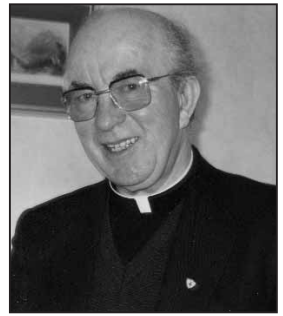


2005 Annagh



Christmas Greetings

It seems such a short year since last Christmas and yet we are moving fast towards the Christmas season again. The year gone by has been a year of high drama, beginning with the awful tsunami tragedy on St. Stephen's Day. This has been followed by all the other tragedies of the year, the hurricanes in the US, the terrors in Baghdad, the earthquake in Pakistan and many more.



I suppose one event that will always stand out in the minds of Catholics was the death of our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. His final illness and death brought home to us how he dignified pain and suffering by his endurance and acceptance. His funeral captured the attention of the world because he was respected by world leaders everywhere for standing up for what he believed. Then we had the election of Pope Benedict XVI and a new era in the church began.

It is our prayer that the coming year will be a better year, that peace will take the place of war and violence around the world, and that people everywhere will escape natural disasters and flu pandemics.

As always, I avail of the pages of Annagh Magazine to wish you all, on my own behalf and on behalf of Fr. Burke, a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing and every happiness in the New Year.

Wherever you are, at home or abroad, you will be remembered in our Masses on Christmas Day.

Joseph Cooney
Joseph Cooney



Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P. and Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C. offer Benediction at the Square during the Corpus Christi procession, Sunday, 29th May.

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Editorial

The Annagh Magazine Society is delighted to present Annagh 2005, the twenty-eighth issue of the Ballyhaunis parish magazine. We hope this year's magazine reflects the vibrant and evolving community that is Ballyhaunis in the twenty-first century.

We have reached the half-way stage of the first decade of the new century. We live in a fast moving, wealthy (for some) economy where massive changes have taken place and will continue to take place in the future. It is twenty years since the first flight took off from Knock Airport (now Ireland West Knock), inspired by the visionary and late Mons. Horan. Our telephone service went automatic that year. We had not yet heard of the internet, mobile phones, or the Euro; nor had our first woman President, Mary Robinson – a Mayo native – been elected. Computers twenty years ago were few and far between.

Annagh was printed in black and white by Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber in 1985. At that time in Ballyhaunis we hadn't heard of Midwest Radio, the Millennium Spire, the Claremorris-Knock bypass road and other local infrastructural improvements; the enterprise centres, the townland signage, the many new estates and the people from many countries who have become part of our community, as the pages of this magazine will testify.

As with all organisations in the parish we have lost many valued members, and this year we sorely miss the wisdom and wit of the late Gerry Cribbin. We dedicate this magazine to his memory, especially remembering the great work Gerry did in chronicling the past and preserving it for us.

All through the changes in Ballyhaunis, with the advent of new businesses and many changes that have occurred in older businesses, our loyal readers supported us by buying the magazine; our generous patrons, both at home and abroad, defrayed the rising cost; our writers visited the well of inspiration, and twenty-eight years later we still have a magazine. Our voluntary committee continues to produce the magazine year after year.

Every year there is a fear that we mightn't have enough material to fill a magazine, yet, every year we seem to receive more than we are able to publish. Inevitably, contributions of articles and photographs have had to be held over due to lack of space.

Change continues to occur in all our lives; our voluntary organisations try to respond to some of the changes; they are some of the real heroes and heroines of modern Ireland, for without them our quality of life would be the poorer. Monsignor Horan had a vision that has borne fruit. As we face the future of a changing society, the important thing to remember is how we manage the changes.

In a few weeks time work will be getting underway on next year's Annagh Magazine. As always we welcome contributions of articles and photographs of Ballyhaunis interest. So that we can have the magazine printed in good time for Christmas, we would ask that articles, photographs or other items for publication be submitted to any committee member (listed below) before Friday 20th October 2006.

Finally, greetings to all our readers wherever they may be. You can contact Annagh at annaghmag@eircom.net; or you can view our website at www.annagh.com.

Officers

President – Joe Keane; Vice-president – Agnes Heaney; Chairperson – Maisin Meath; Vice-chairperson – Stephen Grogan; Secretary – Martin Forde; Treasurer – Maura Griffin; P.R.O and Asst. Treasurer – John Halpin; Sales and Marketing – Seamus Mulrennan; Patron Management – Michael Finn; Typesetting: Brídann Halpin, Mary Donnelly; Editorial Group – Jim Lundon, Maura Griffin, John Halpin, Paul Waldron; Cover Design – Jaroslav Jurak.



Earlier this year, Joe Keane (President) on behalf of the Annagh Magazine Society, presented the latest bound volume of Annagh Magazines to Eleanor Freyne, Librarian, Ballyhaunis Library. The library now holds a complete run of all twenty-seven issues of the Annagh (1978-2004), kept in hard-bound volumes of three issues each. Pictured here are some members of the Annagh Magazine Society with Eleanor Freyne, Librarian. L-R: John Halpin, Joe Keane, Maura Griffin, Eleanor Freyne, Jim Lundon, Maisin Meath.

Ballyhaunis News Review 2004/2005

By Michael Byrne

November 2004

St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, was the venue for the Mayo World War Remembrance Mass, on Sunday, 14th Nov. Celebrated by Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., assisted by Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C., the Mass was organised to commemorate all those from County Mayo who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, and in other wars and peace-keeping missions throughout the world in recent times... Tommy Lynch, Holywell was named as "Flogas Driver of the Year" for the second year in succession in November 2004... Winners in the Children's Books Festival Competition, held in November 2004, were: Junior Quiz 4-7 year olds - Katie Haugh, Abbey View; Internet Quiz 8-12 year olds - Sergey Alifanov, Abbey Court; Word Search Puzzle - Lisa Hunt, Derryconag; Morgan Lyons, Knockbrack; Colouring Competition under 5 years - Chloe Ryan, Hazelhill; Haroon Shabbir, Clare Rd.; Andrew Hickey, Abbeyquarter; Colouring Competition under 8 years - Henrikas Sasnauskas, Bridge St.

December 2004

On St. Stephen's Day 2004, television beamed all over the world reveal the disaster caused by the tidal wave in South East Asia which claims the lives of over 60,000 people, leaving thousands more homeless... The communities of Gurteen and Carrowkeel gather to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the erection of the Gurteen Grotto. Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C., presides over the special ceremony to mark the event... Ballyhaunis town and its hinterland is shocked and saddened at the sudden death of one of the town's principal businessmen, Paddy Phillips of Main Street... Community School Principal Pat McHugh, together with teachers, past and present, turn out for a special function to honour retired principal, Jarlath Fahy and teacher, John Cleary for their contribution to education in Ballyhaunis over the past forty years...

January 2005

St. Patrick's Church is the focus of media attention on Sunday, 9th January following the theft from the sacristy of a sum of money, estimated to be in the region of €13,000. The money, stolen from the safe in the sacristy on the Sunday afternoon, was the proceeds of the special collection taken up in the church in aid of the Asian Disaster Fund... Meanwhile, the national media is focused on the small town of Middleton in County Cork where an 11 year old boy, Robert Holohan is found murdered following an exhaustive search operation for the little boy which lasted ten days.

February 2005

Monster Car Boot Sale and Auction at Knock,

organised by Mid West Radio, raises over €50,000 for victims of the South East Asian disaster... In keeping with a well established tradition, a bound volume containing the three most recent issues of the Annagh Magazine was presented to Ballyhaunis Library. The Library now holds a complete run of all twenty-seven issues of the Annagh (1978-2004)... Ballyhaunis native Joseph Webb is promoted to the position of Deputy Managing Director at Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Ltd. Son of Rita and the late Joe Webb, Devlis, Joseph, the organisation's Group Advertising Director, has responsibility for the titles, the Irish Independent, Evening Herald and the Sunday Independent... Ballyhaunis native Brian Flanagan does his town proud when he performs on the Late Late Show on RTE TV. Brian performed a song from his new CD "Dreaming Road", with legendary blues singer, Eric Bibb... Community School Leaving Cert student Lisa Webb makes the last 18 for the Republic of Ireland Under 17 Ladies Soccer team to play in the Easter Tournament. Ireland's opponents in the tournament will include the USA, England, Spain and Northern Ireland. Lisa is daughter of Mike and Cait Webb, Main Street... Ballyhaunis Community School students raise €8,000 for worthy causes. The organisations which benefited from the students' hard work included a Children's Orphanage in Thailand, the Tsunami survivors of South East Asia and the impoverished farming community of Magugu in Tanzania... The town is saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of well known local historian, Gerry Cribbin. Gerry, a native of Tooraree, has been an active and very prominent member of the Annagh Magazine for several years... Ryan's Supervalu, Ballyhaunis wins prestigious An Bord Bia National Foods Award for their excellent Fruit & Vegetable Department Display. The Fruit & Veg. Department is managed by Pattenspark native, Marian Biesty... Croi Ballyhaunis and District presented a Lifepak Defibrillator to Ryan's Supervalu, Ballyhaunis. The defibrillator is a medical device which is used during a cardiac emergency to administer an electric shock to restore normal rhythm to the heart. Six members of staff at Ryan's Supervalu have been fully trained in its use: Pat Ryan, Ray Darcy, Mary Sykes, Ronan Egan, Alta Regan and Karen Gildea.

March

Work gets underway on the new Children's Playground in the Friary Field... Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary presides over Confirmation Day at St. Patrick's Church... Captain's Drive at Ballyhaunis Golf Club: the incoming Captains are Seamus Swift of Kiltimagh and Cait Webb, Main St... Noted theologian and Began native Dr. Enda McDonagh is honoured by his native



Ballybaunis Community School Second Year footballers, winners of the Connacht Colleges Second Year 'B' Championship, 2005. Back, L-R: Cathal Freeman, Liam McDermott, Tadhg Morley, Paul Caulfield, Donal Rochford. Middle, L-R: Micheal Murren (Trainer), Shane Culliney, Michael Morley, Kenneth Feeney, David McNamara, Ruairi Finan, Brian Hunt. Front, L-R: Liam Groarke, John Maughan, Robert Lyons (Capt.), Jamie Tighe, Kevin Nestor.



At the blessing of the Gurteen Carrowkeel Shrine to Our Blessed Lady, marking its fiftieth anniversary, Dec. 2004. L-R: Pat Biesty, Martin Caulfield, Tom Henry, John Brennan, Jimmy Finn, Michael Caulfield, Enda Caulfield.



John and Mary Frances Cleary, Clare St., with Pat McHugh, Principal, Ballyhaunis Community School.



Republic of Ireland Ladies Soccer stars Lisa Webb and Eilish Nevin.



Three generations. At the blessing of the Gurteen Carrowkeel Shrine, Dec. 2004: Jack, Henry and Albert Madden.



Visiting Holywell L-R: Angela Kelly (Manchester), Ann Lynch (Holywell), Mary Austin (nee Grogan, Holywell), Tom Grogan (Holywell); boy in front: Patrick Kelly (Manchester).



Back in the 1960s. 'Rover' the dog gets a lift. Taken outside Lyons' old house, Clagnagh.



Owen Lyons and his daughter Mary E. cutting turf at Bunnadober in the 1940s.



Jeremy Freely, Clagnagh, bagging turf in Clooncan Bog, June 2005.

parish, marking the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Dr. Enda is son of the late P. J. and Mary McDonagh, Began... Much to cheer about on St. Patrick's Day as Mayo GAA club Ballina Stephenites capture the All-Ireland (Andy Merrigan) Club Football Championship - only the second Mayo club in history to do so... Sarah and John Joe Kelly and family re-open their newly refurbished and enlarged grocery shop (Herr's) in Knox Street. Sarah is daughter of the late Fred and Maura Herr.

April

The month of April begins on a sad note when Pope John Paul II dies at the Vatican at the age of 85 years. Memorial Masses are held in every part of the country in memory of the late pontiff. At St. Patrick's Church in Ballyhaunis over 30 members of the Polish community join with their Ballyhaunis brethren for the special Mass of Remembrance for their fellow countryman, Pope John Paul II... Ballyhaunis ladies choral group Gracenotes perform with the Three Tenors at a concert in Castlebar... The Doctor's Road leading to the Annagh Medical Centre is described as a 'death trap' by local County Councillor John Cribbin at an Area Council meeting... At a very enjoyable function at Knock House Hotel, a total of €5,600 is raised for the Ballyhaunis & District Croí organisation... Great sadness envelops the whole of Ballyhaunis following news of the death, following an accident, of local well known gentleman Michael Morley of Knox Street... Women's Tuesday Club is launched at the Friary House... Former Roscommon senior Gaelic footballer Gerry Fitzmaurice wins Harp Lager Trophy at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... German native Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger is elected Pope by a conclave which took just over one day to reach their verdict. The former Cardinal assumes the name Pope Benedict XVI... The Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council Cllr. Eddie Staunton officially opens the new Children's Playground in the Friary Field. The project, undertaken by the local authority cost €120,000 to complete... Over 200 visitors from all over the world attend the International Waldron Clan Gathering. Events are held in Ballyhaunis and Aghamore, with the highlight of the weekend, the Clan Gathering Banquet being held in Knock... Brian Flanagan entertains a packed house at the Friary with his new backing band... Ashling Tarpey of Carrowkeel received a G.A.A. Star of the Future Award... Jessica Kelly of Derrynacong won the 13-15 year old Classical Ballet section of the Irish National Dance Awards.

May

The month of May gets off to a great start with the Bank Holiday Festival Weekend. On the opening night of the festival Patricia Finan is crowned Annagh Rose for 2005. In the RUA Star talent event, Cloontumper native Dorothy Dolan comes out on top with a wonderful singing performance... Friday 13th was a

ground-breaking one for Ballyhaunis based Mid West Radio, as it launches its new worldwide Internet service. Minister for the Marine Pat 'The Cope' Gallagher performs the official launch of the new service - midwestirishradio.com. In his concluding remarks the Donegal TD asserts that 'from now on, Ballyhaunis will be heard from here to Australia, and at many points in between'... Ardee native Ken Caraher takes up a new position as cashier with Ulster Bank Ltd., in Ballyhaunis... Ballyhaunis Community School Second Year footballers win the Connaught 'B' Championship with a fine 3-8 to 1-12 victory over Roscommon CBS in the decider played at Castlerea... 'Riverbank Rover', bred by Liam Waldron, Scrigg, Ballyhaunis, was adjudged the top Simmental bull in the country at the National Bull Performance Centre in Tully, Co. Kildare... Ballyhaunis makes headlines, sadly for the wrong reasons, when the local Post Office is the scene of a break in and robbery by a Dublin gang. Although staff are held and threatened, nobody is injured. Following good work by the Gardai, two of the criminals are apprehended and caught several hours later. In the region of €30,000 is stolen in the robbery, most of which is later recovered by the Gardai... However, without any doubt, the main talking point on the streets during the month of May is the state of the weather! Temperatures well below normal, and very, very, very wet, in fact, the wettest month of May since 1994, according to Met Eireann... But we live in hope!!

June

The Friary Property is signed over by the Augustinian Order to the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust in a 999 year lease agreement. The ten person Trust is chaired by Mayo County Manager, Des Mahon and is also made up of the following representatives: Jim Norton (Mayo County Council); Cllrs Michael Carty and John Cribbin; Jarlath Fahey and Nuala Fitzgerald (reps. of Augustinian Order); Jim Lundon, Pat Higgins, Mary Donnelly and Stephen Grogan (Ballyhaunis Community Council); The Friary Property will continue to be managed by the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership, on behalf of the Abbey Trust. St. Mary's Abbey was officially closed on Sunday June 16th 2002... On the sporting front, John Doyle captures the President's Prize at the local Golf Club... Founding member and former President of the Ballyhaunis Apostolic Work Association, Ms. May Moyles dies at the age of 93 years at Cuan Chaitriona Nursing Home in Castlebar... Former Ballyhaunis Curate Fr. James O'Grady is promoted to the position of Parish Priest of Headford, Co. Galway where he has been based as Curate for the past two years... Ballyhaunis County Council member John Cribbin is elected Vice-Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council. Castlebar native Henry Kenny is the Council's new Cathaoirleach... Ballyhaunis Parish Priest Canon Joe Cooney is appointed Director of Knock Marriage Bureau in succession to Claremorris native Fr. Michael

Keane, who initiated the service back in 1968.

July

Preparations begin for staging of Abbey Pattern 2005... Minister of State Deputy Brian Lenihan, TD, performs the official opening of the Retirement Village and Group Home in Brickens on Saturday July 2nd. The Retirement Village comprises of 13 houses with a Group Home, for the elderly of the area... Scoil Iosa 6th Class student Robyn Moran receives certificate from School Principal Jim Lundon for her 100% record of attendance at the Ballyhaunis primary school over her eight years of attendance. Robyn is daughter of Tommy and Marguerite Moran, Main St... Ballyhaunis Under 14 footballers win the Mayo County title in tremendous fashion with a comprehensive victory over Shrul/Glencorrib in the final played at Mayo Abbey on July 5th. The victorious team is captained by Began youngster Damien Kedian. The team mentors are Pat Freeley, Bernie Waldron and John Collins... Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Awards for 2005 are announced. Among the winners are Paddy Phillips (Butcher), Main St; Al and Anne Madden, Hazelhill and Seamus and Aisling Caulfield, Devlis... Biggest National news of the month is the announcement by the IRA that it is to demilitarise its troops throughout the six counties, announcing that it is to pursue its aims purely by peaceful means as and from 4 pm on Thursday, July 28th 2005.

August

Over 100 young footballers from Mayo and Roscommon participate in the Bank Holiday Football Blitz at the GAA Grounds. At the end of a thrilling days exhibition of football, the Under 10 footballers of Claremorris and Ballyhaunis are victorious... On the golf course, Kiltimagh businessman and senior Gaelic footballer Shane Gilmartin wins the Captain's (Seamus Swift) Prize at the local club... Meanwhile, in far away Croke Park, the Under 9 hurlers of Ballyhaunis do their club and their town most proud when they perform at GAA headquarters in Dublin at the interval of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Semi-Final... Ballyhaunis singers are very much to the fore at the National Novena at Knock Shrine. Among the performers during the nine day Novena are ladies group Gracenotes, the Ballyhaunis Abbey Male Choir and soloist Brian Flanagan... The month of August was a lucky one for Ballyhaunis as car-winning fever hits the town. No sooner had Ballinphuill native Orla Donnelly driven off in her brand new car which she won courtesy of a fund-raising draw at Knock Airport, than retired Garda Frank Leonard receives good tidings that he is also the owner of a brand new motor car, which he won in a Co. Cork raffle... Local publican Adrian Murray celebrates his 40th birthday with a host of friends and relatives at his popular Knox Street hostelry... The Provincial Minor football winners of Great Britain, Warwickshire enjoy a well deserved weekend break in Mayo. Ballyhaunis are among the clubs from the

county to host the visiting English footballers... Ballyhaunis based GP, Doctor Michael Brogan is among the eight man crew which sets sail on the Mayo built vessel, Northabout as they attempt to circumnavigate the North East Passage... Popular Doctor's Road couple Rory and Margaret O'Connor celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary... Exactly four months after his death, a special Mass of Remembrance is held at the Bridge at Carrowreagh in memory of Michael 'Ba' Morley. Chief celebrant for the Mass of Remembrance is Ballyhaunis native Fr. J. J. Cribbin, PP., Milltown... and finally, the last weekend of August sees the return of the traditional Abbey Pattern at the Friary Field. Despite inclement weather, the Pattern is a great success, thanks to a very hard working and energetic local committee.

September

On the opening weekend of the month, a large number of energetic and enthusiastic walkers set off from the Square for a walk to Coney Island in Gorthaganny, all in aid of the local branch of Friends of Croí... Former Mayo senior footballer David Nestor marries Ellen Kennedy at the bride's home village of Cahirlin in County Limerick... The Rural Community Transport scheme is relaunched... Extended hours of Eucharistic Adoration announced at Parish Church... Great celebrations in the village of Greenwood in the parish of Began as Mrs. Delia Guilfoyle celebrates her 100th Birthday. Delia celebrated the great event at her son Tom's home at Greenwood where, among the large crowd, was Delia's daughter, Mrs. Mary Jordan, Knox Street... Louise Hickey from Knock Road, shows off her talent on RTE Television's "Cut & Dry" hair and fashion show... Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce hosts a very successful Business Employment Seminar at the Enterprise Centre... Former Mayo and Ballyhaunis footballer David Fitzgerald is married to German native Heike Hermes at a Nuptial ceremony held in Waterloo, Belgium, where David works as a computer analyst.

October

Ballyhaunis Senior hurlers capture County Senior Championship... County Librarian Austin Vaughan presides over the presentation of Certificates to young readers from Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas. The presentation is in recognition of their participating in the Summer Reading Project at the Library, in which individuals were asked to read a total of ten books during the summer months... Ballyhaunis GAA Club benefit from the Government's allocation of top-up funding. The club receives funding of €30,000, top-up on the €100,000 received in state funding earlier in the year... Ballyhaunis native George Delaney celebrates his 40th Birthday in New York.

A Window on the local Linen Industry – 1796

Contributed by Paul Waldron

The linen industry was one of the growth areas in the Irish economy during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Flax growing and linen manufacture in this country originated in Ulster and was largely associated with that part of the country, but had spread into Connacht by the early eighteenth century.

Demand for flax became so great during the late eighteenth century that incentives were offered to those willing to grow the crop to supply a seemingly endless demand. Amongst these was a premium offered to growers in 1796 willing to cultivate any area of ground from a single rood (quarter of an acre) upwards. They were to receive a grant of spinning wheels or looms in proportion to the acreage of flax they grew. A list exists of those in County Mayo who availed of this grant at that time. Under each parish the name of the 'claimants' are given, along with the grant they were adjudged. The terms of the scheme were outlined as follows:

A LIST OF PERSONS to whom premiums for sowing flax-seed in the year 1796 have been adjudged by the Trustees of the Linen Manufacture.

Pursuant to the Scheme offered by them for encouraging the growth of flax throughout the kingdom, viz. "To the person who should sow between the 10th day of March and the 1st day of June 1796, with a sufficient quantity of good sound flax-seed, any quantity of land, well prepared and fit for the purpose, not less than 1 acre – four spinning wheels; 3 roods – 3 ditto; 2 roods – 2 ditto; 1 rood – 1 ditto. And to the person who should sow in like manner any quantity of like land, not less than 5 acres, a loom or wheels, reels or hatchels to the value of 50 shillings, and for every 5 acres over and above the first five a like premium."

The claimants for one rood, who are entitled to one wheel each, are requested to apply to the County Inspector, Mr. John Huston, for their wheels, there being a sufficient number ready to distribute among them. The other premiums will be discharged in rotation as the wheels can be made, of which due notice will be given.

Every person preferring reels may have two of them in lieu of a spinning wheel.

The scheme of premiums offered by the board for the year 1796 has had so extensive an effect that it will require 37,135 wheels to discharge the one rood claimants; and not less than 88,719 wheels, together with 227 looms, to discharge the whole, which necessarily produces much delay in delivering.

As the highest price is paid for the wheels in order to have them of the best fabric, of seasoned timber, and of full size, no claimant is to receive any wheel deficient in any respect. They are all to be stamped with the board seal before delivery, and with the maker's name.

And in order to render the national benefit proposed by the trustees as efficacious as possible, they request that any neglect or delay of the inspector in delivering wheels of the best quality and equal excellence to the

pattern deposited with him, be instantly made known to them by information to any trustee, or to the inspector general or by letter to their secretary at the Linen Office, Dublin.

N.B. Any inspector, deputy inspector or surveyor, or other person acting under him or them who shall directly or indirectly receive any fee, gratuity or reward for the performance of his duty, becomes by such offence disqualified by act of parliament to hold any employment under the linen board.

Below are given the names of those in the local parishes of Annagh, Began and Aghamore who benefited from this scheme 210 years ago. Unfortunately no more precise addresses are given, but the names are given as spelt in the original document.

Parish of Annaugh

One loom each: Patrick McManus, Myles Joyce, George Lyons, Andrew Lyons, Timothy Sheridan, James Fitzgerald, James Waldron and Thomas Burke.

Four spinning wheels each: James Henaughan, Edmund Glynn, Patrick Murphy, Gilbert Waldron, John Brannen, Daniel Hopkins, Michael Waldron, Michael Moore, Michael Conry, Thomas Conry, Henry Boyle, Thomas Hinely, John Lyons, Myles Rutledge, Michael Barnacle, Martin Gildea, Hugh McDonnell, Patrick Duffey, Michael Roarke, Thomas Jordan, John O'Bryan and John Grawley.

Three spinning wheels each: Patrick Dugan and Patrick Griffin.

Parish of Bacon

One loom: James Jordan.

Four spinning wheels each: James Branan, Patrick Jenings, Daniel Tarry, Con. Grawly, Walter Bourke, James Taaffe, Charles Mulany, Andrew Grawly and Dominick Farrell.

Parish of Augemore

Two looms: Christopher Taaffe.

One loom each: Thomas Prendergast, Peter Rutledge, (another) Peter Rutledge, Thomas Costelloe, John Dillon, Campbell Fear and Stephen Keelty.

Four wheels each: Michael Philips, Michael Garvey and William Fitzmaurice.

Three wheels: Richard Fitznicholas (sic).

Two wheels: Francis McNicholas.

The linen boom in Connacht came to an end in the 1830s as mechanisation crept into the industry, and the focus for flax growing and linen production reverted back to the eastern half of Ulster.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Meetings held in Scoil Iosa Junior School (formerly St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy primary school):
Sunday nights at 8.30 (Winter) and 9 (Summer).
Al-Anon and Al-Ateen meet in Scoil Iosa Senior School, Abbeyquarter, at the same times.

Ballyhaunis Karate Club

By Alan Biesty

Ballyhaunis Karate Club has been in existence now for a number of years. Class takes place in the Parochial Hall in Ballyhaunis every Tuesday night from 7 till 8.30 for beginners, and from 8.30 till 10 for more senior grades. I expect most young people would, at some stage or another, have some experience of a Karate class, either through participation or by observing a class. The class commences with an intensive warm-up session which includes aerobic exercise and stretches. Then we go through the grading syllabus. Karate grades are awarded to individuals who train continuously for up to sixteen weeks. The individual is assessed on his or her ability to perform



the syllabus in front of an examiner. The next part of the class comprises of freestyle. This is where members are paired up and practice the various fighting techniques on each other whilst under strict supervision. All freestyle takes place on a 30 mm matted area for safety reasons. The next part of the class is impact and focus training. This is where we use focus pads and impact shields. One person holds the shield whilst the other tries out various punching, kicking and striking techniques. This exercise allows the pad-holder to experience the power behind the techniques and the striker to improve by realising the relevance of the basics taught in class. To achieve a good knowledge of the sport, the student must be disciplined and practice what was taught in class, always endeavouring to excel, as with any sport. Many students find it difficult to appreciate the commitment involved, i.e. looking for the quick fix. They need to understand fully the implications and repercussions of their actions. It's all part of the training.

In addition to class activities, the Club has been involved in a National League for the last two years. Siobhan Finn won First place in Freestyle in her category last year. This year, Alan Richardson, Louise Keane, Michelle Keane and Aoife Caulfield are competing in league finals in a few week's time in Shannon, Co. Clare. All students are members of Ballyhaunis Karate Club. If results are favourable, we may broaden our horizons next year and participate in international events also. For this year, there is one remaining local competition and a grading. This will be the third grading this year and the fifth competition so there is no shortage of events to keep all students focused.

This year was the first year the club went away. We chose an activity weekend in Delphi which proved to be a great success. We are always looking to build the club further and broaden its horizons. As in any sport we try to make it as interesting as possible and encouragement from parents can be the difference between students remaining with the club and improving their skills, or simply losing interest in the sport. From the perspective of parents it provides a level of reassurance to know that skills students have practiced may be used, if needed outside of the class environment, but only as a last resort. By training in a controlled environment students can learn the consequences of their actions. Students are constantly reminded that what is taught in class is only to be used in class, and if called upon to use their skills outside of class, it is as a last resort only. New members are always welcome. For further information contact Alan at (087) 8141342.

Top: Junior Class. Back l-r: Sean Durkin, Edward Cleary, Cian O'Boyle. Middle: Lisa McGuire, Chloe McGuire, Jenny Cleary, Dave Cleary, Conor McCarrick. Front: Adam Webb, Joseph Waldron, Danny Jennings.

Centre: Karate Kids! Some Juniors in action.

Bottom: Finalists competing in Shannon, Co. Clare in October. All Ireland Karate League.

Gracenotes

By Mary Lyons (P.R.O.)

This has been a very busy and eventful season for the choir - hard to believe another year has passed so quickly: time flies when you're having fun!

Last October saw us taking part in the Sligo Choral Festival, followed by a Christmas recital in the Friary in December. There we were joined by visiting choir "Cór Mhaigh Eo" from Castlebar to celebrate the season with sacred music and carols. We hope to come together again soon for another combined performance with our choral friends - a common bond in music!

Sadly, at the end of December, our beloved friend and publican, Paddy Phillips, passed away. We miss him greatly and extend our sympathy to his wife, Una, and family. May he rest in peace.

Spring was marked by a Cabaret in the Friary where we performed with popular tenor, John O'Neill, himself a previous resident of Ballyhaunis who made a very welcome return. This was a most successful event in which the old Abbey was transformed into a performance space and included a cheese and wine reception. It was wonderful to see such a great turnout on the night. Many thanks to all our friends who were so generous with their help.

In April, we were invited to sing at a concert in Castlebar featuring 'The Three Tenors' and other guest artistes. At the end of the month, we made our annual pilgrimage to Cork for the Choral Festival.

Highlight

The undoubted highlight of our year was a concert tour of the Czech Republic in early July, which involved a considerable amount of organisation and extra

rehearsals. There, we divided our time between a medieval town in South Bohemia called Trebon, and the capital, Prague. Both locations were absolutely wonderful and in each we gave very successful and well-attended performances. However, it wasn't all hard work and we had plenty of opportunities to see the sights and enjoy the local hospitality. (A pity we only drink water!) We had memorable visits to Cesky Krumlov (a beautifully preserved medieval town where we were caught out by heavy rain, much to the delight of the local umbrella shop!); Karlstejn Castle and Crib Museum and, of course, the amazing city of Prague itself. Many happy hours were spent strolling through Old Town Square and crossing over the famous Charles Bridge to the castle district, which is also close to the church which houses the original statue of the Infant of Prague. The city is also well renowned as a very busy arts venue and visits to the opera, concerts and art galleries were an added attraction. Definitely a place to re-visit!

As well as singing at the Knock Novena in August, we were also very pleased to be asked to sing at weddings over the last few months, and are looking forward to several more in the coming year. We start a new season now with plans for choral workshops, and concerts at Christmas and Spring, plenty to be going on with!

At our recent AGM, the following officers were elected - Chairperson: Maureen Thornton; Secretary: Laura Brogan; Treasurer: Eimear Thornton; Assistant Treasurer: Anna Henry; P.R.O.: Mary Lyons; Librarian: Mary Dawson; Musical Director: Anna Butler.



Back l-r: Xanthe Pratt, Clare Strafford, Maureen Thornton. Fourth row l-r: Marie Kelly, Joan O'Malley, Frankie O'Malley, Moira Stratford, Yvonne Loughran, Myra Delaney. Third row l-r: Maire Patterson, Anna Henry, Anna Butler, Ita Fabey, Marje Hierons, Emer Thornton, Laura Brogan. Second row l-r: Tina Kirrane, Miriam Winston, Mary Dawson, Mary Lyons, Mary H. O'Connor. Front l-r: Brid Kenny and Sandra Waldron.

The Bekan Centenarian

By John Guilfoyle

On Saturday 17th September 2005 Delia Guilfoyle celebrated yet another milestone in her amazing life. Family, friends and neighbours joined Father Patrick Mullins, P.P. Began, to participate in a Mass of Celebration at Delia's home on that afternoon. Following Mass Father Mullins presented Delia with a cheque from President Mary McAleese, which Delia read carefully before putting it away for 'safe keeping'.

Born Delia Flatley on the 17th September 1905 to Tom and Mary Flatley (nee Owens) from Lassiney. Delia was the youngest in a family of eight children - Sarah, Margaret, Thomas, John, William, Martin and Mary - all of whom predeceased her. She spent the first twenty-six years of her life living with the family in Lassiney, often through turbulent times. She can vividly recall several encounters with the Black and Tans, including the Holywell ambush, as well as the Civil War and World War 1. Troubled times they may have been but Delia still retains a great grá for the village of her birth.



L-R: Thomas, John, Patrick, Mary and Delia Guilfoyle.



Delia and John at work.



Delia Guilfoyle.

On July 11th 1931, Delia married John Guilfoyle from Greenwood in Began Church. Together they had three children, Patrick (R.I.P.), Thomas and Mary. They remained happily married until John died on January 1st 1980. Delia has since

also lost her son Patrick who died in 2001.

She has lived in Greenwood for the last seventy-four years, spending much of that time working on the farm or looking after her three children, fourteen grandchildren, and her ever-expanding crop of great-grandchildren, currently numbered at twenty. Since 1965 she has lived with her son Tom and his wife Peggy. Occasionally she spent time visiting her son Patrick in Galway, where she helped him with his guesthouse. Indeed, the furthest away from home she has ever been was a trip to Killarney and on another occasion an outing to Dublin Airport.

Delia has astounded everyone with her ability to keep pace with the ever-changing times in which we live. She still reads her daily newspaper and does her weekly Lotto Quick Pick. She is already looking forward to next year and all our hopes and prayers are with her. She will be due to receive a gold medal next birthday although she has said she wouldn't refuse another one of those cheques from President McAleese.



Tom and Mary Flatley

Home Thoughts

By Frank Grealley

A trip down to Australia with my son Thomas in 2004 revived a lot of memories of my days back in Ballyhaunis - especially in the nineteen sixties. Our mission to Australia was to visit my brother Tom and his wife Cathy in Sydney and it turned out to be a most memorable and enjoyable trip. Tom is in fine fettle and sends his best to all his friends at home. During our three week holiday the conversation between Tom and myself often steered towards Ballyhaunis, Devlis and Drimbane and the town that we both call home. These past few weeks my thoughts have been again turning homeward and I suppose we all have that homing instinct from time to time. I guess no matter how far you travel, home is really where you first start out from.

My memories of Ballyhaunis in the sixties are fond ones. I grew up in Devlis, but spent a lot of my youth around Drimbane - the homeplace of both my late father and mother, Tom and Kathleen. My mother and father were next door neighbours: my mother's maiden name was Kathleen Mannion. It was my mother's father, Harry Mannion, who introduced me to the world of great writers. He had a big library and was well read. Harry's son, my late uncle, Michael Mannion, also had a passion for reading and I sometimes think that the pair of them really got me started on the road to journalism.

Cattle and Custom

The first memories I have of home back then are, strangely enough, those of Cattle Fairs - lying awake in the half light of a Winter's morning in the house in Devlis. I can still hear the lowing of cattle passing our house - herded by local farmers for the monthly fair. The great American writer, Thomas Wolfe, wrote that the most evocative of all American sounds is that of the wailing of a freight train passing through some small town in the dead of night. I think that the lowing of cattle on their way to the fair on a Winter's morning also has its own unique, high lonesome sound that, for me, even years on, evokes a piercing sadness when I stop to remember.

When I turned 16, I went to work herding cattle on those Fair Days in Ballyhaunis. I herded cattle for the Webbs, Tighes, Morans, Crusies and many more dealers. I also collected Custom at one of the Gaps leading out from the Fairgreen. If a beast was sold in the Fairgreen, then Custom had to be paid for the use of the Fairgreen. Standing my ground in the Gap was a challenging job, but I loved it. My uncle, Jack Grealley, was the head man collecting Custom and he told me all the finer tips of the trade.

I especially remember Sunday evenings in our town during those days of lovely innocence. At about seven o'clock some of the top Showbands in the country would start to roll into town - the Royal, the Dixies, the Clipper Carlton, Johnny Flynn, the Ohio and Melody Aces are just a few I remember. The bands would be heading for gigs in different parts of the West, but the Central Hotel in the Main Street of Ballyhaunis was a common meeting place. As kids, we plagued the



Frank and Tom Grealley.

showband stars for autographs and pin up photos and mostly they loved the adulation.

My mother usually insisted that I go to devotions in the Friary on those Sunday evenings and on the way into town I would always meet the various cattle dealers that I knew setting out on their journey South to be there in time for the Monday Fair in Abbeyfeale or far off Castleisland in Kerry.

Other memories of I have of home around that time are of the great characters who assembled at Joe Regan's corner in the Square on Summer evenings. I remember some of the names - Martin Moogan, Frank Glynn, Pat Meath, Eamon (the Gunner) Meath, Pat Kilroy, Martin Mongan, Johnny Lannigan, Tawdy Devaney, Tom Gilmore, Eddie Webb, Frank Webb, Joe Webb, Cyril O'Malley, Jimmy Barrett - all characters in their own right and each with a razor sharp wit.

I worked as a Junior Postman for a time in Ballyhaunis Post Office and thus came to have a good working knowledge of all the surrounding townlands and villages. I idled many a happy hour in Pat Keane the shoemaker's shop on Main Street and always rambled in to chat with Rita Flatley in her newsagents shop further up the street. Rita was another with a wicked wit, and she spared nobody.

My great friend, the late Michael (Ronnie) Curley was of huge encouragement to me in my early days in athletics. I also had a wonderful mentor in the late Tom Smith of Abbey Street - a great man for the Theatre.

I remember well the night before I left Ballyhaunis in September 1972 to head off on an athletic scholarship to East Tennessee State University. Rita Webb and Willie Coyne had organised a big send off for me in the Parochial Hall and I attended that lovely function with my father and mother. I was just 21- I was young and I thought I would never die. I walked home with my parents that night and I never felt closer to them than on that short journey out to Devlis. They were both pushing on in years and it was a hard parting the next morning when it came time for leaving. But I went with both their blessings and started on a long and winding road that still goes on. And no matter where that road takes me, it is often the thoughts of home that matter most.

Circumnavigation of the Isle of Anglesey

by Anthony J. Keane

Several years ago while holidaying with my wife in Majorca, I made a causal remark that a sailing holiday would be more appealing than the inactive lobster style sunbathing we were engaged in. I had observed yachts sailing into the bay and spending the day at anchor while the occupants would swim, lunch and sun-bathe at a discrete distance from the crowded beach. 'The proper way to holiday', I mumbled, and thought nothing of it afterwards as I had never been sailing.

That is until my birthday several weeks later when I was presented with a token for three sailing lessons in Dublin Bay. Today, and several years later, I now own my own little yacht and use it to cruise around the coast of Ireland with the occasional trip across the Irish Sea to Wales and the Isle of Man. I have yet to get to the Mediterranean Sea but there is always tomorrow. This article is about one interesting cruise I completed this summer by sailing in company around the Isle of Anglesey, starting at Holyhead and proceeding clockwise around the Island, and back to Dublin.

The history of Anglesey has a fascinating attraction as it is deeply connected to our own Irish history. From the time of the Romans, Anglesey hosted the last battle with the Druids before the survivors escaped to Ireland from the massacre. In more recent times, the competition to build a main route from Dublin to London led to the invention and creation of the first suspension bridge at Menai to cross the Straits. The distance between the Island and the mainland is not very great but due to the topology it creates a fast tidal stream that can be quite treacherous in speed and volume of water.

The really tricky part of navigating the Straits is that the tide flows from both ends of the channel at the same time, meeting at the Menai Bridge, which is about half way down the Straits and is also the highest point before the flow is reversed in both directions. The highest point on the Straits is populated with many rocks and, as such, restricts the navigation channel to approximately 200 meters in width, in places. The

peak flow at this point can be 8 knots at spring tides and, considering the average sailing yacht has a top speed of between 5 and 7 knots, this is not a place you want to be fighting the tide.

Our journey starts at 09:18 hours on Sunday morning 7th August when we departed Dun Laoghaire Marina under full sail in light northerly winds. We were part of a fleet of boats that formed the Irish contingent for the LA-LA cruise of the Menai Straits. The LA, which I found out later, stood for Liverpool Arms and the LA-LA cruise was originally a pub crawl for local Welsh boats of the LA pubs along the banks of the Menai Straits. Over the years the local pub crawl aspects of the cruise was replaced with the opportunity to get cruising clubs from Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland to join together in a challenging cruise that many sailors would be hesitant to try on their own.

By midday my little racer/cruiser had managed to overtake the rest of the fleet despite being a half hour behind them at the start. We would like to have attributed this remarkable feat to our sailing skills but more probably we were the only ones engaging in a race. We led the fleet until 15 miles out of Holyhead when the wind began to drop. Being sailors at heart, we tacked this way and that, trying to grab any whisper of wind that would propel us nearer our target until finally we found ourselves at the back of the fleet. Like true modern day cruisers everyone else had proceeded under engine leaving us to pick up the rear. Not wishing to be left out, on went our engine and by 19:00 hours we had tied up in Holyhead Marina in wonderful summer sunshine. While in Holyhead we met a group of adventurous people attempting to swim the Irish Sea beginning the next day. Later we found out that the attempt was abandoned half way across due to large numbers of stinging jellyfish hampering the poor swimmers.

Conwy

An early start the next day and we were on our way to Conwy where the main gathering was to take place. To get around the north-west corner of Anglesey, we needed to join the tidal stream as it flowed in our direction because the strength of flow would add over 3 knots to the boat speed. We observed 8 to 9 knots of speed during this passage which allowed us to cover the 36 miles in 4 hours. Sailing against the tide would have doubled the time and have added a degree of sailing discomfort as wind against tide conditions can be very rough and wet. The entrance to Conwy is through a narrow channel that is best taken at slack high water - the point when the tide has just reached its highest mark and is about to turn and flow out. This is a time where the inward flow has cancelled the outward flow thus making passage through the water much easier. Also high water at Conwy adds approximately 5



Leaving Holyhead on Monday morning in glorious sunshine.

meters to the low water mark thus allowing passage over ground that will be dry land at low water. The marinas are required to use a barrier to keep sufficient water in the marinas for the boats to remain afloat as the tide drops. The barrier opens and closes three hours either side of high water to allow boats access. Conwy is an ancient walled town that is dominated by a large castle which is open to the public for viewing. One can circumnavigate the town along the top of the walls which give a panoramic view of the area.

We stayed in Conwy for two days partaking in



View from Menai Bridge looking towards Bangor

the river festival. On Wednesday we departed as soon as the barrier was lowered at the marina gate. With the tide still coming up the river progress was slow and the passage through the long channel out of Conwy took an hour. At the safe water mark outside Conwy the boats assembled and we proceeded west over an area called Penmanen Swatch to the join the northern entrance of the Menai Straits. At low water the Penmanen Swatch becomes dry land. It was a simple case of following the lead boat as we gingerly motor/sailed across shallow sea that three hours earlier was dry ground. The depth log showed 3 meters and as the boat needs two meters under the hull, this leaves little room for manoeuvre if the water shallows quickly. The tide was still coming in and we needed the push to get down the Menai Straits to the midway point at the Menai Bridge. In the back of our minds we consoled ourselves that if we did get beached the rising tide would lift us off quickly; a falling tide would maroon us. After an anxious hour we started to breathe normally again as we had entered the deeper water of the Strait and turned the boats south-west along the Straits. We had a pleasant sail down the Straits with the light winds on our aft quarter. The sky was clear, the sun was warm and the water was blue. One could have almost believed we were in the Mediterranean - if we stretched our imaginations a bit.

One hour later we arrived at the Menai Bridge, picked up a mooring and, using the inflatable dingy, went ashore to explore the bridge and village. The picture below is a view from the bridge looking up the Straits with Bangor on the right hand side.

On the other side of the bridge is the dreaded



Menai Bridge with boats passing on right

Swellies, where rocks and topology have restricted the navigable channel to two cables wide and is best taken at slack high water. And so it was that just before 14:00 hours the next day we joined a large number of boats in a convoy passing under the bridge and through the Swellies. Boats were coming up the Straits as well as going down and this led to some interesting encounters as larger boats tried to hog the centre of the channel forcing smaller boats to the shallower edges. Fortunately no boats grounded or hit any rocks in the Swellies, but I did have a conversation the next day with the crew of a local boat that grounded on a sand bar further down the Straits. The skipper told me the crew jumped out of the boat and pushed it along the side of the sand bank until they were in deep water again. It was a race against time as the tide was now falling and they could have easily got stranded on the bank of the night. He also told me that he didn't have enough room below decks for all his crew so one of them had to sleep on the deck. Lucky for him the weather was dry and warm.

It is not possible to exit the Menai Straits at Caernorfon Bay at low water with drying sand bars everywhere, so we had the choice of spending the night in the crowded marina at Caernorfon or at anchor in an isolated puddle among the drying sands of the straits. We opted for the crowded marina and the chance to explore the town. The marina was so crowded that boats were rafted up six deep on the pontoons. We were allocated a section of harbour wall and they rafted us in order of boat size. This has the extra purpose of building a climbing stairs of boats as the towering harbour wall had no ladder. Even with the biggest boat beside the wall we still needed to improvise a rope ladder to escape the last obstacle of 10 feet of vertical wall. Caernorfon town has a Welsh native speaking population and the native Welsh is readily used by the locals in the shops and streets. We noticed that, when compared to Conwy, Caernorfon appeared to be less sophisticated and affluent in its appearance though we found the people to be just as friendly and engaging.

Friday allowed a lunchtime departure once the gates to the harbour opened. Out crawled a ragtag fleet of traditional Welsh wooden boats, shiny new plastic sailboats and fast motor cruisers, all seeking to

escape the Menai Straits across the sand bars of Caernorfon Bay using high water. The tide was still flowing into the Straits as we departed but the plan was to get to the end of the Straits as the high water mark would be reached. This allowed the maximum water under the hull as we negotiated the exit channel. This part of the trip was the one area that most concerned me as the sand bars have the tendency to move around and require constant attention by the authorities in marking the channel with deepest water. I had made a point of consulting with the Harbour Master before leaving as to the best passage to take and he was kind enough to update me with the latest location of the buoys and especially to which ones were missing. As we navigated the channel my concern was justified as we were able to identify buoys that were not supposed to be there and others that were now missing. Lowest water under the hull was 3 meters but the sea condition was very choppy as the wind was blowing from a west-north-west direction.

We zigzagged along the channel and eventually exited at 14:30 hours when we cut the engine and hoisted full sails and set course to Dublin. The WNW wind forced us to beat into the wind at 45 degrees putting us on a course for Arklow instead of Dublin but we were itching for a good sail and wanted to make the



Tied up in Conwy marina

most of it. The forecast was for a South-West wind later that day which would allow us to sail directly at Dublin. The original plan was to return to Holyhead but the weather forecast for Saturday was strong west winds and rain so we decided to cut the trip short by a day and run for home. At 12 midnight we were passing the Kish lighthouse outside Dublin and two more hours saw us tied up again in Dun Laoghaire marina. At 14:30 hours, after a week of sunshine, the sky opened and down came the rain. Our final thoughts were with the remaining boats as they suffered the cold night rain in the final miles of a wonderful week of sailing.

Who Are The Real Foreigners?

Jana Jurakova

I often think of this word because I hear it quite often in relation to different nationalities living in other than 'their own' country. It's quite strange for me because I never considered myself to be a foreigner in any country that I lived in – England, Spain, and now Ireland. Of course that I have a feeling of 'home', but at this stage I am not quite sure if it's Ireland or Slovakia.

First it surely was the country where I was born – which is Slovakia – but then gradually it has changed. But the reason it changed was the people. Before, I had everybody I knew and I loved in Slovakia. Now I have one of my best friends from Spain, one living in Germany, a few of them in Slovakia, plus my parents, and now most important of all I have my son and my husband living here with me in Ireland. I think that I have managed to make a few good friends already here in Ireland. Each time when I am with any of these in any place I feel at home. So it is really about the people. So when I want to define who the real foreigners are for me I wouldn't relate them to any nation, colour of the skin or any religion. For me the foreigners are the people I have nothing to talk about with, the ones who aren't contributing anything for the benefit of all of us. And it doesn't matter where in the world you are, what kind of work you do, or if you are just taking care of your kids, you are helping the community in that area to survive and to develop and grow.

For so many years Irish people helped and are



Jaroslav Jurak, Jana Jurakova and Jakub Jurak.

helping America, England and other countries in which they worked, and some of them stayed. If they stayed there I think they probably feel at home there. It's hard to predict what the future holds for me and my family, but all I can say at the moment is that because of the people in Ballyhaunis, and in Ireland, I don't feel a foreigner here.



Top: Lisduff 1937, left to right: Paddy Heneghan, John Tom Heneghan, Anne 'Baby' Heneghan fetching water from the well.



Left: Agloragh 1959 left to right: 'Rover', Kathleen Heneghan, her daughter in law Kathleen Heneghan, Paddy Heneghan holding baby Anne, Anne 'Baby' Heneghan, John Tom Heneghan and Kathleen's brother Dennis Corbett.

Bottom Left: Frank Fitzmaurice, Patrick Nolan, Tom 'Tady' Grealley of Mountain, Ballyhaunis taken in Nolan's kitchen.

Bottom Right: Kathleen and John Tom Heneghan, Agloragh 1959.



The deadline for submitting articles & photographs for next years Annagh is Friday 20th October 2006.



A rare view of Main Street, taken c.1900 from opposite where the Parish Church gate is now.



Ballyhaunis Post Office and Telephone Exchange Staff, late 1970's. Back l-r: John Joe Kelly, Tom Regan, Des Ward, Joe Fitzmaurice, Joe Byrne, Michael Lyons, Dom Murphy, Paddy Brennan, John Cleary, Billy Lyons, Margaret Dyer. Centre l-r: Mary Larkin, Breege Halpin, Margaret Cosgrove, Anne Concannon, Anne Cribbin, Bridie Brennan. Front l-r: Eileen Waldron, Patricia Heaney and Florrie Kenny.

The Work of Mayo SPCA in Ballyhaunis... *One Year On* - By Anne Kivlichan

In 2004 we wrote an article on the work of Mayo SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and in particular Marion Beisty of Ballyhaunis. Marion's love for all animals is well known, as is the help she has given in the community with so many animal problems.

It is good to have the opportunity to advise the readers of Annagh one year on of developments within the Society and just some of Marion's personal achievements. Firstly, Marion was elected Vice-chairperson of Mayo SPCA at the AGM 2005, in recognition of the tremendous amount of work and dedication she has shown to the animals of Mayo, not to mention the high regard with which she is held within the Society. Secondly, the Society became a registered charity and a Limited Company. Quite an achievement for a group of volunteers!

Proposed plans for the office had to be shelved this year due to such a huge influx of animals, mostly the result of cruelty cases. The worst case involved the rescue of thirteen dogs and fifteen cats removed from the most inhumane conditions we have ever seen - some of them still being under the care of an experienced animal behaviourist who passes her expertise to Marion to put into practice on a daily basis. Eight months later we have signs of improvement and normal 'doggie' behaviour, but a great deal of time, work and money has been put into these poor creatures. It is far easier to repair physical damage to an animal than mental damage. This situation made it so urgent to install extra, more comfortable, weatherproof housing for them that this task had to come first. Still unfinished, we are struggling to raise sufficient funds, despite the generosity of the good people of County Mayo, and urgently need volunteers to assist with hands on work with animals, i.e., walking, nursing dogs and pups, cleaning out and caressing kittens and cats, feeding, washing bedding, brushing and grooming - just to mention a few of the tasks involved. The list is endless.

During the last six weeks Marion has been

feeding three separate litters of puppies: two litters of nine, one of seven, plus an abandoned two, making a total of twenty-seven! The bitches and pups being in very poor condition with worms, fleas, lice and mange, the poor mums suffering severe malnutrition and unable to digest normal food. In addition, Marion is caring for a whole variety of beautiful young cats and gorgeous kittens. Needless to say they too had a whole variety of lice, flea, worm and eye conditions. One had travelled sixty miles under the bonnet of a lorry and survived with a burnt face - now happily rehomed.

It is really impossible in a small article to relay the variety of work undertaken by Marion and her colleagues, but to give some idea of the amount of animals rehomed, since our last article the Society managed to find good homes for 421 animals. All of which were vet treated, neutered and spayed to prevent breeding and the problem of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens. In addition we issued 200 discounted price vouchers for neutering and spaying dogs and cats, yet still the problem of the 'unwants' persists leading to abandonment, leading to suffering: it is so unnecessary and easily preventable.

To give another small example of the magnitude of the problem December 2004 saw Mayo SPCA taking in thirty-eight abandoned puppies on the run up to Christmas! They don't ask to be born do they?

If you could find one spare hour a week to help Marion with her tasks, become a member, give a rescued animal a temporary or permanent home or make any small donation then we at Mayo SPCA would appreciate this so much. We know that you, as a community, do care very much about the welfare of animals and Marion and the Society would just love to hear from any one of you that cares. We thank you for your ongoing support.

Contact numbers: Marion (086) 3754057; Annie (094) 9381966. Ann Kivlichan, Homing Co-ordinator, Mayo SPCA, Registered Charity Number 14728. Part Aided by the Department of Agriculture.

The Fun Factory

The Fun Factory takes place in the Parochial Hall every Monday afternoon. It is a school where children come and explore the world of musical theatre craft through dance and drama, but most of all, fun. The school is run by Hazel McLynn, a fully qualified Guild Hall actress, and a tutor with the International Dance Teachers' Association. She is also a member of Irish Actors' Equity, and the International Exercise Teachers' Association. After an exciting and varied career in Dublin, choreographing and performing, Hazel has returned home to the West of Ireland. She is delighted with the response and talent of the Ballyhaunis young people.

Saint Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis

Fr. Kieran Waldron

When the Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis, Archdeacon Geoffrey Prendergast died on 29th May 1960, he was over eighty-three years of age. At that time there was no retirement scheme for priests. Consequently, many important projects were put on the long finger in those parishes during the failing years of those pastors. After their death, the practice often adopted by Dr. Walsh was to promote the senior curate to the position of 'Administrator'. He would be younger, and perhaps more energetic than an incoming Parish Priest who might well be over sixty years of age on appointment. The Administrator would be directed to undertake some essential tasks under the Bishop's own personal initiative and close supervision. Funds saved through the parish not having to pay the increased allowance for a Parish Priest was also a help with these projects. Ballyhaunis was fortunate in having two excellent curates: Fr. Tom Rushe and Fr. Tommy Heraty. These were to have a vital role in the fulfilment of the dreams of Ballyhaunis to have their own secondary school for boys.

The Augustinians

A second public church in Ballyhaunis was the Augustinian Abbey – 'The Friary' as it was commonly known. The Augustinians had been in Ballyhaunis for over five hundred years. The town, in fact, had grown up around them. In the 1940s, an offer by 'The Friars' to provide a secondary school did not get the necessary approval from the Archbishop. One of the local Augustinian priests, Fr. E. A. Mansfield, a legendary and colourful character, had floated the idea in early 1944. An unsigned letter to the Archbishop from a Ballyhaunis native in diocesan archives strongly objected to the Friars opening their own school. If there were to be a school, it should be under the Archbishop, the writer felt. In small towns with two churches, such local religious rivalry was not unknown.

A letter from the then Provincial of the Augustinian Order, Fr. Thomas Cooney, to Archbishop Walsh, dated 2nd May 1944, made a formal offer to open a day school for boys. These were the war-years and many of the Augustinian priests were having difficulties about securing visas for the Missions. This project in Ballyhaunis would give useful extra work to the local Augustinian community and they were happy to offer a service to Ballyhaunis. The Archbishop responded in the kindest terms but to say that such a decision would be for the local Parish Priest, Chancellor Geoffrey Prendergast. The Order subsequently wrote to the Parish Priest who passed on the second letter to the Archbishop. On this occasion, the reply of the Archbishop was more forthright:

I regret very much if I did not make it clear that the question of setting up such a school was a matter entirely for the Chancellor as Parish Priest. But should he decide to set up a school, or should any other Parish Priest come to such a decision, I should ask the Parish Priest concerned to have the school run by diocesan priests. We have quite a number of priests of the diocese trained – indeed we are in the fortunate

position at present to have a number of our priests in England, America and Australia who will be returning to work in the diocese.

The Archbishop was, in fact, in the throes of setting up such a new diocesan college in Claremorris at that very time in 1944. And so this matter ended. Chancellor Prendergast, as he then was, had been Chairman of the Mayo Vocational Education Committee and had had much to do with the recently opened Vocational school, built in 1942. Perhaps, as Chairman of the County Vocational Education Committee, he felt it should not have competition from a rival boys' school so soon. The Mercy Convent school, which had begun as a secondary-top in 1938, was also only beginning to gain the confidence of parents and was providing education up to Intermediate Certificate level. Secondary schooling for boys could be dealt with at a later date. To give him his due, the same parish priest did try to enlist the help of the De la Salle Brothers sometime in the 1950s to set up such a school.

A New Attempt

But when the Archdeacon Prendergast died in 1960, major work was required on the parish church while, at the same time, the people were anxious to have a secondary school for boys. In spite of the programme of works for the Church and the expense being put on the parish, Fr. Heraty prompted his neighbour, Mr. Tom Hopkins, to suggest at a meeting of the local Development Association that the time might be right to ask the Archbishop to set up a diocesan college similar to St. Colman's College in Claremorris, which was, by then, a thriving secondary school for boys.

And so, when the Archbishop came to Ballyhaunis to address the people of Ballyhaunis on 24th July 1960 to appeal for funds for repairs to the roofing and stonework in their parish church, a deputation requested a meeting with him after Mass in the Parochial House. The deputation was made up of: Fr. Heraty, Conor O'Brien (Chairman), Michael Dalgan Lyons, Noel Waldron, Jack O'Connor, Michael A. Keane, John A. Gilmore, Michael A. Waldron, Mick O'Connell and Bertie Curley. Fr. Heraty recalls that they got a frosty reception at first as the Archbishop said he had not sufficient priests for that type of school. However, true to form, when the lay members started talking, he became more enthusiastic and said he would give the matter careful consideration. He did enquire whether the Sisters of Mercy could facilitate the boys and he gave instructions they were to be formally asked. Overall, the deputation felt encouraged by the visit.

In hindsight, it can be argued that the Archbishop's preference for a co-educational school might have been the right one. An analysis of the Department of Education's lists of secondary schools in those years would show that the ratio of girls to boys seeking secondary education was roughly two to one. Would a Ballyhaunis boys' school have sufficient numbers to make it 'safe' in the long-term? Ballyhaunis already had a Vocational school which Claremorris had

not had at the time St. Colman's was founded. The parish would have to raise funds for the capital cost of the building as well as funds to repair the Church. A co-educational school on the Convent grounds had much to recommend itself to the Archbishop – though sporting activities would certainly have been minimal on their grounds because of their constricted, hilly site.

Many lay people in 1960 would have thought of a co-educational school as a second-class option. In any case, the sisters had been prompted to plead insufficiency of space. We know that the Archbishop considered asking an order of Brothers because Fr. Thomas Rushe, in a letter dated 15th August 1960 stated that, if it were possible to have a choice, that the De la Salle Brothers might be preferable. In fact, he did make a personal enquiry from the De La Salle Provincialate at Castletown, Co. Laois, if they would be interested in setting up a secondary school in Ballyhaunis. The response of the Provincial, dated 31st August 1960, stated they could not possibly do so as they were so heavily involved with new schools in Dublin. In the event, the Archbishop gave his approval for a diocesan secondary school for boys and instructed Fr. Rushe to purchase a site and make the necessary arrangements.

Fr. Heraty and the committee set about organising a number of carnivals which continued each Autumn, for a number of years, to raise funds for the Church renovations and for the new college. On 13th January 1961 Fr. Rushe, as administrator and on behalf of the archdiocese, paid €127 deposit to Mr. John Tarpey, Carrowkeel, towards the purchase of a four acre field along the Knock Road. The field, like other allotments along that road, had been allocated to tenants some years previously after a major land division. The sale was completed on 12th May 1961 by the payment of the balance of €1,016. This was early summer 1961 and only then could the builders move on to the site. The school was to be open in the following September!

Bantile Buildings

Fr. Rushe had already started exploring what could be provided as a suitable building. Naturally, the matter of cost was of vital concern to a parish involved in a major refurbishment of the parish church. So he was glad to learn of a new type of building erected just in the previous year as an extension to St. Colman's College in Claremorris. It was a building with a conventional roof and foundation but the wall sections being pre-fabricated concrete panels, manufactured by Bantile Ltd of Banagher, Co. Offaly. It was a demountable but solid structure which might last for generations. It could be erected in less than two months. The speed of erection would be a major factor if the school was to be up and running by September. These were the days before Planning Permissions were required, so nobody raised any objections. The building was relatively inexpensive – their quotation, dated 28 April 1961, for a four-classroom building with Science Room and bicycle shed, together with heating, lighting and painting, came to the modest total of only €11,442.

As the summer of 1961 wore on, the modest structure arose somewhat from the landscape. It contained just four classrooms and a Science room, a bicycle shed and toilets. Fr. Rushe paid the first

instalment of €3,809 in mid August. He notes that he got subscriptions from townspeople amounting to €995. As there was no water connection to the school, he had to lay a private supply from the end of the town supply at further cost of €190.

However, the external appearance of the Bantile school somewhat disappointed the local people who had expected a more imposing building in keeping with the standard in secondary schools and colleges of their experience. Its statement on the horizon was not exactly uplifting and may have contributed to some lessening of local morale which, ultimately, may have affected the college as an independent institution.

Who Will Lead Them?

But, in late July 1961, no staff had yet been appointed. Joseph Walsh was notorious for his agonising over clerical changes. If he could hold out to the last moment, then that was what he would do. On July 29 of that year of 1961, Fr. Paddy Costelloe, a former member of the staff at Claremorris and for the past year curate in Tiernea, Connemara, was surprised, on a casual visit to his home at Tuam, to find the Archbishop was looking for him. The new Pope, John XXIII, had appealed for priests for Latin America. Maybe the Archbishop was going to let him go to South America on the missions after all. The destination, however, was nearer to home – would he go to Ballyhaunis to set up a secondary school in September? It seemed a tall order. How was he to get staff and pay them? 'Oh that's alright; I have two priests to send to you'. There was no getting out of that.

When Fr. Costelloe arrived in Ballyhaunis, the building was already half-erected. It was less than six weeks to September. Living accommodation for the priests, however, had already been settled. Just a matter of Fr. Rushe, the Administrator, relinquishing the Parochial House and returning once again to the shared Curate's House up the street. Nobody but Archbishop Walsh could have dreamt up – or got away with – such a strategy.

The School Opens on Cue

The entire project was finalised in the space of thirteen months from the date of the deputation to the Archbishop. On 8 September 1961, the almost-completed school opened to thirty-nine boys from distant places, covering several parishes: from Shanvaghara in Knock to Cummer in Tooreen; from Granlahan in Ballinlough to Lisaniska in Bekan. All these travelled the country roads on bicycles, old and new. There was no public transport and certainly no chauffeuring to school in those days. The net was not quite as wide as that thrown by St. Colman's in its day but was still large enough to fill two classrooms in the first year.

Two other priests, Frs. Francis McMyler and John Kennedy, made up the staff for the first year. They were paid only a token salary for this year's work as they had still to study in Galway through evening classes for the Higher Diploma which was required for registration as paid secondary teachers. But they were young and enthusiastic. Fr. Costelloe, as the only person receiving State increments, was a generous but very private benefactor so that the school could come close to breaking even in his first financial year-end

report to the Archbishop. The accounts for the year show an expenditure of €1,541 with a debit balance of €626, which was cleared only after three years.

Some of the first pupils were older than the normal – some were over fifteen, and many were fourteen years of age. The hope was that the Intermediate Certificate examination might be taken after two years and the Leaving Certificate after four years. As was the common practice at that time – and for years afterwards, until free transport came on stream and made it too expensive for the State – the school week was a six-day week, with a half-day on Saturdays.

The fee per year was set at €19.05, payable in two instalments. The fees were, however, waived in some necessitous cases. The fees for books averaged about €1.90 per year. Still a lot of money for many families in those days when €1.27 could buy four gallons of petrol and many a breadwinner was on a wage of less than €12 per week.

Confidence in the school began to grow. The curriculum included Latin, French, Science and Music, as well as the core subjects of Religion, Irish, English, History and Geography, and Mathematics. There was a breath of new life about the town of Ballyhaunis about its important new beginning. For the first time, a school area allegiance and a new identity was established by the school's catering for far-flung parishes of Aghamore, Began, Knock and Ballinlough. All the boys from the country schools now felt quite equal to their counterparts from the town.

A further twenty-one boys had enrolled in 1962-63 and an extra staff member was required. There was as yet, no talk of employing a lay teacher. The 'basic salary' which would have to be paid to a lay teacher was €508 per year. As it was chargeable to the school, at that early stage such an outlay would have been quite out of the question.

The present author, himself a native of Ballyhaunis, had studied for the Diploma in Education in Galway University with Frs. McMyler and Kennedy but, certainly, never expected to find himself appointed to his native town. Facts however determined otherwise. On the morning of opening of the second year of the college, he received a missive from the Archbishop with the following unexpected directive:

*St. Jarlath's,
Tuam.
1 September 1962.*

Dear Fr. Waldron,

I shall be grateful if you will kindly proceed to Began next Wednesday to assist Canon Moane in the work of the parish. You will also be able to help in the work at St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis. Please see Fr. Patrick Costelloe as soon as possible.

*With best wishes,
+ Joseph Walsh*

That was all. So the new appointee duly went to see Fr. Costelloe and began teaching two days later. He also took up residence and duty in the neighbouring parish of Began on the same day. Canon Moane was the elderly parish priest of Began and was in extremely frail

health. He needed a resident helper. So a staffing problem and an accommodation problem was solved in one stroke. It might have been assumed that the appointment was a stop-gap situation for a few months – or maybe a year. The appointment, however, was to last for eight years until a new parish priest of Began, and a new Archbishop, took over.

It was a grand new adventure – young men, with one senior priest, founding a new tradition. It was difficult to convince the youngsters of the time that homework was really more than fifteen or twenty minutes, as they had been used to in National school, but the school progressed. Many of the first batch of pupils turned out at the top of several professions. Few of them would have achieved any secondary education were it not for the deputation, the carnivals, and the positive support of 'the man in Tuam'.

Numbers increased each year, but not dramatically. By 1964/65 the number had reached only 110 and even ten years later it stood at 132. As with other boys' schools, it was difficult to persuade rural parents to leave their boys in school to the completion of the full course. In the school year 1963/64, the first lay teacher, Mr. Jarlath Fahey was appointed. He was later to become Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School.

A New Educational Scene

The advent of 'free post-primary' education, announced by Donogh O'Malley, Minister for Education, in early 1967 was, of course, to prove a welcome boost to the school. It meant more than the removal of the annual €19 fee – a mere 63 cents per week for the school year. It was more the psychological effect on the common imagination of people who, until this, had doubted the relevance of second level education for their sons. With free education came the promise of free buses within the catchment area from Autumn 1967. It was this which had the real dramatic effect. All over the country an explosion in student numbers occurred. Perhaps no ministerial decision ever had such a long-term dramatic effect on the Irish psyche, the Irish cultural landscape – and the Irish economy.

Fr. Costelloe could see the long-term effects of the decision: the state's financial involvement in secondary education would now grow. For administrative and financial reasons, small schools would be, at best, tolerated henceforth. In the light of this, he availed of an opportunity to purchase, on behalf of the diocese, an adjacent four-acre allotment from Miss Kathleen Greally at the rear of the school for €2,031. It was to meet whatever needs future building requirements might require for educational development in Ballyhaunis. It was a far-seeing move. The Department of Education now became more active. No longer would a Minister for Education see himself or herself, as the incumbent of ten years earlier did, as a mere plumber fixing a few educational leaks. Now they were all business, with rationalisation plans, merging of systems and new curricula, to meet a new technological age. Within ten years, the natural extension of the free secondary school education would be followed by the explosion of the Regional Technical Colleges throughout the country and a whole new horizon in the growth of modern Ireland. No development in the history of the State was to have such beneficial effects.

There was now a concentration, not on individual schools, but on centres; Junior Centres in smaller towns and Senior Centres confined to a few large towns. There was talk of five groupings of subject choices at senior level, where the usual core subjects would be supplemented under these various groups: Language, Technical, Science, Commerce and Social Science. The free transport scheme, it was believed, seemed more cost effective than duplication by building more schools. Specialisation seemed to be on the way.

A detailed Department plan for rationalising Mayo schools raised all sorts of hares and led to many heated meetings throughout the county. For instance, its report on Ballyhaunis stated:

The centre's annual potential intake (155) is barely adequate to maintain the existing three schools (secondary boys', secondary girls' and vocational). There is therefore need for the closest co-operation between the three schools, particularly at senior cycle level. The technical subjects will be provided at Claremorris.

Of course, these plans for mass transport to Claremorris never came to pass: the fall of the Shah of Iran and the consequent rise in transport costs in the 1970s soon paid to that.

However, it did prompt developments at local level. In early 1968, several meetings took place between the three schools to see if any co-operation was possible. As the Vocational School did not, as yet, have any Senior Cycle, a proposal with a detailed timetable was worked out in June 1968 to enable the

convent and college schools to share facilities and increase the subject range at senior level. This was not proceeded with because of the distance between the schools but in 1969 a few senior boys and girls from the Vocational school attended the college for some academic subjects and a few college boys took some technical subjects at the Vocational school. In the school year 1971-72 students began to be ferried by bus through the town, to and from the convent, for specific subjects. Collaboration continued with the Vocational school also.

All of this work prepared the way for the pooling of all resources in the three Ballyhaunis schools into the creation of the new Ballyhaunis Community School in 1977, with Mr. Eddie Thornton as its first Principal. Here the strong traditions and ethos established over the years in the separate schools since their foundation could be maintained – and with the added benefit of far better facilities.

From the little acorn grows the great oak tree and the Ballyhaunis Community School which grew on the site of the very simple St. Patrick's College building, now has over 700 pupils. Like other great schools in the country, it can trace its origin to modest beginnings.

An extract from "Out of the Shadows – Emerging Secondary Schools in the Archdiocese of Tuam, 1940-69", by Fr. Kieran Waldron, published by Nordlaw Books, Barnaderg, Tuam. The book, which covers thirty-one secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Tuam, also includes a history of St. Joseph's Mercy Sisters Secondary School, which was featured in Annagh 2004.



St. Patrick's College Senior Soccer Team, Connaught Colleges Champions 1976. Back l-r: Sean Connolly (Granlahan), Liam McDonald (Granlahan), Tommy Caulfield (Upper Main Street), John Fahey (Coogue), Tommy J. Moran (Carrowneden), Joe Jordan (Johnstown). Front row: Brendan Niland (Aughamore), John Toolan (Devlis), Nicholas Freyne (Coolnaha), Chris Barry, (Bekan), Tommy Prenty, (Knock Road), Ivan Freeley (Main Street), John Kelly (Bekan)

My Trip to Poland

By Maeve Lynskey

Last August a group of friends and I set off from Dublin for a holiday in Poland. I had never been to Eastern Europe before, so I was very excited to see how it would compare with Ireland and other western European countries I'd visited. The following is an account of some of the places we travelled to and experiences we had there.

Although Poland joined the E.U. last year, they still have their own currency, called the zloty; one Euro is the equivalent of about four zloty. One of the first things I noticed was how much cheaper things are compared to Ireland; often only half, if not a third the price they would be in Ireland.

The first city we stopped at was Szczecin, which has a population of 400,000. This city, like the whole of Poland, is a strange fusion of modernity and the past. In the centre of Szczecin there are many beautiful pre-Communist era buildings. The architecture is striking in that it's so elaborate and intricate. In contrast, there is also a very cosmopolitan atmosphere with newly-built shopping centres, cinemas and numerous restaurants and cafés.

We then travelled to a small island off the north-western corner of Poland, called Uznam. This island is divided into two halves. One half is German and the other Polish. The city of Swinoujscie lies on the Polish side and has had a very colourful, if turbulent history. Over the years it has been conquered by Russia and Germany, but it is now Polish territory again. It is about the size of Galway, and is a very popular tourist destination within Poland and the surrounding countries. This is due to its beautiful beaches, where the sand is powder-like and the water is about 18 degrees centigrade during the summer. We spent most of our time on the promenade, which had a fantastic holiday atmosphere. This is where you find the street performers, musicians and artists. There is also an aquarium and lots of small shops.

Southern Poland

A few days later, we took an overnight train down to the southern tip of Poland, to the town of Zakopane, which is located in the Tatry Mountains. These mountains are very high (about 1,900m) and in the winter, are used for skiing. Zakopane is also the most well-known location for ski-jumping competitions in the country. There are cable cars to take you up to the summit and back down. It was well worth the trip as the views from the top were breathtaking. Zakopane has many traditions- dress, music and food, which are very different to the north of the country. For example, the buildings have wooden interiors and very steep roofs, which looked more Swiss than Polish. The food wasn't always of the highest quality, but it was certainly good value - a main course was the equivalent of just 2 Euro.

Later that week, we took a bus to the former capital city of Poland, Krakow, which was about two hours farther north. What struck me most about Krakow was the beautiful architecture. Poland is a staunchly Catholic country and this is glaringly evident

in the quantity of churches throughout the city. Wawel Cathedral, for example, shelters plenty of superb church art. Most Polish kings and their family members are buried in the cathedral, its chapels and crypts, together with the greatest national heroes, two poets, four saints and numerous bishops. The Basilica of the Virgin Mary is an enormous Gothic church, which has been Krakow's principal temple since the 13th century. It shelters the world's greatest Gothic sculpture among its many excellent works of art. The "Cloth Hall" is the world's oldest shopping mall and has been in business for 700 years. The present Renaissance edifice dates from 1555. Many of the buildings looked slightly weathered and worn, but to me this only served to emphasise how many years of conflict and history that they have witnessed.

Auschwitz

Our next port of call was the one I was most looking forward to visiting, it was the small town of Oswiecim, or Auschwitz, as it is called in German. Like most people I have grown up hearing stories of the horrific things that took place in the concentration camps, however, I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I got there. But, like everyone else, I was profoundly moved by the experience. The concentration camp at Auschwitz was formerly a Polish army barracks but was taken over by the German army after Poland's defeat in 1939. The prisoners were mainly men, and initially mostly Poles. Later, Jews and others from countries as far away as Norway, France, Italy, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia and Russia were sent there.

Before you enter the actual concentration camp, visitors pass through a museum, which houses photographs and drawings of the camp and its prisoners. There are also quotes from political figures renouncing the terrible crimes which occurred in Auschwitz and during the Second World War in general. From there, we walked through the gate with the inscription "Arbeit Macht Frei." This translates in German as "work will set you free"- mocking the prisoners who were forced to do horrendously difficult



A typical building on the outskirts of Krakow

manual labour, usually for twelve hours straight each day. We then walked through the various red-bricked buildings, known as “blocks”. Each block was used for a different purpose. Some blocks, such as Block 11, which was effectively a waiting room for those who were going to be lined up and shot against an adjoining wall. Blocks 19-21 and 28 were the Infirmary- among the prisoners it was known as the “crematorium waiting-room.” Medication and treatment facilities were in very short supply so many people died. From 1941, the SS doctors performed selections among sick prisoners. Those whose return to work was considered unlikely were killed by lethal injection or else in the gas chambers. However, the prisoners who survived were often subjected to medical experiments which could leave a prisoner with permanent injuries. The Infirmary was also a focus of clandestine resistance, from which many were smuggled to safety or rescued. I was amazed at the number of people at Auschwitz- it seemed like they came from every corner of the world to see the site of one of the world’s worst atrocities.

Polish Wedding

A few days later, my friends’ cousin was getting married so I went along to the wedding. The wedding was in the town of Slubice, which was also on the border with Germany. The main difference between a Polish and Irish wedding is the length-this wedding went on for two full days. First, all the guests went to the church for the wedding ceremony. This was the same as in Ireland, except there was a lot more singing in the Polish wedding. Then it was back to the hotel for reception. In Poland the best man and maid of honour don’t make speeches. The bride and groom had their first dance as a married couple, but I was a bit suspicious of their fancy footwork-it definitely looked rehearsed to me! After the meal, everyone stayed chatting and drinking. Everything was complimentary, including an overnight hotel room for each of the 130



A plaque in the museum at KL Auschwitz (Polish and English)

guests. The next morning, we all had breakfast and enjoyed the sun outside beside the adjoining lake. We stayed until about eight o’clock that evening. I had a brilliant time; it was probably the best wedding I was ever at.

Most people think Poland has a quite cold climate. Actually it has a continental maritime climate so while it is very cold in the winter, and often snows heavily, during the summer it usually gets very hot. For a few days during my holiday, temperatures reached 40 degrees centigrade.

I spent almost three weeks travelling around Poland, from north to south, and have to say that I enjoyed every moment. I would definitely recommend it as a holiday destination since it is still a relatively undiscovered and unspoilt country. I found the people very friendly and outgoing, the scenery was beautiful and we got great value for our euro. Without doubt, a holiday I will always remember.

Young people in spotlight in Ballyhaunis initiative

By Maureen McNamara (The Mayo News)

The first of a series of novel initiatives for young people began in the town of Ballyhaunis last July - and proved to be a big hit.

Ballyhaunis Community Council applied for and received a grant of €4,000 from the Department of Rural, Community and Gaeltacht Affairs in autumn of last year in order to develop facilities that would benefit children and young people in the community. With that funding, a digital imaging and photography course aimed at teenagers and other interested people commenced in the first week of July in the town.

The programme, which was organised by the Community Council in association with the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, took place in the Friary House every Thursday evening for a duration of six weeks. The aim of the project was to provide participants with practical skills relating to photography, scanning images, editing and designing publications and websites.

Jaroslav Jurak, a Slovakian man working in Ballyhaunis, and a man with formal training in photography, gave the course.

In addition to the benefits it had for the young people taking part in it, there was also a community element to the programme, as it culminated in a special exhibition of the students’ work at St. Mary’s Abbey.

Fourteen teenagers and twelve adults signed up for the course.

“At the start, I was a bit surprised at the popularity of it and the amount of interest shown in the course. But it is proving very successful, which is very encouraging,” said Steven Grogan, chairperson of the Community Council and manager of the Family Resource Centre.

“The digital imaging and photography course was run as a once-off summer course, but depending on its success there may be plans for a second course in the winter of next year,” stated Mr. Grogan.

Waldron Clan Gathering

The third International Waldron Clan Gathering took place in the Belmont Hotel, Knock, over the May Bank Holiday Weekend this year, 2005. Over two-hundred people were in attendance during the three days, with representatives from four continents – Europe, America, Australia and Africa. All of those who came had Waldron connections with the West of Ireland. Previous gatherings were held in 1997 and 2000.

The Waldron Clan Association has been active now since the mid-nineties and has a large number of members worldwide, all of whom can trace their ancestry back to the East Mayo, West Roscommon area, with which the surname has been associated for centuries. Most of the Waldrons in Ireland trace their origins back to the Norman invasion in the late twelfth century.

The Gathering started on Friday afternoon, 29th April, with registration in The Belmont Hotel from 4 until 7 p.m. Just after 8 p.m. there was an opening address after which a short lecture on the history of the Waldrons and their history in the West of Ireland from around 1600 to the present day was delivered by Tom Waldron (Claremorris). This was followed by the unveiling of the display of genealogies and memorabilia submitted by delegates and documenting the many families of the name in Ireland.

On Saturday morning and afternoon a trip to the National Museum of Folklife in Turlough took place. That night there was an informal get-together in the Belmont, starting about 9 o'clock, where people got

together and chatted, and enjoyed a pleasant evening of traditional music, song and poetry.

A special Mass was celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore at six o'clock in the evening. The celebrant was Fr. Austin Cribbin of Oregon U.S.A. and Churchpark (Grallagh) and music was provided by the Aghamore parish choir. The Grand Social Function took place in the Belmont hotel, with music provided by the Brose Walsh band.

Australian visitors came all the way from Melbourne and Nollamara (Western Australia) while a contingent of South African Waldrons made the journey from Durban and Johannesburg.

English delegates came from Manchester, Macclesfield, Sale (Cheshire), West Ewell (Surrey) and Castleford (West Yorkshire); and Llandybie in South Wales.

From the U.S. groups came from Maricopa (Arizona); San Francisco and Foster City (California); Branford, Derby and West Haven (Connecticut); The Villages (Florida); Iowa City (Iowa); Chicago and Oak Park (Illinois); Wilmington (North Carolina); Clinton Corners and New York City (New York); Westside Circle (Ohio); Klamath Falls (Oregon); Lebanon (Pennsylvania); and Alexandria (Virginia). From the state of Massachusetts groups came from Boston, Brockton, Martha's Vineyard, Maynard, Somerville and Taunton. The state of New Jersey was very well represented with delegates from Andover, Jersey City, Manasquan, Medford, Merchantville, Montclair, Tuckerton, Tom's River and Wall.



Some of those who attended the Waldron Clan Gathering earlier this year. Taken after the special Mass in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore, on Sunday, 1st May 2005.

A Day to Remember at Croke

By Julia Kelly and Anne Lyons

I'm sure many of you will recall the Leinster Hurling Final between Wexford and Kilkenny. Kilkenny were deserving winners and got their 'paws' on the trophy, but what you may not be aware of is that a young hurling team from Ballyhaunis was also playing in Croke Park that day.

Hurling training takes place at the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. pitch on Saturday mornings. The youngsters, hurleys in hand and helmets in place, looking like little warriors, learn, develop and practise the skills for the fastest field game in the world... albeit at a fairly steady pace in the early days! Soon, thanks to the trainers who volunteer their time, pass on their knowledge and teach the skills, the children are chasing, hooking, pulling, hitting, scoring and learning to work as a team. A lot of fun is had and a lot of friends are made.

This year a new competition was introduced for young hurlers under nine years of age. The Ballyhaunis Under-9 hurlers took part in a Blitz in June against other young hurling teams from around Mayo. Ballyhaunis came out victorious, holding the other teams scoreless. Their reward for winning was something many senior hurlers dream about: to represent Mayo in Croke Park! This young Ballyhaunis team was to be one of eight county teams from every part of the country which would take to the pitch during the half-time break of the Leinster Final. They would give an exhibition of ground hurling to launch a series of conditioned hurling games for beginner hurlers.

Making History

On the morning of July 3rd, 2005, a coach left

Ballyhaunis carrying fifty-three very excited passengers – the team and their families, the trainers and fellow supporters and team mates from training sessions. When we arrived at Croke Park we could hear the roar of the crowd. You would have thought that our young team would be anxious at the thought of playing in the famous stadium in front of 35,000 people. But they showed no sign of nerves as they walked through the streets to the turnstiles, alongside the crowds of Wexford and Kilkenny supporters; hurleys slung over their shoulders and helmets hanging on the end of their hurleys. No, they were a team on a mission!

Just before the half-time whistle, the team of seven lined up in the tunnel. What a fine sight it was: you could almost see the adrenalin rising in their little veins as they waited anxiously to step out on to the hallowed ground. It was wonderful to see the other seven teams in their club/county colours and a proud moment for all as our boys walked onto the pitch wearing the black and red Ballyhaunis club colours. This young team were making history that day, by being the first team from Ballyhaunis GAA club ever to play in Croke Park.

The team got a great reception from the crowd as 'Ballyhaunis representing Mayo' rang out around the stadium. Our Mayo team was drawn against seven young hurlers from County Roscommon. It took the team just a short while to get into the game. Everyone played well and, just before the final whistle, Ballyhaunis scored a winning point. The perfect end to an amazing experience. As one of the team managers (who supports Kilkenny) said: 'My dream was always to play in Croke Park, and look at these youngsters doing just that!'



U-9 Hurlers, July 3rd 2005. L-R: James Lyons, Mohammed Ahmad, Stephen Nolan, Ryan Kilbane, Damien Callaghan, Joseph Lyons and Joseph Kelly.

The GAA should be very proud of this young team. The future of Ballyhaunis hurling is looking bright because on that day in Croke Park, the Ballyhaunis Under-9 hurling team was, quote, 'The stuff of legend'.

Many thanks to Pete Higgins, Gerry Kilbride, Ray Lucey, Howard and Kitty Morley for volunteering their time and organising the trip to Croke Park.

To end

On Sunday, 25th September, the Under-9 panel were presented with beautiful trophies to commemorate their trip to Croke Park on 3rd July 2005, which were kindly sponsored

by Stephen Nolan. The winning Under-12 team 2004 of the Mayo Hurling Championship were also presented with the cup and medals on the night. The venue was Supermac's and, after the photos were taken, everyone enjoyed eating there, courtesy of Pat Ryan. Another memorable evening, with Derek Walsh and Pierce Higgins doing the honours presenting the trophies, cup and medals. The forty or so children were thrilled to get a chance to have photos taken with their local hurling heroes.

Again, thanks to all involved with the hurling in Ballyhaunis.



U-9's with their commemorative trophies, Sunday 25th September 2005. Back l-r: Sean McDermott, Bilal Amin, Ryan Kilbane, Sean Lannon, James Lyons, Damien Callaghan. Front l-r: Mohamed Ahmed, Joseph Lyons, Joseph Kelly, Stephen Nolan, Stephen Ryan.



Eamon DeValera addressing a rally at The Square, Ballyhaunis in 1932.

Break Loose

Christina Johnston

*You pass unnoticed
With face distinct –
Perception, intuitive and sharp.
A fine brain bridled
by inhibitions, reins;
tethering –
paralysing.*

*Let go!
Speak out!
Get vexed!*

*Put on bright clothes!
Roar, dance and laugh!
Get drunk!
Cry out loud!*

*The chapping shawls
Of reticent care and caution.
That ravage martyr's backs
Make them threadbare!
You do not need
Their humping burden.*

*The straining chains
That link a tired draught mare
To heavy lumbering cart
Don't let them beat you down.
The cart's joggling wheels
Trudging and plodding,
Muddy dirt tracks
Will impede your meandering
route
To eternity.*

Another Year Over

By Jimmy Hunt (Kilmovee)

It is that time of year again when we look back at the year that has been, and the hands of time have moved on another year. During this time some of our readers will have experienced a bereavement, the birth of a child, a change of address or job, sickness or maybe retirement: whatever has come your way I wish you the very best and, hopefully, if it has been bad news, maybe this coming year will help you to cope with the new situation.

Many sad events have happened in the Ballyhaunis area and indeed worldwide. Some happy ones too have been recorded and I suppose we all have our own special memories. One sad event was the sudden death last February of one of the long-serving members and contributors to the Annagh, that local historian of note, the late Mr. Gerry Cribbin of Tooraree. Another sad event was the death of the late Shay Cribbin. Many of our readers will have happy memories of the late Shay who had a great affection and many associations with Ballyhaunis.

The late Shay was very musically talented from and early age and will be fondly remembered by our more senior readers for forming the first band The Fab Five, the members were Brendan O'Grady, Gerry Foley, Kevin Maloney, Malachy Tiernan and the late Shay Cribbin. And he later formed the Riviera Showband and this band included the previous band plus Patsy Haugh and Johnny Conway, the latter was later replaced by Naoise Judge. They played in all the dance halls of note all over Ireland and were very popular in

their own time. Their manager was Seamus Cox from Carrabawn, Aghamore.

Now we move on as we recall the many fine state-of-the-art houses built about the town and the many industrial buildings which have been erected since last Christmas. The closure of Johnston's Machinery which had been in business since 1927 was the end of an era for the farming community. We are very sad to see fine establishments close, but are happy to see part of the premises open in the same vein of business.

Of course, how could we forget the very poor weather early on in the year and the magnificent weather which prevailed through the summer months. And of course the terrible hurricane out in New Orleans and many other places.

I would like to congratulate Canon Joseph Cooney P.P. on his new appointment at the Knock Marriage Bureau and I hope that he will continue the fine work done by Fr. Michael Keane and his team of workers.

So as I bid you all farewell for yet another year, may God grant us all health and happiness for Christmas and all the very best as we shortly go into 2006. Nollaig faoi shein is faoi bhaise dhibh go leir. God bless you all in 2006. Until we meet again in the pages of the Annagh, may our wish for 2006 be peace to all. Let us make it happen and please God we can cut down on the carnage on the roads and the other forms of wanton waste of life.

 **WeightWatchers®**



'Candarel' Leader of The Year

Having lost three and a half stone herself, Phil Finn (pictured right) went on to become a leader with Weight Watchers. She now holds classes in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis every Thursday night from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm, these classes are attended by both men and women. In 2004 one of the members from the Ballyhaunis class went on to qualify for the final of the Weight Watcher of the Year.

There are over 900 Weight Watchers classes held in Ireland every week. In the Mayo area there are also classes held in Achill, Balla, Castlebar, Claremorris, Foxford, Swinford and Westport. For more information on these and other classes contact 1850 234 123 or log onto www.weightwatchers.ie. For information on the Ballyhaunis class, Phil can be contacted on (087) 9591716.

My Cousin in Nairobi

By Katie Fitzpatrick

I'm sure ye have all heard the saying 'If you want to get something done, ask someone who's busy'. That is exactly what happened when my cousin, Haulie Grady, was contacted by his friend and handball partner Martin Bruen, Loughglynn. He asked him for his opinion on Martin and himself going to Nairobi on a working project to build homes in one week. It was for an orphanage which held 120 children ranging in age from six months to ten years. By the end of the phone call Haulie had volunteered to go if the project required another person.

Martin was quick to remind Haulie that it was by no means a holiday, and the aim of the project was to build nine homes for the orphanage. Before departure each volunteer had to raise €3,000. They decided to fundraise as a team as much as possible. They hoped it would amount to more than the required €6,000 as they had learnt from meetings with the project leader Basil Love from Ballisodare, Co. Sligo, that regardless of the amount raised, it would be put to good use.

The fundraising began ranging from selling tickets, handball competitions, pub quizzes, a Boston tea-party; you name it, they did it. Haulie did a fundraiser during the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival by having one leg waxed: an experience he won't be repeating! Martin did a similar one in Ballaghaderreen: he had his head shaved, but took it in good spirits telling Haulie "That's the way it is – hair 2day, gone 2moro".

Nairobi

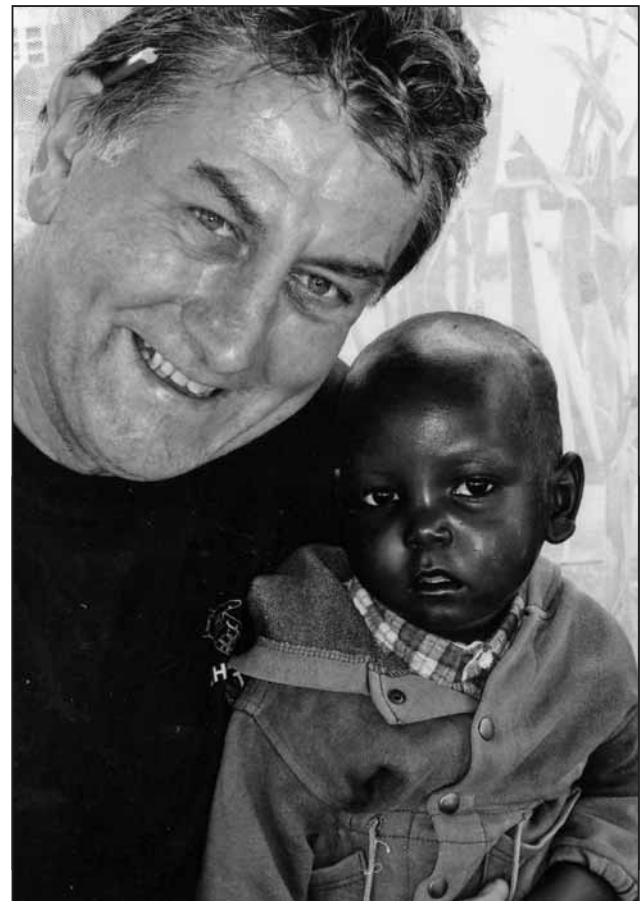
On June 4th 2005 the crew of seventeen volunteers departed from Dublin Airport for Nairobi, Kenya. Haulie said it was like Neil Armstrong when he departed for the Moon. He had absolutely no idea what lay ahead, and that was exactly the situation they found themselves in. On arrival in Nairobi they were shown to their hotel, which was very poor and basic by Irish standards. The room was 10' x 10' with two single beds, a wash-hand basin and toilet. A thirty watt bulb was the source of light: any stronger would blow the fuse. That evening they were taken to St. Paul's Childcare Centre where they met the founder Mama Mary, and most of the 120 orphanage children. The children put together a special welcome for the crew comprising of a sing-song and their local dance. It was very entertaining considering they had no musical instruments and the sound they were able to generate, both with song and dance, was excellent. Mama Mary then gave them a tour of the orphanage. She showed them the kitchen, which had two big urns, which contained a mixture of maize and corn. This is what the children ate twice a day, three hundred and sixty-five days of the year: the menu does not change. They were then shown the rooms where the children sleep: forty foot long, ten foot wide, with thirteen single beds,

and three children in each bed. This might sound bad but it was 100% better than the children down the road that had no room and no bed.

Work Begins

Work began on Monday morning at 8 am, and the crew worked until 6.30 each evening. It was all go because their ambition was to complete within the timeframe what they set out to do: that was to build nine shelters or homes. By Wednesday it looked as if it may be possible to build a further four homes, because the money was there to do so, but unfortunately, time ran out and on Friday evening at 6.30 they had completed the original nine homes. The extra money was left with Mama Mary, and the additional four homes have been built by local labour since.

I enquired with Haulie if the situation there was like what we often see on television. He told me there was no way it could be described. Prior to his going there, he thought the adverts that we see were a sort of 'set up' job to portray the very worst in order to raise money. But, he said, if there was a camera clicking constantly twenty-four hours every day, the results would be the same – extreme poverty. A local man who works for Mama Mary, with little English, told Haulie that his job was wheeling a barrow of chippings



Haulie with Michael, one of the locals.



that were in the way of the project. He had to wheel them five hundred feet through rough terrain, wearing a flip-flop on one foot, and nothing on the other. His day starts at 8 am and finishes at 6 pm, seven days a week. His pay is the equivalent of 93 cent a day. This man is twenty-seven years of age and goes to bed each evening at 9 pm. His routine does not change.

End Result

The crew were delighted with the end result and the experience: they all pulled together and worked hard to ensure completion of the project. On the Sunday before departure, the crew was invited to St. Paul's to officially open and name the new homes. The name they came up with and agreed was 'Ngong Ireland Homes 2005'. Ngong is the name of the village where the homes have been built. After the opening the children were provided with refreshments and, in return, provided the crew with entertainment similar to that of the previous week. The only job left to do was to return to Dublin after a job well done!

All I can say is 'Well Done' to all the men and women that were part of the Nairobi Project, and in particular to our two local men, Martin and Haulie, who between them raised €28,956 for the project. Take a bow!



Above left and here: Work in Progress on Wednesday.



Project leader Basil Love at the opening ceremony.



The entire crew of volunteers: Martin, second from left; Haulie, seventh from left.

Derrynacong's Teaching Legacy

By Mrs. Kathleen Flanagan (R.I.P.), Spaddagh

This article first appeared under the 'Brackloon and Derrynacong' notes in an issue of the old "Ballyhaunis Newsletter", from Christmas 1972.

Amidst all the praise and trumpet blowing about our educational facilities, it may not be out of place to turn back the pages of local history to pay a small tribute in the parish newsletter to the teachers of a by-gone age who, by their efforts, under most primitive and trying conditions, blazed the trail in the educational life of the Derrynacong and Brackloon area.

Up and down the country, plaques and memorials are erected to men and women of much lesser achievements – but the love of learning which they fostered and imparted to the down-trodden people in an age when it was an offence to be educated, speaks louder than tarnished brass or moss-covered stone.

The men to whom I refer were James Groarke (Senior), James Groarke (Junior) and Michael O'Connell, always referred to as Master Connell. All three were born in Derrynacong. The Groarkes were born and reared in the home now occupied by Mrs. D. Grogan and Master Connell's home has now passed into the hands of the Land Commission [1972] – the rent of which, under an alien Government was a few shillings: under native rule it is £30 per annum! The gospel of the Land League – 'fair rent and fixity of tenure' does not hold good with the powers that be.

More is known about Master Connell than of the other two mentioned. All three were really hedge school masters, and they travelled about here, there and everywhere, holding classes. Master Connell taught in various centres in South Roscommon and North Galway before coming back to Brackloon on some kind of official appointment (information of that point is not clear), but it was on the death of James Groarke Snr. that he was located and brought back. In those days communication was slow and to find him a messenger was sent on horseback and the people amongst whom he worked directed him saying 'he taught in such a village at such a time', and so on until the mission was complete and the teacher located. James Groarke Jnr. taught as far away as Belmullet and, as was the custom, staying at various centres throughout the county, bringing with him his store of knowledge.

Master Connell

Master Connell had only one arm, but he was a tall, very distinguished looking gentleman and where he acquired his education is not known. His efforts were all centred around the rural community and the basis of his instructions were the three Rs, and for those who were fortunate to stay on – he could verse them in most subjects taught at secondary school level today. Together with that, he was an impressive speaker, and native Gaelic scholar. Many of his pupils distinguished themselves both at home and in foreign lands.

He taught, as did his predecessor James Groarke Snr., in an old ramshackle hovel across the road from where the present Brackloon School now stands – the half acre site for which was donated free by the late Timothy Dyer, grandfather of Annie Dyer, who is still happily with us (since deceased). Please note – donated free in those hard times – what would it realise today with building sites quoted at almost so much an inch?

The generosity of the donor is just another proof of the appreciation there was for education in those days and, let it be remembered that present day facilities were not attained without struggle and sacrifice.

After all his efforts a wrongful dismissal was the compensation Master Connell got. There was no INTO, no strike weapon. Even in those days there was pull, corruption there, as there still is, but his pride would not allow him to be re-instated. Goldsmith summed it up:

*Unpractised he to fawn or seek for power
By doctrines fashioned to the varying hour
For other aims his heart had learned to prize
More skilled to raise the wretched than to rise.*

Information on the above was supplied by Mrs. Delia Grogan, Derrynacong, Master Connell being married to her grand-aunt, Honoria Waldron: she belonged to the family of Waldrons who gave us the late P. A. Waldron NT and his brother Dr. Michael F. Waldron MA, LLB.

Lochán a'Scoile

Anyone who travels the road from Ballyhaunis to Tooreen may be familiar with the reed fringed pond beside the former Mart premises, just across from the entrance to Grogan's Sandpit. Greatly reduced in size since the drainage of the Dalgan river in the 1960s, this was once a lake covering almost three acres through which the river Dalgan flowed, and fed partly by a spring well which, though now unused, still exists right one side of the main road.

News of the terrible tsunami disaster in South-east Asia last Christmas brought to mind a tragedy said to have happened here sometime in the dim and distant past, and which is still recalled in local folklore. Legend has it that there was a school of some sort here one time which was inundated during a freak flood killing the master and all the pupils (some put the number of pupils at six). Some sources say the flood occurred when the river Dalgan over-flowed its banks; others put it that "the lake swallowed them up". Whatever the facts, the event must have made a deep impression at the time, so much so that it gave its name to that same little lake - Lochán a'Scoile – the lake of the school, or as it is shown on the map, Loughannascullia.

Farming Scenes in Classaghroe



Mrs Bridget Walsh (nee Hopkins), Classaghroe, feeding the hens 1935.



Mick Walsh ploughing in Classaghroe, 1949.

Farming Scenes in Classaghroe



Cutting oats and sharpening the scythe: Mick Walsh, Classaghroe 1938.



Pat Walsh (right) and his son Mick, Classaghroe cutting oats in 1933.

Clonmacnoise

By Agnes M. Heaney

*"At a place called Clonmacnoise,
just south of Athlone town,
St. Ciaran found a monastic site,
once a place of great renown.
As you travel by the Shannonside,
where the whin and wild flowers grow,
Those ancient ruins can still be seen, of very long
ago."*

One day I wandered through the old monastic city of Clonmacnoise, which stands on a grassy lawn of fertile meadowland on the eastern bank of the River Shannon, about nine miles south of Athlone. Today, the place is desolate and lonely: her gates are broken and her streets are silent. Yet in olden times, it was the place of saints and scholars, a mecca of art and literature, a truly holy city for a long six hundred years.

Clonmacnoise was the greatest of our schools in the past, and it is the most interesting of our ruins in the present. Here the introduction of Christianity stimulated and enriched Celtic culture. The most ancient and accurate of the annals of Erin were written in her halls. Many of her saints and scholars bore the renown of her holiness and learning to foreign lands, and in return many students came to her schools from the Continent. St. Ciaran was the founder of the first wooden church in Clonmacnoise about 545 AD. It was said to be a bad site for a church as it was too near the river and in a bleak position. It was on the very route the Norse invaders were to take on their way inland from the sea. After St. Ciaran founded his church, Clonmacnoise continued to grow. Monks came and built monasteries there. Once, there were seven churches, two round towers, three high crosses, two holy wells, and four hundred early gravestones. There was also a thriving township which included craftsmen and armed guards. The seven churches were to represent the seven days creation, the seven days of the week, the seven graces, and the seven deadly sins. Also, pilgrims did the stations around the holy wells seven times.

Attacks

Instead of building one big cathedral, the churches were strewn haphazardly on the sloping hill, which trod down to the slow and swirling waters of the River Shannon as it meanders from Athlone to Portumna. Clonmacnoise suffered all the buffet of Irish medieval history – burned thirteen times, plundered by Vikings eight times, attacked by Irish enemies twenty-seven times. In 1179 the Normans attacked it and over one hundred houses were destroyed, but it was the English troops in 1552 who put an end to six centuries of religious and scholastic glory. The altars, books, sacred vessels, bells and even the glass from the windows were all carried away. Many of the earlier churches were

rebuilt by the O'Connors of Connaught, the O'Kellys, the McDermotts, and the O'Rourkes at a later date.

The greatest memorials of this ancient place are the buildings which still stand. Crowning the horizon is the O'Rourke tower at sixty feet high. In 1135 lightning struck off the top half, but it is now restored again. At the entrance, there is a rare collection of grave slabs, many with inscriptions and ornaments of great beauty. Some of the slabs are discoloured by damp and a coat of hoary moss has gathered over the inscriptions making them hard to decipher, marking the gradual dilapidations of time. Most of the grave slabs are dated from the sixth to the eleventh century, a reminder of the great men of past times who have filled history with their deeds and the earth with their renown.

The next place to visit is John de Gray's Castle. Built about 1220 there is a fine view from it over the bog to the Slieve Bloom. It was large, built of massive grey stone, the walls are stained and tinted by time and weather. On entering here the spaciousness and gloom of this edifice can produce a profound and mysterious awe. It's like stepping back into the regions of antiquity and walking among the shades of former ages. One can imagine the scene when its magnificent halls were bright with the valour and beauty of the land, glittering with the splendour of jewelled rank at its banquets, the good cheer, the laughter and song, the dancing to the music of the lute and harp. Now all has passed away into dust and oblivion, leaving only a mingled picture of glory and decay. There is nothing which impresses the mind with a deeper feeling of loneliness than to tread the deserted and silent scene of former throng and pageant.

Remains

St. Ciaran's church is the most revered spot. Barely twelve feet long, it marks the place where the patron is supposed to be buried. Seven months after building this church he died at the age of thirty-three and, like Our Lord, his father was a carpenter too. From a corner of this old church pilgrims still collect its sacred clay. Then there is Temple Dowling, a family chapel, and Temple Rí, which is probably the oldest of the churches. It has fine lancet windows and a splendid twelfth century Romanesque doorway, where Ireland's last High King Rory O'Connor is buried. There is Temple Connor where most of the O'Connors are buried.

MacCarthy's church has a round tower as a belfry. In the new cemetery, which lies beyond the gate in the east wall, is the beautiful Nun's Church, rebuilt by Queen Devorgilla as a penance for the treachery she committed by bringing in the Norman Invaders. A few years later this large and venerable church was burned again.

The Shannon, which runs a short distance from its walls, keeps up a low perpetual murmur. The three sandstone crosses provide eloquent memorials to the Saints and Kings who lie buried there. The Cross of the Scriptures, the ancient North Cross, and the Cross of the Crucifixion have fifty figures chiselled out of the side of the shafts, scenes from the life of Christ, the last judgment, and a horseman and charioteer on the base.

Adjacent to the O'Rourke round tower are the remains of the old monastery and schools. These schools numbered their students in thousands and were not at all like our schools of today. They consisted not of one large building, but of many small ones. First of all St. Ciaran built a small stone cell in this lonely spot. Here he spends a lot of his time praying and fasting. Soon he is joined by other monks, who build a small church and more stone cells. That's how a monastery began. Students then came from the districts about to be taught by the monks, and work with them to till the fields and grow their own food. Soon the little community is self-supporting. The monks also pray and make copies of the gospels and other holy books. After a time, the fame of the school spreads, and, as in Clonmacnoise, students came to it from every part of Ireland and from across the sea.

Solitude

Later the round tower was built by the monks as a place of refuge to which they could go for safety when they were threatened by invaders. This Monastic ruin has a portal rich with crumbling sculpture and vaulted passages, and its cloisters seem to retain something of the quiet and seclusion of former days. It was here that the authors of the great Annals buried themselves in solitude and devoted their time to painful research and intense reflection. In those days the accumulation of

manuscripts was slow and costly: they were written not on paper but on parchment, which was made from the skins of animals.

While wandering about these gloomy ruins one can almost hear a bell tolling for prayers, echoing through its dusky halls; the monks coming and going through dark passages and by paths now overgrown and almost lost; the matins, the vespers and hymns and, from the watch tower, we hear the warning bell. It's the proud Galley, and glancing swords of the fierce Northern Hordes, and the smoking ruins of church and city are again before us. Now the air is tinged with the melancholy of a place inhabited only by ghosts. It is also a place of holy memories, of a time when Ireland was well known for its Saints and great scholars. Here we can learn to understand the splendour of Erin's past. In the golden age of her learning, Ireland was dotted with monasteries like these and, even though they are in ruins now, the holy men who lived there and taught in their schools are still remembered: men like Saints Ciaran, Enda, Finian and Colmcille.

As the evening shadows fall, it's time to bid farewell to St. Ciaran's fabled city, with all the relics of antiquity left like wrecks upon the distant shore of time. Once again the stillness, the desertion and obscurity are gradually prevailing around it, interrupted only by the chirping of small birds and of rooks flying and cawing about its lofty grey towers.

*"No sweet bells toll,
their soft echoes roll o'er Clonmacnoise so great.
As oft they tolled in day of old,
for white robed monk and Saint.
They sleep today beneath its blest and sacred clay.
Where sunlight falls on its ruined walls,
and fresh breezes gently play."*

Golden Wedding

January 2005 marked a very special milestone in the married lives of Ballyhaunis couple, John and Anne Shaughnessy, as they celebrated the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

John, who is a native of Bray, Co. Wicklow, and Anne (nee Nolan), who hails from Mountain, Forthill, were joined in matrimony on 10th Jan. 1955 in St. Agnes' Church, Crumlin, Dublin. They lived in Coolock, Dublin for over forty years where they reared six children: Frances, Patricia, Elizabeth, Johnny, Theresa and Paul.

For almost fifty years John worked in the undertaking business, where he served with the well known Dublin firm of Kirwins.

In June 2001, John and Anne came to reside in the town of Ballyhaunis and have since then become a very popular couple and have made many new friends.

To mark the occasion of fifty happy years of marriage, a celebration was held in the couple's honour in the home of their daughter Patricia and son-in-law Gerard Plunkett, and was attended by all their six children, grandchildren, family and friends. A great night of music and song was enjoyed by all.

We take the opportunity of congratulating John and Anne on their golden anniversary and wish them all the very best for continued health and happiness in their retirement in Ballyhaunis.





Frank Glynn and Flavia Curley outside Curley's, Clare Street, 1970



Clare Road, 1966. Taken approx from where the main entrance to Dawn Meats is now. The shed on the right belonged to Dillon's and the house in the distance was Mrs. Cregg's, formerly O'Brien's.



Imelda Tarpey-Nichols (native of Began), her daughter Maeve, son Stephen and Pat Joe Lyons, Holywell. Taken in Clare Street in the 1960's. Note, McHugh's Garage and Mack's Hill in the background - now the site of the car park, library and fire station.

Abbey Pattern

By Deirdre Moran (Secretary)

Following the huge success of last year's Abbey Pattern the committee started work on this year's pattern before Christmas 2004. We wanted to make this year's Pattern bigger and better than last year's.

We had our AGM in April and the same committee was re-elected: Joe Byrne, Chairman; Aisling Caulfield, Treasurer; and Deirdre Moran, Secretary. Committee members are Ann Lyons, Susie Ottewell, Michael Egan, Enda Murphy, Stephen Grogan, Seamus Grogan and Gerry Winston.

The first thing we set about doing was to make donations to local children's organisations and €500 was donated to Ballyhaunis Parent & Toddler Group, and a further €500 to Scoil Iosa to help with some much needed PE equipment. Not bad considering we started out in 2004 with very little!

We were concerned about the quality of the Friary Field as there were some parts very wet and, thanks to Mayo County Council and their representative John O'Malley, the floods were alleviated. Also many thanks to the two gentlemen who work so hard to keep the grounds in such good repair: Joe Diskin and Sean Biesty.

We started seeking sponsorship in July and we really were astounded with the generosity of the businesses and people of Ballyhaunis. Many, many thanks to you all for very generous contributions to the Abbey Pattern, without you the Pattern would not have happened.

Sunday 28th August

We organised a bigger marquee, hired a children's entertainer and had more sporting activities for young and old alike. We even went as far as hiring portaloos for everyone's convenience! Fr. Burke started the day with Mass in the Friary Church, where the liturgy was enhanced by the Abbey Male Choir. The Balla Pipe Band kick-started the day's activities along with the very lovely Annagh Rose, Patricia Finan, with a parade down the avenue.

The weather was against us with a heavy drizzle falling all day, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of the children. The wheel of fortune was a huge attraction with some fabulous prizes on offer. The workers had their work cut out selling tickets and giving out prizes, such was the demand. Competition was fierce at the dog show with dogs of all makes and sizes taking part, and the sheaf tossing was amazing with a 15 year old tossing over forty-five feet! The crushed car had everyone scratching their head, thanks to a few 'red herrings' added to the car! The Parent & Toddler Group had a very profitable day with their tea & cake sale, bring in some much needed revenue for their group.

It was a great success all round with some houses taking home more than one piece of silver ware! Parents and children alike took part in all the activities

with great enthusiasm, from the toddlers race right up to the over 30's races, nappy hanging, potato picking and nail hammering!

Success

The committee felt that the whole day was a huge success. This could be seen by the smiles on all the faces leaving late that evening. We want to say a special thanks to all the help we received that day and indeed the days before with the staking out of the field and getting the track ready, getting the wheel of fortune sorted out, displaying the artwork and hanging the bunting and banners. We really could not have managed without all the help. We are open to any suggestions that you may have to make next year's a bigger and better day. You can log onto the website and view results and even more photos and of course make your suggestions. Website address: www.abbey-pattern.com.

We are aware that some people in the community are concerned about where any profits made will be going, and we want to assure everyone that the monies raised will be used to make next year's Abbey Pattern an even bigger, better and freer day for children and their families. As we have stated previously, the Abbey Pattern Committee is not a money making organisation and the committee decided to pass this year's profit's in the form of a donation of €1,000 to Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool Committee which we are sure will go some way towards much needed development of the pool. This was done at a night we organised to say thanks to all our helpers in late September.

The AGM of the Abbey Pattern Committee will be held in February and all new members would be welcomed. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who helped on the days leading to the 28th and the day itself: they really are too numerous to mention. The day could not be held without them and all our sponsors and patrons, so thank you so much once again.



L-R: Agatha Higgins (Swimming Pool Committee), Joe Byrne (Chairman Abbey Pattern Committee), Marie Jordan, Deirdre Moran (Secretary), Aisling Caulfield (Treasurer).

Children's Art Competition

Under 6

- 1st Chloe Ryan
- 2nd Charlotte Prince
- 3rd Francesca Prince

Under 9

- 1st John Cribben
- 2nd Caoimhe Henry
- 3rd Neil Folliard
- 3rd Morgan Lyons
- 3rd Niamh Murray

Under 13

- 1st Gretta Domarkaite
- 2nd Maria Lyons
- 3rd Grace Lyons

Flower Competition

Vase of Garden Flowers

1. Teresa Healy
2. Teresa Healy
3. Helen Byrne

Arrangement of Garden Flowers

1. Laura Paxton
2. Teresa Healy
3. Dorothy Durkin

Arrangement in a Mug

1. Helen Byrne
2. Chloe McGuire
3. Lisa McGuire

Vase of Wild Flowers

1. Megan Ford
2. Adrienne Kenny

Arrangement of Wild Flowers

1. Mary Judge

Single Rose

1. Chloe McGuire
2. Mary Maher
3. Lisa McGuire

Best Dressed Lady and Gent

Lady – Hilary Mooney,
Doctors Road
Gent – Mike Byrne,
Greenwood

Raffle

- 1st: Francis Delaney,
Coolnaha €200 Heating Oil
- 2nd: Maureen Lilly,
Johnstown - Hamper
- 3rd: Sinead Robinson,
Huntsfield - Hamper

Guess the Number of Sweets

Maura Kelly

Sheaf Tossing

Confined

1. Gerry Cummins
Cloonfad
2. Michael Loftus
Cloonfad
3. Padriac Cleary
Ballyhaunis

Open

1. Martin Nohilly, Corofin
2. Alan Nohilly, Corofin
3. Michael O'Shaughnessy
Newcastlewest, Co Limerick

Frank Connolly Memorial – Men's Over 30's

- 1st: Joe Doran
- 2nd: James Reidy
- 3rd: Brian Murray

Ladies Over 30's Race

- 1st: Joanne Webb Hunt
- 2nd Breege Cribben
- 3rd Aisling Webb Caulfield

Girls Under 4 Running

1. Katie Henry
2. Hannah Doyle
3. Niamh O'Neill

Boys Under 4 Running

- 1st Michael McDonagh
- 2nd Tommy Cleary
- 3rd Luke Walsh

Girls Under 6

1. Caoimhe Lilly
2. Jennifer Cleary
3. Marina Cleary

Boys Under 6

1. Thomas McDonagh
2. Gerry Higgins
3. Eamon Phillips

Girls Under 8

1. Ciara Hunt
2. Michelle Gallagher
3. Lisa Kilmova

Boys Under 8

1. Cathal Carney
2. Cian Henry
3. Joseph Daly

Girls Under 10

1. Margaret Cleary
2. Emma Gallagher
3. Nora Sweeney

Boys Under 10

1. Morgan Lyons
2. Tom McDonagh
3. Martin McDonagh

Girls Under 13

1. Caroline Maughan
2. Edel Lynch
3. Louise Carney

Boys Under 13

1. Eanna McNamara
2. Gearoid Keane
3. Jarlath Carney

Girls Under 16

1. Aileen Dillon
2. Sinead Fahy
3. Aileen Murray

Boys Under 16

1. Aurimas Brazauskas
2. Joseph Flynn
3. Isaac Carroll

Girls Under 18

1. Margaret Cleary
2. Aileen Dillon
3. Aileen Murray

Boys Under 18

1. Tadhg Morley
2. Joseph Flynn
3. Robert Frayne

Girls 3 Legged Race Under 9

1. Sarah Skeffington &
Leanne Henry
2. Hannah Jumail &
Louise McNamara
3. Emma Dillon &
Lorraine Dillon

Boys 3 legged Under 9

1. Morgan Lyons &
Shane Healy
2. Cyril Collins &
Damien Callaghan
3. Joseph Daly &
Joseph Daly

Girls 3 Legged Under 12

1. Lorraine Hickey &
Aileen Murray
2. Louise McNamara &
Emily Worden
3. Louise Culliney &
Sinead Kirrane

Boys 3 Legged Under 12

1. Cyril Collins &
Damien Callaghan
2. James Cribben &
Gerry Freeley
3. Garry Higgins &
Joe Daly

Girls 3 Legged Under 16

1. Lorraine Hickey &
Aileen Murray
2. Aisling Caulfield &
Caroline Maughan
3. Louise Culliney &
Sinead Kirrane

Boys 3 Legged Under 16

1. Damien Callaghan &
Robert Morley
2. Morgan Lyons &
Shane Healy
3. Gerry Freeley &
James Cribben

Girls Under 8 Egg & Spoon

1. Chloe Dillon
2. Sophia Vajenina
3. Ailish Phillips

Boys Under 8 Egg & spoon

1. Rory Nestor
2. James Cribben
3. Gerry Higgins

Girls Under 14 Egg & Spoon

1. Grace Lyons
2. Denise McDonagh
3. Emma Dillon

Boys Under 14 Egg & Spoon

1. Eanna McNamara
2. Jarlath Carney
3. Rory Nestor

Under 12 Boys sack Race

1. Jarlath Carney
2. Eanna McNamara
3. Morgan Lyons

Under 12 Girls Sack race

1. Maria Lyons
2. Cliona Hunt
3. Leanne Henry

Boys Under 14 Long Jump

1. Isaac Carroll
2. Auramais Brazaustas
3. Joe Flynn

Girls Under 14 Long Jump

1. Aileen Dillon
2. Edel Lynch
3. Leanne Lynch

Boys Under 18 Long Jump

1. Aurimas Brazaustas
2. Isaac Carroll
3. Conor Freeley

Girls Under 18 Long Jump

1. Emily Warden
2. Edel Lynch
3. Aileen Dillon

Darts

1. Brian Waldron
2. Kealan Webb
3. Brendan Waldron

Nappy Hanging

1. Katherine Kilbride
2. Eileen Folliard
3. Brenda Connelly

Jigsaw

Aileen Dillon, Ballinasloe

Guess the Car

00 Fiat Punto

– Winner: Jack Nohilly

Potato Picking

1. Eugene Kilbride
2. Seamus O'Hora
3. Brendan Waldron

Nail Hammering

1. Muhammad Cherbatji
2. Robert Frayne
3. Chris Graham

Penalties

1. Gearoid Keane
2. James Lyons
3. Kieran Kelly

Baptisms in the Parish of Annagh

November 2004 to October 2005



Aidan Patrick Sloyan
Katlyn Therese Maughan
Shauna Kathleen Mary McNamara
Brian Terence McHugh
Holly Marie Gallagher
Tara Lilly Concannon
Nikita Tighe
Tyler Coyne
Mark Dominic Jordan
Aoife Marie McCormack Kelly
Nakita Orla Cleary
Michaela Ann Fitzmaurice

Enoh Blessing Mary Karakitie
Jason William Lyons
Simon Paul Morley
Ellen Grace Molloy
Aoibhe Anne Mitchell
Alexandra Iseghohimen
Orla Josephine Tighe
Cory Dillon McCrudden McNamara
Alicia Ann Cleary
Chloe Akpahu
Ava Ann Walsh
Christina Matti

Germaye Henry Kelly
Clayton Michael Frayne Nolan
Brian Patrick Nwosu
Rian Francis Maitland
Laura May Allen
Andre Obiajulu Umeagukuru
Leah May Grealley
Anna Michelle Murray
Katelyn Kirsten Coyne
Mia Catherine Phillips

Marriages

November 2004 – October 2005

Deirdre McLoughlin, Carrowreagh
Killian Byrne, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Ruth Gaffney, Ballinphuill
Mel Burke, Scramogue, Co. Roscommon

Darran Conlon, Abbey St.
Siobhan Walsh, Knock Road

Sinead Lundon, Knock Road
Enda Scanlon, Tubber, Co. Clare

Marcella Daly, Neasden, London
James Campbell, Neasden, London

Imelda Flynn, Abbeyquarter
Dermot Hurley, Gorthaganny

Sheila Byrne, Johnstown
Ian Bright, Dublin

Rose Ann Regan, Killinaugher
Padraic O'Reilly, The Elms, Westport

Marriages Elsewhere

Padraic Kelly, Drimbane
Nessa Connor, Keelgues

Thomas Leonard, Abbey St.
Deirdre Lee, Baldoyle

Padraic Jennings, Knock Road
Ciara Chambers, Glounthaune, Co. Cork

John Grealley, Drimbane
Helen Walsh, Drimbane

Michael Lyons, Leow
Yvonne Herity, Dunnamaggin, Co. Kilkenny

Ciara Shields, Devlis
Peter Lowings, Dublin

Kenneth Kirrane, Knockbrack
Sabrina McNeely, Knockmore, Ballina

Austin Biesty, Pattenspark
Dorothy Dolan, Cloontumper, Began

David Nestor, Doctor's Road
Ellen Kennedy, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick

Mary Caulfield, Bohogue
Martin Lyons, Aghatharn, Tooreen

Lorcan Higgins, Devlis
Eithne McKeon, Elphin

Helen Lyons, Upper Main St.
Timothy Moran, Corofin



Deceased

November 2004 to October 2005

Mary Gildea
Austin Cribbin
Eamonn Phillips
Patrick Phillips
Sylvester McBride
Emma Browne
Richard Grogan

Kathleen Connell
Tom Carney
Joe Webb
Gerry Cribbin
Joseph Connell
Elizabeth Hunt
Thomas Ruane
Michael Morley
James Fitzmaurice
Mary Gavin
Bernard McDonagh

Maureen Ryan
Luke Lawlor
Mary Hunt
Walter Fallon
Martin Maughan
May Moyles
Kym Greene
Joe Burke
James Ruane
Mary Moloney
Seamus Mongan

Bill Campbell
Annie Simms
Bridie Fitzmaurice
Margaret Toolan
Monica Biesty
John Henry



My European Experience

By Jim Higgins, MEP

My first reaction when I visited the European Parliament in Brussels, four weeks after I was elected in June 2004, was the sheer scale of the place - a massive, imposing glass structure bedecked with the national flags of its 25 member states; a huge institution employing some 4,000 civil servants plus thousands more political staff.

When one entered the Parliament Chamber for the first time the comparison with the Dáil and Seanad back home was instant. Instead of seating for 166 TDs or 60 Senators, there are individual places for 732 MEPs, each equipped with a microphone and translation headsets. At the back of the hemicycle Chamber are the glass booths where interpreters provide instant translation into the Parliament's 20 working languages plus those of Bulgaria and Romania who are set to join the European Union in the near future.

But that is only half the story. Five hours travel away in Strasbourg is another equally imposing structure, the Louise Weiss Building, as it is here that the Parliament sits 'in plenary session' for one week each month. One is prompted to ask why a second parliament building and why Strasbourg? The reason is quite simple - Strasbourg is a symbol of Europe's reconciliation, having for centuries been fought over and changed hands between France and Germany.

So if the Parliament sits for only one out of every four weeks on average, what do we do for the other three weeks? Well, one full week is devoted to Group meetings. Just as we have political parties at home, in Europe we have different political groups and Members of the European Parliament join a group that reflects their political affinity not their nationality. The other 4 Fine Gael MEPs and I are members of the EPP-ED Group, which has 265 of the 732 members in

Parliament - the largest group in the parliament but still without a majority in the House. 'Group week', as it is known, allows the political groups to scrutinise the reports adopted by the parliamentary committees and table amendments to them. It is through discussion that our political group adopts its position on the committee reports and other matters of political importance and establishes how its members will vote in plenary.

Once or twice a month in Brussels the calendar is devoted to what is known as 'Committee Week'. There are 20 parliamentary committees in total and their political make-up reflects that of the plenary assembly. I am a member of two committees - the Regional Development Committee and the Committee for Transport and Tourism, both of which have a particular relevance and importance to the North-West constituency that elected me. I fought to get on these two committees because I believe that transport, tourism and regional development are crucial to the future economic development of the Border, Midlands and West Region. It is a committee's job to draw up, amend and adopt legislative proposals that fall within its sphere of interest. We consider Commission and Council proposals and, where necessary, draw up and adopt reports to be presented to the plenary assembly who vote to adopt or reject them.

Six times a year our working week in Brussels is a combination of both committee and group meetings as well as a meeting of the full Parliament for two half days, which is known as a mini plenary session.

While there are thirteen Irish MEPs from the Republic, five from Fine Gael, four from Fianna Fáil, one Labour, one Sinn Féin and two Independents, we leave our political allegiance at home and collectively wear the green jersey of Ireland. You can imagine,

however, with limited time for debate and 732 members how much competition there is for speaking time at the plenary sessions. Because Fine Gael is a member of the largest political group, I have managed to address the Parliament on a number of occasions.

I mentioned briefly that there are 20 working languages in the Parliament. That is going to be 21 as and from January 2007 when Irish, at long last, will become an official working language. I have long sought its recognition and am really looking forward to it.

The North-West constituency that I represent is the largest within the entire EU comprising of the 3 border counties, 5 Connaught counties and Clare. What came across very forcibly during my 10 week election campaign was the almost lack of interest in Europe and European affairs. I decided,



St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh - winners of the 'Engaging in Europe' debating competition. L-R: Derry O'Brien, Michael Gallagher, Senator Jim Higgins MEP, Paul Lavin, Christina Cannon, Deputy Enda Kenny, Myles Maguire, Denise Nagle (teacher) and Gráinne Byrne (teacher).

therefore, to sponsor a schools debating competition on European themes and topics. Fourteen post-primary schools in Mayo entered teams from their transition year. The debate was managed and overseen by local radio presenter Tommy Marren of Mid-West Radio. The standard of debate was remarkably high throughout the entire competition. The final debate took place in the Belmont Hotel, Knock, on the 16th of May and over 300 people attended. Among the audience were members of the twelve teams who participated in the earlier rounds of the competition and I presented each with a certificate.

The two finalists were St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh and Balla Secondary School with the laurels going to the team from St. Louis a very closely fought and highly entertaining contest. The prize for the winning team was a visit to the European institutions. However, there were only a few marks between the winners and the runners-up so I decided

that both teams should travel. Last September the two teams, two teachers from each school and the adjudicators visited Brussels to see the institutions at first hand. Whilst in the European Parliament the students appeared alongside me and other MEPs on Mid-West Radio, broadcast live that day from the Parliament's radio station. They also visited Bruges, Rotterdam and Amsterdam. It would not be an overstatement to say that they really enjoyed themselves.

It's an exciting time to be in Europe. Twenty five Member States, eight of who are former communist controlled Eastern European states freed from the iron grip of Moscow. It is a privilege to participate on a daily basis in the most successful democratic process in history and to witness at first hand the realisation of de Gaulle's dream "of a united Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals".



By Tommy Ronayne

Over the course of the last year, the local Fianna Fáil organisation has been actively involved in the streamlining and restructuring process currently being implemented nationally by Party Headquarters. The expected outcome of this initiative is that we will move forward with greater efficiency and effectiveness at a local level. As part of this programme, a number of party members in the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair area have been appointed to the officer board of the newly formed Council electoral area grouping. This is in tribute to, and in recognition of the proactive efforts of our party members on behalf of our local party identity.

At a representative level, locally and nationally, Ballyhaunis has continued to benefit from the effort made on its behalf by our locally elected Fianna Fáil representatives, Deputy John Carty T.D., and Councillors Michael Carty and Pat McHugh. Sporting organisations in the immediate area have received Sports Capital grants of over €418,000 with Ballyhaunis G.A.A club alone in receipt of €180,000. The Abbey Playground was officially opened during the year having benefited from a €60,000 grant obtained from the Dept of Health and Children. As childcare is now very firmly on the political agenda, over €15 million has been invested in this area in Mayo alone, over the past two years with the immediate Ballyhaunis area receiving well in excess of €200,000. Significant investment has also taken place in this region in the form of improved Water schemes, roads and

investment in family support and resource centres in the Ballyhaunis area. The proposed extension to Ballyhaunis Community School has been approved and is now at the architectural planning stage.

On a national level, Deputy Carty continues to work tirelessly for the constituency, being the only Government T.D. in the area. The decentralisation programme to Knock Airport and Claremorris is on track, and the Western Rail corridor remains high on the list of priorities. Deputy Carty's commitment to the Western Regional Development has seen him instigate an all-party parliamentary grouping, made up of the T.D.s and Senators in the Western /Borders region. Deputy Carty has been appointed Chairperson of this grouping.

All in all 2005 has been a very busy one for the local organisation. Personnel from the Ballyhaunis area continue to take a very active role in Party affairs. Over 25 delegates from the Ballyhaunis area attended the recent Ard Fheis in Killarney, a sign of the level of activity within the organisation in the locality.



Visit by Minister For Children Mr. Brian Lenihan to the new state of the art childrens playground in the Friary field. Back l-r: Bernie Waldron, Seamus O'Boyle, Tommy Ronayne, Minister Brian Lenihan, Larry Ward, John Carty T.D., Padraic Morley, Brian Hunt, Michael Carty M.C.C., Seamus Mulrennan. Children are Áine Waldron and Daniel McCormack.

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

By Mary Donnelly

Over the past year the Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee has been actively engaged in improving the appearance of the town and promoting anti-litter awareness and care of our environment. All our activities aim to encourage and motivate the local community to take pride in our neighbourhood and our environment and to tackle the problems caused by litter and dumping, to bring about improvements and enhancements where possible and to reward those who make an effort in this regard. Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis with few exceptions and are quite informal.

We maintain ongoing contact with Mayo County Council regarding problems and improvements that need to be addressed, and we lobby local representatives on a regular basis. We met with Mr Peter Gill, Horticultural Officer in February of this year and sought his advice and co-operation on a number of issues, some of which have been addressed and others are still outstanding. We also attended the public consultation in relation to the review of the Connaught Waste Management Plan; we discussed our ideas and aspirations with the project team members present and made a written submission.

Enhancement

On a practical level we enhanced public areas by planting flowers around the trees on the streets, and providing hanging baskets at the Friary and along the wall in Abbey St., on the river bridge and at the top of Main St. We also provided window boxes and tubs at the Courthouse, the Parochial Hall and the Friary, and planted trees and wild flowers along Clare Road adjacent to the bypass road. Our efforts in this regard drew favourable comment in the National Tidy Towns Report.

We assisted local residents who put forward a proposal to landscape the area at the Knock Road/Bypass road corner. The area is now tastefully planted with trees and shrubs, and ground cover and chips in place to eliminate weeds. We fully support any initiative by local residents to enhance their neighbourhood and would welcome similar proposals in other areas. We appreciate the efforts made by many residents and traders in decorating their premises with floral displays, and look forward to further displays in the future.

We carried out regular clean-ups of litter at the riverbank, car parks and any "black spot" where required. We organised a street cleaning service on Sunday mornings during the summer months and we are grateful to the Chamber of Commerce for their financial support towards this project. We thank the staff of Mayo County Council who do an excellent weekly street cleaning job.

Town Improvements Awards

Our annual Town Improvements Awards Competition took place in May/June. The Environmental Dept. of Mayo County Council appointed an adjudicator, and prizes were awarded in a number of categories such as Best Presented Shop Front, Pub Front, Private Residence, Office/Financial Institution, Garden and a number of individual category awards. In his report the adjudicator referred to the beneficial effect such a competition has on the appearance of the town in general. He described the winners in each category as "outstanding examples of what can be done when serious efforts are made to present attractive and eye-catching frontages." He was impressed by the impact of the addition of hanging baskets and window boxes to premises that had been freshly painted in strong colours. He noted that significant lengths of the streets were enlivened by the presence of such buildings, and he advised that the use of these ornaments should continue to be heavily promoted.

Prizes were presented at a special function held in the Parochial Hall in early July. The winners are as follows:

Best Presented Shop Front: 1. E. J. Phillips, Main St., 2. Newsround, Main St., 3. Eddie Murphy & Sons, Main St.

Best Presented Pub Front: 1. Gill's Bar, Clare St., 2. Curley's Bar, Clare St., 3. Osta Connachta, Knox St.

Best Presented Private Residence: 1. Seamus & Aisling Caulfield, Devlis, 2. Breda Burke, Littlebrook House, Devlis, 3. Ger Donnellan, Clare St.

Best Presented Office/Financial Institution: 1. Bank of Ireland, 2. Midwest Radio, Clare St., 3. Ballyhaunis Credit Union.

Best Presented Garden: 1. Al & Anne Madden, Hazelhill, 2. Mary Grogan, Devlis, 3. Norrie Dillon, 24 Hazelwood.

Individual Category Awards: Western Care Training Centre, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis Cemetery, Brookvale Nursing Home, Scoil Iosa in Abbeyquarter, Avondale B&B in Clare St. Friary Grounds, Knock Rd/Bypass Road entrance.

Best New Housing Development: Hazelwood.

Another annual event is the Children's Art Competition for the pupils of Scoil Iosa which usually takes place in November. The aim of this competition is to create anti-litter awareness among children and the need to keep our streets and neighbourhood clean and tidy. Three prizes are awarded in each class and the response is always very impressive. We extend thanks to all the children who produce such wonderful entries and to the teachers and staff of Scoil Iosa for their co-operation.

Focus

The main focus of our work each year is our participation in the National Tidy Towns Competition, and no effort is spared in having our town looking its best for the visit of the adjudicators in June. This year we are pleased to have been awarded 195 marks; an increase of three on last year with one mark gained in the Litter Control category and two in the Roads, Streets and Back Areas category. Marks in all other categories remained at the same level as last year. The following is a brief summary of the report:

"Adjudication took place on 15th July and the adjudicators were impressed by the level of activity under way on the day in renovating and maintaining the town's buildings. While some derelict buildings in prominent areas were noted, premises such as Curley's Bar and Gill's Bar in Clare St., and the children's playground drew favourable comment. Likewise the flowerbeds and baskets in Main St. and around the Square were admired.

The town park and river walk were described as good amenities for the town, and the 'well kept park with cut lawns and colourful roses' was noted. Three trout were noticed in the river and it was suggested that information panels about flora and fauna should be erected along the river. The provision of a litterbin at a central point along the riverside walk was also recommended."

The report goes on to endorse the co-operation of schools, residents and the Chamber of Commerce with the Tidy Towns Committee regarding litter campaigns, and encourages the continuation of activities such as participation in the Litter Action League and the Children's Art Competition in an effort to address the litter problem.

Residential areas in the town were described as varied, and the importance of reminding construction companies to landscape new estates properly was emphasised. Enda Caulfield's house on the Knock Road caught the eye of the adjudicators who described

it as 'a fine example'.

The report concludes as follows: "There is still a lot to be done in Ballyhaunis, especially battling the litter problem and going about the derelict building sites, but the efforts and improvements made are obvious. Keep up the hard work! Congratulations to all involved!"

Litter Action League

We competed in Mayo Co. Council's Litter Action League which ran from April to November. In this competition towns of equal size compete against each other on a league basis and points are awarded for tidiness etc. At the time of writing Ballyhaunis has been successful in five out of seven rounds and has qualified for the semi-finals.

We congratulate the prizewinners in Mayo Co. Council's Cleaner Community Awards 2004: Scoil Iosa, Abbeyquarter, 3rd prize in the County in the Tidy Schools category. Clare St., highly commended in the Tidy Streets category. Aisling Drive, highly commended in the Tidy Housing Estates category. The results of the 2005 competition have not yet been announced.

We thank all those who support and co-operate with our committee in any way; by tending to the flowers on their street and providing flowers themselves, by enhancing their property with fresh paint, floral displays and maintaining the area outside their premises free of litter. We thank the Chamber of Commerce and Ryan's Super Valu for their sponsorship and all who contribute financially or otherwise to our activities. We welcome new members into our committee at any time and we invite them to join us in making Ballyhaunis a better place to live.

Tidy Towns Committee: Chairman – Jim London; Secretary – Mary Donnelly; Treasurer – Eddie Mulhern; PRO – Enda Murphy. Committee: Kieran Timoney, Mike Griffin, Enda Caulfield, Helen Biesty, Fr. Kieran Burke, Kay Curley, Laurence Freyne, Brian Alves, Jean Alves.

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club - *By Leona Connery (Hon. Sec.)*

Our Bridge Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday night in the Hazel, Main Street at 8 pm. At present we have sixty-five members and new members are always welcome.

Our thanks to our sponsors Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Bank, Ulster Bank and Ballyhaunis Credit Union. The President this year is Susan Laffey; Vice-president - Justina Lyons; Hon. Treasurer - Kay Lyons; Hon. Sec. - Leona Connery; Tournament Director - Martin Connery.

Our Bridge Club members were bereaved by the death of Mai Moyles and Joe Burke R.I.P. Long standing members of the bridge club.

Major competitions during the year are The Murphy Cup, Christmas Prizes, Bankers Prizes and Easter Prizes. The President's Prize was the highlight of the year. The preparations made by Jean Gallagher ensured that we all had a good night. The winners of

the President's Prize were Susan Laffey and Michael Cameron.



Susan Laffey (left) and Michael Cameron (right), winners of Jean Gallagher's Presidents Prize (centre) at Ballyhaunis Bridge Club.



Pat Joe Lyons on his 90th birthday cutting his cake.



Bridget Daly celebrating her 70th birthday with family and friends June 2005.



Arthur Prenty and Francis Cruise discussing the price of cattle.



Taken in Tooraree in the 1960's. Back - Arthur Prenty and Michael Lyons, Front - John and Tommy Prenty. The houses at the back were occupied by the Glynn and Barrett families.

Fire Officer Retires

After completing forty years of service, Ballyhaunis Fire Officer, Sean Freyne, hung up his fireman's helmet for the last time on the 10th Oct. 2004, when he retired from the service.

Sean, from Clare St., joined the Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade in 1963 and, with forty-one years active involvement to his credit, is one of the longest serving Firemen in the country. On the retirement of Clarence Grogan (R.I.P.) in 1978, Sean was appointed Station Officer - a position he filled with commitment and distinction for the past twenty-six years. During his career he served under three County Fire Officers.

A special function to mark Sean's retirement was held in Knock House Hotel on Saturday night,

27th Nov., and was attended by Sean, his wife Ina and members of their family. They were joined by the members of the Ballyhaunis Fire Station crew, numbering eight in all, and their wives. Also in attendance, representing headquarters, were Mr. Seamus Murphy, County Fire Officer and Mr. Tony Shevlin, Asst. County Fire Officer.

During the night a presentation of a framed, engraved mirror, bearing the inscription: "On your Retirement, Sean Freyne, Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade, 1963-2004", was made to Sean by Edward Mulhern newly appointed Station Officer, on behalf of the Ballyhaunis Fire crew.

His colleagues in Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade and his many friends wish Sean well in his retirement.



Top Back l-r: John Kilduff, Tim Plunkett, Michael J. Lyons, John Finnegan, M.J. Walshe, Mike Griffin. Front l-r: Gerry O'Connell, Sean Freyne, Ina Freyne, Edward Mulhern.

I'm Very Well Thank You

Author unknown

*There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as I can be,
I have arthritis in both my knees,
And when I talk - I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,
But - I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet,
Or I wouldn't be able to be out on the street,
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm alright.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,
But - I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
The moral is this - as my tale I unfold,
That for you and me who are getting old,
It's better to say 'I'm fine' with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.*

*How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my 'get up and go' has got up and went.
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin,
Of all the grand places my 'got up' has been.
Old age is golden I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My specs on a table until I get up.
'Ere sleep overtakes me I say to myself,
Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?
When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels right over my head,
When I was older my slippers were blue,
But I still could dance the whole night through.
Now I am old my slippers are black,
I walk to the shop and puff my way back,
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
And pick up the paper to read the 'obits',
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead;
And so I have breakfast and - go back to bed!*

Northabout – Back to the Ice - The North East Passage

By Dr. Michael Brogan



Jarlath Cunnane and Mick Brogan.

Under a grey sky last October, Northabout silently sailed back into Clew Bay heading towards her home port of Westport, escorted by a flotilla of local boats. As a small crowd had gathered, the children of the local school played out their own musical welcome home. On June 23rd 2001, many of those same people came to wish Northabout bon voyage as she and her crew departed fully laden with 3 years supply of food for the North West Passage. It was to be an ambitious and historic adventure for all on board.

Northabout, designed for Polar exploration, was built of strong aluminium by Jarlath Cunnane in Knock in only 13 months prior to our departure for Greenland and the ice-clogged waters that separate the Atlantic from the Pacific ocean. It was a tough yet fascinating voyage for us as Northabout went into the records for the fastest ever transit of the Northwest passage. She was the 13th boat ever to make the passage and it was done against prevailing winds and currents.

We over-wintered the boat in Nome, Alaska, in Sept 2001 and the crew returned to Ireland with the intention of bringing her home to Westport through the Panama Canal. However, none of us was enthusiastic about going south, so we decided to have a look at the Northeast Passage over Siberia. It had never been done east to west, which is against prevailing winds and currents. It was to be a 12,000-mile voyage back home to Ireland through the Siberian and Russian Arctic. We read the stories about the doomed 1913 voyage of the Karluk, and Russia's own Valerian Albanov who describes in his diaries "In The Land Of White Death" how he saved his crew, Shackleton-like, when their ship, the St. Anna, was crushed in ice in the Kara sea in 1912.

My brother Colm, who lives in Moscow and is a fluent Russian speaker, and sailor, was brought onto the team. By January 2004 we found ourselves, with permission from the Russians, sailing north up the Bearing Strait, back again into the ice. The Siberian winter of 2003/2004 was unusually mild and,

according to the icemen of the north, a mild winter is usually followed by a severe summer. They were right. We met ice much earlier on the route than expected, just south of Wrangle Island, in the Chukchi Sea. As we advanced through leads, some days making 50 miles, other days making no progress at all, we called to the few habitations along the coast. It was here in Siberia that the notorious Soviet prison camps, the gulags were established. It is also a restricted military zone, and the people who live there require special permits to get in or out. Such permission is almost always refused except to military.

Native peoples

The natives are generally very reserved and do not immediately take strangers into their trust. Serious-looking and uncommunicative border guards took hours to scrutinise our passports and permits. But at least we gave them something to do and they looked on us as a curiosity. No one we met had ever seen a sailing boat, and very few had met foreigners. We found it difficult to get the locals to talk to us. However, our secret weapon turned out to be our music. With myself on the fiddle, Jarlath on the harmonica, Paddy Barry, Rory Casey, and cameraman Garry Finnegan on guitars, and Kevin Cronin on the bodhran, we played music wherever we went. Firstly the children would approach, and then the adults. We had broken down the barrier and were able to get a better insight into the lives of these people. They are a mix of Eskimo (to use a broad term), and Russian. Many of them were left behind after the prison camps were shut down. Following the collapse of the Soviet system, the Red Army deserted the habitations of the north, like Mys Schmidt, Pevec and Tiksi, leaving behind the civilians who didn't have the permission, or the money, to get out. They are proud and resourceful people, who survive in the hostile environment of Siberia where winter temperatures regularly fall to minus 60 degrees.

Along the coast, we met Sasha, a Russian meteorologist, out hunting and fishing and preparing for the winter. He took us to Dalstroi, a well-known and infamous prison camp, where 40,000 people died of starvation, neglect and cold when they were forced to work in the local gold and zinc mines. The collapsed watchtowers, barbed-wire, the occasional shoe and item of clothing scattered around, were a grim reminder of the cruel political system that existed not so long ago. We were certainly the first westerners to see this place.

Beset again

As we travelled west, ice conditions became worse, compounded by thick fog lasting for days, a regular feature of the Arctic. On the East Siberian Sea, en route

to Tiksi, we found ourselves beset again. About two miles away a Russian cargo ship similarly trapped was waiting for an icebreaker to get her through to the Khatanga river. When the icebreaker didn't turn up, the ship's captain decided to force a way through to clearer water, 30 miles to the west. We realised that if we didn't get out with them we could be left there for the winter. We decided to follow in her wake. Although she did open up a path for us, her twin propellers threw back huge lumps of ice, like depth charges banging against our hull. Would our boat stand up to this punishment for 30 hours, gaining less than 1 mile per hour? We started taking water. We wondered had our hull been penetrated by the ice. Northabout survived that episode and we were able to make repairs to the hull the next day.

In Tiksi we met a Dutch sailor who had overwintered in his yacht, Campina. He was on his second year trying to make the same voyage as us. We decided it would be safer for the two boats to try to get through the rest of the passage together. However, before long, Campina started to have engine problems and fell behind. We had yet to get around the most difficult 500 miles of our journey, and the most northerly point of the Eurasian Continent, Cape Cheleuskin. It was getting towards the end of August, and in these latitudes, what passes for summer can change to winter in a matter of hours in the first few days of September.

One hundred and fifty miles southeast of Cape Cheleuskin, we found ourselves again unable to advance against very heavy polar pack ice. For eleven days we waited and waited, hoping for a lead to open to allow us into the Kara Sea. As the days passed, the temperature continued to drop to minus 10 degrees and much colder with the wind chill factor. Curious polar bears, and the low temperatures, made it impossible for us to go outside the cabin. Ice had begun to form inside the boat and, as the sea around us was starting to freeze, the pipes in our toilet froze solid, rendering it useless. It was very uncomfortable to say the least. In the 24 hours of daylight, the eight of us tried to pass the time with reading, cooking, sleeping etc., as hope of further progress faded. We were now in danger of becoming trapped in the ice for the winter. We got a radio call from Campina, 60 miles to the south of us, to say he had got crushed between two icebergs and was in serious trouble. It was time for us to get out.

As we sailed south from where we had come, we were ordered by the Russians to go to Campina's assistance. We found her anchored to a grounded iceberg and her crew safe. We succeeded in towing her and her crew through heavy ice, 35 miles further south, where she was lifted onto the deck of a passing ship, and back to Murmansk. Her season was also over. We made our way to the Khatanga River where we overwintered Northabout in a village of the same name,



Northabout off the Siberian coast.

and we returned to the safety of our own homes back in Ireland.

Siberian Winter

The Siberian winter of 2004/05 was very cold. The real Russian winter, according to the icemen. It was forecast that the ice conditions would be better this year. In August, with the same crew, Northabout sailed down the Khatanga River and back into the Laptev Sea again towards Cape Cheleuskin. Word was that the ice had broken up at the Cape and, with luck, we should be able to get through to the Kara Sea. However, it was not going to be that easy. By mid-August we had succeeded in getting around the Cape, only to find a band of polar pack ice blocking our path into the Kara Sea. It had been blown down overnight by strong north westerly winds, which were not forecast. For two days



Reindeer crossing the Khatanga river.

we tried to find a lead through, when we got a message from Murmansk, forecasting a north westerly storm in 12 hours. Our only chance of shelter from the driven ice and wind was Sun Bay, in Bolshevik Island, 30 miles to the northeast. However, we soon found ourselves surrounded by ice on all sides, as we searched for a lead through to the island.

We came on a narrow band of ice, about 200 metres wide, with clearer water on the other side if we could get through it. We had to take the risk. We did succeed in breaking through, and 12 hours later we found ourselves in the shelter of Sun Bay. Polar bears prowled around the boat as the storm blew outside. On the fourth day, on anchor as the wind settled, we got news of a nuclear icebreaker 15 miles away escorting a ship into the Kara Sea. In no time we found ourselves following in her wake, through the 50 miles of pack ice, into the clearer water of the Kara Sea. Soon we were sailing through clear water, all the way through to Novaya Zemlya and into the Barents Sea. We had left the ice behind. The final leg of the Northeast Passage

was not going to be easy as we sailed into the teeth of gale after gale on the last 1,000 miles to Murmansk, where we celebrated the first ever westward circumnavigation of the Arctic.

On the 8th September as we crossed the border from Russia into Norwegian waters, still in the Barents Sea, we felt we were on the home run. That voyage back to Ireland, along the spectacular coast of Norway, and across the infamous North Sea, is a story in itself, for another day.

It is a fact that nowadays we can travel around the world in a matter of days at great speed. I consider it a privilege to have had the opportunity in my life to circumnavigate the Arctic in good company at 5 miles an hour from Westport and back.

For a more comprehensive report, visit our website: www.northabout.com

A documentary film of our voyage will be broadcast on RTE in March or April 2006.

Ballyhaunis A.B.C. (*Aid for Belarussian Children*)

By Olive Lyons

Ballyhaunis A.B.C. is now in operation for fourteen years. It operates as an outreach group of the Donegal A.B.C. under the guidance of Ernan Meehan. Every year the Donegal A.B.C. brings in children to Ireland from farms and orphanages in the South East of Belarus for a month's holiday hosted by families in Donegal, Monaghan and Ballyhaunis.

The Chernobyl disaster took place on 26th April 1986 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor Plant in the Ukraine. 70% of the radiation fell on neighbouring Belarus which was exposed to radiation ninety times greater than the radiation released by the Hiroshima bomb. The holidays in Ireland provide respite to the Belarussian children from the high levels of radiation to which they continue to be exposed. In 1998 tests showed that children examined on their return had reduced their contamination levels by 30-50%.

This year Ballyhaunis A.B.C. hosted twelve Belarussian children and their interpreter for the month of July. The four girls and eight boys ranged in age from eight to fourteen. The highlight of their holiday was a day spent on Turoe Pet Farm with all the host families. It was a great day out for everybody as could be seen by the joy and excitement on the children's faces. All money was raised locally to fund the children's holiday in Ballyhaunis through our church gate collection, donations and fund raising events: a sponsored walk and the sale of St. Brigid's crosses.

As well as hosting children from the south-east of Belarus, last year a hospice for the terminally ill was set up in this poverty stricken region by A.B.C. in conjunction with the health authorities in Belarus. The people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas, though



their generosity to Ballyhaunis A.B.C., have contributed towards the setting up and running of this hospice.

Ballyhaunis A.B.C. would like to thank the families who hosted the children and their interpreter, the people who sponsored different events while the children were in Ballyhaunis, and all who so generously contributed to our group throughout the year and who helped in the making of the St. Brigid's crosses. It is through the generosity of the Ballyhaunis people and the surrounding areas that for fourteen years we have been able to improve the lives of these children and we hope to continue doing so.

Officers: Chairperson - Mary Maloney; Secretary - Olive Lyons; Assistant Secretary - Mary Murphy; Treasurer - Frances Mulhern; Assistant Treasurer - Breege Nolan.

Scoil Íosa Primary School

by Betty Regan

Once again Scoil Iosa extends seasonal greetings to all past pupils and everyone associated with the school. At present there are 254 children attending the school.

We have just finished a Whole School Evaluation with Departmental Inspectors, Mr Martin Whyte and Mr Michael Baker. This is the rigorous new style Inspection System that evaluates all aspects of school management and teaching.

During the past year teachers attended in service and planning days on P.E and Music, to implement the New Curriculum.

Staff 2005-2006

Mr Jim Landon (Principal), Mrs Sally Fahey (Deputy Principal), Mr Augustine Kearns (Assistant Principal), Mrs Kathleen Lyons, Ms Stella McGrath, Mrs Anne Durkan, Mrs Ita Fahey, Sr Geraldine Farrell, Mr Jimmy Duggan, Mrs Betty Regan, Mrs Caitlin Jennings, Ms Aisling Toal, Mrs Margaret O'Flaherty, Mrs Marie Byrne, Mrs Mary Fleming, Mrs Ailish Ruane, Mr Kevin Henry, Mrs June Duffy.

Staff Changes

We said goodbye to Sr Nora Collieran and Ms Gillian Denning in June 2005. Ms Audrey Harnedy left in October to take up a position in Mulranny N.S. Mr Tom Lyons retired in May as our instrumental music teacher. We thank them for their work for the school and wish them all the best in the future. Mrs Anne Durkan joined the staff in September and Mr Kevin Henry in November.

Board of Management

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

Parents Association 2005-2006

Chairperson: Eamonn Healy; Vice Chairperson: Bridie McDermott; Secretary: Patricia Uí Suilleabhain; Assistant Secretary: Gabrielle Lyons; Treasurer: Agatha Clarke; P.R.O. Maire Caulfield. Committee: Seamus Caulfield, Olive Lyons, Cathy Carroll, Ger Lyons, Stacia Carney, Rita Cunnane, Robena Gulzar.

We thank the members of the outgoing Parents Association for their invaluable work in organising Santa's visit, the Christmas and Easter Raffles, The Shoebox Appeal, helping with First Communion and Confirmation, and in organising the sponsored walk on 8th May last.

The Sacraments

The Enrolment Ceremony was held on 26th January

2005. First Confession took place on 7th March. Confirmation was on Sunday 13th March. First Communion was celebrated on Saturday 7th of May.

First Communion

Seventeen children received First Communion on 7th May: Danielle Byrne, Claremorris; Laura Carney, Upr. Main St.; Philip Fitzmaurice, Tonragee; Neil Folliard, Kiltaboe; Lisa Higgins, Johnstown; Ryan Kilbane, Derrynacong; James Lyons, Knockbrack; Joseph Lyons, Knockbrack; Chantelle Maughan, Aisling Drive; Chantelle Mc Donagh and Laurence Mc Donagh, Tooraree; Michael McDonagh, Tooraree; Niamh Murray, Hazelcourt; Rory Nestor, Knock Rd.; Stephen Nolan, Kilmannin; Ailish Philips, Gurteen; Stephen Ryan, Hazelhill.

Confirmation

Children from 5th class had their pre-Confirmation retreat in Ballintubber Abbey on 14th February while 6th class went there on 15th February.

His Grace, Archbishop Michael Neary, confirmed forty-five pupils on Sunday 13th March. Those celebrating this special milestone were: Eugene Durkan, Devlis; John Flynn, Gurteen; Anne Folan, Station Rise; Sean Griffin, Devlis; Lisa Hunt, Derrynacong; Grace Lyons, Knockbrack; Maria Lyons, Knock Rd.; Caroline Maughan, Cherryfield; Winifred Mongan, Station Rise; Siobhan Morley, Derrymore; Shane Murphy, Dublin Rd.; Martin McDonagh, Tooraree; Louise McNamara, Knockbrack; Jennifer O'Neill, Abbey St.; Gary Patterson, Carrick, Ballinlough; Andrea Reynolds, Gurrane; Aine Waldron, Cave; Cathal Walsh, Knox St.; Fiona Creighton, Castleturley, Aghamore; Orla Judge, Coolnaha; Gareth Carrick, Gurrane; Isaac Carroll, Main St.; Anne Marie Cleary, Stone St.; Greta Domarkaitė, Cave; Siobhan Finn, Pattenspark; David Fitzmaurice, Forthill; Joseph Flynn, Gurteen; Ramona Frayne, Bargarrieff; Rebecka Johnston, Coolnaha; Lisa Jordan, Lecarrow; Gearoid Keane, Gurteen; Aisling Kelleher, Upr. Main St.; Edel



Jim Landon, School Principal presenting Robyn Moran with her certificate for eight years full attendance.

Lynch, Holywell; David Lyons, Skeghard; Kathleen Maughan, Aisling Drive; Andrew McCormack, Hazelwood; Kieran McDermott, Ballindrehid; Christopher McDonagh, Tooraree; Stephanie Mooney, Scrigg; Robyn Moran, Main St.; Olwyn Murray, Hazel Court; Maura Naughton, Carramore; Claire O'Dwyer, Ballindrehid; Laura Patterson, Carrick, Ballinlough; Vicky Tighe, Aisling Drive. Their class teachers were Mr. Duggan, Mr. Kearns and Mrs. Duffy.

End of Year School Mass

The annual end of year Mass at Scoil Iosa took place on Thursday, 23rd June. Before the Mass, the 29 pupils from 6th class were presented with their Graduation Certs. by John Griffin, Chairperson of the Board of Management. Manar Cherbatji, on behalf of the Parents Association, presented each graduating pupil with a special calendar, showing the class photo. Fr. Kieran Burke celebrated the Mass. After Mass Fr. Burke thanked everyone involved with this special occasion. He mentioned in particular, Mrs. Ita Fahey and her lovely school choir. He thanked them for singing in the Parish Church on a regular basis. He wished the departing sixth class every success in the Community School. Mr. Lundon, Principal, thanked everyone involved with the school, for their work during the year. He thanked Fr. Burke for celebrating the Mass, and wished him a happy anniversary of his ordination, which he celebrated that day.

The graduating pupils are: Fatima Afzal, Clare Rd, and Gareth Carrick, Gurrane; Isaac Carroll,

Carrowrea; Niall Cherbatji, Aisling Drive; Marie Cleary, Stone St.; Katie Culliney, Johnstown; Siobhan Finn, Pattenspark; David Fitzmaurice, Forthill; Joseph Flynn, Gurteen; Ramona Frayne, Knox St.; Rebecca Johnstown, Coolnaha; Lisa Jordan, Lecarrow; Gearoid Keane, Gurteen; Aisling Kelleher, Main St.; Edel Lynch, Holywell; David Lyons, Skeghard; Kathleen Maughan, Aisling Drive; Andrew McCormack, Hazelwood; Kieran McDermott, Ballindrehid; Barbara McDonagh, Tooraree; Christopher McDonagh, Tooraree; Stephanie Mooney, Scrigg; Robyn Moran, Main St.; Olwyn Murray, Hazel Court; Maura Naughton, Carramore; Ferzana Nazir, Clare Rd.; Claire O'Dwyer, Ballindrehid; Laura Patterson, Carrick, Ballinlough; Vicky Tighe, Aisling Drive. All at Scoil Iosa wish them every success in the future.

Congrats Robyn

There was a special presentation to Robyn Moran, in recognition of her 100% attendance during her eight years at Scoil Iosa. John Griffin, Chairperson of the school Board of Management presented her with a special cert and medal. Robyn is the daughter of Tommy and Marguerite Moran, Main St. Robyn is wished every success in the Community School.

Altar Servers

Boys

Team A - Darren Nolan, Sean McDermott, Eugene Durkan, John Cribben.

Team B - Phelim Webb, Ultan Griffin, Jim Reidy,



Confirmation, Fifth Class, Scoil Iosa. Back, L-R: Jim Lundon (Principal), Aine Waldron, Siobhan Morley, Caroline Maughan, Eugene Durkan, Gretta Domarkaite, Mr. Augustine Kearns (Asst. Principal), John Flynn, Maria Lyons. Third Row, L-R: Louise McNamara, Andrea Reynolds, Winifred Mongan, Jennifer O'Neill, Shane Murphy, Gary Patterson, Sean Griffin. Second Row, L-R: Martin McDonagh, Grace Lyons, Orla Judge, Fiona Creighton, Lisa Hunt, Anne Folan, Cathal Walsh. Front, L-R: Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P.; Dr. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam; Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C.

Robert Morley.

Team C - Gary Patterson, Jarlath Carney, Kevin Kilbride, Shane Healy.

Team D - Sean Griffin, Conor Nolan, Damien Callaghan, Shane Murphy.

Team E - John Flynn, James Cribbin, Morgan Lyons, Micheal Naughton.

Girls

Team A - Aine Waldron, Ann Folan, Winnie Mongan, Tasha Coyne

Team B - Margaret Cleary, Aisling Tarpey, Claire Moran Tessa Lyons

Team C - Lisa Hunt, Shannon Biesty, Louise McNamara, Vanessa Edokpa

Team D - Grace Lyons, Eadaoin Lyons, Andrea Reynolds, Siobhan Morley, Katie Flynn

Team E - Maria Lyons, Jennifer O' Neill, Megan Carroll, Lisa O'Connell

Competitions/Quizzes

Credit Union Quiz: Three teams from Scoil Iosa took part in the local Credit Union quiz on 4th Feb. in the Parochial Hall. The members of the fourth class team were: Jarlath Carney, Farhan Ahmad, Zeenat Javaid, and Phelim Kenny Webb. Fifth class were represented by: Maria Lyons, Eugene Durkan, Gary Patterson and Aine Waldron. The four girls on the sixth class team were: Claire O Dwyer, Robyn Moran, Laura Patterson, and Maura Naughton.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival Art Competition

Amana Shafique and Claire Moran were winners in the 8-12 years category while Saadia Nazir and Greta Domarkatie were very highly recommended.

Credit Union Poster Competition: 20004-2005

Well done to Danielle Byrne who won 1st prize in the special category 8-10 years at chapter (county) level. Diarmuid Byrne came second at chapter level in the same age group.

Children's Book Festival Winners:

Competition winners were: Junior Quiz 4-7 years old - Katie Haugh, Abbey St.; Internet Quiz 8-12 Years Olds - Sergey Alifanov, Abbey Court; Farhan Ahmad, Clare Rd.; Maire Cleary, Stone St., Ballyhaunis.

Word Search Puzzle

Lisa Hunt, Derrynacong; Morgan Lyons Knockbrack.

Colouring Competition Under 8 Years

Henrikas Sasnauskas, Bridge St.; Lisa Klimova, Knox St.

Colouring Competition Under 5 Years

Chloe Ryan, Hazelhill; Haroon Shabbair, Clare Rd.; Andrew Hickey Abbeyquarter.

Cleaner Community Awards 2004-5

Scoil Iosa won third prize in the Tidy Schools section of the Mayo County Council Awards. The awards were presented in Clogher N.S., Claremorris.



Confirmation, Sixth Class, Scoil Iosa. Back, L-R: Laura Patterson, Aisling Kelleber, David Lyons, Joseph Flynn, Isaac Carroll, Andrew McCormack, Olwyn Murray, Lisa Jordan. Third Row, L-R: Jim Lundon (Principal), Robyn Moran, Stephanie Mooney, David Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Maughan, Christopher McDonagh, Rebekka Johnston, Claire O'Dwyer, Jimmy Duggan (Teacher). Second Row, L-R: Gearoid Keane, Maura Naughton, Kieran McDermott, Vicky Tighe, Edel Lynch, Siobhan Finn, Gareth Carrick, Orla Judge, Marie Cleary, Ramona Frayne. Front, L-R: Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P.; Dr. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam; Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C.

Ballyhaunis Library Summer Reading Project 2005

The Summer Reading Project, run during July and August, encourages children to read a variety of different authors and to widen their appreciation of different types of literature. This summer children selected eight books of their own choice, a biography or autobiography, and one book by an Irish author. Children who completed their project were: Fraz Ahmad, Sofia Vagenina, James Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Stephen Ryan, Faizan M. Ahmad, Lisa O'Connell, Farhan Ahmad, Sergey Alifanov, Azhar Tayyab, Sheraz Ul Hassan, Hannan Iqbal, Arkadi Shimlin, Diarmuid Byrne, Greta Domarkaite. Thanks to Eleanor Freyne, Librarian, for organising many competitions and events for children.

Kenny Naughton Competition 2005

Prizewinners : Short Story: Aisling Tarpey, Morgan Lyons and Aine Waldron. Poetry: Cathal Walsh and John Cribbin. They were presented with their prizes in the Kenny Naughton Centre, Aughamore, on 29th October.

Stamp Collection

Thanks to all who collected used postage stamps. The school collects stamps throughout the year and especially at Christmas time. We hope people will continue to help this charitable work, which benefits projects in the Third World.

Carrowbeg Theatre Company

Children from Junior Infants to fourth class attended the show, "Ellie Gets Lost", in the Parochial Hall, on 11th March. This was an interactive theatre show for children, aged four to nine years, and included shadow puppets, mime, and special effects, and had a cast of fifteen performers.

Operation Christmas Child /Shoe Box appeal

Children from Scoil Iosa participate in this annual charitable Christmas project, where children put small presents in shoeboxes, for poor, suffering or sick children around the world.

School Gardens

Gardening fever has hit Scoil Iosa. Fr. Kieran Burke initiated the Wildflower Garden with the sixth class two years ago. In 2005 Mrs. O'Flaherty's First Class and Ms. McGrath's Senior Infants created a garden of wildflowers, garden flowers and trees. Wildflowers grown were: foxglove, sow thistle, daisies and

buttercups. Garden flowers were marigolds, pansies, anemones and busy lizzies. Trees features were ash, sycamore and horse chestnut. In the Senior School, Sr. Geraldine's third class and Mrs Fahey's second class were more practical, opting for vegetables: potatoes, onions, scallions, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, carrots and radishes. Sr. Geraldine's colourful window boxes were an added attraction this year.

Joseph Waldron's Visit

In May 2005, Joseph Waldron, Logboy, a past pupil, brought his stuffed bird to the school. The bird, a Great Northern Diver, native to Canada and Alaska, strayed from Iceland, got injured and died. This unusual bird aroused great interest among the children.

Visit of Ballyhaunis County Hurling Champions

On Friday, 14th October, John Tynan and Pierce Higgins brought the T.J. Tyrell Trophy to the school. This is the Senior County Hurling trophy won by the Ballyhaunis team in September. Pete Higgins and national school trainers, Ray Lucey and Howard Morley, accompanied them. They showed video excerpts of the final between Ballyhaunis and Westport, expertly compiled by Alan Lucey. Pierce Higgins and his All Star brother Keith are among the best hurlers in the Country and are past pupils of the school.

Scoil Iosa Hurlers in Croke Park

Well done to the Ballyhaunis Under 9 hurlers who played in Croke Park on 3rd July. The Scoil Iosa boys were: Bilal Amin, Clare Rd.; Damien Callaghan, Aisling Drive; Phillip Fitzmaurice Tonragee; Ryan Kilbane, Derrynacong; James Lyons, Knockbrack; Joseph Lyons, Knockbrack; Sean McDermott, Ballindrehid; Stephen Nolan, Kilmannin and Mohammed Ahmed, Clare Rd.

Scoil Iosa Hurlers 2004/5

Farhan Ahmad, Haseeb Arshad, Hannan Iqbal, Jarlath Carney, Darren Nolan, James Cribbin, Lisa O'Connell, Conor Nolan, Kieran McDermott, David Fitzmaurice, Andrew McCormack, Gearoid Keane, Joseph Flynn, David Lyons, Christopher McDonagh,

Scoil Iosa Footballers 2004/5

Jarlath Carney, John McCormack, Jamil Kezze, Lisa O'Connell, Darren Nolan, James Cribbin, Ultan Griffin, Conor Nolan, Christopher McDonagh, Isaac Carroll, Kieran McDermott, Joseph Flynn, David Fitzmaurice, Gearoid Keane, Gareth Carrick, John Flynn

Ballyhaunis I.C.A. - By Maura Fitzmaurice

Ballyhaunis I.C.A. hold their meetings every second Wednesday of the month in the Parochial Hall at 8 o'clock. We have done many crafts during the year – one being a six-week course making slate mirrors and slate clocks. Some of our members are

going to An Grianán, our I.C.A. college in Drogheda, to pick up new ideas for the members. New members are always welcome.

Our Committee is: Chairperson – Mary Waldron; Secretary – Maura Fitzmaurice; Treasurer – Margaret Dyer.

Ballyhaunis Golf Club

By John Mooney

Ballyhaunis is fortunate to have a fine golf course located so close to it. It is a well manicured course and, because it is located on a series of raised sand hills, it is extremely dry and thus is playable all year round.

The last decade has seen a big change in people's work patterns with many people having more spare time now than previously. Others are opting for early retirement which was unusual a decade or two ago. The management of the Golf Club has launched a drive in recent years to introduce all active adults in the parish and surrounding areas to the game of golf. Their aim is to get everybody that is interested in sport to try out the game and then let them decide if it is for them or not. There are special beginners' evenings held throughout the summer where anybody that turns up is provided with all the necessary equipment and training to enable them to have a go at playing golf.

Existing members of all ages enjoy the challenge of mastering the game and find that no matter what level of skill they rise to there is always a next level to be attempted. Other benefits they enjoy are good exercise in pleasant surroundings, a welcome break in the day where you can 'get away from it all' and a vibrant social scene. If you had not considered trying out golf then it may be one of your New Year resolutions. If interested contact any member of the club or ring 9630014 for further information.



Golfing Year

Under the guidance of president Norrie Dillon and Captains Seamus Swift and Cáit Webb 2005 was a year that saw the continuation in the increase of numbers playing golf and is a reflection of the hard work done by the various committees and the excellent state of the course itself.

Ballyhaunis had the honour of hosting the Mayo County Cup and Scratch Cup on May 14th and, after an exciting day's golf held in testing conditions, the Ballyhaunis team won by a narrow margin. The team members were: Tom Fanning (Jnr.), Tom Prenty, Séamus Swift, Chris Freeman, Mike Phillips, Shane Gilmartin, Liam Lynskey, Gerry Fitzmaurice, Dermot Finnegan and Fred Herr. The Scratch Cup was won by Pat Killeen of Claremorris.

This event proved to be the only silverware the

Top: Seamus Swift (Captain) making a presentation to Shane Gilmartin, Kiltimagh winner of The Captain's Prize. Also pictured is Seamus' wife Madaline.

Bottom: Ballyhaunis Golf Club Team, winners of the County Cup 2005. Back l-r: Shane Gilmartin, Dermot Finnegan, Liam Lynskey, Christie Freeman and Gerry Fitzmaurice. Front l-r: Fred Herr, Michael Phillips, Seamus Swift (Club Captain) and Tommy Prenty.

club won this year after many gallant performances and close results in the various Connaught competitions held throughout the summer. On the local front the main competition winners were; President's Prize – John Doyle, Ladies Captain's Prize – Eileen Morley, Knock and Men's Captain's Prize – Shane Gilmartin, Kiltimagh.

The members were saddened to hear of the deaths of May Moyles who was one of our longest serving members and had made a huge contribution to the club including being twice captain (1955 and

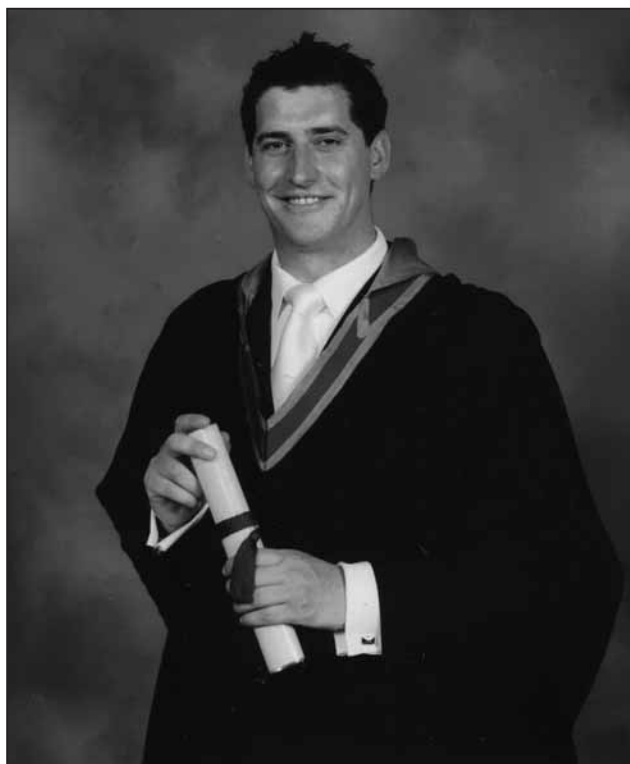
1980), Kieran Heneghan of Kiltimagh whose sudden passing came as a great shock, Anne Mahony and Joe Burke both of whom were dedicated and hard working officers of the club. May they all rest in peace.

The Ballyhaunis members like all golfing fans around the country will be looking forward to 2006 and in particular the Ryder Cup which will be held in Ireland for the first time. This event has grown immensely in the last couple of decades and will place Ireland at the centre of the golfing world for the period around the event which takes place on September 22nd – 24th.



Top: Prize winners in Ballyhaunis Captains Prize. Back l-r: Brian Phillips, Tom Fanning, Seamus Swift (Cpt), Martin Keane, Alex Eaton. Seated: Pat Feeney, Norrie Dillon (winner Ladies Prize), Shane Gilmartin (winner Captains Prize), Barry Freeman and Diarmuid Finnegan.

Bottom: At the launch of Ballyhaunis Golf Fundraising Draw; Tom McGuire, Alan Delaney, Tommy Grogan (Sponsor), Cáit Webb (Lady Captain), Norrie Dillon (President), John Doyle, Mike Webb, Pat Feeney (Sponsor).



Honours Degrees for brother and sister Simon and Jennifer McCafferty. Simon was conferred with an Honours Degree in Architecture on the 23rd June at University College Dublin. Dr. Jennifer McCafferty was conferred with an Honours Degree in Dentistry on the 8th July at Trinity College, Dublin. Simon and Jennifer are the son and daughter of Peter and Helena McCafferty (nee Halpin), Ballyhaunis.

Townland Signage Project

By Paul Waldron

The Parish of Annagh Townland Signage Project is now close to achieving its objective of installing stones signs – in English and Irish – for every townland in the parish. At the time of going to print forty-two signs have been erected for forty-seven townlands throughout the parish of Annagh. This leaves just seven signs outstanding for ten townlands. It is hoped that these last few - Tullaghaun, Garraun, Aderg, Gortnageeragh, Clagnagh, Bunnadober, Barheen, Churchpark, Gorteen More and Gorteen Beg - will be in place by early December.

The Signage Project was initiated on 22nd January 2003 when the Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns committee hosted a public meeting (1) to make people aware that grant-aid was available for local signage schemes; and (2) to see if there was enough interest in such a project for the parish of Annagh. It was pointed out that signs such as these would have the obvious practical use of making the countryside about parish more accessible to visitors and emergency services; they would also encourage a sense of pride in locality, enhance the environment, and contribute to the overall neat and tidy image of the parish. The 'Bi-lingual Signage Scheme' and qualifying criteria were outlined. The following conditions applied: (1) Three-way equal funding split: CLAR, Foras na Gaeilge and Local Community – subject to a maximum of €6,000 per Parish/Area; (2) Signs to be done in stone; (3) Equal prominence to both Irish and English on each sign; (4) Irish only signs in Gaeltacht areas; (5) Name to be approved by Place Names Branch of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands; (6) CLAR to liaise with Foras na Gaeilge in relation to their contribution.

That first meeting was well attended and considerable interest was shown in the project by all present. The following committee was elected to avail of this grant-aid and to co-ordinate the project: Chairman: Peter Gallagher; Secretary: Seamus Caulfield; Treasurers: Patrick Curley and Edward Mulhern; P.R.O.: Paul Waldron.

Local Involvement

The next step was to get as many locals involved as possible, and to send in an application for the grant. Several more public meetings were held and a large number of parishioners came forward to help bring the project to fruition in their own areas. Representatives from most townlands made themselves available to liaise with the committee in identifying suitable sites for signs, and to carry out fundraising. A good deal of emphasis was placed on local discussion so that everyone could have a say in their own townland sign – its location, whether it would contain more than one townland name, and if directional arrows were needed on them. Consideration of alternative, locally used

spellings of townland names were dealt with where the need arose. The final location of any sign would have to be approved by engineers from Mayo County Council.

It was decided that limestone was the most appropriate material for the signs as it is the rock type underlying most of the parish: it is also cleaner and more durable than other available stone. The contract for making the signs was awarded to Murphy's Monumental Sculptors, Church St., Glennamaddy, Co. Galway, who would cut, polish and letter the signs, and set them on site in a concrete base.

A list of all townland names in the parish was then to the department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. The Placenames Officer, t-Uasal Donal Mac Giolla Easpaig, and his staff carried out extensive research to determine the correct Irish form for each townland name, and the local committee was furnished with a complete list some months later.

A large number of local facilitators did excellent work in collecting money in their own townlands and station areas, and in ensuring that all opinions on the signs would be heard and taken into account.

The first signs were erected in September 2003 and work has carried out in phases since then. A small number of townlands – some of which include parts of the town - have no signs, nor had they any representation at the meetings which oversaw the setting up of the project: Abbeyquarter, Carrownluggaun, Cherryfield, Friarsground, Grallaghgarden and Pollnacraoaghy. Another regularly used placename – Ballindrehid – doesn't officially apply to a townland, but refers to parts of the townlands of Bracklaghboy and Tooraree. Notices were placed in the parish newsletter and local papers regarding the possibility of putting up signs for these and the response to these will determine what further action will be taken.

The Parish of Annagh Townland Signage Project could not have been undertaken and brought to completion without the help of a lot of people. The committee would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to the project. Special thanks to the representatives from the various townlands who carried out the local consultation and fundraising: their enthusiasm, generosity with time and resources – not to mention a great deal of patience over the past number of years – is greatly appreciated.

List of Townlands

Below are the official Irish forms for each townland name in Annagh parish as established by the Placenames Office, Dept. of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. Those marked with an asterisk* belong to the old parish of Began, and were transferred

to Annagh parish in 1893 along with the townland of Annagh which was formerly in Aghamore parish.

Townland Name

Townland Name	Official Irish form
Abbeyquarter	Ceathrú na Mainistreach
Aderg	An tÁth Dearg
Annagh	An tEanach
Arderry	Ard Doire
Ballinphuill*	Baile an Phoill
Ballybeg	An Baile Beag
Bargarriff	An Barr Garbh
Barheen	Bairín
Bohogerawer*	An Bhothóg Ramhar
Bracklaghboy*	An Bhreacloch Bhuí
Brackloon East*	Breac-chluain Thoir
Brackloon North*	Breac-chluain Thuaidh
Brackloon South*	Breac-chluain Theas
Bunnadober*	Bun na dTobar
Carrowkeel East	An Ceathrú Chaol
Carrowluggaun*	Ceathrú an Logáin
Carrowreagh*	An Cheathrú Riabhach
Cave*	An Chéibh
Cherryfield*	Gort na Silíní
Churchpark	Páirc an Teampaill
Clagnagh*	Cloigneach
Classaghroe	An Clasach Rua
Cloonbullig	Cluain Boilg
Cooloughra*	Cúil Luachra
Coolnafarna	Cúil na Farna
Curries	Na Curraigh
Derreens	Na Doiríní
Derrintogher	Doire an Tóchair
Derrylahan*	Doire Leathan
Derrylea	Doire Liath
Derrynacong	Doire na Conga
Devlis*	Duibhlíos
Drumbaun	An Droim Bán
Forthill*	Cluain Eascrach

Friarsground
Garraun
Gorteen
Gorteen Beg*
Gorteen More*
Gortnageeragh
Grallagh
Grallaghgarden*
Hazelhill
Holywell Lower
Holywell Upper
Island*
Killunagher
Kilmannin*
Kiltybo
Knockbrack
Knockroe
Lecarrow
Leo
Lisbaun East*
Lurgan
Moneymore
Mountain*
Pattenspark
Pollnacraoghy*
Scregg
Skeaghard*
Spaddagh
Tawnaghmore
Togher*
Tooraree*
Tullaghaun
Woodpark

Talamh na mBráthar
An Garrán
An Goirtín
An Goirtín Beag
An Goirtín Mór
Gort na gCaorach
Greallach na Madraí
Garraí na Greallaí
An Chealtrach
An Tobar Naofa
An Tobar Naofa
An tOileán
Cill Luineachair
Cill Mhainín
Coillte Bó
An Cnoc Breac
An Cnoc Rua
An Leathcheathrú
Leamh
An Lios Bán
An Lorgain
An Mhuine Mhór
An Sliabh
Ceathrú an Phiocóidigh
Poll na Cruaiche
An Screig
An Sceach Ard
An Spadach
An Tamhnach Mhór
An Tóchar
Tuar an Fhraoigh
An Tulchán
Páirc na Coille

As for the original meanings of these townland names, many of them are straightforward, while others are open to a number of interpretations - all of this, however, is a topic for another day.

World Class Dancer

Emily Worden, a local girl from Derrynacong, Ballyhaunis, qualified through Connaught regional finals held in November 2004 for "The World Irish Dancing Championships". Emily, aged 11 years, danced in the Worlds in Ennis in March of this year – a fantastic dream experience. She has also competed in the All Ireland, All Scotland, North West Championships and many more Feis events throughout the year.

Emily has been dancing as a member of the Elwood School of Dancing since she was seven years of age. Her teacher is Mary Elwood. Lessons are taught in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis. New members are all very welcome. Her proud parents are Helen and Peter Worden.



Weddings of the Parish



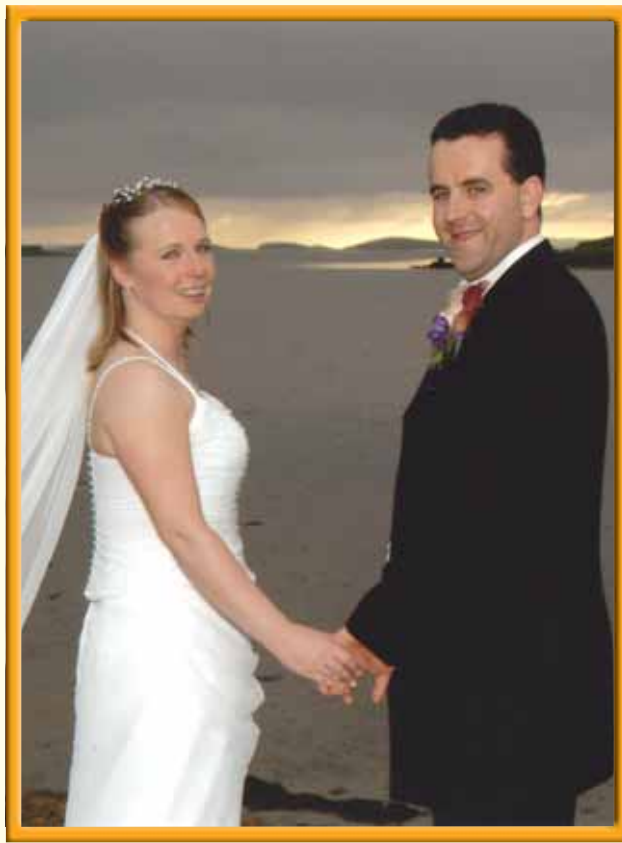
James Whelan, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow and Noreen Flanagan, Ballindrehid. Married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Darran Conlon, Abbey Street and Siobhan Walsh, Knock Road. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

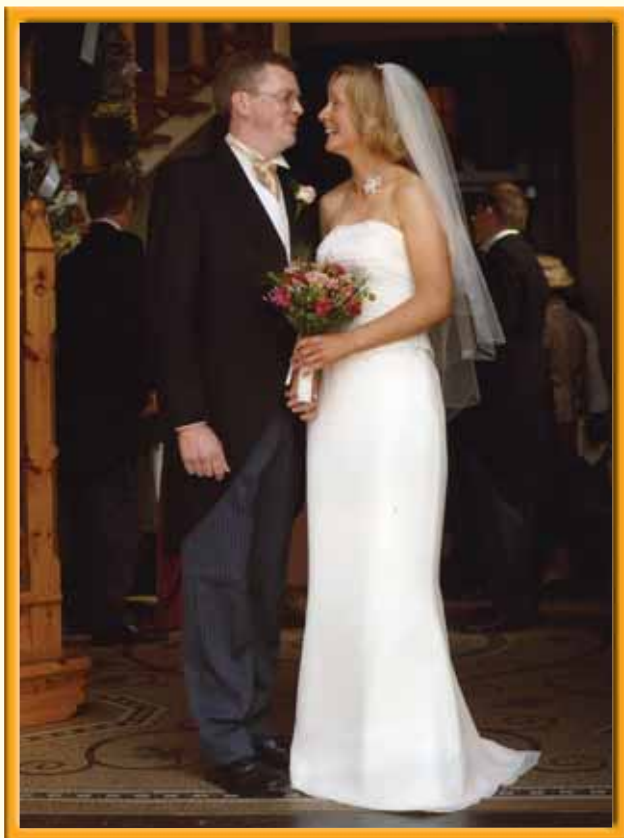


John Kelly, Island and Martina Freyne, Devlis. Married Summer 2005.



Teresa Grady, Meeltrane, Knock and Damian Brady, Crosserlough, Co. Cavan. Married in St. James's Church, Carracastle.

Weddings of the Parish



Ciarán Sherry, Ballyhaunis and Evelyn Deacy, Ballina. Married in St. Muiredach's Cathedral, Ballina.



Heike Hermes, Germany and David Fitzgerald, Ballyhaunis and Ballinlough. Married in Brussels.



David Nestor, Doctor's Road and Ellen Kennedy, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick. Married in Caherline Church, Co. Limerick.



Eithne McKeon, Elphin and Lorcan Higgins, Devlis. Married in Elphin.

Weddings of the Parish



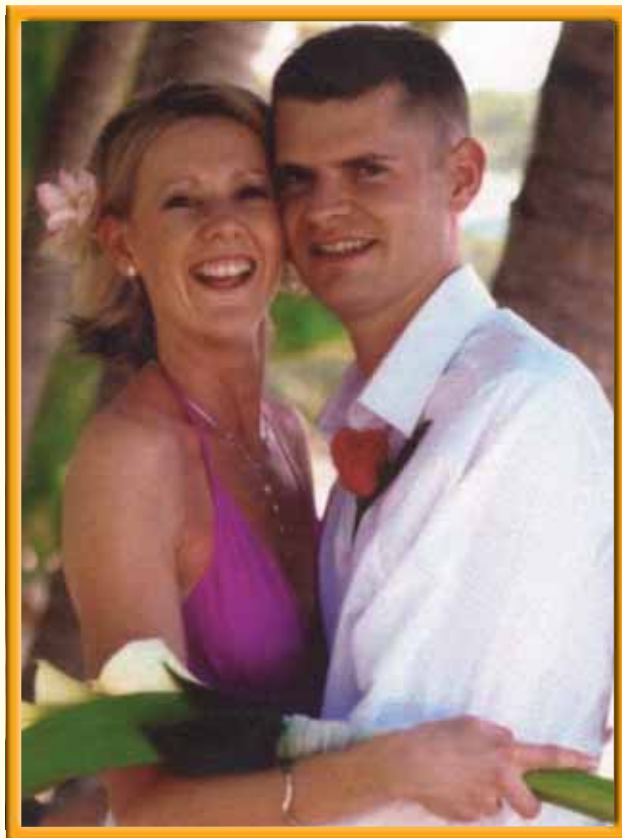
*Mel Bourke, Roscommon and Ruth Gaffney,
Ballinphuill.*



*Gail Garrity, Cloonacurry and Joe Cunningham,
Lisacul. Married in Immaculate Conception Church,
New York.*



*Colette O'Dowd, Holywell and Seán Flynn,
Castlereagh. Married in St. Joseph's Church,
Ballytiernan, Co. Sligo.*



*Yvonne Flynn, Abbeyquarter and Ronnie Regan,
Carracastle. Married in Australia.*

Weddings of the Parish



Colette Brady, Ballyveal and Denis Smith, Park, Castlebar. Married in St. Mary's Church, Logboy.



Imelda Flynn, Abbeyquarter and Dermot Hurley, Clooncan. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Niamh McGarry, Devlis and Vincent O'Brien, Stevenage, London. Married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Ciara Shields, Devlis and Peter Lowings, Dublin. Married in Garrison Church, Renmore, Galway.

Weddings of the Parish



Eamonn Freyne, Clare Street and Pauline McGlynn, Rathmines. Married in Rathmines Church.



Austin Biesty, Pattenspark and Dorothy Dolan, Cloontumper. Married in Began Church.

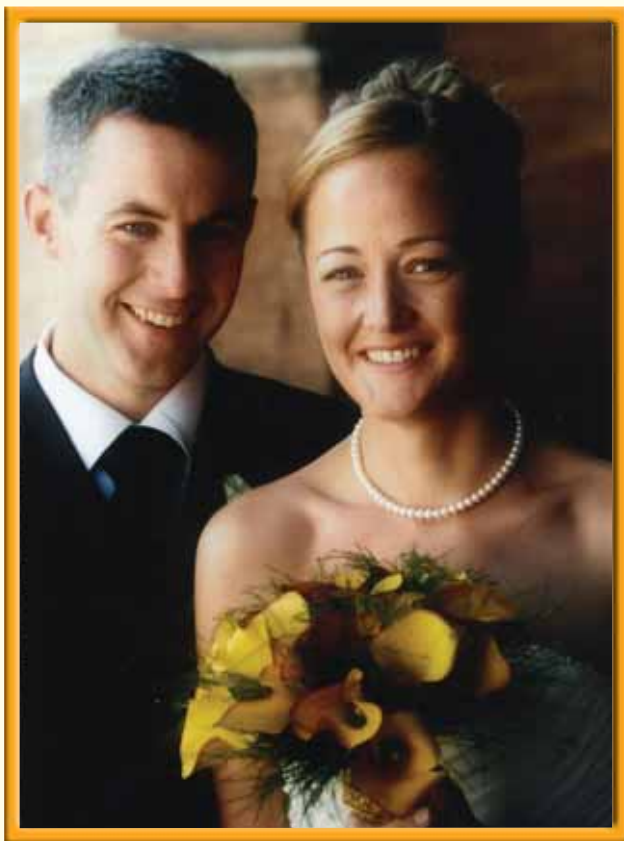


Kenneth Kirrane, Knockbrack and Sabrina McNeely, Knockmore.



Padraig Jennings, Knock Road and Ciara Chambers, Glounthaune, Co. Cork. Married in Glounthaune Church.

Weddings of the Parish



*Lorna Higgins, Devlis and Brendan Hurley,
Clooncan. Married in Sienna, Italy.*



*John Grealley, Drimbane and Helen Walsh,
Birmingham. Married in Ballintubber Abbey.*



*Sinéad Lundon, Knock Road and Enda Scanlon,
Tubber, Co. Clare. Married in St. Patrick's Church,
Ballyhaunis.*



*Yvonne Herity, Dunamaggin, Co. Kilkenny and
Michael Lyons, Leow. Married in St. Leonard's
Church, Dunamaggin, Co. Kilkenny.*

Weddings of the Parish



Rose Ann Regan, Killinaugher and Pdraig O'Reilly, Louisburgh.



Caroline Carney, Crossard, Tooreen and Séadna Owens, Banada, Co. Sligo. Married in Tooreen Church. (photo courtesy of Phillip Stratford)



Deidre McLoughlin, Carrowreagh and Killian Byrne, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Reda Vaituleviciute, Lithuania and Michal Manke, Poland. Married in Swinoujscie, Poland.

Weddings of the Parish



Marcella Daly, Clare Court, Ballyhaunis and James Campbell, Kiltimagh. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Seamus Ruane, Cloonbook, Brickens and Norma Barrett, Adare, Co. Limerick. Married in St. Aloysius' Catholic Church, Oxford.



Mary Caulfield, Bohogue and Martin Lyons, Tooreen. Married in Cyprus.



Deirdre Lee, Baldoyle and Tommy Leonard, Abbey Street. Married in St. Peter's and Paul's Church, Baldoyle.

The Freelys of Island

By John Morley

The census of 1901 shows three Freely families living side-by-side in the village of Island, just below the ogham stone. It is not known when the Freelys first came to the village, or from where, but the last direct descendent of all three families left the village this year when Mary Ellen Frehill, a daughter of Mary Freely, moved to the new Clare Court development on Clare Road.

In total there are twenty-one Freelys listed as having been present on that census night 104 years ago. The first of the families listed is that of James Freely: they lived in the house now occupied by Mick and Anne Kelly. Jimmy Freely, a grandson of James, who lives near Castlerea, told me that his brother Jack was the last of his family to leave Island in 1961 when he sold the house and lands and moved to a house near Castlerea, close to where his mother came from.

Luke's family lived in Island until the late 1950s: his sons Pat, who was thirteen at the time of the census, and Willie, who was eleven, were the last of the line to live in Island. They were always called 'Pat Luke' and 'Willie Luke' to differentiate them from their neighbours. Their house fell into disrepair over the years and was completely demolished a few years back. John A. Freely, a brother of Pat and Willie, was the only one of this family to have married: he lived in England.

Thomas Freely's family remained in Island the longest, right up to September this year when Mary Ellen left Island. She is daughter of Thomas and Catherine's eldest child Mary – seven years old in 1901 – who married Michael Frehill from Castleteehan, Co. Roscommon. Mary Ellen returned to Island following the death of her mother in 1932. Her father was working in England at the time and, on his return, settled in Loughglynn. John emigrated to England and married a Yorkshire girl, Rhoda. They had one daughter, Margaret, who lives with her family near Huddersfield. Bridget married Son Sloyan of Brackloon: their son Jimmy, his wife Kitty and family still live there. Michael, who is listed as being six in 1901, remained in the home place. He married Katherine Morley from Bekan, better known as Kit. Mike and Kit had no family of their own but several nieces and nephews (myself among them) were brought up in the house or holidayed there in the summer.

Mike Freely, a lifelong pioneer, was a founder member of the IFA in the Ballyhaunis area and a regular prizewinner in the agricultural shows that were always a highlight of the summer in the 1960s and early 1970s. Mike kept three hives of bees in the apple garden. Every spring a small wooden box would arrive from England with a queen bee inside. Before the

summer was over the bees would swarm in one of the apple trees and Mike would have to smoke them with a special lamp to make them docile before returning them to the hive.

Kit, also a pioneer, was involved with the Legion of Mary, ICA and Western Care among other local groups. But it for her prowess as a gardener that she was probably best known. Her flower arrangements regularly adorned the altars of both churches in Ballyhaunis for weddings and feast days.



Mike and Kit Freely, Island.



Taken at Ballyhaunis Station, 1967. L-R: Jimmy Sloyan, Brackloon; Margaret Freely, U.K.; Kit Freely, Island; John Freely, U.K.; Mike Freely, Island; Bridget Sloyan (nee Freely), Brackloon; Paddy Barrett, Island.

Kit was also a great supplier of fresh farm produce: cream, home-made butter, marmalade and jams, which were delivered to the door of her many friends and acquaintances in town.

Farming was simpler then: it was mixed and it was almost possible to be self sufficient. I remember hot days saving hay or cutting oats and barley, sowing slits (potatoes), and an assortment of other vegetables, and all the weeding, thinning, spraying and picking that went along with tillage. It seems remarkable now that until so recently it was possible to make a living solely from the land. The EEC, as it was known when we joined in 1973, brought with it a lot of benefits, but it was also when this type of independent mixed farming was replaced by a strictly regulated model. Things like the sight of a thresher making its way along narrow country roads, horse-drawn machinery and donkeys and carts bringing water from the well all seemed to disappear from the country overnight.

Mike Freely died in 1976. He belonged to that older order to whom farming was more of a vocation than a business. He would often say, "When God made time he made plenty of it". It was a happy environment in which to have grown up, and the

gentler pace of life then had many benefits, most of which seem to have been lost. The tradition of house visiting where stories would be told, cards played and even a tune on the fiddle played, passed away around the same time. As we now say, 'we have become cash-rich and time-poor'.

Still, times change and even a rural place like Island gets pulled along. Who knows how many hundreds of years there have been Freelys farming in Island, but Mary Ellen marks the end of this last Freely line in the village in the village. A lot of other families listed in the census of 1901 have left the village and have been replaced by new ones. It is good to see new houses being built in Island and some of the old, once abandoned ones being renovated.

Clare Court, where Mary Ellen has settled among new and old friends, is a credit to the committee of Ballyhaunis Social Housing and all those involved with the Enterprise Centre.

Back-end of the Year jobs

This was inspired by my uncle Mike Freely who would spend the Autumn months at what he called 'the back-end of the year jobs'.



Kit Freely and Mary Ellen Frehill, Island. Taken in the late forties.

*While it's light out the house
Is no place for man or dog he'd say.
Out in the fields you'd find him
At back end of year jobs.
Rebuilding dry stone walls,
Replacing stones on a breached sheep eye.
Separating rope and stones
That had secured cocks of hay
As they cured beneath the
Recently departed summer sun.
He's stop from time to time
For a smoke or a chat with
A mearning man.
Their discussion curtailed
By the chill soon visited on an
Idle body at this time of year.
His faithful collie eager to be of
Assistance cursed for its
Too close attendance on its master.
He'd stop and stretch his aching back,
Lift and replace the cap from his
Head resuming with a spit on his
Dry work-hardened hands
'Boulavogue' or 'She Moved Through
The Fair' whistled softly before
Being carried away on
The autumn air,
His time and labour unrecorded
For payment or due. Swept away now
By a machine hired by the hour.*

Jarlath Fahey – The Gentle Man - By Matt O'Dwyer

When I was asked to write about Jarlath I had mixed feelings. I was of course honoured; on the other hand I felt that I was unlikely to do him justice. His early years will no doubt be material for a future article, so I'll start with his arrival as a young enthusiastic teacher at St. Patrick's College on the Knock Road in the mid sixties.

The school had about 120 boys so you had to be adaptable. Jarlath taught Geography, Irish, Maths, History and Religion. He even taught Science (what would Einstein have made of this?). He also helped out with football and athletics. Jarlath was no mean sportsman himself. He is the proud possessor of a County Senior Championship Football Medal.

Community School

In 1977 he moved 100 yards back in the field to join the staff of Ballyhaunis Community School. He brought his usual grace and patience to bear on his teaching duties. In 1984 he was appointed to succeed Fr. McMyler as Vice-Principal – a daunting task. From this time Jarlath's talents became more obvious to the staff and the wider community. He had to draw up a timetable each year for over 50 staff and 700 pupils. Using his organisational skills, his knowledge of each subject and the needs of each student – he usually got it spot on! When problems arose it was generally agreed that if Jarlath could not find a solution then there was none!

Jarlath was very conscious of giving the students more than an academic education. He promoted Health Education, Leaving Cert Applied and Transition Year. He took a keen interest in pupils with learning difficulties and fought hard to get them more help. As a result we now have a first class Learning Support/Resource Department.

Principal

When Eddie Thornton retired in 1999 after 22 years of sterling

service, Jarlath took over as Principal. Here Jarlath's personal qualities came to the fore. He had endless patience with pupils, parents and staff (even one of these groups would be too much for most of us!) He treated us all with great respect and in dealing with difficult pupils he always distinguished between the offender and the offence. He had a listening ear for students with problems.

Jarlath was not an 'office Principal'. He could be constantly seen on the corridor talking and listening to the students and of course 'herding' them – a skill he had acquired on the family farm! Jarlath knew all 700 pupils so nobody could feel lost or unwelcome in the school. His sense of humour was often used to diffuse situations. Perhaps the best way to sum up Jarlath's personal qualities would be to quote St. Paul 1 Cor. 13: "patient and kind, not jealous, rude or selfish, slow to take offence, does not keep a record of wrongs."

I had better finish now in case we canonise him! On behalf of all with whom you had dealings, I thank you for taking such an interest in each of us and we hope you enjoy a long and happy retirement 'far from the madding crowd'. We also send our good wishes to Ita and the rest of the family.



*The three Principals of Ballyhaunis Community School.
L-R: Jarlath Fahey, his predecessor Eddie Thornton and successor Pat McHugh.*

Mary Elwood School of Dancing

The Elwood Dancers participated in the World Championships in Irish Dancing 2005 held in Ennis last February. They also entertained the crowds at the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival and the Waldron Clan Gathering with a display of Irish dancing. They are just back from the Scotland Championships and will be travelling to Killarney in February for the All Ireland 2006 Irish Dancing Championships. They will also be going to Belfast in March for the World 2006 Irish Dancing Championships. Dancing classes take place every Saturday at 11 am in the Parochial Hall. See photograph on back cover: Children from the Mary Elwood School of Dancing, Ballyhaunis, who competed in the World Championships in Irish Dancing, 2005, held in Ennis in February 2005. Back, L-R: Hannah Jumail, Grace Lyons, Maria Lyons, Aoife McDonagh, Tracey Regan; Front, L-R: Louise McNamara, Emily Worden, Caoimhe Henry.

Guyana, South America....

By Laura Healy

Voluntary Services Abroad (VSA) was founded in 1977 by Dr. Dominic Colbert and the medical students of the National University of Ireland, Galway. It is now the largest charity on campus. For nearly thirty years VSA has sent teams of final year students to work in hospitals in some of the poorest countries of the world. We bring out essential medical aid in the form of medical supplies, equipment, drugs and financial support to countries in Africa, Asia, South and Central America. The charity is run by medical students and all funds raised go directly to the people who need it most. The charity is entirely voluntary, with no administrative costs and all students fund their own travel, accommodation and living expenses. Every penny raised goes directly to the third world.

Every year approximately 25-30 medical students from fifth year sign up for VSA. Although it involves a big commitment and a lot of work, the benefits and experience gained is worth it. It was an extremely worthwhile project to be involved in. We were given the opportunity to bring aid and much-needed support to a third world country, to experience living in a different culture and to see first hand the levels of poverty that countries of the third world endure.

From September to May of 2005, the VSA committee, along with our fellow classmates and help from the other medical years, worked tirelessly to raise as much funds as possible to take with us. We organised many events – a Hallowe'en Ball, bed push from Galway to Limerick, a Christmas Raffle, Carol Singing, concerts, street collections, table quizzes, bungee jumping, church gate collections to name a few. All events were extremely well supported and everyone donated generously. All the hard work paid off, as we discovered in May that our grand total came to €140,000, which was well above our expectations at the start of the year. This money was then sub-divided among the 25 people travelling, to ensure that it would benefit the most amount of people possible, whilst upholding the principles of the charity.

Departure

On May 31st, four classmates and I left Ireland, heading for Guyana, South America. Up until this, the only knowledge I had of this country was that of its location – a small country, about the size of Great Britain, situated north of Brazil. This was all soon to change.

Arriving in Guyana from the north by plane, we all had the impression that we were landing in an almost uninhabited region. We swooped down over the mouth of the Essequibo river (21 miles at its mouth), green stretching away towards the horizon and began to wonder why no-one told us that the airport is in the middle of the jungle. However, as we drove out of Cheddi Jagan airport, named for Guyana's late third president, the bustle along the road into the country's capital Georgetown was reassuring: shops, houses, churches, Hindu temples, minibuses packed with people, children on their way home from school and

donkeys pulling carts full of colourful fruit and vegetables. Our host doctor, who met us at the airport, had a vast knowledge of the country and by the time we reached our accommodation, we felt more at ease with our new surroundings. It was however, a steep learning curve.

Over the next 10 weeks we spent our time between Georgetown Public Hospital, New Amsterdam Clinic and at the weekends we did Medical Outreach Clinics in remote areas of the country, accessible only by the many rivers. Indeed the meaning of Guyana is "Land of many Waters," which we discovered was a very apt description.

Georgetown Public Hospital is a 300-bed hospital, serving a population of approximately 400,000. Being the only public hospital it was always very busy. In peak times there were often two patients to a bed. From the outside the hospital was terribly run-down and surrounded by a series of drains filled with waste from the hospital, above which the mosquitoes would hover, guaranteed to get you on your way home in the evening! Inside was just as dilapidated, with big open wards – divided into male and female sections, either infectious or non-infectious and medical and surgical. Although it was rainy season during our time there, it was still incredibly hot and stuffy, with a very limited number of electric fans.

During our time in Guyana, we met with the Minister of Health and learned that Georgetown Public received a generous portion of the healthcare budget, evidence of which was severely lacking. However, the doctors and nurses there did an amazing job, using little resources to their maximum value. They worked diligently on behalf of the patients, oftentimes receiving very little thanks. Visiting hours in the hospital was a daily event from 12 midday to 12:30. During this time the patient's family and friends had to bring in food for them, as they were not fed by the hospital. This was the only time patients had to spend with family and friends.

Being the main teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Guyana, there were many doctors willing to teach us and we took part in morning ward rounds, surgery, outpatient clinics and attended various meetings. It was interesting to learn in an entirely new environment and to practise our clinical skills. As Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America, there was no difficulty in language, although sometimes the accents were hard to figure out. Not only on our behalf I'm sure!

Remote Communities

We spent our weekends in a different setting to the hospital, as we went out to some of the most remote communities in the country. Our host doctor applied to the Ministry of Health for permission to take us to these villages, inhabited by the indigenous people of Guyana – the Amerindians. The only means to reach these places was by boat, involving journeys of between three to six hours. These people were quite neglected by the health system and the majority might not have

seen a doctor for months. They could not afford and did not have access to basic medications to control, for example, hypertension and diabetes mellitus. As a result we saw very late stage manifestations of these conditions.

In the settlements we would set up a clinic in either a school or a community hall. We each had our own corner and would see as many patients as we could. After consulting with our host doctor, who runs these clinics, we would work out a treatment plan. This we were fortunately able to carry out as we brought our own pharmaceuticals. The people we encountered at these clinics were very friendly and appreciative of any help we could offer. Often we would meet entire families together. They were all so grateful to us for bringing support to their villages and in return we got to experience a little of how they lived, such as the food they ate which included fresh pineapple, coconut and a whole range of fruits we had never heard of! We were warmly invited into some of their homes and saw some amazing feats of engineering as regards water systems.

Guyana has been described as one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, more than 3 per cent of its population are dying from AIDS and it's estimated that more than 12 per cent of the population do not have access to health care. During our time there we encountered a wide and varied array of illnesses including malaria, dengue fever, HIV, water-borne illnesses, heart disease, diabetes, kidney failure, epilepsy and also many social issues such as suicide, road traffic accidents, violence and homicide. Cancer is also a huge issue, with no chemotherapy available in the country; with people, if they had the means to, travelling to neighbouring Trinidad to receive treatment.

Many of the healthcare problems we encountered we could not change, as we came to realise that they were part of bigger problems within the healthcare system. So we had to spend the funds, so generously donated by the people of Ireland, as best as we saw fit. Dialysis is currently not available in Guyana, with ten people dying per day as a result. So on discovering that the country's first ever dialysis programme was being established we gladly donated some of our funds to help in the purchasing and maintenance of equipment for such a programme. We also purchased pharmaceuticals for the outreach clinics. The remainder of our money provided for the following: two nebulisers for a health centre in an Amerindian village, Alpha Children's Home to help with the establishment of a home for street children with HIV/AIDS, Missionary of Charity Sisters for their refuge for the homeless, sewing machines for a new work centre for single mothers to enable them to earn a living, strimmers for a local high school and a cleft palate operation for a two year old girl we met at one of the Outreach Clinics.

Amazing Experience

All in all it was the most amazing experience, one I'll never forget. We learned a lot during our time there; not only medical, but also a newfound appreciation for all we have at home. On leaving Guyana, we hoped that our funds would help the most amounts of people and we left with fond memories of our time there.

I would like to thank the staff of Scoil Iosa, Ballyhaunis for their kind contribution to the charity and we were very grateful for all the support.

The charity is once again up and running this year and if anyone would like to make a contribution to this very worthy cause, they can contact me at 094-9630481.

Nine Famous Irishmen

By Dr. Alan Delaney

In Ireland, nine men were captured, tried and convicted of treason against Her Majesty, the Queen, during what has been referred to as the "Young Irish Disorders" in 1848 or thereabouts. The nine who were sentenced to death were Pat Donahue, Charles Duffy, Michael Ireland, Morris Lyene, Thomas McGee, Terrence McManus, Thomas Meagher, John Mitchell and Richard O'Gorman.

The judge asked if there was anything any of them wished to say before being sentenced. Meagher, whose response summed up the attitude of them all replied: "My Lord, this is our first offence, but not our last. If you will be easy with us once, we promise on our word as gentlemen, to do better next time - sure we won't be fools to get caught."

The judge, outraged rather than amused at Meagher's remarks, indignantly decreed that the defendants should be hanged until dead, and then drawn and quartered. Passionate priests, however, influenced Queen Victoria to commute the sentence to banishment for life and transportation to far wild Australia.

In 1874, an astounded Queen Victoria received

word that the Sir Charles Duffy who had been elected Prime Minister of Australia was the very same Charles Duffy who has been transported there some twenty-five years before. Curious about the fate of the other eight, the Queen demanded that the records of those transported in the 1848 incidents be researched and revealed. This is what was found:

Thomas Meagher
Terrence McManus
Patrick Donahue
Richard O'Gorman
Morris Lyene
Michael Ireland

Thomas McGee
Montreal;

John Mitchell
York

Governor of Montana.
Brigadier General of US Army.
Brigadier General of US Army.
Governor of Newfoundland.
Attorney General of Australia.
Attorney General of Australia,
after Morris Lyene.
Member of Parliament,
Minister of Agriculture and
President of Council Dominion
of Canada.
Writer and prominent New
Politician.
His son became Mayor of New
York.

A Story of Knock

Fr. Kieran Burke

It was the month of August in 1879,

*When poverty in Ireland West most people did entwine.
The harvest was a poor one for the weather was not great,
And people struggled hard to put a little on their plates.*

*The priest Archdeacon Cavanagh was then P.P. of Knock
He was a holy man of prayer, his faith was built on rock,
His care was for his parish large, it was second to none
He greatly loved the holy souls, our Lady and her Son.*

*Upon a misty Autumn eve, when Knock was calm and still
The Parish Priest was visiting a poor man who was ill
But by the gable of the Church a vision rare was seen
It was a gracious visit paid by heaven's glorious Queen.*

*That sight, it was so marvelous, it took all by surprise.
'Twas seen by one or two at first, could they believe their eyes?
A little group assembled soon and then began to pray
They gazed upon that vision which near took their breath away.*

*Our Lady in the centre, with St. Joseph and St. John
A strange light lit that gable wall and round about them shone
An altar with a Cross and Lamb, while angels hovered near
Such was the wondrous vision which did at Knock appear.*

*Our Blessed Lady she was dressed from head to toe in white
Her garments seemed the purest silk which glistened in the light
"Céad fáilte romhath, a Mhuire", one woman did exclaim
And tears of joy were shed as she pronounced that special name.*

*A crown of precious gold and stars adorned our Lady's head
And underneath upon her brow a rose appeared, 'twas said.
Her hands were raised to heaven above as if in earnest prayer
And though no words were spoken then, she showed a mother's care.*

*This vision lasted quite sometime, 'twas seen by old and young
The gable wall remained bone dry, as if 'twas in the sun
It wasn't long before the news spread ore the countryside
"Our Lady has appeared at Knock", 'twas spoken far and wide
And soon the pilgrims they did come
At first a trickle, then a tide!*

*They prayed with great devotion there, and prayers were answered too
While many miracles of grace did soon at Knock accrue
For crutches were left by the lame, who could now walk and run
And cures of every kind took place, wrought by God's only son.*

*Down through the years since that great day in 1879
The fame of Knock has traveled far, to every land and clime
His holiness the Pope came once, the crowds were then immense
He gave the shrine a rose of gold that's been there ever since.*

*Now Knock it is a place apart, a holy place of prayer
A place of grace and comfort sweet for all weighed down by care
May God and may our Lady bless all those who help at Knock
And people from around the world, who to this Shrine do flock.*

Fish Market at Bergen

Christina Johnston

Bergen Harbour – Saturday morning.

*West meets East
And North South;
Yet no anonymity
Mingled affinity,
Of race,
Or creed
Or culture*

*I sit on this plain bench
Beside the slabs of crab and whale meat.
I watch, breathe in the smells
Of herring,
Bass,
Of swordfish
Some from the Lofoten's fjords,
More from the Labrador current
Scaly mosaics of bodies,
Fins and tails
White,
Speckled
And greyish-blue.*

*Species so diverse
I don't know all their names
Yet I feel no deficit,
Only delight;
Their colour,
Scent,
Array
An uncontrived display.
Here commerce briskly thriving,
Natural,
Unconniving.*

*Wooden burger town,
Warren and webbed with lanes
Steeped in the toil of homo sapiens;
I will return to savour
Your Stinging winter mists!*

*For now I bless the place
This glorious July sunrise*

World War Remembrance Mass

By Paul Waldron

St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, was the venue for last year's Mayo World War Remembrance Mass, on Sunday, 14th Nov. Celebrated by Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., who was assisted by Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C., the Mass was organised to commemorate all those from County Mayo who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, and in other wars and peace-keeping missions throughout the world in recent times. It was also the first public acknowledgement of all the Ballyhaunis people who lost their life in those and other conflicts.

The idea of remembering Mayo's war dead in this way first came to Michael Feeney of Castlebar in the 1990s when he was researching local involvement in World War One – the so called "Great War" (and the first truly 'global' conflict) – and reached fruition when he, and others with a similar interest, organised the first Remembrance Mass in Castlebar in 1999. Such was the impact and success of this Mass that it has taken place on Remembrance Sunday every year since, in a different parish in the county: Ballina 2000, Swinford 2001, Westport 2003 and Ballinrobe 2003. Last year – the ninetieth anniversary of the start of 'The Great War' – it was the turn of Ballyhaunis to host this solemn event.

Since the annual Remembrance Mass was instigated six years ago, the organisers have made contact with many people who had Mayo-born relatives amongst the forgotten war dead. While the original intention was to remember the dead of World War One, this expanded to include the victims of all wars. While most of these soldiers were in the British army, many also served with the U.S. and Canadian armies, while others belonged to the Australian, New Zealand and South African forces. As well as the two world wars, details emerged of Mayo men who took part in the Spanish Civil War, the Korean War and Vietnam War. Through their ongoing research and contact with relatives of war casualties, it soon became apparent that, along with those who died in the field of battle, many more died years afterwards from injuries sustained in battle; while a considerable number were injured psychologically, and bore these invisible scars of war to their death.

Homily

At the beginning of Mass Canon Cooney welcomed the large congregation and said that the purpose of the Mass was to commemorate "all Irish men and

women who fought and died in all wars for the freedom of others". He welcomed the organisers of the Mass, in particular Michael Feeney, P. J. Clarke and John Halpin (local co-ordinator); those who were participating in the Mass including members of the defence forces, veterans of the wars, representatives of organisations of national ex-servicemen, colour parties from the Army and the Community School, and the Abbey Male Voice Choir, under the direction of Moira Delaney.

In a moving and thought-provoking homily, Canon Cooney commented on the 'inevitability of war' as outlined in the day's gospel, adding that since the time of Christ, two-thousand years ago, the world has experienced war in every century, with probably none worse than the twentieth century. He spoke on the origins of the First World War, and of the participation of Irishmen in that war in the belief that it was for the 'freedom of small nations'. He presented the remarkable statistic – probably unknown to most – that fifty-five men who had given their address as 'Ballyhaunis', were killed in First World War battlefields, adding that "they lived, fought and died believing in what they were doing: they were the bravest of the brave, and to our shame we have forgotten them for too long."

He related the story of the Mutiny of the Connaught Rangers in India 1920, and put it in context with the War of Independence which was ongoing in Ireland at the time. An interesting local connection with the 'Great War', he added, was the song "It's a long way to Tipperary", the marching anthem of the Connaught Rangers, which was composed by Jack Judge, a man with family roots in Carrowbeg, Ballyhaunis, and who himself lost a son in the First World War.

Freedom

The Canon paid tribute to the Mayo men and women who were among the thousands more who died also in the Second World War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the various United Nations peace-keeping missions. He recalled two local men in particular – the late Corp. Patrick Gallagher (Derrintogher) of the U.S. Marine Corps, who was shot dead in 1967 in Vietnam, and the late Pte. Billy Kedian (Moneymore), killed while on peace-keeping duties in the Lebanon in 1999, adding that both died bravely in the service of their comrades. He asked for prayers for the thousands of men and women who, down through the centuries, fought

for freedom and commended members of the defence forces who continue to work abroad in peace-keeping missions.

In the offertory procession, Capt. Donal Buckley, Pte. Richard Waldron and Pat Higgins brought up World War One medals, a memento of UN duty and a Connaught Rangers badge, respectively; The medals of Corp. Gallagher were brought up by his sister Teresa; Joe Keane, member of the LDF during 'The Emergency', laid a wreath to honour all those who died in all conflicts; P. J. Clarke and Ernie Sweeney brought up the Bread and Wine.

At the end of Mass, Michael Feeney, of the organising committee, thanked everyone for attending the Mass so prayerfully and reverently, especially relatives of those commemorated. He thanked all who helped in organising the mass and everyone who participated in it. He thanked especially Canon Cooney for his co-operation and encouragement ever since the idea of the Mass was first brought to his attention. Mr. Feeney said he never heard such a well thought out and delivered homily on the subject of remembering our war dead,

adding that it was obvious a great deal of research, thought and effort went into it. He went on to thank Fr. Kieran Burke also, who assisted at the Mass; the piper, Sheila Duggan (Balla Pipe Band); the Army and Community School Colour Parties; the readers, Capt. Donal Buckley and John Halpin; Debbie Clarke, the bugler and Sean Burke, drummer (both members of the Mayo Youth Orchestra), those involved in the offertory procession, and the Abbey Male Voice Choir under the direction of Moira Delaney.

Michael Feeney of Castlebar and P. J. Clarke of Ballina have carried out an enormous amount of research and have put together a substantial body of information on Mayo born soldiers, particularly those who fought in the First World War. After Mass an exhibition of World War One memorabilia, put together by P. J. Clarke, was on display in the Parochial Hall which included posters, memorabilia, newspaper reports, photographs, and details of all those who gave 'Ballyhaunis' as their address and who died in the First World War.

Ballyhaunis Community School

(Reproduced from the Ballyhaunis Community School Yearbook, 2005) - Pat McHugh, Principal

A Message from the Principal

The passage of time is an interesting study in itself and the way we mere mortals have no say as time marches on relentlessly. It is hard to believe that I am nearing the end of my first year as Principal of this school. I am being asked a lot recently "and what was your first year like as principal?" My answers tend to vary depending on the type of day I've had, but overall I'd say they range between a "baptism of fire" and a "white knuckle ride". It has been an extraordinarily busy year in the school, maybe all years are, but this one had added challenge of the Whole School Evaluation, the "in school" phase of which took place from April 18th to 22nd.

I can honestly say that I enjoyed my year and that was largely due to the level of support I got from everyone, from Ms. Moran as Deputy Principal to the youngest first year. When people co-operate life is so much easier. I really appreciate everyone's assistance. We have a wonderfully committed team spirit within the school community which has often been commented on by visitors and parents alike.

This year will mark the retirement of four teachers from our school, four people who have given sterling service to the education system of the area for many years both inside and outside the classroom. Their wise counsel and broad perspective will be missed by all of us and it will take very special people to fill the void they leave as they enter upon what we all hope long, active and happy retirements. The four are of course, Mrs. Helen Hurley, Mrs. Sally Higgins, Mr. Tom Grogan and Mr. Hugh Rudden.

The production of the school magazine is now taken for granted as an integral part of school life in the third term. As somebody who was involved in the production for a few years I can assure you that there is a huge amount of work involved and I want to thank Ms. Colleen Hayes and her team of dedicated assistants for their trojan work. I eagerly look forward to reading this year's publication which I know will be equal to, if not surpass, those of former years.

Finally I want to wish all those taking exams this summer the very best, especially the Leaving Certs as they embark of the next phase of their lives.

- Orla Macken, Chaplain **An Eventful Year In Ballyhaunis Community School**

As the 2004-2005 school year draws to a close I would like to reflect back over the past school year at the events and great learning that has taken place within the walls of the school and beyond.

In September 2004 we welcomed the 110 first year students that began their journey in B.C.S. and also to our international students from Togo and Nigeria who joined the post leaving cert course. We had hardly settled into the school year when the terrible tragedy occurred in Beslan, Russia. Innocent victims were, once again, terrorist targets. Many of our students were moved by what happened. A Book of Condolence, which was signed by over 450 staff and students, was sent to the Russian Embassy in Dublin.

Mayo reaching the All-Ireland Final was a high point of September but the dream of Sam Maguire returning to Mayo after 50 years or so of an absence was short lived... if I remember correctly the dream lasted for about 7 minutes on that All-Ireland Day. But we are proud of our achievement and proud of our past student Fergal Kelly being a member of the team. Next time hopefully!!

First Term

The first term rolled by with activities and events like, the First Year Mass, Higher Options Conference in Dublin for Leaving Certs, the Ploughing Championships, Achill, Retreats for 2nd years, leaving certs, 4th and 3rd years, Leaving Cert students trip to Medjugorje, Visit to Ballyhaunis Mosque, Ballyhaunis Library, Geography field trips to Dawn Meats where many vegetarians emerged as a result. Both November 1st and December 8th were marked by liturgies and prayer services and with the onset of Christmas came the fundraising activities. Henry Madden sponsored a pool table to be raffled in aid of the Tanzania Project, which resulted in €4,000 being raised. The Games and Toys Appeal in aid of Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Dublin was very successful in contributing to the playroom in the new Transplant Unit. One of the highlights of the first term was the Leaving Cert Christmas concert; many weeks of sweat and tears went into preparing for the event which was a great success. The concert raised €545 for the Pottaya Orphanage in Thailand.

Second Term

The Christmas holidays came and went, but on return the mood was sombre after yet another tragic event had hit our world. Over 170,000 people lost their lives and many more lost their homes as a result of the Tsunami which struck South East Asia on December 26th. Again our students rallied and set about making their contribution towards the disaster fund, €3,000 was raised by the 4th years who completed a sponsored walk. This money was sent to purchase a fishing boat for one of the many devastated communities in Asia.

Again this term just seemed to fly by, marked by such events as the SPHE Day with 2nd years, the making of St. Brigid's Crosses in aid of Chernobyl, Visits to Ballyhaunis Parish Church to mark Lent, Trocaire 24 hour Fast which raised €2,700, Western Care Annual Party, Visit to Mountbellew Agricultural College, 4th year students trip to Medjugorje and so on.

We returned after the Easter holidays to be faced with the news of the dreaded Whole School Evaluation. Staff and students alike got into a frenzy over copies and books and lessons and plans. Much cleaning and tidying was done, and B.C.S. was never more organised. The last term also began with a tinge of sadness at the passing of Pope John Paul II. Again students took time to offer their sympathies by signing a Book of Condolence and offering prayers for the soul of our beloved Papa. There was great interest and learning in the whole process of the selection of the new pope, for our students had the opportunity to experience the often-used phrase "white smoke" put into action. Pope Benedict XVI will be the Pope for our current students, they will always remember his election and, please God, he will visit Ireland in the not too distant future. The last term brings the usual examination fever with practicals and orals as well as the Leaving Cert Graduation Ceremony, the 1st year tour, the school magazine, and the build up to the longed for summer holidays. The year has been a busy and eventful one, and at this stage we all deserve a much needed rest until we meet again in September. For all the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert students our thoughts and prayers will be with you as you begin your exams next Summer.

BALLYHAUNIS, CO. MAYO.

Market Day—Tuesday. Half Holiday—Thursday. Population, 1926—1,103.

PRINCIPAL PROFESSIONS, MERCHANTS AND TRADERS.

Auctioneers.

Caulfield, P. J., Main street.
Coyne, John, Cherryfield.
Cunningham, J. J., Bridge street.
O'Brien, Patrick, Main street.
Rattigan, M. J., Bridge street.

Bakers.

Delaney, George, Abbey street.
Waldron, James, Main street.

Banks.

National Bank, Ltd., Knox street.
Ulster Bank, Ltd., Bridge street.

Boot and Shoe Makers.

Forde, Thomas, Knox street.
McGreal, P. J., Clare street.
Tighe, Patrick, Main street.

Builders.

Dyar, Patrick, Brackloon.
Robinson, —, Clare street.
Sloyan, Denis, Devils.

Chemists and Druggists.

Joyce, P. M., R.D.P.S.I., Main street.
Waldron P. P., M.P.S.I., Bridge st.

Clergymen.

Fynn, Rev. M., C.C., Presbytery.
Moane, Rev. P., C.C., Presbytery.
Mansfield, Very Rev. E. A., O.S.A.,
Prior, St. Mary's Abbey.
Hogan, Rev. E. B., O.S.A., St.
Mary's Abbey.
O'Flynn, Rev. E. W., O.S.A., St.
Mary's Abbey.
Prendergast, Rev. G., P.P., The
Presbytery.

Car and Coachbuilders.

Gilmore, John, Knox street.
Waldron Brothers, Knox street;

Drapers.

Byrne, D. & Sons, Main street.
Cunningham & Co., Bridge street.
Eaton, William, Main street.
Flynn, Miss M., Main street.
Forde, Thomas, The Square.
Freeley, John, Main street.
Gallagher, John, Main street.
Kenny, Miss M. K., Clare street.
McGarry, P. J., Main street.
Moran Bros., Knox street.
Morley, Darby, Main street.
O'Connell, Mrs. L., Bridge street.
Rafferty, Miss Sarah, Abbey st.
Tarpey, Patrick, Knox street.

Egg Merchants.

Byrne, John, Main street.
Caulfield, P. J., Main street.
Caulfield, Thomas M., Upper Main
street.
Cunningham, Mrs. E., Abbey st.
Foudy, Michael, Bridge street.
Murray, Patrick, Devils.
Walsh, Patrick, Main street;

Glass and China

Merchants.

Dillon, Mrs. Mary, Abbey street.
Donelan, Mrs. Mary, Clare street.
Jordan, Austin Upper Main st.
Lyons, Miss E., Main street
Morley, A. T., Knox street.
Rattigan, M. J., Bridge street.
Waldron Miss K. Knox street.

Grocers.

Byrne, Edward, Bridge street.
Caulfield, James, Abbey street.
Caulfield, P. J., Main street.
Caulfield, Mrs. T. M., Upper Main
street.
Conway, John, Bridge street.
Coyne, Thomas, Bridge street.
Cunningham, Mrs. Ellen, Abbey st.
Curley, M., Clare street.
Delany, George, Abbey street.
Delaney, John, Main street.
Dillon, John, Main street.
Dillon, Mrs. Mary, Abbey street.
Donelan, Mrs. Mary, Clare street.
Durkan, John, Abbey street.
Fitzgerald, Edward, Bridge street.
Fitzmaurice, J. C., Bridge street.
Flatley, James, Main street.
Flynn, Miss Monica, Main street.
Forkin, W., Knox street.
Foudy, Michael, Bridge street.
Freely, Michael, Main street.
Freely, Patrick, Main street.
Gilmore, John, Knox street.
Glavey, Miss B., Knox street.
Greally, Michael, Upper Main st.
Greally, Miss D., Knox street.
Greally, Miss A. J., Main street.
Greene, A., Main street.
Griffin, Michael, Clare street.
Halpin, John, Abbey street.
Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
Haugh, Patrick, Clare street.
Higgins, James, Clare street.
Hopkins, Daniel, Upper Main st.
Johnstone, Thos., Knox street.
Jordan, Austin, Upper Main st.
Jordon, M., Knox street.
Keane, Timothy, Upper Main st.
Kennedy, Miss A., Main street.
Lynch, Bernard, Main street.
Lyons, Bernard, Up. Main street.
Lyons, Hubert, Knox street.
Lyons, Miss E., Main street.
Lyons, Michael, Upper Main st,
Lyons, Mrs., Bridge street.
Lyons, Mrs. Thomas, Knox street.
Lyons, Thomas, Bridge street.
McDermott, Miss B., Bridge street.
McQueeney, Joseph, Main street.
Maloney, Mrs. Ellen, Main street.
Moran, Frank, Upper Main st.
Morley A. T., Knox street.
Morley, John, Knox street.
Morley, Patrick, Main street.
Murphy, Edward J., Main street.
Murphy, P. A., Knox street.
Neary, Miss, Knox Street.
Neary, William, Main street.
O'Brien, Mrs. Katie, Knox street.
O'Brien, Patrick, Main street.
O'Reilly, Patrick J., Main street.
Phillips, John, Main street.
Rattigan, Michael J., Bridge street.
Smyth, J., Abbey street.
Tarpey, Patrick, Knox street.
Veldon, P. E., Main street.
Waldron, James, Main street;
Waldron, John, Knox street.

Waldron, John, Abbey street.
Waldron, Miss K., Knox street.
Waldron, Miss Mary, Knox street.
Walshe, Patrick, Main street.

Hairdressers.

Lynch's Hairdressing Saloon,
Abbey street.
Meehan, Patrick, Clare street.

Hardware and Iron- mongery Merchants.

Conway, John, Bridge street.
Delaney, George, Abbey street.
Delaney, John, Main street.
Gallagher, John, Main street.
Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
Johnstone, T., Knox street.
Lyons, James, Main street.
Morley, John, Main street.
O'Brien, Patrick, Main street.

Hotels.

Central Hotel (Miss M. A. Waldon),
Main street.
Holme's Commercial Hotel, Bridge
street.

Motor and Cycle Engineers.

Freyne Bros., Clare street.
Lynch, B. T., Main street.
Lyons, Thomas, Bridge street.
Murray, T. & J., Railway road;

Newsagents.

Flatley, Michael, Main street.
Higgins, James, Clare street.
Johnstone, Thomas, Knox street.

Physicians and Surgeons.

Smyth, A., M.D.
Waldron, A., M.B.

Provision Dealers.

Conway, John, Bridge street.
Dillon, John, Main street.
Dillon, Mrs. Mary, Abbey street.
Griffin, Michael, Clare street.
Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
Jordan, Austin, Upper Main street
Lyons, James, Main street.
Lyons, M. J., Upper Main street.
Lyons, Mrs. M., Bridge street.
Morley, Patrick, Main street.
O'Brien, Mrs. Katie, Knox street.
O'Brien, Patrick, Main street.
Waldron, James, Main street.

Publicans.

Byrne, Edward, Bridge street.
Byrne, John, Main street.
Caulfield, James, Abbey street.
Caulfield, Patrick J., Main street;
Conway, John, Bridge street.
Coyne, Thomas, Bridge street.
Cunningham, Mrs. Ellen, Abbey st.
Curley, Michael, Clare street.
Delaney, George, Abbey street.
Dillon, John, Main street.

Publicans—continued.

Dillon, Mrs. Mary, Abbey street.
Donelan, Mrs. Mary, Clare street.
Durkan, John, Abbey street.
Fahy, Michael, Clare street.
Forde, Thomas, The Square.
Foudy, Michael, Bridge street.
Freeley, John, Main street.
Freeley, Patrick, Main street.
Freeley, Michael, Main street.
Gallagher, John, Main street.
Gilmore, John, Knox street.
Glavey, Miss B., Knox street.
Greally, Miss Delia, Knox street.
Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
Higgins, James, Clare street.
Johnstone, T., Knox street.
Lynch, B. T., Main street.
Lyons, Miss E., Main street.
Lyons, Mrs. M., Bridge street.
Lyons, Thomas, Bridge street.
Lyons, Mrs. Thomas, Knox street.
Maloney, Mrs. E., Main street.
Morley, John, Knox Street.
Morley, Mrs. A. T., Knox street.
Moran, Frank, Main street.
Murphy, E. J., Main street.
Murphy, P. A., Knox street.
Neary, Miss, Knox street.
O'Brien, Patrick, Main street.
Phillips, John, Main street.

Rattigan, Michael J., Bridge st.
Tarpey, Miss Nora, Knox street.
Tarpey, Patrick, Knox street.
Veldon, Patrick E., Main street.
Walshe, Patrick, Main street.

Tailors.

Byrne, D. & Sons, Main street.
Flatley, James, Main street.
Loftus, Michael, 1 Knox street.
Tarpey, Patrick, Knox street.

Saddlers and Harness-makers.

O'Malley, Austin, Clare street.
Smyth, John T., Knox street.

Schools.

St. Joseph's.
Convent of Mercy.
National School (Boys).

Victuallers.

Glynn Brothers, Upper Main st.
Glynn, Frank, Clare street.
Morley, Michael, Knox street.
Phillips, Patrick, Upper Main st
Smyth, James, Abbey street.
Smyth, Patrick, Main street.
Webb, Michael, Main Street.

Wine Merchants.

Coyne, Thomas, Bridge street
Dillon, John, Main street.
Durkan, John, Abbey street.
Freeley, Michael, Main street
Foudy, Michael, Bridge street
Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
Lyons, Thomas, Bridge street.
Morley, John, Knox street.

Solicitors.

Crean, Austin J. C., Bridge street.
Leetch, John Dillon, Main street.
Leetch, Wm. Dillon, Main street.
Walsh, Michael J., Bridge street.

*Above is a copy of
Thom's Commercial Directory 1934 showing the business people
and tradespeople in and around Ballyhaunis.*

**Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Team
- County Champions 2005 -**



Back Row L-R: Michael Regan, Arslan Afzal, John Joe Kelly, Dave McConn, Jason Powers, Kieth Higgins, Liam Lyons, Joe Kelly, Paul Lynch, John Tynan(Capt), Tadgh Buckley, Paul McConn, J.P.Coen, John Joe Hoban, Tom Phillips, Martin McDermott
Centre Row L-R: Hughie Carney, Stephen Hoban, Brian Gallagher, Adrian Brennan, Pierce Higgins, Hughie McKermitt, Barry Keogh, Christy McCrudden, Padraig Carney, Derek McConn, Derek Walsh, Luke Cribbin, Rizwan Afzal, Fergal Lyons,
Front Row L-R: Pat Kelly, Austin Lyons, Stephen Carney, Andrew Shanaghy, Fergal Walsh

Reflections on a great Summer Festival

The Ballyhaunis Summer Festival took place this year over the May Bank Holiday weekend, Fri. 29th Apr. to Mon. 2nd May 2005. Once again this year the organising committee exceeded themselves in laying on a fantastic range of events and activities catering for all ages and tastes.

Annagh Rose 2005

The Annagh Rose pageant took place on Friday night, 29th Apr., in Monsoon Nite Club. Master of Ceremonies on the night was Gerry Glennon from Midwest Radio. There were fourteen finalists in all, and the three judges had the difficult task of deciding on a winner. In the end Ms. Patricia Finan, representing Heneghan's Furniture and Carpet, Main St., Ballyhaunis, proved a most popular winner and was crowned "Annagh Rose" for 2005. Patricia comes from Cloonlee, Ballinlough and has just completed her first year in St. Patrick's Training College, Dublin. She was presented with her prize of €1,000 by Margaret Byrne of the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival Committee. The Annagh Rose Pageant was sponsored by Feeney Developments and Cashels Engineering.

Fair Day

This year, once again, the Traditional Fair Day was a great success. While not as sunny and warm as last year, the weather was kind enough and it remained dry for most of the day. The older generation was able to relive memories of days gone by, while the youngsters saw items, crafts and practises they'd never seen before. The usual selection of attractions was on show: home-grown produce and farm animals on display and for sale, along with old farm machinery and implements. A magnificent selection of Arts and Crafts displays and demonstrations, with items for sale, was evident along the streets, including basket-making, wood-turning, wool-spinning, bellows-making, bread-making, pottery, musical instrument making, cheese-making, mirror engraving, candle-making, knitting and decoupage. There were also be display of antiques, wrought iron, bog oak sculpture, old photographs, decorated bags and cushions, painted glass, stamps and coins, French flowers.

Events

One of the new events introduced to this year's festival was the Inter-pub Table Quiz, and it was a resounding success. The quizmaster was John Aldridge and twelve teams participated in all. The winners were: 1st Gill's, Clare St. (89 out of a possible 100 points); 2nd The Hazel (88); 3rd MacSiurtain's (87).

In the Sheaf Tossing Competition, sponsored by BPH, two competitions took place. Those placed in the Senior competition were: 1st Paddy Dooley, Birr, Co. Offaly; 2nd Michael O'Brien, Tulla, Co. Clare

(World Champion); 3rd Tom Conway, Galway. In the Junior contest, the first three were: 1st Martin Nohilly, Corofin, Co. Galway; 2nd Michael Lyons, Ballyhaunis; 3rd Michael O'Shaughnessy, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Sixteen bands from all over the country took part in the Battle of the Bands competition. The winners were: 1st Drunken Monkeys, Kiltimagh; 2nd Holocaust, Castlebar and Kiltimagh; 3rd Turbulence, Ballyhaunis Community School.

In the Best Shop Front competition, judged over the weekend of the festival, the winners were: Best Shop front: 'Make it Happen', Clare St.; runner-up: Irises, Main St. Best Pub front: The Hazel, Main St. Best Private Residence (within the speed limits): Paul and Paula Donnellan, Clare St.

Twenty-seven children took part in the Treasure Hunt, sponsored by Phillips'. The first two placed were: 1st Leanne Lynch, and 2nd Morgan Lyons.

In the Art Exhibition Competition, organised by Norman Davey, the winner was Eileen Grogan, Reisk.

It was a clean sweep for Johnstown in the Duck Race, with Ethna Byrne the winner, and John Jordan, runner-up. While, in the Tug of War contest, the team from The Hazel came first, while Gareth Delaney's team were runners-up.

Children's Art

There was a total of 314 entries for the Children's Art Competition, organised in conjunction with the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival. The theme of this year's competition was "Ballyhaunis and Environs 2005 - A Unique Pleasure", and there were two age categories: 8-12 years and 13-18 years.

Entries were received from Ballyhaunis Community School, Scoil Iosa, Logboy N.S., St. Joseph's N.S., Began; Barnacarroll N.S.; Knock N.S.; Aghamore N.S.; Gorthaganny N.S.; Carrick N.S.; Ballinlough N.S.; Cloonfad N.S. All entries were on public display during the festival. The winners and runners-up are listed below.

13-18 years: Winner - Adena Morley, Ballyhaunis Community School; First runner-up - Loreta Grybiate, Ballyhaunis Community School; Second runner-up - Aideen Murray, Ballyhaunis Community School.

8-12 years: Winner - Avril Feeney, Ballyhaunis Community School; First runner-up - Pdraig Keenan, Knock National School; Second runners-up (joint) - Amana Shafique and Claire Moran, both Scoil Iosa, Ballyhaunis.

Very Highly Commended: Saadia Nazir, Scoil Iosa, Ballyhaunis; Greta Domarkaitė, Scoil Iosa, Ballyhaunis; Rebecca McGowan, Gortaganny N.S.;

Vanessa Egan, Knock N.S.

R-U-A-Star FINAL

A wealth of talent was on display at the R-U-A-Star Grand Final held on Monday night, 2nd May, in Soprano's, Ballyhaunis.

Since St. Patrick's Weekend this year qualifying heats have taken place in nineteen venues in Ballyhaunis and surrounding villages, with a large number of contenders vying for a place in this innovative competition held in conjunction with the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival and sponsored by Connacht Scaffolding to the tune of €1,350.

Those nineteen finalists who came together on Monday night last for a chance to become this year's R-U-A-Star champion were: James McGuire (representing Gill's), Hazim Kezze (Delaney's, Abbey St.), Chris Caulfield (The Corner Bar), Danny Carroll (The Lantern), Martina Freyne (Nicholson's), Joan Leonard (Frayne's, Tooreen), Regina McDermott (Keane's, Cloonfad), Dorothy Dolan (MacSiurtain's), Ruairi Caulfield (Paddy Phillips'), 3-G-2 (The Friary Bar), Marita Byrne (The Hazel), Caroline Madigan (Curley's), Declan Grady (The Coney Island, Gorthaganny), Cats Kickers (The Oak Bar), Fairies Can't Fly (Soprano's), Pat Doyle (The Clock), Fiona Lowry (Rattigan's), Johnny Shaughnessy Snr. (Osta Chonnachta) and Gary Morgan (The Breffni).

The prizewinners were chosen by the audience and a panel of adjudicators comprising John Kelly of Knock and Michael Leonard, a Eurostar contender some years ago. The popular winner was Dorothy Dolan, representing MacSiurtain's, Main St., who went

away with the top prize of €1,000. In second place came Gary Morgan, representing The Breffni, Knox St., who received €250, while the third prize of €100 went to Regina McDermott of Tibohine, Castlerea, representing Keane's of Cloonfad.

Presentations were made to the prizewinners by Mr. Michael Grady of Connacht Scaffolding Ltd., who also acted as Master of Ceremonies on the night.

Thank You

On Thursday night, 12th May, there was a special 'Thank you' night in The Hazel for all those involved in the organising of this year's Summer Festival. Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P. was in attendance, as were members of the organising committee and representatives of the main sponsors – Smithwicks, Connacht Scaffolding, Feeney Developments, Cashels Engineering, Westlink Scaffolding.

Martin Fitzmaurice, Chairman of the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival committee, in an eloquent speech, paid tribute to all the organisers - individuals and sub-committees – who took the time to organise and follow-through on the many parts that went to make up the festival as a whole, ensuring it was the best festival so far. "I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy some part of the week-end and the events leading up to the festival", he said. "I hope that more people will get involved next year and anyone who has any ideas or are willing to contribute in any way should contact me at (087) 2455989. Preparations are already under way and hopefully we will all be alive to enjoy it", he concluded.

Special Olympics - Ballyhaunis

By Bernie Quinn, P.R.O.

A Special Olympics Network has been established in Ballyhaunis. There are several Special Olympics Networks formed in Mayo, resulting from the World Games which were held in Ireland in 2003.

What is a Special Olympics Network you may ask? It is where people with an intellectual disability, with support from the community, form a network with a view to later forming a Special Olympics Club. The Club will be where people have an opportunity to participate using mainstream facilities. There is also a social aspect to the Club: discos and various outings. We look forward to having a very active club. Perhaps people – young and old – could volunteer a few hours a month. If interested, please phone (086) 1744001.



Shane Healy, Doctors Road pictured with Ciaran McDonald, Mayo Footballer, a surprise guest at Shane's 9th birthday party.

The Abbey Partnership

By Stephen Grogan

2005 has been a busy year for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership who have overseen a number of important projects and developments taking place at St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey over the last twelve months.

Without doubt the event which attracted the most attention and interest was the construction and opening of the Children's Playground at the entrance to the Abbey Grounds in the Friary Field. Work began at the start of the year and the playground was formally opened on April 27th by Cllr. Eddie Staunton, the Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, after being blessed by Canon Joseph Cooney P.P.

Hardly a day has passed since then that the playground hasn't been in use, providing a much needed facility for children and families in our town. The playground has been constructed to the highest standards using the latest building materials and was funded by both Mayo County Council and the Department of Health & Children.

Credit

Parallel to the opening of the Children's Playground, 2005 saw the first full year in which the Abbey Grounds were fully open to the public with many people of all ages using the attractive woodland and river walkway on a daily basis. Great credit is due to Joe Diskin and Sean Biesty for their dedication and hard work in maintaining the grounds, along with Cashels Engineering for lending vital equipment. The grounds received an award under this years Tidy Towns "Improving our town together" competition, which was well deserved.

The development of the grounds has also provided school children and their teachers with opportunities to engage in outdoor projects and small educational visits, activities the Partnership very much welcomes and would like to develop into the future. The Public Art Commission was scheduled to have taken place this year, but was unfortunately delayed. 2006 should see this project come to fruition, with a new artistic feature being added to the town, on the Abbey grounds.

2005 also saw the formal transfer of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey and Grounds by the Irish Province of the Augustine Order to the local community under a 999 year lease signed with the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust Ltd. – a company established by the Community Council – Mayo County Council and the Augustinians. A formal signing ceremony was held in the St. Mary's Abbey on June 10th attended by Fr. Desmond Foley Head of the Irish Province of the Augustinian

Order and Mr. Des Mahon Manager of Mayo County Council and Chairperson of the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust Ltd.

The property continues to be managed by the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership Ltd, which is composed of eight local and county organisations, who meet on a monthly basis to develop projects and manage week to week issues. The Partnership carries out this work on behalf of the Abbey Trust, which holds the lease and ensures the proper development of the property on behalf of the community, in accordance with the vision of the Augustinians. The eight organisations are the Community Council, Mayo County Council, Chambers of Commerce, the Augustinian Order, Family Resource Centre, Health Service Executive (West), IRD Kiltimagh and Mayo Immigrant Liaison Committee.

The Partnership has also continued its work to develop the Priory as a Centre for community learning and activity, concluding a rental agreement with its main anchor tenant the Family Resource Centre. A number of other organisations such as Western Care, the VEC, Meitheal Mhaigheo and Mayo County Council have rented space for meetings or running courses in the house over the last year.

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern was continued into 2005 with a successful day being held at the end of August thanks to the effort and organisation of the Abbey Pattern Committee. The Pattern event followed the annual Cemetery Mass held in the abbey with Fr. Kieran Burke, C.C.

St. Mary's Abbey hosted a number of cultural events during the year. A concert by Brian Flanagan during the May bank holiday was very well attended, while Mayo County Council's Summer Music programme brought Marie McGarry, Brent Parker and Ian King for an enchanting evening of classical music in



The Abbey Trustees at the signing of the 999 year Lease with the Augustinian Order. L-R: Stephen Grogan, Jarlath Fahy, Ray Norton, Nuala Fitzgerald, Pat Higgins, Cllr. Michael Carty, Mary Donnelly, Jim Lundon and Cllr. John Cribbin. Seated are Des Mahon, Mayo County Manager, and Fr. Desmond Foley O.S.A.



Councillor Eddie Staunton, Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council and Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., formally open the children's playground. Also pictured are Councillor Michael Carty, Councillor John Cribbin and Enda Murphy.

July. Local choir group, Gracenotes, will hold their next performance in the Abbey, just before Christmas. The Abbey also hosted the Ballyhaunis Artist's Exhibition at the start of December, which proved as successful as ever with a wide range of quality work being displayed by local artists from across our communities.

Development

While 2005 saw significant progress being made with the opening of the playground and the development of

the overall woodland and river walk, many challenges remain to be address in 2006. One of these challenges will be to continue the development of the woodland and river walk by putting in lighting, benches and making other general improvements. Plans to develop a children's centre on the site of the Scout's Den received a setback during the year when the Department of Justice turned down the proposal submitted and this project will need to be re-assessed and resubmitted during next year.

The formal signing of the 999 year lease marked the end of the transition phase since the Augustinian's made their decision in 2001 to commit the property for the benefit of the people of Ballyhaunis. With the new structures in place to protect the property, the Partnership will be able to concentrate on new projects for the benefit of all the people of the community in accordance with the wishes of the Augustinians.

The Partnership is represented by Chairperson John Coll from Mayo County Council, Vice-Chairperson Peter Cunnane from the Chambers of Commerce; Treasurer, Paula Grogan from the Community Council and Secretary, Stephen Grogan from Family Resource Centre.



Taken c. 1956, L-R: Patsy Cunningham, Mick O'Connell, Pat Keane, Joe Greene, John 'Doc' Healy, Tommy Smyth, Michael Cameron. Kneeling: George Delaney and Paddy Healy.

Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club

By Mary Prenty (Secretary)

2005 was a very successful year for Ballyhaunis GAA Club. The Club fielded teams at U-8 Football, U-9 Hurling; U-10 Hurling and Football; U-11 Football; National Schools Hurling and Football; U-12 Football and Hurling; U-13 Football; U-14 Hurling and Football; U-15 Football; U-16 Hurling and Football; U-17 Football; U-18 Football and Hurling; U-21 Football; Junior Hurling and Football, and Senior Football and Hurling.

Pride of place must go to our Senior Hurling team that put back-to-back County Hurling titles together. Our Under-14 Football team also beat all comers when going through the County U-14 League and the East and County Championships undefeated, a truly remarkable achievement. County titles also came to our U-13 Football and U-15 Football teams when

they won their respective leagues while the U-16 Football team took the East Mayo title, and U-17 still in competition. Our Under-9 Hurling team won the inaugural county competition and traveled to play in Croke Park in August.

U-8 Football

The following panel started training in March under the guidance of Barry Butler, Kevin Henry and Seamus Egan, and with supporting help from Billy Phillips, James Reidy, Gerry Lyons and Vincent Caulfield. Challenge games were played against Claremorris, Michael Glavey's and Kilmovee Shamrocks. The emphasis was on skill levels with the football and enjoyment thrown in.

Panel: Damian Egan, Cian Henry, Ryan Kilbane, Joseph Kelly, Robert McCormack, Cian O'Boyle, Cormac Reidy, Cathal Carney, James Cribbin, Eamon Phillips, Sean Lannon, Oisín Coffey, David Webb, Oisín Henry, Gary Higgins, Adam Hickey, Matthew Grogan, Sean Herr, Piaras Caulfield, Jonathan Ryan, Aoife Mulrennan, Olivia Cleary, Laura O'Connell, Dearbhla Phillips, Cormac Phillips, Liam Herr, Tommy Folliard, Michelle Lyons, Fraz Ahmad, Radic Gulzar and Kathryn Clarke.



Victorious captain of the Under-10 team which won the Mick O'Connell Cup in October, John Lyons, with the competition sponsors Marianne, Gráinne and Michéal O'Connell.



The U-10 footballers who won the Mick O'Connell Cup 2005. Back l-r: Billy Phillips (manager), Cormac Reidy, Joseph Lyons, John Lyons, Mark Phillips, Jamie Skeffington. Front l-r: Jonathan Ryan, Oisín Henry, Ryan Kilbane, Mohammed Ahmed, Cyril Collins.

Under-9 Hurling

The County Blitz was held in Ballyhaunis. They won all their games and won the right to represent Mayo at half time in the Leinster Hurling Final in Croke Park. It was some sight to see a group of young Ballyhaunis boys wearing their Club colours of red and black in Croke Park. This surely must be a first for Ballyhaunis. For the record Ballyhaunis won the game against Roscommon Champions. Full credit to the Leinster Council of the GAA who had the foresight to bring in teams from outside their own province. The Ballyhaunis boys who travelled on the day were: James Lyons, Mohammed Ahmed; Stephan Nolan, Damien Callaghan, Ryan Kilbane, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Lyons, Bilal Amin, Jason Coyne, Philip Fitzmaurice, Sean Lannon, Stephen Ryan, Sean McDermott. Many thanks to all the parents and supporters who travelled on the day. Mentors: Howard Morley, Peter Higgins, Gerry Kilbride, David McConn, Ray Lucey, Keith Higgins.

U-10 Football

U-10 panel started training in March. Numbers varied during the year. For the summer months we added Wednesday evenings to our training schedule and it proved a great success. We competed in three blitzes throughout the year - Balla, Castlerea and finally our own blitz in Ballyhaunis where we won the U-10 final by beating Eire Óg. I wish to acknowledge our young referees on the day namely Paul Prenty, John Gallagher and William Nestor, who did a very good job in refereeing the final. I wish to acknowledge the tremendous support that parents gave us through the year and thank them most sincerely. The highlight of the year was the Mick O'Connell competition and, as always, the O'Connell family was there on the day to support the players. The final played between John Lyons' team and Jim Reidy's team was a very close run game with John's team winning out by a point.

Panel: Morgan Lyons, Lisa O'Connell, John Lyons, Jim Reidy, Aisling Tarpey, James Lyons, Jamie Skeffington, Shane Healy, Joey Fahey, Kevin Kilbride, Cyril Collins, Jamail Kezze, Jason Coyne, Sean McDermott, Mark Phillips, Stephen Nolan, Damian Callaghan, Mark Ruane, Joseph Lyons, Robert Morley, Jason McGoldrick, John Cribbin, Stephen Ryan, Rory Nestor, Conor McCarrick, Neil Folliard and Philip Fitzmaurice.

U-10 Hurling

At underage level, Hurling started shortly after Christmas. Under-10, under-12 and under-14 training started in the Community School. This year we dispensed with the indoor at an early stage because the weather was benign at an early time of the year. Also the under-14 team trained separately thus allowing for greater concentration on the under-10 children. There was a blitz in Ballyvary early in summer and Castlerea in October. Ballyhaunis children competed in all stages and acquitted themselves extremely well.

Panel: Mohammad Ahmad, Bilal Amin, Damien Callaghan, Cyril Collins, Jason Coyne, Phillip Fitzmaurice, Brian Gavin, Shane Healy, Joseph Kelly, Ryan Kilbane, Kevin Kilbride, Sean Lannon, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Sean McDermott, Darren Nolan, Stephen Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Stephen Ryan, Aisling Tarpey.

U-11 Football

We participated in the East Mayo League in

September and played Ballaghaderreen, Kiltimagh and Moy Davitts. Mentors Billy Phillips and James Reidy with help from Vincent Caulfield ensured the club was well represented.

Panel: Eanna McNamara, Adrian Phillips, Lisa O'Connell, Darren Nolan, Conor Nolan, James Cribbin, Morgan Lyons, Jim Reidy, Patrick Kiely, Jason Fahy, Jamie Skeffington, Jarlath Carney, Aisling Tarpey, Cyril Collins, John Flynn, Andrew Lannon, James Lyons, John Lyons, Shane Healy, Joey Fahy, Kevin Kilbride, Robert Morley, Ryan Kilbane, Damian Callaghan, Mark Phillips, Stephen Nolan, Jamail Kezze, Hannan Iqbal, Mark Ruane, Sean McDermott and Joseph Kelly.

National Schools Hurling

Scoil Iosa played in Division 1 in this competition and beat St. Patrick's Ballina, only to lose to Scoil Raftaire, Castlebar by the smallest margin in the semi-finals.

Panel: Isaac Carroll, David Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Gearoid Keane, David Lyons, Andrew McCormack, Kieran McDermott, John Flynn, Eugene Durkin, Sean Griffin, Siobhan Morley, Shane Murphy,



Eoghan Collins' Team, winners of the Joe Webb Cup 2005. Back, L-R: Jarlath Carney, Patrick Kiely, Eoghan Collins, John Flynn, Shane Murphy, Eugene Durkin. Front, L-R: Darren Nolan, Andrew Lannon, Hannan Iqbal, Morgan Lyons, Jamail Kezze.



Under-10 Hurling Blitz, Castlerea. Back, L-R: Kevin Morley (selector), Damien Callaghan, Shahzab Yousaf, Haseeb Arshad, Ryan Kilbane, Shane Healy, Morgan Lyons, Janil Kezze, Lisa O'Connell, Aisling Tarpey, Conor Nolan (selector). Front, L-R: Mohammed Ahmad, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Lyons, James Lyons, Sean Lannon, Stephen Nolan, Bilal Amin, Stephen Ryan.



Under-13 football team, County Finalists. Back, L-R: Padraic Waldron, Ryan Worden, Isaac Carroll, Kieran Kiely, Cathal Fahey, Gerard Grogan, Gearoid Keane, Sean Griffin, John Flynn. Front, L-R: Eanna McNamara, Jarlath Carney, Eoghan Collins, Shane Healy, Ciaran McDermott, Conor Freeley, Hannan Iqbal, James Cribbin, Patrick Kiely.

Gary Patterson, Sheraz Ul Hussein, Farhan Ahamed, Haseeb Arshad, James Cribbin, Hannan Iqbal, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Damien Callaghan, Kevin Kilbride, Sean McDermott, Aisling Tarpey. Mentors; U-10, U-12, National School: Peter Higgins, Howard Morley, Kitty Morley, Tadhg Morley, David Lyons, Ray Lucey, David McConn, Gerry Kilbride, Jim London.

U-12 Hurling

This year a new trophy was presented for this grade, The Dave Synnott Trophy, presented in honour of the former great Wexford, Castlebar, and Mayo stalwart, Dave Synnott. Ballyhaunis, having won Division 2 in 2004 were promoted to Division 1 in 2005. We beat Tooreen, Ballina, and Belmullet only to be beaten by a stronger Castlebar team in the final.

Panel: Farhan Ahamed, Haseeb Arshad, Damien Callaghan, Jarlath Carney, Cyril Collins, James Cribbin, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Shane Healy,

Hannan Iqbal, Garoid Keane, Ryan Kilbane, Kevin Kilbride, Andrew McCormack, Kieran McDermott, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Aisling Tarpey, Sharaz Ul Hussein, Morgan Lyons, James Lyons, Shane Murphy.

A special Congratulations to Gearoid Keane, Kieran McDermott and Patrick Mellett who won 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the U-12 skills competition out of seven participating Clubs.

U- 12 Football

Training started in April for the under 12 panel. After some challenge matches against Dunmore the grading competition began. We accounted for ourselves well by beating Ballinrobe in a tense affair and also over coming St. Gerard's. We lost our first match to The Neale, due probably to inexperience than lack of ability. Our under strength team lost to a very good and impressive Davitts team. In our last grading game the trip to Newport took a lot out of us and we were comprehensively beaten by Burrishoole. We were put in Division 4 of the Summer League and unfortunately we did not account for ourselves well. We lost all our games and the players, as a squad, did not do themselves justice. We didn't play to our potential in any game. Overall the panel has progressed significantly since the start of the year and it is important that this group of players continues to improve their skills and with that will come success. Finally, I would like to thank all the players and parents for their efforts during the year.

Panel: Sean Griffin, Patrick Kiely, John Flynn, Kieran McDermott, Eoghan Collins, Martin McDonagh, Eanna McNamara, Adrian Phillips, James Cribbin, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Jamail Kezze, Nial Cherbatji, Hanan Iqbal, Jarlath Carney, Gearoid



Under-12 County Hurling Finalists 2005. Back, L-R: Hannan Iqbal, Morgan Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Ryan Kilbane, Sheraz Ul Hussan, John Flynn, Andrew McCormack, Sean Griffin, Kieran McDermott, Darren Nolan, Conor Nolan, Jarlath Carney, Patrick Kiely, Haseeb Arshad, Gearoid Kean, Shane Murphy. Front, L-R: Damien Callaghan, Shane Healy, Lisa O'Connell, Joseph Lyons, Mohammed Ahmad, Bilal Amin, Sean Lannon, Joseph Kelly, James Lyons, Isaac Carroll, Farhan Ahmad, Haseeb Arshad, Stephen Ryan, Aisling Tarpey.

Keane, Morgan Lyons, Shane Healy, Eugene Durkin, Cyril Collins and John McCormack. Management Team: Peadar Walsh, Marty Keane and John Durkin.

Joe Webb Cup

Eoghan Collins' team won the Joe Webb Cup on a wet and windy Saturday in October, beating Gearoid Keane's team. If all players had shown the type of determination and spirit during the league as they showed in this game we may have picked up a few points. Eoghan's team ran out victors and was presented with the Joe Webb cup by Marita Webb. All players later enjoyed refreshments compliments of the Webb family. Thanks to the Webb family for their continued support to our club.

Under-13 Football

We were in Division 2B for the Under 13 league. With a strong panel we commenced training in July. This competition allows only one solo and one hop. In hindsight this rule probably didn't help us as we have some very skillful players who are restricted by the rule, however the rule is there for a greater good, that is to involve as many players as possible into the game and to improve passing skills. We started off the league campaign with a dramatic victory over Ballintubber. Anyone who was in Ballintubber that evening saw a game of football that had everything: goals, shot blocks, penalties, goal line clearances and, above all, committed players from both sides who played an expansive, skillful game of football and in the true spirit of sportsmanship. We followed up with a victory over The Neale and Claremorris at home. We lost to Shrile at home and with the benefit of a last minute penalty drew away at Davitts. This set us up nicely for a semi final encounter with Knockmore in Kiltimagh. We were ready for this game and on the day were

focused enough to take advantage of good 1st half possession, to have the game wrapped up at half time leading by 10 points. We eventually ended up comprehensive victors and secure a place against Claremorris in the Final. Missing a key player due to injury we were always going to struggle against a team that we just beat by a point earlier in the league. Unfortunately we got off to a bad start by losing the toss and had to face a stiff wind in the first half. We were 7 points down at half time, only scoring 1 point. We got an early goal in the second half and were unlucky to hit the crossbar for the second which would have ignited the fight back. Eventually we were beaten well and alas the elusive county medal went a-begging. However, we regrouped and had the usual post match discussions in the GAA Clubhouse over refreshments compliments of Austin Grogan & Sons. As a general note I have to say that this bunch of young teenagers are a credit to their parents, families and teachers in that they are as committed and dedicated as any team. They also took defeat as they should, but needed no reminding that next year is around the corner.

Panel: Cathal Fahy, Patrick Kiely, Kieran Kiely, Jarleth Carney, Conor Freeley, James Cribbin, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Shane Healy, Hanan Iqbal, Gearoid Keane, Ryan Worden, Eoin Collins, Pdraig Waldron, Kieran Mc Dermott, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Eanna Mc Namara, Gerard Grogan, Adrian Phillips, Isaac Carroll, Damien Keadin. Management: Peadar Walshe, Marty Keane.

Under-14 Football

The players, managers and supporters of the Ballyhaunis under-14 team 2005 who collected three trophies and remained unbeaten throughout the year will be long remembered in our Club. The first game of the year proved no indication of the year ahead with



Under-14 football team. Back, L-R: Vinnie Caulfield, John Collins, Bernard Waldron, Paul Freeley, David McNamara, Adrian Ruane, Paul Carney, Joseph Flynn, Pdraic Waldron, Isaac Carroll, Daniel Ward, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Cathal Fahy, Pat Freeley, Brian Phillips. Front, L-R: Gerard Grogan, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Rory Collins, Kieran Kiely, Ryan Worden, Conor Freeley, Damien Keadin (Capt.), Eoin Collins, Faraz Ul Hussan, John F. McDonagh, Kevin Morley, Cyril Collins. Missing: Kevin Moran.



Ballyhaunis Senior Football Team. Back, L-R: David Nestor, Keith Higgins, Ciaran Griffin, Mark Patterson, Joe Freeley, Fergal Kelly, Pheilm Carroll, Jason Morley, Declan Doyle, Liam Lyons, Stephen Shanaghy. Front, L-R: Paul Jordan, Brian Mulrennan, Hugh Carney, Paul Prenty (Capt.), Paul Finn, Derek McConn, Christy McCrudden, Robert Grogan, John Prenty. Missing: David Hannan, Ian Prenty, Brendan Rudden & Tony Morley.

sterling performances from Paul Freeley, Daniel Ward and Paul Carney. Claremorris arrived with a team they felt had been their strongest for years. Ballyhaunis started slowly but recovered their confidence and fought all the way to record a victory by 4-10 to 4-7. Strong performances recorded by Conor Freeley, Kieran Kiely, Adrian Ruane and Kevin Moran. Further wins against Parke, Round Towers, Garrymore, Ballinrobe and Crossmolina meant that Ballyhaunis qualified for the semi-final of the League against Moy Davitts. As the first encounter had been so close, a tough game was envisaged but the improvements within the squad were obvious when they went out easy winners on a score line of 4-16 to 3 points. This set up a final meeting with Claremorris who were anxious for revenge. From the start it was clear that Ballyhaunis were in a mood for victory and revenge for Claremorris would have to be put on hold. Clever, quick passing movements with some clinical finishing proved decisive on the day. Having won the League, expectations were high when we set out to win the East Mayo championship. The semi-final against Kilmovee proved a total mismatch and team captain John F. McDonagh had no problem leading his charges to another final where they were to face Moy Davitts. Confidence was high but Moy Davitts battled hard before going under on a score line 6-12 to 2-5. Islandeady now lay in wait in the County Semi-final where we emerged victorious. Shrulc-Glencorrib were the opponents in the final and with forwards that had earned themselves a huge reputation for their scoring ability, however our defence were excellent and laid the foundation for victory. This was an all round team performance and had it not been for the Shrulc-Glencorrib Goalie, the final score line of 3-21 to 0-7

could have been a lot worse. Damien Keadin accepted the trophy on behalf of his team and also accepted an award for his man of the match performance.

We are indebted to team trainer Brian Phillips, selectors Pat Freeley, Bernard Waldron and John Collins. Thanks also to Cathal Carroll for transport, Sean Waldron Construction for his generous sponsorship, Ian Daly, Vincent Caulfield and Michael Gallagher who provided back up support.

The Panel included: Joseph Flynn, Ryan Worden, Kieran Kiely, Paul Freeley, Damien Keadin, Conor Freeley, David McNamara, Adrian Ruane, Isaac Carroll, Daniel Ward, Paul Carney, Rory Collins, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Padraic Waldron, Eoghan Collins, Cathal Fahy, Farz Ul Hassan, Kevin Morley, John F. McDonagh, Ayaz Ul Hussan, Mohammed Cherabatji, Gerard Grogan, David Lyons, Kieran McDermott, Gearoid Keane, Gareth Carrick, Kevin Moran, Sean Ronayne.

U-14 Hurling

The U-14 Hurling team had a mixed season. With a young team they reached the semi-final of the Feile Na nGael competition only to lose to a much stronger Castlebar team who won the competition. On to the semi-final of the County Championship to lose to a stronger Tooreen team who went on to win the championship. They then took part in the newly inaugurated Connacht Feile Na nGael, where they won all their matches and received equipment to the value of €1,000, from Connacht GAA Council, for the Club.

Panel: Paul Carney, Isaac Carroll, Rory Collins, Cathal Fahy, David Fitzmaurice, Kevin Fitzmaurice, John Flynn, Joseph Flynn, Paul Freeley, Sean Griffin, Damien Keadin, Gearoid Keane, Kieran

Kiely, David Lyons, Andrew McCormack, Kieran McDermott, Kevin Morley, Aiden Richardson, Sean Ronayne, Faraz Ul Hussein, Ayaz Ul Hussein. Mentors: Ray Lucey, John Tynan, Peter Higgins, Howard Morley and all the parents who helped during the year. He also wishes to congratulate Sean Ronayne who came second in the Skill Star competition.

Under-15 Football

The Under-15 team began their league with a wins over Moy Davitts by 5-10 to 4-9 Kiltimagh 3-12 to 0-6, Ballinrobe, by 7-8 to 3-6, Shrul Glencorrib, by 5-10 to 1-4 then qualified to meet Claremorris in the final which they duly won 3-4 to 1-7. In the county semi-final we played Westport and won by 2-14 to 0-11. We lost the final 1-18 to 2-7 to Breaffy who were a better team on the day. This team has now qualified to play in Division 1 of the U-16 league next year and if they work hard enough over the winter they will do well. Congratulations to Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron and John Gallagher on making the U-15 School of Excellence and looking forward to seeing a few more of our players joining them on the County U-16 panel next year. The Management team included Michael Gallagher, John Prenty, Cathal Carroll, Des Ruane, and Vinney Caulfield.

Panel: Tadgh Morley, Adrian Ruane, Brian Hunt, David McNamara, Kevin Nestor, Paul Higgins, Isaac Carroll, Brian Waldron, John Gallagher, Daniel Warde, Liam McDermott, Kamran Afzal, Jonathan Maughan, Ruari Finan, Damien Keadin, Kevin Moran, Paul Carney, Paul Freeley, Zahir Javid, Joseph Flynn Niall Assilia, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Cathal Fahey, Kieran Kiely, Shane Nolan, Rory Collins, Ayaz Ul Hussan.

Under-16 Football

Our Under-16 team had an excellent campaign and showed excellent commitment all year. In the League we had victories over Ardmoy, Ballaghaderreen, St. Gerard's, Kiltane and Islandeady with defeats by Davitts, Achill and Moy Davitts. In the County League Semi-final we travelled to Ballindine to play the home side and after a tremendous game the eventual county champions defeated us. In the East Mayo championship we defeated Ballaghaderreen and Moy Davitts to qualify for the East Mayo Final. After a wonderful display of football we took the East Mayo title when defeating Eastern Gaels. The County Semi-final was played in a windy Ballyheane and despite turning over against the gale losing by 3 points we were unable to hold out against a much stronger Burrishoole side. Our disappointment was compounded when a Kiltane team we had defeated by double scores in Bangor went on to take the county title.

Panel: Rory Finan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Brian Hunt, Enda Griffin, Tadgh Morley, Robert Frayne,

Aidan Fitzmaurice, John Gallagher, Brian Waldron, Niall Prenty, Kevin Nestor, Stephen Hoban, John Jordan, David McNamara, Paul Walsh, Daniel Warde, John Maughan, Liam McDermott, Nadeem Cherbatji, Mohammad Cherbatji, Kamron Afzal, Niall Assilia, Patrick Freeley.

U-16 Hurling

Our U-16 team started with good wins over Ballina, North Mayo, Ballyheane and Castlebar. We then played in the League Final, but lost to near rivals, Tooreen. We lost to Tooreen in the championship by a couple of points in the first round. We won our next three matches, making sure we competed in the "A" Final. Again, despite a huge effort we came second to Tooreen again. All players put in a big effort and despite the lack of silverware the future looks promising

Panel: Kamron Afzal, Paul Carney, Isaac Carroll, Cathal Fahy, Joseph Flynn, Paul Freeley, Robert Freyne, Niall Feeney, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Zaheer Javid, David Lyons, Liam McDermott, Tadgh Morley, Kevin Morley, Declan Murphy, Shane Nolan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Niall Prenty, Aiden Richardson, Sean Ronayne, Ayaz Ul Hussein, Brian Waldron.

Under-17 Football

The Under-17 championship has just commenced and we had a comprehensive victory over Ballinrobe in the Quarter Final. We presently await a Semi-Final date with Aghamore with the winners due to meet either Swinford or Burrishoole in the County Final. This team has lots of potential and hopes to do well in the Minor Championship and League in 2006.

Panel: Conor Mulrennan, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Kevin Higgins, David Healy, Robert Frayne, Niall Prenty, Adrian Brennan, David Maughan, Padraig Cribbin, Enda Griffin, Michael Waldron, Kevin Gallagher, Brian Gallagher, John Gallagher, Stephen Hoban, Arslan Zahir, Seamus O Dwyer, Tadgh Morley, Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron, John Jordan, Johnny Maughan, Paul Walsh, Mohammed Cherbatji, Nadeem Cherbatji, Luke Cribbin, Declan Murphy.

Minor Football

Training for the Under-18 panel began in March in preparation for the league. We lost our first game narrowly to Garrymore, drew with Kilmeena, lost by 3 points to Castlebar B, defeated Aghamore by 7 points, lost to Breaffy by 5 points, won against Parke by 12 points, drew with Louisburgh and received walkovers from Kilcommon and Bonniclon. We lost out on a semi-final place by one point. During the year the club played host to the Warwickshire County team who

were Provincial champions of Britain, in a very entertaining game. In the East Mayo championship we lost to Aghamore. We played challenge games against Eastern Gaels and Mayo North East U-16 selection and a team from Birmingham.

Panel: Conor Mulrennan, Arslan Arfzal, Adrian Brennan, Fawaz Asillia, Padraig Cribbin, Niall Prenty, Austin Lyons, Kevin Gallagher, Aidan Fitzmaurice, David Healy, Brian Gallagher, Michael Waldron, John Mongan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Enda Griffin, Brian Waldron, John Jordan, John Gallagher, Tadgh Morley, Stephen Hoban, Fergal Lyons, William Lyons, David Maughan, Kevin Higgins. Management team: Michael Gallagher, John Prenty.

Minor Hurling

We played our first game against Tooreen, which we lost by a goal on a windy day, thus leaving us having to play last years champions. We lost to Castlebar by two points, which put an end to the dream of a promising young team led by joint Captains, Fergal and Austin Lyons.

Manager: J.P.Coen; Selectors: Howard Morley, John Joe Hoban, Gerry Kilbride, Ray Lucey, Peter Higgins.

Panel: Joseph Kelly, Fergal Lyons, Austin Lyons, Kevin Gallagher, Aiden Brennan, Kieran Lucey, Patrick Kelly, Arslan Afzal, Kamran Afzal, Stephen Hoban, Luke Cribbin, Robert Frayne, Brian Gallagher, Declan Murphy, Niall Feeney, Seamus O'Dwyer, Brian Waldron, Tadgh Morley, Brian Hunt.

Under-21 Football

In the Under-21 Championship we were drawn with Breaffy, Garrymore and Parke in our section. Although Breaffy defeated a weakened team in the first round we qualified for the county quarter finals with St Gerard's.

We lost by the minimum margin after a very close encounter during which four of our top players had to leave the field injured. We were extremely disappointed as we felt that a county title was within our grasp.

Panel: Stephen Shanaghy, Declan Ward, Liam Lyons, Ciaran Griffin, Patrick Waldron, John Prenty, Paul Jordan, David Hannan, Ian Prenty, Robert Grogan, Connor Mulrennan, Brian Mulrennan, Christy Burke, Phelim Carroll, Michael Waldron, Niall Richardson. Selectors: John Prenty, Padraig Regan and Peadar Walsh.

Senior Football

Our Senior team had a reasonably year which commenced with a victory over Davitts to take the Padraic Prendergast Cup. In the League we had victories over Aghamore, The Neale, Islandeady, Lahardane and Parke. We lost to Balla, Burrishoole, Louisburgh and Bonniconlon and unfortunately in the vital game for promotion Kilcommon defeated us. In the Championship we were paired with Bonniconlon, Castlebar Mitchels and Burrishoole. In the first game we had a hard fought victory over Bonniconlon at home. Our next two games were away against eventual county champions Castlebar Mitchels where we lost by the minimum margin after losing Stephen Shanaghy and Keith Higgins to serious injury. We traveled to Newport fighting for survival but were defeated by county finalists Burrishoole by 3 points. This set up a vital game with Davitts whom we defeated by 0-13 to 0-8 after an excellent performance. Overall the team put in a huge effort during the year and hopefully success will not be far away in 2006.

Panel: John Doyle, Peter Meenan, Brendan Rudden, Peadar Walshe, Tony Morley, Jason Morley, P. J. Fleming, Andrew Shanaghy, Paul Prenty (Capt.), Ian

Prenty, Christy McCrudden, Liam Lyons, Ciaran Griffin, John Vahey, Brian Mulrennan, Hugh Carney, Robert Grogan, Padraig Carney, Derek McConn, Stephen Shanaghy, Keith Higgins, Phelim Carroll, Jimmy O'Boyle, Paul Finn, Declan Doyle, Sean Hunt, Fergal Kelly, Mark Patterson, Derek Walsh, Alan Regan, James Mulrennan, Patrick Keane, John Prenty, Paul Jordan, John Waldron, William Nestor, David Nestor, David Hannan, Joe Freeley, Danny Carroll. Manager: Fergal Kelly. Selectors: Kurt Reinhardt, John Higgins, Gerry Winston.



John Tynan (Capt.) and Pierce Higgins of the Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling team bring the T. J. Tyrrell Cup to Scoil Iosa, Ballyhaunis. Pictured with Mr. Jim Lundon (Principal) and pupils.

Senior Hurling

Ballyhaunis Senior Hurlers retained the T. J. Tyrrell Senior Hurling Championship in 2005. Having won the title in 2002 we were knocked out in 2003. Back again in 2004 we overcame Tooreen in the final and this year we accounted for Westport. Our year got off to a start with the Senior B Genfitt Cup competition. The first game at home to Tooreen ended in a 0-12 to 1-09 draw. We followed this with a 2-06 to 1-07 win over James Stephens, Ballina. The Semi-final was contested against Belmullet at Ballina and we emerged victorious on a score line of 2-10 to 0-09. Due to a multitude of injuries we contested the game with a much-depleted panel. Westport were very determined on the evening ran out winners by a single point on a score line of Westport 2 -10 to Ballyhaunis 3 -06.

The T. J. Tyrrell Senior Championship began for us with home venue to Castlebar Mitchells. We got off to a flying start with five of six forwards, two centre-fields and one of our half-backs getting on the score sheet. The game ended on a score line of 2-17 to 1-07 in favour of Ballyhaunis. The following Sunday we had an equally good win against James Stephens at Ballina. The final score was Ballyhaunis 2 - 16 to James Stephens 1 - 05. Ballyhaunis were brought back to earth in our next outing in opposition was our neighbors with Tooreen scoring 2-11 to our 0-10. The result was the wake up call that was needed. When we fielded a month later against Westport we had an emphatic win on a score line of 2-17 to Westport's 1-03. The last round of the championship was at home to Belmullet and victory with a score of 4-19 to 1-04 left us in the semi-final. In the semi-final we were paired with James Stephens' and qualified for the County Final on a scoreline of 3-13 to Ballina's 0-10. The other semi-final saw Tooreen lose out to a very dogged and determined Westport on a score line of Westport 1-16 to Tooreen's 1-14.

The County Football and Hurling finals were held at Castlebar. Ballyhaunis lined out at full strength but lost Pierce Higgins through injury early in the game. In a hard-fought first half we went in leading by 1-05 to 0-5. In the second half the Ballyhaunis backs batted down the hatches and Westport were held scoreless from play and with only 2 pointed frees were no match for the Ballyhaunis lads who added a further 2 goals and 5 points. On behalf of the team Captain John Tynan accepted the T. J. Tyrrell Cup and our scorer in chief Keith Higgins was awarded the Man Of The Match accolade.

In the Connacht Club Championship we were drawn against Four Roads, the Roscommon Champions, in the preliminary round but were unfortunately defeated by 2-15 to 1-10. The commitment given by the whole panel and management throughout the year was justly rewarded.

We came together 80 times during the season for training and games.

Panel: Joe Kelly, Derek Walsh, John Tynan, Padraic Carney, Paul Lynch, Jason Powers, Barry Keogh, Pierce Higgins, Tadhg Buckley, Derek McConn, Keith Higgins, Hugh McKermitt, Christopher McCrudden, Paul McConn, Liam Lyons, Fergal Walshe, Hugh Carney, Stephen Carney, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Tom Phillips, John Paul Coen, Brian Gallagher, Pat Kelly, Stephen Hoban, Adrian Brennan, Rizwan Afzul, Luke Cribbin, Andrew Shanaghy, Frank Browne. Management: John Joe Hoban, David McConn, Martin McDermott.

County Players

Throughout the year players from Ballyhaunis GAA Club made significant contributions to County Panels:

Senior Football: John Prenty, Keith Higgins.

Junior Football: Paul Prenty.

U-21 Football: Keith Higgins; John Prenty.

U-16 Football: Seamus O'Dwyer, Aidan Fitzmaurice. Niall Prenty.

U-15 Football School of Excellence: John Gallagher, Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron.

U-14 Football Development Panel (Mayo) David McNamara, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Paul Carney and Daniel Warde.

Senior Hurling: Derek Walsh, Paul Lynch, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Austin Lyons, Liam Lyons. The Mayo hurlers won division 3 of the NHL and were captained by Derek Walsh.

U-18 Hurling: Joseph Kelly, Pat Kelly, Stephen Hoban, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Brian Gallagher, Kevin Gallagher, Tadhg Morley Jason Swords

U-16 Hurling: Stephan Hoban, Brian Waldron, Brian Hunt, Tadhg Morley, Kamran Afzal, Liam McDermott. A special word of mention to the above players who went on to win an All Ireland U-16 C Final.

U-15 Hurling School of Excellence: Tadhg Morley, Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron, Kamran Afzal, Liam McDermott.

U-14 Mayo Hurling Development Squad: Damien Keadin, Paul Carney, Sean Ronayne, Joseph Flynn, David Lyons, Paul Freeley.

Congratulations also to Pierce Higgins and Keith Higgins who were selected to play on the Connacht Hurling team and were part of the panel that won the M. Donnelly Interprovincial competition. Congratulations are also due to Christopher Morley and Keith Higgins who both won a Ryan Cup title in Hurling and Keith who won a Sigerson Cup title in Football with Sligo I.T.

‘De Labore Solis’ – A Poetic Tribute to Pope John Paul II

A man was born in Poland, over eighty years ago,
And he was destined surely, Christ’s great love this world
to show.

He lost his mother when still young, no doubt
‘twas hard on him,
Yet he soon turned to Mary as his loving mother then.

Now, Karol was this young man called,
whom God would choose some day,
To be a Christian leader and guide many on Christ’s way.
Some time he did spend working hard,
beneath a scorching sun,
Yet, he felt called to be a priest, for God his heart had won.

He next became Archbishop of the city of Cracow,
The communists then ruled his land,
but he’d not to them bow.
He witnessed to Christ’s teaching,
both in preaching and in print,
But most of all in action, wheresoever that man went.

Yes, Karol he was chosen to be pope and to succeed
Saint Peter the apostle, and the flock of Christ to feed.
He reigned as pope for many years,
and travelled this world o’er,
For sure the likes had not been done by any pope before.

He came to visit Ireland, it was 1979,
And great crowds did assemble, to hear Pope John Paul
that time.
He told the youth of Ireland that he loved them all one day,
And everywhere this good man went,
with people he did pray.

He deeply loved Our Lady, was devoted to her Son,
And many souls, down through the years,
by him for Christ were won.
He spoke much of the dignity of every human being,
He sought to put an end to wars, and bring peace
on the scene.

A fearless champion he was, of the rights of the unborn,
His voice he raised on their behalf,
he’d not leave them forlorn.

A man of learning and indeed a scholar great was he,
But most of all a man of prayer – ‘twas clear for all to see.

He had a sense of humour and he was an athlete too,
Who ski’d o’er many mountain slopes, in Poland,
which he knew.

John Paul he was courageous and, it seems,
he feared no one,
He felt he was protected by Our Lady and her Son.
He reached out to the sick and well,

to young and old and all,
To folk from many cultures, and religions great and small.

He suffered much in many ways, at one time he was shot,
Yet still, despite his troubles hard, he never bitter got.
He spoke of Divine Mercy and of Christ’s forgiveness too,
And many of his insights came down from the God he knew.

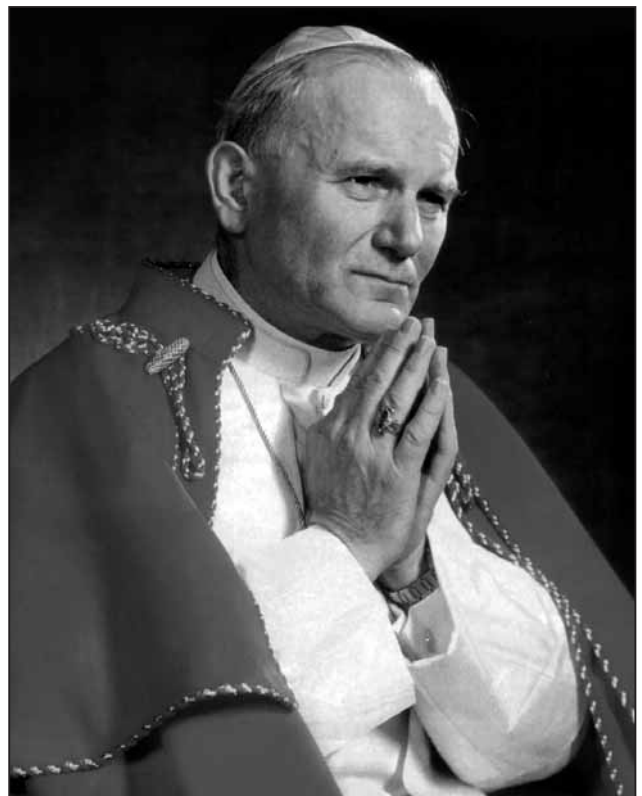
As pope, he had a special love for Mary’s Rosary,
He prayed it often, everywhere, whenever he was free.
Indeed, he was devoted to the Holy Eucharist,
And Mass was clearly central to his life, he’d not it miss.

Pope John Paul stressed the goodness of the human family,
Of human rights and freedom, with responsibility.
He wrote on diverse subjects, and his writings are profound,
Therein are riches for the soul, there wisdom may be found.

We thank the Lord of all the world for Pope John Paul
the Great,
His memory will long cherished be, in many lands
and states.

Fr. Kieran Burke

*Note: the title ‘De Labore Solis’ refers to the Latin
designation ascribed to Pope John Paul in the “Prophecies”
attributed to Saint Malachy.*



What The Dickens?

- By Joe Kenny (*Knox Street and Tullamore*)

You've heard, I merely sir, enquire, of Ebenezer Scrooge, Esquire
A gentleman of London town, a gentleman of high renown,
A merchant who had at his call much riches,
money, wherewithal,
But still in spite of all his wealth, did little good,
not e'en by stealth.

Through the year his sole intent was to become more affluent,
And month by month he daily strove to maximise
his treasure trove.
Computing sums, and totting tots, contented adding lots to lots.
Assessing assets, raising rent, so much, at such and such per cent.

Then as the year drew to a close, and all around the sound arose
Of greetings, carols, Christmas cheer, Sing Holly there,
Sing Holly here
Scrooge saw no cause to celebrate with glass in hand
and fowl on plate.
No happy games mid snow and ice, to Scrooge it just meant
'sol-is-tice'.

But as you know if you've been good, and read the books you really
should,
All this was changed, transformed fast, by ghosts of Christmas
in the past,
With Angels, Spirits, humans too, who let Scrooge know what
Scrooge should do.
And by a scribe of genius rare,
and heart of love without compare.

And so that man of high renown, that gentleman
of London town
Became a symbol and a name for Yuletide fun and Yuletide fame,
Bob Cratchit, Martha, Tiny Tim thought no one could compare with
him,
This creature, long without a friend,
now master of the happy end.

But life, alas, does not run so, nor did it do so long ago.
You will recall that in the tale were nieces (female),
nephews (male),
Ensuring as each one arrived the famous name
of Scrooge survived.
Christmas lives on, but Ho, Ho, Ho,
Scrooge hasn't gone away you know.

The years passed by, the decades too elapsed as decades
tend to do.
Some said that as each decade went, mankind became
more decadent,
But Christmastime and Christmas cheer was celebrated
year by year.
'God bless us all', said Tiny Tim,
and all the world echoed him.

The nieces and the nephews too grew up and even as they grew
Each fell in love eventually, and wed and raised a family.
Throughout the land they multiplied and even through
the world wide,
Dispensing Yuletide happiness – the race of Ebenezer S.

All men embraced this caring creed; 'to love is good,

not hate, not greed'
And staunchest figure in the cause, its sturdy patron, Santa Claus,
Who has become the Christmas sign of something warm
and benign.
To men of friendship and goodwill,
for years and years and years, until.

Was born a bonny bouncing boy, mid sentiments of pride and joy,
'Nature reveals', 'twas often said, 'all things that in the bone
are bred'.
He looked like any other child, and all who saw him
were beguiled,
Genetics, though, played 'genetricks'.
And dealt the old familiar mix.

An infant with a greedy cry, a greedy grasp, a greedy eye.
His baby face a sullen scowl, his baby voice a sullen howl.
And as admirers gathered near, his first recorded words to hear
No 'Mamma', no 'Dada', and all they heard was
'Humbug, Bah'

Thus setting out to play his part, a toddler with a miser's heart,
Scornful of friends, devoid of grace, ancestral evil in its place.
At Christmas time in childhood's way, he heard the bells,
he saw the sleigh.
A children's world with children's laws,
he heard the tale of Santa Claus.

He'd heard the adult world relate that all things come
to those who wait.
But now he learned that Christmas night much more will come
to those who write
'Seek all you want, and then seek more, just ask, ask,
ask from Santa's store.
What could be more magnificent?
This festival is heaven sent'.

And so with letters and with cards, with fulsome wishes,
kind regards,
'A word to Rudolf, and P.S. to Mrs. Claus, much happiness'.
By airmail in the fastest jet (email not invented yet!)
I ask, I order, I demand – No one could fail to understand.

And Santa going through his mail he understood. He did not fail.
He read the words. He read the signs.
He even read between the lines.
Of selfishness, and avarice, he didn't need to read it twice,
The constant cry for more, more,
more he'd met it centuries before.

And so he set without delay to make reply that very day.
'Young man'...he crossed it out...'Young friend,
I'll start as I would hope to end,
I hope this message will suffice, and you will think on my advice.
One word, CORRECTION, is the plan.
Good manners make a better man'.

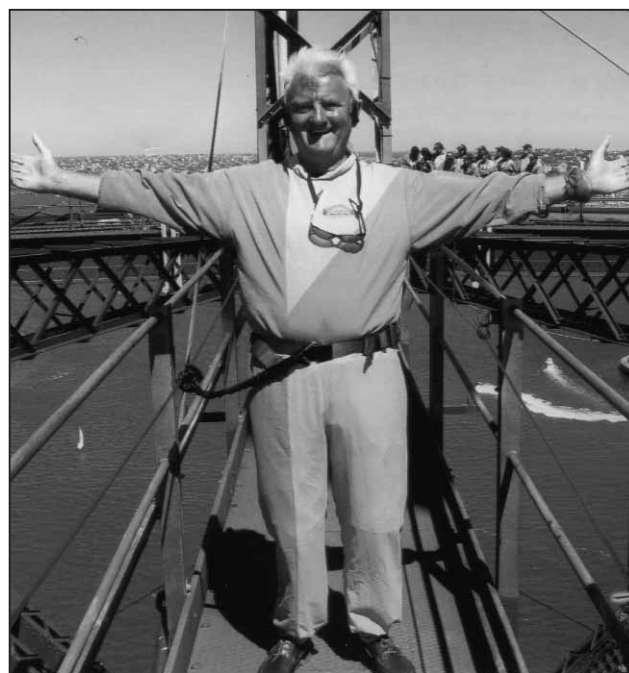
'You ask for all the world by right, you ask for everything in sight,
You send me greeting lovingly, you swear that you believe in me'.
'Bah, I reply, and Humbug too... For I do not believe in you.
Next Christmas please come back to me,
CORRECTED – Greetings, Santa C'.



Lisa Webb pictured with Mike Webb (father) and Sean Webb. Lisa was a member of the Ireland U-17 Soccer team 2005 and has four international caps. She is also a member of the N.U.I.G. Ladies Soccer team.



Alyssa Nestor-Waldron (left) daughter of John Waldron and Aishling Nestor with Jessalyn Jennings (right) daughter of Colin and Collette Jennings. First cousins born eleven days apart on the 5th and 16th of August 2005.



Right: Paddy Philbin, brother of John Joe, flying high on Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Derrymore/Carrowkeel Reunion in the U.S. Back l-r: Patricia, Attracta and Della Byrne. Front l-r: Josephine Byrne, Teresa Biesty, Margaret Byrne and Phil Biesty.

Brothers in Arms

By Colm Gannon (*The Mayo News*)

Ahead of the County Hurling Final, The Mayo News took a look at the influence of the Higgins brothers, Pierce and Keith.

Club finals are synonymous with family affairs and this year's county hurling final is no different as Keith and Pierce Higgins will be taking the field for Ballyhaunis next weekend.

Pierce (28) is the elder of the talented duo but most of the general populous would be rather more aware of his younger kinsman Keith (19) because of his exploits with Mayo on the football field.

Ballyhaunis defender Derek Walsh has grown up playing football and hurling with Pierce and has a keen insight into both brothers' sporting development. "Sure myself and Pierce have been pucking a ball about since we were kids," he recalled last week. "We were neighbours growing up so I've known him as long as I can remember. As for Keith, I can remember when we'd be pucking about, he'd be out there trying to join in. He would have got many a cut off us for it," chuckled Walsh. "We probably went easy on him at times but it didn't do him any harm on the evidence so far.

"I suppose most people would be more aware of Keith because of him playing for the Mayo football team, but he is a fantastic hurler," added the Mayo hurling captain. "He's got an incredible turn of speed and I'd hate to have to try and mark him in a competitive game. One drop of the shoulder and he's gone. His turn of speed is amazing.

"Then you have Pierce who drives the side on from midfield and his determination to the cause is second to none. We would have played on teams all the way up right through to today. We wouldn't have been the most successful at underage but he has been a great player for the club and county down through the years and he is a very integral part of this side that is going for a two-in-a-row this season.

The performance of Keith Higgins from his centre-forward berth has been one of the real high-points for Mayo hurling this season. His display in the county semi-final – where he shot 0-8 against Ballina – was a true man of the match display, as he bossed the game and was at the heart of all good things for his side.

The young dual player won a Sigerson Cup with IT Sligo back in the Spring and has had a more hectic season than most this year. He also nailed down a spot on the Mayo senior football team at corner-back as well as lining out with the county hurlers very other week. The dedication that he has shown to both codes is something that should be commended according to Derek Walsh.

"He has put in an awful lot this season for both codes. When he got injured this year it must have been strange for him to be out on the sideline as he

would have been all go before that. It was a great boost to have him back for Mayo before the Derry game because it gave the side a huge lift. It was so important for us to retain our Christy Ring status. I don't know that many players who could keep the candle lit at both ends as much as he has this year."

So after overcoming an awkward dislocation to his elbow in early summer, Keith Higgins is back fighting fit. Along with his big brother Pierce, they are have Westport in their sights and will be leading the Ballyhaunis effort from the front.



Michael Donnelly (Sponsor), Kay Higgins (mother), Sean Kelly, Úachtarán C.L.G., Keith Higgins and Peter Higgins (father) with The Donnelly Cup.



Tommy Carroll, Knox Street in front of the statue of Christ The Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The deadline for submitting articles & photographs for next years Annagh is Friday 20th October 2006.

Ballyhaunis Community Council

By Stephen Grogan

The Community Council works to improve the Social and Cultural life of all people living in the Ballyhaunis area. Established in 2001, the Community Council is an organisation which is open to all people living in the area. It works to develop projects and activities that will bring new services to the town and which supports voluntary groups to carry out their particular activities. The development of the Children's Playground on the grounds of St. Mary's Abbey is one such example of the work of the Community Council developed in partnership with Mayo County Council. The Community Council acts as a partner to a number of agencies enabling projects and services to be developed locally. The work of the Tidy Towns Committee and other voluntary groups is supported by the Community Council, whose status as a company has allowed a number of workers to be engaged under the Rural Social Scheme for farmers.

The Community Council is a full partner in the Abbey Partnership - the body responsible for developing St. Mary's Abbey and grounds for the benefit of all the people living in the area. It is also one of the partners in the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust, appointing 4 out of the 10 Trustee's responsible for St. Mary's Abbey and grounds. The Community Council has a number of sub-committees which work to develop and improve certain aspects of local life. These sub-committees cover the Tidy Towns, Townland signage, Children's Needs, Abbey Partnership and

Neighbourhood Watch.

2005 has seen the Community Council become active in arranging activities with children and young people following the grant aid provided by the Department of Rural, Community and Gaeltacht Affairs last year. A Children's Art Club which runs in the Priory at St. Mary's Abbey was established providing art activities to 20 children each Saturday morning. The Saturday Art Club, which is provided by an American and Russian art teachers - David Weidner and Olga Alifanova, has proven very popular and the Council hopes to continue this into 2006. A photography and digital imaging course for teenagers was also run by the Community Council over the summer, by Slovakian couple Jana and Jaroslav Jurak, which again proved popular, showing that young people have a wide variety of interests and talents just waiting to be tapped into.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the end of April where a new committee was appointed composed of Stephen Grogan (Chairperson), Jarlath Walshe (Treasurer), Paula Grogan (Secretary), Fr. Kieran Burke, Maura Caulfield, Stephen Finn, Enda Murphy, Michael Kelly and Seamus O'Boyle. A successful Church Gate Collection was held during May which raised over €900 contributed by local people, which was much appreciated. The Council is a voluntary body which relies on your involvement and support.



L-R: Mike Griffin, Paula Grogan, Michael Kelly, Maura Caulfield, Jarlath Walsh, Frances Maye, Enda Caulfield, Willie Ryan (Outgoing Chairman), Fr. Kieran Burke, Jim London, Enda Murphy, Seamus O'Boyle, Edward Mulhern, Mary Donnelly and Stephen Finn.

A Pig Killing

This remarkable set of photographs has been sent to us from Colleen Mullen from Long Island, New York, U.S.A., and depict a number of scenes from a 'pig killing', apparently at the Rogers family farm in Tullaughane, Ballyhaunis in 1929. The original photographs belonged to Colleen's father's mother, Nancy Rogers from Tullaughane. Nancy was daughter of John Rogers and was one of eight children. She left Ireland in the early 1920s and landed in Hyannis, Massachusetts after ten days on the boat. She came to Long Island, New York where she married John Mullen. She passed away when Colleen's father was only a teenager. The captions are those that appear on the originals.

Colleen's other grandmother is Mrs. Margaret Finnegan, Bohoge, Ballyhaunis.



Michael Finnegan butchering pig, Dec. 1929



Holding the pig's blood after being killed



Having some of the Mountain Dew, Dec. 1929

The Abbey Male Choir

By Eamon Murren

The Abbey Male Choir continues to flourish despite the closure of our spiritual home. We sing at Mass in the Parish Church twice monthly. This year we also performed at numerous weddings. We also sang in Knock at the annual Novena. Once again this year we returned to the Abbey to sing at Mass before the annual Pattern. We are most grateful to our musical director Moira Delaney and to our organist Paula Donnellan for their help and dedication.



Nancy Rogers, Tullaughane. "Taken outside the house, starting for Knock, 1930."

Settling in Ballyhaunis

By Ewelina Gierek

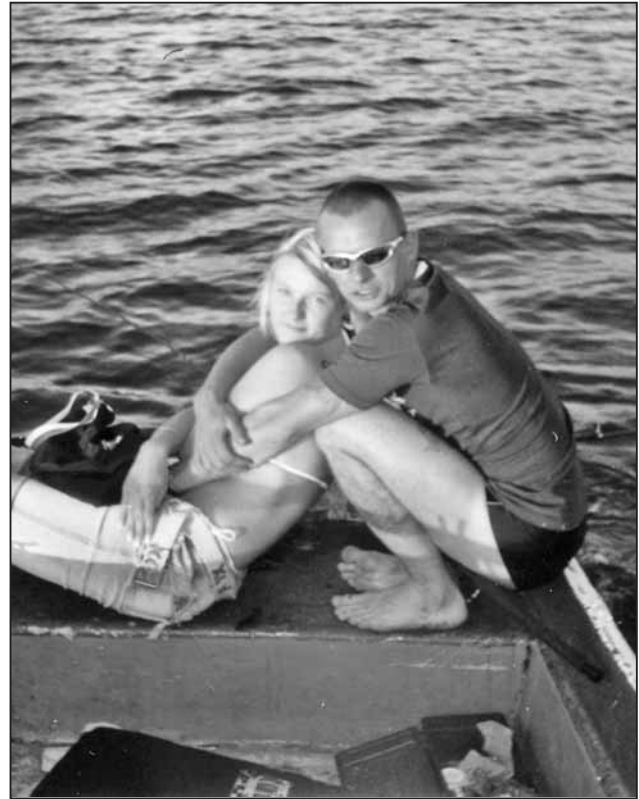
May 1st 2004 - when Poland joined the European Union - was a breakthrough, as many young people started to move to other countries. The reason was very simple: no work and a low standard of living at home. In our case we decided to come over to Ireland. Ireland was one of the first countries that opened its borders to foreigners. Many people ask why this country? The answer to the question is not easy. We heard about Ireland before and thought that place was cold all the time with lots of rain every day. Of course this is partly true: the weather is usually cold, but on the other hand the people here are welcoming and friendly.

Ireland is quite similar to Poland. We have the same culture, history and faith. Over 99% of the Polish people are Catholic. I think we made a great decision to settle in Ballyhaunis, a small town with its lovely people. We are also very happy that most of us found good jobs and we are able to live here in good positions and help our families.

Poland is a huge and beautiful country and its total population is over 40 million. It is still our home and we will always miss it very much. It is very sad if your own homeland cannot give you a chance to live honourably and people from all branches of society have emigrated. I sincerely hope that will change soon.

I wish to mention Pope John Paul II who died earlier this year. This was a great shock for us all. He was a wonderful person who united people from all over the world. On the occasion, Canon Cooney from Ballyhaunis and Father Commins from Cloonfad helped us to organise a celebratory Mass in honour of John Paul II. It was a truly emotional experience.

I would like to say 'Thank you' to all the



Ewelina Gierek and Przemek Kuwasiborski

generous people whom I met on my way and who have tried to help me in many situations. Also a special thanks to all the local companies and all the Ballyhaunis community who collected funds for the funeral of a young Polish boy who was killed in a tragic traffic accident.

Someday, if I decide to go back to Poland for good I know many beautiful memories will stay inside me forever.

Ballyhaunis children come out to play

By Denise Horan (*The Mayo News*)

Peals of laughter and squeals of delight filled the Ballyhaunis air back in late April, as local schoolchildren sampled the myriad attractions of the town's newly-opened playground. The Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Mr Eddie Staunton, was present on the day to officially open the state-of-the-art play facility, located on the site of the old Augustinian Friary, while Canon Cooney, PP, was on hand to bless the ground.

When the Augustinian order departed Ballyhaunis in 2002, they left a 15-acre site in trust to the community, and it has since been looked after by the Abbey Partnership. It was through the Partnership - with the support of Mayo County Council and the Department of Children (who provided half the funding) - that the project came to be realised, as local councillor, John Cribbin explained. "Since I was first elected in 1999, I was aware that a playground was one of the main needs and wants of the community. I approached the County Manager immediately, and, in fairness to him, he told me that if we could provide a site, he would come up with the funding. "In 2002, the Augustinian site was left to the people of Ballyhaunis, and a site was presented for the playground. Now, at a cost of €120,000, it has finally come to fruition and we are proud to reveal the largest playground in the county and one of the most modern in the country," he said.

As well as having swings, slides and all the usual attractions associated with a playground, the Ballyhaunis facility is also wheelchair accessible and has public seating, where parents can sit down and monitor their children from a safe distance. "Heretofore, parents had to travel to places like Castlerea for these facilities, but now they're available on their own doorstep. We have a large young population, which is growing all the time, and something like this was badly-needed."

Fighting Their Way To The Top

Ballyhaunis has had a long and distinguished boxing history, with many well known and highly regarded exponents of the sport having come from in and around the town. Names like Jim Coffey, Frank Glynn, the Regan brothers, the Benson brothers readily come to mind when the story of Boxing in Ballyhaunis is recalled. In England today, two men with strong Ballyhaunis connections are prominent boxing coaches and mentors. Both have contributed to the growth and development of the sport in their own areas, and have mentored International and Olympic champions. Both too have featured in glowing media reports in the last year, including the ones reproduced here.

Paddy Benson

Paddy Benson was one of four sons of the late Brodie and May Benson, Upper Main St.; his brothers were Harry, Ciaran and Gerry. Paddy was a member of the Ballyhaunis Minor Football team in 1952, was All-Ireland Welterweight Champion in the late fifties, and represented Ireland in Boxing. He emigrated to England in 1960. The following is from a feature by Paul King in "The Harp" (a newspaper for the Irish community in the English Midlands), November 2002.

Hidden among the pubs and industrial estates of Digbeth (Birmingham) lies a small boxing club, often forgotten or ignored by the people of Birmingham, but still in existence after the best part of a century. In its present form, Small Heath Amateur Boxing Club (ABC) is 29 years old, yet it possesses a rich history stretching back to the First World War.

Known for many years as the Irish Forrester's, the club has always retained both its strong links with the Irish community and its reputation as one of the most successful amateur boxing organisations in the land. In 1960 a young Irishman, Pat Benson, came to England in search of work and joined the Ladywood ABC.

A native of Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, Pat was a boxer of considerable talent, having won the Irish Welterweight Championship in the late 1950s. At the time, Small Heath ABC was enjoying one of its most successful periods under the guidance of Steve Hayden, supplying no less than three boxers for an England v Ireland International fixture, in the shape of Lou Yarwood, Billy Finnegan and Barney Burns. Unsurprisingly the club was greatly respected both in Britain and Ireland, but with Steve Hayden's untimely death, it was sadly dissolved in 1971.

Proud History

Impressed by its proud history and tradition, and keen to transfer his knowledge of the sport to coaching, Pat Benson decided to reform the club, a monumental task considering that he possessed neither the suitable premises nor the required finance to fully support his plans. In partnership with Dubliner Johnny Kelly, the club was resurrected in 1973, a mere 18 months after its apparent demise. With no funding or sponsorship, the two men had little choice but to 'knock-in-together', a huge personal sacrifice for a club they knew could never provide them with an income. By late 1975, Pat and Johnny had secured the availability of premises in Muntz Street, Small Heath, where they would hold amateur boxing championships in a dance studio for the next eight years. At the end of the lease, and operating as a 'one man band', Pat moved the club to its present location, a three-storey Victorian building in Fazeley Street. With a little help from friends and colleagues, Pat succeeded in raising an initial £600 to pay the rent, much of which came from his own pocket.

The new venue proved to be a great success and in the true tradition of Small Heath ABC, Pat as secretary and coach nurtured an array of brilliant boxers. In 1987 the club was represented by a staggering seven semi-finalists, and four finalists in the



Paddy Benson, Manager and Coach of Small Heath Amateur Boxing Club, Birmingham seated front right with other club members and mentors.

National Amateur Boxing Championships. Darren Sweeney and Paul McColgan were gallantly beaten finalists, the latter receiving 'best loser of the night', signifying both the discipline that Pat instils into his boxers, and the respect his boxers have for him. Triumphantly, brothers Paul and Mark Ramsey became national champions and were rewarded with places in the English Amateur boxing team, before returning to the club to assist Pat. In fact, Small Heath ABC would shortly have a third representative in the English team in the shape of Rowan Williams, who would later fight for Britain in the 1992 Olympic games. The club also renewed its links with Ireland, harking back to the days of the green, white and gold colours sported by the Forrester's. Under Pat's guidance, teams representing Small Heath have regularly participated in cross-channel matches against clubs from Cork, Dublin, Galway and Mayo, whilst the club has entered a host of boxers with Irish connections into Irish championships; many returning with titles.

Of the eight professional boxers to have graduated from Small Heath ABC, the brightest talent

is undoubtedly 19-year-old Matthew Macklin. Having set his sights on winning the British Welterweight title, Macklin has recently turned professional, leaving the club a decade after first walking into the gym as a skinny nine-year-old. During that time, he greatly benefited from Pat's tuition, representing his country 18 times, losing only twice. In 2001, Macklin reached the peak of a phenomenal amateur career, winning the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) welterweight title. Understandably proud, Pat is adamant that the young Macklin can transfer such success to the professional arena where he has sensationally won his first seven fights, six by way of knockout. With success stories such as this, it is a common assumption that Pat has made a handsome profit from his lifetime's devotion to boxing, yet it would be a mistake to associate his or the club's financial position with those in the professional game. "People say to me, you must have made your money out of it; not at all, it has cost me a fortune over the years!" Dedication to sport may have its rewards, but the financial gulf between amateur and professional is still as wide as ever.

Lee Pullen

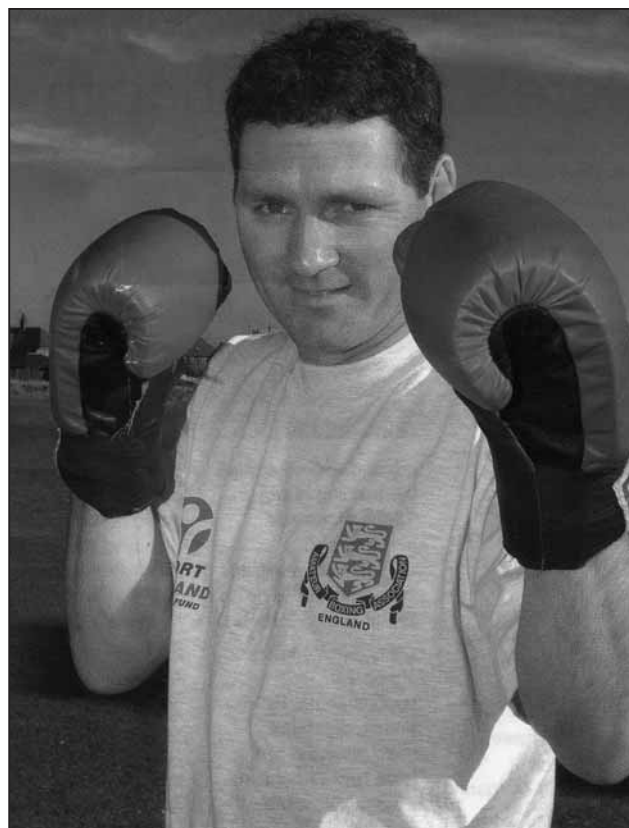
Lee Pullen is Southern Regional Boxing coach in England, is a member of the England Boxing coaching team and was closely involved with coaching Amir Khan, the 2004 Athens Olympic silver medallist. Lee's mother is the former Mary Glynn of Clare Street, and he is grandson of the late Frank and Delia Glynn, Clare St., Ballyhaunis. He works as a technician in Dungeness Power Station in Kent. The item below first featured in an English sports magazine as 'My Boy's A Real Knockout'.

An estimated 11 million people across the country watched boxer Amir Khan's courageous display in the Olympic final, but one ops technician from Dungeness B watched with more interest than most.

Lee Pullen has worked with the Bolton teenager for the last few years as part of his role in the England coaching team and was delighted with Amir's success. "He's a lovely lad from a lovely family and it couldn't have happened to a nicer kid. The pressure he was under was just incredible," said Lee. Lee was part of the coaching team that helped prepare Amir through the tough European qualifying rounds leading up to the Olympics and to a gold medal at the World Championships in Korea. "To qualify for the Olympics through the European route meant we had the toughest opposition to overcome," explained Lee. "Being placed against the dominant strength of the Russian team was a real test of character for all concerned. To win the World gold and Olympic silver within a few weeks is just amazing. Amir has demonstrated truly remarkable potential for such a young man. Although he wasn't old enough to compete in the senior ranks, he was winning everything at junior level and was quickly recognised as having world class attributes."

Following Amir's qualifying tournament win, Lee's journey really took off – all the way to Korea. Lee confesses that it was something which couldn't have

happened without a little help. "Without the continued support of the company, my colleagues at the power station and my family, I would have been unable to take part in this unique opportunity presented to me," he said. And for Lee the hard work and travel has paid off as he has now been made Southern Counties regional boxing coach. "Working with Amir and the England squad over the last two years has just been such a great journey for me," he said. "Just to take part was a pleasure, but I take no credit for Amir's success – that is all down to the boy himself."



Lee Pullen.

The Tax Man Cometh - *By James Cribbin*

‘Show me the money’, that is what I have been doing in the last literary endeavour that I undertook; but I was not showing my money to Eddie Hobbs. I expect that the venture that I am now commencing with pen and paper will be less exacting and hopefully more humorous than my previous effort.

Filling up an income tax form does not allow any scope for fiction and very little for humour, and is seldom submitted to an editor for publication. Income tax matters are usually marked ‘Private and Confidential’. Of course there are those show-offs who go public with those matters by taking centre stage in Dublin Castle, or on the Late Late Show, to tell the nation about their expenses and incomes from various sources. Others choose to be included in the ‘Roll of Honour’ published regularly in the newspapers. Those are the people who do not believe in paying income tax in ‘dribs and drabs’, but pay by the hundreds of thousands of millions in one decent cheque. This is a cost effective way of paying income tax because the same charges apply to a cheque for ten euro or ten million; also a stamp will have ten million delivered as speedily as ten euro. Those people benefit from the free advertising of their business that comes with having their names published in the ‘Roll of Honour’. There was an old proverb often quoted when we were young: ‘Early to Bed, Early to Rise, Makes a Man Healthy, Wealthy and Wise’. This has now been largely discredited by economic theorists who have adapted the proverb to suit modern conditions to read: ‘Early to Bed, Early to Rise, Not worth a damn if you follow the Tax Man’s Advice’.

This doctrine does not apply to the vast, silent majority of taxpayers who have no choice but to follow the taxman’s advice. A lot of bureaucracy has been eliminated for the PAYE sector by the taxman taking his cut before the pay packet is sealed. Many may find this unbelievable, but the first man I ever saw filling up an income tax form was a politician. It was back in the sugar beet growing era. I was sent to the home of Michael Dalgan Lyons in Turlough, a farmer politician and, at the time, an agent for the sugar company. My mission was to get a loading docket (required when sugar beet was to be delivered to the factory at Tuam). Michael D. was sitting at the table, which resembled an office desk more than a kitchen table. He stopped writing and told me what he was at - filling up an income tax form. Affable and humorous as always, he outlined the basics of tax compliance. As I recall the tax form that Dalgan was filling did not differ a lot in format from the one that I mentioned earlier on. While some people find filling up a tax form to be a bit of a headache, Michael D. seemed to be enjoying himself at the task.

In my dealings with people in tax offices I always found them courteous and helpful, and I found out on one occasion that they can, like the rest of us, make an odd mistake. Some years ago I received correspondence from the tax office which indicated that I had been very favourably assessed for tax and that a substantial tax refund would be made in the near future. All very well – but I had not posted my self-assessment form for that particular year yet. The deadline was still some weeks away. This puzzling bit of good news needed checking out. I gave them a ring. The usual ‘Hang on a minute’ turned into more than a few minutes. Hushed voices could be heard in the background, tap-tap of computer keys; finally when the girl got back on the phone she spoke in an anxious tone of voice: “That does not apply

to you at all, there has been a mistake; will you send it back to us please, please”. I still cannot understand as to why she laughed when I told her that I could never say ‘No’ to a girl who said ‘Please, please, please’.

Like many of my contemporaries I had no occasion to visit a tax office - that is, until I crossed the water. My first visit was concerned with getting money rather than giving it. I was applying for a rebate of tax. There was no body else in the office and a disarming smile from the girl behind the desk got things off to a good start. Giving my Irish address prompted her to ask for a number for the house. “No number on houses where I come from”. “No numbers? - and how does the postman manage?” Now, at that time houses without numbers were the least of the postman’s worries. John Joe Cleary would cycle down to Gorthaganny, nearly 10 miles away, take his P.O. bag, cycle miles and miles of country lanes to the numerous isolated farmhouses, dodging countless potholes while keeping an eye out for hostile dogs that lay in wait ready to ambush him, irrespective of whether he was bringing good news or bad. The postman got scant recognition for bringing good news, but could be reprimanded for bringing bad news. I would have told all this to the girl if I had thought of it at the time. Well, she did not “ask how does the postman manage!”

When we got to Ballyhaunis there was another hiccup. “Bally whaa...? Say again”. She had heard a few ‘Ballys’ but she found Ballyhaunis to be a tongue-twister. She was interested to hear that ‘Bally’ was the Irish name for town or village. I was equally interested to be told that the ‘ham’ at the end of Birmingham, Nottingham, and other places, was a shortening of the word ‘hamlet’, which also meant town or village. That English girl helped overcome the fears I had of getting into the tax net.

Some of the correspondence from the Revenue Commissioners has an illustration of the entrance to Dublin Castle on the envelope. A lot of restoration work has been done on the place over the past twenty years. A lot needed to be done. Back in the 1960s when a sister of mine started working there it showed all the signs of decay. Ann and a girl from Louth started work on the same day in an office that could be described as Dickensian. There were no computers in the office, but there were mice! Because there were no computers the two ladies decided that the mice were surplus to requirements and, when they got their first pay packets, they went out and invested in a mousetrap. The girl from Co. Louth did not wait long enough to see if the investment paid dividends. She packed her bags and went to England. My sister Ann soldiered it out with the Revenue Commissioners until she retired some time ago.

Many of my generation avoided the tax net for a long time realising that once in, you were there for life and for some time after your death. I realise that there will be correspondence in the post for me from the taxman long after I have cashed in my chips. My instructions to the postman are as follows: ‘Write on the envelope: Departed from here, left no forwarding address, believed domiciled far away, Tax free zone’.

P.S. The title of this piece has been hijacked and adapted from the play ‘The Ice Man Cometh’. Agatha Christie wrote a play called ‘The Mousetrap’. It ran for sixty years on the London stage. With next year’s issue in mind, I will seek an interview with the two ladies who set a mousetrap in Dublin Castle all those years ago.

CRÓÍ

By Helen Meehan

In general, Croi funds are used to support three areas of activity: Research, Education and the Development of local Cardiac Services & Facilities.

Over the past twelve months, the key areas supported by Croi funding are as follows:

- Research fund – we have an annual and ongoing commitment to support research which takes place in the Dept. of Cardiology, UCHG. We have supported a Cardiac Research Registrar position in the Dept. of Cardiology since 1985.
- We have provided training grants and bursaries for specialised cardiac training, conference attendance, Advance Cardiac Life Support Training and Basic Life Support Training for Coronary Care Nurses, Intensive Care Nurses, General Nurses and personnel from Cardiac Rehabilitation in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.
- We have printed and distributed (free of charge) for patient and general public use, a whole series of publications on topics ranging from cholesterol, blood pressure, diet, heart surgery, cardiac procedures, etc.
- We have provided LifePak 12 (advanced cardiac monitoring and defibrillation equipment) for ambulances operating out of Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.
- We have supported voluntary and other groups (mainly provision of defibrillators) as follows: Order of Malta (Westport, Ballina, Carna), Civil Defence (Roscommon, Galway, Athenry, Loughrea), Fire Service (Athenry, Loughrea, Tuam), Public Health Nurses (Clare Island, Innishturk).
- We have provided defibrillators for First Responder Teams in Clonberne, Clonbur and Glenamaddy and 10 defibrillators for the Belmullet/Erris North Mayo area.
- We have provided Public Access Defibrillators for Loughrea (10), Knock Airport (3), UCHG & Mayo General Hospitals (2), Ballina, Westport, Tuam, Oughterard, & Ballinrobe Golf Clubs (5), Ballina Sports & Leisure Centre and Ballinrobe Sports & Fitness Centre (in association with Western Lakes Cycling Club) (2), SuperValu Ballyhaunis, Westport Inverin and Tuam (4).
- We have provided cardiac equipment for A&E at UCHG and

resuscitation equipment for Roscommon County Hospital.

- We have committed to co-funding a Cardiac Technician post at Mayo General Hospital.
- We have co-funded a new Cardiac Cathether Laboratory at UCHG (€1.4million).
- We have supported the Croi Nurse Programme, which has screened in excess of 3,600 heart patients and their families and trained over 600 people in CPR, throughout Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.
- Community Access Defibrillator Schemes are currently planned for Westport (2), Letterfrack/Rynvyle (1), Rooskey (1), Roscommon (1).

Significant major funding planned for the coming months include:

- Continuation of the Croi Nurse Programme
- Establishment of a New Heart Failure Clinic at UCHG
- Expansion of the Public Access Defibrillation Programme
- Advancement of Cardiology Institute for the West of Ireland.

Thanks

Ballyhaunis Friends of Croi wish to thank all those who supported them during the year. The Annual Walk to Coney Island and the church gate collection were hugely successful and greatly supported. Croi Christmas cards are available from Helen Meehan and any committee member.



Presentation of €13,000, from Ballyhaunis Friends of Croi

Back, L-R: Carmel Elwood, Marian Fitzpatrick, Frances Mulhern, Ina Freyne, Catherine Waldron, Bridget Mulrennan, Niall Johnson (CEO, Croi), Catherine Sloyan. Front, L-R: Noel Sloyan, Rosaleen Curley, Dr. Crowley (Cardiologist, UCHG), Helen Meehan.

Ballyhaunis store finds heart of matter

By Shane McGrath (The Mayo News)

The town of Ballyhaunis was the scene of a novel launch back in February [2005] when fitted with cardiac emergency equipment that can improve a heart attack victim's survival chances by up to 70%. The Supervalu supermarket in the town, in conjunction with the local Croí Friends Ballyhaunis & District Committee, installed a LifePak Defibrillator to deal with cardiac emergencies, a move that also saw six staff members of the shop undergo a training programme in the equipment's use.

Manager of Supervalu, Mr. Pat Ryan, told The Mayo News that the initiative was just the latest manifestation of the co-operation between the heart charity and the town of Ballyhaunis. "Croí do a huge amount of fundraising in the town, and we have helped them out with sponsorship. They asked in October [2004] would we be interested in installing the defibrillator in our new store, and the result of this was the unveiling of the equipment last week."

Mr. Ryan was one of the six staff members to voluntarily undergo training in the use of the defibrillator, which entailed the successful completion of exams as well as the undertaking to partake in follow-up instruction in its use every 90 days.

Mr. Noel Sloyan of the Croí Friends committee in the town said he understood it was the first time such equipment had been installed in a supermarket in Mayo. "Since we unveiled it in Supervalu we have had huge interest from around the county, with people in golf clubs and other organisations interested in buying the equipment for their premises. We've been delighted with the response, and hope that it does encourage other public places to install what is potentially life-saving equipment."

Research has shown that less than 1% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests survive, but US studies have shown that with the availability of a defibrillator, used by a trained individual, survival rates of 40%-70% can be achieved.

1980 Class Re-union – 25 years on

Late last year we happened to meet a few school friends in Ballyhaunis just by accident. As we chatted, and talked about times past. We got round to talking about a class re-union. This was not the first time we had considered it, but we decided now was the time to do something about it. We arranged a meeting and found our class year book. Sr. Assumpta also gave us a list of all the girls that were in our class when we started in the Convent Secondary back in 1975. We are very thankful to her, as this helped us get started. (When the Community School opened in 1977 we went into Third Year). We contacted everyone in our year to see what the interest might be. We have to say 'thank you' to Gerry Glennon of MidWest Radio who helped us get some addresses. We got a very positive response to the first letter that went out. This was all we needed to get going with this. Many meetings later and it was all organised.

On 30th September 2005, we met in the Billabong Bar and Val's Bistro in Ballyhaunis. We met many of our school friends, some that we had not met in all of the 25 years. Some of our classmates had travelled from as far as the United States and Wales, England and all parts of Ireland. Seventy-three people came for the re-union. We had a great evening and a lovely buffet. Thanks to Liam Folliard and his team. It was great to reminisce on the devilment we got up to when we were at school. Sure we were all saints back then! The disco for the night was provided by

"Buzz" entertainment.

When the night ended in the Billabong some of us proceeded to the local night club, proving there's a lot of life left in us yet! We are so glad we went ahead with this reunion and look forward to organising a fortieth and wonder will we be able for the night club then!

Lastly we must say a big THANK YOU to all of our school friends who came to the reunion, without them it would not have been possible. So until the next time. Thanks again. Gabrielle Lyons, Mary Sykes, Gina Kelly.



L-R: Mary Sykes, Gabrielle Lyons and Gina Kelly.

Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

The Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre was started last year and is based in the Priory at St. Mary's Abbey. The Family Resource Centre is focused on providing practical support, information and opportunities to all families and people in our community and works with other organisations and state agencies to improve the quality and range of services available in the Ballyhaunis Area. The Family Resource Centre is run by an independent company controlled by a wide range of local people, representing the different communities in our area. The Centre is funded by the Family Support Agency, which enables us to rent offices from the Abbey Partnership and employ staff, but unfortunately doesn't fund activities. One of the day to day functions of the Centre is to develop project proposals, itself and with other groups, to draw down public funds for community activities.

Growth

2005 has seen the Family Resource Centre grow as a community organisation, improving the range of activities and opportunities provided from the Priory, deepening contact with communities and families throughout our town, as well as increasing our staff and accessing new funding from state agencies and departments.

The Centre began work last year with asylum seekers and members of the International community in Ballyhaunis. This work continued in 2005 with an Art & Craft course funded by the VEC being held in the Priory during the spring. International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8th and a Women's Club established which meets each Tuesday morning in the Priory as an informal meeting place for women from all our different communities to exchange information and learn about other cultures. The Centre has also provided help and assistance to individuals from these communities as well as encouraging them and their children to take part in other activities taking place in the town.

The Centre has also supported the Ballyhaunis Traveller Pre-School and Sonas Crèche in Tooraree, which provides an excellent and affordable service, complementing the work of the VEC St. Catherine's Traveller Training Centre. Agreement was reached in the spring of 2005 with the County Partnership Company – Meitheal Mhaigheo to transfer the funding

and employment contracts for the Sonas Crèche to the Family Resource Centre, which has been a significant step in growing the organisation.

Working with the Community Council, the Family Resource Centre arranged for a Children's Art Club to be established which runs two art activity classes for 20 children in the Priory on Saturday mornings, which has proven extremely popular. Assistance was also provided to the Community Council to arrange a teenage photography and digital imaging course over the summer.

Summer Club

The Family Resource Centre and Sonas Crèche again organised a Summer Club for children from the Old Convent and International communities with assistance from the Health Service Executive. With the extra assistance available this year, the summer club was able to provide weekly Pony riding classes at Hanley's Equestrian Centre in Claremorris along with trips to the Circus, Cinema and Westport House which proved very popular.

A great deal of the work of the Family Resource Centre depends on the participation of Volunteers in both our management committee and in the activities themselves. The Centre once again benefited from the work placements organised by the St. Catherine's Traveller Training Centre with Tina and Kathleen Maughan joining us at the start of June, helping to us to prepare the house and abbey for the formal signing ceremony of the 999 lease between the Augustinians and Abbey Trust, which was attended by many dignitaries. The Centre is also benefiting from a Community School PLC work placement scheme, with Sabina Salimova volunteering since September.

The Teenage Voluntary work programme was continued this summer with a number of teenagers taking part. Lisa Folan, Jennifer Lyons, Michelle Lyons and Adriane Murray along with Hayal Salimov provided invaluable assistance to the work of the Centre over the summer months helping with the Children's pony riding classes and excursions as well as making a significant contribution to prepare for the Abbey Pattern and children's Anti-Racism Art Exhibition. This programme also led to a funding proposal being developed with the State agencies to organise a larger children and young people's programme in 2006, for which funding has now been obtained.

A very successful Jobs Club was organised in the autumn in conjunction with Meitheal Mhaigheo and the Centre hopes to build on this area of work in the 2006. The Resource Centre is an active member of the Community Council, Abbey Partnership and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and helping out wherever possible.

The current board of directors is composed of Mary Morrissey (Chairperson), Dolores Biesty, Ludmila Burcovschi, Manar Cherbatji, Margaret Cleary, Christina Concannon, Seamus Grogan, Stephen Grogan, Mary Hickey, Marie Jordan, Jipe Kelly and Betty Regan. The staff are Stephen Grogan and Tracey McDermott in the Priory, along with Pauline Mallee, Lisa Ganley and Laura Walshe in Sonas FRC.



Children's Art Club.

Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

By Agatha Higgins

The Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool opened its doors again this summer ready for another season. Opening day was 24th June, which was kindly blessed by Fr. Burke.

This year we decided to run one Water Safety Course. It was a great success. The number of young children participating doubled, which was great to see. We would like to thank Siobhan Byrne for her time and dedication to these courses, and also the Irish Water Safety Association. Thank you also to our Life Guards, Karen Higgins and Frances Grogan, our relief Life Guard Elaine Donnelly, and Lorna Kirrane who looked after the office.

The life guards and pool staff ran a gala to finish off the year. This was a great success enjoyed by children and adults. All children participated in races and novelty races. The Most Improved Swimmer trophy went to Jessica Carroll and the Best Attendance went to Natasha Coyne.

This year the pool gratefully received a donation from the Abbey Pattern of €1,000. This will be put to great use next year. The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Abbey Pattern Committee for this generous donation. We would also like to thank all who availed of the pool during the season, and hope to see you all next year.



Frances Grogan and Karen Higgins with Jessica Carroll, winner of the Best Improved Swimmer award 2005.



Swimming Gala, Summer 2005. Back, L-R: Robyn Moran, Ailee Webb, Megan Carroll, Jarlath Carney, John Lyons, Gerard Grogan, Elaine Donnelly, Lisa Jordan, Lisa Carney, Karen Higgins, Lorna Kirrane, Frances Grogan. Centre, L-R: Morgan Lyons, James Lyons, Cyril Collins, Joseph Lyons, Louise McNamara. Front, L-R: two visitors, Margaret Cleary, Michelle Lyons, Cathal Carney, Jessica Carroll, Gary Higgins, Adam Hickey, Marina Carney, Grace Lyons, visitor, Natasha Coyne, Lisa Hunt, Aine Waldron, Carol Freeley.

The deadline for submitting articles & photographs for next years Annagh is Friday 20th October 2006.

The Only Person You Need to be is Yourself

Profile of exciting young singer, Louise Cunnane, Doctor's Road.

Embarking on a career in the competitive world of Eshowbiz, Louise Cunnane has realised that you have to be tough. After completing her Leaving Cert in 2004, Louise auditioned for and landed a place in an intense voice-training course in Dublin. The classes were filmed by TV3's Ireland AM to showcase the country's newest talent. After nine months of hard work, Louise recorded her first demo with producers she had worked with during the course. Many challenges were faced and battles lost and won. After a lot of compromise and a name change, the demo, consisting of three songs was done. The honest lyrics and original sound gained Louise sufficient airplay and radio interviews around the country. Unhappy with the image that was being created, Louise took a step back, reclaimed her name and started writing again. She also started teaching children singing lessons. In August 2005 Louise took control, booked in Chilli Studio and recorded her debut single, an edgy but pretty rock song. This can be heard on MWR regularly.

Louise's goal is to record an album within the coming months. Returning to the studio soon to record her new song Mexico she should be well on her way.

Louise thinks of music as she would think of any other career and has no intention on giving up on it, no matter what obstacles come her way. "The challenge is to be yourself in a world that is trying to make you like everyone else." We wish her the best of luck.



Ballyhaunis Community Channel TV

By John Halpin

In 2005 Ballyhaunis Community Channel TV has continued to provide a multi-channel television service to the Ballyhaunis region and its environs. This allows its customers to access the main English TV channels for a mere cost of €65 per annum which equates to €1.25 per week for all your television sets. Compare this to what you would pay to receive satellite channels.

BCCTV is a voluntary not-for-profit organisation, and is directed by John Halpin and Dom Murphy. They, like their predecessors, are not paid for their services to this voluntary organisation.

All funds received are re-invested in the most modern technologies available to provide you with the highest quality service possible. This service costs approximately €25,000 per annum to run. This includes the licence fee payments to Comreg, ESB supply site maintenance, fees to IMRO and essential maintenance.

Recent Developments

Due to the dangerous condition of the TV mast at Leo and the age of the four television transmitters it became necessary to replace the mast at Leo with a new transmission tower and to install four new TV transmitters. Initial work carried out on the site took place in October 2003. The concrete base for the new tower was completed in December of that year. During Christmas week unknown persons destroyed the base for the new tower. Later in 2004 the site work re-

commenced and the new tower was finally completed. A new equipment cabin was put in place and four new television transmitters were installed and commissioned.

In July 2004 a legal challenge was brought against Ballyhaunis Community Channel TV on the grounds that there was no planning for the reconstruction of the site.

Initially, Justice Harvey Kenny ordered for the site to be cleared and awarded costs against Ballyhaunis Community Channel TV. This was appealed by BCCTV to the High Court to ensure continuity of television services, while in the mean time Mayo County Council granted retention permission for the site.

The matter then progressed to the High Court. However, the High Court was unable to overturn the order awarded by Justice Harvey Kenny. This resulted in Ballyhaunis Community TV paying initially €5,000 legal fees in December 2004 and a further €8,000 to be paid in 2005.

Despite all of these setbacks and costs BCCTV continues to serve the community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our subscribers for their continued support, and special thanks to our legal representatives. We would urge all those who have not yet paid to please do so on the next visit from our collectors as we need your support to continue this valuable service.



Pat Kilroy, postman taken on Main Street, c.1970.



Taken at the Tug-O-War event at an Abbey Pattern in the mid 1970's. Included are Joe Regan, Joe Horkan, Peter Hannon, Pat Nally, Frank Connolly, Tom Henry, Mary & Seamus Waldron.



Maggie Julia Caulfield, Babe Caulfield, Maud Caulfield and Kathleen Mullins taken in the 'Eclipse', Ballyhaunis 1952.



Annie Stenson and Katleen Mullins taken in Manchester 1955



Feeley's Stations, Coogue 1953/54. L-R from front: Mary Mullins, Annie Connor, Bridie Caulfield, Kathleen & Eileen Kilgallon, Mary Ellen Kilgallon, Babe Caulfield and Mae Carney.



Above: Ann and Marian Byrne with Patrick Halpin, Main Street.

Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union

By Peter McCafferty (Secretary)

Have you ever been stuck between the Parochial Hall and the Credit Union Building in your car waiting for the next kind gentleman or lady to stop and allow you to continue your journey. While sitting there did you ever wonder what was going on in the Blue building that was once Joe Tighes Shoe Repair Shop? It displays posters about Holiday, Car, Home Improvement and Student Loans and other services, like reduced BUPA and VHI Payments for members, not to mention a full foreign exchange service dealing in many different currencies?

Well, what has been going on is one of the best success stories in Ballyhaunis in the last 22 years. On any day Mon – Wed 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thurs and Fri 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sat. 11am to 3 p.m. you will find Ina, Cynthia, Mary, Helene, Patricia and Office Administrator Katherine all only too willing to tell you all about the benefits of joining your local Credit Union. Things like low interest Loans on Cars, Holidays, Home Improvements Student Loans and College Fees. “Peace of Mind”. How about free Life cover on your loans and a reduction on your Health insurance with VHI and BUPA?

After a short while talking to these ladies you will learn that their ability to advise you on how the Credit Union can best benefit you or your family members will have you leaving the Credit Union a lot wiser. Due to the ever increasing membership and for the convenience of our members and staff a new building project was taken on and a site in Clare Street was purchased finally in 2005. Again the choice being a well known Ballyhaunis landmark which was Freynes Garage for many years. It is hoped the new building will proceed in early 2006 and be open to our members early 2007.

The Motto ‘not for profit, not for charity, but for service’, lives on in the number of members who volunteer each year to become Board or Committee members. Still there will be a grateful welcome to members who would like to give some of their free time to help keep this success story going into the future. The face of Ballyhaunis has been changing over the last decade or so and the Credit Union is one of the new old establishments in the town and is proud of its history to date and hopes to continue to be a big part of Ballyhaunis history into the distant future.

To the staff and the many committee members the Board would like to thank you all for continuing to provide a very valuable service to the People of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas.

The Directors and Supervisors of the Credit Union for the year 2004/2005 were Chairperson Maire Murphy Treasurer Pat O’Connor Assist. Treasurers Madeline Niland and Mary Matthews Secretary Peter

McCafferty Assist. Secretary Gerry Lyons. Directors Jarlath Walsh; Frances Mulhern; Eddie Mulhern, Justina Lyons, Rita London, Helen Lyons (retired) A. Greally and Margaret Byrne. Supervisors Barry Butler, Aiden Kelly, Tina Kirrane, Office Administrator Katherine Kilbride. Tellers: Helene McCafferty, Cynthia Fitzgerald, Ina Freyne, Mary Rudden and Patricia O’Connor. Credit Committee: Ina Freyne, Rita London, Gerry Lyons, Justina Lyons and Margaret Byrne. Credit Control Committee: Frances Milhern, Helene McCafferty, Patricia O’Connor, Catherine Sloyan. Marketing Committee: Maire Murphy, Mairead Murphy; Helene McCafferty, Catherine Sloyan, Ann McNamara and Stella O’Neill. Investment Committee: Pat O’Connor, Mary Matthews, Madeline Niland, Katherine Kilbride, Peter McCafferty, Maire Murphy. Insurance Officer: Katherine Kilbride. Planning Committee: Jarlath Walsh, Edward Mulhern, Katherine Kilbride, Rita London, Mary Rudden. P.R.O.: Edward Mulhern.

Finally we would like to thank John Toughy who has penned this report so many times in the past for the huge input and effort over the years bringing the Credit Union to where it is today. John retired at our last A.G.M. and to Helene Lyons also a long serving Director who retired early this year. We wish them every success and happiness for the future. After many faithful years to the Board and also at the last A.G.M. Cynthia Fitzgerald and Ina Freyne stepped down from the Board. We also wish them both every success and happiness for the future. Our end of year figures show the Credit Union Share Capital is now €12,500,000 approx and our Membership over 5000.



Susan Cawley, Philomena Boden and Maureen Redman, the Philbin sisters who are daughters of Paddy Philbin of Ballyhaunis, on a night out in the Leeds Irish Centre.

Shadows on Glass

Priceless Images of our Heritage

In last year's issue of Annagh we published six magnificent photographs taken in Ballyhaunis around a hundred years ago by Sergeant Patrick Lyons (R.I.C.). This year we are delighted to present six more. They came from a collection of glass slides which was given by the Sisters of Mercy, Ballyhaunis, to Jack Halpin, Main St., many years ago. The fragile glass slides were carefully stored in specially constructed wooden cases and were labelled and indexed. Both Jack and his father John Halpin (Abbey St.) were professional photographers and had a keen interest in all aspects of photography. Jack preserved the priceless collection, along with the 'magic lantern' used to project the images. They were given by Jack to his son-in-law Tom Murray, another professional photographer in Scotland, who retains copyright of the



images. Tom has restored and digitised the collection and has kindly made these pictures available to Annagh magazine in memory of the late Jack who would have been delighted with the technology that has made them available, at last, to Annagh readers.

Sergeant Lyons' life and work in archaeology and photography was the subject of an article by the late Gerry Cribbin in the 2000 issue of Annagh.

Top: "Good Luck and God Bless", a scene at Ballyhaunis Railway Station, c. 1900

Left: A quiet smoke on the way home from school. (note the clay pipe)

The deadline for submitting articles & photographs for next years Annagh is Friday 20th October 2006.

Shadows on Glass

Photographs from the Sergeant Lyons collection



Right: Fair Day c. 1900, view down Knox St. from The Square.



Left: St. Patrick's Day Fair, c. 1900 view up Main St. from The Square.

Shadows on Glass

Photographs from the Sergeant Lyons collection



Left: The newly built St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, taken from the Claremorris road.



Right: O'Brien's Mill, Hazelhill (Claremorris Road).

Ballyhaunis Fine Gael 2005

fine gael ★

2005 was another successful year for Ballyhaunis Fine Gael. The Branch held a number of meetings throughout the year, the increase in membership is an acknowledgement of the ongoing outstanding performance of Local Cllr John Cribbin. John avails of every opportunity to articulate the issues of concerns to his constituents and continues to demand better services for the tax-payers. The Branch had good reason to celebrate in late June when John was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, a great personal honour.

With the General Election Selections Conventions planned for early Spring, the year 2006 could be extremely busy for the Ballyhaunis Fine Gael Organisation.

John's weekly clinic - every Tuesday 10.00am,

Parochial Hall. Home No.:
(094) 9630847. Mobile:
(087) 2920368.

Branch members: Joint
Presidents: Mary Buckley,
Michael McQuinney.
Chairperson: Michael Webb.
Vice-Chairperson: Tony
Cribbin. Secretary: Helen
Lyons. Treasurers: John Joe
Flanagan, Ollie Cribbin.
Organiser: Michael Lyons.
P.R.O.: Gerry Winston.



Councillor John Cribbin

Members: Pdraig Regan, Oliver Hannon, James
Michael Waldron, Eugene Morley, Dom Murphy,
Michael Moran, Val Lyons.



Some members of the Ballyhaunis Active Retirement Group on an outing to Sligo. From left: Máisín Meath, Julia McCarthy, Bridie Brennan, Pauline Curley, Carmel Waldron, Phyllis Phillips, Kathleen Caulfield, Bridie Webb, Kathleen Finn. Front: Maura Fitzmaurice. Missing: Olive Waldron and Eileen Waldron who were also on the tour.

Whose Field?

Christina Johnston

*Four hawthorn hedges
Shelter this small meadow
Cradled in silent slopes
Of Drumlin hills,
Budding,
Flourishing,
Re-seeding.*

*I don't know
The owner, the king
Or this small place
Where thrush and hare and
ladybird
All co-habit*

*And laze unthreatened.
Chirping,
Leaping,
Propagating.*

*I love you – field!
For your handsome looks
Of shaded comfort.*

*Do not till, break the sod,
Or rape this virgin soil
To yield crop,
Or corn
Or bungalow*

*Let it feast my eyes
Each time I pass
And feel like stopping
Lying on its grass;
Drowsed by the lyrics of the
lark
As she calls to tell Heaven
That I have found
Near Longfield Cross
My kingdom more profound.*

*(A small field near Longfield
Cross CMX – I pass it daily).*

St. Patrick's Parochial Hall

Built in 1940, St. Patrick's Parochial Hall has served the needs of the community in Ballyhaunis in diverse ways for the past sixty-five years. It has been used as a cinema, a dance hall, a concert venue, a theatre, a bingo hall and an indoor sports court, to name but a few. It housed the public library in the town for a time prior to the construction of the present purpose built one. It also provided temporary classrooms for the children of St. Joseph's National School during refurbishment of the school building in the 1960s.

The snooker room upstairs was home to the local Billiards & Snooker Club for several years and many local people have happy memories of hours of enjoyment spent there. In addition it has hosted many meetings and gatherings, classes and workshops, bazaars, exhibitions and sales of work, and it served as a social services centre for the town for many years.

Over the past sixty-five years, the Parochial Hall has gone from strength to strength and continues as a centre for many and varied activities of a social, educational and cultural nature. It is very much in demand as a venue for meetings, classes, choral and drama rehearsals, recitals, plays, presentations, quizzes, exhibitions, and youth activities such as supervised play, karate, Irish dancing, discos, etc.

In recent years it has undergone major refurbishment: replacement of the flat roof, installation of a new electrical and sound system, provision of new toilets to cater for people with disabilities and a new

stage curtain. The snooker room of old is now a very comfortable and spacious meeting room. The entire building has been painted inside and out, the kitchen has been completely modernised and meeting rooms have been newly carpeted. The substantial cost of this refurbishment work has been funded for the most part from the proceeds of radio bingo, where a partnership existed between Mid West Radio and the Parochial Hall for licence purposes. This arrangement also enabled the Hall to contribute to local community projects and activities, and many voluntary organisations have benefited from donations over the years. Unfortunately Mid West Radio terminated the radio bingo partnership in September of this year, thereby depriving the Hall and the local community of much needed resources. The Hall Committee regrets that it is no longer in a position to donate to worthy causes, as it is now forced to depend on rental charges for the upkeep and maintenance of the Hall.

The Committee would like to compliment the caretaker, Mr. Enda Murphy for his work in the Hall and his efficiency in looking after bookings etc. and keeping all the patrons happy. Any organisation wishing to book the Hall for an event should contact Enda at (094) 9630853.

Parochial Hall Committee: Chairman - Tom Finn; Secretary - Mary Donnelly; Treasurer - Maire Freyne. Fr. Joseph Cooney, John Halpin, Pat O'Connor.

Tully Topper

For the second year in a row – 2005 – a Ballyhaunis pedigree cattle breeder had the best Simmental Bull at the National Bull Performance Centre in Tully, Co. Kildare. 'Riverbank Rover', bred by Liam Waldron, Scrigg, Ballyhaunis, was adjudged the top Simmental bull in the country this May, earning €500 in prize

money. Last year the same breeder had similar success with 'Riverbank Pedro.'

Liam has been breeding pedigree Simmental cattle since 1991 and has built up a reputation as a breeder of top quality stock. 'Riverbank Rover' was sold to a county Tyrone buyer.



Liam Waldron (right) pictured with his prizewinning bull – "Riverbank Rover" – being held by Gerry Lenehan.



Larganboy School, 1968. Includes Kathleen Finnegan, Helen Hopkins, Michael Caulfield, John Hopkins (R.I.P.), Peter Boyle, James Hunt, Helena Finnegan (R.I.P.), Ann Hopkins, Helen Hopkins, Bernadette Caulfield, Josie Carney, Celia Carney, Michael Morley, John Morley, Val McLoughlin, Bernadette Forde, Delores Forde, Margeret Forde, Marie Forde, Deidre Forde, Eileen Carney, Gabriel Caulfield, Mary Greally, Geraldine Greally and Patricia Hunt.



L-R: Ita McDonnell (Carrowkeel), Fred Herr (Knox St.) and Joanne Morley (Carrowkeel).



Graduation 2005. L-R: Joanne Hoban (Lisbane), Catherine Grier (Leixlip) and Joseph Kelly (Knox St.)



L-R: Alice Lyons (Clare St.), Jimmy O'Malley (Barrack St.), John Cleary (Clare St.) and Thomas Lyons (Clare St.) taken in Salthill in the 1960's.



Rosaleen Eagney formerly Carroll (Clare St.) as a teenager in the mid 30's with Noreen Glynn (Clare St.). Sadly little Noreen died aged 3.

Upper Changes

By Eamon Murren

I was sitting on the dispensary wall when Mick Keegan pulled down the last of Kennys' sheds. These sheds were located just to the rear of where Vinnie Caulfield and his family now reside or directly opposite the entrance to Aisling Drive. A lot of damage had been done to the sheds by hurricane "Debbie". I would guess that the final destruction took place in the mid '60s. I have vague memories of the sheds. I do remember that Kennys were carpenters and undertakers. I can remember seeing coffins in the sheds. I also remember that Tom Freeley from Ballindrehid used the back sheds as a store when he started working for "Cairns Ale." The sheds were also used by local children for putting on plays. My only memory of these plays was of Michael Henry sporting a Davy Crockett hat. Aspiring thespians in those days would be the Cassidy brothers, Seamus and Paddy Joe, Michael Henry, Tommy Glynn, whilst the actresses would be drawn from the Hopkins and Moran households. Sonny Barrett used to work in Kenny's but he then set up his own workshop across the road. This would be now the entrance to Aisling Drive. Just above Sonny's workshop were the houses of Miss McDermott and Padge Brennan. Miss McDermott was a teacher in Brackloon National School for many years. Another house in this area which has been recently knocked was a home to the Grogan, Curley and Kilduff families in my time. This is now being replaced by houses and apartments.

Further up the road the field once owned by Broddie Morley and later George Delaney is now the site of two housing estates plus the new home of the Mercy Sisters. The corner of this field at the top of the Hazelhill road is now the site of the Hazelhill Health Centre, home to doctors Cleary and Noone. The changes don't stop there because the old 'Tech' - what later became Manor House Hotel - has also been demolished and replaced by twelve houses. Earlier in the summer the old reservoir was knocked to the

ground by Mayo County Council - another landmark gone. Another building gone by the wayside for some years is Johnny McGuire's workshop. This was located between the houses of Bridie Brennan and Milo Henry. I remember Gerry Cribbin, Martin Forde, the Kellys and others playing handball against the door of Johnny's workshop.

Friends Remembered

Not only has the physical face of the upper part of Upper Main Street changed but so also has the people. A lot have been called to their eternal reward. I remember a Miss Doyle living in the house now occupied by John Elwood. Miss Doyle's house was sold to a Jim Devine. Jim was the Scoutmaster in Ballyhaunis. I think he was a sales rep. for Green Ribbon tea. His son Gerard was in my class going to school. The family emigrated to the U.S. in the late '60s. Other families who lived in this area were Cassidy, Folliard, Cifford, Forde, Cox, McNaught, Melly, Stenson, Kelly, Curley, Fox, Gorman, Madden, Greene, Smyth, Hughes, Levins, Freeley, Callaly, Caulfield, Fitzgerald, Egan, Connor.

One important building in this area for us as youngsters was Caulfield's. This was the only shop in this top part of town. It was run by Alice Caulfield and her son Michael. Michael also had a travelling shop that went out the country buying eggs and selling groceries. Ard Patrick was another great structure in this area. I remember the Greene family living here. It was also home to Dr. Tynan, his wife Nuala, and their daughters Dorothy and Thelma. Dorothy is married to former European Commissioner, Pdraig Flynn. I believe the house was also the home to the Hoare family. It is now the home of Pat and Moira Noone.

These are some of the changes and memories I have of what I call the upper part of Upper Main Street. If one takes a walk down Hazelhill there are an awful lot of other changes but that is maybe for another time.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

By Matt O'Dwyer (Secretary)

The Society continued with its usual work in 2005. We helped people on social welfare and others with debts and educational costs, etc. We sometimes refer people in debt to M.A.B.S. - a non-profit organisation that helps people sort out their financial problems. Eddie Hobbs without the fee!!

We are very grateful to you the public for your continued financial support. We were all saddened by the death of our late President Luke Lawlor. Luke gave great service at local and regional level and was always kind to everyone. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.



Pat Joe and Lizzie Lyons, Holywell with children Billy and Una and Michael Connolly (centre).



Kate Brennan of Gurteen with her family in 1917; Marie, Delia, Ciss, Kate, John and Lizzie.



Right: At their father's 90th birthday party in Holywell, l-r: Billy Lyons, Una Shanahan, Johnny Lyons, Pat Joe Lyons and Paddy Lyons.



Pat Joe Lyons, Holywell at his 90th birthday party with his sister-in-law Kit Murphy, Greenwood and brother-in-law John Brennan, Gurteen.



Pat Joe Lyons and his mother Winifred, Holywell.

St. Catherine's Education and Resource Centre

St. Catherine's Education and Resource Centre, Tooraree, is now in its fourth year in operation under the auspices of County Mayo V.E.C. The centre was officially opened on the 10th of March 2005 by Cllr. Jarlath Munnelly, Chairperson of the Board of Management of St. Catherine's Education and resource centres. The opening was attended by members of Co. Mayo V.E.C. including Mr. Joe Langan C.E.O. and Mr. Pat Higgins A.E.O. and also members of Mayo County Council including Mr. Ray Norton (Director of Services) and Mr. Neil Sheridan (County Development Board). Cllr. John Cribbin was also in attendance. Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P. blessed the newly opened building and afterwards guests enjoyed a buffet prepared by the students to celebrate the opening.

The Centre continues to offer a wide range of FETAC modules at level 3 which include Communications, Computer Literacy, Caring for Children, Food and Nutrition, Food and Cookery, Art and Design, Craft and Textiles, Consumer Awareness, Mathematics, Personal Effectiveness and personal care and presentation. We also offer a number of FETAC modules at levels 4 and 5.

All students took part in First Aid classes given by Atlantic Health and Safety Services Ltd. Castlebar. These were greatly enjoyed by all students who found the classes very beneficial. First Aid Certificates were awarded to all students who took part in the programme. This initiative was funded by East Mayo LDP.

Toward the end of last year the I.S.P.C.C. delivered a course of parenting classes, which ran for six weeks and dealt with issues such as bullying, positive parenting and communication skills. All students felt that this course was very worthwhile.

The Junior Certificate class have been very active throughout the Year. In March the group entered a 'Make a Book' competition which was held in the civic buildings in Dublin with a book entitled 'Old Ways, New Days' which gave an insightful look into changing Traveller Culture and Traditions.

During the months of May and June the Junior Certs took part in a 'paired reading programme' with six students from Scoil Iosa Primary School. There were six sessions where the junior Cert. group worked with Children from 3rd and 5th Class. On the final day of the programme a party was held for all involved and certificates were presented to all who participated.

In St. Catherine's we believe that educational trips play a large part in the holistic development of the Student. In June of this Year to celebrate the end of the Academic year the Junior Certs organised a Trip to Knock where they visited a museum and attended mass. In November we visited Yeats House Gallery in Sligo where we viewed an exhibition then in December we visited Collins barracks in Dublin. All students enjoyed viewing the many and varied displays of

artefacts from around the country.

We visited St. Benin's Training Centre in Tuam in May where staff and students were given a tour of the centre and chatted with students there. Afterwards staff and students of both centres enjoyed a meal prepared by the students of St. Benin's. On the 20th of June all students went on a trip to Our Lady's Holy Well in Athenry, Co. Galway where Mass was said for the group by Fr. John O'Gorman. Afterwards they were given a guided tour of Athenry Heritage Centre where they dressed in medieval costume and were taught how to do Archery by a qualified instructor.

In September, after returning from our summer break, all students visited the Museum of Country Life in Turlough House, Castlebar where we saw the Creidimh Agus Draiocht exhibition, and in November the students visited the Foxford Woollen Mills.

In June we organised a barbeque where all the food was prepared and cooked by the men of the Centre. The sun shone on the proceedings and an enjoyable day was had by all. We also held our prize-giving on this day which highlighted the achievements made by students in the centre throughout the year. The overall prize for student of the Year was won by Margaret Cleary for her excellent attendance and academic achievement throughout the Year.

The year has been tinged with sadness due to the short illness and subsequent death of student May Cleary who died on the 14th of May, and also the deaths of Marty Maughan and Seamus Mongan close relatives of many students. Ar dheis De go raibh a n-anam dhilis.

All at the centre would like to extend our Congratulations to Marie on the birth of her daughter Laura May, and also to Mary on the birth of her baby boy Brian Lee and also to Laura Triggs on her marriage to Ciaran Walsh. We hope they have a long and happy life together.

The Land of the Blessed

Author unknown

There is a land awaiting you and me,

A land of roses

A land of rest

A land from sorrow free.

It lies far off in the golden West

On the verge of the azure sea.

A swift canoe of crystal bright

Has led from mortal view

That land of roses

That land of rest

Waiting for you and me.



May Byrne of Derrymore celebrated her 98th birthday in March 2005 at the Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Ballyhaunis. She was joined by more than thirty children, grandchildren, nieces and friends. Back l-r: Seth Ettinberg, Laura Weissenberger, Cuan Harley, Mark Weissenberger, Frank Lackner, Linda LaMartia, Paul Weissenberger. Front l-r: Kelly and Steven Lackner, May Byrne and Gene Butler.



May Byrne with her two daughters and their husbands on the occasion of her 98th birthday. Standing l-r: Della Weissenberger, Frank Lackner and Patricia Lackner. Seated: Joe Weissenberger and May Byrne.



Three first cousins meet up in Queensland, Australia. L-R: Paddy Philbin (Ballyhaunis), Mrs. Rose Willis formerly Rose Anne Forde of Larganboy, John Brennan whose father came from Carrownedan. The gentleman is John Willis, Rose's husband.



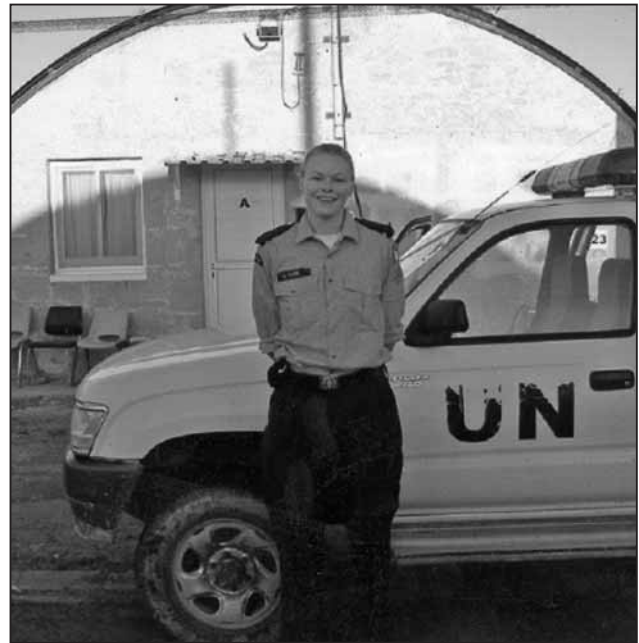
Summer 2005 in Pollnacraoaghy. Back l-r: Fiachra Walsh, Ciara Walsh. Front l-r: Shaun Morley, Cathal Walsh and Robert Morley.



Last day at Playschool 2005. Rita Lundon, Dara Healy and Rachel Dillon.



John Morley watering his garden !



Maria Flynn, Abbeyquarter serving with the U.N. Peacekeeping Services, October 2005.



Three local members of the Sligo I.T. Sigerson Cup winning team. L-R: Christopher Morley (Derrymore), Keith Higgins (Ballinphuill), Stephen Coyne (Carnbeg).



Twenty-two month old Jack Madden (Gurteen) helps with watering the flowers in the cemetery during the fine summer weather.



Taken during a courtesy call to the Connacht GAA Council Offices in Ballyhaunis by Sean Kelly, Úachtarán C.L.G. L-R: Luke Fitzmaurice, Fr. Mick Murphy, Tom Glynn, Sean Kelly (Úacht.), Jim London, Sean Waldron, P.J. McGrath, John Prenty, Toss Gibbons, Patsy Keane, Séan Ó'Coisdealbha.

Song For Geronimo

Joe Kenny (Knox Street and Tullamore)

*Did a barefoot boy hear the curt, clipped voice
As the mounted man watched the mourners pass
Between the drumlins and the bog
On the path to the church and the funeral Mass?*

*Would he carry thoughts to the New World shore
Of a man so hard on his horse so high
From the slate roofed house where the oak trees grew
Or the woebegone people passing by?*

*As a proud cadet when he faced the flag
And he took the oath that he'd fight and dare,
When he proved his valour in Lincoln's war
Did he ever think back to Killinkere?*

*'Mid the screams and smoke and the bones and blood
A soldier fights as he's taught to fight,
With the metal ball or the metal blade
And no thought at all of the wrong or right.*

*As he scanned the wide Missouri plains
'Neath the vast expanse of the western sky,
With never a drumlin and never a mist,
Did he ever think of a reason why?*

*In the frenzied cry of the Choctaw brave,
Who bared his breast to the ball and blade
Was there ever an echo from Killinkere
Of homesteads levelled and hopes betrayed?*

*This boy, grown man with his curt, clipped voice
Now sits himself on a horse so high,
Does he mind the day of the funeral Mass
And the words of the planter riding by?*

*Neighbours crossed themselves, 'He was good and true,
Good stock, good people,' was all they said.
The burgher on horseback riding by,
'The only good one, the one that's dead.'*

Philip Sheridan, emigrated from Killinkere, Cavan to the United States as a boy, attended the Military Academy at West Point, and distinguished himself in the Civil War, attaining the rank of General by the time he was thirty years of age. Later he was known to be a ruthless and merciless soldier in the wars against the native American people. The saying, 'The only good Indian is a dead Indian.' Is attributed to Sheridan.



Bekan N.S., girls school, 21st Oct. 1923. Ma'am Prendergast (teacher) is standing on the left. Only a few pupils can be identified: Mary Mulrennan (Bekan), centre, back row; Nora Farrell (Bekan), third from right, back row; May Raftery (Greenwood), extreme right, back row; Miss Kelly (Lissaniska), fourth from right, front row. If anyone can identify the others, please contact the Annagh Magazine committee.



Abbey Male Choir. Back, L-R: Alan Henry, Jimmy Walsh, Brendan Morrissey, Brian Hunt, Georgie Hannan, Frankie Dillon. Front, L-R: Moira Delaney (Director), Seamus Grogan, Eamon Murren, P. J. McCarrick, Mike Byrne, Luke Murray, Brendan Donnellan, Paula Donnellan (Organist).

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You can contact Annagh Magazine by email at the following address: annaghmag@eircom.net

Photo on back cover: children from the Mary Elwood School of Dancing, Ballyhaunis, who competed in the World Championships in Irish Dancing, 2005, held in Ennis in February 2005. Back, L-R: Hannah Jumail, Grace Lyons, Maria Lyons, Aoife McDonagh, Tracey Regan; Front, L-R: Louise McNamara, Emily Worden, Caoimhe Henry.

Front cover scenes of Ballyhaunis were taken on Christmas Night 2004 by Jaroslav Jurak, as was the fireworks scene on the back cover which was taken during the Summer Festival 2005.

28th Edition

