Cribbin's
Thomas Cribbin 45, farmer
Mary Cribbin 45, wife
Mary Cribbin 17, dau
Maggie Cribbin 15, dau
Thomas Cribbin 14, son
5. Greally's
Patrick Greally 35, farmer, unm
Mary Greally 38, sister, unm
6. Fitzmaurice's/Fitzgerald's
Bridget Fitzmaurice 60, hk, ww
Thomas Fitzgerald 26, son, lab
7. Judge's
Patrick Judge 38, farmer

Maria Judge 36, wife
Michael Judge 9, son
Mary K. Judge 7, dau
Patrick Judge 4, son
John E. Judge 2, son
Richard A. Judge 8m, son
Andrew Judge 70, father, wr
Edward Judge 25, brother, lab
Eliza Judge 23, sister, housemaid

Ballybeg

(8 houses)

1. Joyce's/Rogers'
John Joyce 60, farmer, b. Co. Rosc.
Ellen Joyce 65, wife
Patrick Rogers 32, son-in-law
Ellen Rogers 29, dau
Maggie Rogers 2, g'dau
Mary Rogers 1, g'dau
2. Donnellan's
John Donnellan 51, farmer, wr
Annie Donnellan 15, dau
Bridget Donnellan 14, dau
Mary Donnellan 12, dau
Ellen Donnellan 10, dau
Janie Donnellan 8, dau
Honor Donnellan 80, mother, ww
3. Comer's
John Comer 70, farmer
Catherine Comer 69, wife
Bridget Comer 28, dau
John Comer 25, son, lab
Maggie Comer 23, dau, seamstress
4. Cooney's
Patrick Cooney 59, farmer
Mary Cooney 45, wife
Thomas Cooney 18, son
Anne Cooney 16, dau

- Patrick Cooney 14, son
Eliza Cooney 12, dau
Delia Cooney 9, dau
5. Noonan's
Patrick Noonan 63, farmer
Mary Noonan 60, wife
Patrick Noonan 26, son
Nellie Noonan 19, dau
Bridget Noonan 22, visitor, cousin
Mary E. Byrne 4, visitor
6. Mullarkey's
Mary Mullarkey 36, landowner, ww, b. Co. Rosc.
Mary A. Mullarkey 16, dau
Thomas Mullarkey 15, son
Kate Mullarkey 12, dau
Michael Mullarkey 7, son
Bridget Mullarkey 4, dau
7. Finnegan's
John Finnegan 56, farmer
Anne Finnegan 36, wife
Patrick Finnegan 16, son
Thomas Finnegan 12, son
Michael Finnegan 11, son
Kate Finnegan 8, dau
Sarah Finnegan 5, dau
Annie Finnegan 2, dau
Lizzie Finnegan 4m, dau
8. Mullarkey's
John Mullarkey 45, farmer
Catherine Mullarkey 30, wife
Patrick Mullarkey 7, son
Martin Mullarkey 6, son
Michael Mullarkey 4, son
Mary Mullarkey 3, dau
Margaret Mullarkey 1, dau
Margaret Mullarkey 70, mother, ww, b. Co. Galway
Malachy Groarke 68, friend, lab, unm

Bargarriff

(17 houses)

1. Bailey's
Patrick Bailey 64, farmer
Mary Bailey 60, wife
Patrick Bailey 26, son, lab
Catherine Bailey 20, dau
2. Bailey's
Thomas Bailey 60, farmer
Margaret Bailey 50, wife
Andrew Bailey 17, son, lab
Bridget Bailey 14, dau
3. Bailey's
Andrew Bailey 60, farmer
Bridget Bailey 40, wife
Kate Bailey 16, dau
Andrew Bailey 7, dau
Martin Bailey 2, son
4. Coyne's
Patrick Coyne 60, farmer, wr
John Coyne 32, son, lab
Bridget Coyne 30, dau-in-law
5. Coyne's
James Coyne 60, farmer
Bridget Coyne 54, wife
Austin Coyne 17, son
6. Barrett's
Richard Barrett 32, farmer
Bridget Barrett 26, sister
7. Cox's
William Cox, 58, farmer
Mary Cox 55, wife
Mary Cox 18, dau
8. Cox's
John Cox 50, farmer, unnm
James Cox 25, nephew, lab
Maggie Cox 18, niece, hk
Anne Cox 17, niece, seamstress
9. Morley's
Mary Morley 70, hk, ww
Patrick Morley 38, son
10. Ownes' [house owned by Martin Cooney]
Ellen Ownes 60, hk, ww
11. Cooney's
Martin Cooney 30, farmer
Kate Cooney 32, wife
Patrick Cooney 3, son
Thomas Cooney 2, son
Michael Cooney 10m, son
12. Gildea's
Bridget Gildea 60, landowner, ww
John Gildea 28, son
Ellen Gildea 25, dau
Celia Gildea 19, dau
Patrick Meehan 94, father, retired

13. Ruane's
John Ruane 40, farmer
Margaret Ruane 38, wife
John Ruane 2, son
James Ruane 31, brother, unnm
14. Ruane's
Luke Ruane 35, farmer
Mary Ruane 33, wife
Florence Ruane 4, dau
Thomas Ruane 2, son
William Ruane 3m, son
Mary Ruane 77, mother, ww
15. Mullarkey's
James Mullarkey 50, farmer
Bridget Mullarkey 40, wife
Maria Mullarkey 20, dau
Kate Mullarkey 18, dau, seamstress
Ellen Mullarkey 14, dau
Lizzie Mullarkey 12, dau
Anne Mullarkey 8, dau
Mary Carney 80, mother-in-law, ww
16. Kelly's
James Kelly 40, farmer
Mary Kelly 36, wife
Patrick J. Kelly 6, son
Mary K. Kelly 5, dau
James M. Kelly 4, son
Bridget Kelly 3, dau
Annie Kelly 1, dau
17. Regan's
Dominick Regan 40, farmer
Mary Regan 38, wife
Delia Regan 9, dau
Kate Regan 7, dau
Maggie Regan 5, dau
Michael Regan 3, son
Bridget Waldron 80, mother-in-law

Coolnafarna

(14 houses)

1. Moran's
Bridget Moran 60, farmer, ww
Catherine Moran 35, dau
William Moran 28, son, N.T.
2. Moran's
John Moran 68, farmer, wr
Patrick F. Moran 29, son
Mary Anne Moran 23, dau-in-law
John Joseph Moran 8m, g'son
Kate Kenny 15, domestic serv
3. Boyd's (CI)
Marcella Boyd 63, farmer's ww, b.
Co. Rosc
George Boyd 25, son
4. Evans' (CI)
William Evans 37, farmer
Margaret Evans 34, wife
Margaret Evans 1, son
5. Bournes' (CI)
Anne Bournes 65, ww
Andrew Bournes 35, son
6. Pugh's (CI)
Arthur Pugh 71, farmer
Olivia Pugh 61, wife, b. Co. Rosc
Edward Pugh 28, son
7. Bournes' (CI)
Michael Bournes 40, farmer, unnm
Edward Bournes 20, brother, unnm
Fanny Bournes 24, sister, unnm
8. Mears' (CI)
Thomas Mears 56, farmer
Kate Mears 50, wife
William Mears 25, son
9. Bournes' (CI)
Harriet Bournes 57, farmer's ww
Jane Bournes 27, dau
10. Brown's
John Brown 60, farmer
Mary Brown 57, wife
John Brown 19, son
Mary Anne Brown 17, dau
Denis Brown 15, son
11. Brown's
Thomas Brown 65, farmer
Winifred Brown 21, wife
John Brown 19, son
William Brown 17, son
12. Burns' (CI & RC)
Robert Burns (CI) 51, farmer
Sarah Burns 46, wife, teacher
Mary A. Dalton 15, niece
Norah Brennan 21, serv, b.
Co. Galway
13. Flatley's
Timothy Flatley 39, teacher
Bridget Flatley 37, wife, teacher
Mary K. Flatley 10, dau
Winifred Flatley 8, dau
John Flatley 7, son
Helena Flatley 5, dau
Michael Flatley 3, son
Margaret Flanagan 17, serv
14. N.S. School (on land owned by Robert Burns)
15. Brown's
Cornelius Brown 56, farmer
Catherine Brown 46, wife
William Brown 19, son
Patrick Brown 16, son
Michael Brown 14, son
Thomas Brown 13, son
Stephen Brown 10, son
Cornelius Brown 7, son
Ismena Brown 4, dau
Catherine Brown 2, dau

Curries

(11 houses)

1. Healy's
Francis Healy 70, farmer
Mary Healy 65, wife
Martin Healy 40, son, unnm
John Healy 32, son, unnm
Martin Waldron 11, g'son
Lizzie Waldron 9, g'dau
2. Egany's
Thomas Egany 34, farmer
Catherine Egany 27, wife, b.
Co. Rosc.
Michael Egany 6, son
John Egany 4, son
Mary Egany 3, dau
3. Connelly's
Patrick Connelly 55, farmer
Ellen Connelly 48, wife
Michael Connelly 16, son, lab
Maggie E. Connelly 13, dau
Annie Connelly 11, dau
Peter P. Connelly 9, son
4. Meehan's
John Meehan 55, farmer
Ellen Meehan 40, wife
James Meehan 60, brother, lab, unnm
Bridget Meehan 80, mother, ww
5. Hoster's
John Hoster 70, farmer, wr
Michael Hoster 26, son, lab
Ellen Hoster 22, dau
6. Connell's
Michael Connell 50, farmer, unnm
Anne Connell 40, sister, unnm
7. Judge's
Bridget Judge 70, hk, ww
Thomas Judge 33, son, lab
James Judge 29, son, lab
Bridget Korrane 15, niece, housemaid
Bridget Judge 4, grandau
8. Meehan's
John Meehan 40, farmer
Ellen Meehan 28, wife
William Meehan 6, son
Patrick Meehan 4, son
Mary Meehan 2, dau
Bridget Meehan 3m, dau
John Meehan 80, father, wr
9. Plunket's
Thomas Plunket 43, farmer
Ellen Plunket 31, wife
Bridget Plunket 4, dau
Edmond M. Plunket 2, son
Ellen Plunket 6m, dau
10. Plunket's
John Plunket 42, farmer
Margaret Plunket 35, wife
Thomas Plunket 6, son

Patrick Plunket 5, son
Ellen Plunket 3, dau
Michael Plunket 1, son
Ellen Plunket 70, mother
Michael Plunket 28, brother, lab

11. Mellett's
Ellen Mellett 55, hk, ww
Mary Mellett 25, dau, seamstress
Martin Mellett 23, son, lab

Derrintogher

(5 houses)

1. Gallagher's
Peter Gallagher 70, farmer, wr
Patrick Gallagher 28, son, lab
Bridget Gallagher 22, dau-in-law
Norah Gallagher 18, dau, seamstress
Thomas Neary 11, g'son, b. Co. Rosc
Michael O'Brien 45, superintendent
over public works, b. Co. Galway
2. Finnegan's
Patrick Finnegan 46, farmer
Bridget Finnegan 30, wife
Mary K. Finnegan 6, dau
John Finnegan 5, son
Bridget Finnegan 4, dau
Thomas Finnegan 3, son
Maggie Finnegan 2, dau
Catherine Finnegan 66, mother, ww
3. Ruane's
Michael Ruane 35, farmer
Maria Ruane 31, wife
Winifred Ruane 2, dau
Gerald Ruane 1, son
4. Doherty's
Patrick Doherty 70, farmer
Catherine Doherty 50, wife
Martin Doherty 18, son
Thomas Doherty 16, son
Stephen Doherty 14, son
Bernard Doherty 12, son
Annie Doherty 10, dau
5. Murray's
Patrick Murray 68, farmer, wr
Edward Murray 28, son, lab
Michael Murray 25, son, lab
Francis Murray 20, son, lab
Bridget Murray 19, dau

Derrylea

(6 houses)

1. Sullivan's
Michael Sullivan 57, tenant farmer
Bridget Sullivan 40, wife
Bridget Sullivan 12, dau
Kate Sullivan 11, dau
Marianne Sullivan 9, dau
Norah Sullivan 6, dau
Patrick Sullivan 4, son
Ellen Sullivan 3, dau
2. Jennings'

Walter Jennings 50, tenant farmer
Mary Jennings 47, wife
Mary Jennings 70, mother
Michael Jennings 21, son
Martin Jennings 21, son
Patt Jennings 17, son
Francis Jennings 13, son
Walter Jennings 8, son
Norah Jennings 11, dau

3. Fitzmaurice's
James Fitzmaurice 50, tenant farmer
Catherine Fitzmaurice 47, wife
Mary E. Fitzmaurice 22, dau
Maggie Fitzmaurice 20, dau
Pat Fitzmaurice 16, son
James Fitzmaurice 14, son
Michael Fitzmaurice 11, son
Katie Fitzmaurice 5, dau
Delia Fitzmaurice 3, dau
4. Sullivan's
Thomas Sullivan 65, farmer
Kate Sullivan 50, wife
*Norah Sullivan ..., dau, md,
Co. Rosc
*Thomas Sullivan 28, son, America
Patrick Sullivan 26, son
*John Sullivan 24, son, America
Delia Sullivan 22, dau
*Kate Sullivan 20, dau, seamstress,
America
Michael Sullivan 19, carpenter
Andrew Sullivan 17, son
May Sullivan 16, dau
Winnie Sullivan 14, dau
Agnes Sullivan 12, dau
Francy Green 4, niece

Note: when this return was filled, the names of four absent members of the family were also included, only to be crossed out by the census enumerator. Here the crossed out names are denoted with an asterisk*. In the 'where born' column, the then current whereabouts of the absent members seems to have been given.

5. Derrylea Female National School
6. Derrylea Male National School

Garraun

(11 houses)

1. Finnigan's
James Finnigan 47, farmer
Mary Finnigan 45
John Finnigan 17
Thomas Finnigan 16
Michael Finnigan 14
Mary E. Finnigan 12
Catherine Finnigan 11
Margaret Finnigan 5
James Finnigan 3
2. McNamara's
Austin McNamara 32, farmer
Bridget McNamara 38, wife

Thomas Meehan 14, stepson
John Meehan 12, stepson
Patrick Meehan 11, stepson
Maggie Meehan 9, stepdau
Bernard Meehan 7, stepson
Michael McNamara 4, son
Anne McNamara 2, dau

3. Mullarkey's
John Mullarkey 48, farmer
Mary Mullarkey 46, wife
Philip Mullarkey 15, son
Bernard Mullarkey 13, son
Kate Mullarkey 11, dau
Norah Mullarkey 8, dau
Julia Mullarkey 6, dau
John Mullarkey 3, son
4. Mullarkey's
David Mullarkey 65, farmer
Mary Mullarkey 40, wife
Mary A. Mullarkey 20, dau
Ellen Mullarkey 18, dau
Bridget Mullarkey 15, dau
Lizzie Mullarkey 14, dau
Maggie Mullarkey 12, dau
Kate Mullarkey 10, dau
James Mullarkey 8, son
Michael Mullarkey 6, son
Norah Mullarkey 6, dau
Sarah Mullarkey 4, dau
Agnes Mullarkey 2, dau
Celia Mullarkey 2, dau
5. Murray's
James Murray 50, farmer
Mary Murray 40, wife
John Murray 15, son
Kate Murray 13, dau
Patrick Murray 12, son
Mary Murray 10, dau
Bridget Murray 9, dau
James Murray 7, son
Michael Murray 4, son
Thomas Murray 2, son
Francis Murray 1m, son
Ellen Murray 8, dau
Bridget Murray 82, mother
6. Joyce's
Michael Joyce 32, farmer
Mary Joyce 28, wife
William Joyce 6, son
Kate Joyce 4, dau
Thomas Joyce 2, son
Mary Joyce 6m, dau
7. Rogers'
Mary Rogers 45, ww
John Rogers 60, brother-in-law, unnm, lab
Mary E. Rogers 18, dau
8. Henehan's
Patrick Henehan 58, farmer
Margaret Henehan 45, wife
Michael Henehan 21, son
Patrick Henehan 18, son
Bridget Henehan 14, dau
Norah Henehan 12, dau
Annie Henehan 10, dau

Luke Henehan 8, son
Kate Henehan 4, dau
Ellen Henehan 7m, dau

9. Moran's
John Moran 38, farmer
Catherine Moran 42, wife
Mary Moran 10, dau
Kate A. Moran 5, dau
Delia Moran 3, dau
Anne Moran 1, dau
Bridget Moran 46, sister
10. Lydon's
John Lydon 26, farmer
Mary Lydon 32, wife
Michael Lydon 6m, son
11. McNamara's
Ellen McNamara 50, landowner, ww
Michael McNamara 24, lab
Sarah Mullarkey 4, g'dau

Gortnageeragh

(6 houses)

1. Waldron's
John Waldron 45, farmer
Celia Waldron 40, wife
Sarah Waldron 16, dau
John Waldron 14, son
Stephen Waldron 12, son
Maggie Waldron 9, dau
Delia Waldron 7, dau
Norah Waldron 5, dau
Francis Waldron 87, father
Norah Waldron 75, mother
2. Finn's
Patrick Finn 40, farmer
Bridget Finn 35, wife
3. Lyons'
Michael Lyons 40, farmer
Maria Lyons 35, wife
Sarah Lyons 65, mother
Mary K. Lyons 7, dau
Maggie Lyons 2, dau
John Lyons 11m, son
4. Feeney's
William Feeney 36, farmer
Bridget Feeney 35, wife
Kate Feeney 6, dau
John Feeney 4, son
Mary E. Feeney 2, dau
Edward Feeney 8m, son
Catherine Feeney 63, mother, ww
Anne Feeney 65, aunt, unnm
5. McGivern's
Thomas McGivern 72, farmer, wr
Norah McGivern 29, dau-in-law, md
Bridget McGivern 25, dau
6. Waldron's
Patrick Waldron 57, farmer
Ellen Waldron 48, wife
Maggie Waldron 19, dau

Edward Waldron 16, son, lab
Francis Waldron 14, son
Mary E. Waldron 9, dau

Grallagh

(39 houses)

1. Cribbin's
James Cribbin 34, farmer
Bridget Cribbin 30, wife
Thomas Cribbin 2, son
James Cribbin 4m, son
Bridget Riley 68, mother-in-law
Kate Riley 20, sister-in-law
Pat McNeive 17, serv
2. Loftus'
John Loftus 50, farmer
Mary Loftus 40, wife
Thomas Loftus 11, son
James Loftus 8, son
John Loftus 6, son
Martin Loftus 3, son
3. Walsh's
James Walsh 33, lab
Honorah Walsh 32, wife
Margaret Reilly 60, mother-in-law
4. Loftus'
John Loftus 60, farmer
Tom Loftus 21, son
Michael Loftus 23, son
Mary Loftus 50, wife
5. Phillips' [house owned by John Loftus]
Thomas Phillips 60, lab
Ellen Phillips 58, wife
6. Waldron's
Michael Waldron 70, farmer
Julia Waldron 65, wife
Mary Waldron 35, dau
Austin Waldron 32, son
7. Kelly's
Charles Kelly 80, farmer
Mary Kelly 66, wife
Edward Kelly 24, son
8. Byrne's
Michael Byrne 60, farmer
Sibina Byrne 60, wife
Thomas Byrne 29, son
Patrick Byrne 23, son
Michael Byrne 20, son
Margaret Byrne 18, dau
9. Fitzgerald's
James Fitzgerald 49, farmer
Mary Fitzgerald 50, wife
Hanoria Fitzgerald 19, dau
Pat Fitzgerald 16, son
James Fitzgerald 24, son
David Fitzgerald 12, son
Thomas Fitzgerald 10, son
Catherine Fitzgerald 7, dau
Anne Fitzgerald 5, dau

- Mary Fitzgerald 3, dau
Mary Fitzgerald senior 78, mother
10. Walsh's
William Walsh 60, farmer, wr
Michael Walsh 50, brother
Maria Walsh 46, wife
William Walsh 15, son
Katie Walsh 13, dau
Rose Walsh 7, dau
Mary Anne Walsh 2, dau
11. Kildea's
Patrick Kildea 45, farmer
Mary Kildea 40, wife
Michael Moore 70, visitor, un
Julia Moore 70, visitor, ww
Bridget Folliard 16, serv
12. Cleary's
John Cleary 33, farmer
Ellen Cleary 34, wife
John Jennings 35, brother, gen. lab.,
unm
Mary Ellen Cleary 3, dau
Patrick Cleary 1, son
13. Lyons'
James Lyons 60, farmer
Hanoria Lyons 45, wife
Mary Lyons 23, dau
Anne Lyons 22, dau
James Lyons 20, son
Thomas Lyons 19, son
Austin Lyons 16, son
14. Connolly's
Andrew Connolly 68, farmer
Anne Connolly 53, wife
15. Ruane's
James Ruane 50, farmer
Margaret Ruane 43, wife
Bridget Ruane 72, mother, ww
Bridget Ruane 16, dau
Mary Ruane 15, dau
Michael Ruane 13, son
Patrick Ruane 12, son
Thomas Ruane 10, son
James Ruane 9, son
Maggie Ruane 2, dau
Nora Ruane 3m, dau
16. Walsh's
Thomas Walsh 47, farmer
Mary Walsh 43, wife
Catherine Drury 68, mother
John Walsh 11, son
Michael Morris 70, boarder, lab, wr, b.
Co. Rosc
Bridget Shaughnessy 60, lodger, ww
17. Byrne's
Catherine Byrne 54, farmer, ww
Timothy Byrne 21, son
Thomas Byrne 19, son
Katie Byrne 16, dau
18. Byrne's
Thomas Byrne 65, farmer
- Ellen Byrne 52, wife
Patrick Byrne 33, son
Norah Byrne 31, dau-in-law
Kate Byrne 2, g'dau
Mary E. Byrne 4, g'dau
Norah Byrne 5m, g'dau
19. Jennings'
Michael Jennings 41, lab
Julia Jennings 41, wife
Patrick Jennings 49, brother,
shoemaker, un
John Jennings 18, son
Patrick Jennings 16, son
Michael Jennings 14, son
Thomas Jennings 9, son
Martin Jennings 3m, son
Mary Jennings 13, dau
Catherine Jennings 11, dau
Celia Jennings 7, dau
Ellen Jennings 5, dau
20. Cruise's/Gannon's
John Cruise 66, shoemaker
Bridget Cruise 60, wife
Peter Gannon 46, son-in-law, farmer
Mary Gannon 32, dau
Patrick Gannon 10, g'son
Michael Gannon 8, g'son
John Gannon 6, g'son
21. Cruise's
James Cruise 62, farmer
Mary Cruise 58, wife
James Cruise 27, son, b. England
Michael Cruise 25, son, b. England
Patrick Cruise 23, son, b. England
Catherine Cruise 20, dau, b. Mayo
22. Cuniffe's
Bridget Cuniffe 60, farmer, ww
Catherine Eagney 35, sister, un
Catherine Cuniffe 25, dau, un
Norah Judge 1, g'dau
23. Delaney's
Austin Delaney 50, farmer
Bridget Delaney 45, wife
Michael Delaney 16, son
Thomas Delaney 15, son
John Delaney 14, son
Pat Delaney 18, son
Annie Delaney 12, dau
Katie Delaney 10, dau
Sarah Delaney 8, dau
Ellie Delaney 6, dau
24. Ruane's
Mary Ruane 56, ww
Patrick Ruane 38, son
Michael Ruane 34, son
John Ruane 30, son
Austin Ruane 20, son
Bridget Ruane 28, dau
Kate Ruane 26, dau
25. Murphy's
Michael Murphy 41, farmer
Bridget Murphy 42, wife
Mary A. Murphy 14, dau
Laurence Murphy 13, son
- Nora Murphy 12, dau
26. Culliney's
Mary Culliney 50, housewife, ww
Thomas Culliney 25, son
27. Walshe's
John Walshe 40, farmer
Kate Walshe 36, wife
Ellen Walshe 80, mother
James Walshe 7m, son
28. Jordan's
James Jordan 30, farmer
Maggie Jordan 31, wife
Martin Jordan 6, son
Michael Jordan 4, son
James A. Jordan 2, son
John Jordan 9m, son
29. McDonnell's
Mary McDonnell 43, farmer, ww
Kate McDonnell 16, dau
Bridget McDonnell 13, dau
John McDonnell 10, son
Francis McDonnell 10, son
30. Dillon's
Margaret Dillon 58, farmer, un
Michael Dillon 54, brother, farmer
31. Glynn's
Catherine Glynn 38, farmer, ww
Martin Glynn 6, son
Mary Agnes Glynn 4, dau
32. Cuniffe's
Luke Cuniffe 64, farmer
Mary Cuniffe 70, wife, nurse tender
33. Molloy's
James Molloy 57, farmer
Mary Molloy 42, wife
Mary Lizzy Molloy 3, dau
Sara Ann Molloy 1, dau
34. Lyons'
Mary Lyons 76, gen. serv., ww
James Lyons 36, son, farmer
Mary Lyons 32, dau-in-law
Mary E. Lyons 2m, g'dau
35. Molloy's
Thomas Molloy 60, farmer, un
John Molloy 54, brother, un
36. Eagney's
Maria Eagney 40, farmer, ww
John Eagney 17, son
Delia Eagney 14, dau
Annie Eagney 10, dau
Maggie J. Eagney 6, dau
37. Fitzmaurice's
Thomas Fitzmaurice 76, farmer
Bridget Fitzmaurice 52, wife
Thomas Fitzmaurice 24, son
Nora Fitzmaurice 25, dau
Katie Fitzmaurice 18, dau
James Fitzmaurice 16, son

John Fitzmaurice 11, son

38. Lyons'
Norah Lyons 46, farmer, ww
James Lyons 17, son
Maggie Lyons 11, dau

39. Durr's
Thomas Durr 55, farmer
Mary Moran 60, wife
Michael Durr 18, son
James Durr 17, son
Mary A. Durr 13, dau

Kiltibo

(8 houses)

1. Keane's
Michael Keane 62, farmer
Mary Keane 56, wife
Pat Keane 30, son
Maggie Keane 28, dau
Ellen Keane 24, dau
Peter Keane 13, son
2. Healy's
Stephen Healy 60, farmer, unm
Sicelia Healy 55, sister, unm
Sicelia Boland 30, niece, unm
3. Lyons'
Martin J. Lyons 43, farmer
Ellen A. Lyons 35, wife
Bridget A. Lyons 14, dau
Mary T. Lyons 13, dau
Martin F. Lyons 11, son
John P. Lyons 9, son
Sarah A. Lyons 8, dau
James T. Lyons 4, son
Martin Harley 45, serv, farm lab, unm
Mary Quinn 20, domestic serv
Martin Lyons 78, father
4. Grogan's
Austin Grogan 30, farmer
Maggie Grogan 29, wife
Mary Ellen Grogan 8, dau
Patrick Austin Grogan 6, son
Thomas Grogan 3, son
Mary Eliza Grogan 1, dau
5. Folliard's
Bridget Folliard 60, farmer's wife, ww
Bridget Folliard 20, dau
Thomas Folliard 18, son
6. Byrne's
James Byrne 44, farmer
Kate Byrne 40, wife
Patt Byrne 14, son
Ellen Byrne 11, dau
Mary Byrne 9, dau
Kate Byrne 7, dau
James Byrne 2, son
John Byrne 4m, son
Bridget Byrne 67, mother, ww
7. Brennan's

Patrick Brennan 64, farmer
Mary Brennan 60, wife
Edward Brennan 35, son
Bridget Brennan 28, dau
James Brennan 26, son

8. McGuire's
Thomas McGuire 65, farmer
Bridget McGuire 60, wife
John McGuire 30, son
Mary McGuire 28, dau

Knockbrack

(12 houses)

1. Lyons'
Patrick Lyons 70, farmer, wr
James Lyons 25, son
2. Lyons'
Michael Lyons 55, farmer
Honor Lyons 54, wife
Austin Lyons 30, son
John Lyons 16, son
James Lyons 13, son
Martin Lyons 10, son
3. Lyons'
Catherine Lyons 65, landowner, ww
Bartly Lyons 33, son
4. Finnegan's
Thomas Finnegan 82, farmer
Mary Finnegan 63, wife
James Finnegan 30, son
Thomas Finnegan 21, son
5. Jordan's
Margaret Jordan 70, landowner, ww
Bridget Jordan 40, dau
Michael Jordan 37, son
6. Freely's
Incorrect
7. Higgins'
Thomas Higgins 60, farmer
Julia Higgins 50, wife
Mary Higgins 22, dau
Maggie Higgins 20, dau
Michael Higgins 19, son
8. Higgins'
Patrick Higgins 58, farmer
Winifred Higgins 54, wife
Kate Higgins 26, dau
Michael Higgins 22, son
Bridget Higgins 18, dau
Martin Higgins 17, son
Andrew Higgins 15, son
9. Cunnane's
Timothy Cunnane 65, farmer
Catherine Cunnane 62, wife
Bridget Cunnane 32, dau
John Cunnane 30, son
Ellen Cunnane 22, dau
Hanora Cunnane 20, dau
Sarah Cunnane 18, dau

10. Cruise's
James Cruise 62, farmer
Margaret Cruise 61, wife
James Cruise 18, nephew

11. Lyons'
Thomas Lyons 30, farmer
Maria Lyons 23, sister
Hugh Lyons 21, brother

12. Unoccupied (house owned by Bernard Keane)

Lecarrow

(35 houses)

1. Nyland's
Martin Nyland 50, farmer
Katie Nyland 22, wife
Norah Nyland 16, dau
2. Mulloy's
James Mulloy 60, farmer
Ann Mulloy 60, wife
Thomas Mulloy 19, son
3. Hunt's
James Hunt 19, farmer
Annie Hunt 17, sister
Margaret Hunt 15, sister
John T. Hunt 14, brother
4. Hunt's
Thomas Hunt 58, farmer
Oney Hunt 54, wife
John Hunt 19, son
Ellen Hunt 16, dau
Oney Hunt 10, dau
5. Hunt's
John Hunt 40, farmer
Eliza Hunt 31, wife
Celia Hunt 90, mother, ww
6. O'Connell's
Michael O'Connell 55, farmer, wr
Bridget O'Connell 8, niece
7. Hunt's
Bridget Hunt 65, farmer's ww
John Hunt 45, son, farmer
Margaret Hunt 31, dau-in-law
James Hunt 35, son, farm lab
Bridget Hunt 2, g'dau
Mary Hunt 6m, g'dau
8. Murphy's
John Murphy 60, farmer
Anne Murphy 50, farmer
Martin Murphy 20, son
Patrick Murphy 18, son
William Murphy 16, son
Austin Murphy 13, son
9. Jordan's
Dominick Jordan 64, farmer
Margaret Jordan 56, wife
David Jordan 30, son
Mary Jordan 20, dau

10. Jordan's
Martin Jordan 24, farmer
Anne Jordan 25, wife
11. Jordan's
Hubert Jordan 60, farmer
Bridget Jordan 56, wife
Ellen Jordan 26, dau
12. Cribbin's
James Cribbin 28, farmer, unnm
Ellen Cribbin 25, sister, unnm
Martin Lyons 30, cousin, corn
merchant, unnm
13. McDonnell's
James McDonnell 34, farmer
Mary McDonnell 31, wife
John Austin McDonnell 3, son
Mary McDonnell 1, dau
14. Cribbin's
James Cribbin 40, farmer
Ellen Cribbin 35, wife
Bridget Cribbin 70, mother
John Cribbin 17, son
Thomas Cribbin 14, son
Austin Cribbin 12, son
Michael Cribbin 10, son
James Cribbin 6, son
Ellen Cribbin 8, dau
Bridget Cribbin 16, dau
Mary Cribbin 3, dau
15. Judge's/Cunnane's
Thomas Judge 74, farmer, wr
Austin Cunnane 30, son-in-law,
farmer
Mary Cunnane 28, dau
16. Travers'
John Travers 73, farmer
Mary Travers 74, wife
17. Caulfield's
Michael Caulfield 50, farmer
Mary Caulfield 45, wife
18. Murphy's
John Murphy 61, farmer
Bridget Murphy 47, wife
Patrick Joseph Murphy 19, son
William Murphy 17, son
Delia Murphy 15, dau
Mary Ellen Murphy 13, dau
Margaret Murphy 9, dau
Catherine Murphy 7, dau
Julia Murphy 5, dau
Austin Murphy 3, son
Sarah Ann Murphy 5m, dau
19. McGrath's
Bernard McGrath 61, farmer
Bridget McGrath 60, wife
Patrick McGrath 25, son
Delia McGrath 29, dau
Ellen McGrath 22, dau
20. Tarpey's
Patrick Tarpey 34, farmer
Bridget Tarpey 33, wife
21. Caulfield's
James Caulfield 30, farmer, unnm
Kate Caulfield 32, sister, unnm
22. Rattigan's
Thomas Rattigan 40, lab
Marie Rattigan 38, wife
John Rattigan 45, brother, unnm
Michael Rattigan 6, son
Mary Rattigan 5, dau
23. Kedian's [owned by Thomas Rattigan]
William Kedian 68, farmer
Bridget Kedian 56, wife
William Kedian 24, son
Bridget Kedian 21, dau
Ellen Kedian 19, dau
24. Lyons'
Thomas Lyons 50, farmer
Margaret Lyons 35, wife
Ellen Lyons, 36, sister, unnm
Thomas Smyth 63, brother-in-law, wr
Thomas Smyth 30, nephew
Michael Smyth 24, nephew
25. Cribbin's
Thomas Cribbin 60, farmer, wr
Thomas Cribbin 28, son
Maggie Cribbin 22, dau
Austin Cribbin 21, son
Michael Cribbin 17, son
Thomas Cribbin 8, g'son
26. Tarpey's
Mary Tarpey 50, ww
John Tarpey 24, son
Malachy Tarpey 22, son
Michael Tarpey 18, son
Maggie Tarpey 16, dau
27. Brennan's
Ellen Brennan 63, farmer, ww
Thomas Brennan 20, son
28. Connelly's
Michael Connelly 50, farmer
Mary Connelly 40, wife
Patrick Connelly 21, son
Thomas Connelly 18, son
Mary Connelly 16, dau
29. Griffin's
Bernard Griffin 63, farmer, wr
Thomas Griffin 29, son
Bridget Griffin 28, dau-in-law
Thomas Griffin 1, g'son
30. Cribbin's
James Cribbin 32, farmer, unnm
31. Herbert's
Francis Herbert 40, caretaker
Ellie Herbert 38, wife, school mistress
Maggie Herbert 24, sister
Thomas Herbert 11, son
James Herbert 9, son
Joseph Herbert 7, son
32. Herbert's
William Herbert 65, farmer &
carpenter
Celia Herbert 45, wife
Jane Herbert 12, dau
John Herbert 10, son
Celia Herbert 8, dau
Martin Herbert 6, son
Bridget Herbert 4, dau
Walter Herbert 3, son
Julia Herbert 6m. , dau
33. Coen's
Thomas Coen 40, farmer
Mary Coen 38, wife
Patrick Coen 13, son
Mary Ellen Coen 12, dau
Winifred Coen 11, dau
Thomas Coen 10, son
Michael Coen 9, son
Luke Coen 7, son
Owen Coen 5, son
Anne Coen 2, dau
34. Coen's
Owen Coen 70, lab
Mary Coen 73, wife
35. Coen's
Thomas Coen 40, farmer
Bridget Coen 40, wife
Delia Coen 8, dau
Thomas Coen 7, son
Mary K. Coen 3, dau
Anne Coen 1, dau

Leo

(29 houses)

1. Logan's
Patrick Logan 64, farmer
Margaret Logan 60, wife
Austin Logan 27, son
Katie Logan 22, dau
2. Gildea's
James Gildea 71, farmer
Bridget Gildea 62, wife
James Gildea 23, son
Anne Gildea 25, dau
3. Murphy's
Pat Murphy 40, farmer
Catherine Murphy 37, wife
Patrick Murphy 16, son
Thomas Murphy 14, son
Anne Murphy 12, dau
James Murphy 10, son
Peter Murphy 8, son
Michael Murphy 7, son
William Murphy 5, son
Anthony Murphy 3, son
4. O'Donnell's
John O'Donnell 27, farmer
Bridget O'Donnell 25, wife

5. McGoff's
Martin McGoff 60, farmer
Mary McGoff 70, wife
6. Killeen's
Thomas Killeen 60, farmer
Sibina Killeen 50, wife
Bernard Killeen 25, son
7. Kiggans'
John Kiggans 32, farmer
Margaret Kiggans 31, wife
John Kiggans 8m, son
Margaret Kiggans 60, mother, ww
8. Freely's
Michael Freely 42, farmer
Bridget Freely 40, wife
Mary Freely 17, dau
Patrick Freely 15, son
Thomas Freely 13, son
James Freely 11, son
Delia Freely 7, dau
Cecily Freely 5, dau
Catherine Freely 3, dau
Thomas Godfrey 76, father-in-law, wr
9. Stanton's
John Stanton 57, farmer, b. Co. Rosc
Sarah Stanton 52, wife
Thomas Stanton 25, son
William Stanton 23, son
Bernard Stanton 16, son
Bridget Stanton 13, dau
Patrick Stanton 11, son
Maggie Stanton 7, dau
10. Kigghins'
Edward Kigghins 29, farmer
Bridget Kigghins 30, wife
John Thomas Kigghins 2, son
11. Finnegan's
Ellen Finnegan 56, hk, ww
Thomas Finnegan 28, son
Mary A. Finnegan, 26, dau
Batty Fox 20, nephew, shoemaker
12. Byrne's
Thomas Byrne 99, farmer, wr
Mary Byrne 45, dau-in-law, md, b. Co Rosc
Thomas Byrne 17, g'son
Bridget Byrne 15, g'dau
Martin Byrne 13, g'son
Kate Byrne 11, g'dau
Mary Byrne 7, g'dau
Norah Byrne 5, g'dau
13. Flatley's
William Flatley 65, farmer
Mary Flatley 50, wife
James Flatley 20, son
John Flatley 16, son
Ellie Flatley 18, dau
Katie Flatley 11, dau
14. Stenson's
Patrick Stenson 70, farner, wr
Patrick Stenson 28, son
15. Hamrock's
Stephen Hamrock 35, farmer
Noria Hamrock 29, wife
James Hamrock 7, son
Thomas Hamrock 6, son
Mary Ellen Hamrock 5, dau
Stephen Hamrock 4, son
John Hamrock 3, son
Margaret Hamrock 10m, dau
James Hamrock 67, father, wr
16. Meehan's
Michael Meehan 46, farmer
Margaret Meehan 30, wife
Stephen Meehan 18, son
John Meehan 16, son
Delia Meehan 13, dau
Nora Meehan 11, dau
Mary Ellen Meehan 8, dau
Lizzie Meehan 1, dau
17. Flatley's
Pat Flatley 71, farmer
Bridget Flatley 60, wife
James Flatley 30, son
Catherine Flatley 32, dau
Thomas Flatley 22, son
18. Killeen's
Mary Killeen 63, ww
Kate Comer 8, niece
19. Kearns'
John Kearns 34, farmer
Ellen Kearns 30, wife, b. Co. Rosc
Patrick Kearns 12, son
Mary Kearns 9, dau
Ambrose Kearns 7, son
20. Killeen's
Michael Killeen 60, farmer, wr
Bridget Killeen 22, dau
Thomas Killeen 19, son
21. Loftus'
Michael Loftus 32, farmer
Mary Loftus 32, wife, b. Co. Rosc
Maggie Loftus 1, dau
Bridget Reilly 99, boarder, ww
22. Loftus'
John Loftus 60, farmer
Bridget Loftus 60, wife
Bridget Loftus 23, dau
James Loftus 21, son
Bridget Loftus 12, g'dau
23. Walsh's
John Walsh 35, farmer
Anne Walsh 31, wife
24. Fitzmaurice's
Catherine Fitzmaurice 50, farmer, ww
Maria Fitzmaurice 30, dau
William Fitzmaurice 19, son
Peter Fitzmaurice 14, son
25. Waldron's
Pat Waldron 38, farmer
Margaret Waldron 35, wife
James Waldron 12, son
Michael Waldron 9, son
Delia Waldron 7, dau
Julia Waldron 4, dau
Mary Waldron 1, dau
Mary Waldron 70, mother
26. Moran's
Pat Moran 70, farmer, b. Co. Rosc
Mary Moran 68, wife, b. Co. Rosc
27. McHale's
David McHale 25, farmer
Margaret McHale 26, wife
Mary McHale 56, mother
28. McHale's
Martin McHale 40, farmer
Bridget McHale 37, wife
Patrick McHale 13, son
Michael McHale 12, son
Martin McHale 5, son
Catherine McHale 10, dau
Ellen McHale 8, dau
Mary McHale 7, dau
Norah McHale 2, dau
29. Griffin's
John Griffin 50, farmer
Ellen Griffin 48, wife
Martin Griffin 20, son
Bridget Griffin 14, dau
Ellen Griffin 13, dau

Scregg

(15 houses)

1. Moran's
John Moran 50, farmer
Anne Moran 49, wife
Kate Moran 16, dau
Mary A. Moran 13, dau
Peter Moran 12, son
Delia Moran 9, dau
Andrew Moran 5, son
2. Kiggins'
Edward Kiggins 60, farmer
Sarah Kiggins 61, wife
Patrick Kiggins 25, son
3. O'Gara's
Martin O'Gara 60, farmer, wr
Bridget O'Gara 17, dau
Michael O'Gara 12, son
Annie O'Gara 10, dau
4. Waldron's
Catherine Waldron 60, landowner, ww
William Waldron 21, son
Mary Waldron 22, dau
5. Freely's
Thomas Freely 54, farmer
Mary Freely 50, wife
Lizzie Freely 16, dau
Maggie Freely 14, dau

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>6. Freely's
William Freely 40, farmer
Bridget Freely 30, wife
Kate Freely 11, dau
John Freely 9, son
Michael Freely 7, son
Mary A. Freely 4, dau
William Freely 2, son</p> <p>7. Freely's
Michael Freely 35, farmer
Ellen Freely 28, wife
James Freely 5, son
John Freely 4, son
William Freely 2, son
Mary Freely 70, mother</p> <p>8. Freely's
Patrick Freely 38, farmer
Bridget Freely 30, wife
Patrick Freely 7, son
David Freely 5, son
Mary J. Freely 2, dau
John T. Freely 5m, son</p> <p>9. Freely's
Cecily Freely 61, landowner
Thomas Freely 40, son
Mary Freely 30, dau-in-law
Patrick Freely 3, g'son
Mark Freely 8m, g'son</p> <p>10. Hunt's
Thomas Hunt 36, farmer
Mary A. Hunt 30, wife
Patrick Hunt 2m, son
Mary Hunt 60, mother, ww
Anne Hunt 30, sister, seamstress, unnm</p> <p>11. Fleming's
Timothy Fleming 27, farmer, b.
Co. Rosc
Bridget A. Fleming 22, wife
Mary Waldron 75, mother-in-law</p> <p>12. Biesty's
Austin Biesty 33, farmer
Margaret Biesty 27, wife</p> | <p>Austin Biesty 2, son
Patrick Biesty 6m, son</p> <p>13. Brennan's
Sarah Brennan 21, hk
Mary Mulkeen 12, serv, seamstress</p> <p>14. Kane's
Patrick Kane 66, farmer
Margaret Kane 50, wife</p> <p>15. Brennan's
James Brennan 40, farmer
Catherine Brennan 36, wife
Catherine Brennan 70, mother-in-law, ww
James McHale 15, visitor</p> | <p>John Dyer 25, son, lab
Patrick Dyer 23, son, lab
Bridget Dyer 21, dau</p> <p>5. Kelly's/Hunt's
Patrick Kelly 74, farmer
Mary Kelly 72, wife
Thomas Hunt 29, son-in-law
Norah Hunt 28, dau
Mary Hunt 2, g'dau
Patrick Hunt 2m, g'son</p> <p>6. Diskin's
Luke Diskin 60, farmer
Annie Diskin 50, wife
Mary Diskin 18, dau
Kate Diskin 16, dau, seamstress
Maggie Diskin 14, dau
Luke Diskin 13, son</p> <p>7. Godfrey's
Thomas Godfrey 53, farmer
Bridget Godfrey 48, wife
Patrick Godfrey 19, son
John Godfrey 15, son
Mary Godfrey 11, dau</p> <p>8. McDonnell's
Patrick McDonnell 55, farmer
Bridget McDonnell 44, wife
Michael McDonnell 18, son
James McDonnell 14, son
Bridget McDonnell 10, dau
John McDonnell 8, son
Thomas McDonnell 6, son</p> <p>9. Finnegan's
Thomas Finnegan 76, farmer
Patrick Finnegan 42, son, lab, unnm
Michael Finnegan 40, son, lab, md
Mary Finnegan 33, dau-in-law</p> <p>10. Kilboy's
John Kilboy 68, farmer
Mary Kilboy 66, wife
William Kilboy 24, son
Ellen Kilboy 22, dau</p> |
|--|---|--|

Tullaghau

(10 houses)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Diskin's
John Diskin 58, farmer
Sibina Diskin 57, wife
Thomas Diskin 36, son, lab
Mary Diskin 30, dau-in-law
Annie Diskin 2, g'dau
Patrick Diskin 1, g'son
Martin Diskin 20, son, lab</p> <p>2. Gildea's
Mary Gildea 45, landowner, ww
James Gildea 14, son
Annie Gildea 11, dau
Maggie Gildea 6, dau</p> <p>3. Gildea's
Michael Gildea 96, retired farmer
Catherine Gildea 82, wife
William Gildea 35, son
Anne Gildea 28, dau-in-law
Kate Gildea 1, g'dau
Anne Folliard 12, serv</p> <p>4. Dyer's
Austin Dyer 62, farmer
Mary Dyer 60, wife</p> | <p>John Dyer 25, son, lab
Patrick Dyer 23, son, lab
Bridget Dyer 21, dau</p> <p>5. Kelly's/Hunt's
Patrick Kelly 74, farmer
Mary Kelly 72, wife
Thomas Hunt 29, son-in-law
Norah Hunt 28, dau
Mary Hunt 2, g'dau
Patrick Hunt 2m, g'son</p> <p>6. Diskin's
Luke Diskin 60, farmer
Annie Diskin 50, wife
Mary Diskin 18, dau
Kate Diskin 16, dau, seamstress
Maggie Diskin 14, dau
Luke Diskin 13, son</p> <p>7. Godfrey's
Thomas Godfrey 53, farmer
Bridget Godfrey 48, wife
Patrick Godfrey 19, son
John Godfrey 15, son
Mary Godfrey 11, dau</p> <p>8. McDonnell's
Patrick McDonnell 55, farmer
Bridget McDonnell 44, wife
Michael McDonnell 18, son
James McDonnell 14, son
Bridget McDonnell 10, dau
John McDonnell 8, son
Thomas McDonnell 6, son</p> <p>9. Finnegan's
Thomas Finnegan 76, farmer
Patrick Finnegan 42, son, lab, unnm
Michael Finnegan 40, son, lab, md
Mary Finnegan 33, dau-in-law</p> <p>10. Kilboy's
John Kilboy 68, farmer
Mary Kilboy 66, wife
William Kilboy 24, son
Ellen Kilboy 22, dau</p> |
|---|--|



Olive, Eva, Chris Smyth, Brackloon with 'Ross' the dog.



Having a Break in the Bog. Mike Biesty (R.I.P.), Carrowkeel; Pat Costello (R.I.P.), Cloonlara.

'Ballyhaunis A.B.C.' (Aid For Belarussian Children)

This year Ballyhaunis again hosted twelve children from the Mogiliev region of Belarus during the month of July. The children aged between eight and thirteen years were hosted by several families from the surrounding areas. Their time was split between two different host families, two weeks with each family. The children were brought in by Mr. Ernan Meehan, chairman of Donegal A.B.C.

Also this year Ballyhaunis A.B.C (Aid For Belarussian Children) are helping Donegal A.B.C. along with another outreach group in Monaghan to launch a new initiative in easing the pain and suffering of cancer victims of the nuclear accident in Chernobyl in Belarus. A.B.C. are setting up a five year programme of hospice care for the terminally ill in poverty stricken south eastern Belarus where the concept of hospice care is but in its infancy. On June 26th a doctor and a nurse from Mogiliev (pronounced 'Mogiluf') region arrived in Donegal to spend a month observing how hospice/palliative care is administered in Ireland. The group arranged a short training programme for two visitors with Donegal Hospice in Letterkenny.

A.B.C. are putting in place a project which, in conjunction with the health authorities in Belarus, will employ three nurses and a doctor in a pilot hospice scheme in one of the most severely affected parts of the country. Dr. Anna Gorchakova and Nurse Tatsiiana Tsyhanova

returned to Belarus with a good understanding of the acclaimed hospice approach of the Donegal Hospice, which they will be able to pass on to their colleagues. The group also intends helping with the supply of appropriate medicines when the project is up and running.

The group is responding to an identified chronic lack of facilities in Belarus where the victims of Chernobyl might be allowed to die with a degree of peace and dignity. Economic conditions in Belarus are such that only with assistance from outside can such critical needs be addressed and the overall situation in the country is getting worse! Their appalling plight has faded completely from the world's attention!

Ballyhaunis A.B.C. would like to thank everybody for their support in helping to bring these children to Ballyhaunis and we would also be grateful for any support for the new Hospice Project. If anyone would like to make a contribution contact Denise Haugh on (094) 9643369 or Mary Murphy on (094) 9630389. Alternatively we have a bank account in the Bank of Ireland: Account No: 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.



Katya (the interpreter) with the twelve children from Belarus who stayed in the Ballyhaunis area this year.

'The Abbey Partnership'

- Stephen Grogan -

Following their decision in 2001, the Council of the Augustinian Order determined to commit the Augustinian Friary and property in Ballyhaunis, for the benefit of the people. The Augustinian Order then sought proposals on the future use of the Priory, Church and the surrounding lands. A number of written submissions and proposals were received and Fr. Michael Mernagh O.S.A., was appointed by the Order to facilitate the establishment of a local structure to manage the property in Ballyhaunis.

Fr. Mernagh made contact with the Ballyhaunis Community Council and Chamber of Commerce along with Mayo County Council and a range of statutory and voluntary organisations operating in the County, inviting them to attend a planning meeting. Arising from that meeting two organisations were established: (1) The actual property was vested in the Abbey Trust – composed equally of representatives from the Ballyhaunis Community Council/Chambers of Commerce and Mayo County Council. (2) The second organisation established was the Abbey Partnership, who will design and agree projects and ensure the professional management of these activities.

Eight different agencies

The Abbey Partnership, Ballyhaunis is composed of eight different agencies and groups, who work "to create, with the local community, a centre of excellence and innovation, where in the Augustinian tradition of community, hospitality and social inclusion, all who come here are made welcome and feel valued." Its aim is to promote and ensure, through community development methods, the overall development of the property of the Augustinian Order in Ballyhaunis and, in conjunction with local people, to design and implement programmes and projects which will cater for the social, cultural, economic, educational and environmental needs particularly of those who are socially excluded.

Since its establishment, in July 2002, the Abbey Partnership has worked to develop a number of significant projects. The first of these – the Woodland Development will see a walkway around the entire periphery of the Abbey site being constructed, along with a certain amount of landscaping and planting of semi-mature trees. Work on this stage of the development has already commenced with funding provided by Mayo County Councils Economic and Social Fund, the Leader and Clár programmes as well as from the local community. Thanks must be expressed to Peter Gill, the horticulturalist from Mayo County Council

for his invaluable assistance in making this project a reality.

Stage Two

Stage two of the Woodland Development envisages further enhancements including the provision of seating, a picnic area, wildlife pond, pedestrian bridges over the river, ramped access alongside the existing steps from the town bridge, litter bins and facilities for children to play.

Alongside the Woodland Development, the Abbey Partnership have also worked with the Ballyhaunis Children's needs group, providing the site needed to develop a purpose built childcare centre and McMullen Architects were commissioned to prepare architectural plans for this. When this project proposal has been completed it will be submitted to the Department of Justice for funding under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme. A great deal of effort has been put into developing this project, in particular by Maura Caulfield, Paula Grogan and the Children's needs group.

The partnership has also co-operated with the management committee of the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, which is due to open in the near future. The Family Resource Centre is an independent organisation, funded by the Department of Social and Family Affairs, which has the aim of combating disadvantage and improving the functioning of the family unit. Agreement has been reached to enable this new organisation to be based in the Priory House.

Other Activities

A number of other activities have also taken place on the Abbey grounds over the last year such as music recitals – through the Arts Office of Mayo County Council, English language classes – through the VEC, the Graveyard Mass in August and an Art Exhibition to be held this November. Thanks must also be expressed to the Chamber of Commerce FAS scheme and workers for their input into maintaining the grounds over the last year.

The Partnership held its first Annual General Meeting at the start of October, where the new officers for the forthcoming year were elected. John Coll from Mayo County Council, will remain as Chairperson, Peter Cunnane from the Chamber of Commerce will be the Vice-Chairperson, Stephen Grogan from IRD Kiltimagh will replace Donal Shanaghy as Secretary and Paula Grogan from the Community Council will remain as the group's Treasurer.

'Priests from the Parish of Annagh'

Ordained during the Twentieth Century

- Kieran Waldron -

Whenever a diocesan priest dies or is changed, it has been automatically assumed that he will be replaced immediately. This has been made possible, of course, only by the sustained pattern of ordinations from individual families from other parishes in the diocese.

As we begin a new century it is worthwhile to reflect on the parishes which have, and have not, supplied their quota of priests to the diocese, the Religious Orders and the Church world-wide during the twentieth century. The Parish of Annagh has a noble record in this regard, with thirty-nine ordinations to the priesthood listed below, their year of Ordination given in brackets. It is possible the list may not be complete. It has been assembled from personal memory, from information supplied by family members and some researches into various church records, which are extremely diffused and not easily accessible. My apologies if any names have been omitted through oversight.

The honour of having the highest record for priests among the parishes of the diocese ordained in the twentieth century, probably belongs to Kilgeever (Louisburgh) or Milltown, each of which had more than seventy priests ordained during the century. However Ballyhaunis has supplied more than one priest every three years during this one hundred years – certainly a remarkable record by any standards.

Many of these are now deceased; May the Lord reward them. Fourteen are still alive and in active ministry and some few moved to other walks of life, having given valuable years of service in the priesthood. Think of them all and hope and pray for future vocations from Ballyhaunis.

Ordained For Archdiocese of Tuam

John Neary, Main Street (1900). PP Cong, (Canon, noted historian). Died 1951.
Anthony P. Waldron, Cave (1900). Served on Australian Mission. Died Victoria, 1916.
John A. Waldron, Devlis (1903), CC Roundstone. Died 1961.
Patrick J. Waldron, No 2. Main Street (1905), PP Kilkerrin. Died 1958.
James Coyne, Bridge Street (1905), PP Crossboyne. Died 1934.
Laurence Lyons, Main Street (1913), CC Cong. Died 1966.
Michael Cribbin, Lecarrow. PP Partry. Died 1981.
Martin Hannon, Abbey Street (1940). Died in Nigeria 1944.

Martin Lang, Station House (1944). Retired PP, Carraroe.

Jarlath Waldron, Main Street (1946). Retired PP, Partry. Died 1998.

Enda Lyons, Knox Street (1958). Diocesan Theologian, Tuam.

Kieran Waldron, Main Street (1961). PP Killererin, Barnaderg, Tuam.

Noel Lyons, Knox Street (1962). Incarnate Word College, Dunmore 1963-72.

Peter Waldron, Main Street (1963). PP Keellogues, Ballyvary.

J. J. Cribben, Main Street (1970). PP Milltown.

Patrick Greally, Drimbane (1971). CC Glenisland till 1980.

Michael Kenny, Knockbrack (1974). PP Letterfrack, Co. Galway.

Ordained for other Irish Dioceses.

Brendan Jordan, Main Street (1955). Clonfert Diocese. Portumna. Died 1999.

Andrew Johnston, Abbeyquarter (1964). Achonry Diocese. PP Foxford.

Ordained For English, US and Australian Dioceses

Thomas Foudy (1932). Bolton, England. Army Chaplain 1940-45 earning Croix de Guerre.

John Lyons, Skeghard (1945). Youngstown Diocese, Ohio. Retired.

Kieran Fahey (1953). Miami and Orlando Dioceses, USA. Died 1995.

Austin Cribbin, Drimbane (1957). Oregon, USA. Retired.

Albert Lyons, Knox Street (1955). Seattle USA to 1974. Retired PP Roundfort. Died 2003.

Patrick Ruane, Johnstown (1960). For Bathurst Diocese, Australia.

Thomas Ruane, Johnstown (1966). Bathurst Diocese 1966-80. New South Wales.

Vincent Keane, Annagh (1969). For Richmond, Virginia, USA.

James Cribbin, Lecarrow (1985). San Diego, USA. CC St. Patrick's, Ballina.

Ordained for Religious Orders and Missionary Societies

John Farragher, OSA. Bridge Street (1923). Irish

Province OSA. Died 1953 aged 57.

Martin Kenny, SMA. Knockbrack (1934). Nigeria Mission 1934-77. Died 1978 aged 70.

George Fitzmaurice, OSA. Devlis (1943). Irish Province OSA and Carlisle. Died London 1997, aged 78.

Seán Buckley, OSA, Abbeyquarter (1943). Irish Province OSA, incl. Ballyhaunis. Died 1990 aged 72.

Oliver Cooney, SSC, Abbeyquarter (1945). Columban Missionary. R.I.P.

Brendan Fahey, SSC, Abbeyquarter (1953). Columban Missionary, Japan. PP Denby, North Wales.

William Byrne, SSC. Main Street (1960). Columban Missionary, Japan.

Michael Kelly, OSA. Devlis (1966). Irish Province OSA and Ecuador. St. Augustine's, New Ross.

Thomas Greally, OSA. Devlis (1967). USA and Australia.

Declan Lyons, SMA. Devlis (1969). English Province, Manchester.

Seán Mac Gearailt (Fitzgerald), OSA. Bridge Street (1986). St. Augustine's, Good Counsel College, New Ross.

Lorren Cunningham Kelly

Young, Up and Coming Designer



In 1997 Lorren Cunningham-Kelly moved to Ballyhaunis with her family, to the town her grandmother had lived her life in, and where her mother had spent some of her childhood. Her family has many connections in the area, amongst them the Daly and Flannery families. It was a big change from life in Dublin, but she found it easy to settle into such a welcoming community atmosphere. At the Community School in Ballyhaunis she met the friends who have supported and encouraged her from the start, through fashion college, and in starting up her own bridal and eveningwear business.

College

Apart from her interests in handcrafts, she cites her Community School teacher, Mr. Chris Pratt, as a very important influence in her choice to study Art and Fashion Design at Sallynoggin College of Further Education in Dublin. She claims that in his teaching he provided the necessary foundation that would prepare her for intense creative process that lay ahead of her. From illustration and pattern drafting to the actual cutting and crafting of the garment, Lorren admits her Life Drawing classes enabled her to grasp the craft quite quickly. The course itself is run by Marion Kenny previously of the Prestigious Grafton Academy in Dublin, with the expertise and encouragement of award winning designer Karyn Hurley who studied at the National College of Art and Design and the History of Fashion and Photography tutor Christine Redmond, to name but a few.

By the start of second year Lorren was working towards the Jim Kemmy International Young Designer

Awards, from which she benefited immensely just from entering. Apart from a first year fashion show, this was the first time her garments were shown in front of a massive audience, and with the warm reception she received, Lorren knew this was just the beginning.

Work

After exhibiting her first complete collection, graduating, and achieving an award from her college, Lorren began work on bridal and debutante gowns, which proved very popular for clients in Dublin. It wasn't long before she found herself at photo shoots and preparing herself for the Irish Brides & Homes' magazine 2004 Bridal Designer of the Year Awards to be held in Jury's Ballsbridge in January.

With her business up and running, designing and crafting exclusive gowns made to measure for each individual client, and a continued interest from other bridal publications and prospective clients, Lorren sees her next move as returning to Ballyhaunis to provide her designing and handcraft skills to clients in the area and further, and hopes to set up a premises in the town she had the privilege to grow up in.

'Ballyhaunis Fianna Fail'



The Annual General Meeting of the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Cheantair was held in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis on 21st March 2003.

The following officers were elected: Presidents - Peter McNeive, John Brennan, P.J. Morley; Vice-President - George Dee; Chairperson - Marion Maloney; Vice-Chairperson - John Touhy; Secretary - Tommy Ronayne; Treasurers - Moira Noone; Seamus O'Boyle; Delegates to Dail Cheantair - Brian Hunt, Sean Egan.

Various clubs and organisations in the locality have benefited from national funding. These include Brickens Group Home, Tooreen Hurling Club, Ballyhaunis Rugby Club, Aughamore G.A.A. Club, and Knock-Kiltimagh United Soccer Club. Ballyhaunis Comhairle Cheantair wish to acknowledge their appreciation to John Carty T.D. for the significant contribution he has made to the above. With the introduction at the Dual Mandate, the Fianna Fail Cumann delegates nominated a replacement candidate for John Carty T.D. to contest the local elections in June 2004. Seven candidates, including sitting Councilor Pat McHugh, were nominated by various Cumanns. Michael Carty, brother of T.D. John Carty, is a publican and auctioneer from Knock and was nominated by the Tooreen Cumann. An Post employee and former chairman of Ballyhaunis Comhairle Cheantair, Eugene Delaney, from Brickens was nominated by Brickens Cumann.

Long-standing active member of Fianna Fail who has various positions within the party both local and national, Sean Egan, was proposed by Knock Cumann. Local Community Activist Margaret Fannon from Aughamore was nominated by Aughamore Cumann. Stephen Finn, well known for his involvement in Macra na Feirme, I.F.A. and Rural Housing, is a farmer from Hazelhill and was nominated by Ballyhaunis Cumann. Pat McHugh, a secondary school teacher in Ballyhaunis, a member of Mayo County Council and a former chairman of the Council. He is a native of Ballindine and was nominated by Claremorris Comhairle Cheantair. Margaret Owens from Cloonbook, Began, is a former secretary for Ballyhaunis Comhairle Cheantair. She is sister-in-law of Minister Noel Dempsey and was nominated by Began Cumann.

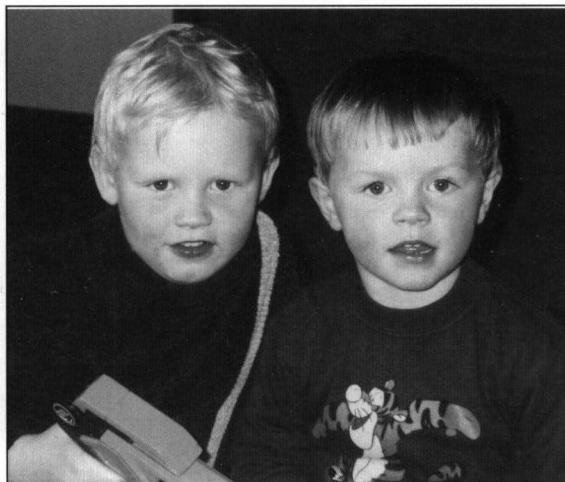
The selection convention was held in the Belmont Hotel, Knock on 18th September 2003 and was chaired by Mullingar Senator Camillus Glynn. There was an excellent turn out comprising both Cumann delegates and interested party observers. Convention secretary for the evening was Tommy Ronayne, and tellers were provided by party headquarters. The election was based the PR system of voting and Pat McHugh was elected on the first count to represent Claremorris Comhairle Cheantair area. Subsequently, Michael Carty was elected to represent the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Cheantair area. The two successful candidates were congratulated and offered full support by all present at the convention.



Mother Dympna's Class of 1970/71 – Secretarial. Back (L-R): Mary Burke, Bernadette Gormley, Mary McDonnell, Rita Culkeen, Catherine Byrne, Phyllis Eagney, Marion Mulkeen, Bernadette Hopkins. Front (L-R): Bernadette Healy, Una Lyons, Dolores Frayne, Cabrini Naughton, Noreen Staunton, Brid Keane, Dympna McGuire, Leona Finnegan, Marceline Lyons.



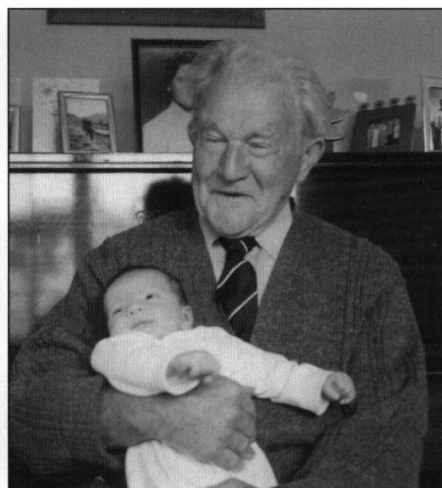
Margaret Ruane (R.I.P.), Eileen Comer, Bridie Finnegan at the Stations in Agnes Heaney's, Bargarrieff.



Adam and Andrew Hickey, Abbeyquarter.



Taken at a birthday party at Knox St in 1991. L-R: Joseph Kelly, Yvonne Byrne, Joanne Hoban.



The oldest and youngest in the village of Upper Holywell, Ballyhaunis. Pat Joe Lyons and Baby Jack O'Malley born 26/07/03. The first baby born in the village for almost forty-five years.



* Cousins Meet in America. Back, L-R: Mary Benedetti (O'Malley), Rita De Noia (O'Malley), Peg O'Malley, Marie McDermott (O'Malley), Helen Unitt (O'Malley), Florence Gleeson (O'Malley). Seated, L-R: Peter O'Malley, John O'Sullivan. Mary, Helen and Peter are the family of the late Peter and Mary O'Malley of Upper Main Street, and sisters and brother of the late Thomas B. O'Malley, Upper Main Street, who died in 1991. Rita, Peg, Marie and Florence are the daughters of the late Michael O'Malley (brother of Peter O'Malley), who emigrated to the USA in the early 1900s.

'That Was The Year That Was'

- Michael Byrne -

November 2002

Community School hosts the CAO Conference 2002 on 5th Nov. with most of the country's third level colleges represented.

Aras Cumann Luthchleas Gael Chonnacht - the new headquarters of the Connacht Council, G.A.A. - at Clare St., Ballyhaunis, officially opened on 9th Nov.

Ballyhaunis Parish Cemetery presented with third prize in the Mayo County Council Tidy Burial Grounds Awards.

December 2002

The twenty-fifth issue of the Annagh magazine goes on sale on the 7th Dec. The same evening, Sat. 7th Dec. the official Switch-on of the Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights was performed by Annagh Rose, Ms. Claire Gallagher of Bargariff.

Annagh parish lost two of its most senior citizens this month - Mary Boyle of Coolnafarna died on 3rd Dec. aged 100, and on 14th Dec. Bridget Smyth of Brackloon South passed away in her 97th year.

Two long established businesses in the town celebrate significant anniversaries this month Delaney's Ltd., Bridge Street were fifty years in business on 5th Dec., while Curley's Pub, Clare Street, celebrated seventy-five years in business on the 19th.

'Gracenotes' host a special evening of Sacred and Festive Song in the Friary on 11th Dec.

The second annual Gurteen Residents' Christmas Party

took place on Saturday, 7th Dec. in The Belmont, Knock with upwards of thirty residents in attendance.

The annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party was held on Sunday, 15th December.

Korina and Jason Meehan, Carrownedan win top prize - a Moto-Roma Quad - in the Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights Draw on 21st Dec.

The class of '82 from the Community School, was held on 30th December. These were the first First Years to enter the new school in 1977.

January: Bethlehem to Ballyhaunis for Christmas

Ballyhaunis was the setting for a little bit of peace, love and hospitality in the days just after Christmas 2002 for a group of young Palestinian children from the town of Bethlehem in Israel, who were brought to the town for some respite, away from the normal surrounds of tanks, machine-guns and fighter planes which has been part and parcel of their every day life all through their lives. The eight children - three girls and five boys - were guests of Abed Asilia and his wife Patricia at their home in Aisling Drive and were brought to Ballyhaunis by the newly formed Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign - an organisation whose chief aim is to highlight the plight under which families, including many children, are forced to live in the Occupied Territories of the Middle East. This was the first group of Palestinian children which the organisation have brought to Ireland and it is hoped that

the project will become a regular event in the future.

In Began the end of an era is marked when the very last surviving Blacksmith of the region dies. Tom Mullen of Cloonbulban in Began dies on New Year's Eve 2002. He had carried on the traditional trade of Blacksmith at his forge in Began for almost seventy years, a business which was initiated by his grandfather Thomas Mullen in the early 1800s. Ballyhaunis based pop and rock group "Euroneverland" win the Mayo County Council Music Recording Assistance Award. The group comprises of Padraig and Declan Lyons (Gurrane) and Anthony Waldron (Island).

Former Mayo football star Liam



Katya (the interpreter) with the twelve children from Belarus who stayed in the Ballyhaunis area this year.

McHale is the Guest Speaker at the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Dinner Dance in the Belmont Hotel in Knock. At the same Dinner, Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club Secretary Mary Prenty is awarded Ballyhaunis G.A.A. "Person of the Year Award", while Sean Hunt accepts the "Footballer of the Year" and Pierce Higgins the "Hurler of the Year Awards".

The local Tidy Towns Committee make preparations for the erection of Village Signposts to be placed at the entrance to many of the parish's villages. A sub-committee is established to co-ordinate the project. The committee comprised of Peter Gallagher [Bargariff], Seamus Caulfield [Upper Main St. and Devlis], Edward Mulhern [Knock Road], Jim Lundon [Knock Road], Pat Curley [Hazelhill], Paul Waldron [Cave].

February

Friday, 7th February was a sad day in some respects when, following the closure of the Augustinian Abbey in June 2002, a public auction is held at the Priory where all of the contents of the Friars' dwelling-house is put on display for sale.

On the same day, the remains of the late Seamus Durkan, a gentleman who was a life-long devotee of the Friary, are removed from the Scout Den, to which he devoted much of his time and energies during his eighty three years. And, a lady who has been synonymous with primary school education for over forty years in the Ballyhaunis district, Mrs. Mary Higgins from Abbey Street is laid to rest at the age of ninety-five years.

London-based Ballyhaunis footballer Kevin Waldron receives three awards for his footballing prowess including 'London Player of the Year Award 2002'. Kevin is son of Paddy and Tess Waldron, Redford.

At their A.G.M. Ballyhaunis Community Council elects officers for 2003 - Chairman: Willie Ryan; Secretary: Nell Rochford; and P.R.O.: Mary Donnelly.

East Mayo Rural Transport Link is established, providing a bus service between Ballyhaunis-Bekan-Knock-Kiltimagh-Bohola-Meelick-Swinford-Charlestown-Knock Airport-Kilkelly and Aghamore.

Scoil Íosa students perform at Dunmore Choral Festival under the direction of their conductress, Ms. Ita Fahey.

March

The face of The Square at Ballyhaunis is changed forever when a new bronze sculpture is

erected by Mayo County Council. The sculpture depicts a typical Market Day scene in Ballyhaunis.

The construction of twenty-one houses gets underway at Clare Road under the Social Housing Development scheme.

Community School footballers reach the Connacht Senior "A" Final for the first time ever, but St. Jarlath's College of Tuam prove too tough in the end, winning the final in Ballinrobe by a two point margin. George W. Bush declares war on Iraq.

Sixty-six students from Scoil Íosa are confirmed at St. Patrick's Church by Archbishop Michael Neary.

John B. Keane's play 'The Chastitute' attracts large audiences to the Parochial Hall, Tom Colleran playing the lead role of John Bosco McLaine.

Four new houses are sanctioned for Tooraree Housing Estate.

Jarlath Mellett (Abbeyvale), David Healy (Annagh), Jonathan Kelly (Lissaniska), Johanna Burke-Rowlands (Aisling Drive), Sean O'Kane (Tooraree), David Maughan (Aisling Drive) and Daniel Ward (Forthill) were members of the Irish Squad who competed at the Home Nations European Pool Championships in Prestwick, Scotland at the end of March. Three of the team went on to represent Ireland in the World Championships held in Bridlington, England in July, where David Healy (son of Joe and Kay, Annagh) made it to the Final of the Individual Junior competition.

At another A.G.M. - this time the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce - retired Bank Manager Donal Shanaghy becomes the new President, and the newly appointed Treasurer is Mr. Shanaghy's replacement at Bank of Ireland, David McConn.

Cloonfad girl Cathy Kedian departs from her desk at



Albanian family Mark and Ermira Kovaci and their son Jeton Mark, all of whom were baptised in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, by Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C.

Cunningham's Londis after sixteen years of service.

New Captains at Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Jarlath Henry and Attracta Jordan, officially start the new golfing season.

In the last week of March, work started on the dismantling of local Livestock Mart, sealing the fate of the Ballyhaunis institution which first opened in 1971. Cattle pens, gates, chute and sales ring were cut away from their concrete footings, brought away and later sold at auction.

April

At Knock House Hotel a Gala Dinner in aid of the Ballyhaunis and District Croí organisation raises over €5,000 for the West of Ireland Heart Foundation.

On 16th and 17th Apr. Ballyhaunis marked fifty years hosting the mobile blood transfusion unit. Those present include Patricia Waldron, Devlis, who was the very first organiser when they first came to town in 1953.

Ballyhaunis ladies Gillian Keane [Knox St.] and Ann Davitt [Brackloon North] are among the runners in the London City Marathon.

Good Friday Passion Play in Tooreen attracts a crowd of over five hundred people to the open air production. The Play, based on the Passion and death of Our Lord, is produced by Ms. Margaret Niland from Kilkelly.

On the invitation of the Abbey Partnership, Minister Eamon O'Cuiv visits the Friary to view a 3D Model of the Abbey Grounds and pledges to be of assistance to the development of the project.

History is made in Ballyhaunis when for the very first time an entire family are baptised in St. Patrick's Church on Holy Saturday night: the family of Albanian origin - Mark and Ermira Kovaci and their two and a half month old son Jeton Mark - are received into the Catholic Church by Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P.

The entire Easter ceremonies, from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday are broadcast live from St. Patrick's Church on MWR fm.

Twenty-five years old Tara Higgins from Devlis, Ballyhaunis wins the €1,000 Jones Environmental Award for her research on "Water Quality Factors in the Artificial Lakes created by Bord na Mona" at Sligo's Institute of Technology.

One of the town's longest established publicans Paddy Delaney dies after a brief illness.

Patrick Kellegher, a student of Scoil Íosa, is among the winners in the 'Write a Book Project 2003'. The competition is organised by the Mayo Education Centre, Castlebar. The award is presented to Patrick by Mick Lally at a special reception in Castlebar.

Ballyhaunis Community School Young Pioneers reached the All-Ireland Quiz Finals which took place in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan on 26th April - Aoife Noone, Lynda Healy, Conor Freeman, John Judge and Joan Leonard, came fourth in the Under-16 Pioneer Quiz

Competition. The team made up of Aileen Burke, Brenda Kilcourse, Sarah Nolan, Aidan Noone and Siobhan Quinn, came second in the Young Pioneer Competition.

The Buckley Brothers from Knock Road, Shane and Tadhg, win their first motor rally at the Sligo Stages Rally.

May

Despite the Monsoon conditions which prevail in Ballyhaunis over the May Bank Holiday, the Second Annual Festival is a resounding success. Fireworks light the night sky in Ballyhaunis to get festive proceedings underway.

Marita Byrne [daughter of Margaret and Tim, Johnstown] is crowned Annagh Rose 2003.

Enda Murphy receives a Special Merit Award for his contribution to Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns in the Town Improvement Awards 2003.

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce endeavour to tackle parking problem in Ballyhaunis, urging all employers and their employees to use off-street car parks in an effort to free-up spaces for shoppers and visitors.

School Chaplain Fr. Declan Carroll celebrates the Graduation Mass for Leaving Cert students of Ballyhaunis Community School. The Graduation Mass is an historic one as it marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Ballyhaunis Community School.

Mayo Gaels end Ballyhaunis' Championship hopes when they defeat Ballyhaunis in the Intermediate Championship first round.

Eighteen Students from Scoil Íosa N.S. receive their First Holy Communion; and also at Scoil Íosa, the students there raise a total of €1,000 in support of an athlete in the Special Olympics; and, staying with sport, Ballyhaunis Community School Leaving Cert student Keith Higgins is Captain of the Mayo Minor Football team.

English-born Jessica Kelly (daughter of Brendan and Julia Kelly), now resident in her father's native Derrynacong), wins the Under-10 All-Ireland Ballet Dancing Championships in Longford.

Former Ballyhaunis and Mayo footballer David Nestor transfers to Dublin G.A.A. club Kilmacud Crokes.

Residents of Abbeyquarter protest over Mayo County Council's proposal to erect a temporary halting site for six families, former residents of D.H. Burke's Car Park, adjacent to the Ballyhaunis Cemetery.

June

The announcement of the transfer of Fr. Declan Carroll as curate from Ballyhaunis to Mulranny was made. Castlebar native Fr. Declan has been among the Ballyhaunis community both as curate and as Chaplain at B.C.S. for just two years, but during his short term in Ballyhaunis he certainly left a profound and lasting impression.

Following the closure of the Fitzpack packaging factory in

Ballindine on 11th June, three employees are laid off from the Ballyhaunis factory the following day, 12th June. Twenty-three workers remain in employment at the factory.

Bekan Post Office closes for the very last time.

The Community School publishes its twenty-fifth Yearbook, which goes on sale in retail outlets throughout the town.

Community School teacher Mr. Morgan Jennings retires from his teaching post after almost thirty-five years in the profession; and, also retiring from his teaching post after a long and fruitful career in education is former Ballyhaunis and Mayo Gaelic footballer Johnny Biesty; and, in what is a busy month for teacher retirements, Derrynacong lady Helen Hoban retires from her teaching position at Tavneena N.S., Charlestown.

The new bronze sculpture at the Square entitled 'Lá an Aonaigh' is officially unveiled by Chairman of Mayo County Council Mr. Tim Quinn. The artwork is composed of three pieces cast in bronze - two men and a calf - and recalls the days when calves from the south of Ireland were sold by dealers to local farmers at The Square.

Ballyhaunis hurler Michael Curley [son of Michael and Francie] is among the competitors in the Edinburgh City Marathon in Scotland.

The Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly announced details of a new innovative wireless internet service will deliver high-speed internet connectivity to rural locations including Ballyhaunis.

Stray dogs caused substantial damage to a number of sheep flocks in Kiltybo, Lurgan, Killinaugher, Clooncan and Clooncrim.

July

The month of July gets off on the right note when internationally renowned Pianist, Ballyhaunis native Maria McGarry performs to a packed audience at the Augustinian Friary

Kay Fanning wins the Lady Captain's [Attracta Jordan] Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Over fifty young budding sports stars take part in the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Summer Camp, supervised by former Mayo and Connacht goalkeeper Eugene Lavin.

The winners of the Sports Stars of the Future Awards were Isaac Carroll [Boys Football], Aideen Murray [Ladies Football] and Brian Hunt [Hurling].

Sunday, 20th July marks an historic day in broadcasting in Ballyhaunis when MWR moves into its new ultra-modern studios at Clare Road. The building of the new studios cost just over €1.2 Million and took just under eleven months to complete

And, as former curate Fr. Declan Carroll takes up his new position as curate at Mulranny, his successor, Ballycastle native, Fr Kieran Burke is given a hearty welcome on his

arrival in Ballyhaunis.

Ballyhaunis man Declan Phillips becomes Dr. Declan Phillips when is awarded a Doctorate in Civil Engineering. Son of Paddy and Una [nee Donnellan], Main St., Declan received his award from Trinity College in Dublin.

Ballyhaunis native John Lyons is co-opted onto Kildare Co Council, replacing former Councillor Mae Sexton who is elected to the Senate. John is son of the late Pat and Teresa [nee Waldron] Lyons, Skeghard.

Ballyhaunis native Kevin Jordan [Annagh] is honoured by Warwickshire G.A.A. County Board for his service to Gaelic Games in Great Britain.

August

Ballyhaunis native Darran Conlon does his native town and country proud when he wins a Gold Medal for Ireland at the World Police and Fire Games in Barcelona, Spain. Son of Michael and Geraldine Conlon, Abbey St., Darran is a member of An Garda Síochána, based in Rathfarnham, Dublin.

The social event of the month, and for many it was the social event of the year, the Logboy National School Centenary Reunion, is attended by over three hundred patrons, many of whom are former pupils of the one-hundred years old school.

Monsignor Joe Quinn presides over his first National Novena as Parish Priest of Knock. Over 100,000 members of the faithful attend the ceremonies throughout the week. Budding young golfer Shane Freeman, playing off a handicap of six, wins the Captain's [Ja Henry] Prize.

A large turnout in The Hazel, Main St., on 16th Aug. for the reunion of the classes of St. Joseph's Secondary School and St. Patrick's College - 1968-73.

As Mid West Radio prepares to celebrate the official opening of its new state-of-the-art studios, the JNLR figures for radio listenership for 2002-03 shows the Ballyhaunis radio station to be the most popular local radio station at weekends, and the country's second most popular local station during weekdays.

The first Mass is celebrated at St Mary's Abbey since the Friary closed in June 2002, when over three hundred people attend a Mass of remembrance at the Abbey, chief celebrant for which is Fr. Michael Mernagh, O.S.A.

Sister Assumpta Flannery of the Sisters of Mercy celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of her Profession at Emmaus, Knock Road, with her family and colleagues in the Sisters of Mercy.

September

A new era of broadcasting dawns in Ballyhaunis when Mid West Radio's new €1.2 million studios are officially opened at Clare Street. The official opening, attended by three hundred invited guests, is preformed by Ms. Mary Davis, CEO Special Olympics to Ireland.



Midwest Radios brand new, state-of-the-art Broadcasting Centre, Clare Street.

Ballyhaunis Sheepdog Trials took place at Lecarrow, on 7th Sept. with up to fifty dogs and handlers taking part.

Ballyhaunis hurling star Paul McConn graduates with an Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Limerick University. Paul is son of David and Pat McConn, Doctor's Road, Ballyhaunis.

The Annagh Parish Townland Signage Scheme gets underway when the first of the townland signs is erected at the entrance to Gurteen.

Well-known Ballyhaunis personality Joe Keane, Knox Street, celebrates his eightieth birthday.

Ballyhaunis Minor footballers defeat Charlestown to win East Mayo Championship.

Agatha Higgins [Knockbrack] wins the motor car in Cunningham's Londis Draw.

The Town Park Development project gets underway at the former Friary Field.

Ballyhaunis received 190 out of a possible 300 marks (63.3%) in this year's Tidy Towns competition - the same as last year's score.

Friday, 26th September, the town of Ballyhaunis learns with disbelief and great shock the sudden death of Mickey Curley of Main Street. The County Hurling Final between Ballyhaunis and Tooreen is postponed as a mark of respect to the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club Executive member.

Work on the development of the Abbey grounds into a Town Park commenced on 15th Sept.

In the rescheduled fixture, Tooreen gain revenge for last years defeat when they defeat their neighbours in the County Final on a scoreline of 1-8 to 0-7.

Ballyhaunis Cricketers became the first Connacht team ever to win the Midland League and bring the 'Dick O'Neill Cup' to the West of Ireland.

October

Brookvale Manor Nursing Home opens at Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis. The proprietors are Pat Higgins and Amanda Torrens, from Co. Donegal. The Ballyhaunis Minor footballers [captained by Keith Higgins] lose out in two county finals.

Children's Book Festival opens at Ballyhaunis Library.

Gearoid Keane [Gurteen] captains the winning team in the Final of the Mick O'Connell [Under-10] Cup; And, in the Joe Webb Memorial Cup [Under-12s], the winning team is captained by David McNamara.

Tooreen defeat Ballyhaunis in the Mayo Senior County Hurling Final, avenging last year's defeat at the same stage.

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club make presentation to long-time club member Johnny Biesty on the occasion of his retirement from teaching; and, over in Aghamore, Johnny's sister Catherine Morley [Kilmannin] is the recipient of a Special Presentation from the teaching staff in Aghamore, where she has retired from her teaching post after many years of dedicated service.

Over 10,000 people descend on Knock Shrine for the celebration Mass to honour the Beatification of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Work has commenced on the installation of townland signs in various locations around the parish. Gurteen, Brackloon North, Forthill, Knockbrack and Kiltybo.

Former Ballyhaunis curate, Canon Thomas Heraty, dies in Clifden.

Yvonne Byrne lines out with Mayo Ladies in their All-Ireland title win over Dublin at Croke Park.

Initial steps have been taken to organise a reunion for the past pupils and staff of the Carrownedan National Schools next year.

Ballyhaunis Active Retirement Group enjoy a week's activity over in Clifden.

Maureen Thornton is appointed Chairperson of Gracenotes, the Ballyhaunis ladies choral group at their A.G.M.

Ballyhaunis GPs Dr. Michael Brogan and Dr. Alan Delaney open their new state-of-the-art medical centre on Doctor's Road. The new centre is appropriately called the Annagh Medical Centre. Pat Ryan is elected new Chairman of the Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights Committee. The Leaving Cert class of '93, Ballyhaunis Community School held their Ten Year Reunion on 24th Oct.

Preparations begin for next year's marking of the twentieth anniversary of the Twinning with Guilers in April 2004.

'Darran Is World Boxing Champion'

Ballyhaunis-born boxer Darran Conlon won the World Police Boxing Championship title at Light Middleweight at the World Police and Fire Games held in Barcelona, Spain on 31st July 2003.

The new World Champion returned to his native town the following Tuesday night, 5th Aug., to a rapturous welcome and attended a reception in his honour at Delaney's hostelry, just a few doors from his Abbey Street home.

The World Police and Fire Games is an international competition started in the U.S. about thirty years ago to promote physical fitness and comradeship among law enforcement bodies and fire officers from around the world. The games, which take place every two years, include all the Olympic sports and was held this year in Barcelona, Spain, over eight days from Saturday, 26th July to Sunday, 3rd August. They will next take place in Quebec, Canada in 2005.

About thirty countries in all compete, and this time around police and fire departments from eighteen countries put forward boxing teams, including Ireland, U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Cayman Islands, Mexico,

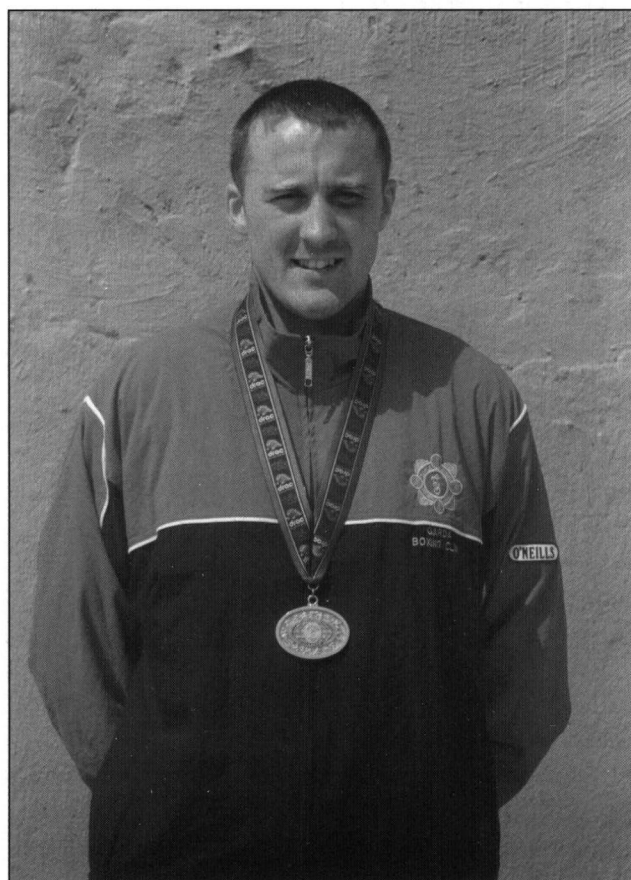
Russia, Malaysia and the host nation Spain. The standard of boxing was very high and Darran was particularly impressed with the Russian, Spanish, British and U.S. teams. The Garda Boxing team is very strong at present and they regularly take part in contests with such forces as the Irish Army, British Army, Police Service of Northern Ireland and the New York Police Department. Seven members of An Garda Síochána made up the Irish team at the World Games; as well as Darran there were three others from the West: Donal Barrett, Gweesala, Co. Mayo; Mervin Lee, Oughterard, Co. Galway; and Brendan Shovlin from Donegal. While An Garda Síochána have been represented at all the games down the years, this is the first time they have sent a boxing team since 1981 when the games were held in Canada.

Darran, who has been stationed at Rathfarnham, Dublin for the past two years and is attached to the Community Police, has been involved in boxing for the past fifteen years and in that time has amassed a fine collection of awards. His twin brother David too has had a distinguished boxing career, as has been reported in this paper in recent years. Both have numerous National titles to their credit. They are sons of Michael and Geraldine Conlon, Abbey St., Ballyhaunis.

At the World Games, Darran boxed in the Open Class category. There were twelve participants in the Light Middleweight division. Because of his experience, Darran got a bye to the final where he met David Jones, a police officer from Edmonton, Canada. It was a very tough fight by all accounts, but Darran was in control from the opening bell, when he forced Jones to take a standing eight count, after delivering a sharp left hook to the head. Darran received a deep cut over his left eye, which required stitches. The cut did not effect the fight which went the three rounds after which Darran was crowned World Champion at Light Middleweight.

The Garda team came home to Ireland on Sunday, 3rd Aug., with three gold, two silver and a bronze medal. Accompanying them were Team Manager Sgt. Larry Morrison, a native of Ballymote, Co. Sligo, and Team Chairman, Pat Killilea, a native of Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

The reception held in Darran's honour on Tuesday night last was well attended by his many friends in the area who had gathered to pay tribute this most popular sportsman.



Darran Conlon with Gold Medal.

'Sr. Kathleen Lyons'

Golden Jubilee 1953-2003

Once upon a time, and what seems like long, long ago when vocations to the religious life were plentiful, nuns from the Missionary orders toured Ireland visiting the schools, making appeals to girls to join them in their missionary endeavours. It was the days of the 'penny for the black babies' when we all had African babies baptised with our names

These visiting nuns evoked a response in my sister Kathleen's mind, but the door that eventually opened for her to go in that general direction led her, not to the mission fields of Africa, but into school classrooms in England and Ireland. Through a family contact, Kathleen was to enter the Congregation of La Sainte Union, a French-Belgian teaching foundation which was initiated by Abbe Brabant in 1826 in the wake of the French Revolution when religion had taken a bettering and schools were non-existent. This parish priest gathered a group of committed women together with the aim of establishing schools for the education of children along Christian principles. La Sainte Union foundations spread throughout France, Spain, England and to Ireland where their largest community of nuns run Our Lady's Bower Boarding and Day School in Athlone.

Family

Kathleen was the second eldest of a family of nine children. As the eldest sister she was to act as a second mother to the younger half of the family. In 1953, at the age of seventeen, she was the first to leave our close-knit household and her going is firmly etched in my mind.

My mother was naturally lonely on the day Kathleen took the train for London and the La Sainte Union Novitiate. It was to be nine years before she returned home and even then she was obliged to sleep at the convent in Abbey Street. In the days after her departure my mother would, at times, be overcome by grief and would take refuge in her bedroom from where we could hear her sobs. Rita, the youngest of the family, was three years old at the time so used to send her into the bedroom to say to mother: "If you don't stop crying, I'll cry". It always worked.

Kathleen's letters home were eagerly awaited and as young children we learnt early how to write letters back to her. When she returned home for first holiday, swathed in yards of black clothing with only her face showing through a wimple, we were no longer the little ones she had left behind.

Teaching

For teacher training, Kathleen had attended the La Sainte Union Teacher Training College in Southampton. She went on to teach for periods at

schools at Erith in Kent, Bath in Somerset, Grays in Essex and Skelmersdale in Lancashire. In 1982, after thirty years in England, she came back to Ireland to teach at Our Lady's Bower Convent School in Athlone.

Today there are one hundred and forty teenage girls boarding with the nuns and over four hundred day pupils attending Our Lady's Bower school. With such a young in-house population life in the Bower is lively. Kathleen takes a special interest in the first year boarders and tries to help them adjust to their first experience of being away from home. Every Monday evening she runs a mutual support group where the children learn to help and understand each other.

Throughout her teaching life Kathleen has always had a desire to develop the artistic side of her nature which she first explored at art classes during her teacher training course. In recent years she has attended courses at a studio in Dublin and now her paintings proudly adorn the walls of the homes of members of the Lyons family and around the convent buildings. Her favourite subjects for painting are Irish country scenes, especially views of Croagh Patrick and Connemara. A picture of Brod Boyle's old forge in Ballinphuill is a particular family favourite. Her recent attendance at a course at the Burren College of Art on painting wild flowers has resulted in a gallery of pictures featuring fuschia and wild roses and other wild flowers whose names I cannot spell.

Athlone, like many Irish towns has a sizeable immigrant population and Kathleen is involved in teaching migrants



The Lyons family, formerly of Devlis.

Back, L-R: P. J., Billy, John, Declan; Front, L-R: Rita, Kathleen, Josephine.

to speak and write English. These sessions have led to her forming friendships with many lonely and vulnerable young people.

Celebration

To celebrate Kathleen's golden jubilee all of her brothers and sisters from the U.S.A., England and Ireland, gathered at Our Lady's Bower for a special Mass. Afterwards, the Sisters provided a festive meal. In the wake of the feasting a good old-fashioned party spirit was generated and many of the old Irish songs were resurrected for a hearty rendering. 'A Mother's Love is a Blessing', 'Moonlight in Mayo', 'Moonlight in Mayo', 'Tooralooralay', 'My Bonnie lies over the Ocean' and many more of these nostalgic songs got an unashamed hearing. If we didn't know all the words, it didn't matter, we diddle-di-daddled the tune through the gaps. Sometimes there were pregnant pauses between the songs when we desperately trawled the recesses of memory for songs to keep the precious party spirit alive.

My brothers P. J. and Billy gave our voices a rest when they introduced their accordians. The scene then became

enlivened with the dancing of jigs and reels. We didn't always know the right steps, but as long as you kept prancing around on the toes to a 'one-two-three-and-a-one-two-three' beat you could be as creative as Michael Flatley.

As the evening wore on we were loath to let go of the crack, but in the end we sang songs of gratitude: "At the end of the day, just kneel and say – Thank you, Lord, for our work and play, I've tried to be good, for I know that I should, that's my prayer at the end of the day".

Life brings its ups and downs to all of us but when we achieve whatever it is we have been trying to achieve having done our simple best it is time to celebrate. A fifty year time mark is a moment to stop and look back in gratitude at all the victories gained and all the graces received. Kathleen's fifty years working with the Sisters of La Sainte Union was a worthy excuse for her family and her community to gather to celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving, to feast, to remember times past together, to laugh, to sing, to dance, and to say with her DEO GRATIAS.

Rag Parade 1965

Declan Lyons

Rag Parades were a regular part of life in Ballyhaunis in the 1950s and 60s. They always took place after the last Mass on Sunday and the parade traversed the streets of the town.



Above: Michael Joyce, Abbey St., and Joey Coyne of Devils in a Rag Parade in 1965. Cardinals Cushing (Boston) and Conway (Armagh) officiated at the opening of the new cathedral in Galway and provided inspiration for the topical set of characters in this parade. The 'nun' is Tina Coyne. The Ballaghaderreen de la Salle Band are in the background.



Above: Willie Coyne, Billy Lyons and others.



Left: A wave to the 'Knock Special', the only Sunday train running then.

'St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis'

- Mary Caulfield (Secretary) -

Our producer, Pat Doyle took a bold decision in choosing 'The Chastitute' by John B. Keane for this year's production and it proved to be a great success. Rehearsals started in November with a small group of people gathering in the back room of Paddy Phillips' bar reading scripts and discussing sets. It was a new direction for all of us and right up to a week before opening night we were worried; either the audience would run us out of town or we would be turning them away. We had a nervous opening night but word got around that something good was happening in the Parochial Hall and by Monday night, for the first time ever, the crowds were queuing at the door. We gained huge confidence with the positive feedback and are looking forward to taking on more ambitious projects in the future.

Hall of Fame Award

To quote Pat "we don't have Oscars but we do have our own awards". Some years ago the group introduced a 'Hall of Fame' award for members who have contributed so much to drama. Tony Carney was this year's deserving recipient. Ballyhaunis Drama is a long established club and Tony has been a part of almost every play. His experience and encouragement especially with new

members is invaluable.

As with all clubs the backstage is very important. We are fortunate to have Jim Donnelly as our stage manager. Because this was a big cast many actors also doubled up as stage hands. Jim himself made a return to the stage as 'the brother'. Also doubling up were Ann Greally and Stella O'Neill who managed set change and props, Cathriona Sweeney on sound, Patricia Hunt on costume and props, and anyone left standing back-stage got some kind of job!

New Members

New members are the life-blood of any club and we were delighted to have Noreen Freyne, Johnny O'Shaughnessy and Deirdre Carter-Roche take up the invitation to tread the boards. Noreen came in at the last minute and anyone who saw the play will agree she was brilliant (and no, she was not drunk, she's just a good actor!). Readers interested in joining the Drama Group can contact any member. It's a great social gathering and the 'apres performances' in Paddy Phillips' bar are even better than the entertainment on stage. At the time of going to print we are reading a number of plays and discussing possible forthcoming productions. We hope the people of Annagh



Cast of 'The Chastitute'. Back, L-R: George Dee, Anne Greally, Moira Noone, Stella O'Neill, Pat Doyle, Aisling Toal, John O'Shaughnessy, Tom Colleran, Adrian Murray, Deirdre Carter-Roche, Ruairi Caulfield, Jim Donnelly, Seamus O'Boyle. Front, L-R: Patricia Hunt, Mary Caulfield, Tony Carney, Caitriona Sweeney, Noreen Freyne.

will support us again in such large numbers.

Finally, a word of thanks to our many sponsors who generously donate money and spot prizes each year. There are considerable costs in producing a play and we are grateful for your support.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year in 2004 and look forward to seeing you in Spring.

Cast of 'The Chastitute'

John Bosco MacLane - Tom Colleran; Cross Monk - Adrian Murray; Gentle Monk - Johnny O'Shaughnessy; Aunt Kate - Mary Caulfield; Mickey Molly - Tony Carney; Norrie Macey - Patricia Hunt; Juleen McCoon - Deirdre Carter-Roche; Sylvester Brady - Ruairi Caulfield; Heather - Noreen Freyne; Brother - Jim Donnelly; Mother - Cathriona Sweeney; Canon - George Dee; Suzanne - Ann Greally; Trudy - Stella O'Neill. Producer: Pat Doyle; Make-up: Kitt Keane; Anne Hosty; Lights: Frank Herrity; Front of House: Moira Noone, Seamus O'Boyle.



Tony Carney receiving the St. Patrick's Dramatic Society Hall of Fame Award from Stella O'Neill.

'Yvonne's Great Comeback is Complete'

- Aiden Henry -

2003 will go down as another great year for Mayo Ladies Gaelic football. The highlight of course was the county senior team retaining their All-Ireland crown by defeating Dublin in the final. On top of that the county minor team almost brought off a great double. However, in the final they just failed to a very good Cork side. This brings me to one Ballyhaunis player who played a huge part both on and off the field in this great success story.

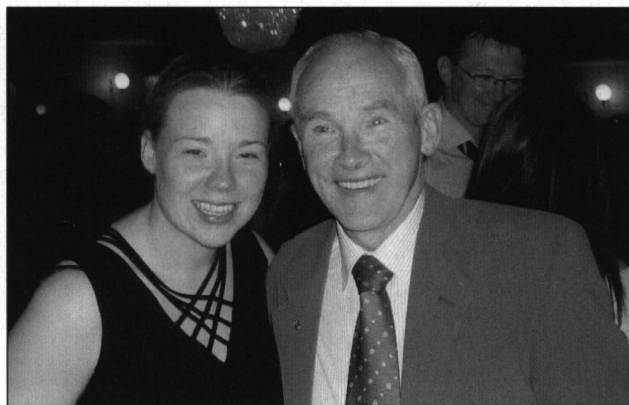
Local girl, Yvonne Byrne, will certainly look back on the year with a huge amount of satisfaction. One of the star Mayo players in 1999 when they won their first ever All-Ireland final, Yvonne, who filled the number six spot on the team, was regarded at the time to have a very bright future with Mayo. She continued this promise in 2000 when she again played a major part in Mayo retaining their crown. However, in 2001, she received a very bad knee injury which forced her out of the game. Her presence on the team was badly missed as Mayo failed to Laois in the Final.

Against all the odds Yvonne's great ambition to get back playing Gaelic football finally paid last year where she was back on the Mayo panel. As you all know, Mayo regained the title. This year she was back to her best and in the All-Ireland final against Dublin, played at huge part in this great with the number six jersey on her back. The great comeback was complete. While we spoke of Yvonne having a great year on the playing field, she also played a big part with regards to Mayo football off the field. Along with her colleague, Cora Staunton, they took over the joint managership of the County Minor team. While it might have been a surprise to many, it was not to anyone who knew their capabilities, that against all the odds they guided their team to the All-Ireland final. Had they had a little lady luck on the day they would surely have won the final. To say that this was a great achievement by the two Mayo stars, would be an

understatement.

Being from Ballyhaunis which has been steeped in Gaelic football since the association was founded, this I am sure has made Yvonne's unbelievable achievements all the more memorable. I have no doubt but the entire community of Ballyhaunis are very proud of their star. As we look forward to 2004 there is every indication that this success story will continue. The county senior team will no doubt be the team to beat again next year and I for one think that they will make it three-in-row and win their fifth All-Ireland title in six years. From what I believe and what everyone is hoping, Yvonne and Cora, will again take charge of the county minor team for 2004. While this is a huge commitment from two of the best ladies footballers in the country, the job they took on this year and which almost had a fairytale ending, will get its just reward in 2004.

The final word - Mayo to win the double in 2004 with the young Ballyhaunis star, Yvonne Byrne, playing a leading role in both.



Celebrating the 2003 All-Ireland victory is the number six player with her number one fan - Yvonne Byrne with her father Pat.

'Gracenotes'

- Mary Lyons -

2003 was another successful and exciting year for Gracenotes Choir with an exceptionally busy schedule. Having completed the recording of a CD in early November, we set about preparing for a Christmas recital in the Friary, Ballyhaunis, which was sponsored by Mayo County Council and the Abbey Partnership. This drew a good attendance and was very well received. We also took part, once again, in the "Love Shine A Light" ceremony at Knock, an annual event in aid of Mayo-Roscommon Hospice.

Local Performances

As we had applied to participate at the International Choral Festival in Sopron, Hungary, the following summer, efforts were made to raise funds towards our travelling expenses. Our main event was the "Springtime Cabaret" which took place in Monsoon Nite-Club in March, where we were delighted to host popular local artistes, John O'Neill (ex. Ballyhaunis), Gerry Carney and Brian Flanagan; our MC was Gerry Glennon of Midwest Radio. This was a very successful evening and the choir performed a light selection of well-known songs by The Beatles, Abba and Simon & Garfunkel, accompanied by Ludmilla Borcovschi and John Flatley. Thanks to everyone who helped in the realisation of this event.

Our next performance took place at the beginning of May, again at the Friary, as part of the Smithwicks Summer Festival. For this recital, we were joined by local soprano, Joan O'Malley, who delighted everyone with her

beautiful singing, and ensured that this concert was a memorable occasion. We hope to repeat this wonderful combination at some future date.

Flying the Flag in Hungary

Undoubtedly, a highlight of the year was our trip to Austria and Hungary in early July. We flew to Vienna initially where we spent a short time taking in sights such as the Schonbrun Palace and various museums, before moving on the following day to Sopron in Hungary. We were here to participate in the festival which is run as part of the famous 'Summer Weeks' event held in the area each year. We were made to feel most welcome by the organising committee who provided excellent accommodation and our own guide for the duration of our stay. On the day of our arrival, we took part in a parade through the streets of this old medieval town, accompanied by the other visiting choirs from Estonia, Finland, the Czech Republic and Russia, all bearing our own national flags. Over the following days we gave two concerts, one secular and one sacred, finishing with a joint concert on the final evening with all the other choirs in the main square. This included the performance of a Hungarian song by Franz Liszt, in his native language - some very interesting phonetics here, to say the least!

We also made an excursion to Esterhazy Palace in Fertod, not far away, where the composer Joseph Haydn resided for many years; each choir performed native songs from their own countries on the steps of the palace. As the



Members of Gracenotes in Hungary, July 2003

Back, L-R: Tina Kirrane, Christina Concannon, Anne Lyons, Geraldine Collins, Anna Henry, Anne Marie Eagney, Maura O'Neill, Mary Lyons. Middle, L-R: Xanthe Pratt, Anna Butler, Maureen Thornton, Frankie O'Malley, Ita Fahey, Una Shields, Mary Patterson. Front, L-R: Mary Dawson, Breege Kenny, Marie Kelly.

festival concluded a few days prior to our departure home, we used this time to travel to the capital, Budapest, to see the sights and enjoy a boat trip on the River Danube - a wonderful experience! Overall, our tour was highly enjoyable and we took the opportunity to sample the local cuisine and wines for which the area is famous.

In August, we were invited to sing at the annual Novena in Knock, where we were ably accompanied by Ludmilla Borcovschi and John Aldridge. To conclude a very active year, the choir have just taken part in the Sligo Choral Festival where we were awarded second prize in the competition for female choirs - a fitting end to a great year!

Officers

At our recent AGM, the election of officers was as follows: Musical Director - Anna Butler; Chairperson - Maureen Thornton; Secretary - Laura Brogan; Treasurer - Moira Stratford; P.R.O. - Mary Lyons; Librarian - Mary Dawson; Committee - Tina Kirrane, Ita Fahey, Marie Kelly, Nuala Fitzgerald.

On request

As part of various activities within Gracenotes, we are available to sing at engagements on request. During the summer, we were invited to sing at several weddings in the area and were delighted to oblige. We have a suitable repertoire to fulfill such engagements. Enquiries to our musical director Anna Butler at (094) 9630239.

'The Freelys of Scregg'

- Terence Freely -

The townland of Scregg has been long known as the home of many families of the name of Freely. In the early twentieth century there were five families of the name in Scregg, these can again be subdivided into two main families.

According to tradition the Freelys first came to the Baronies of Costello and Gallen at the turn of the seventeenth century in the wake of Red Hugh O'Donnell's conquest of Connacht during the Elizabethan wars. Freely - 'Frighile' in Irish - is a variant of the name O'Friel of Kilmacrenan in Donegal. Freely families are scattered in various townlands around Ballyhaunis. One of the largest groups was in Scregg, so much so that it was sometimes called "Scregg of the Freelys".

Three farms

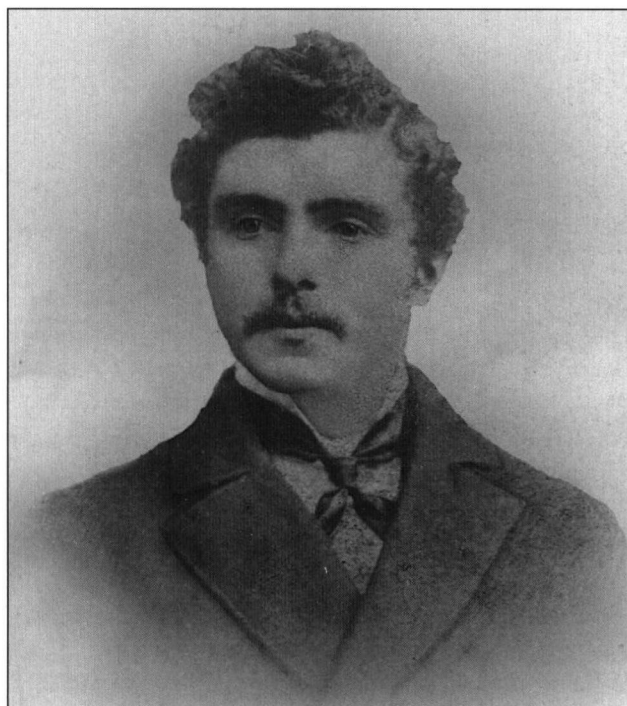
In 1780 a Michael Freely and his wife Bridget O'Donnell, then living in Scregg, took out a lease from Viscount Dillon of lands in Scregg. His son, also Michael, paid tithes for the lands in the 1830s. This second Michael divided the land - 140 acres - between his three sons, Patrick, Michael and James, thus founding three separate farms. The eldest son Patrick, having the first farm in Scregg, the house until recently the home of the late Mrs. Cis O'Donnell, who was the last Freely to live in Scregg. The second farm went to Michael and was inherited by my father, also called Michael. The last person to live there was my aunt Mary Lizzie Freely, who died there in 1932. The third farm went to James, and the last member of the family to live there was the late Jim Freely. To this family belongs the travel writer John Freely and his daughter Maureen Freely the novelist, who now lives in England. At the lower end of Scregg lived two families, where the Pratt family now live. Thomas Freely and his family moved to Roscommon early in the last century, resettled by the Land Commission; thereafter, I believe, they went to England. The other family terminated in Scregg with the late Pa Freely, who died in 1961. He could recite his ancestors back five generations from where they originated

at the end of the eighteenth century in Began. The Freely families of Knockbrack and Leow were related to the Scregg families. I believe, going even further back, all the Freelys in the area seem to have had a common ancestor.

Freely Diaspora

Today, Freelys are scattered in many lands. Many of course went to America in the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, others to Britain and eventually to Europe. My own immediate family numbers some thirty-eight persons in various European countries, including myself in Portugal.

In the census of 1911, there were thirty-four people called Freely in Scregg. Today there are none.



Patrick Freely (1855-1929) of Scregg, grandfather of the author. Photograph taken in the 1870s.

'Scoil Íosa Primary School'

Introduction

Scoil Íosa extends Seasonal Good Wishes to all past pupils in Ireland and overseas. 2003 was a successful and very busy year. Enrolment has increased; teachers are busy implementing the New Curriculum. There are 258 pupils in the school. There was disappointment in January 2003 when Scoil Íosa was not included in the School Building Programme for 2003.

Staff 2003-2004

Teachers: Mr. Jim Lundon (Principal), Mrs. Sally Fahy (Deputy Principal), Mr. Augustine Kearns (Assistant Principal), Mrs. Kathleen Lyons, Mr. Jimmy Duggan, Mrs. Ita Fahey, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, Miss Aisling Toal, Mrs. Margaret O'Flaherty, Miss Stella McGrath, Mrs. June Duffy, Miss Maureen Reddington, Mrs. Betty Regan, Mrs. Caitlin Jennings, Mrs. Marie Byrne, Mrs. Mary Fleming, Miss Ailish Creane, Miss Sheena Flanagan, Miss Gillian Denning. Special Needs Assistant: Mrs. Bridget Lynskey, Mrs. Kay Healy, Mrs. Marina Coyne. School Secretaries: Mrs. Mary Dillon, Miss Carmel Cassidy. School Caretaker: Mr. John Hurley. Extra Curricular Activities: Dancing: Mrs. Grainne Freyne; French: Mr. Seamus Caulfield; Music: Mr. Tom Lyons; Computers: Mr. Gearoid Ó Suilleabhán.

Board of Management

Chairperson/Patrons' Nominee: John Griffin; Patrons' Nominee: Fr. Kieran Burke; Elected Teacher: Jimmy Duggan; Principal: Jim Lundon; Elected Parents: Olive Lyons, Seamus Caulfield; Community Representatives: Ann Lyons and Cathy Carroll.

Parents Association 2003-2004

Chairperson: Kevin Henry; Vice-Chairperson: Seamus Grogan; Secretary: Ann Lyons Assistant Secretary: Gabrielle Lyons; Treasurer: Manar Cherbatji; P.R.O.: Olive Lyons. Committee: Sarah Kelly, Mary Teresa Griffin, Bridie McDermott, Carol Keane, John Durkin, Mohammad Ul Hassan, Dr. Khalid Mahmood.

First Confession/First Communion

In preparation for the Sacraments, there was a Talk for Parents by Fr Ted Nolan, Director of Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Tuam. The Enrolment Ceremony for the pupils of second class took place in Scoil Íosa on 29th January. The ceremony was conducted by Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C. There was an excellent attendance of parents. The Parents' Association provided refreshments afterwards. First Confession took place on Monday 7th April in the Parish Church.

First Communion

The eighteen pupils who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 10th May, were: Diarmuid Byrne, Gurteen; Jarlath Carney, Classaroe; Megan Carroll, Ballinlough; Edward Cleary, Cherryfield; Margaret Cleary, Stone St.; Fiona Creighton, Castleturley, Aghamore; James Cribbin, Togher; Ultan Griffin, Knock Rd.; Patrick Kelleher, Upr. Main St.; Phelim Kenny, Station Rise; Eadaoin Lyons,

Knockbrack; Charlene Maughan, Cherryfield; Christina Maughan, Upr. Main St.; Jason McGoldrick, Abbeyquater; Conor Nolan, Kilmannin; Darren Nolan, Abbeyquater; Lisa O'Connell, Abbeyquater; Kieran Webb, Station Rise. Their Teacher was Mrs. Ita Fahey. Celebrant of the Mass was Canon Joseph Cooney, assisted by Fr. Declan Carroll. Penitential Prayers were read by Patrick Kelleher, Eadaoin Lyons and Ultan Griffin. The Psalm was sung by Jarlath Carney, Megan Carroll and Conor Nolan. Darren Nolan, Phelim Webb, Patrick Kelleher, Jason McGoldrick, Diarmuid Byrne and Eddie Cleary read Prayers of the Faithful. Offertory Gifts were presented by Kevin Webb, Margaret Cleary, Fiona Creighton and Lisa O'Connell. Commentary on the gifts was by James Cribbin. Prayers over the gifts were by Lisa O'Connell, Charlene Maughan, Jarlath Carney, Christina McDonagh, Conor Nolan, and Megan Carroll. Prayers before Communion were read by Diarmuid Byrne. Prayers after Communion were led by Ultan Griffin.

End of Year Mass

The thirty-six pupils who completed Primary School Wed. 18th June 2003 were: Niall Asilia, Aisling Drive; Ursula Byrne, Ballyroe, Knock; Kieran Culliney, Johnstown; Sean Cunnane, Carrowkeel; Ruairi Finan, Brackloon; Eamonn Fitzmaurice, Tonragee; Shauna Folliard, Kiltaboe; Paul Higgins, Knockbrack; Sinead Higgins, Johnstown; Brian Hunt, Derrynacong; Zaniab Javid, Clare Rd.; Emma Jenkins, Knock Rd.; Kelan Kenny, Station Rise; Melissa Kenny, Knock Rd.; Sarah Lynskey, Gurteen; John Lyons, Knockbrack; Joseph Lyons, Knockbrack; Orla Lyons, Knockbrack; Niamh Lyons, Lecarrow; Liam McDermott, Island; Kevin McNamara, Knockbrack; Kevin Moran, Gurteen; Kenneth Murphy, Knockbrack; Amana Nazir, Clare Rd.; Kevin Nestor, Knock Rd.; Gavin O'Connor, Tavanaghmore; Caroline Cleary, Station Rise; Martin Maughan, Upr. Main St.; Jonathan Maughan, Aisling Drive; Christopher Mongan, Station Rise; Tadhg Morley, Derrymore; Shane Nolan, Station Rise; Amy Tighe, Aisling Drive; Ayaz Ul Hassan; Clare Rd., Daniel Ward Forthill; Shamie Webb, Station Rise.

Celebrant of the Graduation Mass was Fr. Declan Carroll, Chairperson of the School B.O.M. Mass servers were Gavin O'Connor and Tadhg Morley. Niall Asilia welcomed all present. Penitential Rite was by Orla Lyons and Liam McDermott. Ruairi Finan and Sarah Jane Lynskey did the readings while Gospel Acclamation was sung by Sinéad Higgins. Prayers of the faithful were read by Tadhg Morley, Sean Cunnane, Ursula Byrne, Kelan Kenny, Brian Hunt, Eamonn Fitzmaurice, Kevin Moran. Offertory Gifts were presented by Ursula Byrne, Shauna Folliard, Martin Maughan, Kevin Nestor, Kenneth Murphy, Shane Nolan, Jonathan Maughan, Shamie Webb, Daniel Ward, Christopher Mongan, Paul Higgins and Joseph Lyons. John Lyons and Kevin Moran gave the commentary on the Gifts. The Communion Reflection was a Liturgical Dance, 'Christ Be Our Light', by Melissa Kenny, Caroline Cleary, Amy Tighe,



Confirmation, Sixth Class, 2003. Back, L-R: Shamie Webb, Jason McDonagh, Christopher Mongan, Ursula Byrne, Thomas McDonagh, Tadhg Morley, Liam McDermott, Orla Lyons, Emma Jenkins, Sarah Jane Lynskey, Mr. Jimmy Duggan (teacher). Third Row, L-R: Mrs. Kathleen Lyons (teacher), Bernard McDonagh, Amy Tighe, Caroline Cleary, Jonathan Maughan, Joseph Lyons, John Lyons, Martin McDonagh, Eamon Fitzmaurice, Paul Higgins, Daniel Warde. Second Row: Anne Marie McDonagh, Shane Nolan, Shauna Folliard, Gavin O'Connor, Kenneth Murphy, Niamh Lyons, Kevin Nestor, Kevin McNamara, Sean Cunnane, Brian Hunt, Kelan Kenny. Front, L-R: Melissa Kenny, Kevin Moran, Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., Archbishop Michael Neary, Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C., Ruairi Finan, Sinead Higgins. All at Scoil Íosa thank everyone involved: His Grace, Dr. Micheal Neary, Canon Cooney, Fr. Declan Carroll, Sacristan Frances Maye, The Parish Choir directed by Anna Butler, Organist Sarah Kelly, The Scoil Íosa Parents Association, and the Altar Society.



Confirmation, Fifth Class, 2003. Back, L-R: Mr. Jimmy Duggan (teacher), Martin Daly, Shirley McGowan, Sean Ronayne, Aisling Forde, Michelle Connell, Paul Freeley, Mr. Augustine Kearns (teacher), Sr. Nora Colleran (teacher). Third Row, L-R: Michelle O'Connor, Victoria McDonagh, Jennifer Lyons, Mary McDonagh, Caitriona Cleary, Maura Kelly, Fiona Freyne, Avril Feeney, Aideen Murray, Corrina Byrne. Second Row, L-R: Gerard Grogan, Sinead Healy, Mairead Griffin, Stephen Cregg, Lisa Folan, Lisa Finn, Leanne Lynch, Padraig Waldron, Kevin Morley, Paul Carney, Niall Cribbin. Front Row, L-R: Kevin Fitzmaurice, Adrienne Kenny, Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., Archbishop Michael Neary, Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C., Sinead Byrne, Barry Deegan.

Emma Jenkins and Niamh Lyons. 'Farewell' was by Kieran Culliney. Fr. Declan then presented the boys and girls with their Graduation Certificates.

Ann Lyons, Secretary of the Parents' Association, congratulated the children on this special occasion. She wished Fr. Declan good luck in Mulranny, thanked him for his work in Ballyhaunis and made a presentation to him on behalf of the Parents' Association.

Tidy Towns

The Tidy Towns Anti-Litter Art Competition winners were presented with their prizes on Wednesday, 26th Nov. 2003. Junior Infants: 1st Aoife Mulrennan; 2nd Emma Lyons; 3rd Caoimhe Lilley. Senior Infants (Miss Toal): 1st Lisa Kilmova; 2nd Roisin O'Suilleabhain; 3rd Shane Cribbin. Senior Infants (Mrs. O'Flaherty): 1st Cormac Reidy; 2nd Leanne Henry; 3rd Matthew Grogan. First Class: 1st Laurence McDonagh; 2nd Chantelle McDonagh; 3rd Laura Carney. Second Class: 1st Tasha Coyne; 2nd Chikelue Okigbo; 3rd Gerry Freeley. Third Class: 1st Diarmuid Byrne; 2nd Lisa O'Connell; 3rd Zeenat Javaid. Fourth Class: 1st Grace Lyons; 2nd Sarah Deegan; 3rd Maria Lyons. Fifth Class: 1st Maura Naughton; 2nd Laura Patterson; 3rd Clare O'Dwyer. Sixth Class (Mr. Duggan): 1st Naureen Iqbal; 2nd Sarah Cherbatji; 3rd Avril Feeney. Sixth Class (Mrs. Lyons): 1st Leanne Lynch; 2nd Corrina Byrne; 3rd Kamron Afzal. Special Category Winners: James Mulvaney, Orla Judge, Bridget Warde, Fiona Creighton, Danielle Byrne.

Credit Union

The Scoil Iosa pupils who were placed in the Credit Union Art Competition in November 2003 were: Matthew Grogan, Sammy Asila, Faraz UI Hassan, Naureen Iqbal, Michelle Connell, Danielle Byrne, Bridget Warde, Fiona Creighton, Orla Judge, James Mulvaney.

Croí Art Competition

First prize in her category went to Fiona Creighton, Aghamore. Highly commended were Danielle Byrne, Claremorris, and Laura Carney, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis.

Kenny-Naughton Winners 2003

Congratulations to Maura Naughton, Carramore, who won first prize in the 11 years and under Short Story section at the Kenny-Naughton Autumn School, held in Aghamore. Other Scoil Íosa winners were: Lisa O'Connell, Abbeyquarter; Aisling Tarpey, Carrowkeel; Amana Shafique, Clare St.; Leanne Lynch, Holywell. Robert Morley, Pollnacraoghy was a winner in the Poetry section for 8 years and under. The winners were presented with their prizes in the Kenny-Naughton Centre, Aghamore, on Sat. 26th October 2003.

Write a Book Project 2003

In this project run by Mayo Education Centre, Patrick Kelleher won a Merit Award. Patrick was presented with his award by Mick Lally (Miley from 'Glenroe') on 3rd April.

Credit Union Quiz

Scoil Iosa entered six teams for the Credit Union Quiz which took place in the Parochial Hall on Friday 31st Jan 2003.

Team 1 from sixth class came third in the Under-13 category. The members were: Sarah Jane Lynskey, Ursula Byrne, Kevin Nestor and Eamonn Fitzmaurice. Team 1 from fourth class won second place in the Under-11 section; that team was: Robyn Moran, Clare O'Dwyer, Seamus McKenzie and Gerald Grogan; Sub: Kieran McDermott. Other teams competing were Sixth class: Liam McDermott, John Lyons, Orla Lyons, Sinead Higgins; Sub: Niall Asilia. Fifth Class (Mr. Kearns): Padraig Waldron, Barry Deegan, Niall Cribbin, Maura Kelly. Fifth Class (Mr. Duggan), Leanne Lynch, Corrina Byrne, Sinead Healy, Fiona Freyne. Fourth Class Maura Naughton, Laura Patterson, Edel Lynch, Lisa Jordan; Sub: David Fitzmaurice.

PTAA Quiz 2003

Two teams from Scoil Iosa took part in the PTAA Regional Quiz, held in Claremorris on Tuesday 18th March. Pupils taking part were: Ruairi Finan, Brian Hunt, Orla Lyons, John Lyons, Sarah-Jane Lynskey, Kevin Nestor, Liam McDermott and Eamonn Fitzmaurice.

Schools Choral Festival

Scoil Íosa Choir, conducted by Mrs. Ita Fahey, took part in the schools Choral Festival in Dunmore on 25th February 2003. The Festival was opened by President Mary McAleese.

Pioneers

Ann Mulkeen and Dr. Andrew Mulkeen, Knock, talked to the senior pupils about the Pioneers on 16th June. They were accompanied by Frank Leonard and Patsy Flanagan of Ballyhaunis PTAA. Topics discussed included: the message of the Pioneers, the three categories of membership - Young, Juvenile and Full, and the activities of the Pioneer Youth Committee. They presented each pupil with an information booklet on the Pioneers.

Visitors to Scoil Iosa

Dr. Declan Phillips, lecturer at Waterford Institute of Technology gave a talk on Civil Engineering to the Senior pupils in May 2003. Dr. Phillips from Main Street Ballyhaunis is son of Paddy and Una Phillips and is a past pupil of the school.

Niall De Búrca – Storyteller – visited Scoil Íosa on 5th Dec. 2002. Niall's family hails from Castlebar, though he himself was raised in Galway. He enthralled his audience from Junior Infants to Sixth Class with tales appropriate to the ages of the children. He told a variety of tales with tremendous energy and humour. He included the "cupla focal" in all stories and had every child imitating his words and actions within minutes. Niall has performed to over 300,000 students of all ages in Europe, Australia and Argentina. This was his first visit to Scoil Íosa and will be remembered by pupils and staff as a very entertaining and educational experience.

Other annual visitors included the School Nurse, Photographer and Miss Áine Whelan, Ballyhaunis Community School, who talked to the Sixth class pupils about their transition to the Community School, The most eagerly awaited annual visitor is Santa who calls before the Christmas Holidays.

Used Stamps

The pupils thank everyone who collected used postage stamps for them during the year. These stamps are sold through Oxfam and the money is used to buy water pumps for poverty stricken areas in the Third World. This collection is ongoing throughout the school year. All used postage stamps are acceptable. Irish stamps are in great demand by stamp collectors, since Ireland is a relatively small country on the world wide scale.

Operation Christmas Child

Scoil Íosa pupils took part in this project for the first time. OCC is a project of Samaritans Purse, an International Christian Aid Agency. Last year over six million gift-filled shoe boxes were distributed to children in over one-hundred countries worldwide, regardless of nationality, political background or religious beliefs. Thanks to the Parents Association and Mrs. Stacia Carney, Classaroe, for organising this project. The gift-filled shoe boxes were collected from the school on 6th November 2003.

Sport

Scoil Íosa hurlers reached the County Hurling Final this year where they lost narrowly to Tooreen N.S. They also took part in the seven a side hurling and in door hurling competitions organised by Ballyhaunis Hurling Club.

In football, Scoil Íosa defeated St. Attracta's, Ballaghaderreen before losing by a point in extra time to the eventual County Final winners St. Aidan's, Kiltimagh.

All pupils from First Class to Sixth Class had an opportunity to attend Swimming lessons in Claremorris Swimming Pool. Girls Basketball training was organised by Mrs. Lyons, Ms. Denning and Ms. Flanagan

Parents Association Report

The Parents Association is the structure through which parents in a school can work together for the best possible education for their children. The Parents Association works with the principal, staff and the board of management to build effective partnership of home and school.

Officers for the school year September 2002 to June 2003 were: Chairperson - Kevin Henry; Vice-Chairperson - Marie Jordan; Secretary - Anne Lyons; Assistant Secretary - Nuala Nolan; Treasurer - Manar Cherbatji; PRO - Mike Byrne; Committee - Paula Grogan, Seamus Grogan, Sarah Kelly, Gabrielle Lyons, Olive Lyons, Paddy Philips, Pat Ryan, Bridie Waldron.

During this past school year the Parents Association helped with Communion Enrolment Night, January 22nd; Confirmation Day March 23rd; First Holy Communion May 10th; Sixth Class Farewell Mass June 18th.

We made a small presentation to Fr. Declan on the night of the Mass, before he left for his new post in Mulranny.

The Parents Association ran a very successful Christmas Raffle and even Santa took time out from his busy schedule to visit both the Junior and Senior school. Thank you Santa;



Some members of the Parents Association, 2002-2003, with Fr. Declan Carroll. Back, L-R: Pat Ryan, Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C., Seamus Grogan; Front, L-R: Olive Lyons, Paula Grogan, Nuala Nolan, Sarah Herr, Manar Cherbatji, Bridie Waldron, Anne Lyons.

hope you will be able to call again next year.

The highlight of our years work must be the schools participation in the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games held last June. With the 'Share the Feeling - Support an Athlete', Scoil Íosa raised €1,381. This was raised from the Easter Raffle and 'Shave a Beard' fundraiser. A very special word of thanks to John Hurley for growing the beard and to Joanne Finn for removing the beard.

On behalf of the Parents Association committee I would sincerely like to thank all the parents of Scoil Íosa for their help and participation in whatever events that took place. Their success is your and your children's success. They could not have happened without your help. It is hoped in the coming year to make the Parents Association even more meaningful to all the parents of Scoil Íosa.

A special word of thanks to Carmel and Mary, the school's secretaries who gave us so much help throughout the year. You are all very much appreciated, for without the true co-operation between school and home the Parents Association could not function. Anne Lyons (Secretary, Parents Association).

Children's Book Festival

Ballyhaunis Library Children's Book Festival competition winners (October 2003)

Colouring competition: Emma Lyons (Brackloughboy); Aine Waldron (Cave).

Junior Quiz: Sofia Vagenina (Knox St.); Lisa Klimova (Abbey St.).

On-Line Quiz: Marie Cleary (Stone St.); Grace Lyons (Knockbrack).

End of an Era

There was great sadness in Scoil Íosa on the death of Mrs. Mary Higgins, Abbey St., on 9th February 2003, in her 95th year. Both Mary Higgins and her late husband John taught in St. Mary's Boys National School for a long period of time. Mary had previously served at Coolnafarna and Derrylea National School. Deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

'Island and Mannin Lakes - European Treasures'

- Christine Gibbs - Island -

Introduction

The noble Peregrine Falcon and Hen Harrier hunting in the wild, sleek otters slipping into the water and swimming silently upstream, clouds of Bog Cotton dancing in the summer breeze, shy Wild Orchids peeping out of the grass and the purple autumn haze of the Heather, Blackberries, Sloes can all be seen at Island and Mannin lakes.

Usually, when one thinks of heritage sites, it is generally locations where man has left traces of buildings or occupation. Both Island and Mannin Lakes have crannogs and remnants of tower houses on their shores. (as covered in previous Annagh Magazines). But it is the unique diversity of plant and animal habitats and their function as over-wintering reserves for a large variety of birds that has brought recognition that the Island and Mannin Lakes could be of national and European importance.

Geomorphology

Each lake is situated in basins which are linked by the Mannin/Glore River which flows in a north westerly direction. The area was artificially drained around forty years ago but the presence of springs in the lake bed ensure that the lake beds remain wet throughout the year with the water reaching depths of five to fifteen centimetres during the winter. The canalised river never fully drains the area and it is predicted that as the drains and outfalls become

silted up over time, then the overall water levels will rise again.

The drained lakes provide a very good example of a large wetland with a range of distinct habitats, which nevertheless merge with each other according to the water levels. It is this range of wetland communities supplying food and cover that attracts the very large number of over wintering waterfowl.

The wetland communities include rich fen, reported to be the largest in Ireland. Nutrient poor lakes with Stonewort and the ponds with relic Saw Sedge are also present. Unimproved calcareous grassland, declining in Ireland as a result of intensification adds diversity to the overall site.

Bird Numbers and Heritage Status

The lakes are part of the National Winter Wetlands survey and the results for the last decade are shown in the table below. Teal, Mallard, Tufted Duck and Golden Plover numbers in 1992/3 were all above the qualifying numbers for the lakes to be designated as of National importance and there were significant concentrations of Lapwing, Curlew and Snipe.

In more recent years there appears to be significant decline in the numbers of some species to the level where the

Species name	1% national	1% international	1994/ 95	1995/ 96	1996/ 97	1998/ 99	1999/ 00	2000/ 01	Peak
Little Grebe	30						1		1
Great Crested Grebe	35						2		2
Grey Heron	105	4500						1	1
Mute Swan	100	2400	37	16	4	31	42	19	42
Bewick's Swan	20	170			1				1
Whooper Swan	100	160	9		10	8	20	21	21
Wigeon	1000	12500	17					14	17
Teal	500	4000	7	5					7
Mallard	500	20000	67		24	19	11	28	67
Shoveler	40	400	9						9
Pochard	350	3500				8	4	4	8
Tufted Duck	300	10000				10	8		10
Goldeneye	100	3000				4			4
Red-breasted Merganser	25	1250					4		4
Coot	300	15000					1		1
Moorhen			3				4		4
Golden Plover	1500	18000					63	38	63
Lapwing	2000	20000		115		150	56	282	282
Dunlin	1200	14000				56			56
Snipe		10000				6			6
Curlew	1000	3500		74		25	4	138	138
Common Gull		16000					6		6

lakes' status as a proposed heritage site is threatened. There are a number of reasons why this has happened. Some species are in decline in Europe generally and this may be reflected in the low numbers seen in the Mannin/Island lakes. However, it is entirely possible that a single observer, with many other lakes to observe in a very short time, may not be able to gain as comprehensive a picture as one may have hoped for.

A major cause for concern is the actions of a few people who are dumping rubbish on these rare and fragile habitats. Would you like to bring up your family amongst used disposable nappies, rusting tin cans and broken glass? No - neither would a self-respecting Greenland Goose.

The Current Situation

In about two year's time the Government will review the Island/Mannin site to see whether it qualifies for full protection as a heritage site. Will it get it? The answer in part depends on all of us.

Firstly, we, as a caring community, need to look after these unique habitats by not dumping any more rubbish. Mayo

Council Council this year has erected a warning sign stating that anyone doing so will be fined heavily. This article itself is an attempt to explain how everybody can help by simply disposing of their rubbish in the correct manner. Are you prepared to tell future generations you remember it well but did nothing to save it for them?

Secondly, the rubbish already there needs to be removed. The means and method of doing this is at present under discussion but the aim is to clear a substantial amount from the site before next Spring.

Thirdly, help is needed not only with the bird counts in the winter but with bird-spotting all year round.

Conclusion

The Island and Mannin lake complex is a complex & fragile environment which if conserved and managed, could benefit our whole community for many generations to come. The main priority at the present time is to clear away the existing rubbish and ask that the community at large helps prevent further pollution occurring by not illegally dumping waste and domestic refuse in the Bog.

'Croí Friends'

- Helen Meehan -

Croí Friends Ballyhaunis and District continues to support local heart charity Croí, the West of Ireland Cardiology Foundation, through a variety of fundraising activities. Croí funding over the last number of months has supported the following:

- Cardiac Risk factor assessments by Croí nurses throughout County Mayo for heart patients and their families.
- Support for Cardiac Life Support Training at Mayo General Hospital.
- Provision of Cardiac Equipment for the Western Health Board Cardiac Ambulance Service.

New initiatives coming on stream over the coming months will include "first responder" training (training of lay people in how to respond to cardiac emergencies) and the provision of "public access" defibrillators at a number of sites throughout County

Mayo. These defibrillators are life saving pieces of equipment which are critical in restarting a heart in cases of sudden cardiac arrest.

The Committee would like to thank all of our sponsors and those who supported us during the year, and also those who participated in the sponsored walk.

Croí Christmas Cards are now available from all committee members.



Setting out on the Annual Croí Walk from Ballyhaunis to "Coney Island", Gorthaganny.

'A Derrymore Emigrant'

- Della Weissenberger (nee Byrne) -

On June 11th, 1953, Della Byrne left Derrymore, Ballyhaunis for the trip to Cobh in Co. Cork. After her arrival, she promptly boarded a ship heading out onto the Atlantic Ocean destined towards New York. Della left behind her mother and father, as well as her five siblings: brother Tom and sisters Patricia, Josephine, Attracta, Margaret, also her step-brother Gerry and his family in London, England.

After eleven tiresome days at sea – four of which days she spent battling seasickness – Della was welcomed into the United States by her aunt and uncle from Brooklyn. Soon after she acquired a Social Security number and working papers to begin a new life for herself.

Since there was still no electricity or telephones in Derrymore back in 1953, Della was forced to write letters to her family. And write she did, sending letters daily back to Derrymore. She never stopped thinking about the life she'd left behind, contemplating her decision to come to America. But Della fell instantly in love with her new life in America. She worked hard to earn money to aid her parents on their farm, and she saved as much as she could for trips back to her homeland.

After almost a year in New York, she met a handsome young man from Queens named Joseph Weissenberger, and their courtship began. Almost a year after they met, they got engaged. Joe was serving in the U.S. Navy at the time. The year was 1956, and Della went home for an extended family visit for three months. Her sisters and brother were all growing up so fast, and she missed being with them. Della returned to America, and in 1958, Della and Joe married in Brooklyn. Joe became a policeman out in Nassau County, Long Island. He served proudly for twenty-eight years and retired in 1991. In June of 2003, Della and Joe celebrated forty-five years of marriage. They have six grown children and eleven grandchildren.

As for her siblings, Della's sisters and brother all emigrated to America over the years, all following in their older sister's pioneering footsteps. There are many first cousins on the Byrne side of the family (too many to count). The extended family gets together often for good times and plenty of laughter.

May Byrne, the matriarch of this wonderful family, still lives in Derrymore. Her husband Dominick Byrne died in 1976, may he rest in peace. But at ninety-six years of age, May continues to be a vibrant source of inspiration for the entire family. She now has twenty grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. The love she gives and receives will keep this family strong for generations to come.



The Byrne family, Derrymore, taken on the day of Della's departure to the U.S. fifty years ago. Clockwise from top left: Tom, Della, Josephine, Attracta, Margaret, Patricia.

'Mass in St. Mary's Abbey'

- Paula Grogan -

I was asked on behalf of the Abbey Partnership to gather a group of local people together and see if we could help organise the arrangements that would enable a blessing ceremony and Mass take place in St. Mary's Abbey on Sunday, 31st August 2003.

Due to a decline of vocations in the Augustinian Order, the church had to officially close on 16th June 2002, and it had been a very sad time not just for the Augustinians but also for the larger community in Ballyhaunis to whom the Abbey had meant so much. To have a blessing service and Mass in the church again would be a special event and I was delighted to be part of a group that could help organise such a ceremony.

Mass

The weather was on our side that Sunday and the rain held off. At 3 p.m. the Friary bell rang out once more and the ceremony started with a blessing of the graves by Fr. Michael Mernagh, O.S.A. It was great to have the Abbey Male Choir under the direction of Moira Delaney providing beautiful hymns and they certainly didn't need any amplification as their voices carried so well! People stood by their family graves and some had different generations of their family present, which was very special to see. Fr. Mernagh and the other concelebrants then led a procession through the main cemetery onto the Friars' burial ground at the northern side of the church, and this was also blessed and prayed over.

Mass was then celebrated inside the church by Fr. Michael Mernagh, O.S.A. (Dublin), Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P. (Ballyhaunis), Fr. John O'Connor, O.S.A. (Waterford), Fr. Ben O'Brien, O.S.A. (Prior, Galway), Fr. Pierce O'Mahony, O.S.A. (Galway), Fr. Des Fahey,

A.P. (Tuam), and Fr. James Cribbin, C.C. (Ballina). Fr. Patrick Codd, O.S.A. (Limerick) also attended the ceremony and he was the main photographer you might have seen snapping photos throughout the afternoon! During the Mass Paul Waldron gave an interesting talk on the history of the Abbey with particular emphasis on the cemetery itself.

Afterwards, everyone was invited to partake of some light refreshments in the Priory, and I think most took up the offer as the house was packed and a lot of re-cycling of cups had to take place! A special thanks to Nell Rochford, Mike Byrne, Paul Waldron, John Cribbin, Michael Egan and Seamus O'Boyle who helped put events together. A note of thanks also to Marcella Keane, Mary Elwood and Phil Ryan who had the church looking pristine on the day, and to Breege Halpin for the beautiful flowers. A further thanks to those who helped in the kitchen afterwards and who ensured there was enough of everything to go around! I found it to be a very special afternoon where there was a great atmosphere and good community spirit, and hopefully it will become an annual event for people to mark in their calendars.



Blessing the Friars' Burial Ground. L-R: Aideen Murray (Altar Server), Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., Fr. Des Fahey, Fr. James Cribbin, Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., Fr. Michael Mernagh O.S.A., Fr. Ben O'Brien O.S.A., Fr. Pearse O'Mahoney O.S.A. (since deceased, R.I.P.).



*Anne Davitt, Brackloon and Martin Connolly, Galway
married 26th September 2003,
St. Bridget's Church, Straffan, Co. Kildare.*



*Louise Fitzmaurice, Ballyhaunis and Michael
O'Shaughnessy, Ballinlough married 11th April 2003,
St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis.*



*Maree Healy, Johnstown Ballyhaunis and Aengus Byrne,
Offaly married 31st May 2003,
St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis.*



*Caroline Lyons, Tooreen and John McGarry, Drimbane
Ballyhaunis married 10th August 2003,
Aghamore Church.*



Neasa Jennings, Knock Rd Ballyhaunis and Philip Breslin, Corroy Ballina married 27th June 2003, Finney Church.



Maggie Frayne, Bargarriff and Daithi Coyne, Cave married 25th July 2003, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Norma Fitzgerald, Upper Main St Ballyhaunis & Colm O'Connor, Kenmare Co. Kerry married 3rd May 2003, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



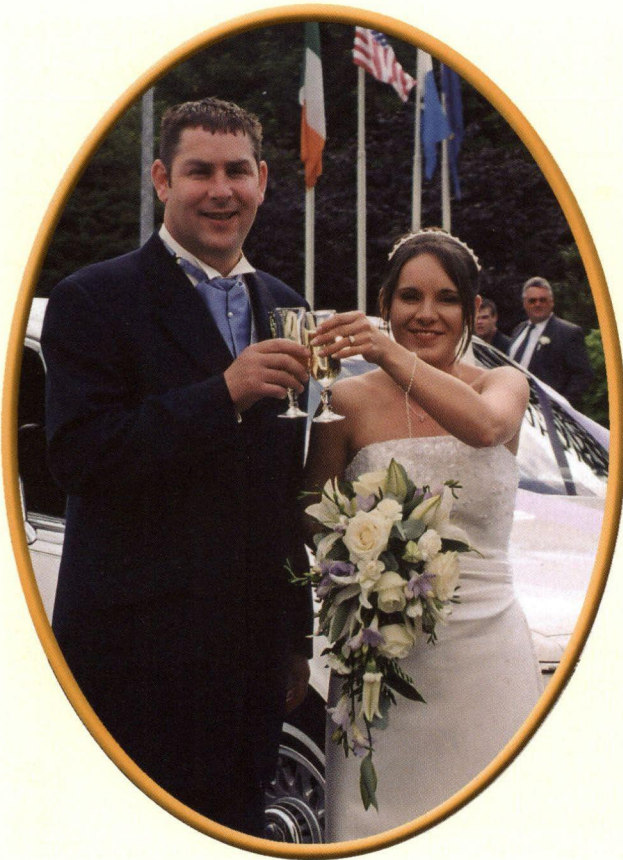
Dympna Kilgallon, Midfield and Peter Flanagan, Ballindrehid married 30th November 2002, St. Joseph's Church, Midfield, Swinford.



Katie McKeogh, Philadelphia USA and Michael Frayne, Bargarriff married 25th Oct 2002, Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, Philadelphia.



Pauline Tarpey, Carrowkeel and John Mitchell, Caherlestrane Tuam married 28th June 2003, St.Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Lorraine Allen, Ballinlough and John Lyons, Gurrane married 12th July 2003, St.Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Teresa Kelly, Ballybane, Brickens and Christopher Shannon, Kilsenora Lisdoonvarna Co.Clare married 30th May 2003, St.Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



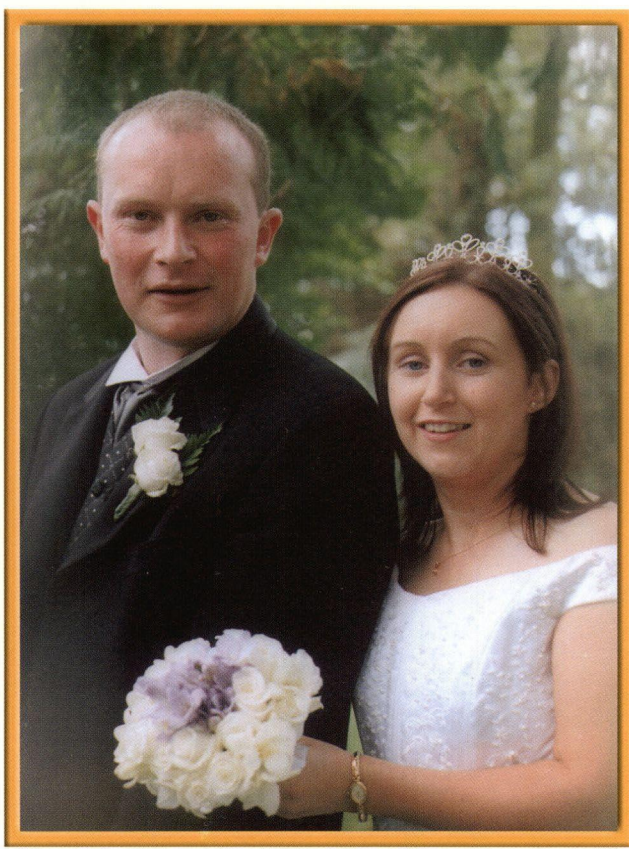
Roisin Shields, Ballyhaunis and Tommy Keaveney, Ballinlough married 6th May 2003 in Mauritius.



Clodagh Kilraine, Galway and Jarlath Phillips, Ballyhaunis married 11th October 2003, Salthill Church.



Liesel Mooney, Doctors Road and Jason Ward, Leeds married 24th October 2003, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Barbara Plunkett, Scrigg and Patrick Murphy, Ballyveal married 20th September 2003, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Philomena Cribbin, Drimbane Ballyhaunis and James Rafferty, Co.Down married 25th September 2003, in Galway.



Marie Greally, Tooreen and Tom Forde, The Square Ballyhaunis married 13th September 2003, Tooreen Church.



Frances Murphy, Brackloon North Ballyhaunis and Brian Delaney, Coolnaha married 19th July 2003, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis



Laura Finn, Main St and Dom Greally, Shanwalla Tooreen married 18th May 2003, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

'The Mayo Feis of 1903'

- Paul Waldron -

Just over a hundred years ago, on Wed., 15th and Thurs., 16th April 1903, an event of great cultural importance took place in Ballyhaunis - an event which brought the town to national prominence as a centre of the Gaelic Revival then sweeping the country. It was the first ever Mayo County Feis, and it was organised and hosted by the Ballyhaunis Branch of Connradh na Gaeilge or The Gaelic League. Newspaper reports from early in 1903 show that a great amount of hard work went into organising the event - securing a suitable venue, appointing adjudicators, raising funds for prize-money, etc., not to mention all the administrative work involved in ensuring competitors were entered for the correct competitions, and that everything ran smoothly on the days in question.

By the end of March 1903, most of the arrangements were in place, as recorded in the local press. The organising committee was pleased to record strong support from all Gaelic League Branches around the county. Loose ends were being tied up here-and-there and negotiations were ongoing with the Midland Great Western and Great Southern and Western railway companies with a view to securing concessions for those travelling by train to the Feis.

Committee

The Mayo Feis Committee, entrusted with organising this massive undertaking, comprised Dr. Conor Maguire, Claremorris (President); Michael J. O'Doherty, Kiltimagh (vice-President); James Casey, Ballyhaunis (Treasurer); John F. Coyne, Ballyhaunis (Secretary); assisted by Messrs. J. T. Smyth, P. J. Waldron, Frank Dorr, and 'the ladies and gentlemen of the Ballyhaunis Branch'.

In all the literature relating to the Feis, including advertisements published in the local papers and the official programme, it's interesting to see the Irish form of Ballyhaunis given as 'Beal Ath Thamnais', a form that has since been replaced by 'Beal Atha hAmhnais'. The correct Irish form of the name Ballyhaunis was then, and still is open to question. The venue was the newly constructed Convent School in Ballyhaunis, built for the Sisters of Mercy by the redoubtable Canon Canning, then P.P. of Annagh.

Opening Day

The opening day finally came and the weather held up. As one correspondent reported: "The elements too were most favourable. Better sunshine could not be wished for." The correspondent continued: "About twelve - the hour for starting the competition - the halls showed every sign of life, the surging crowds chatting away in the old tongue, anxiously awaited the opening of the proceedings. Punctually, at the time appointed, Mr. Michael F. Waldron,

who appeared to be the guiding spirit and director of the whole proceedings, gave the signal, a hush went through the throng, and the patriotic P.P., Rev. J. P. Canning, in a neat and appropriate Irish speech announced the opening of the work, which he prayed would be blessed with every success. Immediately, the competitions were begun, and during the two days not a single hitch occurred in the proceedings."

Amongst the notables in attendance over the two days were Douglas Hyde - 'An Craobhin Aoibhinn' - then President of the Gaelic League and later to become the first President of Ireland; Padraic Pearse, who was to become Commander in Chief of the Irish forces in the 1916 Rising; Padraic Ó Máille of Mounterown, Maam, Co. Galway, a Gaelic League organiser, later a member of the First Dail, 1919, and later still, Deputy Speaker of the Dail; Colonel Maurice Moore of the famous Moore Hall family; and Fr. Bewerunge, an authority on Irish music. A large number of adjudicators were drawn from all over the country, with a sizeable proportion of them members of the clergy.

The competitions took place in the Convent school rooms, while an exhibition of drawings and 'industries' (handcrafts) took place in the adjoining technical school. It was reported that "the specimens of lace were simply beautiful, and a much admired collarette of delicate design, the work of Miss Devine, was greatly admired." The judges, it was said, had a most difficult task selecting the prizewinners such was the excellent quality of frieze, flannel, yarn and items of clothing on show. "A feature which struck us with admiration was that all the ladies - certainly all those of the Ballyhaunis Branch - were attired in costumes of Foxford tweed", the local correspondent said.

Programme

An impressive programme or 'Clár na h-Oibre' was published for the Feis, detailing the competitions and listing all the competitors. An exhaustive set of conditions or rules were set down including one which describes the lengths to which anonymity was preserved in some of the composition competitions, and where pseudonyms were to be used. Some of these assumed names included: Seaghán Mac Searrach, Geata na Coille, An Fuisseóg, Aoife, Guth ó'n Lár, Brian Boramha, Sean Gaedhilgeóir, An Chuach, Scolaíre Bocht, Smolach, Fear Spaid, Londubh, Caitrína Clair, Craobhín Cno, Cead-a-reatha, Goll Mac Moirne, An Chearsach, Pairc a Mhuilinn, Muadhán, Banba, Éire, Naomh Brighid, Naomh Muire, Mac-na-mBeannacht, Craoibhín Cno, An Caitlín Cúl, Micheál Ruadh, Clann Dálaigh, Oisín, Béal-Áth-Thamnais and Leágh na bhFionn.

In singing competitions, test pieces - Amhráin



Organising Committee of the First Mayo County Feis, Ballyhaunis, 1903.

1. Johnny Lawless, Dublin; 2. Richard Tarpey N.T., Began; 3. Michael J. O'Doherty, N.T., Kiltimagh; 4. Thomas O'Kelly Jnr., Ballina; 5. Michael F. Waldron, Knox St., Ballyhaunis; 6. Andrew Dodd, Ballina; 7. John Fitzhenry (Gaelic League organizer); 8. Philip Waldron, Drimbane, Ballyhaunis; 9. John Fergus Coyne, Bridge St., Ballyhaunis; 10. P. A. McHugh, N.T., Kiltimagh; 11. Michael J. Waldron, Knox St., Ballyhaunis; 12. Michael Murphy, Kiltimagh; 13. S. O'Leary, Cork; 14. Padraic Ó Maille, Maam; 15. Frank Dorr, Foxford; 16. Michael Ó Maille N.T., Cornamona, Co. Galway (brother of Padraic above); 17. Frank Swift, Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis; 18. John T. Smyth, Main St., Ballyhaunis. Original photograph taken by "E. A. Biesty, photographer, Ballyhaunis". Taken at the back door of the Convent Primary School.

Ceaptha - from this list had to be sung, as well as one of the competitor's own choosing: Tigearna Mhuighe-Eó, Droighneán Donn, Máire Ní hEidhin, Máire Béil Átha hAmhnais, Péarla an Bhrollaigh Bháin, Condae Mhuighe-Eó, Druimfhionn Donn Dílis, Siubhail A Ghrádh, Is Truagh Gan Peata, A bhean úd Shíos ar choir an Tsrutháin, Casadh and tSúgáin, Caitlín Ní hUallacháin, Go Mairidh ar nGaedheal, Fáinne geal an lae, Eibhlín a Rúin, Sa Mhúirín Dílis, Seaghán Buidhe

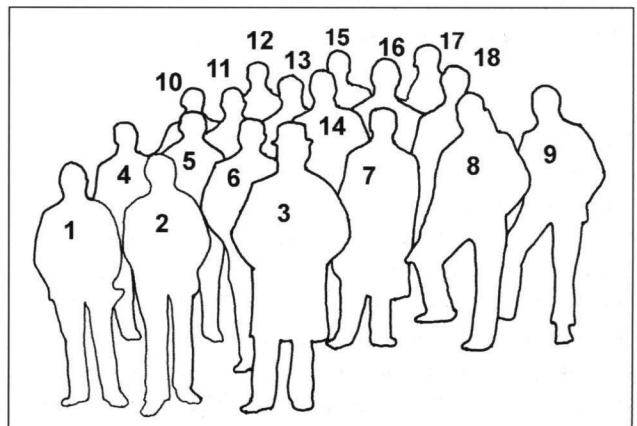
The programme had a number of patriotic ads too, those of particular local interest being for Henry's Drapery and General Warehouse, Ballyhaunis; "The Irish House, Ballyhaunis", proprietor Seumas Ó Catharnaighe; Morley's Hotel, proprietor Mrs. Coyne; Michael Delaney, Ballyhaunis, agent for The Commercial Union Assurance Company; and a new Irish song entitled "Rosg Catha Bhéil Áth' Thamhnais", written by Philip J. Waldron and P. A. Waldron and 'on sale at Feis', price 3d.

Local Competitors

Competitors in the forty-six competitions/classes came from all over Mayo, Connacht and further afield. Listed

below are the entrants who came from the general Ballyhaunis area.

Bagpipes - 'Irish Air, with Reel and Jig of Competitors own choosing' - John O'Gorman, Lisacul. Fideag or Flute - 'Irish Air, with Reel and Jig of Competitors own choosing' - John Griffin, Cloontowert (joint 1st prize); John Keane, Kilgarraff and Luke Keenan, Knock. Violin - 'Performance of "The Blackbird", with Reel and Jig of Competitors own choosing' - John Tarpey,



Lecarrow; Michael J. Waldron, Ballyhaunis (2nd prize). Solo Singing – gentlemen: John T. Smyth, Ballyhaunis; M. J. Waldron (1st prize), Ballyhaunis; Henry Taaffe, Edenpark; John Keane, Kilgarraff (commendation); James Murray, Kilgarraff; and John Lavan, Shanvaghera. Boys – Francis Waldron, Ballyhaunis Branch Gaelic League; Girls – Annie M. Cuddy and Eileen Flynn, Convent Schools; Children under-10: Maggie Fitzmaurice (special prize) and Maria Fitzmaurice, Convent Schools.

Unpublished Irish Song (competitors to be over 50 years of age) – Peter Burke, Ballyhaunis; Pat Carney, Meeltrane, Knock; Thomas Egan, Knock; Brian Kearns, Knock (1st prize); Michael Ganley, Agloragh; John Lavan, Shanvaghera; James Murray, Coogue; Henry Taaffe, Edenpark.

‘An original Irish song on The Races of Castlebar’ – James O’Molloy, Ballyhaunis (winner).

Choirs – Ballyhaunis Choir and the Ballyhaunis Shamrock Choir (special prize).

Dancing: Reel and Jig (Connacht Style), Hornpipe and Double Jig, seniors – Austin Cavanagh, Bekan; John F. Coyne, Ballyhaunis; Michael Cunnane, Crossard; Dominick Donegan, Ballinlough; P. Kenny, Cloonbook, Michael Moran, Augtaboy; Patrick Moran, Augtaboy (2nd prize); Tom Tighe Jnr. and Tom Tighe Snr., Bekan; Philip J. Waldron, Ballyhaunis.

Reel and Jig (Connacht Style), juniors – John J. Caulfield and Sarah Caulfield, Ballyhaunis; Delia Coyne, Sarah Flanagan, Eileen Flynn and Mary K. Kenny, Convent Schools.

Irish Speech: "The best way to advance the Gaelic Movement" (time limit, ten minutes) – Paddy Culliney, Lasseny; John Keane, Kilgarraff; Brian Kearns, Cullintragh; James Molloy, Ballyhaunis; James Murray, Coogue; Henry Taaffe, Edenpark; Philip J. Waldron, Drimbane.

‘Best Irish Speaking Family, consisting of father, mother, and at least three children – competitors will be required to sustain a conversation on the ordinary affairs of life, Adjudicators reserving the right to alter the drift of the discourse at any point’ – Frank Carney and family, Shanvaghera (the only entrants).

Storytelling (seniors) – ‘Best telling of an Irish Story’ – Michael Ganley, Agloragh; Peter Burke, John McHugh, James Molloy and Philip J. Waldron, Ballyhaunis; James Murray, Coogue; Hugh Flatley, Edenpark; John Keane, Kilgarraff (joint winner); Thomas Egan, Knock; Paddy Culliney, Lasseny; John Lavan, Shanvaghera; James Waldron, Tavanaghmore.

‘Conversation together with O’Growney, parts I & II (seniors)’ – James Murray, Coogue; P. J. Waldron of Ballyhaunis (commendation).

‘Juniors Elementary Conversation, together with O’Growney, part I (juniors)’ – from Ballyhaunis Convent Schools: May Cassidy, Tessie Cassidy, Lillie Coyne, Bridget Dwyer, Norah Fitzmaurice, Eileen Flynn, Maggie Freely, Mary K. Kenny (book prize), Annie Lyons, Kate Moran, Lillie Prenty; with John Dwyer (book prize),

William Dwyer, John Charles Smyth, Francis Waldron (1st prize) from the Ballyhaunis Branch of the Gaelic League. Recitation (Seniors) – ‘Piece of their own choosing, not to occupy more than five minutes’ – Annie Waldron, Convent Schools; Thomas Egan, Patrick McKeague and Mary E. McNicholas, Knock; James Murray, Coogue; Henry Taaffe, Edenpark; Philip J. Waldron, Ballyhaunis Branch (2nd prize).

Recitation (Juniors) – ‘Best telling of a humorous Irish Story’ (competitors to be under 20 years of age) – Josie Coyne (2nd prize), Mary K. Kenny (1st prize), Convent Schools.

Seniors – ‘Our Father’, ‘Hail Mary’, ‘The Creed’, ‘Confiteor’, ‘Act of Contrition’, ‘The Angelus’ and ‘Hail, Holy Queen’ in Irish – Timothy Fitzmaurice, James Molloy and Philip J. Waldron, Ballyhaunis; John Keane, Kilgarraff.

Juniors – ‘Our Father’, ‘Hail Mary’ and ‘The Creed’ in Irish – John Dwyer, William Dwyer, John C. Smyth and Francis Waldron from the Ballyhaunis branch of the Gaelic League; Louisa and Mary Taaffe from Edenpark; and the following from the Convent School: May Cassidy, Tessie Cassidy, Delia Coyne, Josie Coyne, Bridget Dwyer, Maggie Dwyer, Maggie Fitzmaurice, Marie Fitzmaurice, Nora Fitzmaurice, Eileen Flynn, Maggie Freely, Julia Gilmore, Lillie Gilmore, Mary Gilmore, Mary Griffin, May Hanson (highly commended), Nora Jordan, Mary K. Kenny, Monica Kenny, Annie Lyons, Cecilia Lyons, Kate McGarry, Ellie Moran, Kate Moran, Bridie Murphy, Bella Regan, Mary K. Smyth, Nellie Smyth, Nora Smyth, Mary E. Waldron, Nora Waldron, Stella Waldron (book prize).

‘Historical essay on The Penal Days (about 1,500 words); James O’Molloy, Ballyhaunis (1st prize).

‘Best drawing of an Irish bard or chieftain’ – Charles Kearns, Augtaboy; Mary Cooney (1st prize), Mary E. Fahy and Bridie Smyth (2nd prize) from Ballyhaunis Convent Schools.

‘Best hand-knitted pair of cycling stockings’ – Mrs. Mary A. Swift, Kincora Villa, Ballyhaunis (joint 1st prize) and Katie Rodgers, Shanvaghera.

‘Best Home Spun Hank of Flax’ – Bridget Horan and Una Horan (1st prize), both of Sinoolane, Kilmovee.

‘Best Piece of Frieze’ – Mrs. Catherine Healy, Shanvallah (1st prize); and Mrs. P. Lavan, Augtaboy.

‘Best Piece of Home-made flannel’ – John Deasy, Killinagher; Mrs. Maria Fitzmaurice, Togher (1st prize); Maria Neary, Forthill; and Mrs. Ellen Waldron, Gortnageerach.

‘Best Piece of Irish Crochet Lace’ – Kate Brennan, Kate J. Devine, B. Fahy, Ellen Ganly, Kate Grealley, Ellie A. Hevican, Maire Ni Dubhain, Annie Sweeney, Maggie Waldron (1st prize), B. Walsh, St. Joseph’s Technical School (Convent), Ballyhaunis.

Other competitions/classes included: An essay on the Life and Times of Dr. McHale (about 1,500 words); an unpublished folklore story; best list of Connacht Proverbs; Irish letter for juniors on ‘Why should I learn Irish?’; Best translation of the late William Rooney’s song ‘The Men of

the West'; Best reader of Irish (confined to gangers under the Congested Districts Board); Harp— Irish Air, with Reel and Jig of Competitor's own choosing; Best knowledge of four or more unpublished songs, learned at home from parents or others (confined to children of Irish speaking parents), presented by Eoghan Ó Neachtan; Best answering from History of Ireland (1500 AD to 1700 AD), presented by Padraic Ó Máille, Timthire, Chonnartha na Gaedhilge.

Prizes

Most prizes were £1, a guinea or medal for first place; with an occasional second prize of ten shillings. Some competitions offered other prizes, e.g., for the 'Best Translation of 'The Men of the West', first prize was a suit or dress length of Irish material, presented by Mr. Frank Dorr, Foxford. This was won by Dr. Conor Maguire, Claremorris. For the 'Best Reader of Irish', the prize was one of "Richards and Walshes 'Emerald Isle' watches", presented by Mr. Frank Swift (Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis). The winner here was John Solon, Ballinasmaula, Claremorris, who incidentally was the only competitor. In the 'Reel and Jig (Juniors)' competition, the first prize was fifteen shillings, while second prize was a pair of Ballina-made boots, presented by Rev. B. M. Quinn, C.C., Ballina. Lizzie M. Lavan (1st) and Annie M. Lavan (2nd), both of Kiltimagh, were placed in this competition.

The dancing adjudicators weren't too impressed with the more traditional dancing styles and added the following note to their results list: "Adjudicators regret to notice in most cases a disposition to clog dancing, and would recommend competitors in future to engage the services of competent dancing masters who teach deportment, step and style." One of these adjudicators was Mr. J. O'Tuohy, M.D., probably old 'Master Tuohy' who was a dancing master well known all over the west of Ireland at that time.

At least one of the musicians who competed was to make a successful musical career for himself – John Griffin of Cloontowart, Lisacul, who tied for first place in the Flute Solo competition, went on to become a most popular recording artist in the U.S. in the 1920s. Billed as 'The Fourth Avenue Bus Man' he made over thirty 78 records on which he sang, played the flute and lilted.

In addition to the competitions and exhibitions, extra entertainments were organised on each of the two nights, after the prizewinners had been awarded their prizes. Two plays written by Dr. Douglas Hyde were performed: 'An Posadh' on Wednesday night by the Ballaghaderreen Branch; 'Casadh an tSugain' on Thursday night by the Claremorris Branch. Also on the Wednesday night a concert was given which included an ode written specially for the festival and delivered by Ballyhaunis man James O'Molloy; songs from Messrs. James Clandillon (later Broadcasting Director, Radio Eireann) and John Lawless, Miss Olive Barry and Miss Lily Foley (later married to Count John McCormack); dancing by Messrs. Gaughan, O'Ryan, Moran, Gormley, and the young ladies from Foxford; a recital on the harp by Mr. Owen Lloyd

which, the correspondent said "completely held his audiences spell-bound". Father O'Beirne played the violin; Dr. Conor Maguire sang his translation of "The Men of the West", which won first prize in that competition, while his son Gerald also sang. The Ballyhaunis Choirs and the Foxford Choir contributed. One performer on the night could be described as one of the most influential musicians in the traditional music scene, and one who had a profound influence on the music of Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo – John Gorman, billed as 'John O'Gorman, the famous Irish piper'. John came from Derrylahan, near Carrowbehy, Co. Roscommon, though his address in the Feis programme is given as Lisacul. Other traditional musicians on the night were violinist M. J. Waldron of Knox Street and William Fleming of Lahardane, a flute-player.

Photograph

An historic photograph of the organising committee, and taken on the back steps of the Convent Primary School, was published in *The Western People* in 1977 and *The Annagh Magazine* in 1981. Efforts to track down the original earlier this year proved fruitless, and the quality of the picture reproduced in those two publications was not good enough to be reproduced again in time for the centenary last April. However, a couple of months ago Ballyhaunis native Fr. Kieran Waldron came into the possession of an original copy of the photograph – one which had belonged to Dame J. C. Coyne, founder of the Handmaidens in Knock, and whose brother-in-law John Fergus Coyne is amongst those in the picture. Not only is the photo in perfect condition, but all of the eighteen men in it are named. The photograph was taken by Edward A. Beisty – a well known photographer in Ballyhaunis at the time: a press item the week before the Feis announced – "Visitors to Ballyhaunis next week should call and see Eamonn Uí Biadhtac, Solus Sgáthadóineacht. Mr. Biesty has been very busy with his camera, and will have on show during the Feis, a great many snapshots recently taken in and around Ballyhaunis."

On the closing night Dr. Hyde, before announcing the prize-winners, spoke in Irish and expressed his delight with the success of the Feis. He paid tribute to the Ballyhaunis nuns and the clergy of the province who had shown such support for the venture.

Almost forty years later Dr. Michael F. Waldron, one of the main organisers of the Feis, recalled in the local papers that: "The [1903] Feis was financed solely by voluntary subscriptions and the admission charges to the concerts. No grants-in-aid of any kind were received from either local or central sources." He went on to state that: "After defraying all expenses and paying out all money prizes, a surplus of almost £100 remained which it was decided to make the nucleus of a County Fund, to be devoted to the publication of selected winning works of that and subsequent feiseanna". He added: "Padraic Pearse was so impressed with the Feis that he wrote a glowing leading article in 'An Claidheamh Soluis' on the subject."

'Community Television - a History'

- Anne Hora -

The number of television channels available to community television subscribers around Ballyhaunis is an indication of the importance of the "box" in the corner of the living room. Television, for all that we disclaim its influence on us, and our need of it for entertainment, news, education and recreation, is an important feature of daily living. Yet it was not always the case in the West of Ireland that clear reception went hand in hand with the number of channels on offer.

The West of Ireland might well have been called 'happy two station television land', not quite content to receive just RTE1 and 2, but unable to do anything about that situation, were it not for an idea which had its origins in the early 1980s. Novel at the time, in these days of cable and satellite channels it seems run of the mill, but the vision of a few ordinary viewers in Devlis, altered the television viewing habits of people around the Ballyhaunis area.

Beginnings

At that time, only RTE1 and RTE2 were available in most of Mayo. Irish viewers in border areas or along the east coast could pick up fuzzy signals from British transmitters, giving them a snowy, buzzing access to the English channels. Two inhabitants of Devlis, Eugene Callum and Micheal Webb, began to explore the possibility of extending a television transmission from Northern Ireland all the way to Mayo, for the benefit of the local community.

They approached local electronics engineer, Donal Moran and asked if he could produce a feasibility study on the project. Attracted by the technical challenges of the project, he investigated the possibility of a local Television Transmitter to re-broadcast the BBC and ITV signals coming from Brougher Mountain north of Enniskillen, the closest Northern Ireland Transmitter. Following this, he carried out field tests to identify a suitable location in the Ballyhaunis area for a Transmitter site. His report was favourable. Following the feasibility study, a local committee was put in place to deliver the new television service. Calling itself Ballyhaunis Community TV, the committee included the project instigators. Micheal Webb and Eugene Collum, in the following years the committee

was also served by Eamon Burke, Dom Murphy, Ned Carroll, Tom Carroll, John Stephen Greeley, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Pat Higgins, John Halpin, Mary Morris, Tina Coyne and Jimmy Walshe. Donal Moran was asked by the committee to design and commission a broadcast system allowing reception of the English channels in homes in and around the Ballyhaunis area. Leow, between Ballyhaunis and Ballinlough, was selected as the most suitable site for the transposer. A problem occurred when the landowner could not be traced. Rather than delay the project, a temporary site was obtained for a year, during which Donal Moran travelled to London to meet with the owner of the Leow site and obtain his support for the project.

Funding

Funding for the project was the next hurdle. The committee decided that anyone interested in acquiring the new channels would pay £100 into a fund. In return, an aerial would be installed at the subscribers' home. The fund would be used to finance the building of the transposer. This, however, did not go quite as planned. Many homes purchased cheaper aerials. Having installed these aerials, they requested their £100 back. As those requests had to be honoured, it meant the system would have to go ahead without a sufficient capital budget. The tight budget was, however, only the beginning of the problems that would threaten to overwhelm the fledgling service.

Twice the transposer was hit by lightening. This caused a lot of damage to the Transmitter and associated equipment. An electrical storm in 1994 threatened to end the community television service. The transposer was completely destroyed, and the service was off the air for eight days. The cost of rebuilding the transposer plunged the already stretched system and committee into long-term debt. On another occasion, in a deliberate act of vandalism, cables at the Transmitter were cut. During repairs, the system was off the air, and local people suffered as a result.

Challenges

Under legislation of the day, the transposer was under a permanent Search and Seizure threat from the Department of Communications in a bid to get them off the air.

Crucially, however, the equipment was never seized and the service continued. This was due mainly to the efforts of P. J. Morley TD who organised meetings with the then Minister for Communications, Ray Burke TD and with Seamus Brennan TD. Agreement was reached with Seamus Brennan that a seizure order would not be allowed on the Ballyhaunis Transmitter.

The service provided by the committee was, technically, open to a legal challenge by companies involved in MMDS and CABLE television broadcast systems. Throughout the country, similar community schemes were coming under the scrutiny of these companies. Ballyhaunis was not to escape attention. MMDS and CABLE operators took exception to community broadcast systems, claiming that they infringed on their state awarded licences to transmit television stations. They argued that the local services were unlawful and commenced legal proceedings. In Ballyhaunis, High Court proceedings were initiated against individual members of the committee. Donal Moran, still the contracted engineer and technical advisor for the service, was misidentified in these proceedings as being the owner and operator of the system. The misunderstanding, he feels, persists to the present day in the community. At the height of the legal campaign, committee members feared bankruptcy from the costly legal proceedings if they did not cease their involvement with the system.

Tom Carney and Robert Potter-Cogan of Dillon Leetch Solicitors, who played a vital role in the campaign to keep the system in operation, represented the committee. Their expert legal advice was to prove invaluable as the struggle went on. The legal route alone was proving to be costly and slow. During this time local people rallied round. Many made generous donations towards the campaign.

The late Eamon Burke, chairman at that time, contacted then Fine Gael TD for Mayo, Jim Higgins on behalf of the committee. He asked if he could do anything to help in a situation that was becoming difficult for them, all volunteers, all with their own businesses or livelihoods at stake. Realising the injustice of the licensing system that allowed large monopolies to control multi-channel television broadcasting, he raised the matter in the Dail, winning the support of Alan Dukes who was then minister with responsibility for awarding broadcast licences. Crucially for the community systems, monopolies of this kind were against European consumer law, and it became

evident as Jim Higgins mobilised support within the Fine Gael-led government that it would introduce legislation to protect the smaller operators.

Tide Turns

Government support saw the tide turn in favour of the independent community operators, who had by now banded together in mutual support. Around the country, these groups ran protest candidates in the 1997 general election. Eventually in 2000 in a major blow to the large monopolies, many transmitters that had been branded unlicensed were granted a licence to retransmit the four English channels.

Today, the Ballyhaunis community transmitter trades as Community Channel Television Ltd. It is still a voluntary, not for profit organisation. The directors, John Halpin and Dominic Murphy, like the many others before them, stretching back to Eugene Callum and Michael Webb, receive no remuneration for shouldering the responsibilities of providing the service. The author of this article herself organises the administrative affairs of the company.

The service costs over €25,000 per annum to run. This includes the licence fee payable to the Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulations, ESB supply, site rent for the transmitter, fees to IMRO and essential upgrade and maintenance of the transmitter. Although the service operates with the express intention of not running at a loss, excess funds after these expenses have been met tend to be relatively small. These funds are entirely re-invested in the most modern technology available to ensure that subscribers, who pay an annual subscription of €65, are provided with the highest quality service possible. Audited accounts for the system are lodged annually with the Companies Registrations Office in Dublin, and, in keeping with all limited companies, may be inspected by members of the public.

It was a long battle to win the right of local communities to operate their own, transmission systems that would benefit only the community at large. Throughout the campaign, Ballyhaunis people demonstrated the courage of their convictions to ensure that the service would be provided. From the old pre-community broadcasting days of rooftop aerials desperately struggling to pick up any strength of BBC signal, to the bright promise of digital television broadcasting, who knows where the next chapter of Ballyhaunis Community TV will lead.



Scor Dance Group 1983. Back (L-R): Michael Phillips, Billy Phillips, Tom Phillips, Vincent Freeman. Front (L-R): Elizabeth Davitt, Deirdre Forde, Mary Leonard. Kneeling: Fionnuala Morley.



Mrs. Ann McGrath, Curries, Ballyhaunis, being congratulated by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.



L-R: Joe Grealy (Annagh), Dominick Healy (Annagh), Brian Hosty (Cartron South). Taken in 1952.



Anthony Davitt, Bridge Street on the Tricycle he used to travel to work in Claremorris as an oil depot manager.

'From Playing Football in Clare Road To Connacht GAA Secretary in Clare Street'

John Prenty, born and reared in Ballyhaunis, sits in the plush Connacht Council GAA headquarters in Clare Street Ballyhaunis and talks about his life and times in the GAA with Jim London.

Earliest Memories

John's earliest memories in GAA terms were the games he played on the green in Tooraree usually around St. Patrick's Day. His late mother Bea (a true follower of the game) put up ten shillings for five-a-side games. Among the stars of those years were Tom Cribben, Tom Fitzgerald, J. J. Cribben and Tony Cribben. Later they moved to Clare Road to play where they were joined by Willie Coyne, Mike Webb and others. There were really no organised competitions even up to Under-14 level.

John played his first club game at minor level when he was fourteen, against Aghamore. Some of his team-mates were Pat Joe Cribben, Mick Travers, Frankie Dillon, Joe Conboy, Noel Mullarkey and Ned Curley.



The new G.A.A. Connacht Council Offices in Clare Street.

In St. Patrick's College they played St Colman's, St Nathy's, St Gerald's and Ballinafad College. Among the players he remembers playing against were Henry Gavin, Michael Sweeney, Stephen Sweeney, Christy McCann and John O'Mahony. Among his teammates in St. Patrick's were Johnny Muldowney, Ray Folliard, Brendan Cregg and Michael McDonnell.

John then attended U.C.G and played with the likes of Martin Carney (Donegal and Mayo), Ger O Keeffe and Paudie O Mahony (Kerry), Tommy Carroll (Sligo), John Tobin, Joe McDonagh (Galway), Pat Fitzgerald (Offaly), Christy McCann and Mickey Sweeney (Mayo), Adrian O Sullivan, Tony Regan, Michael McNamara (Roscommon). Among his classmates in U.C.G. also were Seamus Brennan, Pat Rabbitte and Eamon Gilmore although according to John they were interested "in a different ball game".

Club Record

John started to play senior football with Ballyhaunis in 1969 when Ballyhaunis won the Goodfellowship Tournament. It took nine years to 1978 to win his next medal, the Canon Henry Cup. In between Ballyhaunis lost three County Senior Semi-finals, twice to Ballaghadereen, and in 1976 by a point to Garrymore. In February of that year a great footballer and team-mate, the late Ted Webb, was tragically killed in an accident.

In 1981, Ballyhaunis won the Intermediate League in Ballinrobe when they beat Kilmaine by 1-8 to 1-7 with John scoring 1-3. Some of the players of that era were Pat Freely, Tommie Moran, Michael Webb, Mike Webb, Mike Lyons, Ger Lyons, Tony Morley Snr., Tom Fitzgerald, Tom McGuire, his brother Tom Prenty, Johnny Cribben, Billy Lyons, Eamonn Murren, Tommy Moran (RIP), Tony Cribben, Willie Coyne and Padraic Prendergast (RIP). Later John played with Ivan Freeley, James Reidy, Eamonn Cunnane, Enda Moran, Sean Moore, Billy Phillips, Tony Morley Jnr., Mike Phillips and Tommy Grogan.

Favourite Players

Among the Mayo players that John admired were Martin Carney, Willie Joe Padden, T. J. Kilgallon, Liam McHale, Kevin McStay, James Nallen and Maurice Sheridan. From other counties his favourite players included Dermot Earley, Brian Mullins, Jack O'Shea, with whom he was to work as Mayo Manager, Ja Fallon, Maurice Fitzgerald, Jimmy Keaveney, Eoin Liston, Mickey Quinn and Seamus Moynihan.

What John did not mention was the trial he got for Connacht football in Ballyhaunis GAA Pitch, when the teams were short a player - so John stepped in to play along with Dermot Earley and Willie Joe Padden.

Administration

In 1978 John was elected Chairman of Ballyhaunis GAA Club - a post he held until 1981. That same year he was elected County Activities Secretary, having been elected to the County Activities Committee, following the death of the late Paddy Waldron. He co-ordinated all fixtures in Mayo from 1981 to 1995. In 1985 he was elected Secretary of Mayo County Board. 1985 was a great year for Mayo - the Minors won the All Ireland with David Fitzgerald of Ballyhaunis on the team. Mayo won all Connacht titles and were beaten by Dublin in the Senior Semi-final replay. Among the stars were Peter Forde, Martin Carney, Kevin McStay, and John Maughan. John was Mayo County Secretary 1985-1995. A highlight he remembers was the 1989 All Ireland Final, the first since 1951. It was All Ticket, he appeared on "Up for the Match" with Liam O'Murchu on RTE wearing Frank Murphy from Cork's borrowed tie. Jimmy Brown was captain; Mick Higgins was Chairman of the County Board. It was the era of T. J. Kilgallon, Willie Joe Padden, Jimmy Burke, Gabriel Irwin, John Finn, Micheal Collins, Kevin McStay, Liam McHale and Noel Durkin. In 1991 Mayo lost to Cork in the All Ireland Minor Final with David Burke, Ballyhaunis scoring four points against Brian Corcoran.

In 1992 and 1993 Mayo lost two All Ireland Under-21 Finals. John remembers the skills of David Nestor, John Casey, Kenneth Mortimer, Maurice Sheridan. Martin Carney was Manager of the team.

Connacht Secretary

In 1995 Johnny Mulvey retired as the long serving Connacht Council Secretary. John was appointed the first full time Connacht GAA Secretary. So what does this involve? John's job involves the organisation of all minor, junior, Under-21 and Senior Football and Hurling games played in Connacht. For instance, in a Connacht Championship game the organisation would include tickets, ground staff, working with Civil Defence, Gardai, Health and Safety, print media, local and National radio, television. There are twenty-five people working for the Connacht Council, all have to be monitored and organised. John is also Secretary of the following Council sub-committees; Management, Games, Coaching, Communications and PR, Finance, Ground Development, Club Development. Over 3,000 people have attended meetings in Clare Street Ballyhaunis since the office opened in November 2002. John also deals with all the accounts for Connacht. Working with John is John Tobin Coaching Development Manager and Secretary Amanda Diskin.

In colleges games at Second Level he co-ordinates 1,500 games a year and he still found time in 2003 to manage the Ballyhaunis Minor, U-21 and Senior teams.

Personal Life

This seems like a daunting task, yet to talk to John there seems to be no panic whatsoever.

Maybe this is because of the obvious support that he gets from his family and his great pride in them. His wife Mary, who hails from Tuam, Co. Galway, is Secretary of Ballyhaunis GAA Club for the last two years, having been secretary of Bord na n-Og for many years. Their son John Jnr. has starred for Ballyhaunis, Mayo Under-16s, Mayo Minors and Mayo

Under-21s, and is a student at Trinity College. He has Connacht medals at Under-16, Minor and Under-21 and has won six Connacht Colleges medals with Ballyhaunis Community School, but has yet to get a trial for Connacht like his auld fella did! Their younger Niall has played from Under-8 to Under-15 for Ballyhaunis and has won a County medal at Under-12. He was on the Under-14 School of Excellence this year.

The Future

John is proud of the fact that facilities in Gaelic Games have improved greatly. It's a long way from the Clare Road pitch to the lovely surface of the pitch at Knock Road. John says coaching, training, media coverage has improved. John, with Joe McDonagh, Michael Lyster, Bill Lalor and Tim O'Connor (Head of Sport RTE) met in Carty's Pub, Knock and took the decision to broadcast Gaelic games live on television throughout the championship season. This year there were twenty-nine games. The rest is history - a new look Croke Park, fine grounds at Castlebar, Pearse Stadium, Roscommon, Sligo and Carrick on Shannon.

The future? He hopes the games will flourish and grow, with players at all levels being treated with respect. It's a long way from playing football in Clare Road to being Connacht Secretary, and yet John has ended up only a few hundred metres away in Clare Street, as happy as Larry working in a sport that has been part of his life as long as he can remember. Ar aghaidh leis an obair.

Aras C.L.G. Chonnacht Opened

The official opening of the new headquarters of the Connacht Council, G.A.A. - Aras Cumann Luthchleas Gael Chonnacht - at Clare St., Ballyhaunis, took place on Saturday, 9th Nov. 2002. Officers from all the County Boards in Connacht were in attendance, as well as officials from Connacht Colleges, Connacht Vocational Schools, and representatives from the Munster and Leinster Councils.

Mr. Tommy Moran, Vice President of the Connacht Council, acted as M.C. for the auspicious occasion. The building was blessed by Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C., before the cutting of the tape was performed by Mr. Pdraig Brennan, President of the Connacht Council.

Aras C.L.G. Chonnacht will be the base for Connacht Secretary, Mr. John Prenty, who administers all G.A.A. matters concerning the province, together with all second level school competitions. The office will also accommodate Mr. John Tobin who is responsible for all coaching in the schools and colleges throughout the province. The Connacht Council monthly meetings and all sub-committee meetings of the Association will also be held in the new office. After the official opening ceremonies, refreshments were served and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

'The Changing Face of Ballyhaunis'

- Mike Byrne -

PRO, Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce

The advent of the third millennium has seen many changes to the landscape of Ballyhaunis. Few towns throughout the county, or throughout the country for that matter, have witnessed the changes that this town has seen over the past decade or so. Family names that have adorned shopfronts for decades have made way for an ever-changing Ballyhaunis. From Chinese eating houses to Pakistani drapery department to a Muslim-run food store. And the changes continue, for the better. Mid West Radio, with the most modern radio broadcasting facilities outside Dublin, and standing proudly alongside, the GAA's central office for the whole of Connaught. Ballyhaunis, although in the midst of change, certainly has a lot to be proud of, and, as we look to the future, it has much to look forward to as well.

In the most recent census the population of Ballyhaunis stood at a little over 1,400 people. A survey, conducted recently by the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, indicated that a total workforce of 1,294 were now in employment in Ballyhaunis. Almost as near as one can get to full employment. Much of this success story is directly due to the entrepreneurial skills of Ballyhaunis families, such as Western Brand Chickens (150), Connaught Scaffolding (58), Cashel's Engineering (48), Ballinlough Refrigeration (50), Grascare (50), Electrical Pumps Services (30), Grogan's Concrete (20), and Keane's Kitchens Ltd., (18). In the food processing industry, a total of 431 people are employed, with almost 400 jobs shared between Western Brand Chickens and Dawn Meats (240). The trend of emigration, the scourge of this country for centuries, now seems to have been brought to a halt. With our graduates now opting to remain at home, many of the businesses throughout the town are being operated by the second generation of families. A very welcome and healthy sign indeed. Another changing trend in recent years is the number of Leaving Cert students opting for Third Level education. While this trend is to be welcomed, it also has its drawbacks for local industrialists. Leaving Cert graduates moving on to further their education means that a vacuum is being left on the factory floors in local enterprises. In another generation second level graduates would gladly welcome employment, working in a factory or retail outlet. This vacuum, in the Ireland of the third millennium is being filled by non-nationals. And this is where the most significant change

has occurred in Ballyhaunis over the past five years. Twenty-six different nationalities are now resident in Ballyhaunis, not including the Pakistani and Syrian communities which have lived here for the past two decades. Without the presence of those non-nationals, many of our major business enterprises would be in serious difficulty, in terms of filling vacancies at their respective enterprises.

At the time of writing, Ballyhaunis stands on the threshold of one of the most exciting and extensive retail and social developments that the town has seen in recent years. A recently established local organisation, Ballyhaunis Social Housing Ltd, under the chairmanship of Doctor Michael Cleary, and including officers of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce are at present embarking on the construction of twenty-one houses, adjacent to the Ballyhaunis town centre. The housing development, situated on a four and a half acre site owned by Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, is specifically being tailored for the needs of the elderly of the area. The houses, when complete, will be rented out to elderly people, while the property will remain the ownership of the Ballyhaunis Social Housing group. Also coming to fruition, after many, many months of frustration, on this same 4_ acre site, is the Ballyhaunis Enterprise Centre which is due to open very shortly. Within a few hundred yards of this development, plans are fully complete for the provision of an ultra modern supermarket, complete with a total of 193 car-parking spaces. This new retail venture, when completed, will be accessible from the Claremorris road as well as the Knock road.

Added to this, a planning application to erect a fifty-bedroom hotel, with leisure complex is currently in its final stages of review before Mayo County Council. This development, which it is hoped will be complete within the next two years, will add a new dimension to the commercial and the social prosperity of Ballyhaunis in the years ahead.

In the years past, Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce has received more than its fair share of criticism. Some of it constructive criticism and some, well, let's say, a little unjust. The Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, under the presidency of Mr. Donal Shanaghy, with a membership of seventy-five members, continues as a voluntary organisation to work for the future of

Ballyhaunis – a better future for all of us who are proud of our town!

Employment

Below is a brief profile of some of the major employers in the Ballyhaunis area.

Dawn Ballyhaunis Ltd., Clare Road, Ballyhaunis; (094) 9630555, Fax: (094) 9630561

Originally owned by the local Webb family and after a series of successful takeovers the Company is now owned by Dawn Meats Ballyhaunis Ltd. Dawn Meats are one of the biggest industries in the area providing employment for both locals and foreign nationals bringing with it general success to the area in the form of staff wages to local businesses.

Western Brand Group, Knock Rd., Ballyhaunis; (094) 9630069; Fax: (094) 9630834

Western Brand Chickens Limited is an independent local company engaged in the primary and further processing of poultry products, which are supplied throughout the country. It was established in 1972 and has grown to become a significant national player in the poultry business. The company has expanded its operations with modern plant and equipment in recent years. Its product range has widened to also include cooked and breaded products as well as steadily increasing exports. They employ approximately 150 permanent employees of various disciplines and skills as well as some additional seasonal workers. Output now exceeds over 200,000 birds on a weekly basis.

Mid west Radio, Clare Street, Ballyhaunis; (094) 9630169, Fax: (094) 9631066

Mid west radio can trace its genesis to a changing room in the back of the Midas Nite Club in Ballyhaunis. The date was Monday, November 25th 1985 when two men, Paul Claffey and Chris Carroll, came together with their last few quid, a whole lot of anxiety and a dream - that given the right type of music, and all the local issues that were affecting people being given an ear - that an alternative to the national service might just take off.

Everything was put in place for that fateful Monday morning, but one question - would the phone ring, would anyone be listening, and if so how would they react to this very raw new radio station in Ballyhaunis in the middle of the 1980s when the country was in pretty depressed state? We needn't have worried: after the first record was played the phones started ringing and thankfully they haven't stopped since. About a year after the changing room we moved to a cloakroom with two

rooms and a glass partition: we thought we were the bees knees and that radio couldn't get any better than this. However the storm clouds were gathering Ray Burke, the then Minister for Communications, wanted to regularise broadcasting in Ireland. People just couldn't come along willy-nilly and set up a radio station; there had to be rules and regulations and procedures to follow. Radio was going to become legal and that was that. Never ones to take defeat lying down we began to build a team of interested groups and organisations around us who also had similar views on the west of Ireland and who would be interested in investing in a radio station that would be passionate about putting the views of the people of the West of Ireland to the fore, hence the coming together of the federation of the Western Churches, Connacht Gold Co-op, The Western People, The Connacht Telegraph, Knock International Airport and Mid West Radio to form a new Company called County Mayo Radio limited that would trade as Mid West Radio. The new licence was applied for along with one other group under the wireless and telegraphy act 1988. Thankfully, Mid West was successful and so the next chapter in local radio in Ballyhaunis begins.

Monday, July 24th 1989 we moved to new premises in Abbey Street complete with three studios and offices and modern equipment and, would you believe, even a computer. This was definitely big stuff. Shortly afterwards North West Radio came on stream in Sligo and so began a very harmonious journey in local radio across the region for the next fourteen years. In 1999 during our tenth anniversary celebrations we felt that it was now definitely time to put down permanent roots, locate a site and begin plans to develop a broadcasting centre in Ballyhaunis. And so the seeds were sown for what now exists in Clare Street Ballyhaunis.

Our new headquarters is the newest and most modern broadcasting centre in the country, boasting five state-of-the-art digital studios as well as ample office space, reception area, canteen, parking area and transmission facilities on a stand alone site in the heart of the town, in fact back on Clare Street where it all began really over eighteen years ago now.

Along the way there have been many ups and downs, most notably the loss of the broadcasting licence for North West Radio which happened earlier this year. This has been a huge disappointment to us all but we hope that one isn't over yet and hopefully common sense will prevail. We will have to wait for a while more on that one. In the meantime the show goes on from our new headquarters in Ballyhaunis where we have all settled in well now and are really enjoying working with the most modern equipment money can buy.

And what of the future I hear you say? Well, we

look forward with confidence to all that the future holds. We feel that regional radio for these parts is only around the corner and of course being located in Ballyhaunis we are ideally situated geographically as well as every other way to get involved in the area. Internet radio is proving to be a big success with our listeners across the globe and its certainly an area that we intend to explore a lot more in the future. And of course regional television is also fast becoming a distinct possibility now too. So, to sum up we are looking forward to all the challenges ahead. Local radio is an ever-changing game, continuously ebbing and flowing with the speed of a fast moving modern society. All I can say is thank God we have come this far and we certainly intend to stick around now.

Cashels Engineering Ltd., Aghamore, Ballyhaunis; (094) 9630517, Fax: (094) 9630214

Cashels Engineering Ltd. was established in 1984 and manufactures a range of Agri-hardware including construction, storage and environmental equipment. It employs forty-eight people. Their products, construction and environmental ranges are distributed throughout Ireland, the UK and Mainland Europe. Plans for the future are to expand their European markets while continuing to develop innovative products.

Grascare Machinery Ltd., Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis; Tel: (094) 9630572 Fax: (094) 9630788
E-mail: grascare@eircom.net Website: www.major-grascare.com

Grascare Machinery Ltd. trades with the Major logo and is owned by John and Mark Murphy, Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis. The company manufactures Flail shredders, Roller-mowers, Rotary Brushes and Sweeper Collectors for the amenity, agricultural, site maintenance and leisure grass industries. The company also carry a range of slurry and effluent handling machines such as Low Ground Pressure slurry tankers with a maximum capacity of 2600 gallons, farmyard manure spreaders, slurry agitators and industrial effluent and drain-cleaning tankers. The company is also the largest manufacturer of Pasture toppers in Europe with machines ranging from 5' 9" to 20' in cutting width. There are fifty full-time employees in Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis, with a further ten employees located in a distribution warehouse in Heysham, UK. This distribution centre services the UK market only. Further secure markets include Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France and Germany, which are supplied by the parent company in Ireland.

EPS, Knox St., Ballyhaunis; (094) 9630226 Fax: (094) 9630761

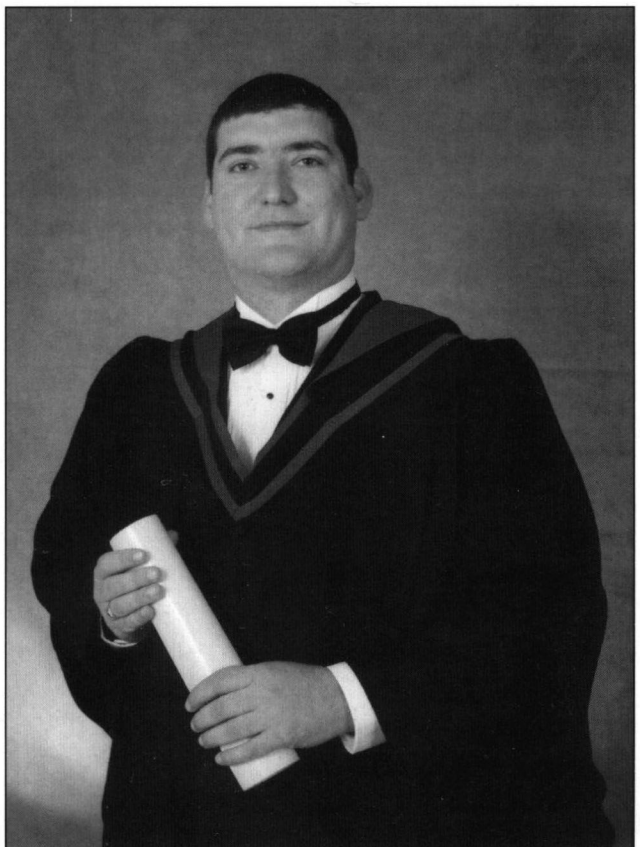
EPS was established in 1972 and specialises in Pumping and Treatment Systems, Water and Wastewater. They have in-house support facilities and in-house manufacturing facilities. EPS is continually expanding and have offices in counties Cork, Mayo, Laois and Down. They specialise in design, plant manufacture, installation, commissioning service, process engineering support and training.

Connacht Scaffolding Ltd, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis; Tel: (094) 9630198 Fax: (094) 9630336. email: connachtscaffolding@eircom.net

Connacht Scaffolding Ltd. was established in 1977 and are members of N.A.S.A.C. They employ fifty-eight staff and are fully insured scaffolding specialists and also offer a hire service of scaffolding.

Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd., Industrial Estate, Tooraree, Ballyhaunis (094) 9630094 Fax: (094) 9630825

Hazelhill Timber manufactures timber pallets. They supply many leading multi-national companies in Ireland and are the first Irish pallet company licensed to make official Euro pallets. The business specialises in the sale and distribution of timber, moulded pallets and plastic pallets. The kiln-drying of timber is another service provided by Hazelhill timber.



Dr. Marc McCafferty who graduated from Trinity College, Dublin on the 20th June 2003 with the degrees of BA, MB, BCh, BAO. Marc is the son of Peter and Helene McCafferty (nee Halpin) Ballyhaunis.

'Ballyhaunis G.A.A Club'

- Mary Prenty (Secretary) -

2003 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 Minor Football team that won their division of the League and were unlucky to be defeated in the County League and Championship Finals, and our Under-12 team that also won their division in the League. The club had a very busy year and the local GAA Grounds continue to be used on a regular basis for club, school and county games. 2003 saw the unveiling of our new electronic scoreboard which has added greatly to the presentation of our games.

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/Under-10 Football

Training for Under-8 and Under-10 footballers at Ballyhaunis GAA pitch ran from the end of February up until Sunday 19th October when the Mick O'Connell marked the end of the season. Sixty boys and girls attended the weekly training sessions. During the year we played Charlestown, Claremorris, Balla, and Michael Glaveys in Challenge games.

The Under-10 Blitz was held on Bank Holiday Monday 4th August and eight teams took part.

Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Charlestown, Kiltimagh, Hollymount, Balla, Ballaghaderreen and Kilmovee. The Ballyhaunis Bord na nOg Trophy was won by a very good Claremorris team. Missing this year were Castlereagh Eire Og and Michael Glavey's and we need them back next year for a bit of inter-county rivalry. We were invited and played in blitz competitions in Balla and Kiltimagh during the year.

The main objective of the club at Under-8 and Under-10 level is to provide the opportunity for all young players just to turn up, take part, and learn about the game. This year the Mick O'Connell day on Sunday 19th October was a special event because the O'Connell family presented the club with a handsome new cup to replace the original trophy presented by their late father twenty-five years ago.

In the Under-8 competition the team captained by Lisa O'Connell came from behind to win against Morgan Lyons' team.

In the Under-10 competition four evenly matched teams faced each other. In the semi-finals Gearoid Keane's team won against a team captained by Sean Griffin, and Eoghan Collins' team defeated Martin McDonagh's team. In an exciting final, and after extra time had been played,

Gearoid Keane became the first captain to receive the new Mick O'Connell Cup when his team narrowly defeated Eoghan Collins' side.

The following players played during the year:

Under-8: Lisa O'Connell, Morgan Lyons, Eric Eaton, Aisling Tarpey, Jumail Kezze, Joey Fahey, Jason Coyne, Jim Reidy, James Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Cyril Collins, Michael O'Rourke, Jamie Skeffington, Jack Hughes, Robert Morley, Mark Ruane, Kevin Kilbride, Joseph Lyons, Daniel Mc Cormack, Clare Moran, Stephen Nolan, Pierce Caulfield, Cormac Reidy, Jonathan Ryan, Mark Phillips, Cian Henry, Shane Healy, Damien Callaghan, Eamonn Phillips, Cathal Carney, Colm Ronan, Damien Egan, Cian O'Boyle, Adam Hickey, Sean Mc Dermott, Joseph Kelly, Oisín Henry, Caoimhe Henry.

Under 10: Gearoid Keane, Eoghan Collins, Sean Griffin, Martin Mc Donagh, Adrian Phillips, James Cribbin, Eanna McNamara, Jarlath Carney, Conor Nolan, Patrick Kiely, Ciaran McDermott, Ultan Griffin, Jason Fahey, Shane Murphy, David Bance, Darren Nolan, John Flynn, John McCormack, Grace Lyons, Brandon Peake, Ryan Peake, Andrew Lannon, Eugene Durkin, Niall Cherbatji, Lisa Hunt.

Trainers for 2003 were Barry Butler, John Collins, Seamus Egan, Gerry Lyons, Billy Phillips and James Reidy.

Thanks are due to the trainers, and also to parents who provided support and transport to games, to those who catered for the Ballyhaunis Blitz, to people who refereed games, others who washed jerseys, to the schools and to the various club officials for their work during the year.

Under-11/National Schools Football

The Under-11s started their season on August 23rd with the East Mayo Football Blitz in Charlestown. We went in hope rather than with high expectations, but thanks to some excellent performances by all on the day we succeeded in winning the competition. We had wins over Charlestown, Kilmovee, Aghamore, Ballaghaderreen and Kiltimagh. We lost to Swinford but they dropped points to Charlestown and Ballaghaderreen allowing Ballyhaunis to claim victory.

They then competed in the East Mayo League and won their division with wins over Ballaghaderreen, Aghamore and Kilmovee and hopes are high for the coming year.

The panel Included: Sean Griffin, Ryan Worden, Cathal Fahey, Lisa Connell, Aishling Fahey, Patrick Kiely, Damien Keadin, Eanna McNamara, Isaac Carroll, Kieran

Kiely, Gearoid Keane, Conor Freeley, Eoghan Collins, Jarlath Carney, Padraic Waldron, Shane Murphy, Niall Cherabatji, Jamail Kezze, Cyril Collins, Conor Nolan, James Cribbin, Adrian Phillips, Kieran McDermott, Aaron Eaton, John Flynn, Eugene Durkin, Gerard Grogan, Eric Eaton. The team was managed by Barry Butler, Pat Freeley & John Collins.

Under-12 Football

The Under-12s won their division of the seeding league with wins over Kilmeena, Garrymore, Ballinrobe, Kilmaine and Davitts. This resulted in them being seeded in the 'A' division in the summer league. They found the going tougher in this Division and despite contesting closely each game they failed to register a win. They were defeated by Knockmore, Castlebar, Kiltimagh, St. Gerard's and Kiltaine. The panel included: David McNamara, Sean Ronayne, Kevin Moran, Adrian Ruane, Mohanned Cerabatji, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Paul Freeley, Rory Collins, Joseph Flynn, Padraic Waldron, Isaac Carroll, Aaron Eaton, Cathal Fahey, Paul Carney, Conor Freeley, Ryan Worden, Gerard Grogan, Kieran Kiely, Damien Keadin, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Eanna McNamara, Jarlath Carney John Francis McDonagh, Ciaran McDermott.

The Joe Webb day was run on the Bank Holiday weekend in October. The captains on the day were David McNamara and Adrian Ruane. The match was closely contested in the first half and when Adrian's team took the lead early in the second half it looked as if David's team were in trouble. However when Damien started to find the net it led to a wave of scores and David's team finished comfortable winners. The teams were: David McNamara, Sean Roynane, Mohanned Cherabatji, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Padraic Waldron, Paul Carney, Conor Freeley, Ryan Worden, Gerard Grogan, Kieran Keilly, Damien Keadin, Eoghan Collins, Adrian Ruane, Kevin Moran, Rory Collins, Joseph Flynn, Isaac Carroll, Aaron Eaton, Cathal Fahey, Gearoid Keane, Eanna McNamara, Jarlath Carney, Kieran McDermott, Eric Eaton. The team was managed by the following: Pat Freeley, Seamus Caulfield, Bernard Waldron and John Collins.

Under-13 Football

The Under-13 team competed in the 'A' division of the County League. Hopes were high for this team who had performed very well in prior years. However, victories against Davitts and Kiltimagh and losses against Islandeady, Ballintubber, Claremorris, Swinford and Westport meant that they failed to make it to the knock-out stages of the League. There is considerable talent in this panel and we may see a lot more from them in the coming season. The panel included: Tadhg Morley, Paul Freeley, Adrian Ruane, Paul Higgins, Brian Hunt, David

McNamara, Damien Keadin, John Gallagher, Kevin Nestor, Isaac Carroll, Jonathan Maughan, Brian Waldron, Kevin Moran, Paul Carney, Rory Finan, Craig Hughes, Cathal Fahey, Ryan Worden, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Pat Freeley, Rory Collins, Seamie Webb, Kieran Kiely, Conor Freeley, Padraic Waldron, Joseph Flynn, Mohanned Cherabatji, Christopher Maughan, Ciaran Turner, Camron Afzal, Zaheer Iqbal. Pat Freeley, Des Ruane and John Collins, managed the team

Hurling

We started the year with the indoor in the Scouts Den and Community School Gymnasium with over sixty children participating. This season the tournament was confined to those players who were participating in the Coaching Scheme in Scoil Iosa N.S. A League was played in the New Year until the end of March. Based on results of these games, a series of Shield and Cup Finals took place on the last morning.

In Division 2 Cup Final the Wexford team, captained by Maura Kelly, defeated the Sligo team captained by Daniel Ward.

In Division 2 Shield Final, the Roscommon team, captained by John Lyons, defeated the Mayo team, captained by Joseph Flynn.

In Division 1 Cup Final, the Cork team, captained by Stephen Hoban defeated the Galway team, captained by Robert Frayne.

In Division 1 Shield Final, the Tipperary team, captained by Brian Waldron, defeated the Kilkenny team, captained by Keith Grogan.

A large contingent of families and helpers were present for the Finals. A special word of thanks is expressed to Pat Feeney, proprietor of Plastering Services, Ballyhaunis who sponsored the medals for the Indoor Season.

Division Two

Mayo: Joseph Flynn, Faraz Ul Hassan, Kieran McDermott, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Jamie Skeffington, Phillip Fitzmaurice.

Roscommon: John Lyons, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Aideen Murray, David Fitzmaurice, Gearoid Keane, Sean Griffin, Damien Callaghan, Lisa O'Connell, Seamus McKenzie.

Sligo: Daniel Ward, David Lyons, Andrew McCormack, John Flynn, Ryan Kilbane, Patrick Mellett, Siobhan Morley.

Wexford: Maura Kelly, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Shane Murphy, Kieran Culliney, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, Gerard Grogan.

Division One

Galway: Robert Frayne, Seamus O'Dwyer, Seamie Webb,



Under-12 Hurling Blitz, Woodmount, 2003

Back, L-R: Kevin Fitzmaurice, Sean Griffin, Joseph Flynn, Paul Freeley, Sean Ronayne, David Fitzmaurice. Front, L-R: Andrew McCormack, Kevin Nestor, Shane Nolan, Paul Carney, Conor Nolan, Gearoid Keane.

Liam McDermott, Jack Dempsey, Zaheer Javid.

Kilkenny: Niall Feeney, Keith Grogan, Shane Nolan, Paul Carney, Paddy Mulrennan, Shirley McGowan.

Cork: Stephen Hoban, Noel Byrne, Brian Hunt, Michael Lyons, Tadhg Morley, Sean Ronayne, Paul Higgins,

Tipperary: Brian Waldron, Kamron Afzal, Josh Sloyan, Kevin Nestor, John Lenehan, Paul Freeley, Kevin McNamara.

County Cumann Na mBunscoil Mini-Sevens Hurling Final

We qualified for the County Final against Tooreen but were defeated by 6-5 to 4-4.

Panel: Paul Carney, Kamron Afzal, David Lyons, Paul Freeley, Liam McDermott, Shane Nolan, Joseph Flynn, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Sean Ronayne, David Fitzmaurice, John Lyons, Faraz Ul Hassan.

Management: Peter Higgins, Ray Lucey, John Joe Hoban, Alan Lucey, Gerry Lyons, Gerry Kilbride.

Under-12 Hurling

A number of one-day blitzes were held in the course of the year. The Ballyhaunis Children performed admirably at all stages.

Panel: Paul Carney, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Sean Ronayne, Sean Griffin, Paul Freeley, Shane Nolan, Gearoid Keane, Andrew McCormack, David Fitzmaurice, Conor Nolan, Kieran McDermott.. Paul Higgins. David Lyons, John Lyons, Sean Griffin, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Kieran McDermott, Faraz Ul Hassan, Andrew McCormack, Shane Murphy, Siobhan Morley, Aideen Murray, James Cribbin, Kevin Nestor

Under-14 Football

This year's Under-14 team competed in division 2 of the County League and in the 'A' championship. We started training in late March and had a number of challenge games before the league commenced. We found the going very tough in this division and lost to Knockmore narrowly in our first game where we were beaten by Garrymore, Crossmolina and Ballinrobe and had good wins over Ballaghaderreen and Belmullet. In the Feile competition we lost by two points to a strong Ballinrobe side after putting up a great performance. In the East Mayo championship we had a big win over Ballaghaderreen, thus qualifying for the East Mayo 'A' Final against old rivals Aghamore. On the day we were out of our depth in this grade.

Panel: Tadhg Morley, Enda Griffin, Declan Murphy, Paul Higgins, Seamus O'Dwyer, Robert Frayne, Niall Prenty, Kevin Nestor, Aidan Fitzmaurice, John Gallagher, Brian Waldron, Jonathan Maughan, Brian Hunt, Paul Walsh, John Jordan, Mohammed Cherbatji, Nadeem Cherbatji, Adrian Ruane, Rory Finan, Stephen Hoban, David McNamara.

Under-14 Hurling

Once again we reached a County Final only to be beaten in the Final by a physically stronger Tooreen team.

Panel: Paul Carney, Kamron Afzal, Zaheer Javid, Noel Byrne, John Lenehan, Brian Waldron, Paul Freeley Robert Frayne, Josh Sloyan, Steven Hoban, Tadhg Morley, Keith Grogan, Shane Nolan, Niall Feeney, Brian Hunt, Jack Dempsey, John Lyons, Liam McDermott, Jonathan

Maughan, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Seamie Webb, Joseph Flynn, Paul Higgins, Timothy Ronayne. Management: John Joe Hoban, Pat Feeney, Jason Powers, Martin Kilbride, Gerry Lyons.

Under-15 Football

In the Under-15 League we defeated Kilmovee but lost to The Neale, Balla and Aghamore. The Under-15 panel: Conor Mulrennan, Stephan Hoban, John Jordan, Declan Murphy, Adrian Brennan, Robert Freyne, 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, Mohammed Cherbatji, Nadeem Cherbatji, Luke Cribbin, Paul Walshe, Kevin Nestor, Enda Griffin, John Lyons, Ian Mooney, Brian Waldron. Selectors: Matt O Dwyer, John Griffin and Michael Gallagher.

Under-16 Football

In the Under-16 County League we played Castlebar, Swinford, Balla, Aghamore and Tourmakeady. We won some and lost some, but it was good experience for a young team. We got beaten by Kiltimagh in the first round of the Championship.

Panel: Fawaz Asilia, Michael Cunningham, Padraig Cribbin, Lorcan Finan, Kevin Gallagher, John C. Halpin, David Healy, David Herr, Kevin Higgins, Joseph Kelly, Mark Kelly, Austin Lyons (Capt.), Fergal Lyons, David Maughan, Conor Mulrennan, John Mongan, Joseph Neenan, Adrian Brennan, Brian Gallagher, Michael Waldron. Manager: Michael Curley, (R.I.P.) Selector: John Halpin Coach: Brian Phillips

At the end of the season the Under-16 Manager and friend to all the players departed this life. Micky Curley always had the players, the team and the Ballyhaunis GAA club, first and foremost in his mind. He knew all the players, past and present, by their first name, and always had the time for a quick word both on and off the pitch. He will be sadly missed by all the Under-16 Panel and indeed by every member of the Ballyhaunis Bord na nOg.

Under-16 Hurling

We reached the County Semi-final in which we were beaten by the eventual County Champions, Castlebar.

Panel: Joseph Kelly, Fergal Lyons, Austin Lyons, Mark Kelly, Jarlath Mellett, Kieran Lucey, David Herr, David Healy, Sean O'Kane, Pat Kelly, Jonathan Kelly, Arslann Afzal, Steven Hoban, Luke Cribbin, Robert Frayne, Brian Gallagher, Seamus O'Dwyer, Brian Hunt, Keith Grogan, Tadhg Morley, Niall Feeney, Josh Sloyan. Management: J. P. Coen, Pierce Higgins, Liam Lyons, Jason Powers.

Minor Football

The Minor Football team had a very successful year winning their division of the league with victories over Shrule-Glencorrib, Garrymore, Charlestown, St. Gerard's, and draws with Mayo Gaels and Davitts. In the County Semi-final we defeated Kilmeena after a replay and qualified to meet Davitts in the Final. This was to prove heartbreak and after an enthralling encounter we were defeated after extra time.

The East Mayo championship was played on a 'Round Robin' basis and we defeated Kiltimagh and were beaten by Charlestown. However in the East Mayo Final we played some brilliant football to take the title when defeating Charlestown. In the County Semi-final we defeated Parke and qualified to play Shrule-Glencorrib in the Final. The Final was a major disappointment and we never played up to expectations and were easily defeated. Panel: Keith Higgins, David Hannan, Seamus Hurley, William Nestor, Cian Higgins, Aidan Healy, Declan Warde, Austin Lyons, Ciaran Griffin, Ian Prenty, Robert Grogan, Colm Gallagher, Liam Lyons, Fergal Walshe, John Mongan, Fergal Lyons, Fawaz Asilia, David Maughan, Michael Jordan, Anthony Murphy, Stephen Jenkins, J. C. Halpin. Management: John Prenty, Tommy Waldron, John Halpin and Michael Curley.

Minor Hurling

The team qualified for the County Final against Tooreen, having overcome Castlebar in the first round, but were defeated in the final.

Panel: Joseph Kelly, Pat Kelly, Ciaran Griffin, David Lynch, Owen Nolan, Declan Ward, Austin Lyons, Michael Conroy, Keith Higgins, Fergal Lyons, Fergal Walsh, Colm Gallagher, Christopher Morley, Liam Lyons, William Nestor, David Herr, Anthony Murphy, Jarlath Mellett, Mark Kelly, Mark O'Connor, Rizwan Afzal, Arslann Afzal, David Maughan, Jason Swords. Management: Tom Phillips, John Joe Hoban, Peter Higgins J. P. Coen.

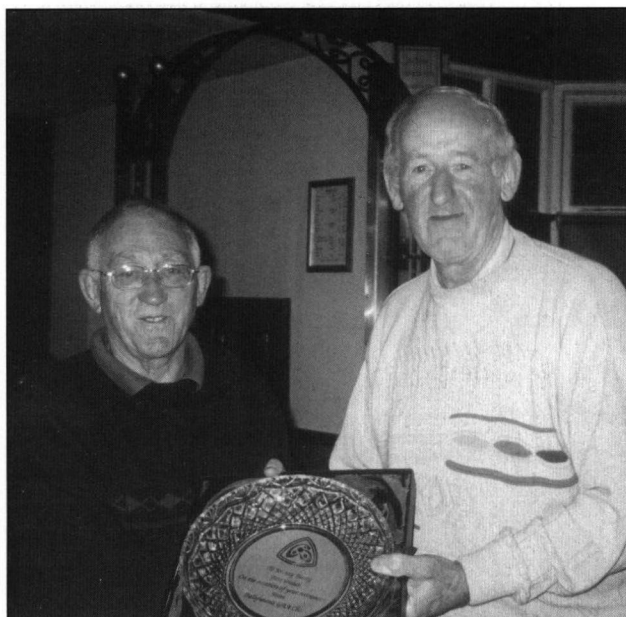
Under-21 Football

Our Under-21 team suffered a very disappointing defeat in the first round against Round Towers.

Panel: Padraig Carney, Paul Jordan, Christy Burke, John Prenty, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Prenty, William Nestor, Hugh Carney, Liam Lyons, Patrick Waldron, Christy McCrudden, Ian Prenty, Murt Hunt, Keith Higgins, Ciaran Griffin, Declan Warde, Robert Grogan, Stephen Shanaghy, Andrew Shanaghy, Derek McConn. Management: John Prenty, Hugh Rudden.

Senior Football

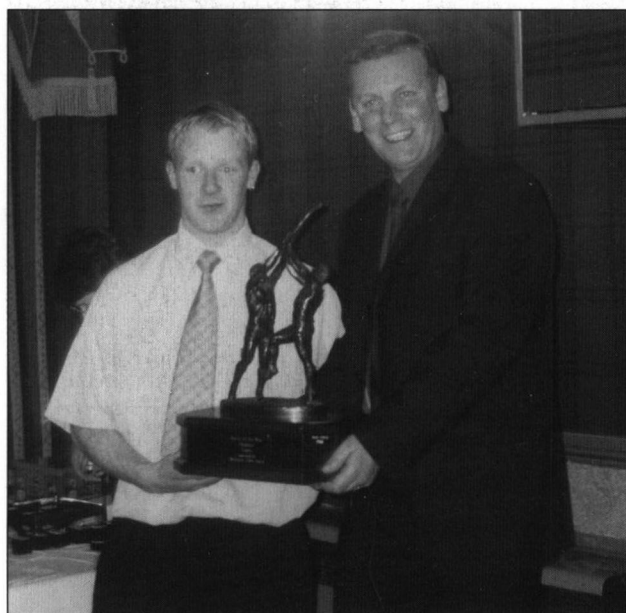
2003 will go down as a most disappointing year for the Ballyhaunis Senior Football team. In the Championship Louisburgh defeated us in the first round and in the back



Hugh Rudden (right) making a presentation, on behalf of Ballyhaunis G.A.A., Club to Johnny Biesty to mark the occasion of his retirement from teaching.

door we failed to defeat a mediocre Mayo Gaels team at home. In the League we defeated Parke but lost the remainder of our games. We qualified for the final of the East Mayo Centenary Cup but were defeated by Charlestown. In the Summer League we had notable victories over Louisburgh and Burrishoole but a defeat to eventual champions Ballinrobe put us out of the competition. The following players represented the club at senior level:

Kurt Reinhardt, Padraic Carney, Declan Doyle, Peadar Walshe, Sean Hunt, Mark Patterson, Derek Walshe, Paul Jordan, John Prenty, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Prenty, William Nestor, Hugh Carney, Christy McCrudden, Ian



John Joe Hoban, Senior Hurling Manager, presenting Ballyhaunis Hurler of the Year Award 2002 to Pierce Higgins.

Prenty, Murt Hunt, Declan Warde, Stephen Shanaghy, Andrew Shanaghy, Derek McConn, Alan Regan, Jason Morley, Tony Morley, Edward Webb, Paul Nolan, Johnny Cribbin, Brendan Rudden, Peter Meenan, P. J. Fleming, John Vahey, James Mulrennan, Fergal Kelly. Management: John Prenty, Hugh Rudden.

Junior/Senior Hurling

After the euphoria of 2002 in winning the County Senior Championship for the first time ever, 2003 Hurling had a hard act to follow, and so it proved to be the case. While the team management and players gave their all to retain the T. J. Tyrrell Cup they never reached the heights of last year and lost the County Final to Tooreen.

Panel: Frank Browne, Tadhg Buckley, John Burke, Hugh Carney, Padraic Carney, Stephen Carney, John Paul Coen, Michael Curley, Michael Freeley, Peter Healy, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Barry Keogh, Paul Lynch, Anthony Lyons, Liam Lyons, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Christopher McCrudden, Tom Phillips, Jason Powers, Andrew Shanaghy, John Tynan, Derek Walsh, Michael Walsh

Management: Tom Phillips, John Joe Hoban, Peter Higgins, Derek Walsh, David McConn.

Achievements

Over the years Ballyhaunis Club has always provided many dedicated players to county football and hurling panels and 2003 was no exception. 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.

Under-15 Football School of Excellence: Conor



Hugh Rudden, Club Chairman, presenting a special award to John Joe Hoban, Senior Hurling Manager, in honour of the club's first Senior Hurling Title.



Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Panel

Back, L-R: Tom Phillips, Peter Healy, Paul McConn, John Tynan, Paul Lynch, Micheal Walsh, J. P. Coen, Stephen Carney, Tadhg Buckley, Liam Lyons, Declan Ward, Jason Powers, John Joe Hoban. Front, L-R: Hugh Carney, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Christy McCrudden, Johnny Burke, Derek Walsh, Frank Browne, Barry Keogh, Derek McConn, Christy Morley, Colm Gallagher, Padraic Carney.



Ballyhaunis Minor Football Team, East Mayo Champions

Back, L-R: John Prenty (Manager), Seamus Hurley, Declan Warde, Austin Lyons, Michael Jordan, David Hannan, Liam Lyons, Aidan Healy, Stephen Jenkins, Tommy Waldron (Selector), John Halpin (Selector); Front, L-R: Robert Grogan, Ian Prenty, Keith Higgins (Captain), William Nestor, Fergal Walsh, Colm Gallagher, Fergal Lyons, Cian Higgins, John C. Halpin.



Ballyhaunis Community School, winners of the Mick Tarmey Cup 2003

Back, L-R: Dave McDonagh (trainer), Sean McKay, Enda Griffin, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Kenneth Noone, Zaheer Javaid, Brian Waldron, Niall Walsh, Robert Lilley, Arslann Afzal, John Crinnigan, Kieran Gallagher, Adrian Judge, Kenneth Judge, Colm Caulfield. Front, L-R: Sean Markham, Patrick Mulrennan, Kevin Lynch, Michael Lavin, John Leneghan, Robert Frayne, Niall Prenty, Stephen Hoban, John Gallagher, Andrew Judge, Paul Walsh, Ronan Baggot.

Mulrennan

Under-15 Development Hurling Panel: Jason Swords, David Maughan, Brian Gallagher, Patrick Kelly, Sean O'Kane, David Healy,

Under-14 Football School of Excellence: John Jordan, Niall Prenty, Robert Freyne, Aidan Fitzmaurice.

Under-14 Hurling School of Excellence: Stephen Hoban, Robert Frayne, Josh Sloyan, Keith Grogan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Niall Feeney, Tadhg Morley, Brian Waldron, John Lenehan.

Under-16 Mayo Hurling Team: Joseph Kelly, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Mark Kelly, David Herr, Sean O'Kane, Arslann Afzal.

Mayo Minor Football Team: Keith Higgins who captained the team.

Under-18 Mayo Hurling Team: Keith Higgins, Fergal Walsh, Christopher Morley, Colm Gallagher, David Lynch and Captain Liam Lyons.

Under-21 Mayo Football team: Paul Prenty, John Prenty.

Under-21 Mayo Hurling Team: Paul Lynch, Padraic Carney, Hugh Carney, Steven Carney, Keith Higgins, Derek McConn, Jason Powers (Injured).

Mayo Senior Football team: Fergal Kelly.

Mayo Senior Hurling Team: Micheal Walsh, Paul Lynch, Peter Healy, Hugh Carney, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins,

Barry Keogh, Derek McConn and Derek Walsh who captained Mayo to the Division 3 National League Title and All Ireland Junior Hurling championship.

A Special Congratulations to Derek McConn, who was selected on the Ireland Under-21 Ireland panel to play Scotland in the Hurling/Shinty and also to Keith Higgins, Captain of the 'Rest of Connacht' Minor Hurling team, and to Pierce Higgins who won the 'Western People Hurler of the Year' in 2002.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club would like to express sympathy with the many families that suffered bereavements during the year. The club suffered a telling blow with the sudden death of our Vice-President Michael Curley in September. Michael was one of our most dedicated members and supporters and his passing will be sorely felt within the club. Go ndeana Dia trocaire art a anam.

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

Finally, we would like to express thanks to our many parents, friends and supporters, who have provided moral and financial backing over the years, and to the Officers and Executive of Ballyhaunis GAA Club for their continued help.

'A Marriage at Midnight'

- Willie Costello -

Mary O'Shea was an only child. Her parents had passed the springtime of life when they got married, so their joy knew no bounds when they were blessed with a daughter. Mary's life was not an easy one. When she was fourteen years old her mother became crippled with arthritis, so she had to remain at home from school so that she could look after her and do the household chores as well as helping her father on the little farm. After about five years her mother died, and Mary and her father endured the sorrow of bereavement. But at least, on the positive side, it gave Mary the freedom of movement, which she had not enjoyed since her school days. She could now cycle to the pictures in the local town, which was about four miles away, accompanied by her neighbouring young friends. She also danced in the local hall and in due course, a mutual interest in each other developed between a local boy named Tommy Carey and herself. They were going out together for more than a year when misfortune struck again.

Mary's father became stricken with arthritis in the same way as had her mother. This scourge was prevalent in rural Ireland at that time, and was believed to be due mainly to the constant wettings that accompanied the type of mixed farming then pursued. Within a short time he became totally bedridden which necessitated around-the-clock care. Not alone had pictures and dances to be abandoned but Mary had now to depend on her neighbours to take over while she rushed to and from Mass each Sunday and when she cycled to town to do some shopping. The neighbours were generous and understanding and none was more supportive than her boyfriend, Tommy, his mother and sister. After a time Mary began to feel guilty. She felt that she was wasting Tommy's time, as there seemed to be no hope of her being able to get married and lead a normal life. She discussed her feelings with Tommy who was prepared to wait and see what the future would bring. But under constant pressure from Mary, he finally relented to her request to break off their unofficial engagement, but not their friendship.

Some years passed, and although Tommy had his freedom he did not become interested in any other girl. Like his mother, his sister and other neighbours of all ages, he occasionally took his turn at "minding the house" for Mary. The constant pain from the arthritis took its toll on Mary's father and the time came when he began to go downhill rapidly. At that time there was never even the slightest

suggestion that old people might be sent to a hospital or a home where they would live out their final days. As the end approached, a rota of neighbours was arranged and two or three came each night to attend to the needs of the dying person as well as allowing the immediate family to get some sleep.

On the last night that Mary's father was to spend on the earth, it happened to be the turn of Tommy Carey, his sister and a young man named Joe Murphy. The local priest, on his daily call that morning knew that the end was near and therefore he dropped in again that night. The patient was by then unconscious and near midnight they gathered around the kitchen fire, the priest who had been strangely silent for a while suddenly said: "I have been thinking Mary of the big change your father's death will make for you. You have no close relatives and you will be very much alone. Now that Tommy is here – and I know all about the friendship that exists between you – what would you both think of my suggestion that you get married here in this kitchen tonight? We have two people in the house, who I feel sure are prepared to be witnesses, and I will be only too pleased to preside over the ceremony. It is just a suggestion. You would have the support and love of a husband to help you through the ordeal of your father's funeral." The four listeners were dumbfounded for a few moments as they all looked from one to another, and then almost simultaneously said "Why not?"

So Tommy and Mary walked arm in arm as husband and wife two days later as they followed the hearse to the church, and to the nearby graveyard on the following day. They lived a long and happy life together. Like everybody else of that era they did not have to give three months (or any) notice. Neither did they need a compulsory marriage preparation course to help their marriage relationship. The simplicity of the people and of the times was enough to secure the stability of marriage.

A Marriage at Midnight is based on a true story that took place in the last century, but the names have been changed to prevent identification. It is taken from a new book of short stories called "Rambling House Tales", written by Willie Costello, author of "A Connacht Mans Ramble", which is due to be published by De Burca Rare Books. Willie worked in Thomas Lyons' "The Eagle Bar", Bridge St., in the 1940s. He is a regular contributor to the Annagh Magazine.

'Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union'

- John Tuohy -



Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union has continued to grow and increase in membership annually since it was first established in 1983; it is now twenty years in existence in Ballyhaunis. The membership of the Credit Union has now reached almost 4,400, with a corresponding increase in members' savings, which has also continued to grow continuously every year since the very beginning.

Assets

With assets of over €10,600,000 the Credit Union continues to offer to its members continuing reliable service, for both saving and borrowing. Over 50% 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 from the credit union, remains in or is usually spent within the local area of common bond. This is obviously of great benefit to the economy in the local area.

Interest Rate

The interest rate 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 attractive and competitive option to the members.

The Credit Union was set up initially to promote thrift



A presentation to Helene McCafferty and Mary Rudden on behalf of the Board of Directors, for their years of service as Directors of Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union. L-R: Pat O'Connor (Treasurer), Helene McCafferty, Maura Murphy (Chairperson), Mary Rudden, Cynthia Fitzgerald (Hon. Sec.).



Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union Board of Directors.

Back, L-R: Peter McCafferty, John Tuohy, Aidan Kelly, Pat O'Connor, Justina Lyons, Barry Butler, Jarlath Walsh, Frances Mulhern, Edward Mulhern.
Front, L-R: Mary Matthews, Madeline Niland, Maura Murphy, Cynthia Fitzgerald, Rita Lundon, Ina Freyne.

among its members in the common bond of the community, to encourage members to save regularly and borrow wisely. Loans to well established members can be paid out on the spot. Members can also apply for loans on our website:- www.ballyhauniscu.ie

Services

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.

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

The Directors and Supervisors for the year 2003 were as follows: Chairperson – Maura Murphy; Vice-

chairperson – Aiden Kelly; Treasurer – Pat O'Connor; Asst. Treasurers – Madeline Niland, Mary Matthews; Honorary Secretary – Cynthia Fitzgerald; Asst. Secretary – Peter McCafferty; Directors - Jarlath Walsh, Ina Freyne, Frances Mulhern, Edward Mulhern, Justina Lyons, Rita Lundon. Supervisory Committee - Helen Lyons, John Tuohy, Barry Butler; Office Administrator – Katherine Kilbride; Tellers - Helene McCafferty, Cynthia Fitzgerald, Ina Freyne, Mary Rudden, Patricia O'Connor; Committee Members - Margaret Byrne, Tina Kirrane, Helene McCafferty, Catherine Sloyan, Gerry Lyons, Austin Finn.

Fr. Declan Carroll was also a very valued Committee member of the Credit Union until his transfer to Mulranny; the good wishes of all go with him. This year saw the sad loss of Michael Greally, a founder member and former Director of the Credit Union for a number of years. Ar dheis Dé go bhfuil a anam.

Credit Union Motto:

Save Regularly and Borrow Wisely



Taken outside Fitzgerald's Shop, Bridge St., 1959. L-R: Edward Fitzgerald, Mai Forkan (nee Fitzgerald), Eddie Fitzgerald.



Taken outside Kate Flatley's and B. T. Lynch's, Main Street in the 1950s. L-R: Pado Cunningham, Vin Baker, Pat Halpin, John Halpin, Pat Higgins, Mike McQueeney.

'St. Patrick's Well and Church, Holywell'

- Gerry Cribbin -

Historians tell us St. Patrick came into East Mayo from the Loughglynn area, and maybe across Urlaur, into what is now Aghamore. There he came on two men squabbling over their father's property. They were said to be coppersmiths. He settled their dispute and took one of the brothers with him as a disciple to help on his mission work.

He established churches at Aghamore and Kilcronin (Carrownedan). It is doubtful if he chose the hill of Aghamore for a church site as it has no visible source of water: living water, that is flowing water, was very important for baptism and also for household use. Although there is a church ruin on the hill, possibly from the fourteenth or fifteenth century, so they had to have a supply of water. The site at Kilcronin has a wonderful spring well, which is known at St. Patrick's Well, where a pattern and pilgrimage was held on 15th August each year. This pilgrimage was revived some years ago.

From Mannin, St. Patrick travelled to the well in Holywell, possibly through Ballyhaunis or Kilgarraff. It appears he was in the Kilgarraff area: the historians suggest he was given a grant of church land by some local chieftain. On arriving at Tober Mucna (Holywell), a pagan well, he blessed the well and it would be safe to assume it was here he baptised his first converts in the parish of Annagh.

664 AD - Bishop Tirechan in the 'Book of Armagh', made reference to a man called Sechnall 'who was asleep under a leafy elm' and the sign of the cross is there to this day, whether he was referring to a church site or the stone cross beside the well or both. The stone cross is still there to this day. This cross was always used as part of the Stations or Rounds performed at the well.

1100 AD - The 'Annals of the Four Masters' record that in the twelfth century there was a pilgrimage to this well. 1224 AD - A son of Rody of Clan Thomond died on his pilgrimage to Tober Phadraig. It is possible he was buried there.

Dr. Healy says that there can hardly be any doubt that this is the Tober Mucna alluded to by Tirechan, and the old church stood where the site of an ancient church can be discerned west of the well. This well continued as a place of pilgrimage and worship for the people and was said to have curative properties for all kinds of illnesses. The people did the rounds or 'turas', so many times around the well, the cross, and the mound nearby using a set number of prayers.

Customs

Many of these wells had a sacred tree or bush called in Irish

'Bile'. There are many references in the Annals to sacred trees being cut down or burned during raids on opponents' territory. This was a major crime which caused many reprisal raids until the 'Bile' was cut down in your enemy's territory. The people decorated the tree with garlands of ribbons and coloured cloths on its branches, and copper coins, pins, nails or other trinkets were often driven into the trunk. When you had the rounds performed you drank some water from the well and took some home for use during the year.

Another custom, taken from the school's folklore collection of 1938, was that people fasted from the eve of St. Patrick's Day. On the following morning they walked barefoot to St. Patrick's Well, Holywell. They did the rounds at the well and then returned to Ballyhaunis for Mass and the celebrations - it being a Fair Day which was one of the largest of the year.

The Stations

The Stations were made by going up to the mound about ten yards from the well where people knelt and said ten Hail Marys and ten Our Fathers. They then went round the mound to the cross at the well and said ten Hail Marys. They made the sign of the cross three times with the little stone left on the cross and kissed the cross each time. They went around the well ten times saying an Our Father and a Hail Mary each time. They rested on one knee each time as they passed the stone that has the mark of St. Patrick's knee. Then they came

to the cross again and did as before, and on to the well and said three Hail Marys. Then they filled the cup with water and tasted it. This account was given by Mrs. Biesty, Pattenspark in 1938.

Holywell Old Church

It is believed St. Patrick set up his first cell or church in the parish of Annagh on land now owned by the Healy family. It would most likely be a wooden structure, possibly wattle-and-daub, with a thatched roof. This would be a small building with room for an altar table, the priest and maybe one or two servers or attendants.

Written sources describe two types of timber church called 'Daireteach' (Oak House). One type made of wickerwork or wattles and the other of hewn timbers. In one text dating to the seventh century, a square oratory fashioned out of huge beams is described as having a door in the west end and a central altar. Cogitosus in "The Life of Brigid" supplies a remarkably detailed description of a large church,



The ancient stone cross near the Holy Well at Holywell.

the interior of which is divided into three oratories, separated from one another by timber walls hung with rich drapes. However, most early churches would have been simple, single chambered rectangular structures having a single doorway in the centre of a western gable, and a window in the eastern gable allowing the rising sun to light the altar. The doorway was often a flat-headed lintel opening wider at the base than the top. The roofline would be steep and possibly thatched, although some could have roofs covered with yew shingles.

In later centuries, stone and mortar churches were erected; again these would be simple structures. The present ruined church on McManus' land was said to be a Franciscan foundation (Ballyhaunis Historical Society 1930s) and erected in the fifteenth century. It was destroyed in the sixteenth century by Cromwellian forces. Some historians suggest that there is no evidence that it is a Franciscan foundation or that this is the site of the Annagh parish church. The present church (in ruins) is set on an earthen platform raised several feet above the surrounding land and may have had an enclosure bank or 'vallum' at an earlier period.

Burial Ground

Beside the church there is a children's burial ground. Within the church are traces of burials with marker stones. Part of the south-facing wall remains with possible traces of a doorway. Down the field, a few hundred yards away, is a bullaun stone on a small mound which may have been a work site or hut site. The bullaun is often found on church sites and was used for grinding corn and other foodstuffs. It may also have been used to break up bones to retrieve the marrow. In recent times it was used to cure warts – the water it holds in its basin was rubbed on the warts and was said to cure them.

Annagh Church would have a grant of land to support the community, possibly about 150 acres depending on the local chieftain or landlord.

1302 – Some literary references to Annagh parish mentioned in taxation documents as "Annagh Parish" of Annagh 1302.

1306 – Annagh parish church was scheduled as a rectory and vicarage in the Edwardian taxation and this parish belonged to St. John's, Tuam.

1591 – John O'Brien of Kildara and Annagh was vicar in 1591. "Sweetman's Calendar of State Papers" gives in the diocese of Tuam, Annagh Church in Annagh Parish as paying £1. 6s. 8d. in tithes to Tuam. (mentioned in 1570 and 1615).

Tower

Ballyhaunis Historical Society had plans to build a tower at St. Patrick's Well in honour of our Patron Saint. It was envisaged to be similar to a round tower, with a viewing area at the top, surmounted by a statue of St. Patrick which would be lit up on special

occasions, such as the twelve days of Christmas, St. Patrick's Day and the Easter Days, or indeed any other special occasions. This was in the late thirties, but the advent of the war put an end to these ambitious plans.

Parish of Annagh

If the literary references to Annagh Parish paying tithes in 1302, as mentioned in Taxation Documents, are correct, this would make our parish over seven hundred years old.

1111 AD - Synod of Rathbrasil. The first formation of Diocese.

1152 AD - Synod of Kells. Said to have finalised the layout of the diocesan structure. If this was correct, the parishes may have set up at this time. However, there is no proof of this.

Revived Pilgrimage - 2000

On the evening chosen for the pilgrimage – Sunday, 21st May 2000 – people assembled at St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis and set off walking to the well, which is about three miles from the town. When they arrived at the well, they were met by another group from the surrounding villages. Both young and old gathered around the well and joined in the ceremonies. One young mother wheeled her baby in a pram from Ballyhaunis and back again.

The ceremonies were conducted by Canon Cooney, P.P. assisted by Fr. O'Grady, C.C. and a group from the local choir who sang appropriate hymns. Some boys from St. Mary's N.S., under the direction of principal James Lundon and Augustine Kearns, unveiled two plaques which they had carved and painted. They then attached them to the old tree trunk beside the well. The inscription on the plaques read "Tobar Phadraig 440-2000" giving the dates of the arrival of St. Patrick and the Christian faith to our parish up to the present time. The pilgrimage then continued on to the old church site and children's burial ground in the next field. There similar ceremonies took place and the burial ground was blessed. This concluded the pilgrimage to this ancient and historic site, a practice which ceased about 1940 and hopefully may be revived in the future.



Pictured at the revived pilgrimage to Holywell, 21st May 2000, L-R: Sr. Assumpta, Marian Prendergast, John Brennan, Una Phillips.

'Fr. Fulgentius Jordan O.S.A.'

- Gerry Cribbin -

The Martyr of Ballyhaunis

This was the dramatic headline in a provincial paper in relation to this man who was shot while saying Mass in 1649, during the Cromwellian persecution. For some time previous to his martyrdom, Fr. Fulgentius Jordan had been "on the run" or on his "keeping" as it was called in some parts of the country. Fr. Jordan, whose original first name was Walter, belonged to an old, landed family in the district. He was famous as an orator and was known to the locals as 'Beal Ordha', meaning 'Golden Mouth' in Irish.

In order to be able to move about the country offering Mass and administering the sacraments he posed as an assistant to a horse dealer. Whenever the people saw the "horse dealers" arrive they knew that Fr. Jordan was at hand and that Holy Mass would be offered and the sacraments administered. During Mass two horses were always in readiness for a quick escape if the need arose.

Wedding

On one occasion, while at Greenwood in the Began area, Fr. Jordan was invited by his cousin, Miss Dillon,

to officiate at her wedding on the following Saturday. Fr. Jordan sought the advice of his friend who was adamant that it would be dangerous to attend, as there would probably be soldiers present. Nevertheless, he was tired of being hunted and he decided to take the risk and attend the wedding.

He was not molested during the wedding itself or during the celebrations that go hand-in-hand with such occasions, but his attendance there did lead to his death. Word was passed around among those at the wedding that Fr. Jordan would be offering Mass the following day, Sunday, at Redpark (in the townland of Cloontumper). One of those present passed word to the soldiers. It is said to have been the action of a young woman who had been rebuked by Fr. Jordan for some misbehaviour.

The next morning, he began to offer Mass at the appointed place, a sand quarry set in the side of a high ridge, over which ran a road. From the ridge, one can see the countryside, unobstructed for miles around. Anybody approaching the ridge would be seen quite plainly and the congregation would have sufficient time to disperse before anyone arrived at the sand quarry.

Murder

However, neither Fr. Jordan nor the congregation suspected the soldiers were forewarned and were hidden in the nearby thickets. Suddenly soldiers appeared on the scene. Fr. Jordan was shot there and then, as were also some of the congregation trying to escape. Both Fr. Jordan and those shot with him were buried in a field nearby. The mound, with a black stone to mark the spot where Fr. Jordan lay, was visible up to some decades ago, until the owners (now dead) decided to plough it in order to have an unbroken field. The remains of Fr. Jordan and those who were killed with him were carried to Holywell, on the road between Ballyhaunis and Claremorris and buried there in the shade of the gable wall of an old church.

Another Version

The story of Fr. Jordan's death is clearly at variance with the one that tells how he was dragged from the pulpit while preaching and hanged from a tree in the Friary grounds. There are many reasons for asserting that the latter story is incorrect. Evidence, both old and new, seems to point in that direction; the most reliable being that of a Belgian Augustinian, Philip Elssen, who wrote "Encomiasticom Augustinianum" published in Brussels in 1654. In it he wrote "Walter Jordan, an Irishman of noble and respectable family, Prior of Ballyhaunis, pierced by a bullet fired by the heretics in a place called Racrohan. He was martyred for Christ's sake in the year 1649."

Fr. Jordan was a renowned preacher and one historian suggested he was dragged from the pulpit and executed in the Friary grounds. It is extremely



This picture shows a fallen tree blocking the river near the Bridge at Bridge Street. The tree, which had stood where Delaney's yard is now, was felled by a storm on Monday night, 3rd Oct. 1938. The Abbey church and Priory can be seen in the background.

doubtful if there was a pulpit at Ballyhaunis in those persecuted times because very few churches had pulpits at that period. However, it is possible Fr. Jordan was preaching to his congregation at the sand quarry when he was shot. It would have been a most favourable opportunity as he would have been facing the soldiers and have the full attention of the congregation. It can be safely asserted that Fr. Jordan was neither hanged nor beheaded. Beheading was no longer the usual method of execution at that time. If there had been a formal trial he would be hanged. If he was caught offering Mass or administering the sacraments, he was liable to be dispatched on the spot, without ceremony, as proved guilty by his actions. Shooting was most likely if there was no trial.

The traditional story of Fr. Jordan's death by

execution in the Friary grounds, and burial there, seems unlikely. While digging foundations for a new sacristy in 1937-38, a way into the vault in which the body of Fr. Jordan supposedly rests was found. Many sets of bones were discovered there, but there was no indication that any of them belonged to Fr. Jordan. If, in fact, his remains were there, it is most likely that there would be some identification of what the local people and the Friars would consider very special relics. The absence of the bodies can be easily explained by their burial at Holywell.

Fr. Jordan is now the Venerable Fulgentius Jordan and his cause for Beatification is before the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome. There is no doubt that he was martyred and little doubt as to how.

'Ballyhaunis Fine Gael' fine gael ★

- *Helen Lyons (Secretary)* -

The past year for Fine Gael in the Ballyhaunis area has been one of diligent preparation for the forthcoming local elections. Meetings that were held in the Hazel Lounge were well attended. An indication of the growing support for Fine Gael was the increased financial return at last summer's annual church gate collection, where receipts were up by just over 20%. Memberships of both the town branch and those in the rural areas were up.

The branch takes a particular pride in the ongoing outstanding performance of local councillor John Cribbin at Mayo County Council meetings. His no nonsense approach in dealing with issues and his onslaughts on members of the Government party have impressed his colleagues as well as the media. John was unanimously endorsed by all of the local branches to contest the election next June. His acceptance speech at the party convention, which was held at the Western Hotel, Claremorris, on Sunday, 9th Nov. 2003, drew repeated rounds of applause from the packed assembly.

Senator Jim Higgins features regularly on Oireachtas Report. He has mastered the difficult Finance portfolio and has put finance minister, Charlie McCreevy and minister of state Tom Parlon under repeated pressure for the mis-handling of the economy. It now looks certain that Jim will be a candidate for the forthcoming European election. Jim stood with long-serving MEP Joe McCartan in 1994 getting a very commendable 31,000 first preference votes.

With his greatly increased profile, coupled with the fact that Joe McCartan is not standing, Jim looks a good bet to take the Fine Gael seat in Connacht-Ulster. Hopefully, we will have a double celebration bonfire in Ballyhaunis early next June.

Officers elected at AGM 2003: President – Michael Webb, Vice-president – Mary Buckley; Chairman – Michael Lyons; Vice-chairman – Peter Hannon; Secretary – Helen Lyons; Treasurer – John Joe Flanagan; Asst. Treasurer – Oliver Hannon; P.R.O. – Padraig Regan.



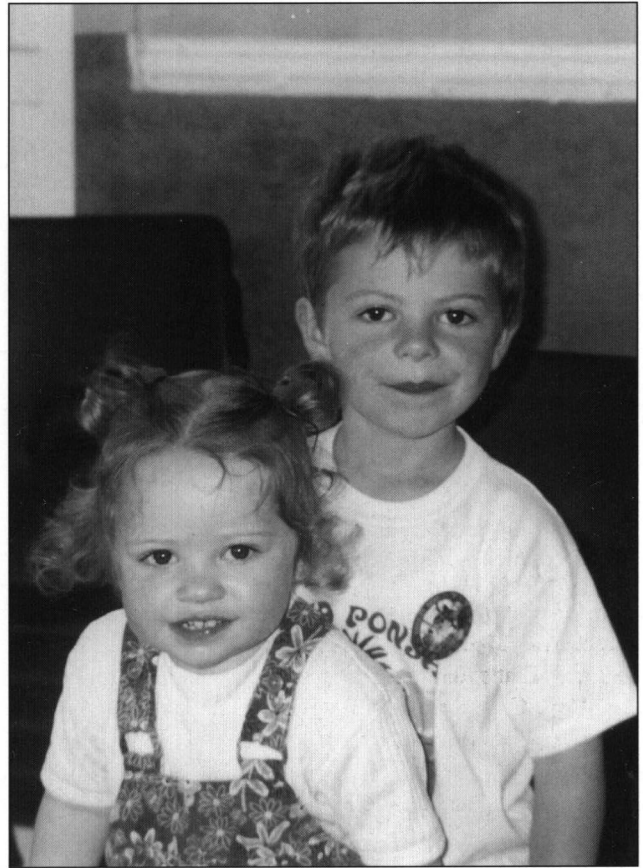
Pictured recently at the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the Centenary of St John's National School, Logboy are two past pupils with the unique distinction of being elected to their respective Local Authorities, namely John Cribbin, Knockanarra (left), currently a member of Mayo County Council and Sean Lyons, Ballinastoka, elected to Dublin County Council in 1985 and 1991.

'Ballyhaunis Parent and Toddler Group'

- Stella Walsh -

This year is the fifth 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 the group is on twice a week – Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. This has proved very successful so far. 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.

The toys and equipment are updated yearly, replacing old with new and adding to our already huge array of toys. We been very lucky to receive various grants each year which cover the cost of any new equipment or toys which are 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 preschool age. Parents are encouraged to come along and avail of this great opportunity not only for their children to play and learn to interact with others of similar age but also for the 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. New members are always welcome.



Brian and Niamh O'Neill.



Parents and Toddlers in the Parochial Hall

'Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club'

- John Joe Kelly, P.R.O. -

"The Wildlife of our Country is not ours to dispose of as we wish. We are but guardians for generations to come". Motto of Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club.

Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club is affiliated to Mayo Regional Game Councils. The club currently has fifty members for the year from 1st Aug., 2003 to 31st July 2004. Each member of the club carries a membership card that certifies membership of the N.A.R.G.C. Game Hunting Compensation Fund. Membership of this personal accident insurance scheme is compulsory for all members.

The officers of the club for 2003/2004 are: President – Flann Moroney; Chairman – Tom Concannon; Secretary – Liam Lyons; Treasurer – Timmy Plunkett; Vice-chairman – Gerry Niland; P.R.O. – John Joe Kelly; Safety Officers – Paul Sykes and Flan Moroney; Youth Officer – Alan Niland; Liason Officer – Jack Lannon; Vermin Shoot Co-ordinators – John Mulkeen and Gerry Niland; Delegates to Mayo Regional Game Council – Tom Concannon, Liam Lyons, John Joe Kelly; Clay Grounds Committee – John Joe Kelly, Michael Keane, Jarlath Hunt, Paul Cunnane; Game Committee – Jack Lannon, Gerry Niland, Paul Sykes, Paul Cunnane, Jarlath Hunt.

Activities

The main activities undertaken by the club include the hatching, rearing and release of Duck and Pheasant, control of vermin such as Mink, Fox and Grey Crow, and hosting and participating in clay target shooting. The club has won the County Vermin Control competition on numerous occasions, with the most recent win being 2002 when our total points equalled the total for all other clubs combined!

The club also won the National Club of the Year title in 2001. The winning of this award was due to the work and commitment of all the members of the club and, in particular, Eamon Burke (R.I.P.) who dedicated a huge amount of time and energy to the project. The club was short-listed for the title last year but we did not achieve the national honours. It is hoped that our efforts will be rewarded this year.

The club holds a Game Night each year and this event is very popular with the people of the area. It is considered one of the main fundraising events of the year for replacement of game and equipment.

Clay target shoots are held regularly at our grounds. The club competes in the County Shoot and we were fortunate to win this title and represent the county at the National Shoot at Balheary, Dublin in the recent past. Congratulations to the Chairman of the club, Tom Concannon, who was a member of the Mayo team that competed in the National Shoot this year in Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Other shoots held during the year are the Turkey Shoot prior to Christmas, the Top Shot competition and the Croi Shoot. In the Top Shot competition the members compete in several disciplines. The overall winner for 2003 was Martin Cunnane who won the Declan Mulhern Perpetual Cup. Other winners were John Joe Kelly, who won the Michael Curley Perpetual Cup, and Michael Murphy who won the Tom Murphy Perpetual Cup. The Croi Shoot, in aid of the West of Ireland Cardiology Foundation, was held on 7th Sept., and was, as usual, a great success. Great credit is due to all our loyal sponsors and supporters. Martin McGuire, Claremorris, won the Eamon Burke Memorial Cup this year and Padraic Kiely from Tulrahan won the Brendan Hoban Memorial Cup.



L-R: Eddie Fitzgerald (R.I.P.), Pamela and Norma Fitzgerald (daughters of Marie and Edward), Tom Fitzgerald and son Murdoch. Taken in Galway, 1980.

'School Reunion 1968-73'

- Eamon Murren -

The great organisational skill of Ber Cawley (nee Hopkins) came to fruition on August 16th, 2003, when she assembled together some of the classes of St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's secondary schools of 1968-1973. Assisted in no small way by Marion Regan (nee Horan), Ber and her committee put on a great night of nostalgia and craic.

Many of the St. Joseph's ladies who attended are based locally but many also travelled to be in The Hazel Bar for the gathering. Among the local ladies in attendance were Anna O'Meara (nee Herr), Marian Prendergast (nee Brennan), Rosary Lacey (nee Morley), Vona Moran (nee Waldron), Noelle O'Hara (nee Sweeney), Marie McGarrigle (nee Curran), and of course, Marion Regan and Ber Cawley. One lady, Jane Wojick (nee Hunt) travelled from the USA. Jane lived in the Tooreen area and spent just first year in St. Joseph's.

From the St. Patrick's side it was good to see Anthony Hegarty who came from Dublin. Anthony's family left Ballyhaunis in 1973. Brian Conway and Eamonn Smyth came from Galway, Michael O'Connell from Dublin. Locals in attendance included Pat Freeley, Alex Eaton, Gerry Lyons, Pat Kearney, Tom and Terry Fitzmaurice. Kieran Folliard was not able to travel from the U.S. but did send an e-mail.

We also remembered on the night our classmates who have departed this life. From St. Pat's: John Keane (Urlaur) and Vivian Murphy (Tooreen); from St. Joseph's Johanna Olbek (nee Cunnane), Carrowkeel and Mary Prendergast (nee Doherty), Tooreen.

Ber says she will organise another re-union in five years time. She will, you know!



Past pupils of St. Patrick's Secondary School, 1968-73

Back, L-R: Tom Fitzmaurice, Michael O'Connell, Terry Fitzmaurice, Tomas Phillips, Pat Kenny, Pat Freely; Middle, L-R: Gerry Lyons, Jarlath Lyons, Eddie Murphy, Eamon Smyth, Anthony Hegarty; Front, L-R: Kevin Tighe, Brian Conway, Ned Murren, Alex Eaton, Noel Armstrong.



Past pupils of St. Joseph's Secondary School, 1968-73

Back, L-R: Noelle Sweeney, Marian Brennan, Vona Waldron, Marian Horan, Mary McGreal; Middle, L-R: Anna Herr, Helen Mulkeen, Carmel Freyne, Sylvia Griffin, Mary McGee, Carmel Lyons, Rosary Morley; Front, L-R: Margaret Robinson, Pauline Waldron, Ber Hopkins, Angela Lyons, Marie Curran, Caroline McGuire.

'The Boat Race'

- Gillian Keane -

The annual rowing race between Oxford and Cambridge Universities is known simply as "The Boat Race". It is watched by up to 250,000 along the banks of the River Thames and a worldwide television audience of 400 million in 160 countries. The first Boat Race took place in 1846 as a private challenge and it remains so today, despite the sponsorship, television coverage and media hype. It is a race with many traditions and the official challenge to race from the previous year's losers is almost word for word the same as in 1846. It's very easy to view it as just a couple of posh English Universities racing each other for no real reason – a view I held myself at one point!! But I hope I can change your mind as you read this

I am often asked how I got to have the job as Cambridge University Boat Club physiotherapist. The story is a long one and I won't bore you with it here, but a large stroke of luck led to me working with the Irish team at the Sydney Olympic Games, where I got assigned to look after the Irish rowers. My excellent experiences there convinced me to continue to work with rowers and led me to research the sport on my return as part of an MSc. It was while writing up my thesis that a friend drew my attention to the job advertisement at Cambridge. And so, I now find myself a specialist rowing physiotherapist. So, what exactly do I do?? First, let me tell you a bit about the Boat Race.

No Second Place!

The Boat Race takes place over four and a quarter miles on the river Thames in London from Putney to Mortlake usually at the end of March and is contested only by Cambridge and Oxford University Boat Clubs. It is very different to the normal racing situation for rowing which takes place over 2,000 metres on a lake in the summer months with six boats lined up across it. Each boat has 8 rowers and one coxswain who steers the boat along the twisting course and shouts commands and encouragement to the rowers. As an advertising slogan once summed it up – "sixteen men, two coxes, one river....no second place!" This is clear when you see the reaction of each crew as they cross the line – one will be absolutely devastated and the other ecstatic, both will be exhausted!

In previous years, the races were often dull affairs with one boat taking a clear lead after a mile or two of the race and leading a procession to the finish. However, the last three years have seen some of the best races in the history of the Boat Race. In 2001, a clashing of the two crews just after the

start caused one oarsman in the Cambridge boat to lose control of his oar and the race was stopped controversially and re-started (Cambridge won this race). In 2002, the two boats raced side-by-side all the way along the course with neither crew giving in when one of the oarsmen in the Cambridge crew collapsed from exhaustion just one minute from the line. Oxford won by three quarters of a boat length on that day. In 2003, just two days before the race, disaster struck. While doing some practice starts the crew crashed into the Harbourmaster's launch and one of the crewmembers – Canadian Wayne Pommen, broke his wrist and was unable to race. As a result, one of the reserve crew took his place. It was heartbreaking after six months of training and effort for him to lose out so close to the race and it definitely goes down as my worst day at work. On a happier note for Wayne, he returned to rowing six weeks later and went on to come sixth in the World Championships in Milan and qualified for the Olympic Games next year. The 2003 race itself was one of the most exciting races ever – the crews raced side-by-side and neither crew could break clear. A phenomenal finish saw Oxford winning by a mere foot – twelve inches – one hundredth of a second. In horse racing terms, Cambridge lost by a nose (or less!). It is believed to be the closest ever result in a Boat Race – even closer to the dead heat of 1877 when the finish umpire famously was asleep and Oxford had in fact won by nearly a length! Of the 149 races to date, Oxford has won seventy-one and Cambridge seventy-seven (with one dead heat in 1877). 2004 sees the 150th Boat Race and (hopefully) a return to winning ways for Cambridge.

Training

Training for this one event starts in late September, as all those wishing to be considered for selection for the Blue Boat (the first crew) or Goldie (the reserve crew) arrive in Cambridge ahead of the start of the college term. The Boat Race program attracts all those who dream of rowing in the Boat Race from the most talented rowers in the country and world-wide to novice rowers. The following six months fly by as twice daily training sessions are carried out. In an average week, they train eleven times for ninety minutes – two hours at a time. In between they attend lectures, practicals and tutorials. In addition, there are also national squad trials, head races (longer races on rivers) and training camps to attend. The athletes spend an hour round trip each day travelling to the river on which they train. As you can see, it leaves little time in the day for much else other than eating and sleeping!



What I Do

The majority of injuries in rowing tend to be overuse injuries or due to poor technique with the back, ribs and wrists the most common injury sites. My job involves prevention of injuries where possible and assisting recovery from the heavy training schedule that these students are required to undertake in order to compete in the Boat Race, as well as treating injuries if they occur. I develop flexibility and strengthening programmes tailored to each individual athlete to minimise the risk of injury carry out many mobilising treatments to the joints and muscles of their backs to prevent stiffness that can be a precursor to injury.

A typical weekday sees me at the gym at 6.15 to open up and then supervise the boys during their gym session, which is either weights, circuits, or an "erg" session – using a rowing machine. Being able to monitor technique on a daily basis is essential in preventing injury as bad, and potentially dangerous, habits are not allowed to develop. The crew do their water training on a river in a town called Ely, a thirty minute drive from Cambridge (as the Cam is narrow, busy and very bendy). I travel with the boys to Ely most days and every weekend. There are also several trips to London to practice on the Thames which can be for a day, a weekend or an entire week as well as training camps in Banyoles (northern Spain) in January and Nottingham in March. When not working with the Cambridge boys, I have a small private practice to run.

There are three full-time coaches involved with the Cambridge squad led by head coach Robin Williams (no, not the actor!). In addition, many world champion and Olympic medal winning coaches attend training sessions throughout the program, including Irishman Martin McElroy, who coached the British Eight to an Olympic gold in 2000 and who hails from near Ballinasloe. It is a sign of the high quality coaching they receive that in the 2003 rowing World Championship finals there were nine athletes who had rowed at Cambridge in recent years with seven of them winning medals.

A Fantastic Event

The actual race itself is a fantastic event. Media interest in the previous week is intense with reporters carrying out interviews and taking photographs after every session and each day brings a new article in the paper or advertisement on the TV to keep us entertained! The last week consists of the least amount of training (still two a day but much shorter) as the crews wind down for the big race so there is a lot of free time to rest and potentially get nervous. The week has several events including the weigh-in and a dinner for the crews at which the crews from ten, twenty and fifty years previously attend and share their experiences.

On the morning of race day, they go for a warm up paddle. At this point in the morning the riverside is peaceful and it is so hard to believe that when we return in the afternoon there will be thousands of people lining the riverside and bridges. When we get off the bus at the boathouse, it is just like a football team arriving for a cup final! Crowds cheer; cameras flash and the boys even get asked to sign programs! However, the boys are totally



Ballyhaunis reunion at the Boat Race 2003, L-R, Catriona Curley (Hazelhill), Claire O'Dwyer (Hazelhill), Alan Glynn (Lavallyroe), Gill Keane (Knox St.), Iain Edmondson (Cambridge), Emer Nestor (Doctor's Road).

focussed on the job in hand and barely notice the crowds – in my first year it was only after they had paddled off for their warm-up that I looked up and noticed the crowds along the river! The next hour is spent stretching, warming up and a pre-race talk from the coaches. Then it's time to go into the boat bay and wait for the moment the doors go up and they carry the boat out onto the water. I spend the next few minutes trying to avoid the cameras and once the boys push off, I get into one of the launches that follow the race.

The worst part is waiting for the race to start – forty-five minutes from when they push off the slip. There is nothing to do but be nervous and worry about the race ahead. The race itself is a bit of a blur despite it lasting eighteen minutes plus – suffice it to say there is much hair standing up on neck and butterflies in my stomach, not to mention the cheering and shouting! The noise from the launch, cheering crowds and overhead helicopters are deafening and the experience of being in one of nine or ten following launches is exhilarating. Unfortunately, Cambridge has lost the last two races, both incredibly going right down to the last few feet. I don't think I can describe the feeling and emotion that comes with losing after six months of hard work and commitment from all concerned so I won't even attempt it. I am looking forward to winning this year if the winning feeling is the opposite!!

Cambridge Abu!

I have a fantastic, rewarding, fun job and have met some wonderful people and amazing athletes over the last two years as a result of my involvement with Cambridge University Boat Club. I hope I have managed to convey the commitment and desire shown by athletes and coaches involved in the Boat Race and that you can see it for what it really is – a great sporting event contested by dedicated and talented athletes. For anyone who thinks it looks easy – try this and see how you feel: Bend to touch the ground (keeping your back straight) and back upright again. Now repeat thirty-four times a minute – for eighteen minutes! (and that's without lifting any weight!!) Take time to watch the 150th Boat Race in 2004 – it's on March 28th at 6 pm and give Cambridge a cheer!!! We'll be the ones in the light blue (and in front!) – Cambridge Abu!!

'Ballyhaunis Community Council'

- Willie Ryan (Chairperson) -

As another year comes to a close, Ballyhaunis Community Council continues to grow in stature and now has over fifty members. The five meetings held in 2003 by the Management Committee have been noteworthy for their near maximum attendance. A Community Council is a representative voice of the community, speaking with authority and identifying what needs to be done. It then tackles these issues, individually if necessary, and endeavours to bring them to a successful conclusion.

Chain of Office

The President of Ballyhaunis Community Council, Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., spoke at the start of the year of the importance of giving the organisation an identity, which would increase its profile and enhance its position considerably within the community. A chain of office should denote this identity, he felt, and consequently, he made a presentation of such a chain on a very special occasion at its June meeting to the Chairperson, Willie Ryan.

The Community Council addressed a plethora of issues during the year. Because of space constraints we can only touch on some of them here. The provision of a car park adjacent to the cemetery is assuming ever-increasing importance. The consensus all along among the members was that the derelict house next to the cemetery should be demolished to facilitate this. While the Community Council, through Canon Cooney, has been in frequent contact with Mayo County Council, the Management Committee would exhort everybody who wants this to become a reality, to get in contact with the County Council and even more importantly, public and local representatives. A car park in close proximity to the cemetery would be a considerable advantage to the many people who visit their loved ones on a frequent basis. On the subject of the cemetery, some people, particularly those returning to visit old family graves who have difficulty locating them and who have made enquiries about maps – Mayo County Council, however, have informed us that no maps are available.

Laisions

Two members of the Management Committee met with local Gardai in April last to discuss and identify issues concerning the youth of the area. A comprehensive report was prepared for the June meeting and subsequently discussed by members. Following this a survey was carried out among the youth of the parish to ascertain what activities were of interest to them. Eleven different interests emanated from it. However, the September meeting felt that the survey should be further diversified to include twelve and thirteen year olds and following receipt of this information, it is hoped that a consensus will emerge as to what the most popular activities are and

whether or not they are feasible. Parental involvement would be welcomed.

The importance of re-activating Neighbourhood Watch figured strongly at the September meeting. Earlier in the year two members of the Management Committee, Enda Murphy and Seamus O'Boyle attended a talk on the subject given by Sergeant Tony Cosgrove. The feeling was that people must be motivated to get involved in it. There are funds left over from a previous committee in this area, which could be used to install a variety of security items in homes if required. In addition, it may be possible to recycle some security devices no longer in use. Moreover, it is imperative that more people adopt a vigilant approach towards the elderly and those living alone in the parish.

The Community Council is well represented on the Abbey Partnership. Our current members are Michael Kelly, Enda Murphy, Paula Grogan and Mary Donnelly. Mary Donnelly replaced Maire Caulfield who stepped down from it during the year. Chairperson, Willie Ryan thanked Maire for the sterling work she had done on both the Partnership and Management Committees during her two-year tenure. Maire and Paula represented the Community Council on the Partnership at the AGM of the Augustinian Order at the University of Limerick in July last. The Order was reputedly very impressed by the Partnership's presentation on project proposals. The project, known as the Town Park Development Project got under way in mid-September.

Ballyhaunis Community Council members were also very prominent at the highly successful Mass and blessing ceremony held in the Friary on Sunday 31st August last. Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P. was involved in concelebrating the Mass with Fr. Mernagh, O.S.A., a number of his Augustinian confreres and other local clergy. The ceremony commenced with the blessing of the graves in the Abbey cemetery followed by Mass in the church, which was packed to overflowing for the occasion.

In conclusion, the Community Council would like to congratulate its sub-committees - Tidy Towns, Family Resource Centre and Childrens' Needs - on their excellent performances throughout the year. More people are requested to become involved in the work of the organisation by forming new or joining existing sub-committees. It is hoped that more new ideas will be advanced at the 2004 AGM.

The present Officers of the Community Council are:- President: Canon Joseph Cooney; Chairman: Willie Ryan; Secretary: Nell Rochford; P.R.O.: Mary Donnelly; Joint Treasurers: Mike Griffin and Kevin Henry. Committee: Canon Cooney, Breege Halpin, Seamus Mulrennan, Seamus O'Boyle, Paula Grogan, Enda Murphy, Eddie Mulhern, Michael Kelly.

'Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns'

The Tidy Towns Committee has been very active during the year promoting a clean, tidy image of our town and an awareness of the need to care for our environment. The Committee meets every second Wednesday in the Parochial Hall and many projects and activities are discussed and initiated. A major focus of the Committee is competing in the National Tidy Towns Competition and all the activities, competitions and awards are geared towards improving the standard of tidiness in the town and thereby improving our rating in the competition.

Awards

The Town Improvement Awards Competition was launched early in the year where prizes are awarded in various categories. Mayo County Council Environment Department adjudicated the competition and prizes were presented at a special function held during the Music Festival Weekend in May. The prizewinners were as follows:

Best Presented Shop Front: 1. Mayflower Chinese Restaurant, Clare St. 2. Eddie Murphy & Sons, Main St. 3. Webb's Butcher, Main St.

Best Presented Pub Front: 1. The Hazel, Main St. 2. McSuirtain's, Main St. 3. Gill's Bar, Clare St.

Best Presented Private Residence: 1. Tommy & Patricia Grogan, Doctor's Road. 2. Michael & Kathleen McNamara, Upper Main St. 3. Joe & Rose Freeley, Hazelhill.

Best Presented Office/Financial Institution: 1. The Credit Union, Main St. 2. Crean, O'Cleirigh & O'Dwyer, Solrs., Bridge St. 3. Ulster Bank, Bridge St.

Individual Category Award: St. Patrick's Church grounds, Scoil Iosa N.S., Community School.

Refreshments on the night were sponsored by Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce.

Later in the summer the Best Presented Garden Category was adjudicated and the prizewinners were as follows: 1. Enda Caulfield, Knock Road. 2. Paul & Paula Donnellan, Clare St. 3. Billy & Kathleen Phillips, Doctor's Road.

Flowers

During the Summer, flowers were planted around all the trees in the town and the traders and residents were encouraged to place floral displays such as window boxes and hanging baskets on their premises. Many did so, adding that extra touch of colour and beauty to the streetscape.

The Committee drew up regular audits of matters to be addressed by Mayo County Council and met with the Area Engineer and local representatives to progress same. The town was entered in Mayo County Council's Litter Action League for towns of similar size. Inspections were carried out and reports received on a monthly basis during the year. We are happy to report that Ballyhaunis consistently scored in excess of eighty marks each month and reached

the semi-final stage.

Other activities of our Committee include:

- Weekly clean-up of the riverbank and car park.
- Cleaning and painting of town well – paint sponsored by George Delaney
- Organising Art Competition for Primary School children.
- Helped establish the Townland Signage Committee to commence work on erecting stones bearing townland names. Work on this project is now under way.
- Restoring old water pumps and having them placed in the town by Mayo County Council staff.
- Work in progress on comprehensive independent audit of the town.
- Reached County Semi-final of the Litter League, organised by Mayo County Council.

A major blow to our Committee and our work was the withdrawal by Mayo County Council of the Sunday morning street cleaning service in March. Despite repeated representations the service has not been restored to date. The work of our Committee is funded by a church gate collection, an Anti-Litter Awareness Grant from Mayo Co. Council and local sponsorship for which we are most grateful.

National Tidy Towns Report 2003

On 22nd June our town was inspected in the National Tidy Towns Competition and, while we were somewhat disappointed not to have increased our marks, they remained at 190 - the same as 2002. The following is the report received:

Overall Developmental Approach

Ballyhaunis is welcome to the 2003 Tidy Towns Competition. It is good to note that you liaise with schools, the County Council and asylum seekers, and that you get support from various sections of the community. On the day of adjudication there were road works in progress in the town from which, no doubt, you will reap the benefits in next year's competition. Try and not be too disappointed at the loss of marks this year under some headings. With the preparation of a development plan and the upgrading of the building stock of the town you will progress further in the competition. Max mark: 50. Mark awarded: 39

continued ...

The Built Environment

Ballyhaunis features a variety of buildings ranging from single-storey cottage type dwellings to three-storey buildings. Many still retain all or some of their traditional features and are well painted, however far too many buildings are in urgent need of painting at a minimum, and in certain cases, even total refurbishment. It will be difficult to gain additional marks under this heading until these are improved. The Paddy Phillips property was admired and was considered for a shop front award. The Credit Union premises is well painted also. Don't spare any efforts in encouraging property owners to retain sash windows and other traditional features upon refurbishment of their buildings. Max mark: 40.

Mark awarded: 27

Landscaping

Trees in the town centre are maturing beautifully and give a wonderful intimate ambience to the streetscape. Maturing trees at other locations, for example at the roadside of the Community School and out the Claremorris Road, will make a significant contribution to the environment with each passing year. In a number of cases, particularly out the Claremorris Road, weed growth was quite profuse between trees, which detracted from an otherwise excellent effort here. We look forward to the development of your Town Park. Max mark: 40. Mark awarded: 28

Wildlife and Natural Amenities

Details of your work at the river should be made available to us as these types of activities can earn additional marks. Max mark: 30. Mark awarded: 15

Litter Control

Litter control was excellent. The only weak spot noted was in the environs of the railway station where some litter was trapped behind the crash barrier. Your weekly clean-ups and your talks to school children appear to be successful. At least one litter bin was full to overflowing. Perhaps more frequent emptying is necessary.

Max mark: 40. Mark awarded: 23

Tidiness

The art competition for schools to promote tidiness sounds like a good idea. There are many derelict and semi-derelict building and sites around the town which are holding down your mark here at a low level. The out-sized advertisement hoardings at the railway bridge should be removed as they detract the eye from the beauty of its cut stone. Max mark: 20. Mark awarded: 9

Residential Areas

The entrance from the Castlereagh Road looks quite bad in terms of boundary walls, however, allowances have been made for construction work in the general area. Do keep reminding people to pay attention to their boundary walls as well as their houses. We note from your application that you run a competition for the best private house and garden and this sounds like a good idea. There are some attractive infill houses around the town of which you are, no doubt, proud and new estates near the railway bridge make a significant contribution to the environment in this area and to the town in general. Max mark: 30. Mark awarded: 20

Roads, Streets and Back Areas

Most road surfaces are a good standard, including footpaths. As noted above, work in progress on the Castlereagh Road mitigated against adjudication of this area. It was a pleasure to see the almost wire-free town centre with very few wires crossing the road. The lamp standards are an attractive feature. Well done in this respect. Max mark: 40.

Mark awarded: 23

General Impression

Ballyhaunis appears to be going through a transition which is causing problems. We have no doubt that the town will make this transition with grace and relative ease and be the more beautiful over the coming years. We look forward to charting your progress. Thank you for your continued participation. Max mark: 10. Mark awarded: 6

Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who supports the work of Tidy Towns in any way - those who painted their premises and those who enhanced their premises so beautifully with floral displays, those who assisted our committee by watering and tending to the flowers around the trees during the summer, those who kept the area outside their premises

free of litter, George Delaney who sponsored the paint for the well, weed killer, etc. Mayo County Council staff and officials and our local representatives for their help and co-operation.

Tidy Towns Committee 2003: Chairperson: Jim London; Secretary: Mary Donnelly; Treasurer: Eddie Mulhern; P.R.O.: Enda Murphy; Committee: Mike Griffin, Kieran Timoney, Peter Jenkins, Aileen Burke, Siobhan Quinn, Enda Caulfield.

'Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre'

The management committee of Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre (FRC) was established two years ago. Earlier this year an application was made to the Department of Social and Family Affairs for funding to open a Family Resource Centre in the town. The application was accompanied by a three year work plan. In consultation with community groups in Ballyhaunis the committee identified four groups in the Ballyhaunis area that are in need of support. They are: the elderly and isolated, young people, the traveller community and the international community.

Ballyhaunis is now home to many nationalities. The FRC will work from the ethos of social inclusiveness and equality, with respect for the ethnicity and culture of its diverse inhabitants. The centre will work with individuals and groups to make it a better place for all. In July, members of the committee met with representatives of the Department here in Ballyhaunis. Our work plan was

discussed and they were given a tour of Ballyhaunis. We received funding from the Department in September. This will allow us employ a full time Project Co-ordinator and part-time Administrator. We envisage that the Centre will be open early in the new year. It will be based in the Priory for five days a week.

Members of the committee would like to thank Padraic Kelly (West Training) for his help. The committee welcomes new members. Anyone interested can contact any member of the committee or Padraic Kelly at (091) 539048. We would hope to hold an information evening in Ballyhaunis for those interested.

Committee: Chairperson – Mary Morrissey; Treasurer – Catherine Kelleher; Secretary – Betty Regan; P.R.O. – Christina Concannon; Committee – Kathleen Hunt, Marie Jordan, Manar Cherbatji, Ludmilla Burcovski.

'Annagh Parish Townland Signage Scheme'

- Seamus Caulfield (Secretary) -

In 2001 the Government announced details of a new programme for revitalising rural areas called 'Clár'. The Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs co-ordinates the programme.

A bi-lingual signage scheme was launched between Clár and Foras na Gaeilge, and in January 2003 a public was held in the Parochial Hall to assess the interest in the parish of Annagh in the project. A large number attended this meeting representing almost every townland in the parish. A committee comprising of Chairman, Peter Gallagher; Secretary, Seamus Caulfield; Treasurers, Pat Curley and Edward Mulhern, and P.R.O., Paul Waldron, was elected. The committee applied to Clár and was informed that there would be a three-way equal funding split for this programme between Clár, Foras na Gaeilge and the local community. The following conditions apply to the scheme: (1) Signs are to be made of stone; (2) Equal prominence to be given to both Irish and English on each sign; (3) The name to be approved by the Placenames Branch of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

Meetings

In all twelve meetings were held throughout the year. Issues such as funding, type of stone to be used, selection of stone-mason, location of signs, were discussed in great detail. The committee visited other parishes and visitors who had already participated in the scheme to learn from their experience. They also consulted with locals and Mayo County Council as to the locations of the signs, with regard to suitability and safety.

Funds and sponsorship were collected through door-to-door collections and from businesses and organisations in the parish.

The project is currently underway and the stonework and erection of the fifty-plus signs is being carried out by Murphy Monumental Stoneworks, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway. It is anticipated that twenty stone signs will be in place by Christmas, with the remainder of the project being completed in the new year. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who participated in this project and who contributed to the funding of this project, including our public representatives, John Cribbin MCC, John Carty T.D., MCC, Sen. Jim Higgins, Pat McHugh M.C.C.



St. Mary's National School, Confirmation class (fifth and sixth Classes) 1980-81. Back, L-R: Raymond Sloyan, Alan Biesty, David Coyne, Patrick Biesty, John McDonagh, James Daly, James Coyne, Gerald Madden. Fourth Row, L-R: Seamus Geraghty, Tom Forde, Liam Walsh, Joseph Tighe, Gabriel Smith, Seamus Mongan (R.I.P.), Val Byrne, Alex Greene. Third Row, L-R: Mr. Jim Lundon, Alan Henry, Paul Clarke, John Keane, Brian Murray, Paul Waldron, Michael Webb, Jonathan Cleary, Martin Durkan, Noel Phillips, Vincent McNamara (Tullaghane), Terry Sweeney, Fr. Patrick Costelloe, P.P., Mr. Augustine Kearns. Second Row, L-R: Stephen McCrudden, Barry Mulligan, Tony Morley, Vincent McNamara (Brackloon), Tony Smyth, Thomas Coen, Oisín Murray, Gabriel Morley, Austin Finn, Thomas Ruane, Michael Ryan, John Elwood. Front, L-R: Paul Damron, John Forde, Donal Delaney, Tommy Leonard, James Sloyan, Philip McGoldrick, Seamus Caulfield, Tom McDonagh, Brendan Donnellan, Ivan Biesty, Ronan McDermott, Enda Caulfield, Austin Jordan.



The last First Year class in Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis 1976. Back, L-R: Helen Brennan, Mary Cribbin, Pauline Gallagher, Martina Grogan, Patricia McIntyre, Sandra Lynch, Audrey Ronayne, Mary Flynn, Nuala Fitzgerald, Martina Sweeney, Margaret Griffin. Middle, L-R: Mary Frain, Noreen Tolan, Dymphna McHugh, Pauline Gormley, Kathleen Raftery, Theresa Brady, Josephine McWalter, Anne Morris, Aileen Murray, Rosemary Kearns, Alta Regan. Front, L-R: Clare Guilfoyle, Helen Caulfield (R.I.P.), Mary F. Morley, Jackie Moore, Elaine Murray, Majella McGuire, Eimear Gavigan.

'The O'Malleys of Upper Main Street'

- Renee (O'Malley) Benedetti -

The O'Malley family has a long history in Ballyhaunis. Our great-grandparents, the O'Tooles, received a land gift from Edmund Dillon of Hazelhill. The land gift was his way of thanking the family for the care and love of "my beloved sister, Eleanor". This land gift is stated in the last will and testament of Edmund Dillon, dated May 1855 and witnessed by William Flynn. The land was given "rent free" and was part of his holdings in Hazelhill.

Our family originally lived in a thatched house which incorporated a pub on Upper Main St. Our grandfather, Peter O'Malley, built the house for his family, now owned by Glynns. Our father, Peter O'Malley built the two houses with flower gardens. We lived in one of them.

Peter O'Malley and his wife Bridget (O'Toole) were grandparents of Renee, Helen and Peter, and the late Tommy O'Malley. They were born in the early 1850s. Peter O'Malley was a Fenian who was involved in the Fenian Uprising of 1867. He escaped to America where he dropped the "O" from his name because there was a price on his head by the English. He went to Chicago and he was there during the Great Fire of 1871. He then went to Philadelphia. He was a Joiner. He returned to Ireland and married Bridget O'Toole of Ballyhaunis. They had eight children. Patrick was a spy who infiltrated into Germany during the First World War. Nellie, Tom, John, Michael and Mary Kate emigrated to America. Tom, Michael and John were successful Restaurant and Pub owners in Philadelphia. Of course they had a long setback during the twelve years of Prohibition, but they returned to business after the President repealed the Prohibition, only to face further slow-downs during the Great Depression. However, they persevered, and were successful until their retirement in the 1960s. Nellie was a Milliner and a great lover of Irish History, especially of Ballyhaunis. She saved and compiled reams of information. Unfortunately, all of it is lost.

Peter and Delia remained in Ballyhaunis. Delia married Sgt. John O'Sullivan, stationed in Ballyhaunis. He was instrumental in saving Ballyhaunis when the Black and Tans threatened to burn down the town. His son John resides in Dublin. Grandfather Peter O'Malley died during the "Flu epidemic" of 1917. Bridget died in 1928.

Peter O'Malley (1890-1974) was a founding member of the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club who played from 1914 to 1935. He was on the team in 1917 when Ballyhaunis defeated the Ballina Stephenites. He was a

FAREWELL TO BALLYHAUNIS

Farewell Ballyhaunis

I'm now going to leave you

Farewell to my comrades and sweethearts as well

Farewell to the Abbey that stands on the hilltop

That saintly old building I love and adore

With its ivyclad walls the roofless old Abbey,

Most beautiful of all

Farewell to the big house, now roofless and bare

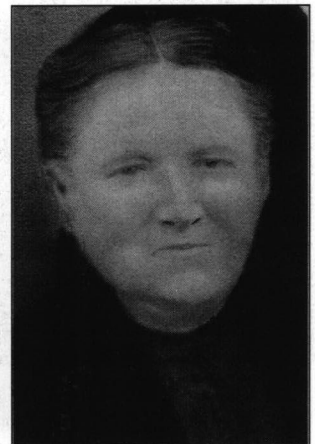
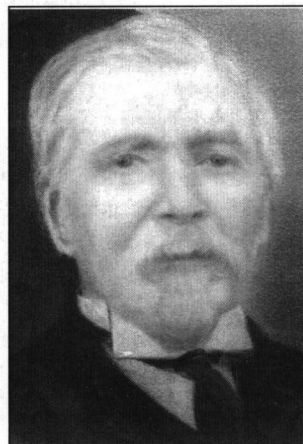
The home of the wild goose,

The duck, snipe and hare.

- Written by John O'Toole, 1895 when he was leaving for Dublin. He was brother of Bridget O'Toole.

joiner by profession and made the confessionals in the Convent Chapel. He was beloved by the Sisters of Mercy because he recognised inferior wood delivered from Dublin for the chapel floor. What was delivered was not the hardwood which was brought to the Sisters as a sample. Thanks to Peter, the Sisters returned the inferior lot, and demanded the correct hardwood, which was indeed delivered to them.

Peter and his father made the confessionals in



Peter and Bridget (O'Toole) O'Malley. Photographs taken circa 1900.

Historic Landmark gets Facelift

by Mick O'Connell
(Taken from an old 'Western People')

The town well in Ballyhaunis – a well known landmark – has got a facelift, so to speak, and its present neat and tidy appearance adds much to the general appearance of Bridge Street, in the centre of the town.

Some years ago, County Council workmen were in the process of closing in the ancient well, which served the needs of the residents of the town for many years prior to the introduction of the piped water supply in the early thirties.

The closing of the well was stopped by an old Ballyhaunis resident, the late Mr. Peter O'Malley, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis, who exercised his right as a citizen to stop the work and mounted a one-man picket at the time so as to ensure that the work would not be continued.

So the action of one man preserved an historic link with the past in the town which revives memories for the older residents, and for many emigrants on their return to their native heath after many years away from their native town.

The work of restoring the well to its original bright and attractive appearance has been carried out by local workman, Mr. Michael Tarmey, and we commend him and those who were responsible for having the work carried out so as to improve the general appearance of the town.

We express the hope that this link with the past, which was preserved for posterity by the civic spirit of one man, will continue to be well maintained in the years ahead.

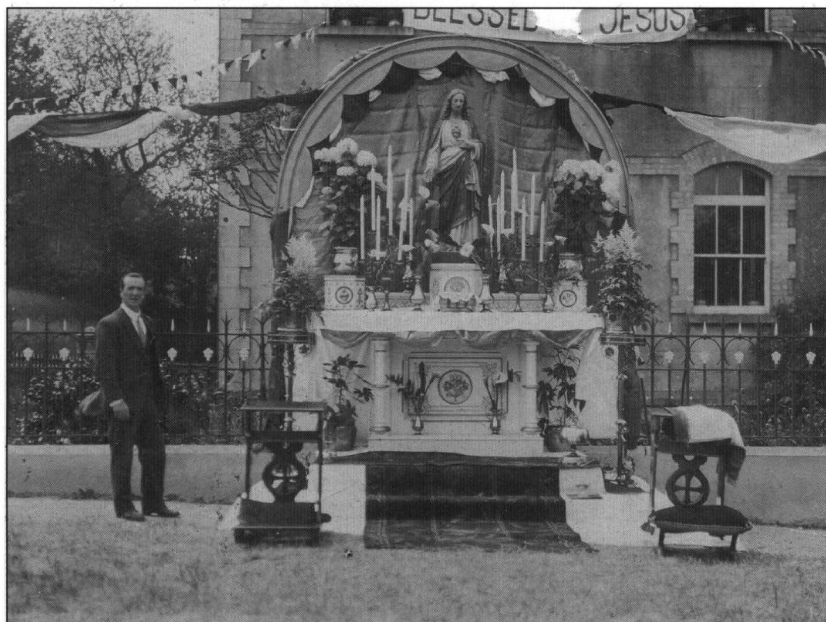


The late Peter and Mary E. O'Malley outside their Upper Main St. home in the 1970s.

the old church at Knock Shrine. As the accompanying article relates, Peter O'Malley assumed his right as a citizen of the town when he stopped the County Council workmen from filling in and doing away with the old town well in Ballyhaunis some years ago. Many feel that he did the town a service which should be appreciated to a greater extent. According to the late Mick O'Connell: "the well has a special significance for Ballyhaunis, emigrants who were home on holiday in the town have indicated how delighted they were at the action of the late Peter O'Malley in preserving the well for posterity; some of them suggesting that the well should be named "O'Malley's Well". According to tradition, the Ballyhaunis town well is as old as the founding of the town in the fourteenth century. Up to the installation of the present water system in 1933, it was the main source of supply for the inhabitants of the town. The well has never been known to run dry, even

in seasons of long drought. During the Great Blizzard of 1948, the well was used by the whole town until the frozen pipes were repaired and restored. So, though now regarded mostly as a historical landmark, the old well still serves its original purpose in times of emergency.

As a young man, Peter spent many hours observing, in amazement, the Friars/artists, as they lay on their backs painting the ceilings of the Friary. Peter knew who all the townspeople were, who were used as "models" for the characters in those paintings, and in



Left: Peter O'Malley at the Altar which he erected for the Sisters of Mercy on the Convent Grounds for the Corpus Christi Procession, 1939.



The O'Malleys of Virginia, U.S.A. 2003, cousins of the Halpins of Main Street. They are descendents of Thomas O'Malley and Bridget Caulfield, both of Ballyhaunis. The author, Renee O'Malley Benedetti is second from left.

the Stations of the Cross, also in the Friary. Peter had a great love for Ballyhaunis and had a keen interest in its history.

Peter's family now reside in England and the U.S. Renee lives in Saracosta, Florida, with her husband Don, a retired Music Professor and Classical Musician. He graduated from the Juilliard School of

Music and was principal Trumpet with many prestigious symphonies, among them The U.S. Army Field Band, the American Ballet Theatre, The New York City Opera, and he performed with the Metropolitan Opera and with Luciano Pavarotti with the Philadelphia Opera Company. He performed with all the major Broadway Shows. Don is now happily retired and enjoying a much needed rest. Renee graduated from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and retired from the College of New Jersey. Helen and her husband Dennis

Unitt live in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. Dennis is retired from Benford Motors where he was manager of Publications, and Helen is retired from nursing. They have three sons. Peter and his wife Debbie reside in Pennsylvania. He graduated from St. Joseph's University and is currently a successful Real Estate Broker in the Philadelphia suburbs. Peter has two children, Tom and Melissa.

'Golden Jubilarian'

- Colette Purcell -

Fr. Brendan Fahey comes from Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis, and this year celebrated his Golden Jubilee. Fr. Brendan was ordained on 21st Dec. 1953 at St. Columban's College, Navan, and was assigned to Japan, arriving on New Year's Day 1955, where he spent twenty-five years. He then spent one year of study at university in Boston and returned to a Columban parish – the only one in England – in Widnes, near Liverpool where he served for ten years.

On completion of a course at St. Bueno's Jesuit Centre of Spirituality in St. Asaph, North Wales, he was seconded to the teaching staff there for five years. From there he went to nearby Denbigh where is now the sole administrator to the local Catholic community at St. Joseph's, Lon Llewelyn, Denbigh, North Wales. He was the celebrant at the Jubilee Mass in St. Columban's, Navan on 7th Aug. 2003 for all Columban

jubilarians, including one platinum (seventy years), eleven diamond (sixty years), twenty golden (fifty years), one silver (twenty-five years).



Mayo priests celebrate Golden Jubilee of Fr. Brendan Fahey at Ballintubber Abbey, 23rd August 2003. Included are his Lavallyroe born cousins Fr. Frank and Fr. Des Fahey. L-R: Fr. Frank Fahey (Ballintubber), Fr. Desmond Quinn, Fr. Brendan Fahey S.S.C., Fr. Tom Murphy, Fr. Peter Quinn, Fr. Des Fahey.

'A Case of Arson in Ballyhaunis - 1879'

- Joe Castello Jnr. -

A fascinating case of arson took place in the town of Ballyhaunis on the 23rd of July 1879. The ingredients of the 'plot' ranged from oatmeal and bran, to the night train from Castlebar, to debt and money boxes; forgery and hate letters, to affairs of the heart! All contributed to make Ballyhaunis the centre of attention in "The Mayo Examiner" of March 20th, 1880, deeming it newsworthy enough to devote over three and a half columns to the saga on the day of the trial.

Fire!

All began with a daylight awakening of John Judge, owner of the shop rented by Thomas and Pat Durkan whose cousin John McHale was also in residence. They traded in flour, meal and bran and lived over the shop. In Judge's own words: "great noise was heard as if the next door was burst in". Looking out a window he saw a trunk under the Durkans' window and Thomas Durkan sitting on the window ledge with his back turned. Judge then ran to the back room of the house and saw the rear of the shop ablaze. Upon dressing he "tried to force his way in the back door, but found them secured tightly. Returning through the house he entered the blazing shop via its open front door. There he observed two large fires ablaze. The trunk had disappeared and the house was unoccupied. He later spotted Thomas Durkan among the gathering crowd. Durkan was bemoaning the fact that £100 was in a cash box upstairs. The police were alerted and ten arrived on the scene.

Constable McAlumney was the most senior officer on duty. He attempted to get upstairs to the cashbox but was driven back by the intense heat. Durkan had since disappeared and sought refuge in the house of Michael Carney. At six in the morning Durkan was arrested 'for unlawful setting on fire of the house' and was promptly searched. The following report makes for highly interesting reading: "Found on Thomas Durkan was £4. 9s. 3d in silver, £5 in gold and a £1 note wrapped up in the inner pocket of his coat." In addition to this was a letter from the Alliance British and Foreign Insurance Company for £300 worth of stock – the house wasn't insured. Another letter was removed forcibly from Durkan's mouth after quite a violent struggle. It was insightful to say the least; below is an abridged version.

Castlebar, 22 July
1879

Dear T.,

Set fire to the place tonight.... Make a good job of it. Have plenty of oil.... Don't fail in doing it tonight as I told these parties I would settle with them tomorrow.... You

must be careful not to make any noise. When all is silent after the mail car leaves at midnight is about the best time.... Be careful not to meet the police. Wire me when it is done. I will start up to Ballyhaunis....

Yours,

P. Durkan

When this letter was read out in court, Constable McAlumney confirmed it as the letter found on the accused, Thomas Durkan. He had asked Durkan on the night, at the scene of the blaze, if he had had insured the premises. At this time Durkan was not under suspicion and the constable had no intention of arresting him. Durkan said he didn't know, and that this could only be confirmed by his brother Pat who was in Castlebar. Whether they were insured or not, the officer quizzed Durkan as to the time of the last mail train to leave Ballyhaunis Railway Station. He again denied any knowledge of its time. Although he was seen at the train station at 11.30 that night. An envelope was found along with a telegram, dated 22nd July.

From Pat Durkan Castlebar to Thomas Durkan Ballyhaunis. Go to railway station office for letter sent you by the 2.30 train. Why did you not forward cheque?

Constable McAlumney also revealed two further letters: one dated 4th June '79; another dated Castlebar, 19th May 1879.

Dear T.,

Two tons of Indian meal and two tons of extra flour to you tonight. We had to get Indian meal. We couldn't get oatmeal as we owe Swain for three tons and owe Whelan and B. a lot of cash and had not the full amount of Tighe's bill. I hope you gave no cash to Judge since. I hope you'll have a good market tomorrow.

Yours,

P. Durkan

Perhaps the most interesting letter was the last one, addressed to Thomas Durkan.

This is to notify you that if you don't come forward and make a public confession in the parish chapel here and clear the girl's character of the foul slander, means will be taken to have a deadly revenge. Don't take this as an idle threat, but if you don't come forward, abide the consequences.

I am yours.

MYSELF

There then followed the arrest of Thomas Durkan in Michael Carney's house. The trunk was also located there. He was brought to the barracks and was to remain in jail for eight months before the trial.

A Straightforward Case?

On the evidence above it seemed that Thomas Durkan was indeed guilty. John Judge's eyewitness accounts and the letters seemed key in confirming his guilt, especially his presence at the train station on the night of 22nd July. This 'guilt' was made worse by the fact that his nephew John McHale bought half a gallon of oil that very evening, between seven and eight o'clock from a local shopkeeper Maurice Daly. To us mere observers what more evidence was needed to prosecute Thomas Durkan for his wrongdoings?

The truly fascinating part of this trial was yet to unfold. Events seemed straightforward... or were they? The first seeds of doubt were sown by the testimony of the first key witness Mr. Henry Scroope. Mr. Scroope was Manager of the National Bank in Castlereagh, and was also responsible for enacting insurance premiums. A man claiming to be Thomas Durkan had bought a premium and had gone on his way. However, the real Thomas Durkan had met with Mr. Scroope to discuss an insurance bill sent to Pat Durkan which turned out to be a forgery. Mr. Laurence E. Kelly (a teller in the National Bank, Castlebar) confirmed Pat Durkan's appearance as a customer, but couldn't confirm the insurance bill as containing the handwriting of Pat Durkan. In fact, not once did he see Pat fill in any insurance bills and, when sought from the safe, no documentary evidence could be found with Pat Durkan's handwriting.

The second key piece of evidence was the threatening letter. It turned out that the girl in question (her identity remained unknown) was also being courted by a member of the local police force at the same time as Thomas Durkan – by Subconstable Flynn, who was also a key witness in the trial and had not spoken to Thomas Durkan for three months! He denied all knowledge of Durkan's romantic involvement. What was crucial here is that during the initial court session days after the arrest, the threatening letter was with-held as evidence. Flynn was the officer who had assisted McAlumney in the searching of Durkan and didn't reveal the letter until cross-examined in the Petty Sessions. By failing to acknowledge the letter he had lain the blame firmly upon Durkan.

Conflicting Evidence

The third piece of evidence was found in the conflicting statement of Anne Judge, whose account of the chain of events differed from that of her brother's - in fact, wholly

different. She saw Thomas Durkan "standing under the window of his own house". "The front door was closed and the window shutters closed on the inside. There were no signs of fire on the front outside". Thomas Durkan tried to push in the door twice, but failed to do so. Once the door had been opened she discovered that there were two fires burning inside – one was in a railway basket on top of the shop counter; the other a mound of turf on the earthen floor in the back. The fires were "badly kindled and no appearance of fire in the ceiling". Interestingly, Thomas Durkan was half dressed in her opinion. This conflicted with her brother's view that a 'trousered man' lay sitting on the window moments before. John Judge also stopped his sister from lifting the burning basket off the counter citing "going for assistance as more important". She also reiterated McAlumney's statement that Thomas Durkan didn't know if the premises was insured – "I don't know till I hear from my brother".

Counsel for the defence, Mr. O'Malley, then contested the decision of the police on the night of the fire - being ten in number - that the culprit was allowed to roam free for two hours. Had he had any suspicion surely he would have been more prompt in the arrest? Secondly, as to the letters produced by the prosecution, what man if guilty of the crime would have on his person letters which damned him in the eyes of the law? Thirdly, the threatening letter withheld previously showed an evil feeling against him that showed the writer would annihilate him if he could? The prosecution also failed to prove the letters of intent and scheming were indeed the handwriting of Pat Durkan. Added to this was the complaint of a forged bill of insurance and that this company did not in fact exist at all was revealed at the trial. Finally, the valuable 'trunk' was invaluable after all - containing mere articles of clothing.

Market Day

The fact that the money on Durkan was substantial overlooked the basic evidence that that Saturday, 22nd July, was Market Day in Ballyhaunis. Naturally, as with any shopkeeper, he would have been more prosperous than usual, given the throngs that in town that particular day. The case was all the more remarkable given that no witness for the defence was ever called. In the end all the damning evidence proved fruitless. The jury returned a verdict of 'not guilty' and the prisoner was discharged.

So, who would have thought it? Ballyhaunis in 1879 – arson, fraud, forgery, romance and simple innocence – surely a great 'cocktail' and an interesting court-case of its time.



Taken in the late 1940s. Back, L-R: Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Neary, Mrs. McGreal, Nellie Mullins, Mrs. Coyne. Middle, L-R: Helen McDonald, Stella Waldron, Mrs. Molly Waldron, Mona Smyth. Sitting: Vincent Donnellan, Dr. Andrew Smyth, Mrs. Cooney.



Dom Moran, Knox St. and Tony Boyle, Gallagher's, taken in the 1940s. Both now deceased.



Taken in 1969. L-R: Brod Moran (R.I.P.), Jack Coyne (R.I.P.) 'Bub' Waldron (R.I.P.), Eddie Fitzgerald (R.I.P.).



Jack McGuire, Ballindrehid, holding the one-piece oak 'tray' found in Annagh Bog in the 1920s. This object, along with a metal vessel found in Arderry, and a wooden keg also found in the Ballyhaunis area, were sold to the National Museum on 8th Aug. 1928 by Dr. Richard Lane-Joynt, of Harcourt St., Dublin, a dealer in antiquities.



The late Seamus Durkan as a young Scout Leader, 4th Mayo Troop, Ballyhaunis.

'Down Memory Lane'

- Jimmy Hunt (Kilmovee) -

I have been in and around Ballyhaunis since September 1977 when I was first employed with Murphy Bros.(Grascare) Coolnaha Ballyhaunis. At that time the factory of those days was much less fast moving than it is today. Everything was moved by hand and much more laborious than they are today. Some of the people I encountered there were the directors John and Mark Murphy, Joe Diskin (Killinaugher), John Hurley (Ballinlough), Paddy Coughlan (Castlereagh), Tom Glavey (Tooreen), John Nestor (Kilkelly), John Costello (Kilmovee), Patrick Murphy R.I.P. (Tooreen), Joe Keegan R.I.P. (Aughadeffin), Pat Kelly (Brickens), Tommy Shannon (Tavrane) and indeed many more.

Employment

I was employed for a year and half before moving onto the building of the houses at Station Rise. The main contractors of that 32 house scheme were Moran Bros., Tooraree and the year was 1978.

It was the same year that the Basilica was built in Knock by the late Monsignor James Horan (RIP). The late Jack Cunnane, Knock was very involved in the building of that project. 1978 was the year of the three Popes. Pope Paul VI died, Pope John Paul I also died after only 33 days in office and in that same year Pope John Paul II was elected to his Episcopal elevation as the third Pope in the same year. He was formerly Cardinal Karol Wytola and the first Polish Cardinal to be elected Pope at the age of 58.

Ballyhaunis 1978

I moved into Ballyhaunis in October 1978 as an employee of Gallagher's Builders Providers, Main Street. It was here that I really got to know Ballyhaunis really well! Over the past 25 years Ballyhaunis has changed, as indeed has every town and village in the country. Take Main Street for example, from Curley's chemist to Nestor's Corner Bar. Curley's was a chemist then as it is now, Ryan's Supermarket was being built then. It was previously owned by Michael Keegan (RIP), Tommy Moran's came next then it was James Webb's butchers, sadly 'Seamie' has gone to his eternal reward after many years of business on Main Street. Phillips' shop used to be Concannon's and O2 Communications was Mace. Harvest Fresh, Sparkey's. The Central Hotel was owned by Freely's is now Supermacs. Gallagher's, McGarry's are as they were then. Nestor's was the famous pub known as Joe Regan's. On the other side of the street you have Dillon's travel agency, Webb's butchers, Spar (formally Noel Waldron's) and so on up Main Street there are many changes. Shop names have changed and new ones have

opened to meet the demands of the changing times.

Garda Station

The Garda station was where it still is on Main Street in 1978. The sergeant in that year was Bill Curran. Other Gardai in the station were John Marrinan, P. J. Nally, Bob Fox, Pat Gaffney, Aiden Gaughan, John Commins, Tom Howley, Pat Power, Sergeant Jack McDonnell, Sergeant McGreal, Sergeant Martin Byrne and Sergeant Martin McDermott and Garda Sean Barrett (RIP). (My sincere apologies if I have left anyone out). Crime was less vicious then that it is nowadays. People of twenty-five years ago had a great respect for each other. Discipline was more evident in those days and a warning from a member of the Gardai was taken ever so seriously and was acted on immediately to avoid getting into any trouble. I can not let this occasion pass without mentioning a lifelong friend, Garda Sean Barrett (RIP). Garda Sean moved to Ballyhaunis in 1979 and for that reason we became lifelong friends.

Some other friends and acquaintances who have gone to their eternal reward are Tom Conboy, Michael Dempsey, Mick Morris, Paddy Delaney, Jim Gilmore, Tom Gilmore, Eddie Fitzgerald, Maureen Gallagher, John O'Connor, Dom Moran, Eddie McHugh, Cyril O'Malley, Thomas O'Malley, Owen, Teresa and Mary Kilduff, Anton O'Malley, Tommy Johnston (Snr), Bertie Curley, J. P. Freyne, Clarence Grogan, Joe Regan, Joe Conway, Mick and Julia Winston, Kathleen Murphy, Marcella McHugh and many others who have gone to their eternal reward during these twenty years or so. Let us remember them with fondness and not forget them in our thoughts and prayers.

The Good News

There are many restaurants and facilities built in the town over the years: it is not all sad news in Ballyhaunis. There have been many positive developments over the past twenty-five years. There is the Public Library (librarian Mrs. Eleanor Freyne). It is a fine building and has a range of books and facilities that equal or exceed the needs of the town. During the year 2000, a committee was formed and successfully put a new spire on St. Patrick's Church. The Parochial Hall has been renovated. Mid West Radio are providing much needed employment and just moved into their new premises in Clare Street. There is a fire station in the town and it is very efficient: it is to be commended for the fire service it provides for the area. Keane Kitchens, Gallagher's, Dawn Meats, Kelly Furniture, Gurteen Kitchens, Murphy Autos, Connaught Scaffolding,

Ballyhaunis Plant Hire, Hazlehill Timber Products, EPS, to mention but a few, provide very valuable employment in and around the town. Ballyhaunis is a very prosperous town with a lot going for it and it can improve much further in the years ahead. There have been some housing developments over the years and it has the capacity to consolidate this with more development.

The Future

Some of the improvements I would see is a by-pass of the town which I believe would alleviate the traffic congestion in the town. This would be a great boom for the town but in the present political and economic climate it may be more difficult but not impossible to achieve. More thoughts I would have for Ballyhaunis is to be positive in your outlook for the town and build on what is already there.

Remember Kilmovee - just down the road - as a parish was not functioning but declining in 1986 and now is developing well with in excess of 300 N.S. pupils from a figure of less than 100 in 1986. It is easier for Ballyhaunis to achieve its aims than rural communities and to achieve aims it is not easy anywhere in the West of Ireland. So, if you have an idea that might work, put it to work in Ballyhaunis: develop it on your own and when it works everyone will support it. It could be the recipe for further development in Ballyhaunis.

Finally, I would to wish all the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas a very happy Christmas and Bright New Year and many thanks to all who have been of assistance to me over the past twenty-five years. I hope you enjoy reading this article: it was worth writing if you do. God Bless.

'Ballyhaunis Women's Group'

- Mona Herr -

Ballyhaunis Women's Group was established in September 2001 by Maire Caulfield. The group is entering its third year. The AGM was held in September 2003 and the following committee elected: Chairperson – Patricia Ni Suilleabhain; Secretary – Mona Herr; Treasurer – Mary Mulrennan; PRO – Stella O'Neill; Grants Co-ordinator – Maire Caulfield; Social secretary – Marie Brennan and Susan Hoban.

The main objectives of the group are to encourage women from the town and catchment areas to meet on a regular basis and organise events which would be enjoyable and of benefit to the members. Events may be formal or informal.

Events

In October 2002 Christina Concannon gave an invaluable talk and demonstration on the uses and benefits of essential oils. She demonstrated a foot, hand and head massage. She concluded with a talk on Reiki. December's event was devoted to Christmas centre pieces and holly wreaths under the expertise of Breege Halpin. At the end of January 2003 Rosaleen Kelly spoke to the group about alternative health and kinesiology. As the year progressed the group allocated three separate nights in the month of March to a self-defense course for women. Pauline Walshe-Berkerley from Ballinrobe was the instructor. Various methods and techniques of self-defense were demonstrated and practiced during the length of the course resulting in each participant receiving their "diploma" with honors!

Certain members of the group were involved in the Ballyhaunis May Bank Holiday Festival of this year. To wind up the year we had a delightful meal in the Mayflower Restaurant in Clare Street, then retired to one of the local hostels. A great night was had by all!

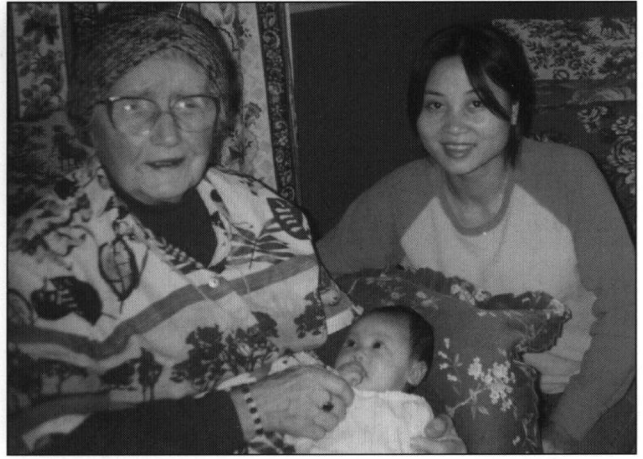
Hard work, planning and good organisation are key qualities to the success of any group. These qualities are evident in the Ballyhaunis Women's Group due to the input and dedication of its members. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Parochial Hall. New members are especially welcome.



Ballyhaunis Women's Group - Incoming committee (2003-04)
Back, L-R: Susan Hoban, Stella O'Neill, Mary Mulrennan, Patricia Ni Suilleabhain. Front, L-R: Mona Herr, Marie Brennan.



Donal Toolan with his niece Danielle Coyne in Dublin.



Oldest resident in Clare Street – Alice Lyons with baby Yin Yin and her mother Bing.

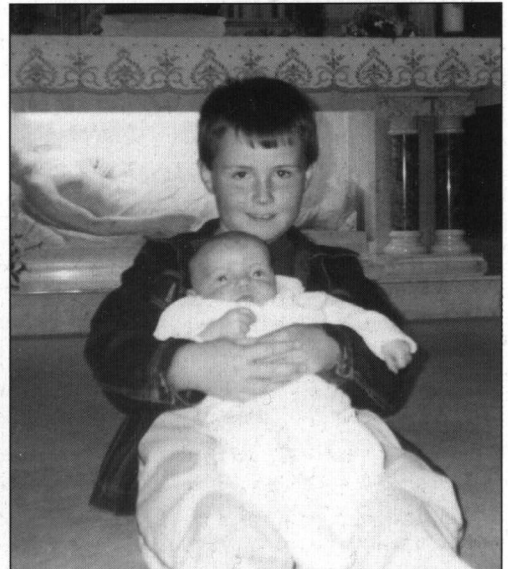


Sean and Philip Gorman, Tubbercurry, have had their fruit and veg. stall in Clare St., for the last twenty-six years.

Right: Pamela Heaney, daughter of Jarlath and Patricia Heaney, Lecarrow, who graduated with a Diploma in Fashion Design at Limerick Institute of Technology.



Below: Ballyhaunis Group at Karen Glavey's Wedding in Warrington 21st June 2003. L-R: Kevin Meehan, John Glavey, Tom Glavey, John Glavey, Sean Waldron, Paul Glavey, Bernie Keane, Eddie Murphy, Martin Grogan, Frank Brady. Front: Mick Meehan.



Robert and Shane Morley.

'Ballyhaunis Summer Festival'

The Ballyhaunis Summer Festival took place over the May Bank Holiday weekend, Friday 2nd to Monday 5th May, 2003. Once again it was a weekend packed with activities for all ages, with an emphasis on family based events – the great majority of which were free-of-charge.

Fireworks

The festivities opened on Friday night with a spectacular Fireworks Display in the Abbey Grounds. The show – put together by pyrotechnists 'Powder Monkeys' from Finea, Co. Westmeath – came at considerable expense, but it certainly got the festival off to an impressive start and, thankfully, the bad weather held off for night.

Later on Friday night the Annagh Rose Pageant took place in Monsoon Nite Club. Thirteen contestants participated and a huge crowd was in attendance. The popular winner was Ms. Marita Byrne representing The Hazel, Main Street. Marita is daughter of Tim and Margaret Byrne, Johnstown.

Fair Day

Unfortunately, the heavy rain and gusting winds on Saturday put a damper on the day's events. However, many people braved the elements to enjoy the many attractions at the Traditional Fair Day in the town. The streets were full with stalls, pens and displays of one kind or another.

All kinds of farm animals were on show – many of which are no longer part of the rural scene – donkeys, ponies, pigs, sheep, goats and different types of poultry. The forge was in action too at The Square, operated by the Regan family of Derrynacong, while, at the top of Main Street local Tinsmith Terry Maughan gave a demonstration of his craft. Down Clare St., the thresher was on the go. The magnificent Arts and Crafts exhibition which was supposed to take place out-of-doors at The Square, was moved to the Parochial Hall due to the inclement weather conditions.

Shopping Promotion

The Shopping Promotion was well supported and many fine prizes were given out by all participating outlets. The winners of the Final Draw were: First prize, €500 (sponsored by the organising committee) – J. Abraham, Quinaltagh, Garrafrauns, Co. Galway; Second prize, a Remus Suit (sponsored by Eddie Murphy & Sons) – Anne Morley, Balla; Third prize, two tickets to Birmingham (sponsored by 'My Travel Light'), plus €50 spending money – Mary Morley, Island, Ballyhaunis; Fourth prize, €150 Shopping Voucher (sponsored by Ryan's Supervalu) – Henry Forde, Clare St., Ballyhaunis; Fifth prize, €100 Shopping Voucher (sponsored by Cunningham's Londis) – Rosaleen Curley, Derrymore, Ballyhaunis; Sixth prize: Voucher for a Meal for Two (courtesy of the Old Stone House Restaurant, Ballinlough) – Mary Anne Fadian, c/o Byrne's, Bracklagh, Brickens.

The Local Artists' Exhibition, held in conjunction with the Festival, was officially launched on Thursday night, 1st May, by Mr. Gerry Glennon of MWR. The exhibition was held over the weekend on the first floor of the Supermac's premises on Main St. Exhibitors were drawn from the locality and a broad range of artwork was on display, including Water Colours; Oils and Acrylics on Board, Paper, Canvas and Glass; Drawings; Silk artwork; Prints and Bog Oak Sculpture.

A draw held over the weekend offered a lovely oil painting entitled 'The Family Rosary' as the prize, and was won by Annette Doherty, Aghamore. The main fundraiser organised by the committee was the Draw for a beautiful Pony and Trap. The lucky winner was Elaine Burke, Knock. A second prize of a Weekend Away in the Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, was won by Fintan Moran, Hazelhill; while third prize – a framed picture – was won by Shannon Biesty, Pattenspark.

Sunday

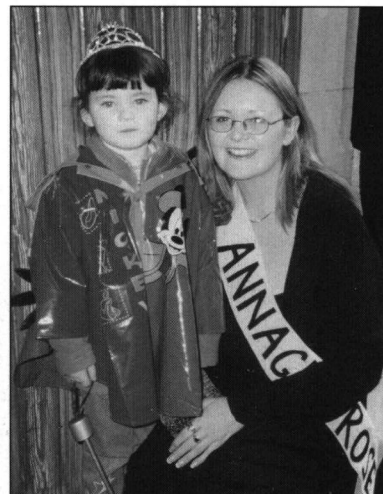
On Sunday the 12.00 Mass, celebrated by Canon Cooney and Fr. Carroll, featured some Traditional Music and Dance, courtesy of local musicians and dancers, under the direction of Mildred Byrne, Loughglynn, with some displays from pupils of the Mary Elwood School of Dancing.

The Winner of the Best Dressed Lady contest, judged after that Mass, was Ms. Geraldine Collins, Abbeyquarter, while, later in the day, winners in the Olde World Dressed Competition on Sunday were Ms. Denise McCormack, Station Rise, and Ms. Heather Carter, Cottage, who were beautifully attired in late nineteenth century costume, complete with parasols. The Vintage Car Rally was well supported again this year with a broad selection of cars dating from the thirties up to the seventies, and all in excellent condition.

There were over one-hundred entries for the Junior Treasure Hunt, and upwards of forty correct entries were received by the end of the day. The winners of this popular and challenging event this year were David Fitzmaurice, Forthill, Ballyhaunis, and Kent Stackpoole, Ballinlough. The final of the Pub Talent Competition was held on Sunday night in Monsoon Nite Club. The winner was Ms. Sheena Flanagan, representing The Corner Bar, who gave a lovely rendition of "Fields of Gold". Sheena, who is attached to the staff of Scoil Iosa, Ballyhaunis, is daughter of Brian and Phyllis Flanagan, Ballindrehid.

The Kiddies Day on Monday was a fantastic success: based in the Parochial Hall, and at the back of Main Street, the entertainments included the Barney Road Show, a selection of bouncing castles and numerous other diversions.

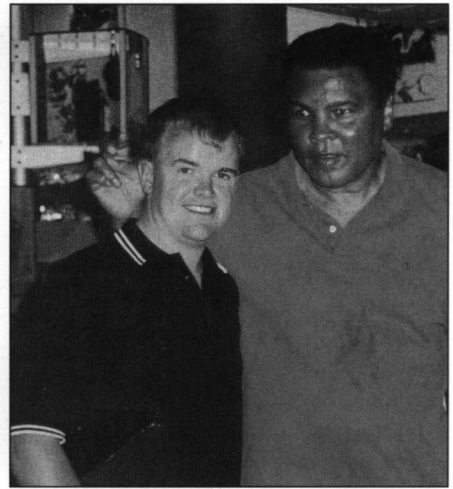
Everything was free, and the place was jamb-packed. The organising committee would like to thank all their generous sponsors and their many supporters. Those who participated and enjoyed the weekend would likewise thank the organisers for all the hard work and preparation that obviously went into putting all the events and activities together.



Ms. Marita Byrne, Annagh Rose and a child.



Some members of Ballyhaunis Active Retirement Group, photographed at the Quiet Man Cottage in Cong, June 2003. L-R: Phyllis Phillips, Carmel Waldron, Olive Waldron, Eileen Waldron, Pauline Curley, Maura Fitzmaurice, Bridie Webb, Kathleen Finn, Julia McCarthy, Anne McHugh, Bridie Brennan. Front: Anne McCarthy.



Fintan Keane 'shook the hand that shook the world', while on honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico in September 1998. Fintan and Alison Keane met Mohamad Ali.



All First Cousins. L-R: Fr. Enda Lyons, Gretta Jordan, Sylvester, Kathleen and Mary Margaret McBride, Maureen Tarpey, Noel Lyons, Kevin Jordan.



Models of the future. Brian O'Neill, Megan Morley and Michael McGarry who took part in the Western Care Fashion Show in Kiltimagh this year



St. Joseph's Convent, Ballyhaunis, 1962: L-R: Kitty Fitzmaurice, Mary Lynskey, Teresa Biesty, Noreen Sloyan.

'Pilgrimage to The Holy Land'

- Bro. Augustine Freeley -

I went first to the Holy Land with a group in February '91. Then the winter in Israel had been the worst in a hundred years and we had the tail end of it. It was snowing the first morning we awoke. It did not snow after that, but there was a lot of slush, and streams flowed down the streets of Nazareth. There were snowballs thrown at us by youths from housetops. We were three days in Nazareth and three days in Jerusalem. The taxis wouldn't risk climbing Mount Tabor of the Transfiguration because of the icy conditions. We couldn't go to the Shepherd's Field or Jacob's Well because of the political tensions. I rode on a camel in Jerusalem for a short distance in the direction of Bethlehem in imitation of the Wise Men to make that event present to me.

I went again with a different group in Sept.-Oct. '99, two years before the present troubles broke out. We were in it for fifteen days in sweltering heat. I did not eat much because of the heat, but I drank a lot of water. A Jesuit priest and a lady who studied theology were our guides.

Hezekiah's Tunnel

A highlight in Jerusalem for me was Hezekiah's Tunnel. Hezekiah was a king who lived c.700 BC. To provide water for some of the city, he had a tunnel constructed from the Gihon Spring to the Pool of Siloam. Two groups of workers began working on it, one at each end, chipping away through solid rock and meeting eventually in the middle. It was a wonderful feat of work. The tunnel is in the form of an 'S'. It is 600 yards long and about two feet wide. Four of us waded through the water in it, which wasn't knee high. I wore my ordinary shoes without socks. It took about thirty-five minutes. We had a torch each. There wasn't much space each side of your body. You would have to bend your head in places to avoid touching the roof, though the roof was quite high in other parts of it. The bottom was uneven in places. The water wasn't too cold. My shoes dried out almost immediately on coming out at the end.

We had a swim in what was called Hot Springs – a swimming pool with medicinal properties. We had two or three hours there going in and out at our leisure and sunbathing. We also had a swim in the Mediterranean at Caesarea. There is a reconstructed ancient open-air Roman theatre there. The stone seating is numbered. A member of our group performed for us with a recitation on the stage, a good way down from the

seating, and the acoustics were very good. We also saw a Roman theatre being reconstructed like the one in Caesarea near Nazareth. The place is called Sephoris that was being reconstructed in Christ's time. The world-renowned bible scholar Mgr. Murphy-O'Connor believes that Jesus and Joseph worked there. There is no mention of it in the Gospels. It is in ruins now.

The Dead Sea

We also floated in the Dead Sea. The river Jordan flows into it but it has no exit. With only evaporation the minerals remain making the water very buoyant, so that you could lie on your back on it and read the paper. I lay on my back but I was cautious and nervous about it and found I couldn't get to my feet, so I shouted: "Lord, save me, I perish". Not really, but a person pulled me to a nearby spike in the water which I grabbed and got on my feet. I felt it might be a good place to learn to swim except for the danger of the heavily mineral charged water getting up your nostrils or even into your mouth. Some swam in the Sea of Galilee but I found it too stony and uneven to go in.

The Via Dolorosa – the original path walked by Jesus to Calvary – was four feet deeper than the present one. On laying pipes for something, workers came on the original flagstones and placed one or two of them on the present surface for display.

A highlight, though grim, was the dungeon under the supposed house of Caiaphas where Jesus was imprisoned. It is a pit without windows. Christ would have been left in it all night in the dark. He would have been left down into it through a hole in the roof, by a rope around his waist and hauled up the same way. One person said she saw like the face of Christ on the wall, but I couldn't. Close by we saw what had been a place of torture – stocks for the feet and grips for the hands for scourging. The Apostles may have been scourged there. Sulphur or vinegar would have been put on their feet in the stocks. We saw the steps up a steep incline Jesus would have used coming to the house of Caiaphas. They are now dilapidated, broken and weedy. Another highlight was taking the route of the Apostles and Jesus from the Cenacle or Upper Room to Gethsemane after the Last Supper. We were able to "keep watch for one hour" for our vigil in Gethsemane!

Near Hebron, we visited Oak of Mamre where Abraham was visited by three angels. He gave them hospitality and they promised Abraham that his wife

Sarah would conceive. She, when told, laughed because of their old age, but she later denied it. Isaac was born to her and the name means "laughter". The old well there is enclosed and very deep and looks stagnant.

The Sea of Galilee

Near the Sea of Galilee we saw on display a first century boat of the type used by the Apostles. It was retrieved from the bottom of the lake and reconstructed. It looks frail and could hardly be used again.

A moving highlight was crossing the Sea of Galilee. The boat was stopped halfway and the story of the "Storm on the Lake" was read. The lake was very calm and the sun beamed down. This was in stark contrast to the situation with the Apostles and the storm. My first time in the Holy Land in Feb. '91 the boat didn't make it to the other side because there were strong winds from the Golan Heights. The lake was choppy; it was cold in the boat and misty in the distance. It would have been known by the boatman about the winds, but we went out sufficiently far to be satisfied that we could identify with the Apostles – they having had to decide when it would be safe to cross the lake, and even when it was calm, that a sudden storm could arise.

Coming near the Pool of Siloam or Shiloh in Jerusalem, a male member of our group posed as a blind man. The priest bent down to pick some dust from the ground. He spat on it and applied it to the "blind man's" eyes as Jesus had done to the man born blind. He was led to the Pool of Siloam where he washed. I applied some water to my eyes to identify with the miracle of Jesus. We are all born blind spiritually and gain our sight gradually over a lifetime.

We went also to the Pool of Bethzatha or Bethesda where Jesus had cured a cripple who had been there thirty-eight years. Jesus came to him and cured him instantly. In practice, however, to derive benefit from this miracle, we must see ourselves as being healed only gradually and slowly over a lifetime – emotionally, spiritually and mentally. That was how our priest saw it and illustrated it by posing as the cripple on the ground, and only gradually being able to move a hand or foot at a time, until eventually he was able to get fully on his feet. In the process of "recovery" the priest saw each bodily movement he could make as representing a healing of his crippling fears and rigidity. (There are steps down to the Pool and ruins beside it.)

Capernaum

In Capernaum our priest dramatised the parable of "The Pharisee and the Publican" in the ruins of the synagogue where Jesus had told it. The priest strode up the middle with arms outstretched shouting out loud: "O God, I give you thanks that I'm so good not like that Publican over



August Monday 1964 in Morley's Pub, Knox St.

L-R: Kevin Biesty, Carrowkeel, Michael Biesty, Carrowkeel, Augustine Freeley, Gurteen, Joe Lynskey, Gurteen R.I.P. and Pauline Henry, Gurteen.

there". He gave his reflection on it, and then we went a short distance to the house of Peter as Jesus had done. Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law. The house is only a big hole and a heap of stones and is enclosed in glass.

We took the desert road from Jerusalem to Jericho to visit The Good Samaritan Inn. We sang a charismatic hymn: "He found me bleeding and dying on the Jericho road, and he poured in the oil and the wine". Applying the parable to ourselves, the hymn sees each of us as the victim and Jesus as the Good Samaritan, who comes to rescue us.

It is said that each person in a dream is oneself or an aspect of oneself. In the same way each person and situation in Scripture is oneself to varying degrees e.g. in the Storm on the Lake, the storm is our passions out of control. We, in the power of Jesus say to our passions: "Be still, calm down". A Scripture story can be explored in this way in groups. It describes your story and mine and the situation in the world. We have a bit of all the characters in us – Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Peter, Pilate, Judas, Pharisees, etc. but to discover that.

To share the Scripture in this way is called *Lectio Divina*. It satisfies our interest in knowing ourselves, which is our greatest interest. It has been said that the Mass, doctrine or theology do not turn on youth but they are interested in meditation and prayer based on the Gospel. *Lectio Divina* would satisfy their interest and their need. It was practiced in the early church for about a thousand years. It is being rediscovered and practiced in many parts of the world today, and I consider it the key to the revival and strengthening of the Faith in our time.

'September 11th, 2001:'

The Day that changed the World

- George F. Delaney -

(Abbey St., Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo and Bayonne, New Jersey, U.S.A.)

Tuesday, September 11th 2001 was unlike any other workday for me at that time. My wife, Louise had given birth to our daughter, Sarah, two weeks earlier and was at home on maternity leave. So, instead of our usual commute together by car into New York City, I took public transport. We live in Bayonne, New Jersey, about seven miles from downtown Manhattan and the Financial district. Little did I know what lay ahead of me that day, a day that would change the world forever.

The weather was typical of that time of year, bright and sunny, with most people home from summer vacation and their children back in school. I headed for the local Light Rail Train Station at about 8 a.m. The train took me to Jersey City, (approx. six miles) where I then took the PATH (Port Authority Trans Hudson) train under the Hudson River to downtown Manhattan and to the last stop at the World Trade Centre. There was the usual hustle and bustle: Wall-Streeters reading their Journals, office workers listening on their headsets and, in contrast, the general sleepiness of us, the "worker drones", going about our daily routine.

World Trade Centre

When the train arrived at the World Trade Centre station, which was five floors below ground level, I jostled for the escalator, as is the norm, but noticed the smell of smoke. This was not unusual as, sometimes, track fires ignite from garbage which has accumulated around the electric switching mechanisms for the trains. However, as I proceeded up the escalator to the lower mezzanine level some people were more hurried than others. When I reached this level I assumed that radios had started to pick-up alarming news as there was a major panic and everyone rushed for the next bank of escalators to the upper mezzanine level. I stepped to the side and thought to myself, how stupid these people were for over-reacting to a simple "track fire"! It turned out that the first plane had struck one of the Towers above us as we were approaching the station from under the Hudson River at about 8.45 a.m.!

When I reached the Concourse level I sensed that things definitely weren't right ! This area was one floor below ground level and was comprised of about one hundred stores and restaurants. The floor was littered with dropped newspapers, coffee cups, shoes and various items which had been discarded. Now the concourse was eerily quiet. I walked towards the Liberty Street exit which was closest to my office and climbed the stairs to street level. What greeted me was a wall of people across the street, all

looking skywards at Tower One. I looked over my left shoulder to see flames spewing out of the upper floors and all sorts of office papers and other debris floating towards the ground. I just assumed that it was a bad office fire or explosion and it reminded me of the images from the movie "Towering Inferno" from the seventies. I walked at my usual fast pace through the crowd and through Liberty Park to our office at 120 Broadway and got the elevator up to the 28th Floor.

When I got to my desk I immediately telephoned home. I told Louise that there seemed to be a bad fire at the WTC. She said that she and her mother, Mary Hannah O'Connor, who was visiting, were watching the CNN News and that there was some reference to a plane hitting one of the towers. As we were talking there was a huge explosion which shook our old stone building. The building across the street at 140 Broadway, however, just rippled, since it is a newer steel and glass structure. I didn't realise at the time that the explosion was caused by the second plane hitting Tower Two. I told Louise that I was getting out of the office without delay! I took my briefcase and ran for the elevators. Since everyone else had the same idea the elevators were full and so, along with a group of others, I decided to quickly transverse the twenty-eight flights of stairs.

Journey Home

When we got to street level I re-grouped with some people from the office. We were trying to establish where everyone was. There was talk of a second plane hitting the towers but we were imagining small, two-seater type planes and thought it most unlikely that two could hit on the same day! We decided that it was best to leave the Trade Centre vicinity and to go towards the waterfront. On the way I suggested that we go into a small diner, have some breakfast and try to see the news to establish what was happening. Two of us ordered coffee and juice but my colleague, John, was not too keen on staying and was very nervous, so we left. We headed east towards the South Street Seaport where Brickens businessman, Austin Delaney, owns The Harbour Lights restaurant. I figured that we could, at least, be far enough away from the danger and might, perhaps, establish what the panic was all about. On the way I bumped into a friend, Pete Sullivan, who worked in the Trade Centre (on the 100th floor) for the Insurance broker AON. He was, luckily, running late as his wife had recently given birth to triplets. He said that he seen several people jumping from the upper floors of the towers and he was visibly very upset. He was desperately

trying to get a cellphone signal to phone home. He tried using my phone but to no avail. He got into the queue for the public phones since they seemed to be the best way to communicate with loved ones and was, fortunately, able to re-assure his wife that he was safe.

We then went into an Irish bar called McMenamen's and ordered coffee. The news and radio stations were not working properly as there were no signals. Most people were still unaware of what, exactly, had happened but speculation was rife and terrorism was mentioned as well as the outbreak of war and other frightening scenarios. A man who was covered in sweat and grime shuffled in. He said that he had just walked down about fifty floors in one of the Towers and he was very agitated.

While at McMenamen's we were able to look out from the deck towards the Trade Centre. There wasn't a clear view of the Towers but we could see the thick, black smoke that was billowing and blowing towards our location. Suddenly we heard a loud, rumbling noise and we all ran downstairs. What we heard was the sound of the first tower collapsing and it created widespread panic. I managed to stay with my colleague, Frank, and we ran northwards underneath the elevated FDR (Franklin Delano Roosevelt) Drive. Since the collapse the dust and smoke started to blow towards the east and we needed to escape that. We followed the throngs of people as we ran, walked and talked about what was happening.

Communications Chaos

I desperately wanted to find out if friends from our rugby team, as well as numerous colleagues in the insurance industry who worked in the towers, were alright, but, since cellphones were only working intermittently due to the volume of calls and lack of service, this was impossible. I also wanted to find a place where we could watch the TV news and get an accurate account of what was happening. Frank and I walked through Chinatown, Little Italy and the East Village until we eventually settled for a little Irish Pub where we were able to watch the TV, grab a beer and get our bearings. We watched in horror as we saw footage of the planes hitting the towers, the flames engulfing them and the horrific images of people clinging to the torn metal, gasping for air at the windows and choosing to jump to their deaths.

Frank lives in Long Island and since the news reports indicated that the entire city was shut down we both felt that we might not be able to get home that evening so we started 'phoning hotels to try to get a room for the night. With the demand for the phone as well as the volume of calls, the system was overloaded, it was difficult to access service and we were unsuccessful in our quest. We decided to head across town towards the west side where we could be near Pennsylvania "PENN" Train Station and other transportation hubs. The news said that the only way to get to New Jersey was by ferry so we decided to get some food before we headed our separate

ways. It was close to lunchtime at this point so we went into Mustang Sally's, an Irish Bar & Restaurant and ordered lunch as we both knew that our commute home could be long and tedious. The various news programmes replayed the images we had seen earlier as well as the statistics for the potential loss of life. With over 100,000 people working in the World Trade Centre complex on any given day the number of casualties being speculated upon was truly frightening.

We finished lunch and headed our separate ways: Frank to Penn Station, which was just re-opening, and I to the New York Waterway Ferry terminal at 38th Street and the West Side Highway. I walked to the ferry terminal to find a queue about a mile long and growing longer. It was now about 2 p.m. but with people coming from every direction and the line seemingly having several "tributaries" it took about three hours before I got close to the top. During that time I was able to speak to Louise and also to my Mum, Dad and brother in Ballyhaunis. They were shocked, horrified and worried by what they were seeing on television. I let them know that I was safe and on my way home.

Traumatic Day

I eventually got to New Jersey on the ferry but, before passengers disembarked, we were asked if we had been within a ten-block radius of the WTC. Because I had been within the aforementioned radius I answered in the affirmative. Those of us who had been caught in the dust cloud from the collapse were covered in an asbestos-type powdery substance and needed to be "de-contaminated". People in this category were then separated from the rest of the crowd. Once you had been fed into the corral there was no opting out, so I was showered and hosed down, fully-clothed, by emergency workers! As I came from the ferry terminal the train station had just re-opened and I was able to get the PATH train to connect with my local Light Rail train. I finally got home, bedraggled and exhausted, at about 6 p.m. after the most traumatic day of my life. I was very happy and relieved to be re-united with my wife and new-born daughter.

I will never forget the eight people with whom I once worked at Marsh & McLennan and four other colleagues in the Insurance Industry who perished, with almost three thousand others, on that awful day. The barbarism that was inflicted on the innocent people of The United States of America on September 11th, 2001 should never be forgotten.

Footnote:

While writing this article I discovered that a relative, Bernard E. Patterson, whose grandfather came from Williamstown, Co. Galway, died in the Twin Towers Tragedy. He was a forty-six year old father of three young children and was a bond trader with Cantor Fitzgerald, a company that lost 700 employees on that day.

'Mr. Mike Chakeri' - "The Hunter"

- Michael Finn -

In 1985 I arrived in Saudi Arabia having secured a position as pipe line superintendent, in reality a "Trouble Shooter". At the airport the first thing that struck me was the muggy heat - over 30 degrees in December. I initially thought that the airport was on fire, but no, it was just a normal day there with a prevailing smell of sulphur. In Dublin, only seven hours before, everywhere was covered in frost, experiencing temperatures of five degrees and under! Everywhere I looked here, men were wearing white clothing.

The hotel I stayed at during my three day induction was called the "The Dhahran International" - a hotel beyond five star status, a place of immense wealth with marble everywhere, with chandeliers over forty feet long in the main foyer made, strangely enough, from Waterford Glass. Contained within the hotel was a De Beers diamond cutter's studio aimed at rich American project managers. One of them was my boss who later scarpered with all the money owed to the workers, approximately twelve and a half million dollars. Here I was then a Mayo man living in Saudi. For me the biggest shock was the extremism of the Muslim faith and culture. I recall one incident involving the religious police whereby they entered a shop where there was some English girls shopping and they proceeded to spray their legs with canisters of paint, because the girls were wearing mini-skirts! This would rank as a severe warning; the next step would be a public beating; after that jail so, eventually, long skirts below the ankles became the order of the day.

Culture

Of course there was no Guinness available; alcoholic drink was totally banned. If caught, it meant certain jail and you would be lucky if you got expulsion from the country. I became a Saudi jailbird myself by accident. I was sent to jail for three days for allowing one hundred Pakistani workers under my supervision to go home on a fifty-two seater bus! I

had organised two buses, but the Pakistani workers preferred to travel all together. It was absurd, as the second bus traveled behind empty. Only in Saudi could this happen as the Pakistani workers and I were quite innocent.

I enjoyed working with the Pakistani work force. Together we came to understand each other using a hybrid version of English and Pakistani. I became known as Mr. Mike Chakeri which meant "The Hunter" because I would spend time taking photographs of camels, wild dogs, Jackals and Wild Falcons.

The Pakistani workers were paid very little money; the usual was four Ryals per hour which is equivalent to one euro. When my American Boss did his heist with all the money we had a real dangerous situation. By Saudi law workers are not allowed to go on strike as this is against the law there, therefore there only option was to work without pay and to commence a go-slow and to have extended prayer meetings. The net result being that the job nearly came to a complete standstill! This caused immense problems especially when pouring concrete. Concrete in that climate needs to be poured all at one go, as if not it will set properly. It is true to say that I had never experienced this type of problem before. I spent a long night drinking apple juice known as Saudi Champagne trying to resolve this problem.

The next morning I had a plan. I arranged to meet the leader of the workers, a Mr. Dhos Mohammed, a carpenter who later became a very good friend of mine. I told him we were going to town, a place called Al Jubail on the Arabian Gulf. Dhos was confused he said "why we go to town?". I replied "I won't tell you yet". In the town I began to look for a carpet store. Eventually I purchased some carpet from my own money, roughly about twenty meters, a sandy gold colour. Dhos at this point was more curious then ever. Here were we out shopping when the job was in a shambles. These Mayo men were very strange indeed! On our return I asked Dhos and his men to make twenty plywood rectangles. When they were ready I then began to cover them in carpet. Dhos asked "so what are these for Mr. Mike?". I said Dhos "those are prayer boards, one for every gang". He replied, "Mr. Mike you are too much good". The end result being that progress improved by 100%. After that the workers were so keen to work that I had to remind them to go and pray; it had meant so much that they had been understood. Eventually we did get the money back on line and a big party was held and I was made guest of honor. A few goats were killed and gallons of Saudi Champagne were drank!

Landscape

Saudi is a beautiful land full of many complexities. When After two years my contract came to an end at the finish of the job having laid the Al Jubail water line I was sad in a way to leave my many friends. Saudi is a criminal free land they follow the philosophy of "an eye for an eye" - so to speak. The amazing thing is that shop owners can leave their expensive



1916 - Patrick Finn, O.C. East Mayo Brigade Old I.R.A. and his wife-to-be Brigid Henry, Leader of Cumann na mBan. Both of Charlestown, these were the parents of the author Michael Finn.

goods outside their shops overnight knowing that nothing will be stolen. I don't think there is one shopkeeper in the whole of Ireland would risk that!

I was lucky to meet Prince Abdul Aziz, a member of the ruling family and Governor of the oil rich eastern region. He invited me for a meal on my last day. We went to the Dhahran International across from the airport. I insisted on paying for the meal despite his insistence that he would pay. We talked about world affairs and I found him a perfect gentleman. On leaving he walked me to the airport. He then gave me an envelope wishing me the best of luck along with his thanks. He gave me strict instructions not to open the envelope until on board the plane. On opening the envelope, to my surprise I found ten thousand dollars enclosed in a reference.

Full Circle

Many years have passed since then. Now that I am retired in Ballyhaunis I often think back about the kindness and generosity of the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Now settled in Ballyhaunis, I am pleased that some of my family have come to live nearby. My daughter Mary and her husband Peter are just about to open a specialised Hi-fi shop in Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon as they are the Irish distributors for Naim Audio. It's a funny coincidence the word "Naim" is Arabic and means "beautiful" in their language. In a sense this brings a chapter of my life full circle.

Right: Paddy Lyons, Redford on his way to the bog in the early 1960s.



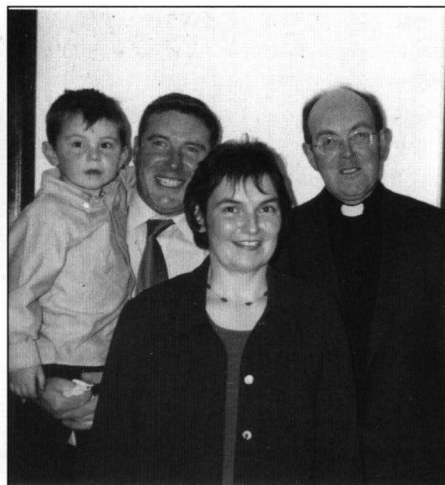
Left: John Tarpey (R.I.P.), Carrowkeel, his dog and mule going to the bog.

Right: Tom Carroll, taken in Abbey Street, August 1988.





Ann Cosgrove (Byrne), Mary Farquharson (Nally), Teresa Mueller (Green), Alacoque Grey (Lyons), Corrine Flatley (Lyons), Noreen Miller (Culliney), Bernadette Moran (Concannon) enjoying a night out in Mayflower Restaurant.



Brackloon Stations, 2003. L-R: Conor, Raymond and Bernie Sloyan, with Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C.



John Joe Hoban, Pierce Higgins, Captain, Junior champions, Peter Healy, Hurler of the Year, and Peter Higgins at Ballyhaunis GAA Annual Dinner in the White House, Ballinlough.



David Healy, son of Joe and Kay Healy, Annagh. Winner in the World Pool Junior Competition held in Bridlington, England.



Some members of the Annagh Magazine Committee 2003.

Back L-R: Paul Waldron, Michael Finn, Seamus Mulrennan, Siobhan Quinn, Jim Lundon, Martin Forde. Front L-R: Maura Griffin, Agnes Heaney, Maisin Meath and John Halpin.

'Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool'

Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool opened this year on the 22nd June 2003, blessed by Fr. Declan Carroll, C.C. Mayo County Council painted the dressing rooms and office, and power-hosed the area around the pool. With our lifeguards and office staff organised, we hoped for a good Summer. All we needed was good weather!

We started off the season with a one week Water Safety course. We got great numbers enrolling for the course and it looked like the weather was also in our favour. Someone said to me, "God must have thought we were Tenerife and switched on the heat switch!" Brilliant!

The number of adults and children using the pool was growing everyday, and beat all previous records. Parents could sit by the pool and enjoy the lovely sunshine while their children played or swam safely watched by our two lifeguards on duty. Two weeks before the season finished we ran our second Water Safety course and again interest was very high. Children enjoyed taking these courses and received certificates, which bring them another step closer to becoming, qualified lifeguards. We'd like to thank Instructor, Siobhan Byrne, for giving the courses and Irish Water Safety for examining the senior participants.

At the end of the season the pool closed with a very successful and enjoyable Gala organised by the lifeguards and office staff. All the swimmers enjoyed the competitions and participating in the races. It also gave the swimmers the opportunity to display what they had learned through the summer months.



"Swimmer of the Year 2003" Robyn Moran being presented with her trophy by Lifeguards Brigitta Burke and Michael Jordan



Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool Gala, August 2003

Back, L-R: Caroline Cleary, Louise Kelleher, Aoife Caulfield, Maria Hunt, Carol Freyne, Louise Cleary, Joanne Hoban, Lorna Kirrane. Middle, L-R: Eddie Cleary, David Cleary, Caroline Coffey, Avril Feeney, Aideen Murray, Fiona Freyne, Margaret Cribbin, Siobhan Morley, Lisa Finn, Robyn Moran, Claire O'Dwyer, Aisling Kelleher. Front, L-R: Michael Jordan (Lifeguard), Rachel Cleary (Lifeguard), Brigitta Burke (Lifeguard), Charlene Maughan, Delia Finn, Niamh Murray, Gary Higgins, Michael Freyne, Lisa Hunt, Lisa Jordan, Siobhan Finn, Rebekka Johnston, Olwyn Murray.

'St. Catherine's Training and Resource Centre'

St. Catherine's Training and Resource Centre, Tooraree, Ballyhaunis, became part of County Mayo Vocational Education Committee in September 2002. St. Catherine's provides training and education facilities primarily for members of the traveller Community however a limited number of places are available for people from the settled community.

Since opening under the auspices of the V.E.C. the on-site facilities have been given a much needed face lift. The V.E.C. has provided much funding in order to purchase the necessary equipment needed in order to provide a high standard of teaching and training.

This year the site has been given a huge boost as Mayo V.E.C., in partnership with Mayo County Council, have funded a project which will see the complete renovation of the derelict house attached to the Centre. This project is nearing completion. This will give St. Catherine's extra teaching space which will, in turn, enable them to provide a wider range of subjects.

Wide Range of Subjects

St. Catherine's offers a wide variety of subjects to its Students. Among these are Food and Nutrition, Communications, Childcare, Consumer Awareness, Arts and Crafts, Computer Studies, Life Skills, Mathematics, Hairdressing and Cookery, all of which are certified by FETAC. This year sees the introduction of the Junior Certificate Programme which is being offered in a number of Subjects.

Students show great enthusiasm when invited to participate in community events. This was highlighted earlier

this year when each member of the group became actively involved in the making of a collage entitled 'Share the Feeling' for the Special Olympics. The collage was displayed at the local library for two weeks and received much positive attention. The students also made French flags which were displayed in Ballina - host town to the French athletes.

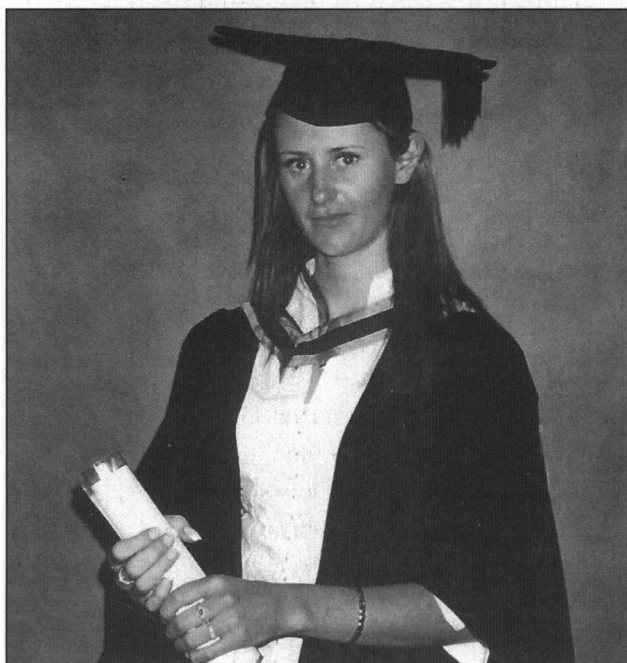
During the year a number of students successfully completed a course certified by NALA which enables them to provide one to one Literacy tuition for other members of the Group on a Voluntary basis. Marion Cusack (Adult Literacy Organiser). Presented the Certificates to the successful Candidates.

Blessing

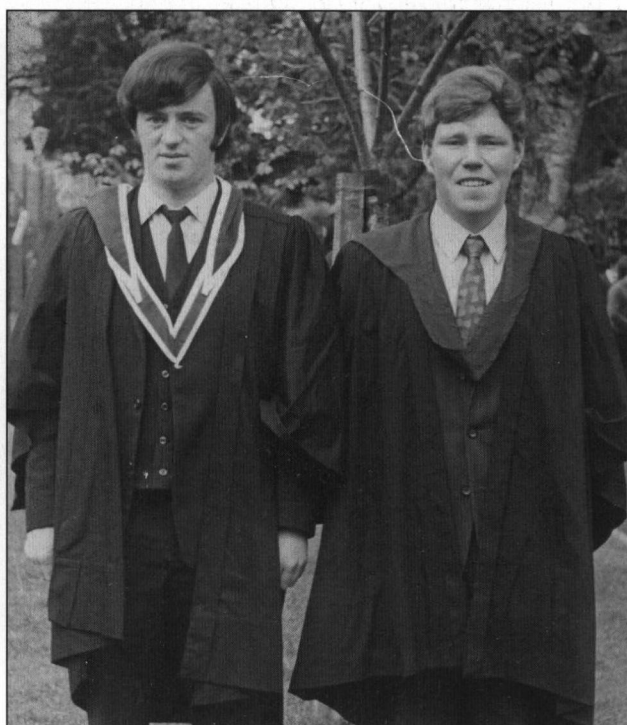
One of the highlights of the year has been the Blessing of St. Catherine's by Canon Joseph Cooney P.P. who visited the Centre and said Mass for the staff and students. The day was greatly enjoyed by all present and we hope Canon Cooney will visit us once our new centre opens this November.

Incorporated into our training programme are educational field trips. Last June we had a very successful trip to 'The National Museum' at Collins Barracks, Dublin. All present really enjoyed the day and found the artefacts on display very interesting. The students are currently looking at the possibility of a trip overseas and further trips to museums and galleries etc., during the coming year.

We are convinced that the considerable investment made by Mayo V.E.C. and Mayo County Council in recent months will be of great benefit to the Students of St. Catherine's and the people of Tooraree in general.



Kelly Anne Herr, daughter of Mike and Chris Herr, Crossmolina, conferred in Oct. 2003 with Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) Hons. Degree at D.I.T., Kevin Street, Dublin.



Michael Murren, Michael Herr, Graduation Day UCG.

'Some Poems of Mary P. Worthington'

The Annagh Magazine Society has gratefully received a copy of a book of poems by the late Mary P. Worthington, daughter of the late Dr. Andrew and Mary Smyth, Abbey Street. She took an active part in the social life of the town in the late forties and fifties, when she was known locally as Patricia or Pat Smyth. The accompanying photograph was taken in Paddy McGarry's old Dance Hall about 1949. L-R: Phyllis Walsh, a native of Gort, Co. Galway; Pat Higgins, Lurgan, Ballyhaunis; Pat Smyth, Abbey St.

The book of poems and photograph were supplied by Pat and Beryl Higgins, Sydney, Australia.

Reflection

*If now the folly of the distant past
Its shadow o'er our calmness cast
On other hearts our guilt we lay
Of friendships known we rue the day.
Our old eyes mirror sad regret,
Dishonest lips will murmur yet
That other mortals led astray
A heart that sought the better way.*

*We are liars in the face of truth,
As glancing o'er the page of youth
We cowards the honest thought allay,
That our own will hath wrought decay.
O let us then our weakness own
Nor o'er our failings sadly moan
But seek the better part at last –
Forsake the folly of the past.*



Music

*The rumbling tone of an organ,
The piping tune of a flute,
The haunting strains of a violin,
The carefree songs of youth,
Melody gay with laughter,
Music soft and low,
Fraught with joy or sorrow,
Or dreams of long ago.
The pealing pride of triumph,
The harmonies that weave
The thoughts that men would utter
If words could e'er achieve.
Sweet solemn notes uplifting
The feeble heart and mind –
Faint echo of the harps
That praise the maker of mankind*

At Eventide

*By the window quietly listening
When the night shades softly fall,
To the strange sounds of the evening,
To the lonely Curlew's call,
Motors passing, children laughing,
Breezes sighing at close of day –
The distant rumbling of the engines
In the city by the bay.
Schoolboys whistling, wee birds chirping,
Sweet and clearly rings a bell
Where the night lights gaily twinkle
In the townland all is well!
O'er the mountain steals the darkness
And the gay stars brighter shine
While I harken for your footstep –
Wait to hear you say you're mine.
On the mantle ticks the old clock.
Midst the soft glow of the sods,
In the big grate swiftly burning
Flames are dancing on the logs.
You will soon come, my beloved.
I will watch your happy smile
Knowing life is full of richness
When you linger here a while.*

'Twenty-Fifth Community School Yearbook'

This Summer past Ballyhaunis Community School crowned the celebrations of its twenty-fifth anniversary by publishing a bumper edition of its 'Yearbook'. Towards the end of every academic year since 1977-8 the Ballyhaunis Community School Yearbook has been published, and this year's issue – the twenty-fifth – was bigger and better than ever. For the first time ever, the Yearbook was put on sale in retail outlets throughout the town and it cost just €6.

A well put together document that records a fruitful year in the life of the Community School, the Yearbook details all aspects of the school's year – academic, sporting and cultural – and serves as a record of the great work that goes on there from day to day. It should be of interest to anyone who has ever had any connection with the Community School – and this would include the great majority of families living within a five-mile radius of Ballyhaunis.

The back issues of the Yearbook form an impressive record of a whole generation who have gone to the Community School. They bear witness to the ever-evolving educational system, and detail the many impressive academic, sporting and cultural achievements of its pupils past and present. This year's Yearbook maintains this fine tradition, and marks the special anniversary with a section entitled "Looking Back Over The Past 25 Years" which includes reminiscences from former staff and past pupils, along with a large selection of photographs from the past twenty-five years – recording musicals, sporting events, and other milestones in the history of the school.

The Yearbook opens with a thoughtful introduction by Mr. Jarlath Fahey, Principal, and an Editorial from Doireann Markham. Features on each of the years are given followed by the usual photographs of students – individual photographs of all Leaving Certs and class groups for the other years. There are articles on such topics as Repeating The Leaving, the Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) course, Transition Year in BCS, the Information and Communications Technology course (ICT), while the many events held during the past school year are recalled, including the CAO Conference, Fifth Year Retreat, the 'Fair Day' fundraising

effort, Fancy Dress Indoor Soccer Match, and the school's representatives in the "Shockwaves" talent competition. Organisations within the Community School have submitted end-of-year reports, including the Parents' Association, Pastoral Care Team and the Young Pioneers. There are contributions too from some of the school's international students.

The varied sporting life of the school is well accounted for in the Yearbook which includes a large selection of team photographs – Gaelic Football and Soccer (both boys' and girls'), Basketball, Badminton and Hockey. Pride of place goes to Eilis Nevin who played for the Ireland Under-19 Ladies Soccer team in the European Championship in recent months, and to the Senior Boys Gaelic Football team who reached the Connacht Final this year in the "A" Championship campaign.

For those who have attended the Community School over the past twenty-five years, or indeed anyone who had family members there in that time, "Looking Back over the past 25 years" should be of great interest. Extending over thirty-three pages, this section includes many reminiscences and a large selection of interesting photographs sure to bring back memories. It includes an account of the "Class of 78" reunion held this Christmas past (i.e. the first ever First Years in the school); pieces on all the Musicals and School Tours arranged by the school over the years, and a large selection of photographs from past Sports Days. There are the recollections of retired staff including Mary Freeley, Patsy Noone, Fr. Walsh, Sr. Joan, Maura Griffin, Sr. Dolores, Pat Higgins, as well as from past pupils from the different decades, seventies up to the nineties, and memories of a School Bus Driver.

The Editorial Committee who put together this fine publication were: Editor – Doireann Markham; Sports – Sarah O'Connor, Tracey Folliard; Secretaries – Anna Maria Tighe, Siobhan Quinn; Photographers – Tracey Devaney, Edel Moroney, Emma Herr; Features – Louise Cunnane, Patricia Finan, Sarah Kelly, Claire Caulfield, Corina Duggan, Sonia Cribbin, Lorna Clancy, Frances Grogan.

Blood Donations in Ballyhaunis - Fifty Years a Flowing

The history of blood donation in Ballyhaunis reached a significant milestone last July (2003) when the Mobile Blood Transfusion Unit marked fifty years coming to town. The National Blood Transfusion Association, as it was first called, was established in 1948. Just five years later, in 1953, they were invited to hold their first ever clinic in Ballyhaunis. (In the intervening years donors in the locality had to travel as far as Castlerea to give blood).

The local organiser at that time was Ms. Patricia Waldron, Devlis, then a teacher in the Vocational School. She secured the venue – the Parochial Hall – put up posters in town and surrounding areas, and sent cards to donors. On the day of their first visit she was also in attendance, serving up refreshments etc., and, for thirty years she was a familiar face at the clinic. The rest of the unit were all from Dublin.

In later years the visits of the mobile unit were organised by the local branch of the I.C.A. Later still, Margaret Byrne, Knox Street, took over and has been involved ever since. In 1965 the National Blood Transfusion Association was wound up and replaced by the Blood Transfusion Service Board (BTSB). Two years ago they opened a base in Tuam to serve the West of Ireland, and the mobile unit, which visits Ballyhaunis now, comes from here. The BTSB supplies sixty-eight hospitals in Ireland with blood and blood products 365 days a year. Approximately 70,000 patients have transfusions in Irish hospitals each year, and 3,000 blood donors are needed to donate each week.

BTSB staff always look forward to seeing its regular donors in Scoil Iosa Primary School, Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis, and sincerely welcome new donors. Young people are urged to make the decision to donate – don't leave it to someone else: if one ever needed blood, it is nice to know somebody else took the time to donate.

Baptisms

1st Nov. 2002 – 31st Oct. 2003

Leigh Joseph Nolan	Beauty Mary Osaynde
Dylan Matthew Ronayne	Egh Sonia Osaynde
Patrick James Daly	Prince John Osaynde
Daniel Martin Hill	Jodi Theresa McDonagh
Eilis Louise Duffy	Angela Sarah Doherty
Teresa Philomena Cleary	Dallan James Walsh
Conor William O'Boyle	Hannah Clarke
Thomas Gerard Maughan	Padraic Seamus McHugh
Kevin John Durkan	Shaun Gerard Morley
Cian Martin Walsh	Shane Ronan Reidy
Mark Kovaci	Emma Grace Ledwith
Ermira Mary Kovaci	James William Allen
Jeton Mark Kovaci	John Patrick O'Connor
Rachel Siobhan Cleary	Tara Keelin Finn
Peter James Patrick Maughan	Cynthia Sakala
Jordan Thomas Henry	
Grace Geraldine Teresa Grealley	

Deceased

1st Nov. 2002 – 31st Oct. 2003

Dominick Healy	Agnes Tarpey
Angela Coyne	Ann McGuane
Catherine Carney	Jamie Keane
Mary Boyle	Anne Marie Allen
Bridget Smyth	Sarah Anne Waldron
Thomas O'Reilly	Patrick McDonagh
Thomas Fitzmaurice	John Gerard Brady
Stella Byrne	Ellie McDonagh
Mary Higgins	Geraldine Finnegan
Ellie Forde	Sarah Rattigan
Denis Finnegan	Michael Curley
Seamus Durkan	Maeve Cruise
Eileen Gilmore	Delia Forde
Bernadette Connolly	Margaret Ruane
Winifred Keenan	Patrick Delaney
Patrick Waldron	Patrick Doherty
Thomas Morley	Helen Gilmore
Michael Flanagan	Charles Patrick McDonagh

Michael J. O'Shaughnessy, Ballinlough
Louise Fitzmaurice, Abbeyquarter

Colm O'Connor, Lucan, Co. Dublin
Norma Fitzgerald, Upr. Main St.

Dominick Grealley, Shanwalla, Tooreen
Laura Finn, Main St.

Christopher Shannon, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare
Mary Teresa Kelly, Beech Lawn

Aengus Byrne, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath
Marie Healy, Johnstown

John Mitchell, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway
Pauline Tarpey, Carrowkeel

John Lyons, Gurrane
Lorraine Allen, Ballinlough

Brian Delaney, Coolnaha
Frances Murphy, Brackloon North

William David Coyne, Knox St.
Margaret Frayne, Knox St.

Patrick Murphy, Logboy
Barbara Plunkett, Scregg

Elsewhere

Peter Flanagan, Ballindrehid
Dymphna Kilgallon, Midfield, Swinford

Thomas Keaveny, Ballinlough
Roisin Shields, Devlis

John McGarry, Drimbane
Caroline Lyons, Aghatarn, Tooreen

Barry Lynch, Dublin
Olivia Higgins, Devlis

Marriages

1st Nov. 2002 – 31st Oct. 2003

Martin Connolly, Caltra, Co. Galway
Anne Davitt, Brackloon North

Jarlath Phillips, Main St.
Clodagh Kilraine, Salthill, Galway

John Kearney, Clagnagh
Philomena Walsh, Clagnagh

Tom Forde, The Square
Marie Grealley, Shanwalla, Tooreen

Philip Breslin, Ballina
Neasa Jennings, Knock Rd.

Michael Regan, Killinaugher
Cathriona Ryan, Croome, Co. Limerick

Peter Conway, Rosbeg, Westport
Brigid Coen, Clagnagh

Genevieve Damron, Doctor's Road
Paul Jones, Ennis, Co. Clare

Liesel Mooney, Doctor's Road
Jason Ward, Leeds

Gerry Ronan, Began
Anne Concannon, Kilconly, Co. Galway

Michael Frayne, Bargarriff
Katie McKeogh, Philadelphia

Philomena Cribbin, Drimbane
James Rafferty, Co. Down

'Ballyhaunis ICA'

- Maura Fitzmaurice (Secretary) -

We had our A.G.M. in June and the following officers were elected: President - Margaret Kenny; Vice-president - Angela Waldron; Secretary - Maura Fitzmaurice; Treasurer - Margaret Dyer.

We resumed our meetings in September after our Summer break. We had a demonstration on Decoupage and we all went on to make lovely pictures. We did lots of other crafts during the year. We took part in the Christmas Fair in Tooreen which was a great success. Also, we had our Christmas Craft and Cake Sale in the Parochial Hall. The ladies produced some lovely decorations, jams, knitwear, paintings on fabric, cakes, etc. Thank You to all who sponsored us. We also took part in the ICA Walk for Breast Cancer. One of our members introduced a new craft - Silk Painting. We all made lovely scarves and pictures. We had our Christmas Party in a local restaurant. Members enjoyed participating in lots of activities during the year. Our meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Parochial Hall. New members are most welcome.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all.



I.C.A. 2003

Some of the members. L-R: Ann McHugh, Mary Waldron, Patricia Plunkett, Julia Kelly, Geraldine Connolly, Margaret Kenny. Front: Margaret Dyer.



At a wedding in Dublin, 1950s. L-R: Pat Flanagan, Jack O'Connor (R.I.P.), Baby Johnston, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Hannah O'Dwyer (R.I.P.), Brigid Mary Halpin (R.I.P.), May Moyles.



A Ballyhaunis Football Team, circa 1938.

Back, L-R: Michael Walsh (Barrack St.), Luke Cribbin (Moneymore), Philip Morley (Knox St.), Sean Loftus (Knox St.), Peter Gilmore (Devlis), Eugene Dolan (c/o Gallagher's), Arthur Prenty (Tooraree). Centre, L-R: Martin Hannon (Abbey St.), Alex Eaton (Main St.), ____ Jordan (?), Sean Buckley (Abbeyquarter), Unknown, Tommy Hannon (Abbey St.). Front, L-R: Peter Hannon (Abbey St.), Alex Campbell (Clare St.).



Saint Mary's N.S. The 7th Class, 1942. Back, L-R: Tommy Stenson (R.I.P.), Jimmy O'Malley, Oliver Foudy, Tommy O'Boyle (R.I.P.), Mick O'Connell (R.I.P.). Middle, L-R: Walter O'Boyle (R.I.P.), Joe Keane, Gussie Forry (R.I.P.), Aiden Waldron, Tommy Donnellan (R.I.P.), Front, L-R: Sean Durkan (R.I.P.), Stephen Hunt, Cyril Coyne (R.I.P.), Mr. Jennings.



The Murphy Family

This photograph of members of the Murphy family was taken outside their home in Lurgan, Ballyhaunis, sometime around 1910. The topmost couple are William Murphy (c.1845-1919) and his wife Ellen, who was originally Loftus from Lavallyroe. The driver of the side-car is unknown, but was probably either one of their eleven sons - Patrick, Michael, Thomas, Anthony, William, James, Edward, John, Peter, Joseph or Martin - or their son-in-law, John Cribbin of Moneymore. The lady seated on the right is almost certainly their daughter Mary Anne (Mrs. Cribbin, Moneymore), while the identity of the other two ladies is unknown.



Jimmy Noone pictured at the weighbridge in The Square in the late 1970s. Note the weighing scales and the notice giving details of the tolls and customs charges overhead.



Taken in Jack Morley's, Knox St. in the late fifties. L-R: Seamus Waldron (Knox St.), Bud Waldron (Brackloon South), Broddie Morley (Knox St.), John Austin Freeley (Brackloon South), Willie Murphy (Knox St.), John Keane (Knox St.), Patrick Morley (Knox St.).

'Rallying Rory O'Connor'

Rory O'Connor's rally career came to an abrupt halt at the Circuit of Munster 2002 when on Stage Two his Escort WRC got out of shape over a crest, landed poorly and hit a very solid bank, wrecking the car and leaving Rory with two broken bones in his back. Rory has now made a full recovery but decided to sit out this year's Mayo Stages Rally. Is anybody prepared to bet against a comeback during the year?

How He Started

This gives us a chance to look back on ten years of competition for the Ballyhaunis native. His first outing was in a Honda Civic and was co-driven by Tadgh Buckley of EPS Pumps fame, in the 1992 Sligo Stages Rally, rumours have it that the biggest damage was a broken Co-drivers footplate as the passenger searched fruitlessly for the brake! In 1993, Rory contested the Mayo and Sligo Stages Rallies with Tom Dillon but a big crash saw the end of the first Honda.

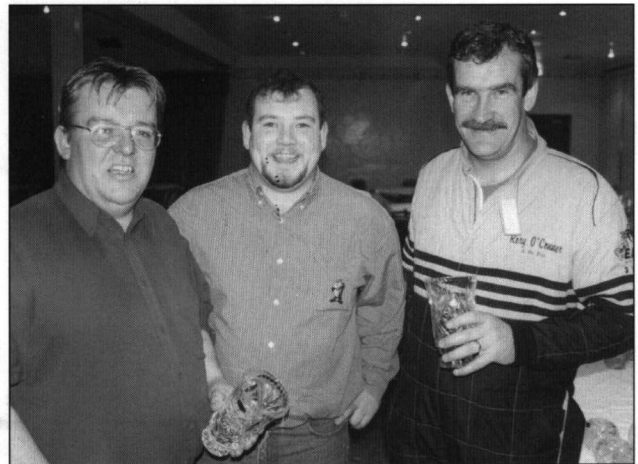
1994 saw the arrival of the ex Noel Mc Carrick Civic and more importantly, Francis Kenny arrived on the co-driving scene and a long-term partnership was formed. In 1995 the ex Jonny Milner Peugeot 205 arrived and they finished 25th overall in Ballina and ended the year with the annual trip to Kerry for the Banna Beach Single Stage rally which allowed them to upgrade to an International licence.

1996

1996 started with a trip to Galway which only lasted four miles and after another breakdown in Ballina the decision was made to go four wheel drive when they hired an Escort Cosworth group N and after a number of visits to the ditches got their first finish in Banna. 1997 was a disaster with a record number of non finishes but in 1998 a few good runs netted the pair a national title in class 4 group N and they also won a Midwest Radio Sportstar of the year award. The arrival of the Ken Lyons Group A Escort in 1999 signalled a change of fortune and after a shaky start in Mayo where the Meelick ditches tended to move, 14th in Carrick on Suir and 4th overall in Banna were excellent results.

2000

2000 was an excellent year with 7th in Mayo, 3rd in Midlands, 6th in Banna and 18th in France on a trip to Rally Chlarmange. 2001 Was disrupted due to foot and mouth but Rory and Francis finished 17th



Mayo Prizegiving 2000. Rory & Francis with Tom Tuffy.

overall in the Belgian Bianchi rally and Rory also bought the Frank Meagher Escort WRC and finished 14th overall in the Stones Throwers Rally but suffered a major disappointment when the engine blew on the Achill Single Stage.

2002

2002 promised much and started with the newly Snappy liveried Car Clearing in Westport with daughter Jane in the Co-drivers seat. Centre differential problems in Mayo slowed progress but Rory teamed up with Bob Kelly and finished third in the Midlands Mini Stages. Brake problems in Carlow slowed progress again and all came to a sudden stop in Limerick. The car is being rebuilt and we hope to see Rory trying his hand at some ralliesprints in the coming year.

This article is an extract taken from the 2003 Mayo Stages Rally Programme.



Rory O'Connor / Francis Kenny - Galway '99

Patrons

**Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.
Please Support Local Business and Industry**

All numbers are 094 code unless otherwise stated.

AIB Bank, Bridge St.....	Fax 9630726; Tel 9630464
Alma's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Clare St.....	9630354
Ancofer Ltd., Tooraree.....	Fax: 9630733; Tel 9630850; 9630860
Avondale B & B and Holiday Homes, Clare St. (prop. Bridie Levins).....	9630345
Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union, Main St.....	9630998
Ballyhaunis Irish Dancewear (Dresses, Shoes, Accessories, Wigs).....	(086) 3891462; 9631073
Ballyhaunis Plant & Tool Hire, Knox St.....	Mob (087) 2548355; Tel 9630979
Ballyhaunis Transport Services (to & from Dublin)...	Mob (087) 2549077; (086) 3898535; Tel 9630477
Ballyhaunis Trophy Centre, Knock Rd. (prop. Kay Buckley)	9630090
Bank of Ireland, The Square.....	9630073
Beauty For You, Bridge St. (prop. Anita Duffy)	9631424
Bridge Club, Ballyhaunis	
Burke, Fr. Kieran, C.C., Upper Main St.....	9630095
Burke, Tom, M.R.C.V.S., Abbey St.	9630225
The Bus Stop, Grocery, Newsagent, Wine, Main St.	9630023
Byrne, Pat, Victualler and Grocer, Knox St.	9630283
Campbell's Auctioneers and Insurance Brokers, Knox St.	9630082
Carney's, The Gem (Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery), Bridge St.....	9630840
Carty, John T.D., Carrowmore House, Knock.....	(094) 9888149
Carty, Michael, (Publican & Auctioneer), Knock.....	(094) 9388103
Caulfield's Grocery and Newsagents, Upper Main St.	9631400
Clock Tavern, Knox St.	9630344
Colleran's Pharmacy, Bridge St.	9630028
Community School, Knock Rd.	9630238
Connacht Council GAA.....	9630335
Connacht Gold Trading, Store, Cave.....	9630166
Connacht Scaffolding Ltd., Knock Rd.	Fax 9630336; Tel 9630198
Connaught Arms, Knox St.	9631053
Connolly's Kitchens, Galway Rd.	Tel/Fax 9630327
Cooney, Canon Joseph, P.P., Parochial House.....	9630006
Cribbin, Cllr. John, Knockanarra.....	Office 9630052
Cunniffe Construction Ltd., Tooreen.....	Mob (087) 2612838; Tel 9649035
Cunningham's Londis, Foodmarket, Abbey St.....	9630730; 9630162
Curley's Bar, Clare St.....	9630077
Curley's Chemists, Main St.....	Fax 9631191; Tel 9630110
Curley's Jewellers, Bridge St.....	Fax 9631191; Tel 9630110
Daly's Electrical, T.V., Domestic Appliances, Bridge St.....	9630987
Dawn Ballyhaunis, Clare Rd.....	Fax 9630561; Tel 9630555
Delaney's Ltd., Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St.....	9630296
Delaney's, Paddy, Select Bar and Lounge, Abbey St.	9630024
De-Luxe Cleaning, Carpets, Upholstery, etc., Vincent Higgins.....	9630284
Dillon's Travel Agency, The Square.....	Fax 9630721; Tel 9630021; 9630269
Doherty's Betting Office, Main St.	9630628; 9630738
Dolan, Eugene, Long Island, New York	
Donnellan's - Joinery, Undertakers, Funeral Home, Clare St.	9630045
Donnellan's Service Station, Devils (Heating Oil, Motor Diesel)	9631157
Eagney Insurance Services Ltd., Bridge St.	Fax 9630795; Tel 9630793; 9630794
Electrical and Pump Services Ltd.	Fax 9630761; Tel 9630226
Farrell, Kieran, Tyres, Clare Rd.	9630573
Finn, Footwear Specialists (Ballyhaunis & Kiltimagh).....	9630141; (094) 9881970
Fitzgerald's Grocery & Confectionary, Bridge St.	
Flanagan Motors, Tooreen, New and Used Cars.....	9649433
Flatley, Padraic, Design Consultant, Clare St.	Mob. (087) 9580986; 9631244

Fleming, Seamus & Annette , Lavallyroe, B & B - Cab Hire.....	Mob (086) 8195500; Tel 9646040
Flogas Ireland Ltd. , Ballyhaunis.....	Fax 9630040; Tel 9630883
Folliard, Noel , Barber, Knox St.....	Mob (087) 6415039
Forde Bros. , Ballinlough, Alum., PVC Windows & Doors.....	Mob (086) 8120324; Tel 9640525
Forde's Ltd. , The Square (The House for All the Family).....	9630013
4-D's Off-licence , The Square (Best Value Selection of Wines, Spirits, Beers).....	9630013
Freeley, Terence , Braga, Portugal	
Freyne Ceramics , Hazelhill (For All Your Tiling Needs).....	9630722
Freyne Garage & Service Station , Clare St.....	9630043
Freyne, Bernard , Gas Service, Hazelhill.....	Fax 9630040; Tel 9630152
Freyne, Nicholas , Concrete Products, Coolnaha.....	9630318
G.A.A. Club	
Gallagher, Michael , Knock Rd., Building Contractor.....	9630605
Gallagher's Builders' Providers , Furniture, Main St. & Clare Rd.....	9630020; 9630314
Ganley Auctioneers	9640594
Garvey-Moran, C. , School Supplies, Knox St.	9630079
Gill's Pub , Clare St. (prop. John and Bernie Gill)	9630039
Glynn, Pat , Photographer, Doctor's Rd.	9630026; Castlerea 9620094
Greene, Tony & Pauline , Box 127, Green Drive, Schola, PA 18458, U.S.A.	001-5705597643
Griffin, John , Orthodontist, Knock Rd.	9630534
Griffin, Mike , Taxi Service, Clare St./Devlis.....	9630213
Grogan, Austin, & Sons , Concrete Products, Cave.....	9630072
Gurteen Kitchens Ltd. , Gurteen.....	Mob (086) 8244386; Fax 9630751; Tel/Fax 9630797
Halpin, John & Breege , Floral Occasions (Teleflorist).....	Email johnnhalpin@eircom.net 9630012
Harvest Fresh Fruit & Veg. , Main St.	9630736
Hazel Bar & Restaurant , Contact Margaret/Michael/Collette, Main St.....	9630885
Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd. , Europallets, prop. Milo Henry.....	Fax 9630825; Tel 9630094
Healy, Joe , Registered Building Contractor, Annagh.....	9630481
Helen's Laundrette , Barrack St.....	9630841
Heneghan's Carpets & Furniture , Knox St. (Car Park).....	Fax/Tel 9630770
Herr, Fred , Grocer, Knox St.	9631305
Higgins O'Brien Business Property Ltd. , Clare St.....	Fax 9631383; Tel 9630088
Higgins, Jim , Senator,	
Higgins, Pat , Adult Education Officer, Devlis.....	(094) 9623159
Hopkins, Tom & Noreen , Upper Main St.	
Hunt, Murt , Adv. Rep., Western People	Murthunt47@eircom.net Mob (086) 2200197; Tel/Fax 9630442
Iris' Florists , Interflora, Main St.....	9630015
J.B. Heating & Plumbing , Devlis.....	(086) 6035126
J.G.'s Barber Shop , Barrack St.	(087) 2450079
Jennings, Bernard, B.D.S. , Knox St.....	9630315
Johnston's Machinery , Farming Community Specialists, Knox St.....	9630019
Jordan's Windows , Clare St.....	9630641
Kay's Beauty Salon , Knox St.	9630065
Keane Kitchens Ltd. , Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd.	9630038
Keane, Joe , Merchant Tailor, Knox St.	9630751
Kearns, Tom , Plant Hire, Lavallyroe.....	Mob (087) 2528894; Tel 9646193
Kelly, John (JPX) , Knock.....	Email: jpkelly@eircom.net Fax 9388870; Tel 9388315
Kelly, Padraic , Furniture Manufacturer, Drimbane.....	9630089
Kelly, Rosaleen , RPN, MIRI, SK, CPP, Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties.....	Tel/Fax 9630022
Kirrane Bros. , Seamless Gutters, Fascia, Soffitt, Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis	Mob (086) 3858922; Tel 9646079
Lilly, John Joe , Plant Hire, Johnstown.....	9630352
Loughran, Frank, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S. , Upper Main St.	9630017
Lyons, Michael G. , Agricultural Contractor, Cloonfaughna, Knock.....	(094) 9880249
Lyons, Michael , Coach & Minibus Hire, Lecarrow.....	9630347
Lyons, Tommy , Publican, Main St.	
M.W.R. fm (96.1 Mhz), Clare St.	9630169; Ads 9630553
Mac Siurtain's , Publicans, Main St. (Live Music)(prop. Stephen Nolan).....	9630854
Madden, Gerald , Snooker Tables, Gurteen.....	9630228
Mayo Computer & Computer Training , Clare St.	Mayocomputers@eircom.net Fax: 9630215 Tel. 9632843
McGarry Development Consultants , Engineers, Architects, Clare St.	9630170
McGarry's Ladies Wear , Main St.	9630084
McHugh, Terence , High Class Victualler, Abbey St.	9630061
McNamara Car Dismantlers , Dublin Rd.	9630439

McNamara, Eamon, Car/Tractor Repairs (24-Hour Service)	Mob (087) 2451908; Tel 9630386
Mercy Sisters (Hon.), Upper Main St.	9630108
Moran Bros. Ltd., Building/Public Works Contractor (6 Year Structural Guarantee Scheme)	9630146; 9630725
Moran Coaches & Minibus Hire, Knock Rd.	Fax/Tel 9630346
Moran, Donal K. & Sons, Building Contractor, Knox St.	9630079
Moran, Donal, T.V. Systems, Knox St.	9630569
Moran, Tommy, Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St.	9630493
Morley, Tony & Sons, Exterior and Interior Decoration, Knox St.	9630944
Morrissey Distribution Ltd., Cave	Mob (087) 2469441; Tel 9630565
Mulhern, Edward, Taxi Service, Knock Rd.	Mob (087) 6961579; Tel 9630249
Mulrennan, James, & Sons, Ltd., Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens)	9630038
Munroe, Brian & Sons Ltd., Insurance Brokers	9630343
Murphy, Eddie, & Sons, Menswear Specialists, Main St.	9630651
Murphy, Eddie, & Sons, Ladies - 'Part Two', Main St.	9630651
Murphy's Auto Sales, Service Station & Shop, Dublin Rd.	Fax/Tel 9630307
Naim Music Centre, Ballinlough	Mob (087) 2470559; Tel (094) 9640228
Nestor & Co., Accountants, Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.	Fax 30294; Tel 9632000
Nestor's Corner Bar, The Square	9631011
Newsround (prop. Pat Freeley), Newsagents/Toys/Gifts, Main St.	9630897
Nicholson's Bar, Bridge St.	9630357
Nolan's Funeral Home, Charlestown Rd.	9630205/9630935
Noonan, Martin, Tarmacadam contractor, Block Paving, Kerbing, Bekan	(087) 4188046 Tel. (094) 9380932
Noone, Moira & Pat, Ard Patrick, Hazelhill	
O'Connor, John, Ronoco Ltd., Doctor's Rd.	9630037
Oak Bar, Bridge St. (prop. Niall Delaney)	9630099
P & P Plastering Services Ltd.	9630144; 9630715
Parochial Hall	
Patterson, Noel, M.R.C.V.S., Main St.	9630113; 9630865
Phillips Clothes Shop, Dalton St., Claremorris.	(094) 9872020
Phillips, Charlie & Sons, Drapers, Main St.	9630368
Phillips, Charlie & Sons, Shoes, Main St.	9630368
Phillips, Eamon, High Class Victualler, Main St.	9630381
Phillips, Paddy, Publican, Main St.	9630118
Phonepak Technology, Main St.	Tel/Fax 9631322
Rattigan's Bar, Knox St.	9630157
Red Square, Fast Food/Restaurant (prop. Seamus Grogan)	9630360
Rochford Motors, Main Mitsubishi Dealers, Knock Rd.	Fax 9630570; Tel 9630350; 9630163
Royal Breffni Pub, Knox St.	9631078
Ruane, P., Radio & T.V. Dealers/Repairs, Knox St.	9630129
Ryan's Supervalu, Main St. (Free Parking at Rear)	9630359
Scoil Iosa Primary School, Abbeyquarter.	Fax/Tel 9630505; Tel 9630310
Storm, Movies & Phones, Main St.	9632886
Stratford Photography.	Mob (087) 2469355; Tel 9630293
Supermacs (prop. John Durkan), Parties/Takeaway	Fax 9632860; Tel 9632855
Tasty Dish, Restaurant, Knox St.	9632963
Timoney, Martin, Carrownedan, RECI, Electrical Contractor	Mob (087) 2398402
Tynan Dillon, Chartered Accountants, Clare St.	9630261
Ulster Bank Ltd., Abbey St.	9630049
Val's For Food/Accommodation (Live Music Thursday Nights), Main St. (Prop. Liam Folliard)	9630068
Valerie's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Barrack St.	9630681
Waldron, Anthony, Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh	Mob (087) 4141462; Tel 9631326
Waldron, Austin, Derrymore	
Waldron, Paul, Local Correspondent, Western People	paulfwaldron@eircom.net (087) 4114628; Fax 9632989
Wash Tub, Laundrette & Dry Cleaners, Same Day Service/Ironing Service	9630449
Webb, M. J., Master Butcher, Main St.	9630003
Webb, T. J., Catering & Retail Butcher, Bridge St.	Mob (088) 679190; Tel 9630041
Western Brand Chickens Ltd., Fresh & Frozen Daily.	Fax 30834; Tel 9630069
Winston, Gerard, Fuel Merchant, Devils.	9630395

**You can contact Annagh Magazine by email at the following address:
annaghmag@eircom.net**



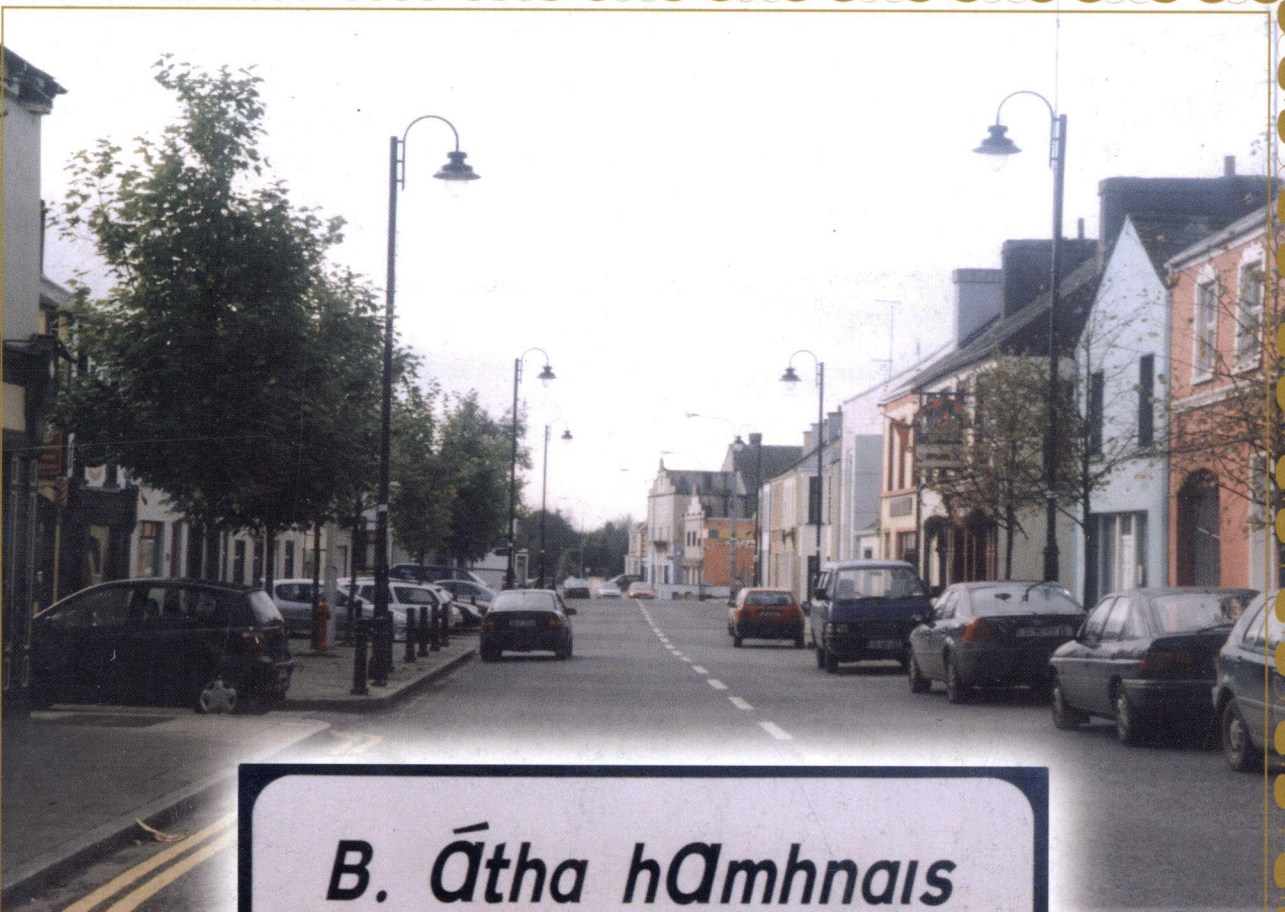
Top: Karate Kids: some students of School Iosa who attend Karate classes given by Alan Biesty.



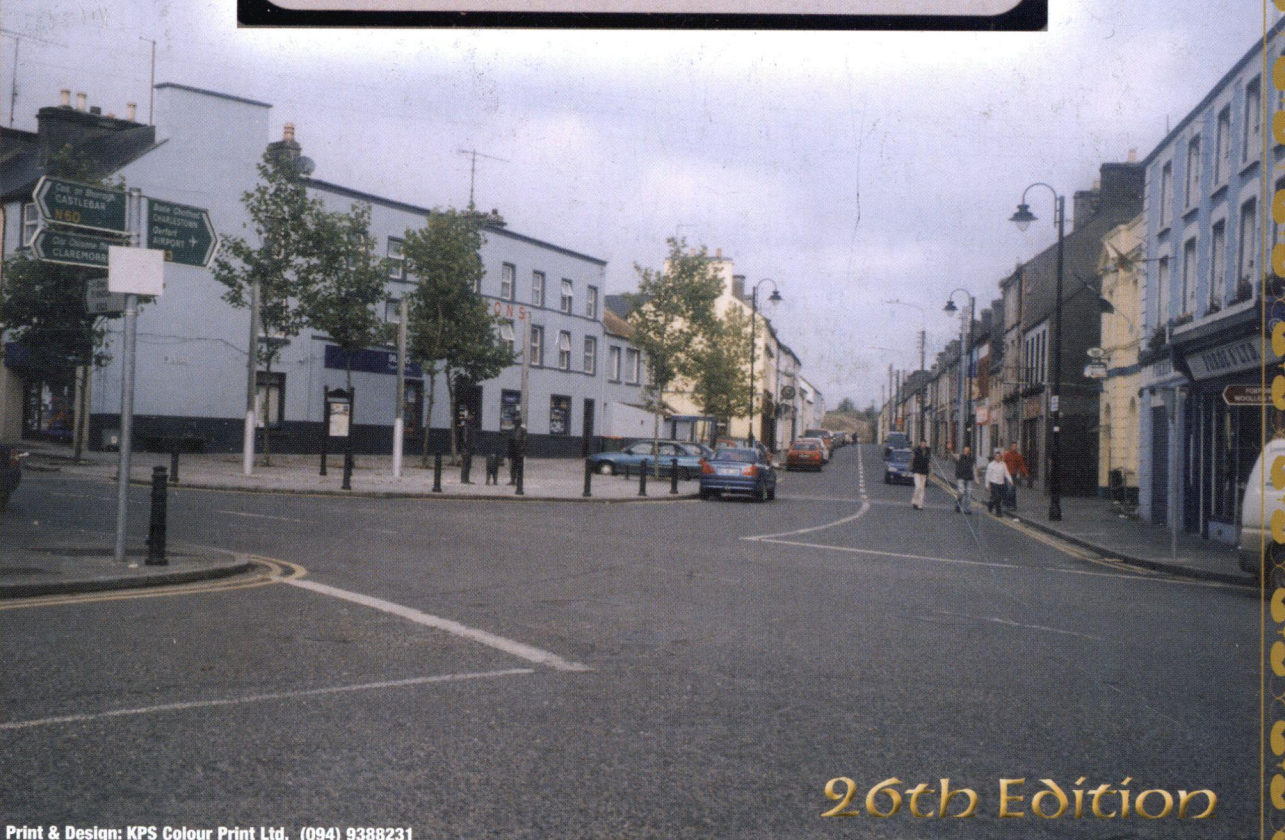
Left: Central Park, New York, Autumn 2003. L-R: Justina, Helen, Tessa and Clodagh Lyons (Upper Main St.) with Tony Moran (New York and Hazelhill).



St. Patrick's College Fourth Year Class, June 1964 – First Leaving Cert Class: Back (L-R): John Hoban, Donal Salmon, Brendan Lyons, Eamon Freeman, Eddie Mulhern, John Kelly, Jim Cunningham, Peter Sweeney. Front (L-R): Martin Regan, Jim Fitzmaurice, Joe Robinson, Kieran McLoughlin, Padraig Sloyan, Pat Halpin, Dermot Eagney. Missing from photo: Brendan McGrath, Michael McQueeney, John Freeman.



B. Átha hAmhnais
BALLYHAUNIS



26th Edition