



Ballybaunis Parish Magazine 29th Edition

Christmas Greetings

Once again as winter sets in and Christmas approaches, we are reminded that it is "Annagh Magazine" time again. I welcome this edition of Annagh and I congratulate the editorial committee on their commitment and dedication, and thank them for being so generous with their time and talents in producing year after year a magazine of the highest quality. It is great to see so many articles by so many people on a wide variety of topics, and I'm sure Annagh will provide many hours of enjoyable reading for Ballyhaunis people both at home and abroad.

Last August saw the passing of Canon Patrick Costelloe, who for thirty-two years played a very important role in the life of Ballyhaunis. He was the founder, and for sixteen years the first Principal of St. Patrick's College, and after that became Parish Priest in Ballyhaunis, a post he held for a further sixteen years until his retirement in 1993. May his gentle soul rest in the peace of the Lord.

This year marks an important milestone both for our parish and the diocese with the holding of the Diocesan Assembly, which was a consultative process to plan for the future of the diocese. During the year many meetings were held throughout the diocese, in fact it is estimated that over 2,500 people attended meetings preparing for the Assembly. It is called a "Future Full of Hope" and we pray that the implementation of its findings will give hope to all the people of our diocese, and strengthen our commitment to our faith and our church as we move ahead.

Ballyhaunis now has a population of many cultures and many nationalities, all living and working harmoniously together. Through the pages of Annagh Magazine, I want to wish all Ballyhaunis people living abroad, and all residents of our parish whatever their nationality, a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.



Joseph Cooney
Joseph Cooney P.P.



Members of Ballyhaunis Active Retirement Association on the occasion of their visit to Áras an Uachtaráin in April 2006.

Left to right: Sr. Evelyn, Mary Coffey, Bridie Webb, Martin McAleese, President Mary McAleese, Mary Waldron, Maura Fitzmaurice, Ann McCormack and Pauline Curley.

Disclaimer

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Editorial

Greetings for Christmas 2006 and best wishes to you during the New Year of 2007. God's blessing on all of you now and for the future. There are very many people of local origin still living in the parish, but an equal number - or maybe perhaps that is multiplied many times - scattered over five continents. We do not forget the big number of people from all over the world who live here now and have added a new and vibrant population to the area.

We would like to express our gratitude to our contributors, patrons, those who have given photographs new and old, the beautiful wedding photographs (always so popular), those who sell the magazine, and to you the readers. You will notice that this year not only the weddings but also the general photographs are in colour. Naturally, this has increased the cost, so we must reluctantly raise the price and ask a small extra contribution from the patrons.

This year's magazine is dedicated to the memory of two men who played a very important role in the magazine's history, and who passed away recently. Canon Patrick Costelloe, former P.P. Annagh, who died a few months ago was one of our founders and his interest in the magazine never waned. Willie Costello, of Claremorris and Galway, was a contributor of articles and memories from the beginning and remained in touch to the end. Ar dheis Dé go raibh siad araon.

Finally, we appeal for new and young blood to join our committee. Most of us, and I refer especially to myself, are getting on a bit!

If you wish to give an article or a photograph you can contact Annagh by email at annaghmag@eircom.net or visit our website: www.annagh.com

Committee members

Joe Keane, Martin Forde, Jim Lunden, Maisin Meath, John Halpin, Agnes Heaney, Maura Griffin, Seamus Mulrennan, Paul Waldron, Michael Finn. Typesetting: Mary Donnelly. Cover design: Jaroslav Jurak.



Derrylea School 1940. Front left to right: Paddy Byrne R.I.P., John Dowling, Oliver Connell R.I.P., Tom Walsh, Michael Lyons, Pat Griffin R.I.P. Second row: Michael Griffin, Mr. P. Jordan, Paddy Lyons. Third row: Mary Morrisroe R.I.P., Nora Molloy, Eileen Delaney R.I.P., Bridget Griffin, Patricia Walsh R.I.P., Kathleen Kearns R.I.P. Back: Mary Walsh, John Connell R.I.P., Francis Cruise, Joe Walsh R.I.P. John Connell R.I.P., Paddy Joe Cribbin R.I.P.

Where is “Ballyhappiness”?

Where a lot has been done, but there's a lot more to do!

Donal Shanaghy (C.E.O. Ballyhaunis Chamber)

The first time I was told about Ballyhaunis, I asked, “Where’s that?” I was born in Carlow, in the southeast of the country, and who could blame me, at only six years of age, for not being familiar with the name of a rural town, 120 miles away, in the west of Ireland? The family was on holidays in the west and we were “touring around”. At that time in the 1950s a long journey in Ireland by road involved travelling through a lot of towns. A journey from Carlow to the west involved passing through such towns as Stradbally, Portlaoise, Mountmellick, Tullamore and Clara. After Clara, we travelled on to Moate, Co. Westmeath, with its fine wide Main Street and impressive buildings on either side. On leaving Moate we proceeded to Athlone. After crossing the Shannon in Athlone we turned right for Roscommon. I recall noticing that the roads got narrower as we travelled west, but we were fascinated by the beautiful scenery, the small fields surrounded by stone walls and the farmyards, so close to the roadside. The next town I recall was Castlerea and, a little further on, we passed through Ballinlough and then we arrived in Ballyhaunis.

My first impressions of the town of Ballyhaunis are very vague. I never thought that one day I would be living here, or even close to it, but then life has many pleasant surprises. Having worked and lived in Midleton, Cork City, Douglas, Co. Cork; Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary; Kilkenny; Athlone, Co.

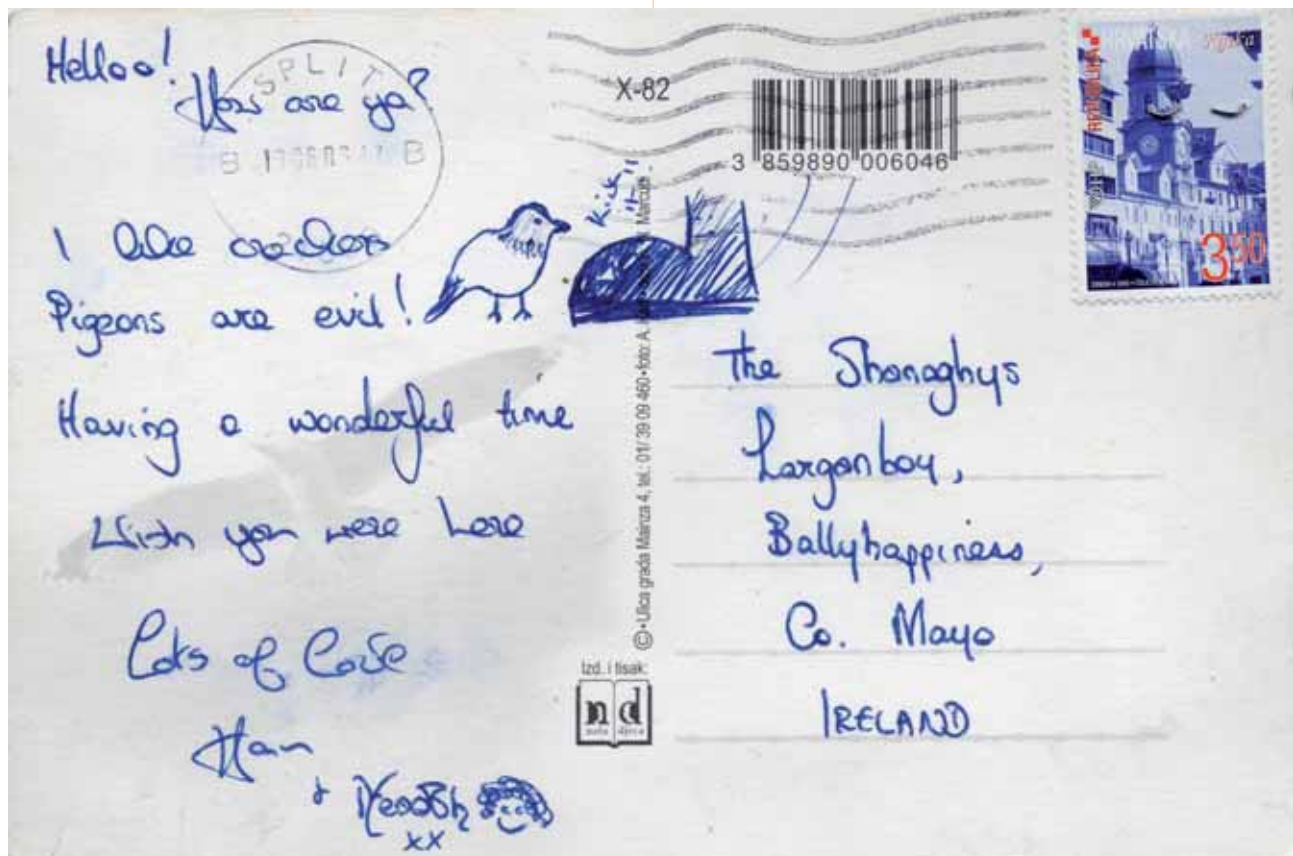
Westmeath and Ballymahon, Co. Longford, I am quite familiar with many towns and cities throughout the country and how much they have developed over the years.

When I moved to Ballyhaunis, my family were in their teenage years and, as is normal for any teenage family, many friends and relations come visiting to enjoy the social life. Quite recently, some cousins, having spent a few weekends in Ballyhaunis, went abroad on holidays and one of them sent a postcard to the family from Croatia with our address written as “Ballyhappiness” instead of “Ballyhaunis”. That, in itself, tells a story. Obviously, my family is extremely happy in Ballyhaunis and now that they are living away from home, continue to travel back as often as they can. My family and I have no hesitation in saying that our happiest times have been in Ballyhaunis.

What people like about Ballyhaunis

It is interesting that, in the recent Community Futures Survey results, the majority of respondents mentioned the “friendliness of the people” as the thing they most liked about the town. They also mentioned:

- + the town’s diversity,
- + its community spirit,



- the environment and outdoor amenities,
- the shops with friendly staff,
- its location.

All very important and intangible attributes.

What people don't like about Ballyhaunis

The Community Futures Survey results show that most people don't like the parking, traffic and roads in Ballyhaunis. Other dislikes are:

- the lack of shops and amenities,
- derelict buildings and litter,
- no facilities for youth,
- lack of Garda presence,
- late night disturbances.

All very tangible, so much easier to rectify.

The following are some of the actual words written by respondents to the Community Futures Survey:

Some positive comments:

"A good town centre enhanced by a beautiful piece of bronze sculptured figures in the square".

"The walk around the Friary/Park is nice".

"It's great now there is a playground for toddlers and small children... a place where parents and children can meet".

"A lot of nationalities live here; this gives us a chance to experience other cultures".

"I like the town of Ballyhaunis for its schools, churches and radio station".

Some negative comments:

"For a town this size we need a good standard hotel now".

"The massive traffic congestion in the town, there are car parks but nobody uses them".

"Cars abandoned on both sides of the streets make it very difficult to simply drive through the town".

"Some shabby buildings in the town, which let down the shopkeepers who do make an effort".

"There is nothing to do for young people, nowhere to go".

"Don't feel safe at night... never a policeman when you want him even during office hours".

Great Town

Ballyhaunis is a great town for family life and we should all be proud of its great traditions of commerce and trade, its historical importance with the Augustinian Abbey Church and Grounds and the great community spirit in the town, which fosters friendship and goodwill among the people living here. Ballyhaunis is also a cosmopolitan town, with a multicultural population. Without losing our own indigenous customs and historical values, we have, in Ballyhaunis, the opportunity to appreciate the values in other cultures and customs. The town of Ballyhaunis grew up around our treasured Augustinian Abbey, dating back to the 1400s. The community is extremely fortunate to have such history in our locality and The Abbey Partnership is protecting this valuable property for the entire community. The entire property, consisting of the Abbey House, the Abbey Church, the Abbey Graveyard and thirteen acres of wooded parkland is, what I would call, a Community

Treasure and we should cherish it for future generations. Very few rural towns in Ireland have such a rare and valuable historical property, owned and managed by the community. The Abbey Church is extremely important and must be preserved in its entirety. Given that the Augustinian Order has donated the entire property to the local community, it is appropriate, and not beyond the bounds of possibility, that the Abbey Church would be used for church ceremonies in the future. It is heartwarming to see a modern Children's Playground and a Woodland Riverside Walk in the Abbey Grounds. These facilities ensure that the property will be exclusively available for use by the community and the members of The Abbey Partnership deserve great praise for their excellent work to date. Also, we, as a community, are very fortunate to have Mid West Radio with their very attractive broadcasting centre in Clare Street. The board of directors of Mid West Radio is deserving of our thanks for choosing Ballyhaunis for their headquarters and also our congratulations for their extremely good work in promoting the county of Mayo and the West of Ireland generally.

All of the towns and cities I mentioned earlier have developed enormously over the years and many of them have good quality infrastructure, with relief roads, local distributor roads, by-pass roads, modern hotels, good quality car parking and new Community Centres for both young and not-so-young people to enjoy their leisure time. Towns that I have not mentioned before, such as Claremorris, Knock, Kiltimagh, Westport and Castlebar, have also developed in leaps and bounds over the years. But Ballyhaunis seems to have been caught in a time warp. At this stage, it is long overdue for Ballyhaunis to develop and prosper, but in order to do so, the residents and business people in the town need to get involved in shaping the town and seeking support from our public representatives and our local government officials. Every citizen has a responsibility to become involved in a positive way. As they say, the hurlers on the ditch never score and their talent is untested!

Ballyhaunis Chamber

While the town has improved significantly in recent years, this has been due to the hard work of a small number of local business people and residents, the voluntary committees and organisations, with the valued assistance of the staff in Mayo County Council and the local public representatives. There are plenty of local organisations already working hard in developing the community and they need more volunteers to get involved. The organisations also need to work together and share the workload in developing the town and surrounding area. In an effort to redress this situation, the members of Ballyhaunis Chamber identified four priorities for Ballyhaunis town and the local area. These priorities are:

The Local Distributor Road Project – This is the link road between Knock Road, Claremorris Road, Irishtown Road, Galway Road, Ballinlough Road and Charlestown Road, which was proposed over twenty years ago. While most people refer to it as "The By-Pass Road", it was certainly by-passed by the NRA and Government. It just barely got off the drawing board, with one section (the link between Knock

Road and Claremorris Road) actually built fifteen years ago – but then it was forgotten about. Why was it forgotten about? Did people not remind the local public representatives that it was their duty to progress it? Why did other towns get priority over Ballyhaunis? I believe that most people felt it was up to someone else to remind the powers-that-be. Everyone has a civic duty to develop his or her local area for future generations. There is now an urgent need to complete the project, given that all commercial traffic has to travel through the centre of Ballyhaunis town in order to get beyond the town. Business in the town of Ballyhaunis is suffering and even crossing the street is now a life threatening experience for pedestrians, especially young children. Not only would the town of Ballyhaunis benefit from a proper Local Distributor Road, but the surrounding villages and towns would also benefit by having easier access. Ballyhaunis Chamber, on behalf of the entire community is now demanding that this project is immediately given top priority by Mayo County Council in the Ballyhaunis Town Plan.

The N83 (Galway Road) Project – The N83, for which the National Roads Authority is responsible, is extremely dangerous along the 6km section after leaving Ballyhaunis, travelling towards Galway. The road is treacherous for motorists and pedestrians. At the 50km speed limit signs, which are close to a T-junction, there is an entrance/exit for a new housing estate. Outside it, lies a cul-de-sac footpath! Are people supposed to walk up on the ditch when they reach the end of it? One wonders how planning permission could have been granted for such a design. I recently noticed a 40 ft. articulated truck parked overnight along this footpath. Did the driver think it was a parking area? How would the driver have felt if this had caused an accident? The Gardai should take action on this type of indiscriminate parking. The road is narrow, with a lot of bends and with the hedgerows and grass margins growing out on to the road. The recent resurfacing of this section of road is an improvement but is only a cosmetic exercise. Long-term improvements, involving realignment and widening, are badly needed and Ballyhaunis Chamber has called on all those in positions of authority at local and national level to become involved in ensuring that it will be done quickly.

The Hotel Development Project – This project continues to be the most important priority for Ballyhaunis Chamber. A new hotel is essential for the proper development of the town. The land involved has been identified and planning permission is approved. As it is a private commercial undertaking, Ballyhaunis Chamber can only await developments. In the meantime, the full support of Ballyhaunis Chamber is available to the developer in order to progress matters.

The Derelict Buildings Project – One does not have to leave the Square in Ballyhaunis town to view the disgraceful derelict buildings. There are many more examples of dereliction not far from the Square and, as these properties are privately owned, there is an onus and responsibility on the owners of these buildings to maintain them in a safe and attractive condition. While many business premises are extremely attractive and the owners deserve congratulations for

maintaining their premises well, there are many business premises in the town with broken windows, clogged-up eave gutters, loose roof slates, untidy passageways and footpaths, sad looking paint work and broken signage. Ballyhaunis Chamber is calling on all the property owners involved to take pride in their premises and initiate action that will result in having premises that Ballyhaunis people can be proud of.

Additional project

In addition to the four priorities outlined above, Ballyhaunis Chamber is involved in a number of other projects and activities at the present time. These include:

Public Car Parking Project – The existing public car parks in Ballyhaunis are in need of improvements. All of these car parks require good quality surfaces, good quality boundary fencing, proper lighting, C.C.T.V. systems (if possible) and more accessible pedestrian exits. The car park off Bridge Street has a river walkway at the side of it and that needs to be reviewed, given that we now have a very pleasant river walkway around the Friary grounds. Mayo County Council has been requested to consider a proposal for the Bridge Street Car Park and to upgrade the other public car parks in the town.

Urban Building Developments Campaign – The town of Ballyhaunis has been enhanced by a number of recently constructed commercial buildings and residential housing but some recent building developments in the town have not been in keeping with desirable standards. A small number of new buildings have turned out as “eyesores” on the streetscape of the town. There are two examples in two different streets, namely Main Street and Abbey Street. There are also two commercial building developments on Clare Road, which were already under construction without planning approval having been obtained by the developer from Mayo County Council. Building Developers must observe the planning regulations and we, as a community must ensure compliance. There is obviously a need for the entire community to be vigilant of all building developments and to submit observations, where appropriate, to Mayo County Council. Ballyhaunis Chamber is vigilant in this activity and has queried the action being taken by the Council.

Pride in our Premises Campaign – All business owners and residents in the town are encouraged to take pride in their properties by maintaining them in good condition and by carrying out repairs as soon as possible. This has the twofold benefit of attracting visitors and, consequently, more business to the town. These efforts also support the good work of the Tidy Towns Committee, thereby improving our results in future tidy towns competitions.

The Enterprise Centre Units for SMEs – In all, there are eleven Enterprise Units in The Enterprise Centre, for use by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The total area of the Units is 21,000 sq. ft., ranging in size from 260 sq. ft. to 7,200 sq. ft. The rental cost at the present time is €6.50 per sq. ft. per year (compared to €23.00 in Galway!) As at the end of September, there were two Units remaining available for rental to small businesses. Many people have commented on this very impressive development, consisting of The Enterprise Centre and The Social Housing Scheme, involving 21 houses and a

BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL & TRADE FAIR SCENES



*Fair Day scene outside
Credit Union*



*Sr. Eithne enjoying some
Calai (Colcannon) on
Heritage Day with (left to
right) Eileen Lynch
(Holywell), Marie
Brennan (Gurteen), Mary
Ellen Frehill (Clare Court)
and Ann Bourke
(Hazelhill)*



*Patricia and Bernie Quinn
(Classaghroe), Geraldine
and John Connolly
(Killinaugher), John Joe
Flanagan (Spaddagh)*

BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL & TRADE FAIR SCENES



At the Legion of Mary stand: Freddie O'Brien, Margaret Johnston (Knox St.), Helen Hoban (Derrynacong)



Adrian Gavin, Cathal and John Fahy (Derreens), John Lyons (Redhill)



Lucie Kavanagh (Clagnagh), Genevieve and Joan Flanagan (Spaddagh)

Community House, not yet built but in the construction stage. Great credit is due to the original B.R.C.I.E committee, who had the foresight to conceive the development and to implement it over the past 10 years. In particular, congratulations are due to Peter Cunnane, the chairman of B.R.C.I.E. Limited, for his dedication to the project. The directors of B.R.C.I.E. limited are: Peter Cunnane (Chairman), Eugene Carney, Mary Smyth, Tom Finn, Barry Butler, Tadhg Buckley and Tony Nestor.

The Flag Pole Holders Project – This project was the brainchild of Eddie Murphy Jnr. and he carried out a lot of work in promoting the idea. With the assistance of Martin Fitzmaurice and Mike Griffin, many business owners and residents in the town had flag pole holders fitted to their premises, which resulted in a great display of flags for the All-Ireland Final. This initiative has helped to improve the attractiveness of the town for sporting events and other occasions. The holders will also accommodate small Christmas trees during the festive season and it compliments the earlier initiative of hanging flower baskets, which were installed by the Tidy Towns Committee.

The Chamber Business School – Training Courses for business owners & employees – There are a large number of training courses available to businesses. Each course needs a minimum of ten participants and a survey is presently being carried out among our members to establish what courses they have an interest in.

Chamber HR – This is a human resources/industrial relations support service for chamber members that offers employers interpretation of the law, expert advice on human resources management as well as indemnification against the legal and award costs associated with pursuing a claim in the Labour Relations Commission or Employment Appeals Tribunal.

Highlights

In reviewing the activities of Ballyhaunis Chamber during the past year, there are a number of highlights, which are deserving of mention.

Christmas Lights Committee – Chaired by Eddie Murphy Snr., the Christmas Lights Committee continues to do tremendous work in providing a very attractive display of Christmas Lighting. The display, over the months of December and January, has tremendous benefit for the businesses in the town and sets up Ballyhaunis town as one of the most attractive shopping towns in the West of Ireland during the Christmas and New Year shopping season. The committee members are: Eddie Murphy Snr. (Chairman), David McConn (Treasurer), Tom Forde, Eugene Carney, Margaret Byrne, Annette Murphy, Brian Phillips, John Gill, Mai Chu, Peter Cunnane, Austin Finn, Mike Griffin, Fergal Delaney, Gareth Delaney, Michael Goulding, Liam Folliard, William Nestor, Pat Phillips, Róisín Curley, Paula Jordan and Pat Ryan. The committee deserves congratulations for their great work in organising the Christmas lighting last year and would obviously appreciate having more business people involved in helping with their work. Anyone interested in

joining the committee should contact the chairman, Eddie Murphy Snr.

May Weekend Festival – What a great success story this turns out to be each year! Chaired by Martin Fitzmaurice, who continues to make an enormous contribution with his innovative ideas and good organisational skills, the committee work extremely well together and organise something for everyone in the community, both the young people and the not-so-young people. Enda Caulfield did a colossal amount of work in preparing signage and stands for the fair Day on Sunday. Many other people helped out in supporting the organising committee. Congratulations and thanks are due to a lot of people, many who were not even on the committee, who supported the work both before and after the weekend. The committee members are as follows: Martin Fitzmaurice (Chairperson), Eddie Murphy Jnr., Michael O'Grady, Enda Caulfield, Paul Finn, Anne Jennings, Brian Kilcourse, Margaret Byrne, Billy Nestor, Adrian Murray, Anne Fitzpatrick, John



Executive Members of Ballyhaunis Chamber. Back: Tom Forde, P.J. Smyth, Pat Ryan, Donal Shanaghy. Front: Martin Fitzmaurice, John Dillon-Leetch and Eddie Murphy Jnr.



Cutting the ribbon. Eamonn O'Cuiv T.D., Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, John Dillon Leetch (President Ballyhaunis Chamber) and Donal Shanaghy (C.E.O. Ballyhaunis Chamber)

Gill, Anne Cunnane, Kay Stenson, Mildred Byrne, Pat Higgins, Gerry Winston, Donal Dunne and P.J. Smyth.

All of the events are very well attended each year and, obviously, the weather plays an important part in the outdoor events. In 2006, we were unfortunate to have inclement weather during The Fair Day event, which resulted in less people spending time outdoors. Nevertheless, all those involved in the festival had a great weekend.

Enterprise Ballyhaunis 2006 – The Trade Show, which took place on the same days as the May Weekend Festival, proved to be an excellent event for both exhibitors and spectators. There were fifty-one Indoor Exhibition Stands and eight exhibitors availed of the outdoor stands for the larger products on show. “Enterprise Ballyhaunis 2006” included many new businesses exhibiting their products and services for the first time and many clubs and societies promoting their activities, so it was a classic example of all sections of the community working together to make our world a better place for everyone. It was not exclusively manufacturing or services or retail or wholesale business. It represented the entire community and allowed everyone to interact on both a business and personal level. “Enterprise Ballyhaunis 2006” had some novel ideas and activities for everyone. It had “The Pancake Factory” as its centrepiece, a new and exciting start-up business, which went down a treat with everyone. “The Chocolate Fountain” also provided some delicious chocolate treats for the children who attended. Judging by the success of the trade show, it is quite clear that entrepreneurship is very much in abundance around the Ballyhaunis area, which is bubbling with enthusiasm for the future and “Enterprise Ballyhaunis 2006” was a vital springboard for the future prosperity of businesses in South East Mayo.

Better conditions

Ballyhaunis Chamber is actively involved in lobbying for better conditions for all businesses and in promoting all businesses in the area. It is vital to have all business owners involved as active members of the Chamber. There is a lot of work to do in both protecting existing business and employment while, at the same time, taking steps to ensure that the town and area develop in such a way as to attract new business and employment. Ballyhaunis Chamber represents all businesses in the area, which includes Knock, Kiltimagh, Aghamore, Tooreen, Began and Brickens. Basically it represents South East Mayo and all business owners in this area should be members of Ballyhaunis Chamber and participate in the activities, which ultimately support their livelihoods and protect local employment.

Great credit is due to the individual members of Ballyhaunis Chamber, who have given their personal time to assist the development of the Chamber, the town and the surrounding area, and also, in particular, the executive committee members, who attend very frequent meetings in order to agree the priorities of the Chamber.

The executive members are:

John Dillon-Leetch (President), Tom Forde (Vice-President), Martin Fitzmaurice (Secretary), David McConn (Treasurer), Vinnie Biesty (Asst. Treasurer), P.J. Smyth (P.R.O.), Pat Ryan, Eddie Murphy Jnr. and Patrick Morley.

Anyone interested in joining Ballyhaunis Chamber may contact the Chamber Office (094 9630311).



Ballyhaunis Enterprise Centre.

The Thoughts of Youth are Long, Long Thoughts

Mike Hopkins

I suppose one of the longest memories anybody has is of their classroom in the primary school. So, in my case, at Leargan Bui, in the primary school, my classmates were Hugh Kelly, Martin Bones, Mick Boyle, Dom Finn and Martin Culkeen from Erriff. Our teacher was a young, alert, energetic Miss Morley who came on her push-bicycle from Began every day – hail, rain or storm. She later became Mrs. Tim Forde at Began and still lives, I understand, with her daughter Anne at Belcarra. A great lady, surely to God, and a great teacher. She was well capable of chastising us when we deserved it, but she had no place in her classroom for favourites or privileged families or anything like that. It was a time of survival for us all and there were no school uniforms, and whether we were dressed ragged or neat it was all the same. Whether we were ‘Skid-row Joe’ or ‘Superstar’, it made no difference: it was equal for everyone; there was nobody put up on pedestals.

Mrs. Prendergast taught us too for a short while, and our principal teacher – The Master – was Tom Waldron from Liscat: a scholar and a gentleman as well. He wasn’t in the best of health and sometimes he wouldn’t arrive at school. However, Miss Morley was quite capable of taking on the tough guys – the seniors as well as the juniors – no problem. Tom Waldron was also a talented violin player and often brought the violin to school and played the jigs and reels for us. Even back in those dark old ages he taught us the basics of music on the ‘Clarke’s’ tin whistle.

Passing the time

I remember a day when the master went out to the toilet and a fellow, who will remain nameless of course, gave a good twist forward to the clock. It led to a bit of confusion, but we did get a great early evening off from school. But of course those things are a once-off thing, so the next time the fellow in question felt like an early evening off, he just had the clock in his hand when Miss Morley opened her classroom door and enquired what was going off. The fellow gave a very good explanation – it sounded awful like the truth – he said he and the other lads decided that the clock was out pretty far in the window and, just in case it would fall down, he was about to push it in. But she was a lady that wouldn’t go with every lame story she’d be told and so when the Master came in she told him what happened and the poor fellow got a great hiding alright.

But the story didn’t end there. Some time later when the Master went again out to the toilet, the fellow in question was up to his heels with a piece of wire and tied the toilet door. We had a great game of ‘Dallóg’ around the classroom while the master was in the ‘isolation pen’. But I suppose somebody who went to the ‘Mná’ toilets could hear the shouting and he was finally released. When he came into the classroom he was like Lord Oileán of old: ‘His wrath had changed to wailing’. He put us all through the witness box, but there was no evidence of anybody leaving the room. So he went over to the fellow in question with the piece of wire and he said “Will you take a hold of this wire and see will it burn you!”

We played handball at the gable of the school – it was also a meeting place – and we often went there for the game of

ball on Sundays. They were great years alright, although it was a time of hardship. For the people of our area at any rate (with magnificent views of the Island/Mannin valley) it was like the Pontoon Bridge Hotel: ‘The only thing we overlooked was the lake’. We had great times in the boat on the lake in summer-time, and in winter-time when the lake was frozen over with the ice. It was a great place for chasing the fish and catching them. We often had three or four fish, driving them along (under the ice) like you’d be going to the fair with cattle, trying to keep them out of the rushes and out in the clear water. We used to admire the older men on the skates: old Mick Jordan from Annagh was a genius entirely on the skates, and if he got his eye on any fish, whether it was eel, trout or pike, that fish’s days were numbered. He could skate in where the ice was thin, and it would be cracking all around him but still he’d never go down. He was a marvellous man. The lake would be full of young fellows in the daytime and in the night-time in the pub, or at the local card game, the topic would be the awfully big fish that was caught during the day – it was a great boast. Of course it was against the law – it was an illegal sport; but then, back in those years, nearly thing we liked was either illegal, immoral or fattening! We also fished along the Glone River in the summer days where we met the lads from Carrownedan, Aghamore and Coolnaha. There was also a great bathing place at the Glone River and we went there nearly every evening from May to September.

Spraois

Back in those days, in the early forties, the House Dances or Spraois were fairly regular events. When people of middle-age would come from America or England on holidays – people who were past the age of going to the dances (and there was no singing pubs at the time) – there would be a couple of spraois held while they were here. And when the spraoi was to be held all eyes would turn to my neighbour Paddy Delaney to do the music. He was the entertainer. Although, strange that I lived beside him, I never knew him to have either a melodian or a violin of his own. He was a talented musician on both melodian and violin, and when the spraoi was coming up, even if somebody had to go as far away as Mountbellew to borrow a good instrument for him, a good instrument would be found. Paddy Delaney was also one of the ‘Boys of the Old Brigade’ in the years before that and he now lies in an unmarked grave – just a green patch in the graveyard. There are only a handful of us now that knows where it is, but we often go to visit his grave and pray for him. That was his wish – like Robert Emmett – ‘Let not my epitaph be written until Ireland takes its place amongst the nations of the Earth’. No tomb or no surround, but he was a great man at a time when great men were needed. When the spraoi would come up in those days Paddy Delaney and Pake Ganley of Leargan would be the ‘Foster and Allen’ for the night. They were great men. And sometimes Pat Hunt of Island, another genius with his mouth-organ would also be there. I was never a dancer myself but I used to admire the senior men and women who would dance the eight-hand, sean-nós set. They were marvellous. The men would wear strong shoes and it was great to hear the tapping on the concrete floor,

and a tip loose in the heel of the shoe would add to the rhythm - it had the effect of the tambourine. Some of the women may've been a little over-weight for the dancing, but by Jove they could keep the time. When the reel part of the set would be played two of the men would dance a step of the reel while the other six would stand and wait for the bar to be ended and would be ready to join in again. It was marvellous to watch them; it's an awful pity those nights weren't recorded on film or video. They had a favourite reel that time called 'The Volunteer', a reel I haven't heard for years, only I heard it recently enough in 'Come West Along the Road' and it was great to hear it. While that reel was being played you wouldn't have to twist their arm to get up and dance. They all knew the reel and they'd all be getting up and taking off the jackets. They were certainly not 'Sally Garden' people in those days!

When the young fellows would come home for Christmas from England then the 'Ball' would be held. They'd pay so much towards the buying of the barrel of Guinness, and the cheese and wine for the ladies. It would be a great night at the ball alright. All lads and ninety-nine percent of the girls in those years finished their education at fourteen years of age. Then it was the plough and horses, the sléan and the spade, the hayfield, the banks of turf, the harvest field and the potato field for three or four years. Back during the 'Emergency' it was the time of the compulsory tillage, the time of the black bread and the half-ounce of tea, the time of the rationing and the black market. Nobody could get tires for a bicycle only on the black market in those days, and there was hardly any country person could afford that kind of going. At the age of seventeen or eighteen then it was the boat - The Princess Maud - From Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead, and whatever 'John Bull' had to offer us then for the years coming. And the stiff fight that we waged against lust and greed we learnt it there.

Dance Halls

Following on from the Spraois and House dances, the next thing were local dancehalls of which there were several in my young days. The most local was Bange's Hall in Leargan. When we were playing Ball at Leargan school of a Sunday

evening one time we saw the dance band all walking together, like pilgrims, walking to Bange's Hall further over the village - Gus Lanigan, Tom Swift, Mick Eagney and other members of the band, and all the dance fans along with them from as far in as Ballyhaunis and beyond. The last people to run the dances at Bange's Hall was Dick Prendergast, the band leader from Kilkelly, and Thomas O'Boyle, publican, from Ballyhaunis. They were the last to run the dances at Bange's before the dance-hall closed its doors. Bange's Hall was over for dances before I took the road to dances.

Back in them years my cousin Jim Connell (now deceased) was the last to run the dances in Buckley's Hall at Áth Dearg. Jim ran dance-halls in Manchester in later years, but he was doing his 'apprenticeship' there in his home village before he ever went to England. I accompanied him there of a Sunday evening and the musicians - Paddy Naughton and his band - from Granlahan, came across the fields. They crossed the fields from the Curries road, from around Joe Eagney's, and jumped out across the fence with their gear to play in the dance-hall that evening. And, on our way coming from Ballyhaunis Mass of a 15th of August - the holy day - on our way walking out the road from Ballyhaunis we met all the pilgrims coming from Knock after being at the night vigil in Knock, and them carrying the frames of their bicycles and the wheels of their bicycles on their backs. All their tyres and tubes had been stolen during the vigil of Knock. And in the following years after that there was no vigil held at Knock for a number of years after that episode.

Blizzard

One of my earliest memories of travelling with the local dance band would be St. Patrick's Night in 1947 - the band was to play in Rattigan's Hall at Coogue. There would be no dances in Lent that time, only St. Patrick's night, and none again until Easter Sunday night, so St. Patrick's night was a very special night. Everyone would be looking forward to 'celebrating the saint'. But the big blizzard came on the last days of February, and the snow was piled eight or ten feet high in places, and got frozen over then in the coming nine or ten days. You could



Bange's Hall, Larganboy, in the 1930s

BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL & TRADE FAIR SCENES



*Henry Reilly, Billy Nestor,
Willy "the Clown"
McNeela*



*Jimmy Walsh
(Knockbrack), Kevin
Durkan (Classaghroe),
Seamus Sloyan (Tully),
Gabriel Carney
(Mountain), John Lyons
(Leow)*



*L-R: Padraic, Audrey, baby
Marie, Aisling and Corrine
Flatley, Mike Lyons on their
way to enjoy the festival fun.*

BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL & TRADE FAIR SCENES



A lady at a spinning wheel demonstrating her craft while Teresa and Pat Killeen, Canon Joseph Cooney and Bridie Webb admire her skills.



Marese Dooney (Kilbrogan), Mary Henry (Crossard), Veronica Regan (Killinaugher)



Mark Davy (Bohogue), John Mullarkey (Bohogue), Johnny Moran (Bohogue), Martin Caulfield (Carrowkeel), Gabriel Caulfield (Island)

walk above on top of it, and we didn't know whether it was on top of the hedge or the field or the road or where we were walking - on top of the bushes sometimes - but to pick the levellest places, and there would be a gap cut through the high peaks or drifts.

So we set out on a night of snow carrying our goods and our gear, walking in single file to go to Rattigan's Hall to play. When we were going over at Sí Gaoirthe the snowflakes began again, and by the time we got to Coogue School they were heavier and thicker than ever. When we got to the top of Malai Mhór we met Tommy Rattigan - a brother of the man who owned the dance-hall. He was coming to meet us to tell us that they were afraid to run the dance, and that it had come in the wireless that there was going to be a bigger blizzard even than the first one. They were afraid that if anybody got lost in the snow the dancehall would be to blame. Of course the dancehall was blamed that time for many things: the missionaries told us that danger was lurking everywhere around the 'ballroom of romance'. So there was to be no dance - it was mission impossible - although we could still hear dance fans coming from the direction of Liscat and them singing to the lilt of 'Hello Patsy Fagan' and 'Shake Hands to your uncle Dan me lads' and 'Only Five minutes more'.

Anyway, we were welcomed into the Caulfield household and a big blazing turf fire. It was great to get in from the snow. Maggie Julia, who was a young lovely teenage girl at that time, was all dressed and ready, looking forward to the night, and we felt awful bad to have to bear the bad news that there was going to be no night out: no dance, no date. However, the kettle was bubbling on the crook and it wasn't long until Maggie Julia handed around hot cups of tea which she refilled many times for us. I can still remember the taste of the lovely, oven-baked, sweet-cake with raisins and currants which she cut and handed around in abundance to us. We felt like new men in a short time. The band-leader Martin Hopkins of Larganboy played jigs and reels on the accordion, and there were songs and many stories and tales before we braved the air for the homeward journey. We left most of our equipment at Caulfield's until 'there were brighter days in Ireland'.

We all have many happy pleasant memories of Rattigan's hall in those years. There was no venue ever in the world to equal that place. I have often gone to the roofless ruin of the dance-hall and stood inside the door, and looked down to the gable where the band would be playing, and imagine the great Dick Prendergast from Kilkelly who would be there singing his head off. And Paddy Naughton from Granlahan and his band, who were second to none; and the great Johnny Cleary from Claremorris; and most of all in the later years the great Tom Garvey from Carrownedan who was the 'Big Tom' of those years. It was Tom Garvey and his band which played at the opening night of the Eclipse Ballroom in Ballyhaunis. No better men and it was a great night

End of an Era

Sadly though, the country Ballroom of Romance era came to an end. One by one they closed their doors. But then there's an old quotation which says 'God never closed one door but he opened another', and a few short miles up the road the Parish Social was held in 'the school around the corner'. We had great nights in those places. They were strictly supervised by 'An Sagart Paroiste', of course. The lads would have to sit or stand along one side of the room, and the girls on the other side. The gentleman would get up and walk across and ask the girl to dance, and when that dance would be over they would both

return to the seats where they came from. It was mostly sets and waltzes, preferably 'Moore's Melodies'. But, if for any reason the priest would be absent for a while, then 'Bill Haley and his Comets' would wail and rock all round the place for a while. At the end of the night, when we would be loading our gear outside the school gate, the priest would be walking back and over on the road, wearing a good pair of well polished shoes, and if any handsome young lad from the 'west side' of the venue felt that he could escort his girlfriend to her bicycle on the 'east side' it was just not on - hard luck. Of course we all knew that come midweek - Tuesday or Wednesday night again - it would be 'Over the Moors to Maggie' and no word of it. But we had great nights in those places: Brickens, Granlahan, even as far off as Aghalustia near Loughglynn.

They were great times. There was no cannabis resin or heroin or any of that, and if the odour of alcohol was ever breathed in through the doors of those venues it would be like Maggie Thatcher, 'Out, out, out!' But there was no need for road checks or breathalysers or anything that way. The odd court case would be maybe for no light on a bicycle, that was all. There would be no bad heads in it, or no hangovers on a Monday morning. And the only pill that was in it that time was a Beecham's pill.

Yes, do you remember the good old days
Forever they are past
The bothrín green and the old bog road
They'll never be the same again
For things are changing fast

Greccio

Fr. Kieran Burke

*A shrine, which sits upon a hillside high
In Italy, recalls for us Christ's birth,
In Bethlehem, in lowly crib or rude praesepio
This was the way he chose to come on earth.*

*Upon a Christmas night, near Greccio,
Some Christian folk from all around, they came
Unto a cave, with ox and ass
To celebrate the coming of the child of God
Who, like a light, shines forth on all below.*

*'Twas dark, though brightly shone the stars
When Brother Francis, with simplicity
and joy profound
Did sing the holy Gospel
He held aloft the figure of the Babe of Bethlehem
Placed it within that cave, that poor praesepio,
Yet, many hearts were touched by God that night.*

*Fair Greccio, 'twas well that Br. Francis
graced your land.
You soon became a place of prayers and peace
While Mother Nature, with her arms spread out
In lovely vistas, far and wide,
Invites to wonder and to recollection
Of the Christ, who is the Lord of earth and sky.*

Abbey Pattern 2006

Deirdre Moran (Secretary)

Following the huge success of last year's Abbey Pattern the Committee started work on this year's pattern before Christmas. 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 were re-elected: Joe Byrne - Chairman, Aisling Caulfield - Treasurer and Deirdre Moran - Secretary. Thankfully, we have an even bigger committee this year with last year's members staying on and new members joining us this year. The committee members are: Ann Lyons, Susie Otterwell, Michael Egan, Enda Murphy, Stephen Grogan, Seamus Grogan, Theresa Griffin, Stella Hughes, Niamh Henry, Martin Walsh and Gerry Winston.

Again this year, before any planning was done, the decision had to be made which Children's Charity would receive a donation. It was decided to donate €500 to ABC Group – Chernobyl Children's Group – a very worthwhile group indeed!

We started seeking sponsorship in July and we really are 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.

The Pattern is traditionally held on the last Sunday in August, but we had a bit of an obstacle this year in the shape of Mayo playing Dublin the All-Ireland Semi-final. We knew if we held the pattern that day we would have no attendance so we moved it to the following Sunday!

Sunday 3rd September

We organised a bigger Marquee, hired Face Painters, more Bouncing Castles, and had more sporting activities for young and old alike. We even went as far as hiring Portaloos for everyone's convenience. Fr. Kieran Burke started the day with Mass in the Friary Church which had a huge attendance. The Mass in the Friary has proved to be extremely popular and the attendance is growing each year. Ballyhaunis' own Richard Waldron, piped the parade down the avenue starting the day's activities along with the very lovely Annagh Rose, Leanne Murphy, and pupils of the Elwood School of Dancing gave a demonstration of Irish Dancing.

The Field was in fantastic shape again this year: this is down to the Trojan work carried out by Sean Biesty and Joe Diskin. The weather was just brilliant – sun shining all day. It was unbelievable the amount of children taking part in the athletics! Our poor helpers were exhausted after all the heats that had to be run such were the number of entrants. The Wheel of Fortune was a huge attraction again this year 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. Three organisations took part this year to raise funds for their groups - The Parent and Toddler Group had a very profitable day with their Tea and Cake sale;

Gothaganny Foróige ran a Barbecue and the Mayo Branch of ISPCA sold goods – all raising much needed funds for their organisations.

It was a great success all round with some houses taking home more than one piece of silverware! Parents and children alike took part in all the activities with great enthusiasm, from the toddlers race right up to the Over Thirties races, Nappy Hanging, Potato Picking and Nail Hammering! A Mayo jersey signed by the Mayo team was raffled at the end of the day – naturally there was huge interest in it from the younger attendees. It ended up going to a Galway house - mind you, the winner's mother is a staunch Mayo supporter so we didn't mind too much the jersey going out of the county!

Thanks

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 for 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 art competition 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 will meet soon to discuss what group will get donation this year. This year's profits were divided into donations to the following: €250 to Mayo Down's Syndrome; €250 to Baby Emma Fund; €250 to Ballyhaunis Youth Group; and €50 to the eleven schools in the area for recreation for the pupils.

To date The Abbey Pattern Committee have donated €3,550 to Ballyhaunis based Children's Groups.

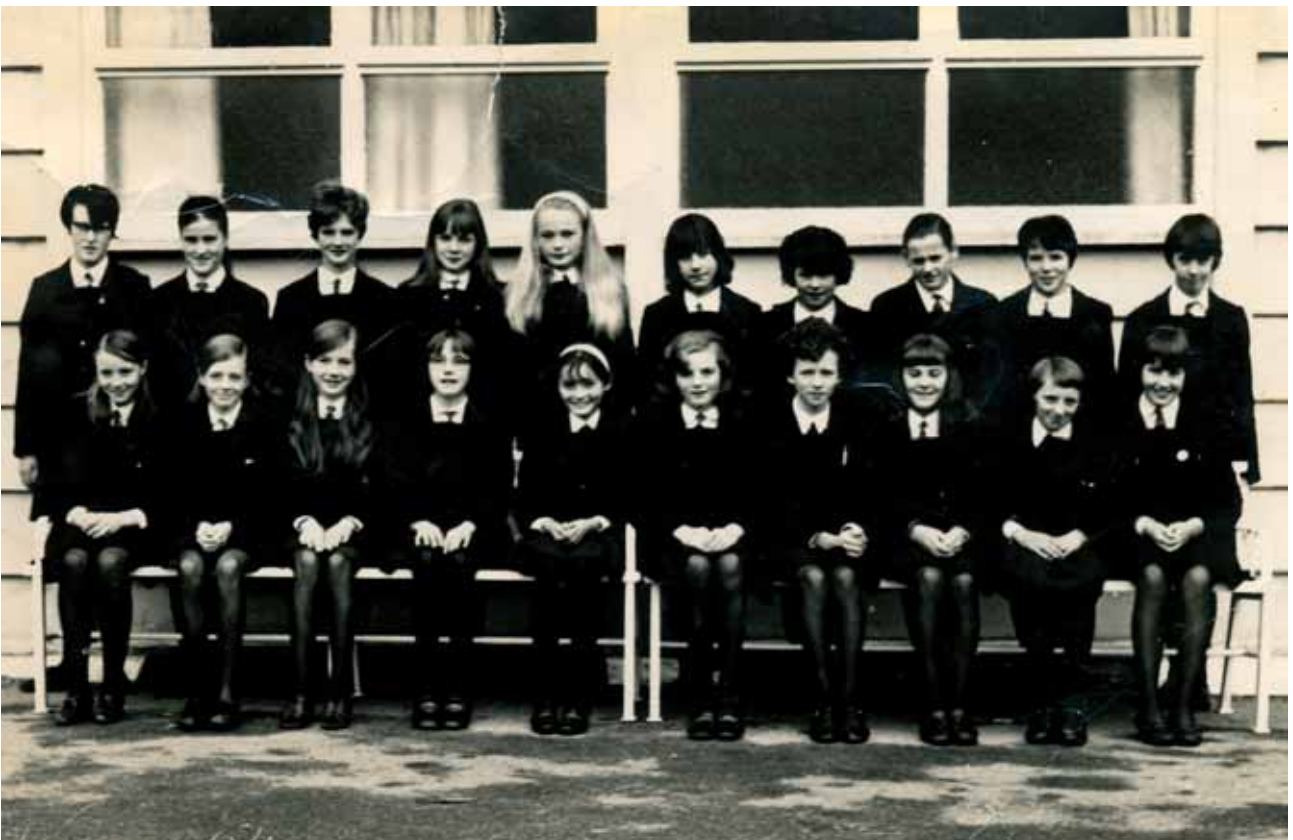
The AGM of the Abbey Pattern Committee will be held in February or March and all new members would be welcomed.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who helped on the days leading the 2006 Abbey Pattern 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.

(See photos of winners towards the end of the magazine.)



Enjoying a tea-break in Cribbins hayfield, Drimbane 1982. Patricia Grealley, Paddy Fitzmaurice, John Stephen Grealley, Gus Grealley, Sean Sweeney, Tom Caulfield R.I.P. and Seamus Cribbin. Children: Sinead Cribbin, Angela Cribbin, Emma and Lisa Cadden, Sean Fitzmaurice and Adrian Greene.



First Year 1969, Convent Secondary School. Back left to right: Mary Marrion, Catherine Bourke, Carmel Green, Marion Connelly, Rosemary Waldron, Kathleen Duffy, Elizabeth O'Brien, Barbara Fitzgerald, Ann Jordan and Ann Egan. Front: Patricia McGee, Maria Webb, Virginia Morris, Regina Tarpey, Teresa Gavin, Kay MacNamara, Mary Ronayne, Cathy Managan, Claire McHugh and Joan Groarke. Missing: Philomena Ganley and Imelda Cunnane.

Saint Patrick's Football Club

Michael Carney was born in Ballindrehid in 1886 and died in Kiltimagh in 1983 aged ninety-seven. This is part of a taped interview where he talked about his role in founding St. Patrick's Football Club in Ballyhaunis in 1910.

Michael Carney

I have often been asked about the foundation of St. Patrick's Football Club in Ballyhaunis. The following may be useful to any future generations who wish to know under what circumstances the Club was formed.

The Club was founded by me under peculiar circumstances. I was working in Tuam as a draper's assistant where I was playing football with a Club called the Commercials (which by the way was captained by a Ballyhaunis man namely Tom Waldron from Knox St.) when I got word that my father, who lived in Ballindrehid, was ill as he was suffering from diabetes - at that time an incurable disease. So, to be near him I took up a position in Conroy's in Ballyhaunis and within a few days after my arrival I discovered that there was a soccer team but no Gaelic team in Ballyhaunis. I decided to call a meeting of the Football Club. The method of calling a meeting at that time was to get the town Bellman to go through the town ringing his bell and announcing a meeting of all footballers at Donnellan's Hall for that night at nine o'clock.

Meeting

At that stage (or up to this stage) the owner, who when I consulted him gave great moral support, was another assistant in Conroy's - Hugh Jones, a Cavan man - who, by the way never kicked a football in his life. Without going into the formality of electing a Chairman, Jack Byrne, who was captain of the soccer club, wanted to know who had the right to call a meeting. I took the responsibility and at once pointed out that a soccer team was leading them nowhere and that the only matches they had was with Castlereagh - there was no other team anywhere near them - whereas forming a GAA Club they could have matches arranged by the County Board and be awarded a set of medals for winning the championship.

I continued without a break that we establish a GAA Club and that Jack Byrne be Captain. Without further discussion it was unanimously agreed to. Billy Glynn was its first Honorary Secretary and it was decided to arrange a series of 'friendlies' with other GAA Clubs, perhaps the most important being Dunmore McHales and Tuam Stars, two of the leading teams in County Galway at that time.

Ballyhaunis won all those 'friendlies' and, being affiliated with the County Board, took part in the 1910 Championship. St. Patrick's was defeated by an illegal team from Ballina and objected to the latter being awarded the Championship. On threat of the Ballyhaunis delegates taking their objection to the Provincial Council, they gave the County Board a gratuity to admit it, placing the County Board in a difficult position because it ruled in favour of St. Patrick's, which automatically disqualified Ballina Club who were main contributors to senior and junior county teams.

The Chairman came up with a novel idea, namely, on St. Patrick's withdrawing their objection, the County Board

would set up a set of medals for a Championship Challenge game, the winners to be regarded as champions. This was agreed to and resulted in a game which was won by Ballyhaunis very easily.

St. Patrick's also won the Championship in 1913 which, by the way, was the first year of 15-a-side teams. St. Patrick's gave the County Board several players of note: Jack Waldron played with Mayo versus Wexford in the All-Ireland Final of 1916, while George Delaney played versus Dublin in the All-Ireland Final of 1921. Others who played in either grade, senior or junior, with the county were Jack Gavin, Michael Murray, Jim Byrne, Willie Flanagan and perhaps a few others whose names I can't recall.

Items of Interest

Jim Byrne, whom I met some few months before his death, told me he had a photo of the 1913 team and would send it to me at first opportunity. As I never got it I presume it is still in the possession of some member of the family and if available at present perhaps Georgie Delaney would identify all the members of that team.

The name St. Patrick's was proposed by J. P. 'Bruddy' Kenny, Main St., following the dedication of the new church in Ballyhaunis. Ballyhaunis was the first Club in the County to adopt the high fielding as practised at the present day. Incidentally, it was introduced into Gaelic football by Kildare. Members of the old team were as follows: P. Kenny and his brother Austin Kenny from Cloonbook, J. P. Kenny of Main St. Peter O'Malley, Frank Byrne, Jack Waldron, Willie Flanagan (he was subsequently placed in Ballinasloe), Packie Caulfield, Paddy Smith, Tom Early, Martin Early (brothers), Lackey Devaney, Willie Glynn, Jack Clarke, and several others I can't bring to mind.

The first football games I remember were played between Ballindrehid and Bracklaghboy and they were supposed to be 21-a-side at that time. I was only a wee child but I still remember. There was no such thing as toggling out at that time. Whoever had the heaviest pair of nail boots was always the best footballer because he made sure that he hit something. Games were very rough at that time and they usually had two referees - one for each side - and the games usually ended up with the referees on each side taking part. A very rough finish but it was their only way for enjoyment at the time. It was before the GAA was fully established.

Players were comprised of one village against another and they had enough young fellows on each village to form a team. If there were one or two left out, it didn't make any difference. The game was played in a field some neighbour lent them for a day, and it was never more than some eighty or ninety yards long and a stone here and there to mark the outline.

Goals and Points

There were goal and point posts in those days and a goal was equal to any number of points; points were only counted when goals were level, so that if a team scored two goals and the others scored twenty points, the team scoring two goals won. It was only if the others scored two goals and five points, and the others scored four points, the points counted then, not otherwise. Subsequently, the point posts were done away with altogether and, incidentally, there was no cross-bar on goal posts in those days. When the point posts were done away with there was a cross bar put on the goal post and over the bar was a point and under it was a goal. Five points then were considered equal to a goal. That was before the introduction of three points as we have at the present time equalling a goal.

All those matches took place in the winter time when the boys were home from England. You see, at that stage young boys, once they reached sixteen years of age, went to England for the harvest season and came home in the winter time. There was no work for them on the farms. They all thought of going to farm work in those years because they didn't know how to do anything else; they weren't skilled workers at anything else and they all worked on farms during the hay and harvest time and then came home for the winter – spent the winter at home.

There was no such thing as time-keeping; you had to guess the time and the ball was generally made by a local shoemaker. It was a terrible weight; of a wet day of course it was very, very heavy and in addition to that it was never pumped hard. That would depend on whoever had the most powerful pair of lungs that would fill the bladder.

Rubber bladders as are known today were unknown at that time, so usually whoever killed a pig in the neighbourhood that day supplied the bladder for a ball. A quill was stuck into the mouth of it then to blow it, so you can imagine that that class of ball wouldn't be very fast, but it was fast enough for the players because they weren't very fast either and they had heavy boots on. Nobody thought of catching a ball even if it was high enough to catch. It was all so near the ground anyhow so it wouldn't be high enough to catch.

Tripping was forbidden but lying in front of a player's legs to catch him across the legs was quite permissible and quite a feature of the game so that a small player usually threw himself at the feet of a big fellow and tumbled him. But they enjoyed themselves; it was their only form of enjoyment.

Injuries were unknown. A fellow would have a good skelping of his shin bone from an impact with a pair of nail boots, but he took no notice of it, sometimes he tied a rag around it if it was bleeding too badly.



Ballyhaunis Gaelic Football Team (Junior), 1911, with Michael Carney circled.

Back, L-R: John Arthur Prenty (Tooraree), Jack Gavin (Barrack St.), Willie Glynn (native of Dunmore, Co. Galway), Martin Morley (Knox St.), Jack Waldron (Abbey St.), Jimmy Byrne (Main St.), Jim Devine (Upper Main St.), Frank Moran (Upper Main St.), Tommy Smyth (Abbey St.). Centre, L-R: 'Mr' Hugh Jones (native of Cavan, shop asst. in John M. Conroy's), George Delaney (Abbey St.), Lacky Devaney (Upper Main St.), Peter O'Malley (Upper Main St.), Davey Morley (Knox St.), J. P. 'Broddy' Kenny (Main St.), Packie Caulfield (Main St.), Bandy Cooney (Upper Main St.), Tom Cooney (Upper Main St.), Packie Waldron (Knox St.). Front, L-R: Nicholas Creed (native of Dublin), Willie Flanagan (Abbey St.), Johnny Byrne (Capt.) (Main St.), Michael Carney (Ballindrehid), George Lyons (Main St.).

The Class of '81 Reunion

Martin Fitzmaurice

It was one of those occasions that everyone was aware was coming up. Everyone was willing to come along and be part of it, but naturally nobody wanted the hassle of putting it together. Then one day last January I had a call from Elaine Patterson (Hunt). She said she wanted to do something to get the ball rolling and asked me would I be willing to help her. We agreed to meet to put a plan in place.

There was an extra complication with our class as everyone had spent first year in either the Technical School, the Convent of Mercy Secondary School or St. Patrick's College, and there was no way of establishing if everyone continued on. Besides that a lot of people pulled out after second, third and fourth year. There were also some who started fifth year and did not finish.

Groundwork

We decided to start with the year book from second year and fifth year. We established names and addresses for most of them. We did a lot of investigating to acquire the addresses of the remainder and were successful in most cases. There were only one or two at the end which escaped us. During our

enquiries we often learned of someone who dropped out or ones we had missed through some fault or another.

We were blessed with the fact that one of our class mates had gone on for the Priesthood and was presently located in Westport. This left us with the nice option of starting the night with a class Mass. Fr. John Kenny was contacted and was delighted to concelebrate mass in conjunction with the event.

At this stage we sent out an invitation to everyone directly. We also stated on the invitation that if anyone had inadvertently been omitted from the invitation list we should be informed and we would send them out an individual invitation or they would be welcome to come along.

The initial response was fantastic, especially from people who were away. Before long we could get a real good feeling that this was going to be very successful. The local response was a bit slower, but this was expected. Some people only confirmed their attendance on the last week. This did not matter as things had really taken shape by then.

There is one way you can judge if you are doing something which people approve of, and as we neared our final



Back, L-R: Paul Carty, Tom Gavin, Pat Lyons, Gerard Kearney, Paul Kenny, Marcus Caulfield, Cathal Phillips, Michael Flynn, John Flatley, Michael Lynskey, Thomas Cribbin. Third row (standing): Rita Garvey, Sandra Lynch, Mary Frain, Orla O'Connor, Carmel Glavey, Noreen Tolan, Patricia McGarry, Mary Lyons, Therese Cribbin, Paul Earley, Kieran Carroll, Andrew Morgan, Kevin Duffy. Second row (standing): Patricia McIntyre, Noel Henry, Margaret Conboy, Deirdre Forde, Breda Glavey, Anita Waldron, Mary Waldron, Mary Cribbin, Mary Lynch, Mairead Higgins, Declan Phillips, Pat Ryan, Nuala Fitzgerald, John Morley, John Finnegan. First row (standing): Martin Fitzmaurice, Elaine Hunt, Judy Davitt, Mary Frances Morley, Claire Guilfoyle, Breege Gallagher, Ursula Morley, Elizabeth Murphy, Martine Grogan, Rita Waldron, Mary Leonard, Josephine McWalter, Maura Flynn, Noel Lawlor. Seated: Tony Grennan, Finola Morley, Margaret Gavin, Alta Regan, Helen Brennan, Josephine Cribbin, Elaine Murray, Anne Kerrigan, Pauline Gallagher, Emily Clarke, Noreen O'Boyle, Rosemary Kearns, Nicholas Devaney. Front row: Pat Neary, Paul Coyne, Seamus Cribbin, Pat Flanagan, Michael Connolly, Padraic Boland, Michael Morris, Noel Forde, Fr. John Kenny, Seamus Henry.

preparations this became more obvious every day. The first offer came from Paul Kenny who offered to pay for a picture for everyone to take with them. We then spoke to a photographer who said he would try to take a picture of the group on the night, take it away, print it out and present them to us on the night. The next offer was from Noel Ford. He offered to pay for a commemorative key ring on which we arranged to place the school crest. Pat Ryan offered to sponsor wine for everyone with our meal on the night. Nuala Fitzgerald arranged a monetary sponsorship from AIB to help with the cost of postage, etc. On the morning of the re-union – Elaine rang me to inform me that Noel Lawlor had just booked into The Billabong and left a tab at the bar for the first couple of drinks for everyone. This really put the icing on the cake.

The Big Night

On the night of 8th October, Elaine and I met at The Billabong at seven o'clock to put up copies of our year books which had been laminated and sent to us by Fr. John Kenny. At approximately 8.05 we left to go to the Church grounds. Everyone was asked to assemble at the Church grounds at 8 p.m. for mass at 8.30. We expected that people would be strolling in from 8.30 onwards. My only concern was that Adoration would be disturbed – which was going on until 8.30 within the Church. Well, as we approached the Church grounds, we could not believe the sound of people chattering in the distance. When we got inside, it was full. The atmosphere was absolutely magic. It was a beautiful night, warm and still, just perfect for viewing all the talent on display. You might get a tap on the arm from someone you know – “who is that girl in the blue dress?” or “who is that fella with the bald head?” There was a great air of excitement, apprehension, delight, fear – it was all there.

Well, we proceeded into the Church for what was the best Mass I ever enjoyed. Everyone was looking across at each other (talk about impure thoughts), reminiscing about times, places, things that might have been said and done. Fr. John Kenny took us back to events of 1981. What's more, it was one of those rare times that everyone filled the Church from the front down. Many of the teachers also attended the Mass.

After the Mass, thanks were expressed to those who came, to those who contributed to making the occasion special, to those who made contact to inform of their inability to attend and those who encouraged the organisers along the way.

Then the real fun started. Everyone went off into their own old huddles and reminisced on the past, present and future. As the night went on everyone moved out of their huddles and met others – some of whom they had never spoken to. It was a fantastic night and as one attendee said “it was the best fun I ever had without taking my clothes off”. It was so good that most people turned up again on Saturday evening and we had another go at it. But, as with everything in life, all good things come to an end and eventually the whole thing was over. We all drifted our separate ways. The last one I met on Sunday morning was Rita Garvey, who was heading back to Dublin – back to life as it was. At this stage I would probably have been happy to head back into class on Monday morning.

Great Memories

The other organisers and I have met a number of times since then to sort everything out. We have discussed all the people we met and things that were said and done. I would personally feel more comfortable now meeting any of them again in the future. I actually met a number of them at the All Ireland Final in Croke Park a few weeks later and we chatted again. What great memories: enjoy them, cherish them and keep them with you always.

Many compliments have been received from people who attended and this is very reassuring for us and we are very grateful for them. I would like to especially thank Elaine Patterson (Hunt) for all the work she put in while I watched on. Finally, I would like to remember everyone's friend and classmate who unfortunately has left this world prematurely – Helen Caulfield. We all prayed for her on the night and hopefully she is looking down on us today and praying for us. There were some excess funds from the occasion and these were presented to Mayo / Roscommon Hospice.

God Bless you all.



Joe Fitzmaurice, Spaddagh, at the Abbey Pattern 1960's.



John Cribbin, who played with this year's All Ireland Masters winning Mayo team, pictured with his sons John, James & Barry.

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club

Steve Shanaghy

As many can imagine it's a long way from Ballyhaunis Rugby Grounds to Lansdowne Road, but, as they say, "it's what's on the inside that matters". When you see twenty or so men trudging through our harsh Irish climate at eight o'clock on a Friday or Wednesday evening to hone their skills to the best of their ability, you can see that we, in this small Mayo town, take our Rugby just as seriously.

As one of the smallest rugby clubs, with interest growing tremendously, its founders have worked as hard as 'growing grass in the desert' to develop what is regarded as one of the finest pitches in Connacht and a clubhouse that has become more and more developed every year.

Ballyhaunis RFC was established in 1978 to compete in the Connacht Junior League. Involving players with little or no rugby experience they played on a field in Tooreen and used the nearby pub for changing rooms. Today they enjoy the luxury of a twelve acre site, two flood-lit pitches, a sizeable car park and a two-storey clubhouse. And it's all down to the ingenuity and hard work of some six committee workers whose methods of fundraising may be a little traditional, but have worked wonders in Mayo.

The facilities are also used by a multitude of sports, including the successful Mayo Ladies' Football team, the Ballyhaunis Gaelic team, and even to host an annual Five-a-side Soccer tournament. The Connacht senior team also uses its facilities for training. With players being drawn-in every year by the huge improvements both on and off the field, Ballyhaunis had a hugely successful year in 2005-2006 by finishing second in the league behind Ballinrobe by a narrow margin with only one loss for the whole year. The team also had their chance to get their vengeance a few months later in the Ard Na Cregg Cup. However, after one of the best Rugby games seen on the Ballyhaunis Grounds the sides were level at full time. Extra time followed with Ballinrobe scoring an unconverted try in the first ten minute half. The second half followed with a hugely spirited attack by the Ballyhaunis team for the full ten minutes, only to get held up on the try line in

injury time. The final whistle shattered the teams' dreams of another Ard Na Cregg final in two years, but still gave them the satisfaction of knowing they gave it their all.

At the end of last season the club had their very first Annual Presentations of Player of the Year, Clubman of the Year and Supporter of the Year. Hosted in Ballyhaunis by Billabong Bar and Restaurant the night was a huge success with photos of the team and players on display all over the Bar. The first presentation of Player of the Year went to the ever popular Ruairi Caulfield, which was received with great excitement from the packed bar. The Clubman of the year went to Tony Gleeson. The final presentation went to Anna Shanaghy, who was unanimously voted Supporter of the Year. Anna was present at every game with her camera in hand getting all the players' good sides as they played!

This coming year, with the 2006-2007 League in their sights, the team is in full knowledge of the huge chance they have of capturing the title for the first time in the club's history. With some old players returning and new ones arriving the team is growing from strength to strength. They have two wins out of three in the league to date and a good few tough friendlies under their belt - more than enough to give them the confidence they need to excel. In mid October, against Galwegians, the club recorded their biggest ever victory with a 56 - 0 score line. Tries came from David Gallagher, Gabriel Gallagher (1), Jean Pierre Jeffrey (2), Steve Shanaghy, Seamus Horan and Paddy Gallagher.

The biggest stumbling block, like any small amateur set-up, is the numbers but, we are increasing. With an outstanding panel the team finally has a rotation system in place due to the ever expanding talent which is great to see in such a small town.

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club would like to thank all their supporters and sponsors over the years for keeping the dream of playing the sport to the best of their ability. As Nelson Mandela said: "The greatest glory in life lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."



Tony Gleeson (Swinford)(left), being presented with the Club Person of the Year Award 2005/6, by Davy Walshe (President, Ballyhaunis R.F.C.).



Ruairi Caulfield (left), being presented with Player of the Year Award with Bernie Kelly (Regional Development Officer, Connacht Branch).



Ballyhaunis Rugby team, who played Ballina, March 2006

Back, L-R: Dave Walsh (President), Daomis, Declan Murtagh, Ruairi Caulfield, John Costello, Robert Morley, Tony Gleeson (Capt.), Andy Carroll, Ciarán Costello, Aidan Healy, Steven Shanaghy, Colm O'Hara, Peter Gallagher (Chairman). Front, L-R: Ned Curley (Selector), Padraic Carney, Colm Gallagher, Paddy Gallagher, Gabriel Gallagher, Seamie Horan, Gareth Delaney, Ian Cunnane.



Ballyhaunis Rugby team, who played Galwegians, October 2006

Back, L-R: Tony Henry, Ian Cunnane, Padraic Carney, Jean Pierre Jeffrey, Ciarán Costello, Leo Convey, Robert Morley, Paddy Gallagher, Aidan Healy, David Morley, Steven Shanaghy, Dave Walsh (President). Front, L-R: Gareth Delaney, Noel Kelly, David Gallagher, Seamie Horan, Gabriel Gallagher (Capt.), Brendan Collery, Martin Finnegan, Colm Gallagher.



World Cup - Germany 2006. Trinidad v Sweden. Included are Marc McCafferty, Shastri Prasad, Nathan Murphy, Fintan Byrne (rear)



Phyllis Madden and Carmel Greally on the Drimbane Road, early 1970's.

Living in Africa

Audrey Keane

My experiences in Africa... where do I start? Well firstly, what brought me to Africa? I started working for a Belgian media company who produce TV programmes – Country Investment Analysis – on countries worldwide for the Fox Television Network in the U.S. So, when I was told Uganda was to be my first destination I had to take out the map!

Uganda

Having very little expectations of what I would find on arriving in Uganda I was pleasantly surprised to see tall, new buildings creating the skyline around the capital city of Kampala. The first thing I noticed during the drive from the airport to my hotel was the amount of people walking on the roads: in Ireland when you're driving it's other cars on the roads you have to watch out for, but in Africa it's the people on the main roads you have to dodge.

My project in Uganda, and in each of the African countries to follow, entailed interviewing the ministers and business people of the country. This was an amazing experience, meeting so many people, and I believe (after the Irish of course) some of the friendliest nationalities are in Africa. The warm welcome and hospitality I received was heart-lifting. Being Irish, of course, also helped everywhere I went as many Irish missionaries had worked in these countries. I was lucky enough in some of the countries to have the chance

to meet and interview their presidents, including President Museveni of Uganda, President Kagame of Rwanda and President Mwanawasa of Zambia. Of course they all recognised the importance of making the world more aware of their countries for positive reasons and that is what our programmes aimed to do.

Rwanda

During my five month stay in Uganda, which I loved every minute of, I took a few vacations to neighbouring countries including Tanzania – where I also visited the island of Zanzibar – and I also took a road trip to Rwanda. And yes, everyone thought this was crazy. However, I had met a few Rwandese people and was curious to see the 'Country of a Thousand Hills': I can say it certainly lives up to its name. The scenery was breath-taking crossing the border. I was amazed by the capital city Kigali, which we all know only too well because of the genocide which took place there only eleven years ago. It is certainly a different place today. My weekend trip to Rwanda resulted in a very successful two month project following Uganda.

After visiting the Genocide Memorial Centre, which relives the hundred days of killing and suffering in this tiny country, I was left in a daze for days to follow, imagining what these people had experienced and trying to get it out of my head as I walked through the streets every day. As I drove



Victoria Falls



through some of the small rural villages in Rwanda all you can see are small children carrying as much as they can on their heads to the nearest market which is miles away.

The most amazing experience I have had in East Africa was walking with the gorillas in Rwanda. After an hour walking through the forest with the help of our leader and four soldiers, we came across a group of twelve gorillas – eight females, three babies and of course the chief himself, the ‘Silverback’. We spent an hour walking around the forest with them, which I have to admit was quite scary: they are really enormous.

Zambia

After Rwanda I left East Africa to go to the Southern Region, starting off in Zambia. This is another beautiful country with even friendlier people than before! Zambia has been a peaceful country since Independence and this is a difference you can also see. It is a lot more westernised than East Africa with influences coming from South Africa. I was very surprised to see a ‘Subway’ on the main street of Lusaka, the capital city. It was also nice to see a few shopping malls, fabulous restaurants and bars, and even ‘Spar’! Lusaka even has two Irish bars – McGinty’s and O’Hagan’s – so I felt right at home, especially

on Saint Patrick’s Day!

Another amazing experience for me in Zambia was visiting Victoria Falls. The power of the water gets your heart racing. Crossing over the ‘knife-edge’ bridge in front of the falls with the spray from the water drenching you is nerve-wracking and exciting. I have visited Victoria Falls three times now and look forward to experiencing it again with all my visitors to Zambia. Of course a trip to Africa would not be complete without a game drive through a national park or two. Driving through the park in an open jeep, not knowing what animal would cross your path, is quite exciting and a little scary too. I did experience a scary encounter with an elephant who got a little hot-tempered as we entered his territory.

My final project was Malawi which lasted almost two months. One of the many things Malawi has to boast of is the Malawi Lake which is beautiful for diving and sunset cruises. But it wasn’t long until I started missing Zambia and returned there to take up the position of Marketing Manager for a South African Hotel Group – Protea Hotels.

If anyone is planning a trip to the southern Africa region for business or pleasure please do not hesitate to contact me at audk2003@yahoo.co.uk

Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

By Agatha Higgins

The Ballyhaunis swimming pool opened its doors again this Summer ready for another season. Opening day was the Saturday, 24th June. The opening ceremony was kindly blessed by Fr. Burke.

This year we ran one Water Safety Course, which was a great success. Again we had a great number of young children participating, which was great to see. We would like to thank the lifeguards from Claremorris and the Irish Water Safety, for taking time to give these courses. Thank you also to our

Lifeguards, Deirdre Finn and Brigitta Burke, our Relief Lifeguard, Lisa Carney, and Louise Cleary who looked after the office.

This year we experienced a few small problems and, unfortunately, we had to close the pool early due to maintenance. Regrettably we were not able to run our ever popular Gala.

We would also like to thank all who availed of the pool during the season, and hope to see you all again next year.

Walking to the Fair

John P. Burke

Some of the older readers would remember the song by Brendan O'Dowda "Trottin' To The Fair" -

*Trottin' to the fair, Me and Moll Moloney
Seated, I declare, On a single pony
How I am to know that Molly's safe behind
With our heads in oh that Awkward way inclined?*

- and so on, written by Alfred Perceval Graves.

Around where I live, walking to the fair was a way of life for the farmers. We were central to Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Dunmore and Williamstown. Walking and sometimes a fair bit of running to be done as well to get before the cattle. I doubt if Mr. Graves ever attended any of the fairs I was at. The name suggests that he was of British origin and the fair in England would be somewhat different to our fair. The English fair wouldn't have 'C.S.H' after its advertisement: C.S.H meaning 'cattle, sheep, horses', as in Old Moore's Almanac.

The fair days in Ireland were great occasions, especially in the West. The two or three cattle would be isolated the evening before and a bit of paint dabbed on one of the hind-quarters, or a bit of cloth or string tied to the tails for identification, in case they got lost or mixed with other cattle. Angus cattle were a terror if they mixed with other blacks; coloured cattle not so bad as they might have some identifying markings of their own that would make them recognisable. If it were winter they would be given plenty of good hay during the night, or in summer, a garden with plenty of good grass. I reckon there would be a double purpose to that act: to have them looking well at the fair and the second, as a final treat.

Journey

Four in the morning would be the usual time to set the alarm for any of the towns that I have previously mentioned. A lot of the time there would be somebody local going also and arrangements would be made to travel together, which would make it easier for everybody. There were certain people you would sooner travel with than others. Sometimes there would be three or four in the bunch with ten or fifteen cattle. There would be plenty of stories and jokes and the three-hour journey would not seem that long. On the other side of the coin, you could have a cranky old devil ordering and shouting and not wanting to meet up with other company. I remember one time I was to travel with two men from further back the road but another chap convinced me that I would be better travelling with him. He had one animal on a halter, training her all week on a rope. After a mile on the Ballyhaunis road, my three cattle shot in a side road and into a freshly ploughed field on the 16th March. They took me on a full tour of the field before I succeeded in getting them out again. When I got back onto the main road, hadn't your man buggered off and left me, as his animal had settled and he didn't want to be bothered with me.

My cattle were still fresh and of course made for home and there was nothing I could do about it only let them.

I had intended to bring the bicycle but your man said I would be better without it. Ah, but God looks after his own! Who should have turned the corner in Cloonfad and were coming up the hill, only the men I was to travel with in the first place. Later in the day I met your man and I asked him for an explanation as to his actions and his reply was "I was afraid I might be late".

November 20th, three of us and twelve cattle. One of the others was fond of a bit of devilment. Halfway to Ballyhaunis the third person suggested we count the cattle as it was pitch dark. The 'wit' replied, "I counted them, there are thirteen in it". At Devlis it was getting daylight; we discovered we had only eleven. The one that was missing belonged to the 'wit'. That stopped the fun, he got on his bicycle and back the way we came to look for the 'lost sheep'. He found the animal quite content on the side of the road some distance back. He arrived into town a lot later, but his day was certainly spoiled. A lot of those comical people can have a cranky side, it definitely applied to him.

Hardship

Going to the fairs meant you had to go in all sorts of weather: rain, snow and slippery roads. Icy roads were a terror altogether. The cattle would be falling and afraid of the road. What they would do is try walking on the grass in a line, which meant you made slow progress. I remember the 31st of October 1961 going to Ballinlough. It wasn't raining too bad when I left home, but it got worse on the way and stayed raining all morning. At around ten o'clock, my wellingtons began to get water-logged. I took them off and emptied them out and threw my stockings into the Church of Ireland graveyard. I went to Connor's public house. They used to put sawdust on the floor during fair days, and I put two fistfuls of the aforementioned article into my boots and did with it. Another thing about that day, the fair was a disaster; as they used to say, we weren't asked where we were going - such punishment!

Another time my father and myself were going to Dunmore with fifteen hoggets (sheep) and it rained heavy during the night. A mile on the Dunmore road out of Cloonfad, the road was flooded, and the sheep would not pass by. My father dragged one across thinking the others might follow, but as he released the one, he shot back to the bunch. He went home and yoked up the horse and cart and ferried them across five at a time. Only in his haste he forgot to put on a 'bellyband'. Halfway across, the cart tipped up, the two shafts up in the air, the sheep fell out the back, and we were back where we started. The reins were improvised for the bellyband and we started again. After three trips our mission was complete. We would be regarded as the original shippers of sheep - such labour.

The things a person can do when they are young! On the night of the 14th of August, we walked to Knock and back at around one o'clock the next day. I wasn't long in bed when somebody called for me to play a football match in Castlereagh. That done, felt O.K, we got a lift to the dance in

Ballyhaunis that evening. As was the norm, we usually had to walk home. It was getting daylight when I got home, I noticed my father had got up and gone out. I thought of the worst - it was 16th of August, fair day in Dunmore. I fell asleep as I got into bed, only to be rudely disturbed half an hour later to get up. It was one of those occasions when you experience hell on earth. Walked to Dunmore, a lovely warm day, which was all the good that could be said about it. I remember sitting on a big stone in the fairgreen, I dozed off and fell over. It brought me back on my feet. Not to be outdone, the market was one of those 'fair' days when everybody had their own in the evening. Again no sale and you guessed, walked it home with the stock. Those times there would be haymaking going on in August. We had a lot of meadow rented and I had a grand evening making cocks. That night had the usual rendezvous with the lads and got to bed around twelve or one. I am sure some of you heard of Rip Van Winkle, but I think his record came under pressure when it came to sleeping. All in a lifetime.

When I was eleven or twelve, my father turned me up the hill with a black cow which we had for fifteen years. Again, it was the 20th of November and pitch black. I can still remember her characteristics vividly. Herself and Dr. Eamon Waldron and his car had a confrontation on the road sometime during her life. She came off the worst with a broken leg which, when healed up, was a bit shorter than the other three. She was also the main provider for the house; when I came to think of it, she was older than myself. Things were grand until I got to Lavallyroe cross. She swung to the left but I had no trouble getting ahead of her, due mainly to her handicap. Coming out onto the main road she turned for home, again I bested her. She had her mind made up and wasn't going any further and over the fence into Pat McDonagh's field, a field that's covered with houses and lawns now. Running on the road was one thing, but running on strange land in near total darkness was another. I was following the sound. About 100 or 150 yards at the end was a disused sandpit, probably one hundred or two hundred years old. Over the ensuing years any stones that were picked from the land and elsewhere were dumped in there. The cow was running blind and she ran headlong into the pit. I was very lucky I wasn't with her. I was scared if anything happened the cow or she got home on me. Home rule in our house was something else; I won't go into details. She crawled out of the pit and back on the road. I had no trouble with that animal from there to the fairgreen.

If you were in the company of others going to the fair it could be quite enjoyable. By the time you got to within a mile of the town, cars and lorries were starting to make their presence felt, and cattle wouldn't have seen the likes before. The odd one got frightened and over the fence and into the fields: that often posed quite a problem. I remember going to town in the horse-and-cart with pigs. On one occasion at Devlis the horse was walking in a dopey fashion. There was a galvanised-roofed cottage right on the side of the road; it is still there but completely overgrown with scrub bushes. A woman walked right out next to the horse with a white Mack coat and umbrella. It was raining and I presumed that she was going to eight o'clock mass. It took me all my time to bring the horse under control, from there into town everything he saw startled him: he was going sideways and swinging around. To cut it short, it was a bad experience.

I could never understand why pigs had to be let out of carts onto the street in Ballyhaunis in order to be sold, when at Williamstown they could be shown out of the carts. I doubt

if there is anybody going into Rattigan's now that will answer my question. I must mention it to Tom McCormack some time. I was on the road to Williamstown one time with the ass-and-cart and pigs. An elderly man, who lived a mile from me as the crow flies, caught up with me. I knew him but he didn't know me. He said, "Where are you from?" "Granlahan" said I, "And what is your name?" "Tom Murphy" said I. "You would be Frank's son". "That's right," said I. During the course of the morning he met up with my father and discovered who I really was. He 'sussed' me out and reprimanded me for my impertinence, something I never did again.

Characters

Nowadays when I am at cattle marts, I see schoolboys with their fathers; they are let take the day off. If only those boys, and sometimes girls, knew what they have missed compared to fairs of old. Cattle marts are a non-event for youngsters. There never seemed to be a dull moment at a fair. Farmers would meet once a year, a few times a year or maybe every month. They were never short of conversation, like, "How is Martin M____? I don't see him now", "Ah he's not well since the wife died, he is on his own now, he set the land"; "How did the heifer get on that I sold you, did she take the bull yet?" Another time, "How did you get on with the cow?" In reply, "You told me she had that much milk that I would be tired milking her. I am tired alright because she's as tough as leather to milk."

The characters that a fair day would unearth, some once a year, others a few times, some every month. A woman used to come into Dunmore once a year with her cattle. To say the least she was eccentric. She had one or two bullocks that were about ten years old. She would arrive around eleven o'clock and stand on the street with the cattle. People would gather to have a look; she never sold anything or didn't want to sell anything because she wouldn't talk to anybody. One day she had a serious confrontation with a neighbour where he was living and broke most of the windows in the house. The authorities gathered herself and her cattle up, and they were taken away.

A little man (a good bit short of five foot) would come into Dunmore every fair day and take up a policeman's role. He would be directing traffic and shouting at people to get out of the way. I remember one day this hardy young lad told him what he would do to him, to which the 'cop' took offence. And up the town after him and a crowd of other lads running as well to see what would happen. I don't think he was going to catch him anyway. In Ballinlough an old man used to like to be speeching. He made no sense at all: he would say what he was told to say. Old fashioned lads would coach him before the fair and some of the stuff he came out with was a bit hardcore. I was among the congregation one day listening to him when a gentleman that I knew well came and stood awhile. He turned and said to me, "I wouldn't mind you young fellows but there are people there who should have more sense than listening to him", and away he went. I had a quick think and I left. In Dunmore there was another character, a speeching man who was into politics. He once went for the County Council and got seven votes. I heard a woman say, "If I thought he was going to get seven votes, I'd have voted for him". One day he was giving an oration. He said that when he got elected he would get a soap factory for Dunmore. In reply there was a fair bit of heckling, he answered them back by saying, "and according to the looks of some of you, you will need it!"

Coming from Dunmore one time, four or five of us and some stock, and included in the bunch was a cantankerous lady from a neighbouring townland of mine. Her and myself 'argued the toss' all the way to Cloonfad. As she had quite a reputation, I didn't want to be seen with her going through the village. About one hundred yards before, I picked up my step and walked on. As we were passing the school she caught up with me and said, "I'll stay near you and show you up". I had to give her some credit for that.

Tom and Mick, two brothers, landed into Ballinlough one day with two bullocks, one worth eighty pounds and the other fifty. Things weren't too fast trade-wise. I was parked up close by and could observe proceedings. Tom, the boss, wouldn't be the smartest in the town. Mick, well his IQ would be way down the ladder. Tom got restless after a while as there wasn't much happening, and dispatched himself to the pub. He arrived back sometime later and, as there wasn't any great uptake in the market he went off again. And, if I remember rightly, the same thing happened a third time. A buyer - a man that was well used to fair greens - questioned Mick about the eighty pound bullock. In a very quick time the bullock was raddled and a price of fifty pounds agreed upon. All the farmers would know one another and, when the buyer went away, they realised the animal was a 'steal'. Mick was informed by several people that he made a big slip up. Soon after another 'knight of the road' landed and propositioned Mick about the lesser bullock. Mick, having realised his mistake, thought that he might cut his losses and asked the man eighty five pounds for the animal. The man was fair offended and let Mick know what sort of an 'amadán' he was. Mick started to get high. The man said, "You took fifty pounds for the good one and you want eighty five for the lesser one", and he continued before he walked away "It's not my first day out", to which Mick replied "It's not my first day out either". Comic theatre in reality.

Strange sights

Michael Kearns used to park his mobile canteen near the Parochial Hall in Ballyhaunis. I was having a mug of tea and a sandwich at eight o'clock one morning, when a priest walked up to me and said, "Did you put a stick in it?" and immediately I thought that a stick would look peculiar sticking up out of a mug of tea. But he proceeded to explain to me, in the same breath, that years ago when people would be in town, they would go for tea and put a stick in it - which would be half of whiskey - and off he went.

A man came into Ballyhaunis one day, and the word spread and a lot went for a look. He had a very small, thin, black cow and two massive bullocks: in horse's terms they would be fourteen hands high. What no one could understand was, how could a cow be so thin and still be living? - but all was revealed in due course. The two bullocks got down on their knees and proceeded to suck the cow. Nobody was suckling calves at the time. He was what can only be described as an afternoon farmer.

I saw a man one day and his hand was having an awful argument with his pocket and his face was contorted. I thought to myself, only time will tell what's going on here. Eventually, after an almighty struggle, he pulled a fair sized clock from his pocket and checked on the time and had a struggle to get it back in again. There was a fair space on the dresser at home that day! In later years, farmers got into little tractors and trailers and brought them to the fairs: Ferguson 20's, 35's and Fordson Dextas. One day I saw a man (he would

be of the senior citizen variety) going from tractor to tractor until he found what he was looking for - a tractor with a wing mirror. He pulled a big nylon hairbrush from his pocket, the sort women used to use. He put his cap in his pocket and brushed his hair and tidied himself up. I came to one conclusion and that was he was hoping to meet 'Moll Moloney'.

What would you think of this man, as he was driving his cattle up Main Street? There was a brand new white van parked alongside the footpath. A couple of the animals thought about making a short turn around the back of the van, so the man started 'flaking' the side of this van with a stick in order to frighten them. He must think he was at home at the house with an 'auld' tin barrel.

On the 13th December, Tawdy Devany swaggered into the fairgreen with a handful of Almanacs to sell. He asked Pake would he buy one. Pake said, "I always buy the 'Arminic'". He gave him a shilling (twelve pence). Tawdy said, "I have no change". Pake said, "Keep it". I have a 1956 version in my possession.

A man was selling a cow, an interested buyer came along and swung the cow around by the tail. The farmer said, "Don't stand behind that cow: she was in after-grass all night and she has a cough."

Closing the deal

Sometimes the cattle trade would be depressed and you would have to walk to several fairs before you would get rid of certain animals such as plain stock. I remember a woman saying one time, "Is that the same bullock? You will have to get shoes on him".

There were two brothers from the north called Valentines. I always like to see them coming in my direction - it seemed to be easy to sell to them. They were smallish chaps with white coats, a small book in one hand and a pen in the other. If they looked at your stock and passed on, you were in trouble. All cattle buyers had this little book with their name on it; the number of cattle bought and the price would be entered therein. Sometimes a buyer would write his price on the ticket and stuff it down your pocket. If you kept it, so best for the buyer, but the usual thing would be to follow him up and shove it down his pocket. He would then advance another pound or fiver, as the case may be, and rewrite the ticket and repeat the dose and so on until the buyer was satisfied. On occasions when you stuck your heels in too hard, he would leave you scratching and you would have missed the boat. He would send another man back later on to see how you were getting on and if you hadn't raddled up, he would start all over again only this time the price would be a bit less.

It was grand when you were told to bring cattle to the railway station and loaded them onto a wagon, or down to the Claremorris Road to load them onto lorries. You would be paid in the hotel or some other establishment soon after - all cash no cheques. Some buyers would know certain farmers in every town and pay first, but the buyer would have discreetly given the seller a ten-shilling note before hand. So when he had paid him first, the seller would give him back the ten-shilling 'for luck'. The rest of the farmers were compelled 'more or less' to do the same thing. He would have a good day's wages with the luck money and whatever he would get from the man to whom the cattle were going to at the finish. If there was an animal that wasn't sold, you could yard it at Freeley's, Upper Main Street, or Delaney's on the hill: it depended on what was your road home.

BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL & TRADE FAIR SCENES



Tom Glynn (Upr. Main St.) and Tommy Waldron (Cave) on duty in the G.A.A. stand with L-R: Martin, Luke, Cian and Stella Walsh (Clagnagh), Orla Mulrennan (Gurteen), Ray Lucey (Aisling Dr.)



Anne Biesty, Patricia Muldoon, Assumpta Biesty, Donna Muldoon, Dolores Biesty, Mary Tighe are all smiles for our camera-man at the Trade Fair.



Jimmy Finn (Carrowkeel), Seamus Morris (Cloonfaughna), Tom Murphy (Coolloughra)



Detective Glynn (Hazelhill) and Paddy 'Haugher' Waldron (Pattenspark) strolling along Clare Street in the 1940s.



L-R: Mollie Cole (Mullingar), who was house-keeper for Archdeacon G. J. Prendergast, P.P., V.G.; Paddy Delaney (Abbey St.), and Tess McDonald (Carlow), who was house-keeper for the Friars, holding the Friars' pony. Taken in the 1940s.



At Ballyhaunis Agricultural Show, 3rd Aug. 1963. Standing, L-R: Sean Waldron (Cave), Noreen Flanagan (Ballindrehid), Vincent Keane (Annagh), John Cleary (Clare St.), Tom Tigue (Lavallyroe). Seated: Mary Fitzmaurice (Forthill).

Jack Chapes

It was time for a bit of socialising around the town for an hour or two and I don't mean going into pubs - that was for the older generation. There were 'Jack Chapes' which were a great source of entertainment in their own right. Each 'Jack' being a character in his way, like the delph man. He would hold up five plates for ten shillings, "Here I will throw in five saucers as well. Sure what good are saucers without cups? - here is five cups as well, they'd come in handy if you were having the stations. Did I say ten shillings? - who has seven-and-six, arragh look here, being it's the day that's in it, the lot for five shillings - sure I'm giving them away!". A man would step forward and give him five bob. He would wrap them up in old newspaper, and afterwards two or three others would follow suit. There would be some respect for those men for a few days around the house until the novelty wore off.

Nearby was a man with second-hand clothes, mostly men's attire. "I have here a suit, never worn". He would put it across his arm and hit a slap on it with his other hand and a fog of dust would rise from the merchandise. "All wool bar the buttons, no hole only the hole that's needed; you could wear it to High Mass or Low Mass or no Mass at all, or to the daughter's wedding". Buying delph was one thing, but buying second-hand clothes was another. There would be interested costumers around alright but they would be reluctant to show their hand. They would come back later on and discreetly call the 'Jack' around the side of the van and have a private deal, and again the newspaper would be brought into commission. He would put it inside his coat so as nobody would know. If he went up the town with a bundle wrapped in newspaper, sure everyone would know where he got it. Even at that it was guess work whether it would fit or not. If it didn't suit him, sure it might fit the brother or a man down the road.

Devilment

Then there was the Joyces who sold all sorts of 'nick-nacks' including stink bombs and sneezing powder from 'under the counter'. Any young fellow that was at the fair was expected to bring home a consignment of those artefacts to other fellows. That night, where there would be a visiting house or a crowd card-playing. We would go to the door. There would be a space under the door, which would be carrying a draft into the kitchen. We would break one at the bottom of the door; the draft would carry the smell in. We would stand a discreet distance away in the dark and watch proceedings. In due course the door would open and out they would come, coughing, choking and spitting. The next day there would be an investigation to find out who was at the fair.

I remember one night a crowd of us went to a house where a card session was in progress. We had in our midst a first time visitor to that house. He stood with his elbow on the dresser - not enough of chairs. I stood watching the cards. After a while I put a bit of sneezing powder on the back of my hand and blew. Nobody saw me, the sneezing started to work and someone said, "What the bloody hell is that anyways?" One of the occupants of the house, a man - well not the smartest in the world - jumped up from the table and over to the dresser and grabbed the pepper and put it into a cupboard and said looking at the newcomer, "Pepper is dear enough without throwing it around." The young lad was bewildered with the scenario and didn't know what to make of it.

Pig's Head

On another occasion at the same house, they were after killing a pig that day. That night the pig's head was being played for. A select crowd was invited to play for the head. A few of us at our house were at a loose end. In our midst were a young lad - a notorious 'terrorist' with stink bombs - and a middle aged guy. The young fellow said what a great night it would be to bomb the card game, to which the middle aged guy said, "If I had one I would put it down." "Would you?" said the young fellow. "I would" said the senior, to which the youth introduced one in a flash. We set sail four or five of us for the party. We weren't welcome at all and one could sense that as we went in the door because they knew well we were up to no good, especially as there were a few aristocrats at the table - you could feel the uneasiness. In due course the elder did the foul deed; no notice taken for a good while. The caretaker, as previously mentioned, started to get restless. Somebody remarked, "That's an awful smell", to which another replied, "It would take a lot of that to sweeten your tea". With that the caretaker responded, jumped up and grabbed the young lad and said, "Get out of here the lot of ye." The youth took offence as he thought he was immune to the accused, as he didn't do it. Well the mother of all rows took place outside the door. There were accusations and counter accusations and a fair bit of muckraking thrown in (do you know I'm laughing as I'm writing this!). That night went down in history as there never was a pig's head played for again. I forgot to mention the pig was hung at the end of a small kitchen, but I don't think the stink bomb contaminated the bacon in anyway.

Back to the fairs. There were certain big days in the year - 16th of March was always a good day. It always occurred during lent and it never seemed to fail for a good trade. I would always like to have something to show on that day as one always seemed to get a good price. There was no dancing during the Lenten period and we would be looking forward to St. Patrick's night. On most occasions I would bring something to wear for the night. I would have a quiet word with Uncle Jack before I went home.

The 14th of May was another special day for the town as the 'horsey' men would arrive in. Every farmer kept a horse for farm work and, if you had a female horse, you had the added bonus of a foal to sell in the back end. Around noon the men with the stallions would land and take the place over. To me a lot of the handlers seemed to be not too right in the head. They liked to show off and would gallop the horses up and down the street with reckless abandon. I don't ever remember anybody getting hurt. It was a miracle, but many a vehicle got bumped and dinged - no notice taken - "Why was it left there?" I was told lately that the national school was closed that day for safety reasons. The convent and the tech wouldn't be closed, which is what I was interested in, as I would have my eye out for Moll Moloney and get her on the back of the bicycle going out Lecarrow. I didn't call my bicycle 'Dobbin' as was the pony's name in the song, and as for the passenger, I don't know what way her head was inclined, but I think a lot of the time she was looking for a free lift. Agus sin sin.

Deadline for contributing articles and
photographs for Annagh 2007 is
Friday, October 19th 2007.
Email: annaghmag@eircom.net

At Cunningham's Checkout

Jimmy Cribbin

I did not know who the lady behind me at the supermarket checkout was. We had not spoken to one another or ever made eye contact. It had been my second time in town today. The Polish girl on duty at the checkout in Cunningham's had just pressed the key on the cash register to indicate on the screen the total amount my shopping list had come to. Momentary panic struck: I realised that I had not checked what was in the trouser pocket before I embarked on this second expedition to town. But all was not lost yet. I deposited the entire contents of the trouser pocket on the checkout desk. It consisted of a single bank note, about a quarter pound weight of coins and three or four small nails which I removed as they were not legal tender. With a bit of luck the total amount might be reached or surpassed. An accurate evaluation of the coins was made and, with the bank note, the total amount showed that I was less than two euro the Kiltimagh side. The charming Polish girl, speaking in impeccable English, assured me that this was not a unique occurrence and we were about to discuss which item of grocery we would put back on the shelf in order to balance the budget when the lady behind me interjected, "No need for that". Going to her handbag she

handed the cashier a two euro coin. I indicated that this was unnecessary, but events moved quickly and outside my control. In an instant I was handed a receipt and some change.

I waited for the lady to conclude her business. Hoping to establish the lady's identity I first introduced myself. It was unnecessary. She already knew who I was. She had all the advantages. She knew who I was; I didn't know who she was. She was solvent; I was not. I was now indebted to her.

The former Ms. Mary Teresa Hopkins of Upper Main St. indicated that she knew who I was by telling me that she had been in school with my sister Monica. The trend in the past was and still is for country girls to move to the towns and cities. Here is a girl who left the town to become a country girl by marrying Liam Judge of Clooncrim, Ballinlough. We talked about this briefly before going our separate ways.

Whether we are dealing here with a loan or a gift is debatable. God knows we heard enough about loans which are liable to interest charges, and gifts which are liable to gift tax, over the past three weeks that we will let the matter rest, and just say "Thank you" to the decent lady for a nice gesture.

Ethne and Fidelma

Fr. Kieran Burke

*'Twas long long ago in the province of Connaught,
Two good sisters lived who were of noble birth,
Their home it was then in a place called Rath Cruathan
Their beauty was praised, 'twas renowned on this earth.*

*These sisters then heard of a man known as Patrick,
Who preached a religion that neither did know,
And it was not long when the sisters decided
That to see this man and hear him they would go.*

*They met this great saint by the well called Ogulla
Which lies near the village called Tulsk nowadays.
They listened intently as Patrick, he told them
Of Christ, how He died on a cross and was raised.*

*When Patrick had finished his holy instruction
He stretched out his hands, and he blessed that well ground.
These sisters, they both wanted to become Christians,
And Patrick baptized them, the first in their land.*

*Now Ethne the fair and Fidelma the ruddy,
These sisters full oft to Ogulla did come,
And many good folk were baptized in its waters,
And cures from diseases and sickness were done.*

*At last came the day when Our Lord called the sisters
Away from this earth and to heaven on high.
And it is believed that Fidelma and Ethne
Not far from Ogulla did actually die.*

*O may God be praised for these daughters of Connaught,
These women were noble in word and in deed,
And may they for us intercede with the Saviour
And come to our help when we're ever in need.*

Ballyhaunis I.C.A.

Maura Fitzmaurice

Ballyhaunis I.C.A. meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at eight o'clock in the Parochial Hall. New members are always welcome.

During the year we have learned and become competent in different handicrafts. Two of our members, Maura Fitzmaurice and Margaret Kenny went to An Grianán. They both participated in a course on the craft of card-making. It was a lovely weekend and there were forty ladies from Mayo there. Our Christmas dinner was held in the Billabong, and a great night it was!

Our AGM was held in June. President: Mary Waldron; Vice President: Margaret Kenny; Treasurer: Margaret Dyer; Secretary: Maura Fitzmaurice.



Korina, Jason and Tom Meehan (Carrownedan) at the Traditional Fair Day



Ricky and Andy Niland (Agloragh), Ted Maughan (Cherryfield)

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Back: Nora Brennan (Dublin and Cave), Patricia Fitzmaurice (Derrynacong), Geraldine and Rose Lyons (Erriff). Front: Eileen Waldron (Cave), Evan Fitzmaurice, Sarah Reidy (Westport), Roisin Fitzmaurice.



Joan, Michael, Ann, Conor and Emma Lenehan (Station Rise)



Brian and John Forde (Clare St. and the Square)



Paul, Gillian and Maeve Donnellan, Clare St., greet Willy the Clown



Paula Campbell (Knock), Paul and Tommy Lynch (Holywell)



Jimmy Hopkins (Larganboy), Chris Wyczasany (Poland), Noelle Keegan (Holywell). Willing helpers with the festival preparations.



Erin Grant, Elma Kilbride

Ballyhaunis News Review 2006

Michael Byrne

2005 - November

Dom Murphy, proprietor of Murphy's Garage & Foodstore, Devlis, wins an award at the Fáilte Ireland Irish of the Welcomes Awards. The prize is presented at a special ceremony in Dublin by Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue... Former Parish Priest of Knock (1986-2002), Monsignor Dominick Greally dies at the age of 78.

December

Paddy Ryan, who established the first supermarket in Ballyhaunis in 1967, dies after a brief illness at the age of 74 years.

2006 - January

The year gets off to a good start for Ballyhaunis Primary School, Scoil Íosa, when it is announced by the Minister for Education and Science, Ms Mary Hanafin, that the school is to be included in the Government's School Building Projects for 2006. Scoil Íosa has been on the Government's waiting list for a school extension for almost four years. Martin and Hazel Niland of Mountain, Aghamore, celebrate the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Hazel is the former Hazel Rattigan from Ballyhaunis... Cloongoonagh (Tooreen) native, Paddy Healy, celebrates his 86th birthday by winning the Ballyhaunis GAA Lotto Jackpot prize of €5,900... At Fine Gael AGM, Senator Jim Higgins, M.E.P., endorses the candidacy of Knockanarra man John Cribbin for the party's forthcoming Convention, ahead of the next General Election...

February

Gorthaganny National School, under the guiding hand of Principal, Ballyhaunis native Tommy Prenty, wins the Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union Quiz... Second Year students from Ballyhaunis Community School enjoy Knock Shrine Retreat. They are accompanied by the school Chaplain, Ms. Orla Macken... Monsoon Nite Club in Ballyhaunis is in the headlines for the wrong reasons in the month of May: scenes of drunkenness, disorder and fighting receive widespread coverage on the local media before, during and after Teenage Discos at the Clare Street premises... On a quieter note, Ballyhaunis Chamber (formerly known as Chamber of Commerce) prepare for the staging of "Enterprise Ballyhaunis 2006", a Trade Fair, to be held at the Enterprise Centre during the May Weekend Festival... Drama fans flock to the Parochial Hall in large numbers for a wonderful production of "A Wake in the West", a modern Irish drama. Players involved in the production include Jackie Caulfield, George Dee, Catriona Sweeney, Austin Finn, Ann Greally, Ruairi Caulfield, Noel Sloyan, Adrian Murray and Stella O'Neill. Such was the success of this production that the

producer and cast were compelled to stage the show an extra night to facilitate the demand from the disappointed crowds who were turned away on the third night of the event. The show is produced by Pat Doyle.

March

Ballyhaunis GAA Club representatives win First Prize in the Senior Scór competition in the County Finals held in Breaffy House Hotel, Castlebar; the team comprises of Gerard McGarry, Kevin Henry, Arfan Rafique, Ali Ahmed, Ayad Abas, Noel Grogan, Richard Waldron, Paul Waldron, Pat Doyle (Director)... Former proprietor of the "Silver Dollar" Bar on Bridge St., John Moore, dies in Galway. Ulster Bank Manager Colin Ledwith receives promotion when he is transferred to the Bank's office in Sligo. A native of Co. Longford, Mr. Ledwith, who had been a prominent member of the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, had been attached to the Ballyhaunis office for seven years... In-coming Captains for 2006 at the Golf Club, Ann Curley and Alan Delaney, have their Drive-in at Coolnaha in ideal March conditions... Five students from Scoil Íosa win prizes in the Seachtain na Gaeilge competition: Martin McDonagh (Tooraree), Jennifer O'Neill (Abbey St.), Andrea Reynolds (Johnstown), Shane Murphy (Dublin Road), Áine Waldron (Cave)... Education Minister Mary Hanafin officially opens new Primary School in Aghamore...

April

Minister Eamon Ó Cuiv, TD., officially opens "Enterprise Ballyhaunis 2006" Trade Fair at the Enterprise Centre... Ballyhaunis GAA Club launch new club crest... Rizwan Afzal is presented with the Young Citizen of the Year award by President Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtarain... The first Inter-cultural Week is opened at Ballyhaunis Community School... Greta Domarkaitė, Hazelwood, Ballyhaunis, a student at Scoil Íosa, has the winning entry in a competition to find a logo for the Ballyhaunis Family and Community Resource Centre... BCS Lady footballers are defeated in the final of the Connaught Colleges Football Final... Carewell Nursing Home at Knox Street is the scene of great celebrations as resident Johnny Mullen celebrates his one hundredth birthday. Among those who sent messages of congratulations to Johnny were the President, Mary McAleese, and An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. Johnny, a native of Tavnaghmore, is a lifelong member of the Fianna Fáil party... The town of Ballyhaunis is shocked when, on the last day of the month, local businessman, Billy Rochford, dies in a hospital in Birmingham after being taken ill while on holiday in Spain.

May

Leanne Murphy from Annagh wins the 2006 Annagh Rose

Contest... Ballyhaunis GAA club member, Keith Higgins captains the Mayo Under-21 team to win the All-Ireland title, the first time in which Mayo have won the title in thirty-three years. Scenes of great excitement greet the team and their mentors (Noel Connolly, Pat Holmes and Micheál Collins) as they arrive at the Square on Sunday evening May 7th, after their historic victory over Cork at Cusack Park, Ennis... Also on the GAA front, Ballyhaunis First Year footballers make the headlines this month when they clinch the Connaught League & Championship double. The team, under the management of former teacher Hugh Rudden, is captained by their top scorer, Damien Keadin... In the Connacht Senior Championship opener in Ruislip, London, Keith Higgins lines out in the right-corner back position for the men in Red and Green, while fellow Ballyhaunis man Kevin Waldron, from Redford, plays at centre field for the London team. Mayo win 1-18 to 0-8... Also in Ruislip on Connacht Football Championship day, Ballyhaunis native Mal Nally receives a special presentation at the interval, in recognition of his winning four All-Ireland Junior Championship medals with London in the 1960's. Mal is son of the late Sergeant Pat and Bella Nally, Upper Main St. The presentation is made to Mal by Martin Grogan, treasurer of the GAA's Provincial Council of Great Britain. Martin, who lives in Coventry, is son of the late Clarence and Delia Grogan, Clare Street., Ballyhaunis... Local Councillor John Cribbin withdraws his nomination as a candidate for Fine Gael in the next General Election in favour of former Mayo Senior Football manager, John O'Mahoney, whose candidacy is expected to be announced in the near future... Former All-Ireland Scór winner (1972), Jack Greene dies following a brief illness... Scoil Íosa's Gary Patterson (12) is a member of the Roscommon County Academy team which travelled to Barcelona.... Ballyhaunis defender Keith Higgins picked up the Cadbury's Hero of the Future Award in Dublin, and with it the clear recognition of being one of the outstanding Gaelic football prospects in the country... Brendan Waldron, from Holywell, Ballyhaunis is one of thirty students from around the country to have won The Graduate on line civic quiz. The prize is a four day trip to Strasburg France

June

On June 2nd, as expected, John O'Mahoney announces his intention to contest the next general election for Fine Gael... Michael Lyons from Bracklaghboy wins Brian Hunt's President's Prize at the Golf Club... Early days of June has everybody in sun-bathing mood as temperatures reach up to 27 degrees centigrade... Three young ladies from the Ballyhaunis area are conferred with Doctorates at the National University of Galway: Tara Higgins (Doctor of Philosophy), daughter of Jim and Marion Higgins, Devlis; Louise Freeman (Bachelor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics), daughter of Seamus and Ita Freeman, Tooreen and Laura Healy (Bachelor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics), daughter of Joe and Kay Healy, Annagh... Joan and Austin Biesty of Pattenspark, Ballyhaunis celebrate their Ruby (40th) wedding anniversary.

July

The results of the Community Futures Programme, a survey of the most pressing needs of Ballyhaunis and its hinterland, in the opinion of the 930 people surveyed, are announced at a

reception at the Friary. And, mention of the Friary, plans to remove the pews from the six-hundred years old Abbey, replacing them with 'tiered retractable seating', is greeted with outrage among the people of Ballyhaunis... Ballyhaunis native Joanne Finn takes to the roads, as she launches her new Taxi service in the town... Minneapolis businessman Kieran Folliard drops in to his native town for a three day visit... Knock's newly refurbished Folk Museum is officially opened by Minister for Arts, Sport and Culture, John O'Donoghue, T.D... Seamus Lundon wins the Dillon-Leetch Memorial competition at the Golf Club... Record temperatures are recorded in Ballyhaunis in the month of July as temperatures soar to close on 30 degrees centigrade.

August

Tom and Mary Henry from Gurteen, Ballyhaunis celebrate forty years of marriage... Dermot Finnegan from Logboy wins the Captain's (Alan Delaney) Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Alan's Prize to the ladies was won by Geraldine Collins... Garda Nicola Dolan, a native of Ahascragh, joins the team at Ballyhaunis Garda Station... Tynan Dillon's company help to raise over €10,000 for Cancer Research at a special golf event at the local club. Among the competitors is former Minister for Finance, Mr. Charlie McCreevey... Former Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis, Canon Paddy Costelloe dies suddenly at the age of 91. Canon Costelloe was a founder and the first principal of St. Patrick's College in Ballyhaunis in 1961... Noel Grogan, from Reisk started presenting a radio programme of traditional and Irish Music commencing on Midwestirishradio.com.

September

Delia Guilfoyle from Greenwood celebrates her 101st birthday... Sarah Lynskey (daughter of Liam and Brigid) from Gurteen, Ballyhaunis is one of the top thirteen achievers in Ireland in the 2006 Junior Cert Examination. Sarah obtained eleven straight "A's" in the exam... As Ballyhaunis bathes in a sea of Green and Red, Mayo senior footballers fail once again in the All-Ireland Final against Kerry by a large margin. There is some consolation, however, when the Mayo Over-40's "Master's" team defeats Dublin in Mullingar to win the All-Ireland title. Among the Mayo stars in the All-Ireland win is Johnny Cribbin from Lecarrow... Donegal singer Daniel O'Donnell makes a surprise and very welcome visit to the Western Care Training Centre in Hazelhill... Ballyhaunis Abbey Pattern is one of the most successful in many years with many new novelties on a very sunny September day in the Friary Field.

October

The beginning of new era for Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union as the first sod is turned at their new premises at Clare Road, on the site formerly occupied by Freyne's Garage. The Planning Committee is comprised of Edward Mulhren (Chairman), Katherine Kilbride, Sean Freyne and Mary Rudden... Sheena Flanagan, daughter of Brian and Phyllis, Ballindrehid, returns to the teaching staff at Scoil Íosa NS when she takes up a post in the Junior Infants Class... Ryan's Super Valu wins prestigious National Hygiene Award in Dublin.

The Jarlath's Connection

Micheál Smyth

I was to go to St. Jarlath's college in September 1950. The previous Easter time there was a Typhoid epidemic in Ballyhaunis and my mother, father and myself finished up in Swinford Fever Hospital, with a lot of other locals. There, a young Dr. Cawley, with the help of Sister Ethna and her staff, successfully treated us with a new drug. That near-fatal illness (I was anointed while in the hospital) resulted in my entrance to the hallowed halls of SJC being postponed for a year.

So instead of accompanying Noel Lyons, Tommy Johnston and Mal Nally as a first year, my classmates were John Dillon, Frank Webb, Pat Moran, Peter Waldron and Johnny Biesty. Because I had been enrolled for the class of 1950 I was first on the list for the 1951 group, and so was appointed Senior of my year.

Senior in the Leaving Cert class of that year was Maurice Caulfield and Fintan Lynch was a monitor – having people in high places solidified the Ballyhaunis status within the rankings of the college. The fact that Fintan was on the Senior Football Team was further security. I cannot recall anyone from Ballyhaunis in the '51/'52 fourth year group. There was a big number of third years – John Waldron, Bernie Lyons, Andy Smyth, Kieran Waldron, William Byrne and Pat Ruane, and maybe more. In second year there were the three I named above who started in 1950, as well as the late John 'Doc' Healy. So we were quite a formidable force – those from other

areas knew that to intimidate one of us could have disastrous consequences for the offender.

Others from Annagh Parish to study there during my time in it were Anthony Robinson, Micky Kelly, Paddy McNaught and Tommy Grealley among others. Jarlath's Students before my time included the Byrne brothers - Tommy, Benny, John and Val; the Lynch Brothers - Bertie and Joe; the Lyons brothers - Albert and Enda; the Waldron Brothers - the late Jarlath and Noel; Micky Griffin and Oliver Cunningham.

After I left, and before St. Patrick's College was built, the Webb Brothers - Edward, Sean and Joe; Vinnie Healy; the Grogan brothers - Michael, Seamus and Tommy; the Forde brothers - Pádraig and Seamus; Anthony Jordan; Jim and Pat Higgins; John Cleary, Matt O'Dwyer, Edward Moran, Edward and Tommy Fitzgerald, and the Cribbin Brothers - J. J., Tony and Tom, were among those who attended St. Jarlath's.

Activities

In the field of preparing young people for the 'real' world Jarlath's was well ahead of its time. It is best known for its academic successes and those on the Gaelic Football field. But lots of other activities were packed into our years there. The annual opera afforded us to strut our thespian and musical stuff – lots of Ballyhaunis fellows' talents in those areas were



Ballyhaunis Students at St. Jarlath's College, 200th Anniversary. L-R: Jim Higgins, Joe Webb, Shane Tighe, Adrian Lannon (back), Bernard Freyne, Mike Grogan (back), Seamus Grogan, Mal Nally, Tommy Grogan (back), Eugene Lannon (back), Micheál Smyth, John Durkin, Sean Webb (partially hidden), Ted Webb, Vinny Healy, Fr. Enda Lyons, Brendan Morrissey (partially hidden), Jarlath Fahey.



School Pals meet up, L-R: Micheál Smyth, John Waldron, Paddy McNaught, Johnny Biesty, Anthony Jordan.

uncovered preparing for and during this Christmas show. As well, crews of students were directed and supervised doing the back stage work, sets etc. During that time of year, as well, those of us who were considered 'singers' joined the Tuam Town and Convents' Choirs in an annual broadcast of Christmas hymns from the Cathedral.

We had a wonderful English teacher, Fr. P. V. O'Brien who really made classes enjoyable, bringing to life Shakespeare and Milton and all the classical writers. In his own time he oversaw a debating group which gave us great training in putting across our views on all sorts of subject and in listening to opposing views. Of course there was a reasonably well stocked library and reading room for those who enjoyed

modern literature and the classics.

About once a month we were treated to a Saturday night film. Some of us less hardy individuals had great fun playing table tennis and outdoor hard-court tennis – this was the one sport in which I could give Johnny Biesty a game. Teams were 'prepared' for inter-colleges athletic competitions – Pat Moran excelled at pole vault. One or two hurling teams were entered for college competitions, not with much success.

A blind eye, for the most part, was turned to those of us who liked an odd 'small' game of poker and who used 'the far

field' to indulge our interest in the 'foreign game' - soccer.

Highlights from my days there were the post morning study cheers announcing the success of the pleading of the monitors to the President for a free day, supporting the college Gaelic teams at the final stages of the college championships (unfortunately there was no Hogan Cup competition in my time there), and the buzz, fun and excitement on opera nights (I was in four of them during my five years there).

The bond between St. Jarlath's and Ballyhaunis is a very strong one – one that should not be overlooked when tales are told or stories written about our beautiful parish.



You CAN teach an old dog new tricks! Mick Lyons, Classaghroe with his performing dog 'Spider' jumping the broomstick, as his niece Peggy Bolter (Wales) looks on.



The day Sam Maguire came to visit. Taken in Broddy Morley's Butcher shop, Knox St., 1950. Clockwise: Anthony Jordan, Johnny Biesty, Johnny Forde R.I.P., Joe Waldron, Bridie Barrett (Greene), Nora Oakland (Greene) and Helena Rattigan.



*U-10 Blitz, Mayo Abbey 1979.
Back L-R: Stephen McCrudden, Edward Mulligan, Barry Mulligan, Ultan Cruise, Ardal Jennings, Tommie Leonard, Tony Morley, Donal Delaney, Tony Smyth, Paul Dameron, Tom McDonagh, Seamus Caulfield. Front L-R: Tony Cribbin, Emmett Keane, Austin Finn, Jarlath Phillips, Robert Finn, David Morley, Noel Phillips, Joe Tighe, Alan Henry, Jarlath Jennings. Seated: Keith Delaney & Eamonn Thornton.*



Kevin and Eileen Lyons (Spaddagh)



Cunnane family, Crossard: Bernie, Labhaoise, Niamh, Johnny



Noreen Morley (Knox St.) and her dogs all set for their daily work.



West-Tec Securities stand: Noel, Sinead, Kurt and Phyllis Reinhardt at the Trade Fair.

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union



The Planning committee turning the sod at the site of the new Credit Union premises, Clare St. L-R: Katherine Kilbride, Edward Mulhern, Sean Freyne, Mary Rudden.

Sod turned for new premises

On Thursday, 28th September 2006, the sod was turned for the new Credit Union in Clare St. premises by Edward Mulhern, Chairman of the Planning Committee.

It is hoped the new building will be completed by October 2007. The architects for the new project are Murray & Associates from Carrick-on-Shannon, and the builder is Owen Dervan, Roscommon. The site was previously owned by Freyne's where a garage and petrol pumps operated for many years.

Two buildings are to be erected: one to accommodate the new Credit Union and another for other purposes. In 1982, a group of people from Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas came together and formed a study group with the aim of starting a Credit Union for the area. Whilst there had already been a number of unsuccessful attempts at starting a Credit Union, the difference this time was the help and advice given by Chapter, together with two of the group having prior experience, i.e. Christina Lyons, who had been treasurer in Glenamaddy, and Pat O'Connor who had been a founder of the Tara and District Credit Union (Co. Meath), and its first Secretary.

Beginnings

After many meetings the Irish League of Credit Unions finally agreed to register Ballyhaunis as a Credit Union, on May 23rd 1983, they finally opened for business. Their first collection point was the front room of the Parochial Hall after last Mass on Sundays. They gradually extended their opening hours and moved up to Jordan's just above the church on Main St. where they operated until 1992. In 1991 they purchased their current

building from Joe Tighe and have operated there since. This relocation was significant. It saw the installation of their first computer system, and they appointed their first office administrator, Ms. Kathleen Meenan. Kathleen has since moved on and is now a Field Officer with the I.L.C.U.

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union has continued to expand their opening hours and today it is open forty-one hours a week: Mon., Tues., Wed. 10.00am – 5.00pm; Thurs., Fri. 10.00am – 6.00pm; Saturday 11.00am – 3.00pm.

The success of the Credit Union in Ballyhaunis is a direct result of the many voluntary hours of work unselfishly put by a large number of people over the past twenty years. Hopefully the new challenges facing the Credit Union movement in the years to come will be met with the same dedication and commitment.

Board

The present Board comprises: Peter McCafferty, Sean Freyne, Gerry Lyons, Ann Greally, Pat O'Connor, Mary Matthews, Madeline Niland, Frances Mulhern, Maura Murphy, Margaret Byrne, Tina Kirrane, Justina Lyons, Edward Mulhern. Supervisors: Aiden Kelly, Barry Butler, Rita London. Committee Members: Stella O'Neill, Catherine Sloyan, Ina Freyne, Mary Rudden, Patricia O'Connor. The current planning committee for this new project is made up of: Edward Mulhern, Katherine Kilbride, Mary Rudden, Sean Freyne, Jarlath Walsh.

E-mail: info@ballyhauniscu.ie Web: www.ballyhauniscu.ie

Good value loans still available at Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union. Save regularly, borrow wisely.



Credit Union representatives presenting Jerseys to Senior GAA Footballers in Ballyhaunis Community School. L-R: Keith Grogan, David McDonagh, Stella O'Neill, Pat McHugh (Principal, Ballyhaunis Community School), Justina Lyons, Aiden Kelly, Maura Murphy, Michael Morley and Niall Prenty.

The Life of John Mullen - Centenarian

Josephine Ganley

John Mullen, fondly known as Johnny by his close friends and neighbours, sits placidly on his chair at the Brookville Manor Nursing home in Ballyhaunis and reflects on his new status as a celebrity having recently celebrated his 100th birthday. The event was well documented by all the local papers and John was interviewed live by Mid West radio to mark this very special occasion. John greatly enjoyed his new-found fame and cheekily bemoaned the fact that he had to wait this long to get notoriety!

John was born in the village of Tawnaghmore outside Ballyhaunis one hundred years ago on April 15th 1906. He was the first born in a household of four having one brother James (Nottingham) and two sisters Mary and Margaret, both now deceased. He and his siblings attended Crossard National School and were taught by Annie Spellman and Sean Flanagan. Their Principal at the time was Michael Curley. After completing his sixth year at school John decided to call it a day and, not being interested in seeing the big bright world, chose to stay home and work with his parents on the family farm. Farming in those days explains John was a very arduous task compared to what it has now become. Everything was done - to quote Winston Churchill - "by blood, toil, tears and sweat". His labours included the day to day routines of the farm as well as the tasks each season brought with it. John's favourite chore was working with the animals and he got great satisfaction from rearing them from small calves to fully grown cattle.

Fair

Going to Ballyhaunis fair was the culmination of the year's toil. There were cattle to sell and the only way to get them to market was on foot - for both the cattle and their herder! This was a day like no other, John explains. It meant getting up at 'cock crow' and getting the chosen animals on the road. They

would then proceed towards the town at a fairly good pace so the animals would not get a chance to take the scenic route. On occasions, other farmers would join the procession thus shortening the journey and bringing the now weary herd to their final destination. Once the buying and selling had been done Johnny enjoyed chatting with the other farmers and taking in the atmosphere of the day and adds that 'many a tale was told and many a jar was sunk before the day was out.' The procedure would be repeated two weeks later as the fair days occurred on a fortnightly basis back then, so it was no rest for John until the older animals had gone to pastures new and replaced, as nature intended, by the younger set.

Johnny also reared pigs on his farm and 'served' four butchers from the town at the time. Rearing them was different

to cattle rearing in that they had to be hand fed for fattening purposes and could be ready for market in just sixty days. John remembers them as social animals with minds of their own. Although he does not remember getting 'attached' as such to any of them he did agree they had character!

De Valera

The biggest day of John's young life was to occur in 1927 when he was just twenty-one. Eamon De Valera, who had just

founded the Fianna Fail political party a year earlier, arrived in Ballyhaunis and John was so impressed by his address to the people that it structured his way of thinking for the remainder of his life. He became a staunch supporter and member of the Fianna Fail party from then on, and as far as he was concerned, 'De Valera put Ireland well and truly on its feet.' John took great pleasure in attending the various Fianna Fail meetings around the area and long before 'think ins' were invented, proffered his thoughts exactly as he saw fit for the good of the country.

The worst experience of John's life was to occur in the 1980's when he was subjected to a terrifying ordeal at his own home. He was awakened during the night by the sound of his two dogs creating a furore and knew instantly something was



Johnny Mullen (centre), celebrating his hundredth birthday with cousins Sean and Mary Greally (Tawnaghmore).

afoot. Looking through his window he saw three men approaching his home. As there had been a spate of robberies in the locality at the time John knew he would have to defend himself as best he could against the robbers if they attempted to get in. When they started to 'rattle the windows' he decided to take action the only way he could and delivered several shots from his single barrelled shotgun through the door. This had the desired effect on the thugs who were not long making their escape and running for their lives. John recalls the event with great amusement and satisfaction that he 'dealt with them' and said that he and his neighbours were able to live in peace and harmony since the episode as a result of his courageous action.

Changes

John welcomes all the changes he has seen throughout the years and the progress being made particularly in the farming sector. He considers himself very lucky to have been blessed with great health throughout his life even to this very day. He puts it down to a healthy diet, hard work and the odd drop of the 'crathur'. Today, John remembers all the good things in his life. He loved cycling and could be seen almost every day cruising along at his own pace to visit a place he wanted to be. He liked to join in the odd game of cards and had many a trick up his sleeve! He chuckles at the thought! He is looking forward to Tooreen school reunion in August and while he does not intend to be dancing from dawn to dusk, he certainly hopes to be in the midst of the gathering and getting to know the younger generation.

In his spare time Johnny liked to do some hunting and he and his dogs would take to the boglands on many occasion to ruffle some feathers and maybe catch a rabbit or two. He loved the wildness and freedom of the open air, the smell of the earth and the heady aroma of the woodbine intermingled with the scent of the purple heathers. The memories linger in John's mind and every now and then he calls on them to transport him back to the patch of ground he knew and loved. A place where he could be in tune with the world around him, a place he called 'home'.

John remains very young at heart, with a sharp mind and an unbelievable memory. Not having seen him in over fifteen years due to the hustle and bustle of life, he knew me instantly. I could be egotistic and say that age has not yet settled on my visage in as many years but that would not be entirely true, I fear, much as I would like it to be! I put it down to a very astute man, a man who knows where he came from and who his neighbours were. In today's world that knowledge is becoming a rare thing. John's parting shot - 'if I were a couple of years younger', says it all. I left him with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face. A hundred years old he may be, but in his heart he is still out there treading the boards of life with the rest of us - That he may remain so, for as long as he wants it to be.

*So many times we do not see,
that all of life is a memory
Of days gone past both bad and good,
and so we dream, as dream we should*



Undivided attention for Willie the Clown as he entertains children 'of all ages' during the festival.

Ballyhaunis & District Gun Club

Ballyhaunis & District Gun Club has fifty members, all of whom are fully insured. Even though shooting is the principal function of the club, it also has many other activities.

Conservation is of the utmost importance and is carried out on a twelve month basis even though the game season only lasts five months. Duck ponds have been created in the locality and six week old ducks released and fed. The club actually stopped buying ducks and started keeping its own breeding stock, some of which were released on the town river. Pheasants were reared in a number of pens in the area and, once again like the ducks, released and fed. This rearing and releasing programme has proved such a success that we no longer have to rear and release, as the birds are breeding in the wild thus a plentiful supply in the area. When the club were buying pheasants (400 annually), at least 50% were females which can't be shot. However, the cocks are shot during the season - November 1st to January 31st - an important process in the breeding cycle to deter in-breeding and ensure healthy stocks.

Vermin control

Vermin control is another principal activity of the Club. Winged vermin, i.e. magpies and grey crows are not just the enemies of pheasants and ducks, but also of all the lovely song birds we see and feed in our gardens, i.e. robins, thrushes, blackbirds, etc. These winged vermin meticulously travel hedgerows in spring and early summer robbing all these song birds' nests of eggs and young. Grey crows and foxes have to be controlled not just to protect game but also to help the farming community minimise losses at lambing time.

However, in recent years the number one predator has been mink. Unfortunately, there is a large mink population locally, fifty to sixty being caught within a four mile radius of the town. An example of their capabilities: in one night eighty-six ducks were killed at the release pond; two mink were caught the following night.

Clay Pigeon

The other type of shooting the club promotes is clay pigeon shooting at the club grounds in Cave. A number of shoots are held each year and our own club participated in the county



Ciarán Waldron (Cave) who was a member of The Mayo County Shooting Team that qualified for the All Ireland Shoot this year.

shoot where they won second prize. One of our younger members, Ciarán Waldron qualified on both the Under-21 and Senior County teams with which he participated at the National Finals in Mullingar. Each year the club helps to fundraise with a church gate collection in aid of Alzheimer's and a clay pigeon shoot with the proceeds going to CROI.

On the social side we have three main events: the Top Shot, the Abbey Pattern Dog Show and the Game Night, the latter being a buffet social where the food consists of all the game shot during the season.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local community who support the club, in particular the farming community without whose lands the club would cease to exist.

Chairman: Brian Higgins; Secretary: Gerry O'Connell; Treasurer: Padraig Kiely.



John Joe Philbin, presenting the John Durkan & Sons (Wholesale Bottlers) Trophy to Seamus Higgins, Kiltimagh, winner of Ballyhaunis Gun Club competition 1978.



Back: Marie Jordan (Lecarrow), Katie Phillips (Doctor's Road); Front: Adrian and Mark Phillips at the Traditional Fair Day.



Taken in Baile Úr, Annagh, 1963. L-R: Johnny Walsh, Sean Waldron, Mary Lyons, Mick Lyons, John Meehan. Walsh's house is in the left, while Kenny's (Killeen's) house can be seen in the background.



Young Citizen of the Year

Rizwan Afzal was presented with the Young Citizen of the Year award by President Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin in April 2006. He is pictured here, with family, and representatives from Scoil Iosa and Ballyhaunis Community School, after being presented with an award by Henry Kenny, Cathaoirleach, on behalf of Mayo County Council, in Ballyhaunis Community School, during the Inter-Cultural Week, May 2006. Back, L-R: Pat McHugh (Principal, B.C.S.), Jim Lundon (Principal, Scoil Iosa), Betty Regan (Scoil Iosa), Assia Ul Hassan, Amtal Quyam Iqbal, Zahida Javaid, Mohammed Mansha, Mohammed Javaid, Arfan Rafique, Donal Shanaghy (Ballyhaunis Chamber). Front, L-R: Anne Hosty (Chairperson, Board of Management), Amtal Quyam Afzal, Rizwan Afzal (Young Citizen of the Year), Henry Kenny (Cathaoirleach, Mayo County Council), Mohammed Afzal, Dr. Diarmuid Murray, Sr. Evelyn Fahy.



Guss Prendergast (Culnacleha, Tulrahan) married Mary McGee (Rockfort, Irishtown) on the 23rd November 1955. Bridesmaid: Noreen McGee, Best Man: John Lyons.



The Lochán at rear of Knox Street. The Fairgreen Hill and parish church can be seen in the background.



Ann Curley (Clare Street) and Deirdre Durkan (Abbey Street) 1972.



Patsy Teahen (nee Biesty, Pattenspark) and Anne Lynch (Holywell)



Sinead Godfrey graduated with a B.A. Honours Degree majoring in Special Education in May 2006 from the University of St. Francis, Joliet, Illinois. Sinead was awarded an Academic Scholarship on behalf of the City of Chicago and is now enrolled to begin her Masters Degree in 2007. She has taken up a position at Worth Jnr High School as a Resource Teacher and Case Manager for students with Special Needs. Sinead is a past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School and is daughter of Gerry and Maureen Godfrey, Tulrahan.

From Prenty's Field to Flanagan's Pub

Vincent A. Keane

I was six years old when I attended my first Gaelic football match. It was the Mayo County Minor Final between Ballyhaunis and Claremorris. It was played in Prenty's Field in Tooraree. I remember being impressed by the size of the players: to me they were giants, and yet all of them were under eighteen years of age. The excitement was high. We travelled by car with Dad and my brothers and a neighbour, Ned Moran. Ned was a loyal GAA fan with strong links to the famed Annagh Rovers of old. Ned would converse with me on all the details of an upcoming match. He would listen intently to me as if I was an adult. It was at Ned's house we would listen to Michael Ó Heithir greeting us each Sunday with, "Bail ó dhaoibh go leir a chairde Gael". It was there I became familiar with such terms as "Clash of the ash", "Schamozzle" and other quips that were unique to Michael Ó Heithir.

Many details of that first game have faded from my memory, but some remain. I remember many of the Ballyhaunis players: Mal Nally, John 'Doc' Healy, Paddy Healy, Denis Curtis, John Forde and the Captain Val Byrne. I remember a brilliant save by Mal Nally as Claremorris struggled to 'pull the game out of the fire', but Ballyhaunis prevailed, and at the final whistle the enthusiasm of their supporters as they 'invaded' the pitch indicated that this was the kind of victory Ballyhaunis did not savour often.

That day in Prenty's Field I began a life long romance with Gaelic games. I barely remember Mayo's All-Ireland double in 1950 and 1951. However, I do have some memories of the team's triumphant return to Ballyhaunis, and feeling quite disappointed when I could not join my brothers to welcome them home on that cool, September night in 1951. As a young man I dreamed of playing in Croke Park and contributing to Mayo's historic tradition. Truthfully, I was not much good as a player. I had a few stints with Ballyhaunis juveniles and minors as a goalie, but you will not find any write-up in the archives of 'The Telegraph' or 'The Western' describing me as a footballer of unique talent with a brilliant future. For the most part I had to live out my playing career vicariously, standing on the sideline being a loyal fan of Ballyhaunis and Mayo.

Enthusiasm

My enthusiasm for football continued through the 1950s with Ballyhaunis as they made progress through the Junior code. In 1956 I was in Castlebar on a windy day when Hollymount surprisingly beat Ballyhaunis in the County Final. A year later, on a wet winter's day, Ballyhaunis finally triumphed by beating Garrymore in the Junior County Final. That game may be remembered more for its sideline and post-game brawls than good football, but Ballyhaunis were champions. Regretfully, because I had already gone off to college in St. Nathy's, I was unable to witness Ballyhaunis' greatest triumph when they defeated Ballina in the County Senior Final in 1958. I still remember the misery and disappointment I felt as I imagined



After a fishing trip in Wales. Audrey, Patrick, Patsy & Anne Marie Keane.

from afar every kick of the ball, but could not be present to witness the victory. As I recall the accomplishments of Ballyhaunis in the Junior and Senior code in the late 1950s I remember the great feats of Johnny Biesty, Noel Waldron, Mick Ryan, P. J. Moran and Charlie Phillips. Sadly, many of those greats, and some members of the Minor Team of 1952, are no longer with us. Their deaths creating a great vacuum in the lives of their family and friends, and leaving the GAA poorer for their demise.

During my time as a seminarian in All Hallows College, Dublin, I would relish Sunday afternoons as I joined 'Doc' Healy and Paddy 'Bubeen' Waldron to journey to Croke Park for hurling and football games. 'Doc' and 'Bubeen' - God rest them both - provided some of the greatest wisdom and insights into football games which we often shared over a pint in McGoldrick's Pub adjacent to Croke Park. Not only were they great friends of mine - and any Ballyhaunis person living in Dublin - but they were proud standard bearers for the GAA, with a profound loyalty to Mayo.

Excitement

The romance begun on that day in Prenty's Field is as strong today as it ever was. I am now a long way from Prenty's Field, but when I gather with my colleagues at Flanagan's Pub outside Washington each Sunday that same sense of excitement and love of the game is re-born. Thanks to modern technology, the GAA, and Setanta Sports the excitement of Croke Park, Semple Stadium or McHale Park is beamed thousands of miles to GAA fans abroad. It is at our weekly gatherings at

Flanagan's Pub that I, as a Mayo fan, have experienced heartbreak or elation. Each Sunday, and often on Saturdays, we make the forty minute trip from Alexandria to this mecca of GAA activity. My fellow travellers include Mike Mooney, a Tipperary native with a long history of loyalty to the GAA and with particular pride in the Premier County's hurling achievements. Coilín Owens, a Roscommon native but a long time resident of Meath, is a Joycean Scholar who fills us in on all the important literary and cultural aspects of Ireland. Later on our journey we pick up Fr. Tom Halton, a Cavan native and retired professor at a Catholic University, who personally knew all the Cavan team of 1947. There is no shortage of conversation and 'craic' on the journey to the games. The latest predictions gleaned from the Internet are freely shared, and injury reports are assessed in terms of the possible impact on the outcome. As I make this journey, my memory often wanders back to similar journeys I made as a kid to McHale Park or Croke Park, and I am immediately reconnected to my roots.

By the time we arrive at Flanagan's the usual enthusiasts are there. Pat Sheeran, a Roscommon native, hardly ever misses a game and, like me, wistfully waits for his county's return to the glory days of the past. Then there is the 'Oracle' from Antrim, a man of incessant conversation who claims to personally know every player in all thirty-two counties. Mike Carroll, an Offaly man and a true character, once commented on the 'Oracle' by saying, "He would give a headache to an Aspirin", so there is no shortage of wit and humor among us. Whenever Kerry is playing the Kerry fans arrive in droves. Because of their sense of entitlement based on their long football tradition, the Kerry fans think they have a divine right to win every game they play. There is one thing that unites the Mayo, Kerry, and Dubs fan - that one ingredient is a common dislike for Joe Brolly and Colm O'Rourke. Their self-righteous punditry and "know it all" attitude generates scorn from most fans present in Flanagan's. As we engage in our teasing rivalry and proclaim our loyalties to our native counties I am struck by the power of the GAA to serve as a unifying force for the people of Ireland scattered throughout the world. Flanagan's, like hundreds of other 'watering holes' throughout the world, serves as a place of entertainment, reconnection, storytelling and cultural nourishment for Irish emigrants thousands of miles away from their native soil.

Pilgrimage

For over ten years I have been making this weekly football pilgrimage to Flanagan's during the summer. I have witnessed bitter disappointment when Mayo lost the All-Ireland to Meath in 1996. More often than not I have come away disappointed, always going there with high hopes. However, as a loyal fan I will keep coming back. It is my dream that someday I will see a player dressed in red and green, mount the steps of the Hogan Stand, approach the microphone and scream aloud, "Tá athas mór orm an Corn seo a ghlachadh ar son Conndhae Muigheo". I believe that fans not only from Mayo, but throughout Ireland will share our joy.

I envision that even in Heaven there will be reserved seats for 'Doc', 'Bubeen', Mick O'Connell, Paddy Waldron, and many others who have died without witnessing All-Ireland glory since 1951. Years of bitter disappointment, tears of defeat will be washed away in that moment of ecstatic victory. Who would have thought that at least fifty-five years would have passed since Sean Flanagan and his team arrived in Mayo with the Sam Maguire before we would ever taste similar success? Many children who witnessed that event are now pensioners, middle-aged men and women have since passed to their eternal glory without ever experiencing the joy of victory, and how long more will we have to wait?

For me it has been a long road from Prentys Field to Flanagan's Pub. My enthusiasm and love of Mayo football has never waned. Someone once said "Football in Mayo is like religion". If that is true then I am a living witness to it. Victory may not come in my lifetime, but I am proud to say that the romance still lives on...

Vincent Keane, lives in Alexandria, Virginia (USA) and works in Washington, D.C. as CEO of Unity Health Care, Inc., a non-profit agency providing health care to the homeless and those affected by poverty.



Michael A. and Nora Keane, Annagh, with their grandchildren. Sitting on wall from left: Orla, Michael (Coventry), Patrick, Michael A., Nora with Shirley. Standing on wall at back: Emmett, Vincent (Coventry) In front: Michelle, Sandra, Colette, Donna, Caroline, Bernadette (triplets, Coventry), Fintan.



June 2006. Michelle Finnerty, Ballinrobe who won a gold medal in Table Tennis pictured with her uncle Seamus.



Congratulations to Tom and Mary Henry, Gurteen, who celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary earlier this year with family and friends. Tom, from Gurteen and his wife, the former Mary Clarke from Hazelhill exchanged marriage vows in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis on the 18th of August 1966. They were married by Fr. Tom Heraghty.



L to R: Paul Ceili (Leeds), Johnny Connell, John Joe Philbin. Delivering for Durkins in Dunmore, Co. Galway 1984.



John O'Brien (Clare Street) pictured right with his comrade while serving with the U.N. Forces in the Lebannon in 1980.



Pat meets Sam: Pat Biesty with the Sam Maguire Cup.



Christmas 2005. Dára Hely and Seamus Caulfield. Dára was a prizewinner in Caulfield's Christmas Competiton.



Meeting of Legends. Dermot Earley and Michéal Webb meet after many years at Phelim's Commissioning Ceremony, July 3rd 2006 in The Curragh, Co. Kildare. Dermot played with Roscommon Senior Team in the 1970's-80's and Michéal played with Mayo 1970's-80's.



Right: Cathal and Cathy Carroll with Phelim and his Auntie Mary (Carroll) on Phelim's Commissioning Day, July 3rd 2006.



Third Class 1960 at the Convent National School. Front row left to right: Bridgie Moran, Evelyn Byrne, Finola Layde, Mary Carney, Nora Sweeney, Dorris Carney, Martha Grogan. Middle: Ethna Healy, Kathleen Philbin, Moggy(?) Morley, Mary Carmel Greally, Rita Murphy, Mary T. Hopkins, Therese Fitzgerald, Peg Webb. Back: Carmel Regan, Maureen Lyons, Patricia Griffin, Ethna Glynn, Bridie Eagney, Mary Cassidy, Nuala McGuire and Kathleen Jordan.

Gracenotes

Moira Stratford (P.R.O.)

Gracenotes have enjoyed another musical year. During the year we attended two very interesting voice workshops: one with Niamh O'Kelly in Westport, the other with Mark Duley, which took place here in Ballyhaunis. At Christmas we held a very well attended recital in The Friary with the proceeds going to our local St. Vincent de Paul. Each week at our rehearsals we continued to work very hard and at the end of April we travelled down to Cork and took part in the Cork International Choral Festival. Unfortunately we did not bring home any trophies this time, but it is always a joy to participate in this event and to listen to the other choirs who have travelled from all over the world to be there.

In May we were joined by Galway choir Audivi at our 'Songs for Summertime' concert. This was held in aid of the Mayo Roscommon Hospice and it was a great success. We were delighted when we later presented them with a cheque for nearly €2,000. Gracenotes have also sung at five weddings this year and we hope that we enriched each of those celebrations.

Anna Butler who has been our Musical Director since our inception in 1999 has decided to hand on the baton to Laura Brogan. So we would like to take this opportunity to

thank Anna for her unrelenting hard work and commitment to the choir. We are also delighted to now welcome her into the ranks of the singers! We wish Laura every success as our new Musical Director and assure her of our support. We would also like to welcome all our new members who have joined us in the last year and hope they enjoy the Gracenotes experience.

Another exciting part of belonging to Gracenotes is that we travel every other year either taking part in music festivals and competitions or doing concert tours. Our first tour was to Italy in 2001, then Hungary in 2003 and the Czech Republic in 2005. We are now planning our next concert tour and are hoping to return to Italy in 2007.

If you are interested in booking Gracenotes for a wedding or any other event please contact Laura Brogan at 086 8213864

At our A.G.M. held in June the following officers were elected – Chairperson: Maureen Thornton; Secretary: Laura Brogan; Treasurer: Eimear Thornton; Assistant Treasurer: Anna Henry; P.R.O.: Moira Stratford, Librarian: Mary Dawson, Musical Director: Laura Brogan.



Gracenotes 2006. Back, L-R: Miriam Winston, Cara Burke, Jana Jurakova, Sr. Margaret O'Grady, Nuala Fitzgerald, Bridie Giblin, Mairead Reidy, Moira Delaney, Una Shields, Maureen Thornton, Helen White. Middle, L-R: Frankie Ralph, Mary Patterson, Olivia Regan, Moira Stratford, Xanthe Pratt, Anna Henry, Marge Hierons, Mary Lyons, Emer Thornton, Yvonne Loughran, Geraldine Collins, Patricia Fitzgerald, Mary Dawson. Front, L-R: Mary Greally, Anna Butler, Brid Kenny, Tina Kirrane, Mary H. O'Connor, Ita Fahey, Laura Brogan, Ludmilla Burcoufchi.

Monica's Memories

Jimmy Cribbin in conversation with Monica Connolly

The photograph of the Cribbin Family of Lecarrow showing a very large family is not really complete as there were two of the family missing. At the time the photograph was taken one of the children, Bridie, had gone to America and there was one more born afterwards.

Of the eleven, just two now survive: Josie and Monica. Monica married John Connolly of Ballyglass, and it was in Ballyglass that she recently gave an interview for this magazine. The photograph has been in the safe-keeping of her son Kieran for some time and when shown she remarked that it had faded a lot. Lots of things have faded since the photograph was taken but Mrs. Connolly's memory and intellect have not.

Vivid in her memories of the past, razor sharp in her understanding of the present and positive about the future, it was refreshing to hear her speak in glowing terms about the younger generation. Absent is the class distinction, the rumour mongering, the back-biting, the petty jealousies and other undesirable traits that she had noticed in her long journey through life. "They're too busy at their studies and their jobs for such things".

She was very aware of the changes that are taking place in farming and accepts that if the EU payments and other schemes were discontinued, farming on a small scale would become a thing of the past. This is highlighted by the fact that her son Kieran has recently constructed a modern equestrian centre on the farm. So, already the horse has commenced to replace the bullock.

She was educated at the convent school in Ballyhaunis, and found the nuns to be lovely teachers, with one exception. Here she raised a single finger to emphasise that it was just one, and she spoke with a firm voice when she said she had never forgotten this nun. Listening to her description of the behaviour of this nun we can only conclude that here was a person unsuitable for the teaching profession or the religious life.

A highly intelligent family, Roisín received first place in Ireland in Mathematics, and Michael became a priest ministering first in Scotland and later on in various parishes at home including Claremorris, Clonbur, Monivea, Taugheen, Garrafrauns, Tourmakeady, finishing his ministry as Parish Priest at Partry.

Lecarrow of old

When she was a young girl she recalls that there were just two or three houses in Lecarrow with slated roofs, and there were about the same number in Ballyglass when she got married. Many of the family names in Lecarrow are still the same as when she was young but there are also many names that have died out in the meanwhile, included amongst those are Griffin, Tarpey, Kedian, Caulfield, McGuire, Cunnane, Helbert, Finn, Plunkett and McDonnell. Plunkett's Mill, which was situated at the dangerous

corner, was a hive of activity when she was going to school. Plunkett's Mill is long gone but the dangerous corner remains. When speaking about the past she was equally candid about the good, the bad and the indifferent.

When she mentioned Griffin's Stations and the incident that took place there in the aftermath of the Civil War, she reminded me of stories I had heard of as a young boy. Griffin's house was next-door to where I live. It no longer exists: the N83 now runs over the site.

At the stations was the P.P., Canon McHugh, a fanatical and uncompromising supporter of one side in the Civil War, and in the capacity of cook was a neighbouring lady Delia Tarpey, a fanatical and uncompromising supporter on the other side. I knew the lady in her declining years and she was a tough "cookie" then, which begs the question what was she like when she was twenty-one. Mrs. Connolly's story will reveal all. When there are two ingredients of an explosive mixture packed closely together there is danger.

The contest in the kitchen ended when the P.P., disregarding all the rules as to how a gentleman should behave towards ladies, took the little cook and threw her outside the door and closed the door. The lady made a strategic withdrawal, mustered up some support, collected a pile of stones on the road-side and waited. The P.P. had made the journey from town in a hired car. He was returning to town by the same means when a volley of stones rained down on the car. This time it was the P.P.'s turn to make a strategic withdrawal.

Here we have to leave Ballyglass, the arrival of the district nurse on her weekly call to check on Mrs. Connolly's welfare means that we have to end, or should I say postpone this interview, because when I was leaving I knew I was leaving behind a wealth of other stories, and it was indicated by my hostess that I should call again some other time.



The Cribbin family, Lecarrow, circa 1920

Front, L-R: Rita, Thomas (snr.) with Josie on his knee, Nora, Mrs. Mary E. Cribbin, Roisín, Catherine. Back, L-R: Tony, Michael, Monica, Tommie. The photograph was taken by a photographer called Forbes who lived locally.



Outside the Tech in the late 60's. L-R: Anne Fleming (Scregg), Eileen Folliard (Coolloughra), Rita Folliard (Coolloughra), Mona Folliard (Kiltaboe).



Paddy and Johnny O'Brien, taking a rest outside Paddy's shop in Clare St. in the 1960s.



Teresa and Lily Byrne, Knox Street in 1944. Michael A. Kean's Joinery and Furniture Works is visible in the background.



Pat O'Brien (Clare Street) at the window of McGarry's Eclipse Ballroom in 1961.



The Nevin sisters – Tara (left) and Eilis (right) – pictured with another soccer superstar, Ireland International, Ian Hart. The two Ballyhaunis sisters continue to make enormous strides in one of the fastest growing sports in Ireland. Eilis and Tara Nevin, who have been playing soccer since they were going to school, are amongst the top exponents of the game in this country. Both sisters played with Dundalk City F.C. in the past year and were part of the team who won the WFAI Final in December 2005. Tara, Captain on that occasion, is currently on a scholarship in the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, U.S.A. Eilis was shortlisted for the Eircom Womens Under-19 Player of the Year and, more recently played with the Republic of Ireland Under-19 team. Eilis and Tara Nevin are daughters of Jarlath and Josie Nevin, Hazelwood, Hazelhill.



President Mary McAleese recently visited Irish Community Care at the Irish World Heritage Centre in Manchester. The ICC organises an Ovr 55's session on Wednesday afternoons which is run by volunteers. Everyone enjoys the get-together and various activities are provided (workshops, music and bingo). The ICC celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. The President gave a speech and then spent time chatting with everyone. Pictured is one of the volunteers, Kathleen Foley (nee Campbell), Abbey Street.



Niamh Waldron was one of the four pupils from St. Anthony's Special School, Castlebar, representing Connacht in the Special Olympics Ireland, held in Belfast in June 2006. Niamh won two Gold medals – for 100 Metres Run and Shot Putt. Niamh comes from Cave and is daughter of Bernard and Bridie.



Lisa and Elaine, twin daughters of Hugh and Stacia Carney, Classaroe on their Graduation day 2006

Western Care

This year, Western Care celebrated its fortieth year of providing services to children and adults in the county. Throughout the area, various celebrations were held and pictures and stories were collected from people involved with the organisation over the years.

In Ballyhaunis, a celebration was held in Hazel View, now a community group home, where Western Care services in the town first began as a day service twenty-three years ago. The current day service in Tooraree opened in 1992.

The celebration took the form of a Halloween party and was also a combined house-warming as the house had been vacated and renovated over the past few months. The party was very widely attended and much enjoyed.

Ballyhaunis Training Centre, Tooraree

The Ballyhaunis Training Centre is part of the Western Care Association which, as an organisation, celebrates forty years in existence. The day services in Ballyhaunis began back in 1983. We are located in Tooraree beside 'Hazelhill Timbers' since 1992. We provide a day service to thirty-one adults ranging in age from eighteen to mid-fifties, and we cover the wide geographical area of East Mayo from Ballyhaunis to Ballindine, Kiltimagh, Knock, Kilkelly, Charlestown and Claremorris.

We strive to deliver an individualised service for each person, as they all bring their unique personalities and abilities to the service. People love to participate and be integrated in their local communities, and the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding towns/villages have always welcomed these opportunities and for that we sincerely thank them.

In January of this year, we opened a satellite service in Manor Brook to enhance day services for six people where the focus is community participation. Like many of us work is very important to some people, so we support these individuals to gain paid employment and/or work experience. Leisure activities are a huge aspect of the service as it enhances social and interpersonal skills for all who participate.

The National Special Olympics held in Belfast in June was hugely significant for us as we had six athletes who

successfully participated. They truly did themselves, their families and their coaches proud as they excelled and achieved many personal bests during the games. A home-coming celebration hosted by the Chamber of Commerce was held in the Square on Sunday evening, June 25th for all local athletes on their victorious return. The atmosphere was wonderful and a large crowd of supporters and well-wishers turned out to welcome the athletes and coaches. Light refreshments were served at the Parochial Hall afterwards. A very special word of thanks to all the people in the Ballyhaunis community who helped organise this special evening.

Volunteers have always been at the forefront of our service and in our busy everyday lives it is difficult to find free time. Volunteers are very welcome in our services and/or in our local branch that works tirelessly year after year to fundraise so we can enhance our services.

Our very good friend and colleague Sean Phillips, late of Leow, passed away on August 14th last. He is very much missed by his brother Padraig, his neighbours, relatives and friends. Sean will live forever in all our hearts with his gentle nature and warm and wonderful personality endearing him to all who met him. Our service was a better place due to Sean's presence and as time moves on his smiling face will stay in our midst. "Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis."



Sean Phillips R.I.P.



Olympic Athletes, Ballyhaunis Training Centre L-R: Kitty Morley (trainer), Carmel Delaney, Val Hughes, Andrew McHale, Padraig Prendergast, Frankie Byrne, Irma Folliard, Susan Hoban (trainer).

Travelling Freely

Terence Freely

The author and traveller John Freely celebrates, in Istanbul, his eightieth birthday this year. He was born in 1926 in New York. His father, also John Freely, was born in Scragg – the brother of the late James Freely.

Young John was brought up in Brooklyn and spent a period as a boy in Ireland in the 1930s. In 1943 aged seventeen he joined the U.S. Navy and served with a commando unit in Burma and China. At the age of nineteen he ended up commanding a Chinese army.

On leaving the Navy he studied to be a physicist and later worked at Princeton University. He gained his doctorate at New York University in 1960. In the very same year he set off on his travels with his wife and three children to Istanbul, to teach at Robert College (now called Boğaziçi University).

In 1972 he produced, with Hillary Sumner-Boyd, his first and best known work, "Strolling through Istanbul". John Freely has gone on to write some forty books, mainly travel guides to many cities including Athens and Venice. Many of his books deal with Turkey and Turkish history. A recent publication is "Jem Sultan, the adventures of a captive Turkish prince in Renaissance Europe" (2004).

Though eighty years old he has no intention of retiring from travel and writing. He has begun work on the first volume of his autobiography, which includes his wartime adventures up to the age of twenty. He plans to write four volumes. John's love of travel is unstoppable; he recently visited China again and also Russia and Albania.



John Freely pictured with his daughter Maureen in Turkey. Maureen is a well known novelist who now lives in England. Photo courtesy of 'Cornucopia', Istanbul.

Ballyhaunis Community Council

Stephen Grogan

Established in 2001, the Community Council works to improve the Social and Cultural life of all people living in the Ballyhaunis area. The Community Council 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 carryout their particular activities. It is a voluntary body which relies on your involvement and support. 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.

Community Futures

One of the main activities of the Community Council during 2006 has been the "Community Futures Project" which brought together a wide range of local organisations to prepare a new Action Plan for the development of Ballyhaunis. Over twenty-four meetings were held with different organisations in the town, 900 questionnaires were received following the door-

to-door survey of community views carried out in March and almost 200 people attended the Community Futures Open Day on July 1st in St. Mary's Abbey where the results of the meetings and survey were presented.

The Community Futures project was supported by Mayo County Council and a number of other state agencies with Ballyhaunis being one of four towns in the County selected to take part. A comprehensive plan has now been prepared and putting this into practice will represent one of the challenges for the community council in 2007.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the start of May with the outgoing committee was thanked for all their hard work over the last twelve months and a new committee appointed composed of Fr. Kieran Burke, Maura Caulfield, Jarlath Fahy, Paula Grogan, Stephen Grogan, Pat Higgins, Enda Murphy and Martin Walsh. A successful Church Gate Collection was held at the start of September which raised over €700 contributed by local people, which was much appreciated.



Above: Murt and Kathleen Hickey of Dunmanway, Co. Cork who celebrated 60 years of marriage November 2005.

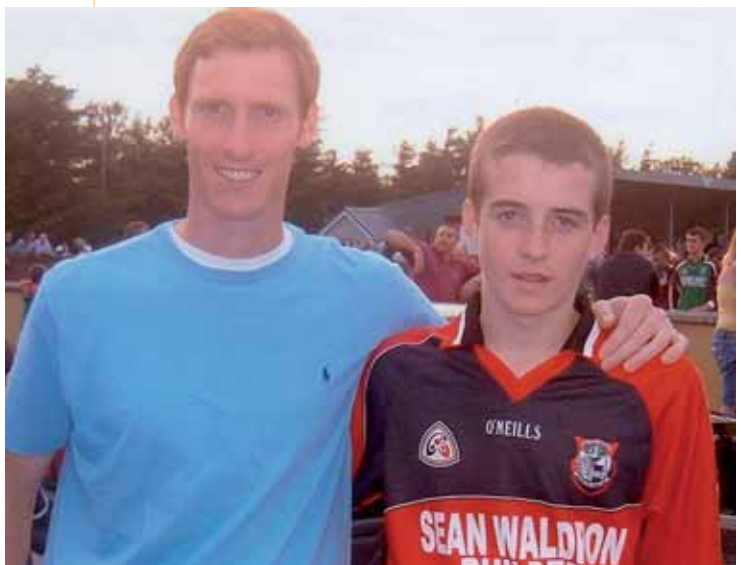
Kathleen, nee Fitzmaurice is a native of Mountain, Forthill, Ballyhaunis. She left her home at the age of 16 to make her way in the world, and while working in Coventry she met Murt. After they married they moved to Murt's native Dunmanway and raised their family. The Anniversary celebration was held at The Parkway Hotel, Dunmanway and was attended by family, friends and neighbours. They are pictured on the right with their children, back: Sheila, Jane, Josie, Eleanor, Pat & Katherine. Front: Sean (extreme left) and Dan (extreme right).



Left: Friends from Clare Street. L-R: Georgie O'Malley (half hidden), Una Donnellan, Jimmy O'Brien, John Freyne. Taken circa 1950.

Below:

July 2006, Cousins in arms. Michael Webb and his cousin Isaac Carroll on the occasion of the U-14 Football County Final. Isaac was the recipient of the Bank of Ireland Man of The Match.



Left: Dr. Laura Healy, Annagh, Ballyhaunis who was conferred with Honours as a Bachelor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics from N.U.I.G., June 2006. She is the daughter of Joe and Kay Healy.



Staff of the Eclipse Ballroom, 1960s. L-R: Terry Donoghue (Castlebar), Mick Dunne (Castlebar), Peter Regan (Agloragh), Luke Lyons (Gurteenmore), John Lyons (Arderry, Spaddagh).



*Out for the night c.1960
L-R: Kitty Roche, Seamus Coen, Myra and Paddy Delaney, Agnes and Pdraig Heaney, Marian Morley and Jimmy Gilmore.*

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

Mary Donnelly (Sec.)

2005 ended on a very successful note for our committee when Ballyhaunis reached the final and received runner-up prize in the Litter Action League, and was the recipient of six awards in the Cleaner Community Campaign 2005 organised by Mayo County Council.

- Scoil Iosa, Abbeyquarter was awarded second prize in the Schools Environment Project.
- Ballyhaunis Cemetery was awarded third prize in the Tidy Burial Grounds Category.
- Aisling Drive was highly commended in the Tidy Housing Estates Category:

Three awards were presented in the Local Area Environment Awards Category

- Clare Street Residents for their exceptional floral displays and attractive street.
- Hazelhill/Knock Road Residents Group for their landscaping work on the Knock Road/bypass road corner.
- River Environment Group for their landscaping work on the riverbank

Representatives of all groups were invited to a special presentation ceremony hosted by Mayo County Council in Castlebar in early December. We congratulate all the prize-winners and wish them continued success in their projects.

Our major project this year was the provision of fifty-eight hanging baskets on the street lamp-posts in Main St., The Square, Clare St. and Bridge St. It is something we had aspired to for a number of years and with the assistance of generous sponsorship from Peter Cunnane of Cashels Engineering Ltd. and John Murphy of Grasscare Machinery Ltd., we were successful in fulfilling our ambition.

Our sincere thanks to Peter and John for their generous gesture in supplying the containers, the brackets, use of the cherry picker to erect them and the watering system to maintain them throughout the summer. Sincere thanks also to Paddy Phillips Bar for supply of flowers. Most will agree that they provided a much needed display of colour and contributed enormously to the appearance of the town

Clean-ups

During the year we carried out a number of clean-ups and enhancement work in various areas in the town and its approaches. We provided floral displays in many public areas such as the Friary, the Parochial Hall, the Courthouse, St. Gerard's Court and around the trees on the streets and in the Square. The bed of wild flowers adjacent to Knock Road provided a wonderful display of colour and also a supply of food for the butterflies and bees.

We organised a Sunday morning street cleaning service during the summer months and we are grateful to Ballyhaunis Chamber for their financial support in this project.

We completed work on the river fountain and floodlighting the river on both sides of the bridge. We also organised cleaning of a stretch of the river visible from the bridge on the Ulster Bank side and tidied up the area at the slipway on

Delaney's side.

With the assistance of Mayo County Council and the Rural Social Scheme we organised the provision of ground cover and chips on the newly planted area at the Galway Road junction and also on the Dublin Road along by the grotto. We thank Sean Kelly and staff of Mayo County Council, and the Rural Social Scheme Supervisor Anne Moran and workers Tom Forde and Tom Kirrane for their co-operation.

We participated in the Trade Show hosted by Ballyhaunis Chamber in April where we shared a stand with the Community Council. We displayed photographs depicting the positive aspects of Tidy Towns, and distributed information leaflets on proper waste management and recycling.

Tidy Towns Report 2006

We participated in the National Tidy Towns Competition and were pleased that the town was awarded 206 marks. Adjudication took place on 4th July and the following is a brief summary of the various categories of the report:

Overall Development Approach, 39/50. The adjudicators acknowledged the amount of information, photographs, plans etc. submitted with the entry form which proved most helpful in getting a full understanding of the work in progress in the town and the achievements to date. It also gave a good indication of the level of commitment and community spirit that has evolved through the Tidy Towns movement. The report refers to the benefit of the positive communications that exist with a wide range of bodies in the town as this is the best way to progress the plans of the committee. It notes a considerable amount of building activity in progress which by its nature causes some challenges and disturbance.

The Built Environment 29/50. The judges noted the many landmark buildings in the town that are well maintained, in particular the Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank, Old Convent, Catholic Church which was described as a beautiful building visible from all over the town and forming an important focus from all sides. Also noted were the Library, Fire Station, Courthouse and the Community School. Mid West Radio Station was described as novel in design. There are also a number of well presented streetside residential and business premises, but also some in need of paint and décor attention as was noted last year. Buildings such as the Post Office, Star Cinema and the Scout Den were noted as in need of attention.

Landscaping 28/50. A number of features attracted the admiration of the judges – among them the many fine examples of containers throughout the town displaying summer bedding plants and giving a welcome sparkle of colour. The maturing trees along Main St. and Clare St. look well and give a very pleasant effect. The riverside walk and park were described as lovely features with direct access from the street giving them more value. The children's playground was described as well used and nicely positioned in full visibility. The river fountain, the Catholic Church grounds and the many well maintained roadside garden frontages

contribute well to the overall landscape of the town. The Cemetery was noted as well cared for with the entrance looking especially well.

Wildlife & Natural Amenities 15/50. It was felt that the riverside park having both riverside and trees areas provides good sources of wildlife, and some interpretation of the area would be helpful. Local knowledge of wildlife in the area needs to be compiled with the involvement of schools in such projects advised.

Litter Control 25/50. The presence of litter in a number of areas and materials left at the recycling bins were described as disappointing following all our efforts and commitment to improve as outlined in the entry form.

Waste Minimisation 8/20. The report states that this aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste, and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. It recommends a campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people to promote the importance of composting, recycling and proper waste management.

Tidiness 11/30. The report states that the traffic through the town is in itself causing much untidiness; the two large car parks behind Main St. were almost empty while so many cars were parked on the streets. Not only would better use of these car parks enable a tidier street, it would create a more pleasant environment for pedestrians. A strict no parking system would be most helpful.

Residential Areas 21/40. The adjudicators commented on the large amount of on street residential premises which give good character and spirit to the town. As with business premises along the streets a good standard of paint and general décor pertains, but there are a number of exceptions which stand out more as the general surrounding standards rise. The number of housing estates forming infill areas in the town was admired, as this practice keeps life in the town and prevents urban sprawl. Attention to housing estate entrances and to open green areas within estates was emphasised as important.

Roads, Streets & Back Areas 24/50 The approach roads were described as in good condition giving an attractive entrance. The area by the grotto on the Dublin road was noted.

General Impression 6/10. The report concludes as follows: "Ballyhaunis is a very traditional town with the core elements well intact. It is important that this is retained in any new development that takes place. Frequently in towns new developments obliterate the original values and consequently all character is gone. The work of the committee is impressive and progress is evident."

We liaise with as many groups and organisations as possible in our efforts to promote the enhancement of the town and its environs and to address the problem of litter and illegal dumping. We are grateful to Ballyhaunis Chamber for their co-operation and assistance on many fronts which include:

- Encouraging local traders and residents to improve the appearance of their premises.
- Circulating Litter Action League reports and updates to local businesses.
- Use without charge of a stand at their Trade Show in April to promote Tidy Towns.
- Financial assistance in the provision of street cleaning on Sunday mornings.

We are involved in the Community Futures Programme for

Ballyhaunis and are represented on the Steering Committee. We met with researcher Teresa Carney and outlined our aspirations, achievements and difficulties. We look forward to completion of the Action Plan and contributing to its implementation.

We also work with organisations such as the Abbey Partnership, Western Care, Mayo County Council staff and local representatives, local schools, to name but a few. We welcome co-operation from any group or individuals who take pride in our local environment and neighbourhood.

We thank all those who support us in any way; by decorating their premises so beautifully and keeping the area around their premises clean and free of litter, by tending to the flowers on their street or local area and providing their own floral displays, by contributing financially or otherwise to our activities. We welcome new members or helpers at any time.

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

A Tribute to the Irish Seedsavers Association

Fr. Kieran Burke

*Some years ago on Ireland's Isle
A need was sorely felt
To save crops from extinction
And thus safeguard nature's health.*

*A lady called Anita
Came from the United States
And settled in the County Clare
And got to like the place.*

*She founded not long afterwards
A group devoted to
Seedsaving of endangered crops
A task then done by few.*

*These helped save rare varieties
Of native flowers and fruits
And vegetables hard to find
Potatoes, grain and roots.*

*A Centre was soon opened
Near the town of Scariff fair
Run by a dedicated staff
From Ireland and elsewhere.*

*An orchard of rare apple types
Was set up near at hand
Where many old varieties
With choicest fruits now stand.*

*Three cheers for all seedsavers
They'll go down in history
For helping to promote and guard
Biodiversity!!*



Nelly and friends hit the town, a rare sight nowadays!



Kimberley Dowdall (Devlis) and Michael McCarthy (Loughlynn) at the Ballyhaunis Debs Ball.



Margie, Shay and Orla Phillips (Main St.)

Annagh would like to thank all its Patrons past and present. Please support local business and industry.



"We'll get by with a little help from our friends". Front left to right: Ronan Byrne, Patrick Keane, Liam Rochford, Fergal & Claire Kelly, Michael Walsh, Derek Walsh, David Nestor. Rear: Joe Freeley, Jason Morley, John Higgins, MJ Nolan, Aidan Paul Kelly, Niall Kelly, Mark Patterson, Kieran Lyons, Paul Finn, Alan Eagney, Paul Nolan, PJ Moran, Shay Walsh.



*5-A-Side Soccer Champions
Ballyhaunis May Weekend Festival 5-A-Side soccer champions) Back, L to R: Franco Marigliano, Steve Shanaghy, Alli Bakayev; Front, L-R: Michael Marigliano (Capt.), Karim Benkhelifa.*



Kelan and Phelim Webb-Keane pictured with their uncle Alfred Webb, they are son and grandson's of the late Alfred and Frances Webb.



Gus Levins, a native of Barrack St., Ballyhaunis celebrated his eightieth birthday in London recently. He is pictured here with his sisters Pat, Peg and Maisie.



Elwood School of Irish Dancing pictured at the show in The Friary for the Abbey Pattern 2006. Back left to right: Louise McNamara, Hannah Jumail, Tracy Regan, Lisa Hunt, Emily Worden, Grace Lyons, Maria Lyons. Middle: Ailish Phillips, Rebecca Finan, Caoimhe Henry, Katie Moran, Grace Worden, Michelle Lyons. Front: Aimee Regan, Shauna Murray, Roisin Lyons, Emma Lyons and Chloe Ryan.



Some of the Beginners at the Elwood School of Irish Dancing. Left to right: Holly, Niamh, Sarah, Aoibheann, Michelle, Cissie, Shauna, Rachel, Ellen, Laura, Olivia, Sarah, Gillian and Amy.

Did You Know?

Bernie Freyne

Did you know that one of the worst stretches of road between Dublin and Westport was in Coolnafarna? Not because of all the potholes or the bad bends. In fact long before tar was invented the road wound its way across the top of Coolnafarna hill. It was very narrow, with high stone walls – ideal bandit country. Many a person travelling between Dublin and the West never got any further and was never seen again!

Did you know that in the same locality there is what's known as the Deer Park Wall? It is eight feet high in places and just as stout. The story goes that on three different occasions, in three different eras, fighting factions faced each other across the wall, never fired a shot, then turned around and went home!

Old Trafford connections

Did you know, also in the same area, that there is a direct link between the locality and Old Trafford? The story goes that the De Trafford family was one of the few families in Britain that didn't change to the Protestant religion during the reformation. One member of that family escaped to Ireland and went on the run. He finished up in the Coolnafarna, Scrigg area with the British forces in hot pursuit. He stopped at a barn where there were two local men threshing oats with flails, between the two open doors of the barn. He told them his story. They told him to strip to the waist, and they tied two straw ropes around the legs of his breeches, put a flail in his hands and told him to start threshing. When the soldiers arrived at the barn door, he was keeping great time with the other man who was also using the flail. The soldiers asked "Did anyone pass by this way?" and the two natives said "no, nobody passed here". The soldiers decided that de Trafford must have evaded them so they turned around and went back to look for him. De Trafford escaped and eventually got back to England. The flail was installed as an integral part of the De Trafford Coat of Arms. This part I know to be true because I had the Coat of Arms checked out at the Heraldic Office in London. This story was told to me by an elderly man from the locality, long since gone to God.

Liamín Bacach

Did you know the last man to live in Island House was one William Jordan, better known as 'Liamín Bacach'. The story goes that Liamín Bacach, as his name implies, was small in stature and lame of step, and not a bob to his name. He was in a bad way to get a wife, but his impediment always ran the woman. He asked the matchmaker for help. He eventually found a woman for him in County Roscommon: an only child with well-to-do parents. A hunt was organised and Liam was invited. The match-maker warned Liam not to dismount under any circumstances before the hunt started, but to fall at the first fence after it started. Thus he did as he was told. He fell at the first fence and broke a leg. He was carried back to the big house where he was nursed back to health by the intended future wife. The story goes that they fell madly in love with

each other, and so what about the lame leg – wasn't it her family's fault that he was lame because they invited him to the hunt! Small price to pay....! Anyway, they got married and the new bride wanted her own place, and where else than Liam's house. The day soon arrived that they were to take up residence in Island House. A rider was sent ahead to light the fires to warm up the house. Only Liam and the rider knew that was literally going to be the case! When the rider eventually got to the house, he killed a pig and hung it up in the kitchen and then proceeded to set fire to the house. As Liam and his bride got nearer Ballyhaunis the rider met them with the bad news that he was roasting a pig on the spit, and the fat from the animal set fire to the house and all was lost! There was only one thing for it – turn around and go back to County Roscommon, where they lived to a ripe old age!

Patriot Hackett

Did you know that there was a patriot murdered by the Crown at Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis? His surname was Hackett; I don't believe I ever found out his Christian name. The story goes that in 1798 he was arrested at Knox Street at three or four o'clock in the morning by sentries posted to guard a column of Crown soldiers who were billeted in the Lochán, now the Knox Street car park, on their way to confront General Humbert around Castlebar. Hackett told the soldiers that he was on his way home to see his sick mother. He was not believed. He was accused of treason and condemned to death. His death was a particularly cruel one: he was drawn between two horses which dismembered his body, and the torso was dragged behind one of them through the town. He died at in the Upper Main Street area, where the Medical Centre and Aisling Drive now are. This area was known every after as Cnocán h-Aicead, Hackett's Hill or Hackett's Garden in his memory. His head was then cut from the torso and was later to be impaled on a stake facing his front door, somewhere up the Midlands.

This is just me thinking about that story: why can we not remember this man in some way. This is my second time writing about this man. If he is not remembered in some way, his death will have been in vain, and he will be forgotten about. So I'm going to make a suggestion: instead of calling it Aisling Drive, why not call it Hackett's Drive. After all, that is close to the area where he died. Please bear in mind that this is only a suggestion. If somebody else comes up with something better, that would be great. At least, let's not forget him.

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 Summer Festival 2006

This year's Ballyhaunis Summer Festival was an outstanding success once again. It was held over the May Bank Holiday weekend and there was a wide range of events and activities catering for all tastes.

Annagh Rose 2006

There were eleven beautiful young ladies gracing the stage in Monsoon Nite Club as the Finalists for the Annagh Rose competition. The Finalists were Bernie McGowan (Billabong, Main St.), Ruth Gill (Gill's Bar, Clare St.), Claire Kilcourse (Heneghan's Furniture, Main St.), Louise Hickey (Midwest Radio, Clare St.), Brenda Kilcourse (Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Hazelhill), Lisa Webb (The Corner Bar, Main St.), Carrie McDonagh (Finn's Footwear, Main St.), Leanne Murphy (Credit Union, Main St.), Claire Healy-Byrne (Connaught Scaffolding, Knock Rd.), Nicola Kilbride (Ray Lucey & Sons, Ballyhaunis), Mairead Horkan (MacSiurtáin's Bar, Main St.).

All the finalists received a silver chain (sponsored by Grasscare Machinery and Curley's Jewellers), a large box of chocolates (sponsored by The Gem Newsagents), and a Long Stem Rose (sponsored by Irises Florist) and their name badges were supplied by Local Business Promotions. Each of the lady finalists was escorted on stage by two dashing gentlemen, Michael Goulding and Paul Finn, wearing tuxedos supplied by Eddie Murphy & Sons.

The finalists were greeted on stage by the popular radio personality Gerry Glennon of Mid West Radio. Gerry spoke with each contestant briefly. All of the finalists completed their "Party Piece", some sang or danced others showed their skills with balloons or making a "chicken" out of a tea towel! The audience were royally entertained by the finalists and Gerry.

After all the ladies had finished being on stage with Gerry, the judges retired to consider their verdict. The judges were Tom Halliwell, Breda Mulkerns and Maeve Duffy. When the judges returned all the finalists were invited on stage for the result. The reigning Annagh Rose of 2005, Patricia Finan, said a few words about her year as the Annagh Rose and how she enjoyed every moment. The committee thanked her for being such a great representative.

Gerry Glennon then opened the envelope with the name of the winner - Leanne Murphy. Patricia Finan, the outgoing Annagh Rose, placed the tiara and Annagh Rose 2006 sash the new Annagh Rose. She was then presented with the cheque for €1,000, a cut glass trophy and a bouquet of flowers supplied by Breege's Florist. The tiara and sash were supplied by The Hazel Bar, Main St.



Contestants in the Annagh Rose 2006 event, which took place in Monsoon in conjunction with Ballyhaunis Summer Festival. L/r: Mairéad Horkan, Claire Healy Byrne, Ruth Gill, Carrie McDonagh, Brenda Kilcourse, Leanne Murphy (Annagh Rose 2006), Bernie McGowan, Claire Kilcourse, Nicola Kilbride, Lisa Webb and Louise Hickey. Photo: Michael McCormack.

The main sponsors of the Annagh Rose event were Feeney Developments and Cashels Engineering, Ballyhaunis. The organising committee, Margaret Byrne, Caitriona O'Dowd, Marita Byrne, Carmel O'Grady and Anne Cunnane, wish to thank all the sponsors and everyone who helped to make the event such a great success.

Sheaf Tossing

There was a large crowd in the Friary Field at Ballyhaunis for the Sheaf Tossing Competition held as part of the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival. The Ballyhaunis Confined competition had fifteen contestants and the winner was Padraig Cleary.

In the Open Competition the winner was Martin Nohilly Snr., Tuam. Second was Martin Nohilly Jnr., Tuam and third place went to Michael Lyons, Bracklaghboy. The bar was at forty-five feet with a step back. The event was adjudicated and run by Michael Lyons.

Tug-of-War

There was a large turn-out of spectators in the Friary Field for the Tug of War Contest. Five teams took to the field. The teams represented: Gareth Delaney's, Abbey St.; The Lantern, Knox St.; Fitzer's, Knox St.; John Gill's, Clare St.; Phillips' Bar, Main St. The winners were The Lantern who received a keg of beer sponsored by Smithwicks. Phillips Bar was the runner-up receiving a case of beer from Forde's, The Square.

Best Shopfront/Window Display

The winner of the Shopfront competition was Forde's in The Square. Second was Ballyhaunis Credit Union, and third was Tom Finn Footwear, Main St. There were excellent window displays throughout the Festival. The winner was Cosy Cup, Main St. Second was Poppies, Bridge St., and third was Heneghan's Carpet & Furniture Centre, Main St.

Five-A-Side Soccer

Sponsored by Ryan's Supervalu, there was a good crowd of spectators and players at Ballyhaunis Rugby Pitch for the tournament. There were sixteen teams taking part in the league stages. The knockout sections then followed leading to the final. "Macs – The Dream Team" from MacSiurtain's Bar, Main St. and "Supervalu – The Cellar" from Ryan's Supervalu were the two teams contesting the final match. The winners were "Supervalu – The Cellar" by a score of 4 – 2. The winners received €700 with the runner-up receiving €300.

The teams were as follows: "Supervalu – The Cellar": Franco Marigliano, Michael Marigliano, Aidan O'Boyle, Declan Costelloe, Stephen Shanaghy, Karim and Alli.

"Macs – The Dream Team": David Hannon, Jason Morley, Pierce Higgins,

Derek Walsh, Paul Nolan, Paul Thornton, Michael Keane.

The player of the tournament was Paul Thornton of "Macs – The Dream Team". The referee was Brian Kilcourse. First Aid was provided by the Order of Malta. The organisers – Paul and Austin Finn, Brian Kilcourse, Michael Goulding, Gerry Winston would like to sincerely thank the Rugby Club, Castlebar Celtic, the Order of Malta, the supporters and especially Pat Ryan of Ryan's Supervalu who sponsored the tournament.

Inter-Pub Quiz

There was great contesting of general and local knowledge among the local Bars in Ballyhaunis at the start of the Festival. There were ten rounds of ten questions. The questions were broadcast simultaneously from a local venue by M.C., John Aldridge. Teams consisted of all those present in each of practically every pub in the town. Completed answer sheets were handed in by 'runners' from each of the participating premises, and marked by a hardworking team of volunteers. The winning Bar was The Hazel, Main St.

Fair Day

The Fair Day took place on all the streets in town. There was a remarkable number of stalls with wares on display and on sale. Anyone attending would have many items of interest to their own enquiring mind.

Many of the old heritage trades were being displayed together with the modern methods. There were many of the "cottage industries" such as baking, woollen wear, spinning and basket weaving. The streets were lined with people watching the trades and purchasing goods. The demonstrators and stall sellers reported a great day.

Free Events

During the five day Festival there was a major variety of free



"The Blues Brothers", winners of R-U-A-Star 2006, Johnny O'Shaughnessy Jnr. (left) and Chris Ganley (right), with Johnny O'Shaughnessy Snr., fourth place winner, in the centre.

events. KUDOS played in the Square; SPIRIT performed in the Parochial Hall. There was free entertainment for children in the Friary Field on the Saturday. A Children's Treasure Hunt tested their local knowledge of the town. Local bands played in the Square. There was a children's talent competition sponsored by Mildred Beirne. There were duck races in the river and one of the winners was Mayo/Roscommon Hospice winning a DVD player.

There was a Ceilí Mór with Swallow's Tail. Discos and entertainment took place in the pubs every night. The Trade Show "Enterprise Ballyhaunis 2006" was on in the Enterprise Park on Clare Road including the "Pancake Factory" and the "Chocolate Fountain" with over sixty-five exhibitors. There were also golf tournaments at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

R-U-A-Star

The Finals of R-U-A-Star took place in Monsoon Nite Club. The finalists were Shaun Kearney (Flatley's, Cloonfad), Tony Noone (Delaney's, Ballyhaunis), Declan McDermott (Oak, Ballyhaunis), Annette Morris (Creton's, Lisacul), Regina McDermott (Hazel, Ballyhaunis), Anthony Flanagan (Village Inn, Loughglynn), Chris Ganley and Johnny O'Shaughnessy Jnr. (Clock, Ballyhaunis), Marie Kelly (Gill's, Ballyhaunis), Georgina Dee (Lantern, Ballyhaunis), Johnny O'Shaughnessy Snr. (Corner Bar, Ballyhaunis), Shane Ganley (Billabong, Ballyhaunis), Lorraine Godfrey (Kean's, Cloonfad).

A week before the date of the final there was a celebration held at which all the finalists were presented with a trophy by the sponsors, Michael Grady of Connaught Scaffolding Services, for reaching the final.

On the night of the final each finalist performed their routine before a very large audience packed into the club for this special night. All of the performers were nervous, but overcame their anxiety as soon as they went on stage for their chance. There was a lot of clapping and support for every act. The Phoenix Showband provided assistance where requested by individual participants.

The judges, John Aldridge, Michael Slater and Lavinia Slater-Gilmartin, retired to complete their results and assessment of the acts. Michael Grady of Connaught Scaffolding Services, who sponsored R-U-A-Star, then took to the stage escorted by the Annagh Rose 2006, Leanne Murphy. The results were then announced.

The winners were "The Blues Brothers" - Chris Ganley and Johnny O'Shaughnessy Jnr. - from The Clock, Ballyhaunis. Michael Grady congratulated them and awarded them their prize of €1,000. Second place went to Shaun Kearney of Flatley's, Cloonfad and a prize of €250. Third place was awarded to Declan McDermott from the Oak Bar, Ballyhaunis, who received an away trip. The fourth place winner was Johnny O'Shaughnessy Snr. from the Corner Bar, Ballyhaunis who won €100.

The winning act, "The Blues Brothers" gave the audience a thrill by repeating their routine again to tremendous cheering and applause from all. The Phoenix Showband then took over the entertainment and played to the early hours of the morning. There was a lot of dancing throughout the night and a fantastic time was had by everyone.

A Breakfast of Nails

Fr. Kieran Burke

*Have you heard of a dame
Who cannot be named
And who has a strange fondness for metal?
Could it be that she dines
Every morning at nine
On nails that she boils in a kettle?*

*Does this story strike you
Like a bolt from the blue
Or do you think it's off the rails?
Sure, it's hard to believe
Harder still to conceive
How to dine on a breakfast of nails!*

*Can that dame, if alive
Still continue to thrive?
For a diet of nails can't be good.
Sure, 'twould wreck the digestion
And much else besides
Don't try it, I don't think you should!*

*Now that woman she must have
A make up as strong
And tough as the hardest of steel!
Yes, if she can take
For her breakfast each morn
Some nails, and make of them a meal!*

World Class Dancer Returns

Emily Worden, a pupil of the Elwood School of Irish Dancing, qualified a second time in November, for the "World Irish Dancing Championships", in Belfast. Emily was the fifth of nine dancers that qualified through the Regional Connacht Finals for this world event. Forty-five dancers competed hopeful of going to dance in "The Worlds".

Since November Emily has successfully competed in twenty Irish dancing Feiseanna. She has been placed in the top five in most open local Feiseanna.

Emily is taught by Mary Elwood whom she has danced for since she was aged seven (now thirteen). This year she has gained medals from major open Feiseanna events: The All Irelands (Killarney), The British Nationals (Manchester), The Northwest Championships (Derry), The All-Scotlands (Glasgow).

Emily is currently preparing for her Connacht Regional finals and hoping to qualify for her third "World Irish Dancing championships", 2007 to be held in Glasgow.

Emily would like to say to her teacher - Go raibh míle maith agat.

Her message to other Irish dancers is "Listen to your teacher, enjoy yourself and follow your dreams".



Linda Biesty, Hazelhill and Stephen Mangan, Galway. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Shane Mooney, Doctor's Road and Alma McCarthy, Labasheeda, Co. Clare.



Sandra Keane, Doctor's Road and Mark O'Herlihy, Dublin. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Ethna Byrne, Johnstown and John McGeehan, Williamstown. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Ann Marie Sloyan, Brackloon and Garry Rogers, Co. Louth. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Brendan Waldron, Johnstown and Dolores Raftery, Loughlynn. Married in St. Mary's Church, Athlone.



Siobhan Lyons, Lecarrow and Patrick Horan, Shannon. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Cathriona O'Dowd, Holywell and James Maguire, Johnstown. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



***Joanne Morley, Knox St. and Michael Walsh,
The Neale. Married in St. Patrick's Church,
Ballyhaunis.***



***John Ezekiel, Old Convent and Namisa Turabi,
Old Convent. Married in St. Patrick's Church,
Ballyhaunis.***



***John McQueeney, Main Street and Tara Marie
Harkins. Married in Immaculate Conception
Church, Sleepy Hollow, New York.***



***Sharon Murphy, Ballindrehid and Eamon
Carty, Keyfield, Ballinlough. Married in St.
Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.***



Fergal Kelly, Hazelhill and Claire Moran, Lavallyroe. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.



Pierce Higgins, Ballinphuill and Clare Gallagher, Barrgarriff, Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Marc McCafferty, Ballindrehid and Maura Bermingham, Granlahan. Married in Granlahan Church.



Siobhan Byrne, Doctor's Road and Brendan Killen. Married in Co. Down.



Patricia Hunt, Larganboy and Patrick McGuire, London. Married in St. Mary Margaret Alacoque Church, Began.



Margaret Nestor, Doctor's Road and Edward Monaghan, Fermanagh. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Mary Lyons, Gurrane and John Tarpey, Caher, Aghamore. Married in St. Mary's Church Loughboy.



Cormac Cleary, Clare Road and Mia Kahn, Denmark. Married in Denmark.



Niall Kelly, Hazelhill and Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Melbourne. Married in St. Gabriel's Church, Melbourne.



Denise Biesty, Carrowkeel and John Clancy, Cloonbooke.



Sinead Freyne, Clare Road and Kevin Meehan, Brownsgrrove, Tuam, Co. Galway. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Helen Lyons, Upper Main St. and Tim Moran, Corofin, Co. Galway. Married in St. Augustine's Church, Paarl, South Africa.



*Paula Jordan, Annagh and John Burke, Devlis.
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Marcus Caulfield, Carrowkeel and Marie
Byrne, London. Married in London.*



*Deirdre Carney, Brickens and Dara Brannick,
Hollymount.*



*Noelle Hunt, Lecarrow and Conor Hayes,
Nenagh. Married in Ballintubber Abbey.*



Clodagh Lyons, Upper Main St. and Pat Freyne, Coolnaha. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Brian Freyne, Devlis and Liza Brophy, Dublin. Married in St. Patrick's Church, Lecanvey.



Ronan Byrne, Main Street, Ballyhaunis and Wexford and Claire Gargan, Malahide, Dublin



Wheel of Fortune at The Abbey Pattern: Eamon Murren and Helen Hoban.

Thoughts Of 2006

By Jimmy Hunt (Kilmovee)

As we come to the close of 2006 and we go into 2007 we all have our own special memories good and not so good. The year was a very affluent one for most people, but for others it was not so affluent. To all who retired during the year, we hope you find fulfilment in your new career, and we hope you get the health and time to carry out those dreams that were not possible due to work and family commitments up to now. The fine summer weather was a great boon to all walks of life and people could carry out their chores with greater ease.

The change in our attitudes and the lowering of our legal and

moral standards have all become part and parcel of our modern world. There have been many happy events during the year for which we should be grateful. For many this year getting married, for others it was the birth of a child, for others a special wedding anniversary, or a special birthday, or the winning of an accolade or trophy. For these we congratulate you all on your success.

So on that note I will close by wishing health and happiness in 2007 and may God bless you and keep you safe. Until we meet again in the pages of the Annagh.

My Own Street

Eamon Murren

In last year's 'Annagh', I wrote about what I called the upper part of Upper Main Street. This year, I would like to recall some of the people who lived in the sixties and seventies in Upper Main Street, my own street.

Our house is the first house in what used to be called "Waldron's Terrace". Next door to us lived Mr. and Mrs. Bill Burke. Later, their daughter Bridie - married to the late Oliver Levins - lived there. The house was then occupied for a number of years by Mary Gavin, who sadly passed away last year.

The next house was occupied by Paddy and Bridget Tully. Paddy, I remember, worked with Johnny Dyer. They later moved to Tooraree. The house then was lived in by Sheila Hoare. Sheila was a retired national school teacher. She lived to be a hundred years and two weeks. On her death the house was sold to Paddy Waldron. He died in England a few years ago and the house is since unoccupied.

House number four belonged to the Leo family. Dolly lived in the house while her brother Jimmy worked in England for Kodak. He used to say, "I'm forty years with Kodak and still not fully 'developed!'". The house is now home to Pat and Geraldine Regan and family. Then we come to Grogan's. Eileen Grogan was married to "Red" Mick Moran. We always referred to the house as Grogan's. It was a great visiting house. I remember Eileen, her sisters Kitty and Josie, who used to come on holidays. The names of Kathleen and Bonny Parker, nieces of Eileen, also come to mind.

Next door to Grogan's was Mrs. Regan. I can remember a dressmaker called Mary Dillon staying in the house. Val Fitzgerald and his family lived there for a while before returning to the U.S.A. A Miss Holian also lived in this house. Then we come to Paddy and Kathleen Kearns. Paddy was the "water man" with the County Council; he was also a hackney driver. I remember his Ford Anglia car well, the number plate was T1Z 115. The last house in the row was occupied by Jim and Vera Gilmore. Vera was a member of the Waldron family after whom the terrace was named.

Across the Road

Across the road lived the Moran family. Mick was a blacksmith and we loved going into his forge watching him plying his trade. His wife Mary

(nee Lyons) was a native of Ballindrehid and was a kind and gentle lady. Next to Moran's were Jack and Peg Culliney. Jack built a lot of the houses in Upper Main Street. He was also a great cattleman and had a lorry to bring cattle to and from fairs. Peg was a great baker and I can still taste her lovely brown bread. Next door was Mick and Baby O'Connell. Mick was a great writer. He was a reporter with the "Western People" and, before that, with the "Connaught Telegraph". His wife was McGuire from Ballindhredid. The O'Connells were one of the first houses in Upper Main Street to have a television. I remember watching "The Fugitive", "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." and "Top of the Pops" on their TV. Miss McDonnell lived next to O'Connell's. I remember she used to bring us into her house and give us lumps of sugar. It was the first time I ever saw lumps of sugar. Her house was later occupied by John and Mary Regan (Devlis), Seamus and Ann Kedian (Cloonfad), and is now home to the Lyons family.

Waldron's was a boarding house. It was run by Katie and her daughter Carmel. I know that my own father lodged here when he first came to Ballyhaunis. A lot of lorry drivers from Cantrell and Cochrane and Smithwicks used to stay in Waldron's. Carmel, I'm delighted to say, is still one of the old stock left in Upper Main Street. Next to Waldron's I can just

about remember a family of Fitzmaurices. Then the Keegan family arrived. Mick and Mary were great friends of our family. I know I was watching TV in Keegan's when Charles Mitchell announced that John F. Kennedy was dead (23rd Nov. 1963). Later, the Keegans moved to a pub in Main Street, and Pat and Mary Ann Curran arrived in Upper Main Street. Pat was a Kerryman and a retired Garda Sergeant. He was a great raconteur. Their house is now occupied by their daughter Peggy and her husband John.

Mulhern's was one of the shops in Upper Main Street. It was run by Jim and his wife Margaret. I remember that Mulhern's sold the Press newspaper, where as Hopkins' sold the Independent. Next door was John and May Shryane. May had a drapery shop and sold a wide range of stock. She was an aunt of the Rattigan family from Knox Street. The Rattigan lads' yearly task for their aunt was to put in the load of turf. Hopkins' was the next shop. It was ran for



Clockwise from left: David Freeley, Vinnie Caulfield (Snr.), Eamon Murren, Vinne Caulfield (Jnr.). The dogs are 'Blank Cheque' and 'Oil Burner'. Taken Easter 1966 (during the fiftieth anniversary of 1916)

many years by Tom and Noreen. They worked very long hours to give their customers a great service. I remember they had a library in the shop. They also had a public phone which was also a great asset in those days. The highlight of the year for me used to be when they put up the Christmas toys. Sadly, Noreen past away a few years ago, but Tom is still hale and hearty and enjoying his well earned retirement. Next to Hopkins' were Michael and Delia Waldron. Micheal ran an insurance brokerage from here. Waldron's, I think, had the first television in Upper Main Street.

The last house in this row was Greallys. I can't remember much about the shop. I do remember Myra Flatley having a hairdressing salon at the front. Kathleen Greally was the last of the family to live in the house. She later moved to Dublin before her death a few years ago. The house is still in the ownership of the Greally family.



Mick Keegan with his children Bernadette, Michael, Noelle and Joan, Upper Main St., 1965.

Across the Doctor's Road

Crossing the Doctor's Road (heading down the town) we had Annie May Lyons. She had a bicycle shop. This would have closed down in the late sixties. This house was later home to Dr. Alan and Joan Delaney, Micheál and Della Webb to name just two.

Next, we had Jim Moran. Jim was a returned yank. Next to Jim was Mary Durr's boarding house. This was a great house to lodge in. Her tenants included Christy Ruane, Terry Coleman, Roger Cawley, Scobie O'Neill, to name a few.

The next house was home to the McGrath family. Mr. McGrath worked for Bord na Mona. He was also a good snooker player. There were lads called Declan, Kieran, Fintan. Beside this house was where there used to be an E.S.B. office. Then we had Sarah Ann Cooney's. This house was later home to the Hebron family and afterwards the Freeley family. Next door we had P.D. Freeley's. P.D. ran a shop with his wife May. P.D. also had a hackney. Following his death his wife May kept the hackney business going for many years. Sadly, May passed away last year. I remember the Walsh family living next door to Freeley's. Paddy and his family later emigrated to England. The house was then occupied by Brod and Francie Moran, and later by Kevin Barry. Next to that house was a house occupied by 'Yank' Greally. Francie and Irene Cruise later lived in this house.

The only pub in Upper Main Street was "The White Horse Inn". This was owned by Larry and Mary Moran. I remember the fair day being a big day in this pub. Later landlords were Mick Murray, Peter Farrell, John Crowe. It was then turned into a supermarket by D.H. Burke and is now a residential premises owned by Mayo County Council. Down from this were two houses (now shops) which were once occupied by the Cunningham family and, next door, Tommy Flatley. These two houses over the years were occupied by Paddy and Josie Ryan and family, Dermot and Ann Marie Eagney and family, the Gibbons family and Declan Madden.

Beside the Church

Across the road (heading back up the street) we come to Brod

Byrne. He died when we were rather young. However "Auntie Maggie", as we called her, kept the shop going. She had a great way with kids. The house adjacent to Byrne's had a number of different tenants in my time. I think this was where Ann Cox (Aghamore) had a hair-dressing salon. I think she may also have been in 'Yank' Freely's house at one stage.

The late Garda John Walsh also lived here as did Michael and Sadie Cameron. Next door were John and Mary Henry and their family. John worked for many years in the Post Office. He was one of the wittiest men I knew. I used to love listening to himself and Willie Murphy telling stories. After that came Austin Jordan's. They had a very big business. Oliver and Columba ran the shop. Jordan's also sold milk and I often had to visit the dairy to get milk for my late and great neighbour Sheila Hoare. Paddy and Geraldine Waldron lived for a number of years in the house next to Jordan's.

Tom Glynn's was the next house in line. Tom Glynn was the only butcher in Upper Main Street. Tom and his wife Delia also sold milk. I'm glad to say that Tom Junior and his sister Marian are still with us in Upper Main Street. Next door were Peter and Mary O'Malley. Peter was a gifted tradesman and was involved in the building of our Parish Church. He was also a good gardener and kept some great apple trees. Beside O'Malley's lived Sheila Hoare, who later moved up to our terrace. This house was then owned by Tom and Mary Lyons who used to own "The Eagle Bar" in Bridge Street.

Then we come to Caulfield's. I have some very fond memories of this shop. The late Vinnie brought us to an awful lot of football matches and embedded in me a great love of Gaelic games. We used to help out in the shop weighing tea and sugar. We used to also weigh the bluestone and washing soda for the spraying. Visits to the country in the travelling shop were also great days, especially when Kathleen would have a lovely dinner of "cally" ready for us when we got home.

Finally we have the Presbytery. I remember Fathers Rushe, Heraty, Cronin, Diskin and Ball in my younger days. This building has now been sold and Fr. Burke will be the last Curate to live here.

Those are some of my memories of houses and people in our street. Apologies to anybody I may have left out.

Ballyhaunis Golf Club

John Mooney

The Ballyhaunis Golf Club had a most successful year in 2006 under the Captaincy of Ann Curley and Alan Delaney. The President of the Golf Club was Brian Hunt. The major prize winners were: Captain's Prize - Dermot Finnegan, Logboy; Ladies Captain's Prize - Margaret Hierons, Tooreen; and President's Prize - Michael Lyons, Bracklaghboy. Congratulations to all.

The club broke new ground this year by joining forces with the G.A.A. club to run an AM/AM to commemorate the late Ted Webb (few could believe that it is thirty years since the tragic death of our footballing star). The weekend proved to be most enjoyable and indeed successful, raising many thousands for underage football in the parish and also golf club development. The year 2006 also saw the first Junior and Juvenile Club. Aidan Fitzmaurice was elected first captain; both he and his committee did an excellent job of organising lessons with the visiting golf professional and also some of the senior members. The juniors enjoyed outing to Westport, Strandhill and Swinford. Their club competitions were sponsored by Tadhg Buckley (EPS) and their matchplay competition is underway for a new cup and replicas sponsored by the club captain Alan Delaney. The Juniors and committee would like to record their thanks to Eddie Thornton, Tom Prenty, Kevin Henry, Denis Charlton and Michael Mahony.

The year had its sad moments with the passing of Peggy Henry – former Lady Captain and officer for many years; Philip Hughes, also a former officer who died suddenly on 2nd April while playing in a Sunday competition; and also the untimely death of Billy Rochford, a member and most generous sponsor down through the years.

The Club has made a great effort in the past number of years to introduce as many people as possible in the locality to the game. Golf is the one game where there is no upper age limit for beginners. Quite a number of beginners were introduced to the game in 2006 and we hope they will continue to enjoy the game in the future.

Visiting and non-member golfers are very welcome to avail of our very reasonable green fee rate of €20 per day, all year round and to discover what an interesting and challenging course we have in Coolnaha. Excellent natural drainage ensures that it is playable for all twelve months of the year, indeed there is a popular slogan that says that "it only closes when it snows!"

Centre Photo: Michael Lyons, winner of the President's Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club being presented with his prize by Brian Hunt (President, Ballyhaunis Golf Club). Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.

Right Photo: Mrs. Mary Dillon Leetch presenting Seamus Lundon (left) with the Dillon Leetch Cup at the Ballyhaunis Golf Club also in photograph is John Dillon Leetch. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.



Mark Potgieter (Crossard)(right), winner of the Captain's Prize to Juniors receiving his prize from Dr. Alan Delaney (Captain, Ballyhaunis Golf Club). Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.



A Future in Business?

William Ryan

When approached by a member of the Annagh Magazine Committee to write an article for the forthcoming production, I pondered and wondered what really happens in the traditional holiday month. One thing overshadows all else in August and that is the Leaving Cert results. A perusal of the post exam statistics placed considerable emphasis once again on the high failure rates in Mathematics and the Science subjects, namely Physics and Chemistry. Yet, ironically, no reference was made at all to the noticeably declining numbers of students sitting two of the three main business subjects, Economics, and Accountancy respectively.

Economics: 3,407 (H)	Accountancy: 4,967(H)
955 (O)	1,930 (O)
-----	-----
Total = 4,362	Total = 6,897

H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level

I was both surprised and concerned to see that only just over 4,000 students attempted the Economics paper and just short of 7,000 candidates undertook the Accounting challenge. On a positive note, however, over 19,000 students sat the Business exam, with almost 13,000 attempting the higher lever paper (this subject was known as Business Organisation in my time.)

Business: 12,856 (H)	Mathematics: 9,018 (H)
6,567 (O)	35,112 (O)
-----	-----
19,423	44,130

Note: Mathematics is obligatory.

While taking cognizance of the fact that Mathematics is a compulsory subject, almost eleven times as many students took it compared to Economics, and seven times more than those who presented for the Accountancy examination. Yet, Economics has a considerable mathematical content. It should also be recognised that good English language presentational skills are essential in procuring good marks in Economics at third level. The 2006 Leaving Cert examination saw twelve times more students taking English as opposed to Economics, even allowing for the fact that the former is a mandatory subject.

Does all of this suggest (a) that many second level schools in Ireland are now teaching just one business subject because of a lack of demand for them; (b) students have very little interest in business and are devoid of an entrepreneurial drive within them, or that (c) leading business organisations and industry are failing abjectly to highlight, in tandem with the Department of Education, the importance of business

subjects. I believe that there will have to be a change in public policy approach or there could be repercussions for Irish business in the future.

Consequently, it is not surprising that the points for Commerce degrees are noticeably down in some universities this year. In N.U.I.G. for example, the points fell from 420 to 400. Yet, ironically, the B. Comm International degree with French shot up to 490 points, while the same degree with Spanish only required 345 points, reflecting the disparity in the numbers taking languages such as the latter at Leaving Cert level. In 2006, almost 28,000 students sat the French paper, whilst only slightly in excess of 2,300 underwent the Spanish equivalent and this despite the fact that Spanish is spoken by over 70% of the world's population.

Why there is such a fall-off in the number of students doing business subjects at second level baffles me. Successful businesses are an integral part of our growing economy. There has probably never been a greater time to start a business in Ireland with in excess of 20,000 new firms starting up each year. Many outstanding entrepreneurs have emerged throughout this country over the years. Moreover, many small and medium-sized businesses have experienced phenomenal levels of growth over the last decade. This despite the many obstacles put in its way – such as a lack of venture capital, no start-up grants, in addition to high costs which are exorbitant and unjustified and cannot be absorbed by economies of scale.

Ireland as a nation is fortunate that it is endowed with a plethora of very fine business colleges with the very best of facilities to pursue degree and diploma courses. Space constraints, however, permit me to give only a brief overview of the business disciplines. As a former student, it is not surprising that I concentrate my attentions on my alma mater, N.U.I.G., where last November, a state of the art new business school, known as the "Cairnes School of Business and Public Policy" was officially opened. It is primarily focused on postgraduate students; i.e. those undertaking Masters and Diploma programmes in a variety of business areas. The school is divided into four main departments – Accountancy & Finance, Economics, Management & Marketing. Information Technology or Management Information systems come under the ambit of the Accountancy and Finance Department. It affords the postgraduate student to specialise in one of the aforementioned areas. However, in order for the prospective student to progress this far, he/she must procure the B. Comm degree first with honours being the minimum standard for almost all Masters programmes.

Transition

Making the transition from second to third level is never easy. Within a month of the results being released, one can be

transposed from a classroom of a maximum thirty pupils to a large lecture theatre of up to 160 students for example. Moreover, it takes a while to settle in and to adapt and negotiate one's way around the campus. The first Commerce programme would consist of obligatory and one elective or optional subject.

<u>Mandatory</u>	<u>Optional from:</u>
Financial Accounting	Sociology
Economics	Political Science
Management Information Systems	Legal Science
Mathematics	Geography
	or
	One language

Sociology is popular with students because it has a fairly close link with Economics. The same could be said of Political Science. Others perceive Legal Science as a good option because they might be thinking of pursuing a career in the legal side of business at a later stage. Examinations then take place in the latter half of April and conclude approximately in the middle of May. Now all being well, it's on to second Commerce and the semesterised exams which are pencilled in for December and mid-April/early May respectively. Consequently, term starts in early September. Again, the student must present for examinations in obligatory and optional subjects to amass a certain number of points, also known as credits in order to proceed to the B. Comm final year programme.

Obligatory Subjects

<u>Semester One</u>	<u>Semester Two</u>
Microeconomics	Macroeconomics
Management Principles	Business Finance
Marketing	Statistics II
Statistics I	

Statistics are closely aligned to the research area and its various methodologies as well as to Economics because of its numerical and quantitative importance. In addition to all of this, the student must take a number of elective subjects. He/she might decide as follows:

<u>Semester One</u>	<u>Semester Two</u>
Management Accounting I	Financial Accounting II
or	
Management Information Systems	

Others might decide that they would prefer to delve more into marketing and choose Promotions Management, while for some with a legal orientation, it may be Business Law. Moreover, some undergraduates who enjoy Mathematics can continue with it because they feel it complements the two obligatory statistical modules they are undertaking.

On the assumption that the exams have been passed with the maximum credits being garnered, the student then proceeds to the final year of the B. Comm programme. This is again on a semesterised system with commencement time

again in early September and exams in mid-April, first half of May respectively. Again, he/she must undertake mandatory and elective subjects in order to procure the necessary points or credits. They would be slightly higher than second Commerce.

Obligatory

<u>Semester One</u>	<u>Semester Two</u>
Industrial Relations	Production Management
Industrial Psychology	
Irish Economy	Irish Economy

Business Administration

Business Administration is a very important subject because it incorporates entrepreneurial studies. Students attend lectures on it and must then undertake a research project on some aspect of business whether it be in manufacturing, retail and services, building and construction or tourism for example. The objective is to apply the knowledge gained in the accounting, management, marketing and economic disciplines in order to compile a credible and realistic business plan for the chosen area, whilst simultaneously demonstrating the requisite entrepreneurial skills. This is a group project and is completed by the end of April. Each group could be required to defend their project in the presence of the relevant faculty personnel. The importance of teamwork in business is an integral part of this course.

At this stage, quite a number of students are thinking of a possible career in Accounting and may decide to continue their elective choice to some of the following:

Financial Accounting III	Management Accounting II
Taxation I	Taxation II
Auditing	Business Finance II

Company Law

Some may have a liking for the marketing sphere and consequently, could decide on Market Research and International Marketing I and II respectively. Those gravitating towards the management area may pursue the aforementioned management accounting and for example, the Organisational Behaviour module. Others may have an aptitude for Economics and could decide to undertake Industrial and Regional Economics or Economic Development/Welfare Economics to complement Irish Economy. Finally, some within the programme may still like to keep their options open and consequently undertake a number of optional subjects within the Accounting, Economics, Management and Marketing disciplines.

Hopefully, the examinations go well and one is conferred in July with a B. Comm degree – it is awarded at Honours and Pass levels. If one manages to obtain the former, one can seriously consider doing Masters degree in Business, Economics, Accounting or Marketing at N.U.I.G's postgraduate business school. Other graduates may prefer to gain valuable work experience in their chosen area and return to embark on a postgraduate programme at a later stage. Postgraduate programmes on offer include the Master of Business Studies (M.B.S.), Master of Economic Science (M.

Econ. Sc.) or the research based Master of Commerce (M.Comm.)

Graduates already in employment, may decide to do the coveted M.B.A. degree (Master of Business Administration). This is a very time consuming course where one has to be very disciplined in one's study routine. However, to gain admission, the applicant must undergo an interview and sit the GMAT test. If successful, it is conceivable that your firm or company will sponsor you on this part-time two year programme. Up to five years work experience is desirable for anyone thinking of making an application.

At undergraduate level, there is a growing demand for the B. Comm International degree, which incorporates a European language as a significant component. As stated earlier, the points requirement is high if French is the chosen language; it is significantly lower for German, Spanish and Italian. This degree, which I believe to be of four years duration, can open up excellent opportunities abroad, in areas such as the European Commission or the European Parliament. Possibilities also arise on the home front in various government departments or the Institute of European Affairs. Even getting an internship during the summer vacation in these areas could lead to employment after graduation.

Good luck to all students sitting examinations in the future. Remember also, that there are many other excellent third level courses at other colleges throughout Ireland. For the student who has no desire to go to college, he/she could

decide to take up a position with, for example, a retail or service chain store group. You may have to start at the bottom of the ladder, but if the ambition and ability is evident, it gets noticed by management. Consequently, you could then be encouraged to attend business training courses of one or two days duration, a number of times annually at selected locations. Such programmes could entail employment law, personnel management, sales and promotional marketing, health and safety management, e-commerce, accounting and office administration to name but a few. It is surprising how much information can be accrued from these programmes – your confidence begins to grow and the desire to learn more becomes self-motivating. You could use this to become “head” of a department within a store. In time, you could progress to trainee manager and then to assistant manager, not necessarily within the same store. Who knows, the position of store manager could be beckoning? Yes, the opportunities are limitless – think about it!

At Ryan's SuperValu, we have a member of our trainee management team doing a third year part-time course in business management – this person has already got the first year exams – all being well, he will have a “diploma in management” after two years and should he continue, a management degree. His ambition is to be a store manager and I firmly believe he will succeed because the motivation is there.



Directors, management and staff of Ryan's SuperValu, winners of the prestigious National Hygiene Award in October 2006. Front, L-R: Louise Joyce, Carol Keane, Margaret Cribbin, Amy Regan, Isobel Morrissey, Lydia Biesty, Evelyn Kearns, Sinead Fahy, Louise Keane, Kasia Wrobel, Ewa Saletnik. Middle, L-R: Mairead Horkan, Edel Finnegan, Reda Manke, Dmitrijs Shumaner, Ale Gruzdiene, Larissa Krasouska, Ringaile, Gruzdyte, Alta Regan, Romas Zininas, Mary Sykes, Richard Lennon, Pat Ryan, Karen Gildea, Willie Ryan, Ray Darcy, Martina Henry, Ann Burke, Vera Gavin, Ann Moylan. Back, L-R: Ronan Egan, Mayo Akinbiodum, T. J. McCarrick, Marian Biesty, Colette Greene, Peter Timpson, Michael Marigliano, Kathleen Gibbons, Christine Marigliano, Ewelina Gierek, Lola Kedzierska, Ginetta Butaite, Margaret McGrath, Viada Vaituleviciute, Iwona Gawlowska.

Baptisms & Marriages in the parish 1st Nov. '05 - 31st Oct. '06

Baptisms

Brian Lee Sweeney
Owen Christopher McDonagh
Ann Marie McDonagh
Adam Joseph Walsh
Tristan James Folliard Freeley
Conor Patrick Henry
Kate Anne Doyle
Alice Mai Curran
Caolán Michael Boyle
Kate Anne Flanagan
Victor Gerard Nwose
Jack Freyne

Zara Maria Daly
Chloe Teresa Henry
Anne Roslin Peter
Isabelle Lucy Henry
Kian John Paul Morley
Laura Anna Dillon
Daire Patrick Caulfield
Sean Richard Moran
Sharon Marie Morgan
Niamh Christina O'Connor
Adam James Noone
Harry Mark O'Malley
Ciara Louise Reynolds
Roisin Marie Conway
Sarah Ann Gill

Erica Mary Byrne
Amanda Rachel Cleary
Tara Martina Phillips
Katie Madden
Colm Pearse Rattigan
Clara Sinead Byrne
Victoria Etumuse
Solomon Etumuse
Adam Keogh
Michael Joseph Maughan
Padraig James Murphy
Joshua Ebele Ubazuono
James Michael Scanlon
Evan John Michael McNamara
Benjamin Belly Lolengola

Marriages

Sharon Murphy, Ballindrehid
Eamonn Carty, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon
John Ezekiel, Old Convent, Ballyhaunis
Namisa Turabi, Old Convent, Ballyhaunis

Denise Biesty, Carrowkeel
John Clancy, Cloonbook

Clodagh Lyons, Upper Main St.
James Patrick Freyne, Coolnaha

Michael Kelly, Hazelwood, Ballyhaunis
Elaine McCormack Hazelwood, Ballyhaunis

Sinead Freyne, Clare St.
Kevin Meehan, Tuam, Co. Galway

Paula Jordan, Annagh
John Burke, Devlis

Ann Marie Sloyan, Brackloon North
Gary Rogers, Cullyhanna, Co. Armagh

Margaret Nestor, Doctor's Road
Edward Monaghan, Kesh, Co. Fermanagh

Clare Gallagher, Bargarriff
Pierce Higgins, Ballinphuill

Caitriona O'Dowd, Holywell
James McGuire, Johnstown

Siobhan Lyons, Lecarrow
Patrick Horan, Shannon

Joanne Morley, Carrowkeel
Michael J. Walsh, Cross, Claremorris

Sandra Keane, Doctor's Road
Mark O'Herlihy, Dublin

Linda Biesty, Hazelhill
Stephen Mangan, Dublin

Eithne Byrne, Johnstown
John McGeehan, Williamstown, Co. Galway

Martina Maughan, Cherryfield
John Mongan, Station Rise

Marriages Elsewhere

Helen Lyons, Upper Main St.
Timothy Moran, Corofin, Co. Galway

Shane Mooney, Doctor's Road
Alma McCarthy, Labasheeda, Co. Clare

Raymond Donnellan, Beech Park, Ballyhaunis
Demilza Ryan, Nenagh Co. Tipperary

Marc McCafferty, Ballindrehid
Maura Birmingham, Granlahan, Co. Roscommon

Noelle Hunt, Lecarrow
Conor Hayes, Nenagh Co. Tipperary

John Meenan, Aisling Drive, Ballyhaunis
Michelle Minihan, Murroe, Co. Limerick

Fergal Kelly, Hazelhill
Clare Moran Lavallyroe

Kieran Kelly, Drimbane
Denise McGough, Athlone

Niall Kelly, Hazelhill
Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Melbourne, Australia

Ronan Byrne, Main Street, Ballyhaunis,
and now Wexford
Claire Gargan, Malahide, Dublin

Cormac Cleary, Clare Road
Mia Kahn, Denmark

Deirdre Carney, Brickens
Dara Brannick, Hollymount

Siobhan Byrne, Doctor's Road
Brendan Killen

Marcus Caulfield, Carrowkeel Ballyhaunis
Marie Byrne, London

Brian Freyne, Devlis
Liza Brophy, Dublin

An Outing to Niagara Falls

Sean Farrell, Treenreavough, Bekan

At midday the coach veers in the direction of Niagara and commences to motor in a downhill route towards Niagara-on-the-Lake. Roy the driver and Marion our guide are bringing us to Niagara for a Sunday afternoon's excursion. We travel through the northern part of the Niagara Peninsula - an expanse of land surrounded on three sides by water - and Marion tells us about this region that stretches along by Lake Ontario. It is a fertile area with many fruit farms and vineyards and due to its close proximity to the lakes, has generally a mild climate. There are many wineries in the Niagaran region most noteworthy amongst there are Birchwood Estate Wines and Vineland Estate Winery, though I have yet to find a Niagaran wine in an off-licence in Ireland. The Peninsula is famous for its ice wine made from the last grapes of the season remaining on the vines. We journey through Hamilton on the brink of Lake Ontario, and eventually reach Niagara-on-the-Lake once the capital of Ontario.

On this beautiful September Sunday we go for a walk on one of the streets in the downtown area, designated as a heritage district. We walk through a park not far from the Victorian styled buildings lining tree-shaded streets. Photographs are taken of our lovely surroundings comprising trees and flower plots; and we stop off for a few minutes of meditative prayer at the St. Vincent de Paul Church. We also observe the scenic perspective out over Lake Ontario. Marion tells us that this town has many sites and monuments, most famous amongst them are: Fort George, Brock's Monument, Laura Secord Home, Shaw Festival Theatre and Memorial Clock Tower.

Niagara-on-the-Lake

(A) Fort George was originally the headquarters for the British army, local militia and Indian Department and stood guard over transportation on the Niagara River. It was used during the wars of eighteen twelve and thirteen to repel the invading American forces. After the war it fell into ruins but later was reconstructed as a National Historic Site.

(B) The Brock Monument was built in memory of Isaac Brock who was killed by a US sharpshooter as he led the British army to victory over a much larger American invasion force during the Battle of Queenston Heights in October 1812. An earlier monument, over the site where he was buried, was destroyed but it was subsequently restored in 1856. It is nearly two hundred feet high and is one of the most imposing historical landmarks in Canada.

(C) Laura Secord was the heroine of the 1812 and 1813 wars. Some American soldiers had sleeping quarters in her home and on a June evening in 1813 she overheard them planning an attack on the British forces at a place called Beaverdams. She left the building and trudged through woods, across streams and open ground for over twenty miles. It took

her eighteen hours to complete this dangerous and exhausting journey and thus warn the British forces of an impending attack. As a result native forces as well as the British ambushed the invading Americans and defeated them at the battle of Beaverdams in June 1813. Her homestead is open for tours during the Summer months, but our short visit to this region made a tour of the house impossible.

(D) Our walking tour brings us close to the Shaw Festival Theatre. It was in 1962 that a local playwright by the name of Brian Doherty along with a small group of Americans and Canadians presented weekend performances of plays written by George Bernard Shaw, who was born in 1856 and died in 1950. Since then plays written by Irish born George Bernard Shaw, his contemporaries and playwrights of the past fifty years are staged at this acclaimed theatre. Shaw was a man that sparked interest and he also relished controversy, and over the past forty years most of his plays including the following well-known ones "Pygmalion", "Back to Methuselah", "John Bull's Other Island" and "Man and Superman" have been performed at the festival that is named in his honour. The festival months are annually from April to November. Four memorable quotations from these plays written by George Bernard Shaw are as follows:

"The great secret, Eliza, is not having bad manners or good manners or any other particular sort of manners, but having the same manner for all human souls: in short, behaving as if you were in Heaven, where there are no third-class carriages, and one soul is as good as another" (Pygmalion);

"You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'" (Back to Methuselah);

"Science is always wrong. It never solves a problem without creating ten more" (John Bull's Other Island);

"A life of happiness! No man alive could bear it: it would be hell on earth" (Man and Superman).

(E) The Clock Tower was built as a memorial to local people killed during the horrifying First World War and each year at this site Remembrance Day ceremonies take place. John McCrae (1872-1918) who served in the Canadian Army as a medical doctor wrote the following unforgettable poem "In Flanders Fields" the day after a friend of his was killed at the battle of Ypres in 1915. McCrae himself died of pneumonia towards the end of the war. I thought it fitting to transcribe the poem in its entirety:

*"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky*

*The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields."*

We are in the company of a Tyrone lad, wearing his county colours, and his Armagh girlfriend. He is rather apprehensive at present because today back home Kerry are playing Tyrone in the All-Ireland Final at Croke Park. He is sorry that he cannot see the final on television or hear it on radio. Naturally enough he hopes for a Tyrone victory and most of the tourists concur. As we are boarding the bus one of the tourists says that he was after hearing on the mobile phone that Tyrone were winning with time nearly up. Naturally enough the Tyrone young man is delighted and longs to celebrate, but alas now isn't the appropriate time.

We have a photo taken of our select group of ten people comprising Ann and Berney Crossan, Mary and Michael Gunning, Kay and Sean Twomey, Betty and Patrick Garvey, Pat Donlon and Myself in the park near the church before mounting the coach for the trip to Niagara Falls. Frank O'Brien did not come on this outing as he had already visited this locality on an earlier holiday.

Whirlpool

We travel on the lakeshore road making steady progress on this lovely sunny afternoon for the Falls. Soon we stop off at the Whirlpool. We look down on what one could imagine as a large cauldron of disturbed waters. Marion tells us that it is a natural phenomenon shaped about six thousand years ago by the enormous flow of the Niagara River and erosion, resulting in the route of the river becoming a sharp bend or angle in direction. This circular pool of water is just over three miles downstream from the Falls. We are told that the speed of the immense flow of water pushes it past the dogleg turn, and enters the whirlpool where it circles counter clockwise around the basin to the place of entry. At this point the water passes underneath and interconnects with the current of water entering the whirlpool before exiting northwards towards Queenston and on to Lake Ontario. The whirlpool, bordered by a noticeable amount of green shrubbery, is reported to be over one hundred and twenty feet deep and roughly one thousand six hundred feet in diameter. A Vermont poet by the name of John G. Saxe (1816-1887) penned the following lines about this perilous meltwaters formation of ages past:

*"See, at the depth of the awful abyss,
The whirlpool careering with limitless power,*

*Where the waters revolve perpetually round.
And O! Should some mortal - how dreadful the doom! -
Descend to the spot where the whirlpool carouses,
Alas! He would find a rocky tomb"*

After a brief stop off we board the coach and continue our journey close to the Whirlpool Rapids Gorge, a section of the river located between the Whirlpool and the Whirlpool International Bridge. For the following reasons these rapids are the wildest in the world: narrowness of the gorge which is estimated at hundred and fifty yards; downward slope of the river in the region of fifty feet; and colossal quantity of water that passes through the chasm. It is reported that the average depth of the rapids is thirty-five feet and the speed of the water is about twenty miles per hour. I think of Captain Webb, who was the first man to swim the English Channel in August 1875 in roughly twenty-two hours. The distance from Dover to Calais as the crow flies is approximately twenty-one miles, but his zigzag course across the Channel took longer than intended for the reason that strong currents near the French coast prevented him from reaching the shore for five hours. Lamentably but expectedly, he drowned in an attempt to swim the Rapids below Niagara Falls in July 1883. It is quite possible that he died either in the Whirlpool Rapids Gorge or in the Whirlpool itself, after hitting his head on jagged rocks beneath the violent torrents. Perhaps I am doing the Englishman an injustice by stating that his legendary accomplishment in swimming the Channel led to him underestimating the ferocity of the Niagaran fast-moving waters.

Maid of the Mist

The coach motors on the roadway, in close proximity to the river, and soon reaches the Falls. It drops us off at the Table Rock Point and Marion informs us that later in the afternoon after our Maid of the Mist voyage we will remount the coach at this location. We stroll along the Niagara River Parkway and gaze out on both the American and Canadian Falls as we head for the wharf. We shortly reach the Canadian jetty for the Maid of the Mist. For over one hundred and fifty years these boats have given cruises on the Niagara River, close to the American Falls and right up to the basin of the Canadian Falls, and provided their passengers with a breathtaking sight of the deafening waters. Before our entry on the boat we are given plastic hooded raincoats and these blue-coloured water-resistant garments are designed for protection from the spray emanating at the Horseshoe Falls. The Maid of the Mist, full to the brim with passengers, moves out from the dock into the river's disturbed and foamy waters and navigates near to the American Falls. I take photographs of the American Falls two towering sections: the Rainbow Falls and the much smaller Bridal Veil. We had been told that the broken rock at their bases reduces the continuous fall of the water from about one hundred and eighty feet to seventy feet. Experts also report that around one hundred and fifty thousand gallons flow over the American Falls each second. We come face to face with a mighty wall of cascading water thundering down on the rocks below and into the river. The words written by a Connecticut poet John G. C. Brainard (1796-1828) paint a picture of some

omnipotent force discharging torrential waters over centuries and grooving crevices in the large and durable rockface:

*"The thoughts are strange that crowd into my brain
When I look up to thee. It would seem
As if God pour'd thee from his "hollow hand,"
And hung his bow upon thine awful front;
And spoke in that loud voice, which seem'd to him
Who dwelt in Patmos for his Saviour's sake,
"The sound of many waters;" and had bade
Thy flood to chronicle the ages back,
And notch His cent'ries in the eternal rocks."*

Rainbow Falls

We slowly sail up the river bordering on the American Falls to our left, and one is reminded that in March of 1848 the impossible happened and lasted for about thirty hours. An ice formation on Lake Erie clogged-up the mouth of the Niagara River and caused the water flow over the American and Canadian Falls to be reduced to a trickle. Silence prevailed until the ice flow dislodged and a massive wall of water surged over the falls with a deafening noise before eventually the flow returning to its normal rate. We are told that mounds of ice build up around the steep cliff-faces during Winter and if it is exceptionally cold the ice can stretch across the river. The heavy snowfalls, which are a usual occurrence at both Falls, give sightseers a very special photo opportunity. We are told that rainbows are often seen and it's no wonder that the American Falls also got the name Rainbow Falls. This marvel is usually formed either by the sunshine reflecting on the mists from the Falls or alternatively from the light of the moon shining on the water vapour originating from the Falls. Sorry to relate, I didn't catch sight of a rainbow on my visit! Rainbows appear quite often in Ireland, and I wrote a few lines about such beautiful arch of colours in recent years

Horseshoe Falls

The boat slowly cruises right to the basin of the Canadian Falls also known as the Horseshoe Falls because of its shapely appearance. This is a most magnificent setting, heavenly to behold for one and all who are privileged to be on board the Maid of the Mist on this day in late September 2005. The boat is full to capacity and I notice that there are many Chinese and Japanese on board. As I position myself on deck I find it absolutely impossible to obtain standing room beside the boat's port side; nevertheless, notwithstanding such an inconvenience I manage to take many photographs of the cataract as its deluge continues to fall unremittingly. The experts have informed us that the torrents plunge over a cliff of dolostone and shale, over one hundred and sixty feet high, with six hundred thousand gallons of water flowing over these Falls every second. It is an eerie feeling to be standing on board this boat buffeted by the squalls and dripping with the spray emanating from the roaring waters pouring from the high cliff down into a nearby maelstrom, whose depth is comparable to the Falls' height. I realise that many people over the years sought fame and fortune in their attempts to conquer the Falls. Many failed in this daredevil undertaking, though Annie Taylor a sixty-three

year old schoolteacher became the first person to conquer the Falls in 1901. She made the trip strapped inside a barrel. Luckily the barrel didn't hit rocks as it tumbled down into the raging waters! The sight is both magnificent and petrifying as we stand in a small boat with danger lurking only yards away, and seeing the enormous quantity of majestic waters pouring down from the steep cliff into a cavernous abyss at its base. Lately, I unearthed a poem titled "Quebec Hill or Canadian Scenery" published in London in 1797 and attributed to a person by the name of J. MacKay, though the authorship remains unknown. The extract I like the best includes the following fourteen lines describing the unparalleled, formidable potency and splendour of a World phenomenon:

*"High soar Niagara's renowned Falls,
Whose dreadful grandeur passengers appalls:
With force collected, down the waters roll
Condensed, spread, impatient of control:
Now, o'er the tallest cliff in chaos bright,
The sparkling volumn wings its giddy flight;
In one wide wave the bounding torrent pours,
And echo swells responsive to its roars;
Thro' pendant surges gasping fishes fly,
And in the circling eddies lifeless lie;
The rising mist obscures the face of day,
Faint seems the sun, and feeble gleams his ray;
Out from the scene the lofty banks retire,
And shun the foaming torrent's mighty ire."*

Goat Island

The Maid of the Mist slowly does a hundred degree turn in order to give the passengers a view of the breathtaking Falls. Then after some minutes it heads back down the river to its moorings. The boat passes on its right side Goat Island, a small piece of land separating the American Falls from the Canadian Falls. The story is told that a John Stedman herded goats on the island during the late eighteenth century and during one harsh Winter he lost the animals when the river froze, except one decidedly robust goat that gave the island its name. As we approach the berthing area we see in front of us the steel arch Rainbow Bridge built in nineteen forty-one and spanning the river between Niagara Falls Ontario and Niagara Falls New York. The river looks so restless and dangerous, and lo-and-behold anyone who is unfortunate enough to fall into its fierce currents! We were informed that the river is about thirty-five miles in length between the fresh water lakes of Erie and Ontario. The decline in elevation between the two lakes is obviously more manifest at the Falls where often the waters have a brown hue due to the decayed vegetation carried down from the shallow eastern shoreline of Erie. We were informed of the hydroelectric power generation but this usually takes place during the non-tourist season and predominantly at night-time.

After disembarking I ask one of the tourists to take a photo of me at the quayside. There I nonchalantly stand with the blue mack rolled up in one hand and the American Falls visible in the background! We tourists visit the nearby souvenir shops; I come across and purchase three wooden plaques with



Sean Farrell with Niagara Falls (American Falls) in the background.

pictures of the Falls in postcard design on their anterior. Due to a longer than intended stopover at the shops I somehow become separated from our group and while traversing a nearby green area I meet up with Pat Donlon, who like myself is not sure where the coach is parked. We decide to walk along the Niagara River Parkway, which looks so lovely with its shrubs and flowers in the Canadian September sunshine. If the worst came to the worst we would hire a taxi back to our hotel, but our non-appearance at the coach stop would obviously cause alarm and consequently the tourists would feel

compelled to go looking for us. Eventually we happen to see, amongst the many walkers, some members of our group and realise that we are going in the right direction. After boarding the coach all the happy tourists, together with Marion and Roy, return to Days Hotel in Downtown Toronto. In conclusion, I pen a quotation by the distinguished novelist Charles Dickens (1812-1870) who visited the Niagara Falls in Canada in 1841:

"Niagara was at once stamped upon my heart, an image of beauty, to remain there, changeless and indelible, until its pulses cease to beat forever".

Fr. Austin Cribbin

Celebrates his Golden Jubilee

Fr. Austin Cribbin, born in Churchpark, Ballyhaunis, on February 19th 1929, celebrated his Golden Jubilee recently.

Fr. Cribbin is now retired and living in Klamath Falls, Oregon, USA. During his years of active ministry, he served on several diocesan boards. He was chairman for two terms of the Diocesan Priests' Council, chairman of the Diocesan Building Committee, a member of the Clergy Retirement Committee, a member of the Priestly Life and Minister Committee and a member of several lesser boards in the diocese.

He twice represented his diocese at the National Federation of Priests' Councils meetings.

Since his retirement, he has travelled the world several times as chaplain on cruise ships and has seen "everything that is worth seeing". He hopes to continue that for a few more years.

Fr. Cribbin's education was at the Ballyhaunis Boys' National School. His secondary education was at St. Jarlath's in Tuam and his seminary training was at St. Kieran's in Kilkenny where he was ordained priest on June 3rd 1956. His only remaining sibling, Noreen Horkan, resides at Queen of Peace Nursing Home in Knock.



The people of the parish where he lives put on a banquet and "roast" to honour him. Three of his nieces travelled from Ireland for the occasion. They are Brian and Geraldine Rawlings from Longford, Marie Hayden from Wexford and Aidan and Dolores Connolly from Bunnalra, Ballina, with their daughter, Lisa.

Fr. Cribbin visits Ireland frequently and plans to be there in mid-August for a short time. We congratulate him and wish him 'ad multos annos'.

Down Memory Lane

Ballyglass to Ballyhaunis

John Dowling

I might be described as a renegade, writing for a rival magazine, but the miles I have clocked up on my journeys into Ballyhaunis - first on foot, then by bicycle, and now by car - must be a million plus. I have been accused of wandering in conversation and in my writing. However, I crave a little indulgence as I have spent over seven decades on this planet. Nobody may be interested, but I will try to give an account of some things in the past, and of people that I knew.

'Course Top' and Curries

As the border with the parish of Annagh is only a half mile from my own home, I will start with Bargariff - the next townland, but one, nearest to me. In Bargariff there were three Bailey households, two Ruane and the same amount of Coyne. There is now only one Ruane family there of those names. There was a friend of mine in the village whose cattle liked to go 'walkabout' in what could be called 'the Outback', between Ballyglass and Bargariff: cattle don't recognise parish boundaries! When this man went out to muster them up, he hadn't the benefit of a cow pony, or a quad. The only assistance he had was a pole for vaulting the stream. He did not need to go to the gym after that!

Up the hill and over 'Course Top', which is a landmark for miles around. Near the top of the hill are the ruins of two houses - Martin's and Morley's. Tom Cooney and his wife Mary Jane had their house at the top. Tom was a sheep dealer in his younger days. Across the road lived Owen Gildea whose house was of unusual construction. It was built on practically the highest point in the electoral division. It should have been known as 'Course Top House'. Owen's wife had a liking for Darjeeling tea.

The ball-alley, which witnessed many a stirring game, has almost disappeared. Further inland lived the Comer, Cox and Barrett families. These are not here any more. Moving on to Curries the Eagney family have relocated to the town as the Connollys have to Holywell. John Healy was a shoemaker - he was gone for most of my lifetime. I wonder how many has heard of Nellie Long who had her place of abode two fields from the road in what is now Coen's land? In Michael Regan's old house the first person that I knew was Jimmy Cribbin, afterwards Packie Plunkett, who was a tailor. Then the Quinn family. The Ellicott family lived there for a short time. There were two houses at the head of the road - Brennan's and Connolly's. I think they are in ruins for seventy or eighty years.

Lecarrow and Devlis

I swing onto the main road into town, a road that has not improved much in the last sixty years: it still has its hairpin bends. There is one good point about this road, and that is that there have been very few accidents here over the years in comparison to other roads, thanks be to God. The first house was Tarpey's who had their own school of music in the past. The next port of call was Finn's shop where I bought sweets and later fags. There was another business nearby as Frank Helbert was a maker of carts and stools. Tom Coen had his thatched house at the bottom of the hill. Coen's gate was a meeting place for the young and old some years ago. Over the

bridge and into Devlis, past the remains of the old mill, we come to Conway's corner. After Conway's, Jim Jordan had his house and workshop - Jim made chairs and barrows, both of high quality. The present owner might consider going in to the woodworking trade. Directly opposite was Luke McGuire's house. Luke was quite a character. In Devlis Cottages the people I knew are either dead or have relocated. Names such as Caulfield, Ganley, Gilmore, Lyons, Fleming, Jim Byrne, Tommie O'Malley, and later Conboy, Dempsey, Regan and Henry. Now only Mrs. Dempsey remains there. Billy Lyons has not moved very far.

Urban Centre

On to what I would call the urban area. The house where Oliver Hannon lives was not known by that name in my very young days. Some called it Farragher's; other's referred to it as James Garrett's - both having been previous owners. James Garrett Jordan was a large property owner in his time. Another man who owned this house was Austin O'Malley, and who was father-in-law of John Farragher. O'Malley was responsible for the building of what today is George Delaney's hardware shop. As most people know it was the first hotel in Ballyhaunis. Austin O'Malley was a retired U.S. army man and was better known locally as 'Pensioner Melia'. He was the first rate-collector locally. The house at the junction of the Ballinlough road has a certain amount of history as well. As well as being one of the oldest houses in the town, rents were collected here on behalf of Lord Dillon, over a hundred years ago. In the late fifties a McCarthy family lived there. The husband was a baker who worked in James Waldron's. He died at an early age and his wife, who was a niece of Tom Crean the Antarctic explorer, returned to 'The Kingdom' (Dingle) after his death. Martin O'Connell and family are gone out of the town for over forty years. Martin was a guard and liked to see a light on your bike!

Clarkes are the only ones of the old residents on this road. I remember Dinny Sloyan, Joe Webb, the Fitzmaurices and the Dawson girls with their sweet shop in what was the last thatched house in the town. Across the road was Pat Barrett's small house, later occupied by Florrie Morris. On one occasion Pat was asked why he never married. Pat gave a rather quick answer: "There's some profit in feeding a pig, but none in rearing a wife!" I don't think the older generation will ever forget the big beech tree at the entrance to the Railway Station. Under its spreading branches we all, at some time or other, sheltered during a shower. It used to rain in those days just like the present!

Tom Martin and Frank Connolly were very close by. Next in line, John Murray had his bicycle garage. When John sold a new bike he always gave the advice: "Keep it well oiled, boy!" John owned the first Model T in the town. He sold it to somebody in England and later it was seen on T.V. at a vintage show in Brighton. When cars went off the road during the Emergency John gave the use of his petrol pump to the army. Next, John's relations were in the egg exporting business for over half a century. On the left hand side in Devlis I think of Jimmy Toolan, Henry Hughes, John Byrne, Kathleen Flannery,

who was a dress-maker, Tony Griffin – a carpenter and who had a garden with Monkey Puzzle trees. After Tony, in the two semi-detached houses, were Frank Wall and my old teacher Joe Cooney. This was formerly the town pound. Joe was useful with the hazel rod, but not for water divining, I can assure you. The last house in the road, known as the White House, was owned by Gerry Dillon.

Abbey Street

Under the bridge and into Abbey Street, the first house on the left was Ma'am Doogan's. It was a derelict shop which was owned by Peter Hannon. Peter had a big business in my youth. He had his own railway siding for the delivery of goods. Billy Flynn was in this shop before Peter. Cunningham's, Durkan's, Delaney's and Gerry Lyons, who has property in the street, are the only ones still there of the old order. Caulfield, Lynch, Dillon, Halpin, Waldron, Smyth, Greene, Campbell, Moran are names you will not get in the street at present. I am not forgetting Dr. Andy Smyth or his successor Dr. Tommy Joyce. I have seen many changes - more in the town than in the countryside.

A friend of mine made a statement some years ago that Ballyhaunis was really two towns – divided by the river, which has changed in name from being the Clare to the Dalgan. In my humble opinion you would have to hit the Milltown district before you would discover the Dalgan. As for the 'two towns', my friend meant that Abbey Street had a convent, a church, a bank and a railway station. Alas, the convent and church are gone. It's sad to see the closure of the Abbey which survived through many difficulties, for hundreds of years, including the Penal Times and the Great Famine. A few hundred years ago priests were thin on the ground. It's my belief that not only did the friars minister to the immediate locality, but also to the surrounding parishes including my own Kiltullagh, as there does not seem to be any record of a priest in the parish for the period 1780 to 1805.

Nowadays, a visitor to the town might imagine he was walking the streets of Baltimore when they see all the different nationalities. I suppose it's all for the good. For too long it was emigration, not immigration. That's all the nonsense I can think of for the time being. Senior citizens do get stuck in the past!

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

A special night out was held by Ballyhaunis A.B.C (Aid For Belarussian Children) on Friday, 21st April in Jennings' Lounge Cloonfad to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster. It was attended by host families from over the years and also by Ernan and Phyllis Meenan from Donegal A.B.C. Ballyhaunis A.B.C is an outreach group of Donegal A.B.C. The Ballyhaunis group presented a cheque of €2,000 on

the night to Donegal A.B.C. to help fund its hospice in Belarus. A painting by Mrs. Mairead Egan, and donated by her, was auctioned on the night and all proceeds from this and the raffle went to the Hospice. Many thanks to all those who attended and supported the night, to the musicians Martin Fitzmaurice, David Godfrey and Kevin Prendergast who gave their time voluntarily on the night. Jennings' Lounge provided the venue and refreshments.



L-R: Olive Lyons (Secretary), Mary T. Maloney (Chairperson), Ernan Meenan, Phyllis Meenan, Frances Mulhern (Treasurer), Mary Murphy (Asst. Secretary), Breege Nolan (Asst. Treasurer). Ernan is pictured receiving €2,000 which will be given to the Childrens Hospice in Belarus.

Ted Webb Memorial Golf Classic

Michael Webb Jnr

2006 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the tragic and untimely death of Mayo footballer Ted Webb. Since his death, Ballyhaunis has hosted the annual Ted Webb Connacht Under-16 Football Championship, involving teams from Connacht, Ulster, Munster, and West Leinster. Many of today's stars first came to attention in this competition over the years, including current senior county players Ger Brady and Dermot Geraghty of Mayo, Pdraig Joyce and Michael Donnellan of Galway, Seamus O'Neill of Roscommon, Christy Toye of Donegal and David Kelly of Sligo.

To mark the 30th anniversary of Ted Webb's passing Ballyhaunis Golf Club and Ballyhaunis GAA held a Monster Golf Classic AM/AM, sponsored by Elektro Spares & Service Centre Galway. The competition was held in Ballyhaunis Golf Club over four days, from August 17th to 19th with leading qualifiers playing the final round on August 20th.

The competition was a huge success with over sixty teams competing over the first three days and, with only six teams able to qualify for the final, the competition was intense. The prizes on offer for the Golf Classic were exciting, to say the

least, with the winners picking up a trip to Portugal. Other prizes included All-Ireland Football Final tickets with golf and accommodation in the City West Hotel, golf and accommodation in Adare Manor, Green fees for Druids Glen and Carton House, and tickets to the first International Rugby match in Croke Park.

Everyone involved had great craic over those few days in August when the Ballyhaunis Golf Club and GAA Club came together to put on a very memorable occasion. Some of the highlights included two players getting a Hole-In-One each on different days at the 16th hole, which in golfing terms was very rare.

The team that eventually took the top prize with a score of 103 included brothers David and John Burke, Tom McGuire and Tom Prenty.

The organisers would like to sincerely thank everyone - sponsors, players, caterers, course/bar staff and volunteers - that contributed in making the Ted Webb Memorial Golf Classic a great success.



Michael Murray (Main Sponsor - Elektro Spares & Service Centre Galway), Theresa Fitzmaurice (Ballinlough Refrigeration), Michael Webb Jnr., Majella Ivers (J.J. McNicholas), John Collins, Vinnie Caulfield, Mike Webb. Seated L-R: Brian Hunt (President), John Burke, David Burke, Tom Prenty, Tom McGuire, Ann Curley (Lady Captain).

The Most Famous Cities in Poland

Ewelina Gierek

Krakow

When a European is asked about Poland, their first associations with this country – apart from the distinguished personalities of contemporary history like John Paul II or Lech Walesa – Krakow is one of the places mentioned. Krakow is a city of inspiring contrasts: rich tradition and history, and at the same time a dynamically growing modern city. Krakow is the third largest Polish city, and also one of the biggest economic centres. There are over twenty universities with their 160,000 university students. The most important sectors in the city's economy is tourism. Lots of tourists visit Krakow each year. Krakow is an attractive place both in daytime and 'after hours'. The special atmosphere of the beautiful streets of the Old Town and Kazimierz, the Royal Castle at Wawel, the gothic St. Maris Basilica and galleries full of cafes, pubs and restaurants. All of this is integral part of any visit to Krakow.

Warszawa (Warsaw)

One of the most important places in Poland you should visit is the capital of Poland – Warsaw - the biggest city in Poland which lies on both banks of the river "Wista". Today Warsaw is a world-class metropolis with many historical and interesting places to see. Despite the fact almost 85% of the city was destroyed during World War II, there are still many original buildings and places left. The Royal Castle and the Old Town were rebuilt and restored as it was before the war.

When you go to Warsaw you have to visit the Palace of Culture and Science if you want to watch the city from a bird's eye view. It's absolutely beautiful. Warsaw is also a modern and enjoyable city. In Warsaw you find lots of pubs, clubs, operas, but if you looking for a break you can take some walks in the amazing parks or visit museums or lovely galleries.

My town - Swinoujscie

If some day you decide to visit one of the Polish cities, I would like to recommend the town where I was born and lived, and still go back to every year on my holidays. Swinoujscie is one of the most beautiful places in Poland with unique geographical location and gateway to Germany and other parts of Northern Europe like Sweden and Denmark. You can visit the Scandinavian countries from Swinoujscie by permanent ferry connections.

My town is an attractive and popular tourist destination and all year round health resort. Swinoujscie has also beautiful, sandy beaches, large woods, parks and lovely hotels and restaurants. Other attractions in the town you should see are the old gothic church - Christ the King Church - and if you interested in museums, see the Museum of Sea Fishing.

Also, the night life is exciting: Swinoujscie has nice clubs and pubs where you are can spend a nice time with friends. If you want to know more, or if you wish to have a

summer vacation on a hot beach with miles of blue water, then Swinoujscie is the place to go to.

Some Polish phrases

Hi, hello – Czesć – pronounced 'check'

Goodbye – Dowidzenia – pronounced 'Dow-v-zen-ya'

Good Morning – Dzień Dobry – pronounced 'Gin-dob-re'

Thank You – Dziękuję – pronounced 'Gin-ku-ya'

Please – Proszę – pronounced 'Pro-sha'

Two beers please! – Dwa piwa proszę



Ewelina Gierek and Przemek Kwaiborski



Eamon Fahy (Williamstown) parades his horse on Heritage Day.

Tom Raftery

A tragic death recalled

*Contributed by Tomás Cribbin, Knockbrack and Claremorris,
(Grandnephew of the late Tom Raftery)*

It is eighty years ago since 14th April 2006 that Thomas Raftery met his untimely death. Thomas was born in Knocknafola, Began, on 30th Dec. 1900, son of Tom and Mary Raftery (nee Kenny).

It was during a replay match between Ballina and Ballyhaunis in the Final of the Junior Football County Championship at Balla that Thomas met his fate. This is the report on his death from 'The Mayo News' on 17th Apr. 1926.

Ballyhaunis Footballer's Tragic End

Mr. Tom Raftery N.T. succumbs to injuries received at Balla. Tom Raftery is dead! How terribly hard it is to pen the words. What cruel fate has enacted a deed that has stricken the community with an unbearable weight of sorrow and cast a mantle of gloom over the entire locality?

Full of the spirit of the Gael in that high sense in which we visualise him, in the full flower of early manhood and as splendid a type of young Irish manhood as the eye could wish to see.

Tom Raftery took his place on the football pitch at Balla on Sunday last playing centre-field with his friend and inseparable companion Tom Forde, but he left the pitch with the assistance of his friends in the closing stages of the game a broken man, suffering excruciating pain as the result of an injury inflicted in the course of play by a member or members of the opposing team.

Happenings of the kind which had such tragic consequence in the case of our beloved Tom Raftery are not of infrequent occurrence in Gaelic football fields.

The act which necessitated the retirement of Mr. Raftery from the field was the second of the kind of which he was the victim during play up to that stage.

He was knocked out at an earlier stage of the game and was prostrate on the ground for some time during which play was suspended. But he rallied and resumed his place. In the closing stages of the game he again went under in mid-field. His still form was soon surrounded by a sympathetic crowd, and it was quite apparent from his condition that his injuries were of a serious nature.

After lying for some seven or eight minutes on the ground, he was assisted to his feet by his fellow players, he was helped from the field and transferred to the care of two non-players, Mr. Michael O'Connell and Mr. William Smith, N.T. Ballyhaunis, who had him immediately removed by motor to Mrs. Reilly's, Balla where he was put to bed.

That evening he was brought to his parents' residence at Greenwood where he was attended by Dr. A. F. Smyth who ordered his removal to hospital. This direction was acted upon on Monday evening when the patient was removed to Galway accompanied by Nurse Whitehouse and some friends.

The operation which followed disclosed the very serious condition of things, and on Tuesday morning the parents and sister of the deceased were summoned to the sick bedside, but Tom passed away that evening.

On Wednesday evening all that was mortal of Tom Raftery passed through Ballyhaunis – a Ballyhaunis bowed down in deep mourning. The members of the football team formed a Guard of Honour. His remains were received by the



Ballyhaunis Senior Team, 1925 with Tom Raftery circled. Back, L-R: Paddy Waldron, Mickie Lyons, Jimmy Regan, T. J. Lyons, Tom Raftery, Michael 'Brod' Morley, Pa Veldon, Tom Forde. Front, L-R: Jim Forde, Gerry 'Godgie' Dillon, Pakie Morley, Mickie Moran (holding ball), Eddie Biesty, Jack Webb, Paddy 'Kite' Dillon, Paddy 'Bonamh' Mulligan.

Rev. Fr. J. O'Malley, P.P., Rev. Fr. O'Reilly, C.C., Rev. Fr. Ruane, C.C.

On Thursday morning at 11 o'clock solemn High Mass was offered up for the eternal repose of the soul of the deceased in the presence of a very large and representative congregation, the interment subsequently taking place in the adjacent family burial ground.

Condolence

The Ballyhaunis Football Club (who placed a wreath on the grave) passed a resolution of sympathy with the parents, family

and relatives of the deceased.

Ar dheis Dhe go raibh a hAnam.

The Ballyhaunis parcel of players that were on duty on that fateful day were as follows: Michael Morley, Paddy Dillon 'Kite' (goal), Patrick Veldon, Eddie Biesty, Thomas Raftery (R.I.P.), James Regan, Patrick Morley, Thomas Forde, Gerald Dillon, James Forde, M. J. Lyons, Thomas J. Lyons, Paddy Mulligan, Paddy Waldron, Jack Webb, Michael O'Leary, Thomas Gavin, Lawrence Moran.

Deceased in the parish 1st Nov. '05 - 31st Oct. '06

Lena Healy, Carrownedan
John Forde, Knox St.
Bernie McDonagh, Castlebar
Bridget Greally, England & Annagh
Patrick Ryan, Hazelhill
Agnes Freyne, Clare St.
Tom Daly, Upper Main St.
Mae Freeley, Upper Main St.
Margaret Barrett, Hazelhill
James Kilboyle, Tullaghane
Carmel Hurley, Ballinphuill
Teresa Conway, Galway & Bridge St.
Robert Fox, Carrowreagh
John O'Brien, Holywell
Michael Maguire, Castleknock & Ballyhaunis
Patrick Carney, Island
John Henry, Annagh
Delia Grogan, Clare St.
Peggy Henry, Upper Main St.

Annie McGrath, Curries
James Melvin, Manchester & Ballindrehid
William Rochford, Knock Road
Margaret Morris, Brackloon North
John Ryan, Derrylahan
Jack Greene, Carrowreagh
Geraldine Sloyan, Brackloon North
Martin Lyons, Annagh
Margaret Byrne, Gurteen & Clare St.
Patrick Morley, Woodpark
Delia Regan, Abbey St.
Sean Phillips, Leow
Des McAuliffe, Clare Court
Anne Brennan, Greenwood
Brendan McGuire, Kilkee & Ballindrehid
Patrick Burke, Redford
Canon Patrick Costelloe, former P.P. Annagh
Peter Cutler, Knock Road



St. Joseph's Convent Primary School, Sixth Class 1982. Back, L-R: Maria Flynn, Michelle Daly, Caroline Walsh, Daire Loughran, Rita O'Sullivan, Patricia Carroll, Rosemary Timoney. Middle, L-R: Sr. Rosario (teacher), Karen Coyne, Laura Delaney, Helena Daly, Laura Burke, Philomena Phillips, Louise Lenehan, Mary Webb. Front, L-R: Anna Coen, Sinead Curley, Linda Sheridan, Shirley O'Boyle, Karen Henry, Pauline Henry, Barbara Dillon, Genevieve Damron.

Scoil Íosa Primary School

Betty Regan

Scoil Íosa extends Christmas Greetings to Annagh readers and everyone connected with the school in the past and the present. There are 264 children attending the school including children from many different nationalities.

Whole School Evaluation

Scoil Íosa had its first W.S.E in October 2005. The W.S.E. report in Spring 2006, commended the Board of Management, the teachers, Parents Association and the pupils. The report commended the Board of Management for its professional manner and especially for its effective communication and collaboration with the parents association. The report stated that the Parents Association has contributed significantly to the development of certain school policies. As well as representing the views of parents to the board, the Parents Association also disseminates information to parents through meetings and newsletters and is also heavily involved in fund-raising and organizing other activities. Some of the Main Strengths identified in the evaluation included the dedication and professional expertise of individual teachers, the orderly, welcoming learning environment present in the school, and its commitment to intercultural integration.

Staff 2006-2007

Jim Landon (Principal), Sally Fahy (Deputy Principal), Augustine Kearns (Assistant Principal), Jimmy Duggan, Caitlín Jennings, Ann Durkan, Stella McGrath, Ita Fahey, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, June Duffy, Kathleen Lyons, Betty Regan, Mary Fleming, Aisling Toal, Margaret O'Flaherty, Marie Byrne, Kevin Henry, Sheena Flanagan. Claire Mitchell moved to Scoil Íosagáin, Ballina in October and has been replaced by Sheena Flanagan. Seamus Caulfield teaches French to 5th and 6th classes three hours a week.

School Secretaries: Mary Dillon (Senior School) Carmel Cassidy (Junior School) Caretaker: John Hurley.

Board of Management 2006-2007

John Griffin (Chairperson), Olive Lyons (Secretary), Seamus Caulfield (Treasurer), Jim Landon, Fr. Kieran Burke, Jimmy Duggan, Ann Lyons, Cathy Carroll.

Parents Association 2006-2007

Eamon Healy (Chairperson), Frank Brown (Secretary), Agatha Higgins (Treasurer), Seamus Caulfield, Cathal Carroll, Olive Lyons, Stacia Carney, Rita Cunnane, Orla Moran, Bernadette Lyons.

Sacraments

First Confession was made on 13th March. First Communion was received on 20th May. Pupils from Mrs. Fahey's Class were: Cathal Carney, Classaroe; Piarais Caulfield, Annagh; James Cribbin, Lecarrow; Shane Cribbin, Togher; John Cunnane, Loughhill, Ballinlough; Radek Czerwenak, Esker Pines; Tommy Folliard, Kiltibo; Demi Greally Drimbane; Cian Henry, Greenwood; Oisín Henry, Ballindrehid; Sean Herr, Devlis; Anna Khromova, Abbey St.; Lisa Klimova, Abbey St.;

Donna McDonagh, Tooraree; Katie Moran, Gurteen; Aoife Nolan, Abbeyquarter; Róisín Ní Shuilleabhain, Annagh.

Pupils from Sr. Geraldine's Class were: Sean Carrick, Gurrane; Saoirse Caulfield, Devlis; Kaitlyn Clarke, Abbeyquarter; Matthew Grogan, Beech Park; Leanne Henry, Aisling Drive; Adam Hickey, Abbeyquarter; Michael Hill, Annagh; Dylan Maughan, Cherryfield; Robert McCormack, Ballindrehid; Thomas McDonagh, Tooraree; Cormack Reidy, Doctors Rd.; James Reynolds, Johnstown; Daniel Spieyn, Abbey Lane; David Webb, Hazel Lawns.

"Do this in memory of Me": These thirty-one children were the first Scoil Íosa class to follow this new parish based preparation for the sacrament. On one chosen Sunday from September to June the children and their families attended the ten o'clock Mass. The children and the parents played an active role in the Mass. Meeting for parents were held on the Wednesday preceding each Mass to organize the Mass and delegate responsibilities for that Sunday. Fr. Burke chaired the meeting and Kevin Henry was the co-ordinator. The initial meeting of parents of the May 2007 Communion Class took place in the Parochial Hall on 3rd October.

Graduation Mass and Ceremony

A memorable graduation ceremony was held in glorious weather on 22nd June. The twenty-seven children graduating from 6th Class were presented with scrolls by John Griffin (Chairperson, B.O.M.). Eamon Healy (Chairperson, Parents Association) presented each child with a calendar adorned with their class photo. Jim Landon (Principal) presented each with a certificate in Modern Language, in recognition of their French studies with Seamus Caulfield for the previous two years. The ceremony was followed by Mass celebrated by Fr. Kieran Burke, a member of the B.O.M.

Those graduating were: Zaira Arshad, Abbey St.; Wasem Ashraf, Abbey St.; Sammy Asilia, Aisling Drive; Arkadi Shimlin, Abbey St.; Stefan Danicic, Station Rise; Greta Domarkaitė, Hazelwood; Eugene Durkan, Devlis; John Flynn, Gurteen; Ann Folan, Station Rise; Sean Griffin, Devlis; Hannah Jumail, Aisling Drive; Grace Lyons, Knockbrack; Maria Lyons, Bracklaghboy; Caroline Maughan, Cherryfield; Winifred Mongan, Station Rise; Siobhan Morley, Derrymore; Shane Murphy, Dublin Rd.; Martin McDonagh, Tooraree; Louise McNamara, Knockbrack; Saddia Nazir, Hazelhill; Jennifer O'Neill, Abbey St.; Gary Patterson, Carrick, Ballinlough; Andrea Reynolds, Johnstown; Darragh Richardson, Pattenspark; Amana Shafique, Clare Rd.; Sheraz Ul Hassan, Clare Rd.; Aine Waldron, Cave.

Mass for New School Year

Mass to mark the beginning of the New School Year 2006-2007, was celebrated in Scoil Íosa by Fr Kieran Burke on 28th September. The Scoil Íosa Choir was conducted by Ita Fahey. Legion of Mary: Thanks to Helen Hoban and Freddie O'Brien, who conduct a weekly session with Senior pupils. Mass Servers 2006-2007 (Boys) (Team A): Darren Nolan, Sean McDermott, John Cribbin, Joseph Lyons; (Team B)

Phelim Webb, Ultan Griffin, Jim Reidy, Robert Morley; (Team C) Jarlath Carney, Kevin Kilbride, Shane Healy, Philip Fitzmaurice; (Team D) James Cribbin, Morgan Lyons, Michael Naughton, James Lyons. Mass Servers (Girls) (Team A) Eadaoin Lyons, Tasha Coyne, Laura Carney, Niamh Murray; (Team B) Aisling Tarpey, Claire Moran, Tessa Lyons, Ailish Phillips; (Team C) Lisa Hunt, Shannon Biesty, Lisa Higgins, Marlena Stasczyk; (Team D) Erika Webb, Chantelle McDonagh, Megan Carroll, Lisa O'Connell.

Moringa Tree Collection

Scoil Íosa received a Certificate from Refugee Trust International regarding the school collection during Lent for the Moringa Tree Project. The Funds collected resulted in 112 Moringa trees being planted in Hagar, Eritrea in Africa. Every part on the Moringa 'Miracle' Tree can be used. This means families will have a source of good food and will reduce the threat of starvation from famine.

Highlights of the Year

For details of Scoil Íosa G.A.A. events see the G.A.A. Report.

School Environmental Project 2005-2006: Mayo County Council sponsors an annual Cleaner Community Campaign. Scoil Íosa was awarded second prize in the Schools Environment Project. The presentation of prizes took place in the Council Chamber, Arus an Chontae, Castlebar on 15th December 2005. Mr. Lundon (Principal) attended the ceremony accompanied by John Hurley, Schools Caretaker and two children representing each class:

Anna Klimova, Oisín Henry, Leanne Henry, Cormac Reidy, Laura Carney, Bilal Amin, Andrew Henry, Patricia Daly, Lisa O'Connell, James Cribbin, Darren Richardson and Siobhan Morley. The children had the privilege of sitting in the Councillors' seats for the ceremony.

Carol Singing: Scoil Íosa Choir conducted by Ita Fahey sang carols on the streets of Ballyhaunis in December 2005 to raise funds for Voluntary Services Abroad. V.S.A. have collected money for over thirty years to send medical aid to the poorest parts of the world. The choir sing in St Patrick's Parish Church once a month.

Music in the Classroom Concert: The pupils from the Senior School attended the Music in the Classroom concert in the Travellers Friend Theatre, Castlebar on Wednesday 18th January 2006. This was the first time Scoil Íosa attended the R.T.E Concert Orchestra Tour, which is sponsored by the Irish Times. The concert was a most enjoyable experience for everyone. Janet Stafford from the Irish Times called to the school before Christmas and chose fourteen senior girls to dance on stage during the concert. They were: Andrea Reynolds, Grace Lyons, Louise McNamara, Jennifer O'Neill, Winifred Mongan, Caroline Maughan, Maria Lyons, Áine Waldron, Hannah Jumail, Ann Folan, Siobhan Morley, Megan Carroll, Lisa O'Connell and Lisa Hunt.

Book Fair: A Book Fair, organized by the Parents Association took place in the school on 2nd, 3rd and 6th March 2006.

Ballyhaunis ABC: Olive Lyons and Rosaleen Kelly, members of Ballyhaunis ABC (Aid for Belarussian Children) came to Scoil Íosa on 26th April to talk to the children re Chernobyl and Ballyhaunis ABC. The ABC group bring children from Belarus to Ballyhaunis each Summer for a holiday. At 12 noon all classes remembered the 20th anniversary of the accident at Chernobyl and prayed for the

victims.

School Tours: The two second classes from Scoil Íosa had their School Tour to Atlantequaria, Galway on Thursday, 8th June. They also visited a playground and enjoyed a meal at Supermac's. Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Class had a day tour to Athlone on 12th June. Their day included visits to Athlone Castle, Golden Island Shopping Centre, a meal at Supermac's and watersports.

Visitors to Scoil Íosa: Santa made his annual visit before the Christmas holidays – Johnny Conneely, storyteller, from Dunmore, Co. Galway visited all classes in June.

Road Safety: Gerry Butler, Mayo County Council, visited the school on January 12th and talked to the sixth class pupils re road safety issues. He conducted a new four session safe cycling training programme to teach them the necessary bike handling skills.

Healthy Eating Programme: Ryan's Super Valu presented each child in the school with an orange and banana on 24th January in conjunction with its Healthy Eating Programme.

Tree Planting: Fr. Kieran Burke presented the school with three deciduous trees and helped plant them. The two oaks and a horse chestnut were planted and staked in a well prepared site, behind the school. Fr. Kieran also presented the school with the seeds for the school wild flower garden.

Puppet Theatre: John Wilson and Spring Onion Puppet Theatre from Barna, Co. Galway visited the Junior and Senior Schools in March 2006 and gave three performances of their show "Moving House" followed by a demonstration of different types of puppets.

Art Exhibition: Children from the Senior School visited the Art Exhibition in the Friary.

Open Days: Open days for the parents of each class were held during the second and third terms.

Competitions/Quizzes: Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Art Competitions: (Junior Infants): 1st Weronika Grabiasz, 2nd Emma Nolan, 3rd Sinéad Ledwith; (Senior Infants): Aibhinn Herr, 2nd Chloe Ryan, 3rd; (1st class): 1st Ciara Walsh, 2nd Emma Lyons, 3rd Aoife Mulrennan; (2nd Class): 1st Daniel McCormack, 2nd Huma Arshad, 3rd Matthew Grogan; (2nd Class): 1st Shane Cribbin, 2nd Sofia Vajenina, 3rd Róisín Ní Shuilleabhain; (3rd Class) 1st Quasim Nazir, 2nd Niamh Murray, 3rd Ailish Phillips; (4th Class): 1st Claire Moran, 2nd Tessa Lyons, 3rd Katie Flynn; (5th Class): 1st Sergey Alifanov, 2nd Lisa Hunt, 3rd Lisa O'Connell; (6th Class): 1st Greta Domarkaite, 2nd Emeraude Fundu, 3rd Zaira Arshad; (Special Class) Danielle Byrne, Brigid Ward, Fiona Creighton.

Credit Union Poster Competition 2005-2006: Chloe Ryan, Wagas Rehman and Hannan Iqbal were prizewinners, while Hannan Iqbal won second prize at chapter (County) Level.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival Art Competition. Prizewinners were: Claire Moran, Darragh Richardson and Maria Lyons.

Abbey Pattern Art Winners: (6 years and under): 1st Chloe Ryan, 2nd Helen Gallagher 3rd Maeabh Caulfield (9 years and under): 1st Ailish Phillips, 2nd Aoife Mulrennan, 3rd Jessica Carroll; (12 years and under): 1st Claire Moran, 2nd John Cribbin, 3rd Ashling Tarpey.

Ballyhaunis Library Competitions: Children's Book Festival: Colouring Competition: Emma Lyons, Andrew Hickey, Brigid Ward, Danielle Byrne, Fiona Creighton. Book Quiz: Farhan Ahmad.

Kenny Naughton Competition 2006: Short Story:

Shane Cribbin, Stephen Ryan and Éadaoin Lyons. Poetry: Joseph Lyons, Zeenat Javaid.

Seachtain na Gaeilge Winners March 2006: Martin McDonagh, Jennifer O'Neill, Andrea Reynolds, Shane Murphy and Áine Waldron.

Woodies D.I.Y. Colouring Competition: Áine Waldron was a prizewinner.

Society of Missionary Children Art Competition: Danielle Byrne.

Niamh Murray, Hazel Court, won three prizes for singing in Ballina Féis, and scooped first prize in the Primary School Talent Show during Ballyhaunis Summer festival. Niamh was also a member of the cast of "The Best of Broadway" show staged in Ballina in June 2006 by St Cecilia's School of Song.

Greta Domarkaite was a prizewinner in a French project by Language Links Magazine for Primary Schools. Greta was also the winner of the Primary School section of Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre Logo Competition.

Maria Lyons, Knock Rd., won the Pioneer Essay Competition.

Pioneer Quiz: The Scoil Iosa team came second in the Pioneer Quiz on Friday, 31st March, in The Parochial Hall. The members of the team were: Gary Patterson, Ballinlough; Eugene Durkan, Devlis; Arkadi Shimlin, Abbey St.; and Maria Lyons, Bracklaghboy.

Credit Union Quiz: Five teams from Scoil Íosa competed in the Ballyhaunis Credit Union Quiz on 3rd February in the Monsoon night club. Sixth Class was represented by Maria Lyons, Gary Patterson, Eugene Durkan,

Arkadi Shimlin, Grace Lyons, Andrea Reynolds, Aine Waldron, and Darragh Richardson. Fifth Class sent Conor Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Darren Nolan and Farhan Afmad. Fourth Class teams were: Jim Reidy, Gerry Freeley, Caoimhe Henry, Aisling Tarpey, Shannon Biesty, Claire Moran, Kevin Kilbride, and Michael Naughton

Condolences

The news of the sudden death of Sr. Treasa Joyce, in St. Vincents Hospital, Dublin, on 11th May caused great sadness in Scoil Íosa. Sr. Treasa was a native of Coille Mor, Clonbur, Co. Galway. She retired in June 2000, having spent fifteen years as a class teacher and special class teacher in St. Joseph's N.S., Ballyhaunis. She was loved and respected by pupils, teachers, and everyone connected with the school. From 2001 she came back on a voluntary basis, to the senior school, to help the pupils with Art and Craft. Pupils and teachers loved to see her car come in the school gate. The 'Scoil Iosa' tapestry, hanging in the Assembly Area, was designed and organised by her, and is a fitting reminder of her work. Our deepest sympathy goes to the Sisters of Mercy, her brother Michael, his wife, Lil, Kylemore, Finney, Co. Mayo, her sisters, Bridie and Mary, USA, her nieces and nephews.

Canon Patrick Costelloe died on 23rd August 2006, having served almost sixty-five years as a priest, including thirty-three years in Ballyhaunis. He was Chairperson of St Mary's N.S. from 1977-1993 where he is fondly remembered for his great interest in the school and everyone connected with it. Sympathy is offered to the Archbishop, his fellow priests, his family and great circle of friends.



Front left to right: Dylan Maughan, Radek Czerwenak, Tommie Folliard, John Cunnane, James Cribbin, Shane Cribbin, Kaitlyn Clarke, Pierce Caulfield, Saoirse Caulfield, Seán Carrick, Cathal Carney. Second row: Anna Khromova, Lisa Kilmovea, Mikey Hill, Adam Hickey, Seán Herr, Cian Henry, Oisín Henry, Leanne Henry, Matthew Grogan, Demi Greally. Third row: Donna McDonagh, Daniel Spieyn, David Webb, Cormac Reidy, Roisín Ní Suilleabhain, James Reynolds, Katie Moran, Aoife Nolan, Thomas McDonagh, Robert McCormack. Back: Canon Joe Cooney P.P., Ita Fahey (Teacher), Sr. Geraldine Farrell (Teacher) and Fr. Kieran Burke C.C.

Family Resource Centre

The Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre was started in 2004 and is based in the Friary House 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 and to work with other groups to draw down public funds for community activities and services in the town.

2006 has seen the Family Resource Centre continue its growth as a community organisation, improving the range of activities and opportunities provided from the Friary House, deepening contact with our different communities and families throughout the town, as well as increasing our staff and accessing new funding from state agencies and departments.

The Family Resource Centre were delighted to be of assistance to the Active Retirement Group during the year who now hold their regular Thursday evening meetings in the Friary House and continue to work with the group, for example providing computer courses, to improve and increase the type of activities available in the town for our senior citizens.

The Centre continues its work with asylum seekers and members of the International community in Ballyhaunis, improving contacts and working together to provide a mix of activities for children and families. Support has been provided throughout the year to run English Classes, Parenting and Integration Courses, Computer courses, a weekly Swimming club, social & cultural outings and the provision of a pre-school service for children in the Old Convent Accommodation Centre. The Family Resource Centre also provides 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.

This work was added to during 2006 with the Department of Justice selecting Ballyhaunis as the host town for almost 180 Kurdish Refugees whom the Irish Government had invited to come to live in Ireland under the United Nations programme refugee scheme. The Family Resource Centre provided an extensive programme for the children of these families during their time here, helping them to make the transition to Irish life. The Minister for Justice – Michael McDowell T.D. visited the Family Resource Centre on July 10th to formally welcome the first of the three Kurdish groups who have spent the first six weeks in Ireland living in Ballyhaunis before being permanently housed in Carrick-on-Shannon, Sligo and Mullingar.

The Centre has continued to support 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.

The Family Resource Centre's work with children and young people continued with the Children's Saturday Art Club running throughout the year, providing two art activity classes for twenty children in the Friary House on Saturday mornings which has proven extremely popular. An After School Service has also continued during 2007 offering support to eighteen children two evenings per week in the Friary House.

The Summer Club for children from the Old Convent and International communities also carried on this year catering for even more children. 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, bowling 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 Theresa Maughan and Ellie McDonagh joining us at the start of June, helping to prepare the house and abbey for Community Futures Open Day. The Centre is also benefiting from a Community School PLC work placement scheme, with Mary Mbutia and Nadia Muhammed volunteering since September.

A very successful Jobs Club was organised in August in conjunction with Meitheal Mhaigheo, and the Centre hopes to build on this area of work in the 2007. The Family Resource Centre also signed an agreement with the Health Service Executive to employ staff and operate a children's Pre-School service in a prefabricated building to be located in the car park at St. Mary's Abbey, which should begin operation in January.

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 Burcovski, Manar Cherbatji, Margaret Cleary, Christina Concannon, Michael Goulding, Seamus Grogan, Stephen Grogan, Zahida Javid, Marie Jordan, Jana Jurakova, Betty Koinange, Orla Philips, Betty Regan and Hayal Salimov.

The Staff are Stephen Grogan and Tracey McDermott in the Friary House along with Pauline Mallee, Lisa Ganley and Laura Walshe in Sonas. Additional staff will join the organisation before the end of 2006 to begin operating the Abbey Pre-school services.

The Abbey Partnership

The Abbey Partnership was established following the decision of the Council of the Augustinian Order in 2001 to commit the Augustinian Abbey and property for the benefit of the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas.

Composed of eight organisations – the Community Council, Mayo County Council, Ballyhaunis Chambers, OSA, Family Resource Centre, Health Service Executive - West, IRD Kiltimagh and Mayo Immigrant Liaison Committee, the partnership aims to promote through community development methods, the overall development of the property of the Augustinian Order in Ballyhaunis and in conjunction with local people to design and implement programmes and projects which will cater for the social, cultural, economic, educational and environmental needs of all people, particularly of those who are socially excluded.

2006 has been a year of consolidation for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership following the formal transfer of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey and Grounds by the Irish Province of the Augustinian 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, last year.

The property continues to be managed by the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership Ltd, 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 Abbey Grounds were fully open to the public throughout the year with many people of all ages using the Children's Playground and 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. Plans are well underway to install park benches and lighting along the river walk this coming spring, to further enhance this precious community amenity.

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 see develop into the future.

The Ballyhaunis Public Art Commission – in the form of a sculpture by Ned Jackson Smyth was sited on the grounds in the autumn and this feature has added a further dimension to the river walk.

St. Mary's Abbey hosted a number of social and cultural events during the year. The Family Resource Centre held their Open Day there during the May Festival week-end, as did the Community Futures group to present the results of the door-to-door survey. Mayo County Council's Summer Music programme continued to include St. Mary's as one of the county venues bringing Céide - a renowned six piece folk / traditional music group from the Westport area to perform this summer.

The Abbey will also host the Ballyhaunis Artist's Exhibition at the start of December, with a wide range of quality work being displayed by local artists from across our communities.

Plans to improve access and develop facilities within the Abbey were also prepared during the year with the help of the Rural Social Scheme and Mayo County Council. Maria Hunt began work over the summer keeping the Abbey open to the public and beginning the research to compile a historical record of the famous site along with producing informational booklets, promotional material and arranging related cultural activities.

Funding was obtained via Mayo County Council, during the year to allow for the development of the seating facilities within St. Mary's Abbey, if a suitable arrangement can be put in place. Unfortunately this aspect of the development plan attracted a number of criticisms within the local community, which the Abbey Partnership is sensitive to and the board continue to monitor the preparation of the new plan prior to its implementation.

The Partnership has also continued its work to develop the Friary House as a Centre for community learning and activity, concluding a rental agreement with the Vocational Education Committee who moved into their new offices in August, alongside the Family Resource Centre. A number of other organisations have also held meetings and events, in the house over the last year.

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern was continued into 2006 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 at the Abbey with Fr. Kieran Burke.

While many challenges remain to be addressed in 2007 a number of positive developments are already on the horizon with the lighting and benches for river walk due to be installed this spring and with a Pre-School to be opened within the car park, by the Family Resource Centre and HSE – West in January.

The Scout's Den remains one of the top priorities for development within the town and the Abbey Partnership and its members will put this project to the top of its agenda for 2007.

The Abbey Partnership is composed of Chairperson: John Coll (Mayo County Council), Vice-Chairperson: Peter Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chamber), Treasurer: Paula Grogan (Community Council), Secretary: Stephen Grogan (Family Resource Centre), Joe Mullarkey (Mayo Immigrant Liaison Committee), Cllr. Michael Carty (Mayo County Council), Eugene Connolly (HSE West), Anne-Marie Carroll (IRD Kiltimagh), Cllr. John Cribbin, (Mayo County Council) Mary Donnelly (Community Council), Pádraig Flanagan (Mayo County Council), Michael Kelly (Community Council), Fr. Michael Mernagh (OSA), Enda Murphy (Community Council), Donal Shanaghy (Ballyhaunis Chambers).



Friends of the Friary

It is now just over four years since the Friary Church in Ballyhaunis closed down with the withdrawal of the Augustinian community after a presence of 652 years. The Abbey Trust now holds the property on lease from the Augustinian order, while the Abbey Partnership has been charged with developing the overall property 'through consultation with the local community'.

Earlier this summer (2006) a group of Ballyhaunis residents – Friends of the Friary – came together to voice their concerns regarding plans for the future use of the Friary church. While acknowledging the positive developments that have taken place since 2002 regarding many aspects of the Friary complex – the Riverside Walk, Playground, Family Resource Centre, and the revival of the Abbey Pattern – the "Friends of the Friary" felt it necessary to highlight the considerable local disquiet about plans for the 'development' of the Friary Church, in particular its proposed use as a performance/display centre. The group has no objection to the staging of appropriate performances there, but is very concerned at the proposed removal of pews and the installation of tiered, theatre-style seating, which would be totally out of character with the interior of the church.

Furthermore, it is felt that the removal of pews from the Friary would be 'the thin end of the wedge' which would lead inevitably towards the secularisation of the building. In other words, it would be a serious step towards eroding the sacred nature of the Friary as a church and burial ground which would turn the place into merely another venue for performance and display. At a meeting with representatives of the Abbey Partnership it became evident that the religious/sacred element of the Friary Church was not being

taken into account in future plans for the building.

Petition

To demonstrate the strength of local feeling towards the Friary Church a petition was organised. The explanatory paragraph on the top of each sheet read: "There is great concern regarding proposals to remove pews from the Friary Church and install tiered seating. To prevent this and to protect the Friary Church as an important part of our heritage, we ask you to support this petition." Then were stated the three points on which the petition was being collected: (1) That the Friary Church and its contents will be preserved in its present state; (2) That the sacred nature of the Friary Church and Graveyard, as consecrated ground, will be respected and valued at all times; (3) That Mass and other religious ceremonies will be celebrated in the Friary Church on a regular basis, with the full co-operation of parish and diocese.

At the time of going to print over 2,000 names have been collected in Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas. It is hoped that this petition will demonstrate just how much the Friary Church means to the local people, both as a sacred place and a site of great historical importance. It is further hoped that the presenting of this petition to the Abbey Partnership will lead to the development of constructive dialogue on the future of the Friary Church, between the Abbey Partnership and representatives of the wider community.

Anybody who has not had the opportunity to sign the Petition may lend their support by contacting any of the following: Donal Moran, Gurteen, Ballyhaunis; Paul Waldron, Cave, Ballyhaunis or email friary.save@iol.ie

Ballyhaunis GAA Club

Mary Prenty (Secretary)

2006 continued to be a very successful year for the Ballyhaunis GAA Club. The Club fielded teams at all grades. Congratulations to all our players who participated in our games and to the team managers, selectors, referees and parents who continue to be involved on a day to day basis helping out. Their dedication, commitment and attention to detail is obvious and is much appreciated by the Club. It was a very successful year for our U-14 football team who won a double, double of County League and Championship for the second year in a row. They competed and played in all thirty-three games including a challenge game. Our Senior Hurling team remained at the top position in Mayo Hurling by retaining the T. J. Tyrrell Cup for the third successive year. Our Senior Football Team qualified for the County Intermediate semi-final. Congratulations are due to U-16 Hurling team who won the County B championship. Congratulations to U-12 Football team who are County League Winners and Summer League Winners. Congratulations also to the first Year Footballers of Ballyhaunis Community School who won a historic double Connacht title - League and Championship - this year with many of our club players involved. The captain was Damien Keadin. Congratulations to Barry Butler and Tommy Glynn who shared Club Person of the Year. This is in recognition of their commitment to the Club down through the years. Heartiest Congratulations to former clubmen Bernie Keane, newly elected President, and Martin Grogan newly elected Treasurer of the Provincial Council of Britain.

Under 8 Football

Training started in the Community School gym in February / March of this year.

Over thirty boys and girls took part in the skills of Gaelic football. The middle of March took us outdoors where the skills, games, and discipline were part of the training every Saturday at 5pm. Sessions were enjoyable for both the players and coaches.

Under 10 Football

Training commenced in the Community School gym in February/March of this year. Outdoor training continued every Saturday at 5 pm. Our August Bank Holiday U-10 Blitz was very successful and especially with our U-10 team winning in the final against a very good Aghamore team. The skills and commitment from all the players on the day were a credit to the coaches, parents and their teachers. We represented Ballyhaunis in the U-age Blitzes held in Claremorris, Kiltimagh and Loughlynn and acquitted ourselves very well on and off the field.

U-8 and U-10 panel

Conal Caulfield, Saoirse Caulfield, Roisin Fitzmaurice, Patrick Caulfield, Gemma Foody, Niamh Foody, Francesca Prince, Dearbhla Phillips, Aoife Mulrennan, Laura O'Connell, Gemma Lilly, Abusafan, Shane Cribbin, Evan Fitzmaurice,

Marina Carney, Olivia Cleary, Michael Hill, Brian O'Neill, Danielle Coyne, Clare Fahey, Pierce Caulfield, Niall Coffey, Conor Sloyan, John Reidy, Jack Coyne, Neil Carney, Cormac Phillips, Sean Herr, Oisin Coffey, James Reynolds, Evan Henry, Oisin Henry, Liam Herr, Liam Foody, Gary Higgins, Darren Coyne, Cathal Carney, Eamon Phillips, Waqas Rehman, Sean McDermott, Neal Folliard, Conor McCarrick, David Webb, Brendan Morrissey, Mohammad Ahmad, Jack Hughes, Matthew Grogan, Sean Lannon, Cormac Reidy, Joseph Kelly, Robert McCormack, Joseph Lyons, James Cribbin, Rory Nestor, Damian Egan, Ryan Kilbane, Damien Callaghan, Mark Phillips, Cian Henry, James Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Jason Coyne and Joey Fahy. Team Managements: Barry Butler, Kevin Henry, Billy Phillips, James Reidy, Jason Foody and Seamus Egan, are due our gratitude for their commitment to this level through the year. We also acknowledge the efforts and help that parents gave getting players to training, matches and supporting the club throughout the year

Mick O'Connell Cup

The Mick O'Connell Cup was held on Sunday 22nd October and all of the O'Connell family were present to witness a great day's football from all of the under 8's and U-10's in the Club.

U-8 Section

The U-8 section was played between Cathal Carney's and Eamon Phillips' teams. The football and skill level was very good and after a very entertaining game Cathal Carney's team won out. Johnny Cribbin, our local club player and master's player with Mayo, who recently won an All Ireland medal, presented the medals to the winning team.

Cathal Carney's Team: Cathal Carney (Capt.), Gary Higgins, Liam Herr, Evan Henry, Oisin Coffey, Cormac Phillips, Jack Coyne, Conor Sloyan, Piaras Caulfield, Danielle Coyne, Michael Hill, Marina Carney, Shane Cribbin, Gemma Lilly, Aoife Mulrennan, Francesca Prince, Gemma Foody, Rosin Fitzmaurice Conal Caulfield.

Eamon Phillips' Team: Eamon Phillips (Capt.), Darren Coyne, Liam Foody, Oisin Henry, James Reynolds, Sean Herr, Neil Carney, John Reidy, Niall Coffey, Claire Fahey, Brian O'Neill, Evan Fitzmaurice, Abusafan, Laura O'Connell, Dearbhla Phillips, Niamh Foody, Patrick Caulfield, Saoirse Caulfield.

U-10 section

We had two semi-finals in the U-10 section. James Lyons' team played Stephen Nolan's team and after a hard fought and entertaining game James Lyons' team won a place in the final. Jason Coyne's team played Joey Fahy's team in the other semi-final and Jason's team prevailed after another entertaining game to reach the final. A very large crowd was entertained to the finer skills of the game in a very good final between James Lyons' team and Jason Coyne's team. The football was very good and saw the art of catching, kicking, goal and point taking, and blocking at its best. In the end James Lyons team

won out.

James Lyons' Team: James Lyons (Capt.), Ryan Kilbane, James Cribbin, Robert McCormack, Sean Lannon, Mohammed Ahmad, David Webb, Sean Mc Dermott, Oisín Henry.

Jason Coyne's Team: Jason Coyne (Capt.), Mark Phillips, Eamon Phillips, Joseph Lyons, Cormac Reidy, Matthew Grogan, Brendan Morrissey, Neil Folliard, Waqas Rehman.

Stephen Nolan's Team: Stephen Nolan (Capt.), Damien Callaghan, Rory Nestor, Liam Herr, Jack Hughes, Liam Foody, Darren Coyne, Evan Henry.

Joey Fahey's Team: Joey Fahey (Capt.), Joey Fahey, Cian Henry, Damien Egan, Cathal Carney, Joseph Kelly, James Reynolds, Sean Herr, Conor McCarrick, Oisín Coffey. Team Managers: Gerry Lyons, Jason Foody, James Reidy and Seamus Egan.

The Mick O'Connell Cup was presented to the winning captain by Michael O'Connell Jnr. and medals were presented to all the players by Keith Higgins, Captain of the All Ireland winning Mayo U-21 Football Team. Vincent Caulfield, Board Na nÓg Chairman, thanked the O'Connell family for their sponsorship and continued support, especially their attendance to watch all the young players who took part and made the day a special one. Thanks to all the parents and teachers who supported the competition and all the mentors and referees who had organised the tournament. It was a great occasion for all who had witnessed a great day's football.

U-11 Football

We played Ballaghaderreen away and were unlucky to lose this game. However, Eastern Gaels and Kilmoeve who had registered teams did not have full teams available on the dates in question.

U-11 Panel: Morgan Lyons, Jim Reidy, Kevin Kilbride, Shane Healy, Lisa O'Connell, Aisling Tarpey, Cyril Collins, Jamil Kezze, James Lyons, Joey Fahy, John Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Joseph Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Rory Nestor, Robert Morley, Sean McDermott, Damian Callaghan, Jason Coyne, Jack Hughes and Joseph Kelly. This team was managed by Billy Phillips, James Reidy, Barry Butler and Kevin Henry.

Scoil Íosa Football

Junior and Senior Leagues were organised in Scoil Iosa this year. The Junior League was for 2nd, 3rd and 4th class and the Senior League for 5th and 6th Class. These games have been played with skill development in mind and are based on the Go Games principle which was launched earlier this year in the school by the Mayo Coaching and Games Development Officers in conjunction with Ballyhaunis GAA Club. All players get more time on the ball and have the opportunity to play in different positions. The first stage of the Senior League was a series of round robin matches followed by semi finals.

'Armagh', captained by Martin Mc Donagh and 'Kerry', captained by Gary Patterson, versus 'Dublin' captained by John Flynn. After two very exciting semi finals Armagh faced Kerry in the final and the Kerry team came out winners.

Kerry Team: Gary Patterson (Capt.), Eugene Durkin, Conor Nolan, Hannan Iqbal, Haseeb Arshad, Margaret Cleary, Morgan Lyons and Robert Morley.

The Julia Donohue Cup was presented to the winning Captain by Keith Higgins.

There were eight teams in the Junior League. In the semi-finals Armagh played Tyrone and Dublin played Roscommon. Armagh defeated Roscommon in the Final.

Armagh Team: Jason McGoldrick (Capt.), Shahzab Rehman, Stephen Nolan, Michael McDonagh, Cathal Carney, Oisín Henry, Dylan Maughan, Radek Czerwenak, Gabriel Grimberg, Leanne Henry.

The Vincent Caulfield Cup was presented to the Captain by Seamus Caulfield.

The League's organisers: Kevin Henry, Seamus Caulfield and Michael Webb. Thanks to the Donohue and Caulfield families for their commitment to Gaelic Football in Scoil Iosa. Thanks to Keith Higgins, Mayo U-21 All Ireland winning Captain, for visiting Scoil Iosa and who had all our players in an ecstatic mood when he arrived to display his trophy.

U-12 Hurling

The U-12 panel started off the year very well at training, and were well groomed for the Connacht blitz in Padraic Pearses Club, Ballinasloe. We performed very well and reached the Shield Final, only to be beaten at the final. In the U-12 County Championship, Ballyhaunis, on the basis of having won the B championship in 2005, were entered in the 'A' championship in 2006. Unfortunately, we were beaten in the Semi-final stage by eventual winners, Castlebar.

U-12 panel: Mohammad Ahmad, Damien Callaghan, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, John Flynn, James Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Hannan Iqbal, Patrick Kiely, Shane Healy, Kevin Kilbride, Aisling Tarpey, Sheraz Ul Hussein, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Stephen Nolan, Stephan Ryan, Waqas Rehman, Claire Moran, Andrew Lannon, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Rory Nestor, Bilal Amin, Haseeb Arshad, Michael Ryan.

National Schools Hurling

We commenced training early in the year. Competitions commenced with the 5-a-side indoor blitz in Barnacarroll. We performed well but were beaten by winners Knock N.S. In March, we competed in the National School outdoor Mini Sevens, and while we won East Mayo division, we were beaten by Scoil Raffteiri in the County Final. We took part in the 11-a-side National Schools Blitz held in Ballyvary and, despite beating Westport, we came second again to Scoil Raffteiri.

National School Panel: John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Siobhan Morley, Shane Murphy, Gary Patterson, Sheraz Ul Hussein, Farhan Ahamed, Haseeb Arshad, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, Hannan Iqbal, Mohammad Ahmad, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Lisa O'Connell, Claire Moran, Tasha Coyne, Erica Webb, Damien Callaghan, Shane Healy, Kevin Kilbride, Morgan Lyons, Shahzab Rehman, Aisling Tarpey, Stephen Ryan, Stephen Nolan, Waqas Rehman, Rory Nestor, Joseph Lyons, James Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Bilal Amin.

Under 12 Football Grading League

Ballyhaunis U-12's starting training in March and competed in their grading leagues with a comfortable win against St Gerard's. With an under strength team we lost our next game to Ballinrobe. However we bounced back and recorded two wins over Garrymore and Mayo Gaels. We were given the points against Kilmoeve. This ensured we finished top of our

grading league.

Summer League

The first game in the Summer League was against Davitts. We lost this game by a point, but it was all about the performance. We came back from a five point half-time deficit to dominate the second half. The point-scoring that evening in Ballyhaunis would not be seen in the Connaught Senior Football final, which was played the following day. We knew if we could play and maintain the high level of performance we would be in with a shout at the end of the League. Our next game was against Parke which we won holding on to a lead built up in the first half, playing with a gale force wind. We then travelled to Kilmaine. Again, the great spirit and high level of skill enabled us to get a great away win. We travelled to Balla and overwhelmed the home team. This was the same Balla team that a year earlier, at the same level, comprehensively beat us. We scored twelve goals. We knew going into our final game against Shrulle that we could finish top of the League with a win. Again, we played brilliantly on the night. We held on to beat Shrulle by six points. However, only for heroics at the back in the final ten minutes the score could easily have been reversed. The under 12's ended the season on top of both Leagues. This achievement is a credit to the whole panel that never gave up. This group of youngsters were a pleasure to work with and I believe, with additional training and better understanding of the game, which they will undoubtedly learn, this team will continue with there winning ways. Perhaps living in the shadow of the very good U-14 and U-15 team in the club, they can hopefully go on to match their counterparts.

U-12 panel: Eanna McNamara, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, Darren Nolan, Conor Nolan, Adrian Phillips, Jason Fahy, Hannan Iqbal, John Flynn, Morgan Lyons, Jim Reidy, Kevin Kilbride, Shane Healy, Lisa O'Connell, Aisling Tarpey, Cyril Collins, Jamil Kezze, James Lyons, Joey Fahy, John Lyons and Jack Hughes. Team management: Peadar Walshe and Marty Keane.

Joe Webb Cup

The Joe Webb Cup was played for on Sunday 8th October and the Webb Family were represented by Aisling Caulfield (nee Webb) and other members of her family. We were entertained to a very good game of football from the U-12 panel of players representing Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club. James Cribbin's team, under the stewardship of Peadar Walsh, beat a very good team captained by Hannan Iqbal and managed by Marty Keane. The crowd were amazed at the skill level and commitment of both teams and were awarded by the discipline and courage shown by the players. The Joe Webb Cup was presented to the winning Captain James Cribbin. Peadar Walsh acknowledged the support that the Webb Family gave to Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club down through the years and thanked them for their involvement to the game.

James Cribbin's team: James Cribbin (Capt.), Darren Nolan, Eanna McNamara, Jason Fahy, Adrian Phillips, Jamil Kezze, Kevin Kilbride, Lisa O'Connell, Joey Fahy and Morgan Lyons.

Hannan Iqbal's team: Hannan Iqbal (Capt.), John Flynn, Conor Nolan, Jarlath Carney, John Lyons, Shane Healy, Cyril Collins, Jim Reidy, James Lyons and Cathal Carney.

U-13 Football

We started off with a comfortable win over Kilmovee in Ballyhaunis. Our next game was against Kiltimagh. With an under strength team we suffered a heavy loss. We recovered to face Bohola Moy Davitts and in a very tight game we came out on top. This was our second win of the campaign, which was two more than we won at U-12 levels with this team. We travelled to Ballaghaderreen to face what we knew would be a very formidable team. Putting in a huge effort in the first half we just couldn't keep it going for the second half and lost by a big margin in the end. Our final game against St. Gerard's was an exciting open game, which was played at a high level of intensity. We put everything into this game but ended up losing by a few points. The most important point to take from this campaign was the improvement in the twelve months shown by the squad. This group of players have a great chance of attaining honours at U-14 level next year if they continue to practice the skills they have. Great credit is due to Peadar Walsh and Marty Keane for the tremendous help they gave to the U-12 and U-13 players. They gained great respect from all the players, which is a testament to their leadership qualities.

U-13 panel: Patrick Kiley, James Cribbin, John Flynn, Jarlath Carney, Jason Fahy, Hanan Iqbal, Eanna McNamara, Conor Nolan, Cyril Collins, Andrew Lannon, Darren Nolan, Sheraz Ul Hassan, James Lyons, Joseph P. Lyons, Paul Finnegan, Kevin Kilbride, Morgan Lyons, Lisa O'Connell, Jim Reidy, Aisling Tarpey, Adrian Phillips, Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, Eoghan Collins, Kieran McDermott, Eugene Durkin, Andrew McCormack, Martin Mc Donagh.

VHI Summer Sports Camp

The VHI Cul Camps were launched in Mayo in April. Aoife Nolan and James Cribbin, both aged 8, chased Mayo Billy Joe Padden at the launch. Our own VHI Summer Camps were held in Ballyhaunis July 17th to July 21st immediately after Connacht Final Day. Brilliant weather, six Coaches including Michael Webb and sixty-six children, including twenty Kurds began learning the skills of Gaelic Games. They all enjoyed the experience and all the participants received a Kit bag which included a jersey, socks, bag and bottle.

Football Star of the Future: James Cribbin, Togher.

Football Star of the Future: Aisling Tarpey, Carrowkeel.

Hurling Star of the Future: Jarlath Carney, Classaroe.

Go Games Workshop

A Go Games Workshop was held in Ballyhaunis GAA Grounds on Saturday 23rd September 2006. The Go Games initiative has been launched at National level to provide learning experiences for children in an environment that is free from pressure and gives them an opportunity to develop the skills of the game properly before being introduced into an actual competitive environment. Michael Webb, Eugene Lavin and Tom Byrne were in attendance from Mayo Coaching Committee along with Gerry Lyons, Martin Keane, and James Reidy. The following children participated: Neil Carney, Cormac Phillips, Liam Herr, Matthew Grogan, Damien Egan, John Cribbin, Sean Herr, James Lyons, Stephen Nolan, Robert Morley, Aisling Tarpey, Lisa O'Connell, Cyril Collins, Laura O'Connell, Francesca Watts.

Under -14 Football

This was another memorable year for our U-14 footballers

winning Division 3 of the league, East Mayo B championship, and B County championship and remaining unbeaten in all games in the process. This U-14 side, many of whom had already achieved Connaught League and Cup winning honours with Ballyhaunis Community School earlier in the year, has managed to amass an amazing sequence of victories in a year which will be remembered for their high scoring achievements in what has been and will be a most memorable year. The campaign began in April with the start of the League. Expectations were limited and it was felt that it would be impossible to repeat the achievements of last year's U-14 team. The team traveled to Belmullet to play Cill Chomain and, losing Conor Freeley through a hand injury early in the game, made it look as if it was going to be an uphill struggle. Star corner forward, Damien Keadin, with a contribution of five goals and two points relieved the pressure and we won on a score of 7-8 to 2-4. Our team for the next game against The Neale was badly hit by injury with Damien Keadin, Isaac Carroll and Connor Freeley all out, but the panel stuck to its task and was led from centre back by Ryan Worden. They fought bravely for a draw thanks to a John Flynn goal in the last few minutes. Kieran Kiely and Padraic Waldron also performed well on the night. Easy wins followed over Tourmakeady, Kilmeena, Kiltimagh and St. Gerard's before drawing our final game against Belmullet. Belmullet were again the opposition for the semi-final of the league and this time there was no mistake with Ballyhaunis winning easily. The Neale provided the opposition in the final on a beautiful evening in Claremorris and found that they were no match for the young players of Ballyhaunis. This was our second County Trophy when we defeated The Neale. Team captain Isaac Carroll led by example in the middle of the field. Others to play well on the day included Gearoid Keane, Eanna McNamara, Conor Freeley and Sean Griffin.

The East Mayo campaign started with an easy win over Kiltimagh. Ballaghaderreen were the opponents in the final. This was a tough battle and losing Damien Keadin through injury at half time didn't make the task easier. An exhibition of point scoring in particular by Diarmuid Finnegan (0-3) and Isaac Carroll (0-5) from midfield laid the foundation for a two point victory on the score of 0-13 to 2-5. Others to play well on the night included Ciaran McDermott, Cathal Fahy and team captain Padraic Waldron.

Crossmolina provided the opposition for the county semi-final but a bad start by Ballyhaunis resulted in two goals being conceded in the first five minutes. The team battled back showing their excellent fighting spirit when in a difficult position. A brace of goals by Isaac Carroll and Jarlath Carney proved pivotal to the victory and meant that Ballyhaunis would face Shrile-Glencorrib for the second year in a row with revenge for last year's defeat in the minds of the opposition. This was a tightly fought contest between two evenly balanced teams. The game was dominated by excellent defensive play by both sets of backs, Patrick Kiely, Eoghan Collins and Ryan Worden playing particularly well on the night. Ballyhaunis struck late in the game with a point to get a draw and bring the game to extra time. Ballyhaunis were four points up in the second period of extra time and looking like retaining the title before disaster struck and within a few minutes Shrile-Glencorrib led by two points with time nearly up. However the never say die attitude of the team proved decisive and when

Isaac Carroll's last minute shot for goal was deflected away from their keeper into the net, Ballyhaunis were crowned champions again for the second year in a row. Ryan Worden accepted the trophy on behalf of his team and Isaac Carroll was deservedly awarded the Man of the Match. Hopefully this team will stay together and bring further honours to the club. This team had many star performances this year but it was the overall team performance, discipline and spirit which shone through this exceptional bunch of players during the course of the games. Great credit is due to team trainer Brian Phillips and selectors Pat Freeley, Bernard Waldron, Cathal Carroll and John Collins.

The panel included: Sean Griffin, Patrick Kiely, Kieran Kiely, Conor Freeley, Ryan Worden, Eoghan Collins, Cathal Fahy, Isaac Carroll, Gearoid Keane, Padraig Waldron, Jarlath Carney, Damien Keadin, Diarmuid Finnegan, Gerard Grogan, Eanna McNamara, Martin McDonagh, Ciaran McDermott, Eugene Durkin, John Flynn, Christopher McDonagh and Andrew McCormack.

U-14 Hurling

This is a very young team with most players still eligible again in 2006. In the Feile Competition, we beat Ballyvary and Castlebar B only to lose against Castlebar A in the semi-final, who went on to represent Mayo in the Feile in Cork. In the Championship, we were defeated by Tooreen and Castlebar A and unfortunately there ended our campaign. Special congratulations to Gearoid Keane who represented Mayo in the skills competition at Feile in Cork, for finishing in the top ten in Ireland.

Panel: David Lyons, Damien Keadin, Cathal Fahy, Isaac Carroll, Sheraz Ul Hussein, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, Conor Nolan, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, Hannan Iqbal, Siobhan Morley, James Cribbin, Shane Murphy, Shane Healy, Jarlath Carney, Morgan Lyons, Kevin Kilbride, Aisling Tarpey, Lisa O'Connell, Andrew McCormack, Kieran McDermott, Darren Nolan, Christy McDonagh, David Fitzmaurice.

U-15 Football

Ballyhaunis competed in division 2A of the U-15 football league. Expectations were high following their excellent performance as U-14 the previous year. A good start with a 2-13 to 2-7 win over Ballaghaderreen appeared to indicate that the team would progress to the knockout stages. Defeat to The Neal and Shrile-Glencorrib made making the semi-final an impossible task. Wins over Claremorris and Ballinrobe ensured third place in the division but was not enough to make the knockout stages. Improved dedication and determination for 2007 should get them back to their winning ways. The team was managed by John Collins, Bernard Waldron, Pat Freeley, Michael Webb Jnr., Donal Moran with team trainer Brian Phillips.

The panel included: Joseph Flynn, Paul Freeley, Adrian Ruane, David McNamara, Kevin Moran, Paul Carney, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Daniel Ward, Rory Collins, Kieran Kiely, Conor Freeley, Ryan Worden, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Aidan Richardson, Sheraz Ul Hassan, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Cathal Fahy, Isaac Carroll, Padraig Waldron, John Francis McDonagh, Gerard Grogan.

U-16 Football

Our U-16 team competed in Division 1 this year. They found the step up to this grade very difficult and had limited success. In the league we were in the same section as Aghamore, Castlebar Mitchels, Westport, Breaffy, Ardnaree, Davitts and Ballintubber. The championship saw a number of our players return from injury and we were defeated by Aghamore in the East Mayo Final, after a very encouraging performance.

Panel: Ruari Finan, Adrian Ruane, Brian Hunt, Paul Freeley, Kevin Nestor, Tadhg Morley, Patrick Freeley, David McNamara, John Gallagher, Liam McDermott, Brian Waldron, Paul Carney, Craig Hughes, Joe Flynn, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Shane Nolan, Isaac Carroll, Kevin Moran, Daniel Warde, Niall Asilia, Kamran Afzal, Aidan Richardson, Kevin Morley, Pdraig Waldron, Rory Collins. Team Management: William Nestor, Patrick Waldron, John Prenty.

U-16 Hurling

Ballyhaunis drew with Tooreen in the opening round of the League, but due to a number of injuries lost to Castlebar. In the Championship, Ballyhaunis lost by one point to Castlebar, and also to Tooreen, but with wins over Ballina and Belmullet qualified to play Ballina in the B Final. The long delay in games nearly cost Ballyhaunis dearly, as with five minutes remaining was trailing by five points. However up stepped Brian Hunt to crash home two goals to win the title for Ballyhaunis.

Panel: Zaheer Javaid, Hannan Iqbal, David Lyons, Tadhg Morley (joint Captain), Brian Waldron, Sean Ronayne, Liam McDermott (joint Captain), Kamron Afzal, Brian Hunt, Paul Carney, Damien Keadin, Joseph Flynn, Paul Freeley, Kevin Morley, Ayaz Ul Hussein, Shane Nolan, Cathal Fahy, Isaac Carroll, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Kieran Kiely, Faraz Ul Hussein, Kieran McDermott, Gearoid Keane, Sean Griffin, John Lyons, David Fitzmaurice, Shane Murphy, David McNamara.

U-17 Football

The Under 17 Competition has not commenced yet. We are drawn away to Ballinrobe in the first round.

Minor Football

Our Minor team had a very successful league campaign with victories over Ballinrobe, Achill, Ballaghderreen and a draw with Ardnaree qualifying us for the County Semi Finals. In the Semi Final were very unlucky to be defeated by Crossmolina, in Crossmolina, by a goal. This was a game we should have won. In the championship we were defeated by Ballaghaderreen in the East Mayo Semi-Final, after extra time.

Panel: Conor Mulrennan, Arslan Afzal, Adrian Brennan, Pdraig Cribbin, Niall Prenty, Kevin Gallagher, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Brian Gallagher, Seamus O'Dwyer, Michael Waldron, Enda Griffin, Brian Waldron, John Jordan, John Gallagher, Tadhg Morley, Ruari Finan, Robert Frayne, David Healy, Brian Hunt, Liam McDermott, Kevin Nestor, Paul Walshe. Team Management: William Nestor, Patrick Waldron, John Prenty.

U-18 Hurling

Ballyhaunis beat Ballina and Belmullet to win the B championship and beat Castlebar in the A semi-final only to be beaten by a strong Tooreen side in the A Final.

Panel: Arslan Afzal, Adrian Brennan, Kevin Gallagher, Brian Gallagher, Seamus O'Dwyer, Brian Waldron,

Tadhg Morley, Stephen Hoban, Pat Kelly, Kamron Afzal, Niall Feeney, Robert Frayne, Brian Hunt, Luke Cribbin, Liam McDermott, Mohammed Iqbal, Zaheer Javaid, Shane Nolan, Noel Byrne, Paul Walsh, Sean Ronayne, Paul Carney, Joseph Flynn, Kevin Morley, Paul Freeley, Kevin Fitzmaurice.

U-21 Football

Much was expected of our U-21 team this year. We were drawn in the same section as Breaffy, Shrile Glencorrib and Kilmeena. Due to Mayo's progress in the All Ireland Senior Football Championship the competition was disrupted on at least four occasions. In the first round a very young and depleted team was defeated by Breaffy in Breaffy. Our second game with Shrile Glencorrib was a cracker and while we were again depleted we led going into the last five minutes. However, a very fortuitous goal gave the initiative to Shrile Glencorrib who held on to win by the narrowest of margins. This put us out the championship and due to the fact that a three way play-off was needed to progress the competition our game with Kilmeena was cancelled. I have no doubt that if we had been able to call on all of our players we would have been very successful at this grade.

The following players played during the year: Conor Mulrennan, Fergal Walshe, Liam Lyons, Ian Prenty, William Nestor, Ciaran Griffin, Colm Gallagher, David Hannan, Robert Grogan, Fawaz Asilia, Aidan Healy, John C. Halpin, Michael Waldron, Niall Prenty, Pdraig Cribbin, Kevin Gallagher, Enda Griffin, Aidan Fitzmaurice, David Healy, Cian Higgins, John Jordan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Declan Warde. Management: John Prenty, Tommy Waldron, John Higgins, Tommy Grogan.

Senior Football

This has been a very successful year for Ballyhaunis senior footballers. Due to an initiative undertaken by the team management of Fergal Kelly, Kurt Reinhardt, Tommy Grogan and John Higgins, sponsorship was procured for a Winter Programme of training at the Gym in Tuam. This was an ideal location for our players to train as it was a half way house between Ballyhaunis and Galway, where many of our players were based. This initiative has gone a long way towards building up our players for the rigours of playing adult football in Mayo and has borne fruit in our excellent run to the Intermediate Semi-Finals to date. Our year commenced with games in the East Mayo Centenary Cup where we tried out many of our players.

In the East Mayo Canon Henry Cup we had an excellent run during the summer months when the Welcome Inn League was put on hold, and we were very unlucky to lose the final to Swinford by the narrowest of margins. Our League campaign got off to the best possible start with a last minute winner against Aghamore. The success of the Mayo Senior team meant that the League Programme has been very fragmented and, at the time of going to print, we still have five games to play but appear to be out of contention for ultimate honours.

Our championship campaign has provided many wonderful games and we commenced the Group stages with a very difficult away game against Mayo Gaels. We emerged with a fully deserved victory by 1-7 to 0-4. Our next game was at home against Kilmaine with possible qualification for the Quarter Finals as the carrot for victory. After a hard fought

game we had a merited victory by 2-10 to 0-9. Due to results elsewhere the final game against Tourmakeady was immaterial as both teams had qualified for the Quarter Finals. With a much depleted team in action we eventually lost by five points. In the Quarter Final we faced neighbours Aghamore and had a very torrid first half to go in at half time losing by five points. The start of the second half did not bring much joy either but the last twenty minutes witnessed one of our greatest ever displays to see us snatch victory with the last kick of the game. In the semi-final we await Parke and hopefully we can annex the county title that the efforts of the players and management deserve.

Panel: David Hannan, Brendan Rudden, Joe Freeley, Tony Morley, Jason Morley, P. J. Fleming, Andrew Shanaghy, Paul Prenty (Capt.), Ian Prenty, Christy McCrudden, Liam Lyons, Ciaran Griffin, Kevin Gallagher, Hugh Carney, Robert Grogan, Derek McConn, Stephen Shanaghy, Keith Higgins, Phelim Carroll, Paul Finn, Declan Doyle, Sean Hunt, Fergal Kelly, Mark Patterson, Derek Walsh, Pat [Keane, John Prenty, Paul Jordan, William Nestor, Vincent Healy, Conor Mulrennan, Niall Prenty, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Enda Griffin, Seamus O Dwyer.

Senior Hurling

The Senior team started training early in the New Year under the new management of Martin McDermott. Training was initially difficult due the large number of Ballyhaunis players involved with the Mayo team, but gradually the team began to develop as a unit.

The first game in the Genfitt Cup was against Tooreen, which Ballyhaunis won on a score line of 2-17 to 1-09. Westport was next beaten on a score line of 1-15 to 3-06. We fell on the next game to Ballina but appear to have enough done to make the play-off stages. The Genfitt was parked to allow the T. J. Tyrell championship to be played. In the Championship we defeated Ballina, Castlebar and Belmullet, drew with Tooreen, and lost to Westport to reach the County Semi-finals. After two draws at 0-13 to 0-13, 0-19 to 3-10 and three fabulous games, Ballyhaunis emerged victors on the 14th October, in Aghamore on a score line of 1-16 to 0-15, to meet James Stephens, Ballina in the County Final. We went on to win the final thus completing a three in a row of Mayo Senior Hurling Championships.

Senior Panel: Micheal Walsh, Derek Walsh, Peter Healy, Hugh McKermitt, Paul Lynch, Pierce Higgins (Capt.), Hugh Carney, Tadhg Buckley, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Keith Higgins, Christy McCrudden, Fergal Walsh, Liam Lyons, Stephen Carney, Joseph Kelly, Stephen Hoban, Barry Keogh, Adrian Brennan, Luke Cribbin, J. P. Coen, Rizwan Afzal, Pat Kelly, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Brian Gallagher, Jason Powers, Andrew Shanaghy, Jason Powers.

After reaching the final of the Senior Sevens in Kilmacud Crokes in 2005, Ballyhaunis were again invited to participate in 2006. Ballyhaunis won all the preliminary games easily to reach the semi final against Castleblaney. They duly accounted for the Monaghan opposition to reach the final against Clonkill, Co Westmeath. In front of a huge Mayo support in the Kilmacud home ground, Ballyhaunis looked dead and buried with a nine point deficit and three minutes remaining. But the never-say-die Ballyhaunis boys battled on and with goals from Derek McConn, Paul McConn and Christy McCrudden levelled matters to bring the game to extra

time, from which Ballyhaunis emerged victorious by a margin of one point. The heroes on the day were Micheal Walsh, Derek Walsh, Hugh McKermitt, Pierce Higgins, Tadhg Buckley, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Christy McCrudden, Paul Lynch, Stephen Hoban, Stephen Carney. Manager, Martin McDermott. Selectors: David McConn, John J. Hoban, Peter Higgins.

Club Players on County Panels

Throughout the year players from Ballyhaunis GAA Club made significant contributions to County Panels:

Masters Football: Johnny Cribbin, All Ireland winner.

Senior Football: Keith Higgins, David Hannan, John Prenty.

Junior Football: John Prenty.

U-21 Football: Keith Higgins, All Ireland winning Captain and Cadbury's Hero of the future.

East Mayo Minor Team, County Cup winners: Conor Mulrennan, Niall Prenty, Adrian Brennan.

Connacht U-17 Development Panel: Aidan Fitzmaurice, Niall Prenty.

U-16 Football: John Gallagher, Brian Hunt.

U-15 Football School of Excellence: David McNamara.

U-14 Football Development Panel (Mayo): Ryan Worden, Isaac Carroll.

U-14 Football Development Blitz: Padraic Waldron.

Senior Hurling: Tadhg Buckley, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Liam Lyons, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Christy McCrudden, Jason Powers, Derek Walsh, Micheal Walsh.

U-21 Hurling: All Ireland B Runners-up: Keith Higgins (Capt.), Liam Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Austin Lyons.

U-18 Hurling: All Ireland C Champions: Stephen Hoban, Arslann Afzal, Brian Gallagher, Pat Kelly, Tadhg Morley, Adrian Brennan, Brian Hunt.

U-16 Hurling: Tadhg Morley, Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron, Paul Carney, Kamron Afzal, Liam McDermott, Joseph Flynn.

U-15 Hurling School of Excellence: Paul Carney, Joseph Flynn, Sean Ronayne, Paul Freely.

U-14 Mayo Hurling Development Squad: David Lyons, Damien Kedian, Cathal Fahy, Isaac Carroll, Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, Kieran Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Andrew McCormack.

Congratulations

Congratulations to John Paul Coen who was Joint Manager of the All Ireland Minor Champions, and Howard Morley who was involved with the U-14 and U-15 squads.

Congratulations to Frank Browne who was Senior Team Manager in Mayo this year.

Congratulations to Gerry Kilbride, a former Ballyhaunis and Mayo Senior manager, who has taken up refereeing and officiated at the Connacht Hurling Semi-final in 2005.

Scór

This year a group representing Ballyhaunis G.A.A. took part in the Scór Nuachleas competition, winning the county title in great style in the Club house, Breaghwy on the 11th of March.

The sketch, written by Gerry McGarry and with direction by Pat Doyle, centred on the themes of emigration and immigration, and their effect on Irish culture past and present. Celebrating cultural diversity in Ballyhaunis, it highlighted the G.A.A.'s role in integrating the many nationalities in the community through sport, music, song and

dance. The performers included local traditional musicians and dancers, a singer/musician and traditional dancer from the Kurdish community, and a musician/actor from the Pakistani community. The Connacht Final took place in St. Brigid's Hall, Tubbercurry on 26th March where, unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in getting through to the All-Ireland finals.

The Ballyhaunis Scór group comprised of: Gerry McGarry (dancer), Ali Ahmed (Sos – a traditional Kurdish stringed instrument), Kevin Henry (dancer/singer), Arfan Rafique (guitar), Richard Waldron (banjo), Ayad Abase (traditional Kurdish dancer), Noel Grogan (accordion), Paul Waldron (fiddle).

New Crest

The past year has seen the club develop a new Crest. This was designed by Community School student Marie Moran, following a competition organised by Chris Pratt. The crest incorporates all that the club stands for and its design is registered for the exclusive use of Ballyhaunis GAA Club on all playing and leisure wear. Presently our teams are wearing the official club jersey which has been sponsored by Grogan's Concrete (Senior Football), Ryans Supervalu (Senior Hurling), Sean Waldron (U-14 Football) and one of the parents of the U-10 Football panel. Official club merchandise, replica Jerseys, Hoodies, Rugby Shirts, Polo Shirts, and Jackets can be ordered from the club officers and is proving very popular for birthday and Christmas presents.

Overview

Ballyhaunis GAA Club fields twenty-one teams. For the last number of years we have developed our playing fields to a very high standard. We are now in a position to forge ahead with a big investment in a Club house and dressing rooms which will greatly enhance facilities in our Grounds. Lotto funding has been sanctioned for this development. Thanks are due to our project Committee which is led by Hugh Rudden. The Ted Webb Golf Classic, which commemorated the 30th Anniversary of Ted Webb's death, was a joint venture between the GAA Club and the Golf Club and was a resounding success.

The Mayo GAA Draw continues to be a major fund raising initiative for the club and we thank those who participated in it. Thankfully we had three winners this year. Our Club lotto continues to be the main fundraising tool of the club and I wish to thank the dedicated sellers and Lotto committee for their unselfish dedication week in week out throughout the year. In the past couple of weeks we have embarked on a new venture with the lotto and patrons, all over the world, can now subscribe to the lotto on line. www.LocalLotto.ie in order to be in with a chance every Tuesday night when the numbers are drawn.

We wish to thank our sponsors and benefactors for their generous support during the years, our members and especially committee members who make all of this happen each year on a voluntary basis.



Ballyhaunis Football Under-15, County Finalists

Back, L-R: James Nallen (Mayo County Footballer), Rory Collins, Rory Finan Adrian Ruane, John Prenty (Connacht Sec), Tadhg Morley, David McNamara, Liam McDermott, Daniel Ward. Middle row: L-R: Michael Gallagher, Conor Freeley, Patrick Freeley, Kevin Nestor, Brian Hunt, Isaac Carroll, Brian Waldron, Kamron Afzal, Ryan Worden, Gerry Lyons, Padraig Regan, (Club Chairman), Mary Prenty, (Club Sec). Frontl, L-R: Vinnie Caulfield, (Chairman Bord na nOg), Kieran Kiely, Damian Keadin, Kevin Moran, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Gerard Grogan, Joseph Flynn, Paul Kearney, Cathal Carroll.



Ballyhaunis Football Under-16, East Mayo Champions

Back, L-R: James Nallen (Mayo County Footballer), Paul Walshe, John Jordan, Tadhg Morley, Rory Finan, Kevin Nestor, Aidan Fitzmaurice. Middle row: L-R: Mary Prenty (Club Sec), Michael Gallagher, Vinnie Caulfield, (Chairman Bord na n-Og), Patrick Freeley, Kamron Afzal, Gerry Lyons, John Prenty, (Connacht Sec), Ann Shanaghy, (Club Treasurer), Padraig Regan, (Club Chairman). Front, L-R: Liam McDermott, David McNamara, Niall Prenty, Brian Waldron, Brian Hunt, Daniel Ward.

Glynn's Photography, Castlerea



Ballyhaunis Senior Football Team 2006

Back, L-R: Tommy Grogan (Team Management), P. J. Fleming, Patrick Keane, Liam Lyons, Ciaran Griffin, John Prenty, Conor Mulrennan, Sean Hunt, Fergal Kelly, David Hannan, Joe Freeley, Jason Morley, Declan Doyle, Tony Morley, Mark Patterson, Kurt Reinhardt (Team Management). Front, L-R Stephen Shanaghy, Andrew Shanaghy, Hughie Carney, William Nestor, Micheal Walsh, Brendan Rudden, Paul Prenty, Christy McCrudden, Paul Finn, Robert Grogan, Derek Walsh, Kevin Gallagher, Keith Higgins.



Ballyhaunis - All-Ireland Winners. Seven-a-side Hurling Shield Competition in Kilmacud Crokes on Saturday, 2nd September 2006
Back, L-R: David McConnell (Joint Manager), Andrew Shanaghy (supporter), Pierce Higgins (Captain), Paul Lynch, Tadhg Buckley, Hughie McKerritt, Paul McConnell, Peter Higgins (Selector). Front, L-R: Stephen Carney, Stephen Hoban, Derek Walsh, Christy McCrudden, Micheal Walsh, Derek McConnell, John Joe Hoban (Manager).



Ballyhaunis U-14 Footballers - "Double Double" winners of League & Championship 2005 & 2006
Back L-R: Pat Freeley (Selector), Brian Phillips (Coach), Cathal Carroll (Selector), John Collins (Manager), Bernie Waldron (Selector). Middle L-R: Gerard Grogan, Kieran Kiely, Paraic Waldron, Issac Carroll, Cathal Fahy, Sean Griffin, Eoghan Collins, Éanna McNamara, Eugene Durkin, John Flynn. Front L-R: Jarlath Carney, Conor Freeley, Gearóid Keane, Ryan Worden (Captain), Damien Kedian, Diarmuid Finnegan, Patrick Kiely, Cyril Collins.



Ballyhaunis Under-18 Hurling 'B' Champions. Back, L-R: Paul Walsh, Zaheer Javaid, Liam McDermott, Tadhg Morley, Brian Gallagher, Kevin Gallagher, Arslann Afzal, John Flynn, Sean Ronayne, Noel Byrne. Front, L-R: Pat Kelly, Adrian Brennan, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Kamron Afzal, Paul Carney, Luke Cribbin, Kevin Morley, Ayaz Ul Hussein.



*Ballyhaunis Under-16 Hurling Champions 2006
Back, L-R: Paul Carney, Brian Hunt, Paul Freeley, Brian Waldron, David McNamara, Cathal Fahy, John Flynn, Zaheer Javaid, David Lyons, Kevin Morley, David Fitzmaurice, Zea (supporter), Ayaz Ul Hussein, Kevin Fitzmaurice. Front, L-R: Faraz Ul Hussein, Shane Murphy, Shane Nolan, Kieran McDermott, Tadhg Morley, John Lyons, Kieran Kiely, Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, John Flynn.*



*Scoil Íosa, Ballyhaunis 11-a-side Hurling Team
Back, L-R: Lisa O'Connell, Hannan Iqbal, Jarlath Carney, Farhan Ahamed, Sean Griffin, John Flynn, Tasha Coyne, Aisling Tarpey, Shane Murphy, Claire Moran. Front, L-R: Damien Callaghan, Morgan Lyons, James Cribben, Darren Nolan, Gary Patterson, Shane Healy, Ryan Kilbane, James Lyons, Erica Webb, Sheraz Ul Hussein, Haseeb Arshad. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



Mr. Willie Ryan, Ryan's Supervalu, Ballyhaunis, presenting set of jerseys to Ballyhaunis Hurlers. Included are Donal Moran, Chairman, Anne Shanaghy, Treasurer, Martin McDermott, Team Trainer and club officials David McConn and Peter Higgins, and members of the Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Panel.



Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Clubmen of the Year, Tommy Glynn (centre left) and Barry Butler (centre) accepting their awards from Club Officials Mary Prenty, Ann Shanaghy and Donal Moran.



Gerry Lyons' Team, Winners of the 2006 Mick O'Connell Cup
Front, L-R: Oisín Henry, Cormac Phillips, James Lyons, Robert McCarrick, Ryan Kilbane. Back, L-R: Mohammed Ahmed, James Cribbin, Sean Lannon, Waqas Rehman.



Presentation of Senior Football jerseys by Grogan's Concrete.
L-R: Andrew Shanaghy, John Higgins (Team Management), Tony Morley, Paul Prenty, Fergal Kelly (Team Manager)



Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Team 2006
Back L-R: Tom Phillips, Derek McConn, Pat Kelly, Andrew Shanaghy, Joseph Kelly, Paul McConn, Tadhg Morley, Hugh McKermitt, Tadhg Buckley, Liam Lyons, Stephen Carney, Christy McCrudden, Paul Lynch, John Paul Coen, Austin Lyons and Barry Keogh. Front L-R: Brian Gallagher, Peter Healy, Stephen Hoban, Padraic Carney, Hughie Carney, Luke Cribbin, Pierce Higgins (Captain), Michael Walsh, Adrian Brennan, Fergal Walsh, Derek Walsh, Keith Higgins, John Joe Hoban (Selector).

St. Catherine's Education & Resource Centre

The Centre re-opened on September 4th after summer break with nineteen Students enrolled on its books. Fifteen Female and four Male, sixteen belonging to the Traveller Community and three Non- Travellers.

This Year we are offering the FETAC Childcare level five programme which will provide Students with a qualification to work in the Childcare Sector. There are currently seven Students enrolled on this programme all are finding it challenging yet rewarding. As part of the course each student must participate in a work experience programme and all students are currently placed in local Pre-School and Crèche facilities.

We offer basic literacy courses for people who have received little or no formal Education.

We are currently offering a full FETAC Level 3 Certificate to Students who have progressed beyond the basic literacy level.

Our Students enjoyed great academic success this year with six students obtaining their full Junior Certificates. One Student obtained four A's, two Students obtained three A's and two students obtained one A. We hope to run the Junior Certificate programme again in September 2007.

All Students at the Centre greatly enjoy extra curricular activities which are provided by the centre throughout the year and these can greatly enhance the learning which takes place. On June 20th students and staff members went on a four day trip to Paris. While there they visited many historical sites and areas of interest such as the Arc de Triumph, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysses, Notre Dame, the Opera and the Louvre. This was a hugely successful trip and

was greatly enjoyed by both staff and students alike. The Paris trip was so successful that we are already planning a trip to Barcelona in June 2007.

In April of this Year Students visited Tobernalt Holy Well and Yeats Grave in Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo. On May 11th Students visited the Quiet Man Museum in Cong where they dressed in Traditional Costume and re-enacted scenes from the film.

On the 6th of July students visited Enniscrone and visited an Ogham stone site. They also got to spend some time in Ballina at the Ballina festival week.

On the 1st of June we held the 'Drive for life' programme in the Centre. This consisted of one full days discussion and the showing of excerpts from DVDs regarding road safety. It was a highly interactive day and all students fully participated in the programme.

During the month of May Ted Maughan a local tinsmith paid four visits to the Centre to demonstrate the art of Tinsmithing to the Students. These classes were very productive with many traditional artefacts being produced.

In March a homework club was established where local primary school Children attended the Centre two evenings per week after school and were assisted with their homework by two Students from the Centre. A word of thanks to Sally Higgins who gave generously of her time to help establish this project.

All in all, 2006 was a pleasant and successful year and we hope that 2007 will be equally successful for all Staff and Students in St. Catherine's, Tooraree.



Abbey Pattern 2006 showing Abbey Street.



Girls under-4: 1st Ruth Henry, 2nd Aine Phillips, 3rd Gillian Mary Donnellan



Boys under-4: 1st Tommy Cleary, 2nd Soheab Arshad, 3rd Conor Keane



Girls under-6: 1st Marina Carney, 2nd Chantelle Ubazuono, 3rd Cait Phillips



Boys under-6: 1st Michael McDonagh, 2nd Patrick Caulfield, 3rd Cormac Phillips



Girls under-8: 1st Caoimhe Lilly, 2nd Marina Carney, 3rd Jennifer Cleary



Boys under-8: 1st Hassan Orange, 2nd Cathal Carney, 3rd Jack Dillon

ANNAGH PATTERN WINNERS



Girls under-10: 1st Ashling Forkan, 2nd Orla McCann, 3rd Roisin McDonagh



Boys under-10: 1st Bernie McDonagh, 2nd Waqas Rehann, 3rd Cathal Carney



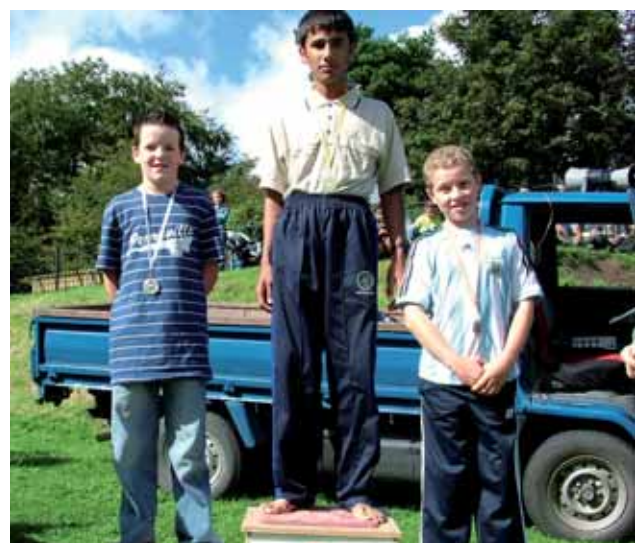
Girls under-13: 1st Pamela Ubaezuomo, 2nd Aileen Dillon/ Margaret Cleary



Boys under-14: 1st Gary Patterson, 2nd Sammy Asilia, 3rd Morgan Lyons

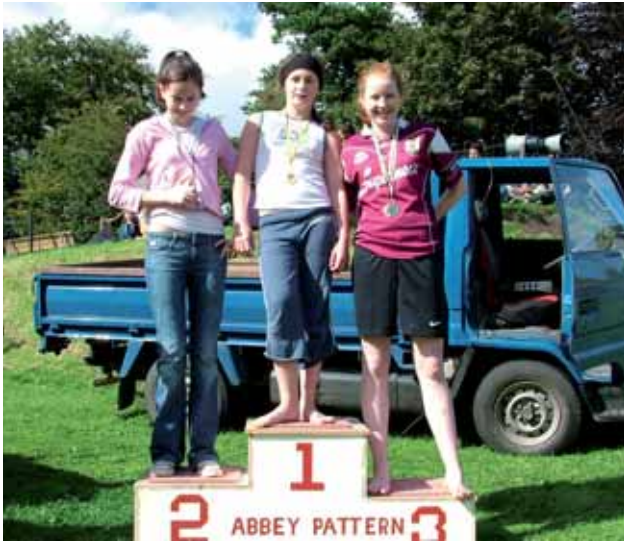


Girls under-16: 1st Robyn Moran, 2nd Margaret Cleary, 3rd Aileen Dillon



Boys under-16: 1st Arman Ibrahim, 2nd Gary Patterson, 3rd Morgan Lyons

ANNAGH PATTERN WINNERS



Girls under-18: 1st Margaret Cleary, 2nd Robyn Moran, 3rd Gillian Dillon



Boys under-18: 1st Kieran Kelly, 2nd Hamza Orange, 3rd Gary Patterson



Men's Race – 'Frank Connelly Memorial': 1st Paul Webb, 2nd James Reidy, 3rd David Burke



Ladies Over 30's Race: 1st Aishling Caulfield, 2nd Agatha Higgins, 3rd Anne Hussey



Girls 3-Legged Race, 9 and under: 1st Emma and Michelle Gallagher, 2nd Erica Webb and Claire Moran, 3rd Aishling Forkin and Orla McCann



Boys 3-Legged Race, 9 and under: 1st Eamon Phillips and Eddie Cleary, 2nd Cian and Osin Henry

ANNAGH PATTERN WINNERS



Girls 3-Legged Race, 12 and under: 1st Emma and Michelle Gallagher, 2nd Yvonne Davy and Helen Comer, 3rd Pamela Ubaczounu and Sheeda Yarmardi



Boys 3-Legged Race, 12 and under: 1st Joseph Lyons and Damien Callaghan, 2nd Morgan Lyons and Shane Healy, 3rd Joey Fahy and Patrick Kiely



Girls 3-Legged Race, 16 and under: 1st Lorraine Hickey and Louise Culliney, 2nd Michelle and Eimear Gallagher, 3rd Shannon Beisty and Caoimhe Henry, Joint 3rd Robyn Moran and Rebekka Johnston



Boys 3-Legged Race, 16 and under: 1st Ambrahn Ibrahim and Hamza Orange, 2nd Sammy Asilia and Gary Patterson, 3rd John Lyons and Kevin McNamara



Girls Sack Race, 12 and under: 1st Aisling Forkan, 2nd Pamela Ubaczounu, 3rd Margaret Cleary



Boys Sack Race, 12 and under: 1st Joey Fahy, 2nd Morgan Lyons, 3rd Jason Gallagher/Joseph Lyons

ANNAGH PATTERN WINNERS

ANNAGH PATTERN WINNERS



Boys Egg and Spoon, under 8: 1st Cormac Phillips, 2nd Eddie Cleary, 3rd Carlton Ubazouno



Girls Egg and Spoon, under 12: 1st Orla McCann, 2nd Sheeda Yavmavdi, 3rd Lorraine Cribben



Boys Egg and Spoon, under 12: 1st Adrian Phillips, 2nd Shahzad Rahaman, 3rd Zagros



Anne Greally, Michael Egan, Sean Herr, Deirdre Moran



Michael Flynn, Dermot Jordan, Jacinta Flynn



Aisling and Seamus Caulfield

Patrons

*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.
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You can contact Annagh Magazine by email at the following address: annaghmag@eircom.net



Abbey Pattern 2006. Under-10 Boys race in progress



Mayo supporters from Scoil Íosa, September 2006.

Front Cover: Big celebrations in Ballyhaunis on Sunday 7th of May 2006 as the Mayo U-21 Football Team, captained by local man Keith Higgins are fated at the Square following their defeat of Cork (1-13 to 1-11) to secure the U-21 All Ireland Title.

Back Cover: Top - Donal Shanaghy (CEO Ballyhaunis Chamber) introduces the Ballyhaunis Special Olympians to the huge crowd of supporters and well-wishers following their return from Belfast on Sunday 25th June 2006. Centre - Ballyhaunis Special Olympians and supporters; Front L-R: Aoife Beston, Bridie Waldron, Niamh Waldron, Carmel Delaney, Irma Folliard, Frank Byrne and Mary Beston. Back L-R: Catherine Morley, Catriona McDonald, Andrew McHale, Carmel Brady, Padraig Prendergast, Thomas Campbell, Val Hughes, Brian Slevin, Susan Hoban and Bernie Quinn. Bottom left - Leanne Murphy, Annagh Rose 2006. Bottom right - Johnny Cribbin, Lecarrow, member of the Mayo team who won the All Ireland Masters 2006.

