

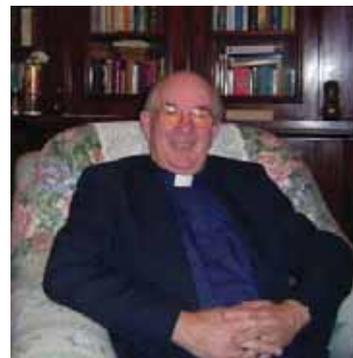
# Annagh 2008



# Season's Greetings

As the year draws to a close, we know that the Annagh Magazine will shortly be available. With it will come information on the past and the present. Turning the pages of Annagh will give readers a profile of our parish, our parishioners and a picture of the way we live our lives today and the way people have done so in the past. It will speak of things that mean a lot to the people of this parish and to all who have any connection with the parish and for this we thank the editorial committee who have devoted so much time and energy to compiling the magazine.

This year we are happy to record that we had a very successful two week parish mission last February. Every house in the parish was visited by a mission team; other teams spent most of the first week in both the Community School and Scoil Iosa and made a big impression on both teachers and students. It was a great experience for the parish and could not have been done without the involvement of the Parish Pastoral Council and so many volunteers. We would like to thank all of those, the people who provided accommodation, who organised catering, who acted as guides and provided transport for visitation. We thank also choirs, Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Mass servers, Sacristan for contributing to such a memorable occasion.



This year we said farewell to Fr. Kieran Burke who left us after five years to take up a new position as Parish Priest of Leenane. We thank him for his work in Ballyhaunis and we pray that God will bless his work in his new appointment. He has been replaced by Fr. Benny MacHale and we wish him every blessing and happiness in Ballyhaunis.

I thank Annagh Magazine for giving me the opportunity to wish all Ballyhaunis people, at home and abroad, a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

*Joseph Leoney*



*The board members of Ballyhaunis Social Housing Ltd. photographed with President McAleese and her husband Martin. Back, L-R: Tom Colleran, Dr. Michael Cleary, John Griffin, Eugene Carney. Seated, L-R: Nell Rochford, Maura Patterson, President McAleese, Martin McAleese, Anne Cunnane (Manager Ballyhaunis Social Housing) and Mary Smyth. Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

## Disclaimer

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## Editorial

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Do we remember the summer of 2008 only as wet and gloomy? Cast your eye on the cover of Annagh and see the beautiful sunny day we had for the Abbey Pattern at the end of August. Now doesn't that help? And then there's the financial doom and gloom! Do not let that get you down either; it will pass and things will get better and maybe we will all have learned a lesson.

This year in compiling 'Annagh' we missed a very dear and generous friend, Mrs. Betty Regan who passed away in July. Betty worked behind the scenes in supplying photos, snippets and suggestions. Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a h-anam dílis.

We thank all our contributors at home and abroad for their photographs and articles. It's wonderful to hear of the achievements and experiences of our young people worldwide.

A big thank you to the patrons for their ungrudging support, and to you, the readers, for buying the magazine every year.

Finally, we hope that wherever you are you will find something in these pages to give you enjoyment, and we wish you all happiness and health in the coming year.

If you wish to contribute an article or photographs for next year's magazine you can contact Annagh by email at [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net) or visit our website [www.annagh.com](http://www.annagh.com)

**Committee members:** Joe Keane, Maura Griffin, Jim Lundon, Maisín Meath, John Halpin, Seamus Mulrennan, Sinead Freyne, Paul Waldron, Martin Forde. Typesetting: Mary Donnelly.

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*Paddy Phillips, Sean Barrett and Eddie Rogan, taken in Phillips' in the 1990s*

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*What's this photograph about? See page 127 for explanation.*

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# News Review 2008

## December 2007

Ballyhaunis senior footballers defeat neighbours Eastern Gaels to win the 2007 Goodfellowship Cup Final... Main Street native Micky Gavin dies in Manchester. Aged 84, Mickey was a regular visitor to his native Ballyhaunis from where he emigrated over 50 years ago. An accomplished tenor, Mickey was a prominent member of the Parish Choir prior to his departure to Great Britain in the early 1950s.

## January 2008

The year begins with good news for Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas when local media reports that the Connacht GAA Council have purchased over 50 acres of land near Greenwood for the purpose of developing a Sports Centre of Excellence. The plan includes the provision of five pitches with indoor facilities for training purposes. The centre will be made available to clubs, counties, referees and officials from the five counties of Connacht... Also in GAA circles, the New Year gets off to an exciting start with the commencement of a Parish League. The league, open to all players over the age of sixteen years, attracts over 100 players, young and not so young from all parts of the parish... The Board of Management for 2008 for Scoil Íosa is John Griffin (Chairperson), with committee members, Tommy Caulfield, Paula Grogan, Olive Lyons, Jim Landon (Principal), Kevin Henry, Patricia Uí Suilleabháin and Fr. Kieran Burke CC. Meanwhile, at the Scoil Íosa Parents Association AGM, Orla Moran from Gurteen is elected Chairperson for the coming year. Secretary and PRO is Frank Browne... Former Community School teacher Vinnie Healy rejoins the Ballyhaunis Abbey Male Choir after an absence of a number of years. Vinny, who was a member of the Ballyhaunis Ballad Group which won first place at the Connacht Scór Finals in 1972, was among the founding members of the Male Choir in 1991... At the first Annagh Magazine meeting of the year, officers report that the '07 edition was one of the fastest selling editions of the parish magazine in its 30 year history... On Thursday, 31st January, the first Polish retail store opens in the area. The store, 'Dobre Bo Polskie' is situated beside The Gem, in the Riverside car park... Maura Healy from Tooreen takes up a clerical position with Dillon-Leetch Solicitors, Main Street. A native of Hollymount, Maura (nee Hughes), married former Rochford Motors employee, Pat Healy from Cummer, Tooreen in Robeen Church last year.

## February

Following much local and national media coverage, relating mostly to the shortage of rushes in the country side, the Ballyhaunis organisation ABC has a bumper few days of sales of St. Brigid's Crosses. The early days of February sees a great 'buzz' around the town and parish as the community gets into gear for the Parish Mission, the first in 11 years. Members of the Ceili Community from Kilbeggan conduct the Mission in all the local schools and also visit every household in the parish. The Mission, which has as its theme, 'The Beatitudes' is organised by the Ballyhaunis Parish Council. On average, 1,000 people attend the nine day event at the parish church. Students from Ballyhaunis Community School begin fundraising for their forthcoming pilgrimage to Medugorje, which departs Knock Airport on Easter Sunday, March 23... Drimaderra native Lisa Keadin wins the Entrance Exhibition Award at University College Dublin. Lisa, a former pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School, is daughter of Tommy and Martina Keadin, Drimaderra. Former Ballyhaunis footballer Noel Morley dies suddenly in Dublin at the age of 63. Noel, a native of Cloontumper, was a member of the famous Ballyhaunis Gaelic football team which won the 1967 County Intermediate Championship... Ballyhaunis duo, Anthony Waldron (Island) and Dedan Lyons (Gurrane) win Mid West Radio's S-Factor talent competition. The competition, organised jointly by MWR and Mayo County Council, is aimed at raising awareness among young drivers of the importance of road safety. The event, held at the Ramada Hotel in Ballina, and attended by National Roads Authority Chairman, Gay Byrne, nets a winning prize fund of €6,000 for the winning group. The winning song, penned by the Ballyhaunis duo, is entitled "Cars and Coffins"... Ballyhaunis' oldest citizen, Johnny Mullen from Tavnaghmore dies at the age of 101 years... There were Leap Year celebrations on the treble at Doctors Road on February 29th when news filters through that Margaret Kelly and her husband, Seamus, celebrate the birth of triplets at the University College Hospital, Galway.

Margaret is the eldest daughter of Frank and Mary Healy of Ballindrehid.

## March

Ballyhaunis Community School Folk Group spends the first day of March in the Augustinian Friary where they record a beautiful new CD, One More Song. The recording is a celebration of 30 years of school life at the B.C.S. The producer of the recording is Bekan native Ken McHugh, Director of Left Hand productions, Dublin. The CD is officially launched at a special ceremony at the Ballyhaunis Community School on Thursday, March 13, the day before the school closes for Easter Holidays. The official launch is performed by Canon Joe Cooney, PP... Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee win 2007 Litter Action League competition. The organisation, who have participated in the competition for a number of years, have previously finished runners-up in the event. This is their first time winning the top prize... Twenty one fourth year students from Ballyhaunis Community School depart Ireland West Airport Knock for seven days in Medugorje, where the Blessed Virgin has been appearing since June of 1981... For the second year in a row, Ballyhaunis Community School pupils win the All-Ireland Irish Quiz competition. The competition, staged in the North Star Hotel in Dublin, is conducted entirely in the Irish language. Approximately 18 teams competed in the final. The All-Ireland winning team is comprised of Niall Hynes, Cliona Hensey, Sean O'Rourke and Ryan Worden... At their Annual General Meeting the Abbey Pattern organisation elect new officers for coming year. They are: Susie Ottewell (Chairperson), Stella Hughes (Secretary), Martin Walsh (Treasurer)... Ballyhaunis is saddened following the news of the sudden death of Enda Murphy of Aisling Drive. Enda, a native of County Meath, has been living in Ballyhaunis for over 25 years and has been an active member of the local community during this period. Caretaker of the Parochial Hall, Enda was a prominent and leading figure in the Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee.

## April

Ballyhaunis native Anthony Jordan publishes his 11th book. The book, entitled, "John A. Costello 1891-1976, Compromise 'Taoiseach'", is launched in Dublin by Fine Gael leader, Enda Kenny. On April 9th, Brian Cowan is elected the new leader of Fianna Fail, replacing Bertie Ahern, who steps down after ten years as Taoiseach... Twenty-five years of twinning between Ballyhaunis and the French town of Guilers are commemorated when a delegation from the Breton town arrive for the anniversary celebrations from April 12th to April 19th. The Anniversary Banquet is held in the Belmont Hotel, Knock, with guest speaker, Minister Eamon Ó Cuív, T.D... Knock native Michael Morley is selected Mayo Person of the Year in New York. Originally from Maugheramore, Knock, Michael, who emigrated to the USA in 1973, is a brother of Alacoque McManus of Churchpark. Ballyhaunis Community School students Avril Feeney and Greta Domarkaitė win the hotly contested inaugural Caulfield's Gud2Go art competition. The competition attracts a huge number of entrants from both junior and senior grade students from the school... It's a good month for Helen Freyne from Coolnaha, Aghamore when she spins the wheel in the National Lottery's Winning Streak on RTE Television... Knock Road based Moira Noone gives a most enlightening talk on 'Women's Health' issues to the members of the Ballyhaunis Active Retirement Committee in the Friary House... Thirty years after entering into the Auctioneering business, Facefield (Claremorris) native Richard Finn extends his business when he opens his first premises in Ballyhaunis, setting up at Clare Road (formerly Jimmy O'Brien's, R.I.P)... Tragedy strikes Ballyhaunis on the last day of the month. 28 years old Declan Byrne from Gurteen is tragically killed in an accident on a building site on the outskirts of Galway. The town is shocked and in mourning following the tragedy. As a consequence, and as a mark of respect, the May Weekend Festival is cancelled.

## May

Knock Shrine's Director of Sacred Music, John Aldridge, is honoured by Pope Benedict XVI with a special award for 17 years of dedicated service to Our Lady's Shrine and to the Church. The award, the 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' medal, is the highest honour which can be bestowed on a lay person by the Pope. Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary, presented the award to John at a ceremony in Knock Basilica on Sunday, May 4th... The following day, May 5th, dignitaries from the



world of GAA from many parts of Ireland descend on Ballyhaunis for the official rededication of the football grounds on the Knock Road. The official opening is performed by General Secretary of the GAA, Mr. Padraig Duffy. On the same day, the GAA's General Secretary launches the newly produced magazine, 'Ballyhaunis GAA Club - 100 Years and More'. The magazine is edited by former Annagh Magazine committee members, Johnny Biesty and John Cleary. An outstanding production by two outstanding gentlemen... German retail grocery giant, Aldi apply to Mayo County Council for permission to build retail store at Hazelhill... Ballyhaunis Community School first year footballers defeat St. Louis of Kiltimagh to win the Mick Tarmey Cup. The team is captained by Patrick Kiely... Retired businessman, Tom Hopkins dies at his Upper Main Street residence, after a short illness. Tom, aged 87, was an institution at Upper Main Street, where he operated a very popular grocery store with his wife, Noreen (RIP), for almost 50 years... William Nestor takes up the position as Ballyhaunis Correspondent for the Western People. Son of Billy and Eileen (nee Lyons) Nestor, Doctor's Road, William replaces Bekan housewife, Ann Dee, who held the position for the past three years... Bridge Street native, Dennis Hannan takes up management of Delaney's Oak Bar, across the road from where he was born.

### June

Tadhg Buckley Snr. wins the Ted Webb Memorial tournament at the Golf Club. A close second was Tadhg's son Shane, just one point behind the father... Ballyhaunis hurlers win 'Club of the Year' award at a tournament in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The award is accepted by the Hurling sub-committee's Kitty Morley... Ballyhaunis native, Fr. Enda Lyons celebrates the Fiftieth Anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood at a special ceremony in St. Patrick's Church. One of the country's best known theologians, Fr. Enda was joined by his brother, Noel and his sister-in-law, Margaret, from Co. Meath for the joyous occasion. Fr. Enda is well known nationally and internationally as a theologian and author. His books, Partnership in Parish and Jesus: A Self Portrait by God, are two renowned publications by the Ballyhaunis native... Ballyhaunis Credit Union enters a new era in style, technology and service when the new offices are opened on Clare Road on Saturday, June 28.

### July

Ballyhaunis native Grahame Cleary sets off on a cycling trek across Europe with six other hardy enthusiasts, covering the route travelled by the so called Irish Earls in their 'flight' 400 years ago. Son of John and Mary Frances Cleary, Clare Road, Grahame is joined for the second leg of the journey by Annagh Wheelers members, Mike Cleary, Bernie Jennings, Martin Connery, Diarmuid Cleary, and Grahame's sister, Rachel. The purpose of the cycle, marking the 400th anniversary of the Flight of the Earls, is to raise money for the Irish Cancer Society. Averaging 60 miles a day, the journey is 1,300 miles, and the heroes aim to complete their task by the end of July... Former Ballyhaunis businesswoman, Molly Concannon passes away, at the age of 91 years. Mayo senior footballers lose out in the Connacht Senior Football Final to old rivals, Galway, by just one point. John Cribbin is elected Chairman of the Claremorris electoral area of Mayo County Council... Hundreds of interested inspectors view the proposed routes for the Ballyhaunis Outer Bypass, presented by Mayo County Council... Scoil Íosa Board of Management Chairman, John Griffin congratulates the 32 graduating students who receive special merit certificates from principal, Jim Lundo, after completing eight years in the Ballyhaunis primary school... Knock man, Seamus Forde wins Alex Eaton's President's Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. On the ladies side of the house, meanwhile, Laurena Freeley wins the Lady Captains (Anne Freeley) Prize, keeping the honours in the Freeley name for 2008... Fr. Des Walsh, PP, Williamstown presides over the celebration of Holy Mass in St. Patrick's Church, marking the 30th anniversary school reunion of the first Leaving Cert class of Ballyhaunis Community School. Fr. Des was Chaplain at the school when the boys and girls graduated in 1978... Former Bridge Street publican, Phil Maguire (nee Hurst) dies in Castleknock, Dublin... The town of Ballyhaunis is united in sadness as news of the passing of Betty Regan from Lecarrow unfolds on Thursday morning, July 17th. A native of Donegal, Betty, who taught in the local primary school for over thirty years, was a wonderful community activist, whose loving and caring personality touched the lives of so many people in this community during

her short, but very fruitful life... The town comes under the spotlight on July 24th when Ballyhaunis puts its best foot forward in the "Pride of Place" competition. Practically every club and organisation come together to show what is good and positive about Ballyhaunis as the Community Council organised project is displayed to the County Meath adjudicators in the Friary... Knockbrack's Michael and Kathleen Egan celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss with their family and friends at the celebration of Holy Mass at Knock Shrine.

### August

Midwest Radio's international internet service, midwestirishradio, goes off the air after over three years of broadcasting an unique brand of Irish music at the Clare Street station. An estimated 10,000 listeners have been tuning into the internet station since its successful launch in May of 2005... Pat and Síle Byrne from Johnstown celebrate their Ruby Anniversary with Mass at St. Patrick's Church, followed by an enjoyable get-together for family and friends at the Belmont Hotel in Knock... Ballyhaunis under-8 and under-10 footballers take part in a tournament, hosted by St. Brigid's GAA Club in Roscommon. The youngsters are accompanied by, among others, Chairman of the local Bord na nÓg club, Vinnie Caulfield. Former Ballyhaunis football stars from the 1970's and '80's, Eamonn Glynn and Eamonn Cunnane are prominent members of the St. Brigid's club in Roscommon... As the calendar hits the August 24th mark, the wettest August has been recorded in many parts of the county and country with floods reported in many areas... Ballyhaunis Golf Club announce that they have purchased grounds which will increase the current status of the club from a nine hole course to an eighteen hole course. A project committee for this ambitious scheme has been put in place, under the guidance of club Captain, John Doyle... Meanwhile, on the fairways at Coolnaha, the Jack O'Connor Memorial was a real family affair this year when sisters, Marina Coyne (nee O'Connor), and Siobhán Herr, her sister, finish first and second in the competition... The girls are daughters of the late Jack O'Connor, in whose memory the competition is staged each year... Ballyhaunis man, Pat Curley appears on the RTÉ TV game show, The Big Money Show... Some 500 people, the largest crowd for several years, attend the annual Friary Mass, which preceded the Abbey Pattern, on Sunday, August 31st... Edel Kilcourse from Station Rise is crowned the 2008 Annagh Rose at the end of the Summer Festival.

### September

Close on 1,000 people crowd into St. Patrick's Church for the evening of prayer and healing with Australian, Alan Ames. Alan, who had lived a life of violence with alcohol and drug abuse, experienced a major conversion in his life in 1994, and since then has become, not only a man of prayer and of the Sacraments, but also a man who has been gifted by God with the gift of healing... Station Rise residents celebrate the great news that Mayo County Council has allocated €250,000 in funding towards their estate for development and improvements to their neighbourhood... Aghamore footballers defeat Ballyhaunis in the quarter-final of the Mayo Intermediate County Championship at Claremorris... Mr. Pat Devine of Aisling Drive is appointed the new caretaker of the Parochial Hall.

### October

Scoil Íosa NS bids farewell to two of its teachers who have retired following many years of service at the school. School principal, Jim Lundo pays glowing tributes to Sally Fahy from Dunmore, and Marie Byrne from Ballyroe, Knock, who have contributed handsomely to the activities of primary education in Ballyhaunis over many decades... Fr. Kieran Burke, Curate at St. Patrick's Church for the past four years, is transferred to Leenane where he takes up the position of Parish Priest. His vacancy in Ballyhaunis is filled by Castlebar native, Fr. Benny McHale, who has been serving as Curate in Dunmore for the past number of years... Ballyhaunis is a hive of activity and excitement on Tuesday, October 7th when President Mary McAleese visits the town where she officially opens phase two of the Clare Court housing project... Ballyhaunis native, Nathan Murphy wins the award for Sports Broadcaster of the Year at the PPI Radio Awards competition, held in County Kilkenny. Nathan is a full time sports presenter with Today FM and is also a regular contributor to the sports department at TV3. He is son of Micheál and Dolores (nee Halpin) Murphy of Doctor's Road.

Mike Byrne

# Willie's Story

One of the longest memories anyone has is of their school days. I well remember the first day I was taken to school in Larganboy by my neighbour Jimmy Lyons. My teacher was Miss Fahey who retired after a couple of years. She was replaced by a Miss Morley and the headmaster was Tom Waldron. In my class were Eddie Ganley, Eddie Boyle, Paddy Hopkins, Paddy Finn, Tom McGrath, Joe Hunt, Tom Cunnane, Jimmy Ford, Pat and Mike Morley and Johnny Waldron. Sadly Johnny was to die a young man while working on a farm in England.



*Bill Delaney (left) with his brother Paddy*

Those were the years of the depression and I remember my Dad bringing home cattle he was unable to sell at the fair, so life was a struggle for people at that time. Dad was a good violin player and much in demand at various events around the district. He taught Paddy Delaney the violin, and what a player he turned out to be! Dad died when I was twelve years old. I remember when he used to come in from the fields after tea he would take the violin up to the bedroom and in the dark would have a half hour session.

## First Job

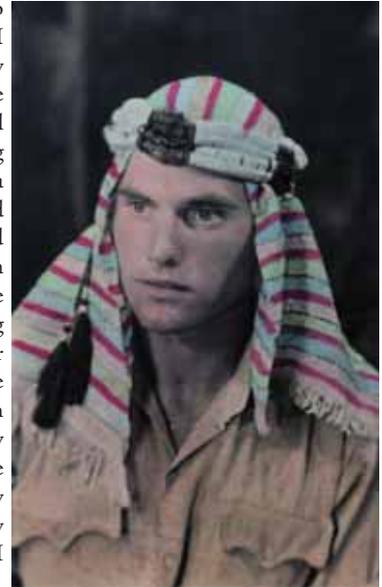
My first job after leaving school was to work for a Mrs. McNelis in Derrymore. The foreman in charge was Paddy Waldron, a lovely man, who was great fun and had a nice family. The pay was 3/6 a day with morning and afternoon tea, but I had to bike home for lunch. I used to give my mother 18 shillings and keep three shillings for myself. The pictures on Sunday nights were 9 pence.

At that time the war was on and I used to see some of the older boys in the village returning from England with nice clothes and lots of cash. I decided to bid farewell to Island. I remember the morning of departure, with my Uncle Bernard Niland walking me to the station I had a second-hand suitcase and three pounds in my pocket. I was recruited to work at an aircraft and motor factory in Birmingham and, of course, being wartime - this was February 1944 - the war had another 18 months to run. It used to take me ages to get to and from work owing to the blackouts and air raids. I was there about a week when one night in the canteen I met up with Andy and Austin McGrath from Mountain!

During my time with the McGrath brothers we stayed with several landladies, as there were good and bad digs to be had. One evening we arrived home from work and found that the landlady had been evicted for non payment of rent. A policeman was in the garden and when he arrived he told us the story and asked us to identify our belongings which were on the front lawn! He then gave us an address of a temporary lodging house. It was a rough place with fights every night so our stay wasn't very long. The McGrath brothers went on to do farm work at the end of the war and I worked at a steel works. I had lodgings just ten minutes walk away and stayed with the same landlady for over five years, until I departed Birmingham.

## Palestine

My first pay-packet in Birmingham was ten pounds per week and board was one pound ten shillings. After the war ended they were still calling up young men for National Service and as I was in that age group I had the choice to return home or join up. I certainly wasn't going to return to Ireland for 3/6 per day so I joined the RAF and my wages to start were nine shillings a day, with full board and clothing provided. After training as a Quartermaster I bid farewell to England and departed from Southampton on the Donnerter Castle, along with hundreds of other troops bound for the Middle East. We arrived in Port Said, Egypt, in January 1948. The British Mandate ended in Palestine in May 1948. It was a pretty dangerous place - I remember Gaza as a hot spot and it still is today 60 years later. We spent two years in the Canal Zone in Egypt and, as the Korean War was on, my demob was delayed until 1952.



*Bill Delaney in Palestine.*

On returning to the UK I went back to Birmingham where I remained for six years before I decided to leave England and head to the South Seas and New Zealand. I remember getting the night train to Glasgow and joining the New Zealand migration ship, The Captain Cook, at Plantation Quay. The ship sailed at noon on the 10th of February 1959. As we sailed down the Clyde passing the various warehouses and factories everyone was on deck to take in the farewell view. I remember a guy with a high pitched voice calling out high from a roof top - "Ye'll be back!"

The five weeks at sea was quite an affair. My cabin mates were George Denton, a Yorkshireman, Fred Davis, a Londoner, and Des Dawson from Tyrone. Des has remained a great friend over the years. After a few days sea sickness we settled down to the ship's routine with life boat drill every morning, various games during the day and in the evenings dancing, music and card playing. When we got to warmer temperatures we had movies on deck. There were about 1500 migrants on board- men, women and children. All were selected migrants and the conditions were that you had to stay in your place of employment for 18 months or pay back the ship's fare, which at that time was £120. In my case I stayed with my employer, the Wellington Harbour Board, for 28 years.

As the weeks went by we headed for Panama and the weather got warmer. We spent lazy days in deck chairs watching schools of dolphins and flying fish following the wake of the ship. The transit through the Panama Canal was interesting: starting from Balboa the ship entered the Canal at 10am and through the various locks arrived at the Caribbean end, Panama City, at 6pm. We were granted shore leave until midnight. The next day we sailed for Curacao in the Dutch West Indies and after a couple of days arrived at the port of Willemstad, the capital, where we spent another day ashore while the ship refuelled. Departing from Curacao we headed into the Pacific Ocean, past lonely Pitcairn Island, and arrived in Wellington, New Zealand on the 18th of March 1959. It was a beautiful sight entering Wellington harbour in the early morning.



### ***New Zealand***

When the ship tied up we had to report to the Labour Department staff who came on board. I was asked by a staff member if I would be prepared to work for them for two weeks sorting all of the migrants' baggage and dispatching it to various parts of New Zealand. I asked him "when do I start?" and was surprised to be told that same afternoon! There were six of us picked to sort out the baggage. After two weeks, we got good money and were then sent to our future employers. I found the New Zealand people very friendly and helpful in every way and wished that I had come here earlier.

During our first weeks I remember my shipmate, Yorkshire man George Denton, telling me that he'd just been to a pub down the road and that I must come and have a look. So off we went to the pub and I'd never seen anything like it! It was like a scrum at the bar, everyone pushing to get their flagons of beer filled up before 6pm when the pub closed, as this was the time of 6pm closing in New Zealand. There was saw dust on the floor and the barman was filling glasses of beer with hoses and it was spilling all over the counter. In 1967 the law changed and now the pubs are open all hours and much more modern.

This turned out to be my lucky country as I was here about six months when I met my future wife, Marie Fitzgibbon, after Mass one Sunday morning. After about a year we were married and

raised three wonderful children, Anne-Maree, Bernadette and Dominic. Over the years during the school summer holidays we went to various parts of the country as we used to rent holiday homes. Dominic, during his time working in London, met a girl from Dundalk, Jacqueline Connolly. They married over there in 1996. We had a great wedding. I have two grandchildren, Liam and Keira, so the Delaney name lives on in New Zealand.

### ***Visit Home***

On my recent visit to Ireland last autumn with Anne-Maree and Bernadette it was great to meet up with my old friends around Island. Some of them had passed on since my previous visit – Paddy Carney and Paddy Waldron, RIP. The girls and I enjoyed the folk night at Knock with Martin Forde, Mike Hopkins and family. Travelling around the village I noticed not a stone is left standing of our old house and only the shell is left of Paddy Delaney's house. In my youth it was the house of fun, music, song and dance, a great place for visiting and story telling and big card evenings in winter time.

In everyone's life there comes a time of sadness and mine came five years ago when my beloved wife Marie died suddenly. We had 42 years of happiness. In March of next year it will be 50 years since I set foot in New Zealand. How time flies when you enjoy life!

*Bill Delaney, New Zealand, formerly of Island, Ballyhaunis*



*Bill and Marie Delaney, on their wedding day.*



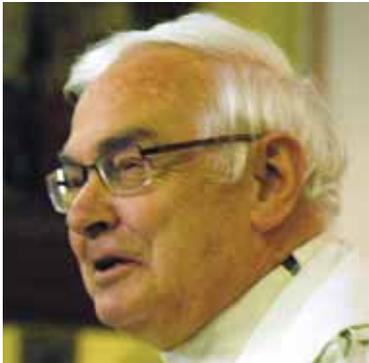
*Bill (right), with Andy and Austin McGrath.*



*Pictured in Knock Museum at the launch of Mike Hopkins' and John Kelly's CD in 2007. Back, L-R: Bernadette Delaney, Bill Delaney, Martin Forde, Anne Maree Delaney. Front, L-R: Kate Hopkins, Mary Hunt, Mike Hopkins, Margaret Hopkins.*

# Ballyhaunis Priest celebrates Golden Jubilee

Ballyhaunis native Fr. Enda Lyons was back on home soil on Sunday June 15th, 2008 when he joined with fellow clergy and members of his family to celebrate the golden jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood.



Son of the late Hubert and Bridie (McBride) Lyons of Knox St., Fr. Enda was ordained to the ministry of the priesthood by Most Rev. Dr. John Charles McQuaid in June 1958.

He is renowned nationally and internationally as a leading Irish theologian. Immediately following his ordination Fr. Enda

undertook a Doctorate in Maynooth College. On the completion of his Doctorate, he took up teaching duties in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, where he served for seven years. From there it was on to St. Patrick's College in Carlow and he then moved to the Mount Oliver Institute for Religious Education, of which he was a founding member.

He continues to teach courses at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology where students comment not only on

*Father Enda presiding at the Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, to mark the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood.*

the clarity of his teaching but also his personal attention to each of his students.

Fr. Enda is extremely well known for his renewal programmes for clergy and laity. A renowned and highly respected author, he has published two books which are considered to be best sellers in theological circles – Partnership in Parish, and Jesus: Self Portrait by God, an acclaimed publication which has been recommended to students of theology both at home and abroad since first being published in 1994.

### Jubilee Mass

In his homily at his jubilee Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, Fr. Enda affirmed what keeps him alive and



*Father Enda with friends  
L-R: Anne Lavin (nee Hopkins), Oliver Jordan, Kevin Jordan,  
Fr. Enda Lyons, Mary T. Judge (nee Hopkins),  
Sr. Assumpta.*

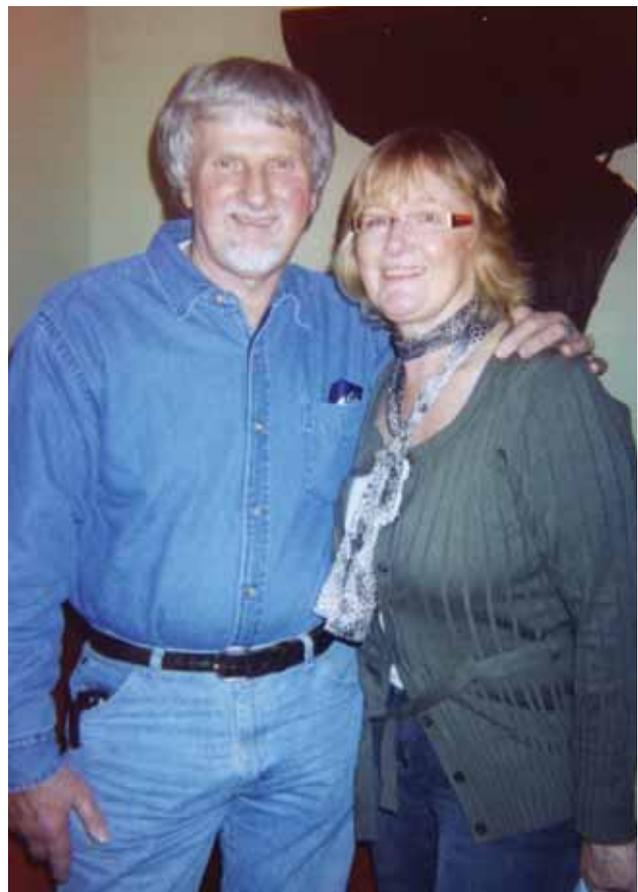
faithful in his ministry is the knowledge that it does not all depend on oneself; that, as the prophet Jeremiah realised, it is the Lord's work that priests seek to do and the Lord who is always there to guide and to protect.

Fr. Enda now resides in Tuam. We join with his many friends and relatives in the Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas in congratulating Fr. Enda on his golden jubilee and wish him continued health and blessings in his ministry in the years ahead.



*Father Enda with his brother Noel and sister-in-law Margaret, from Hamlinstown, Monasterboice, Co. Meath.*

*Mike Byrne*



*Tony Greene (Knox St. and upstate Pennsylvania) and Cait Webb, Main St., taken November 2007.*

# A Sri Lankan Experience

Sri Lanka was one of the countries badly affected by the tsunami, just after Christmas 2006, and it was with a deep sense of curiosity that I set off to visit there in Spring 2007. I suppose I could say that the first thing I noticed, after the constant heat, is the sheer number of people milling about. There is not a lot of free space when you have about 22 million people on an island slightly smaller than Ireland. It was a bit of a shock when I arrived in the airport in the capital, Colombo, on March 7th to see so many people. I eventually managed to find my friend Áine, from Co. Wexford, who had been in Sri Lanka for four months, having charitably raised several thousand euros in Ireland. She and another friend had gone there as volunteers and had at that stage been teaching English and helping out at an orphanage for over four months. Cathy had left for Australia a few weeks previously, hence my arrival. Unfortunately, Sri Lanka is not a great place for any European female to travel alone. Their novelty value invites a lot of less-than-welcome attention. Those few negatives do not take away from the fantastic experiences she and I enjoyed in this beautiful country over the following two months.

Much of our time was spent about 200km south of Colombo on the west coast, in a village called Kabalana. The trip from the capital took about four hours and was interesting, to say the least, as the Sri Lankans are supposed to drive on the left side of the road. However, most drivers seem to take this as a guideline rather than a law! All the way down the west coast, evidence of the tsunami was everywhere, from ruins to monuments to the dead (it is estimated that up to 40,000 people perished). In Kabalana we stayed at the home of a local family, the front room of which was used as a classroom for the duration of our stay. Our students were locals, ranging in age from five to about thirty and we split classes between the pair of us.

## Generosity

The generosity we experienced was fantastic, particularly from our host family, the Dhayarathnes, who had experienced many troubles since the tsunami. The man of the house, Dharayathne, is in his seventies. He was, despite his age, forced to return to work in Colombo after the tsunami. Due to distance, costs and poor travel conditions his visits home were limited to once a month. His wife, Batlinn, and daughter, Nilmini, lived in the house. Nilmini runs a clothes production factory out of a spare room. Her business was destroyed by the tsunami, which severely damaged the house. Her first thought as the water rushed into the house was to throw herself protectively onto one of her sewing machines, but to no avail. She was fortunate to have the help of a local charity to re-start her small business. She too attended our classes and so we were able to communicate quite well. Batlinn, however, had no English, but her constant smile and laughter helped bridge the communications gap. Her cheerfulness prevailed despite the fact that, to support the family, her husband was forced to work in distant Colombo and her son, Janaka, had been forced to emigrate to Saudi Arabia on a seven year contract shortly before I arrived.

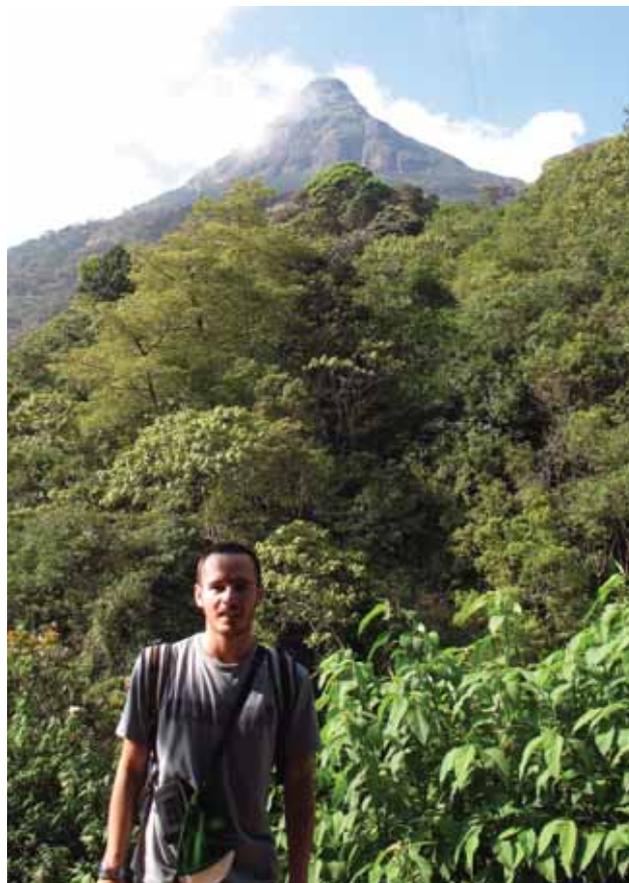
We taught classes for three days of the week and spent the other two days volunteering at a local orphanage, known as Neth Sarana. It was known as the deaf/blind orphanage although most of the children were not orphans, but had been placed there by parents who could not afford to bring them up at home. Most of the children were deaf, and/or had other special needs. Some of the children were blind. The place was in an awful state of repair. I was shocked to learn that many of the buildings had been built by a Spanish charity since the tsunami. They looked about twenty years old, rather than newly built. It raised a lot of questions for me about the administration of the large amounts of money collected all over the world to help the victims of the tsunami. The Spanish charity has been un-contactable since construction ceased. The main living spaces in the orphanage

was mainly unpaved, with rocks jutting out in many places and an open drain running through the middle of the open spaces with waste water running through from the kitchen, showers, dorms etc. Luckily, since we left, construction has begun on a new orphanage on the same site overseen by an English woman who has moved to Sri Lanka and spent much of her own money together with money she has raised in England for this project.

The kids there, despite their surroundings, were hugely affectionate and full of good humour. They loved having their picture taken on digital cameras, as some had never seen a picture of themselves before. Most of our time with them was spent playing games and it was wonderful to see their willingness to take part despite disabilities. We often stocked up on much needed supplies also, such as toothbrushes, soap, aspirins, bandages etc. We were lucky to be there for their school's annual sports day, the week before the Sri Lankan New Year in April, when many of their parents arrived to bring them home for New Year.

## Adam's Peak

New Year was our cue to travel around the country as the classes we were teaching had finished. This allowed us to visit some of the scenic areas in the country, particularly in the interior. The best of these experiences was climbing Adam's Peak (or Sri Pada), a mountain that is one of the main pilgrimage sites in Sri Lanka. It has spiritual importance for the Buddhist majority, as well as for Hindus and Christians. This pilgrimage involved a climb up thousands of steps and seven kilometres over four hours in the middle of the night in order to be at the top in time for the sunrise. Although we were crippled for days after, the beauty of the sunrise more than made up for it. It was like something out of 'Lord of the Rings', looking at surrounding hills peaking up from the clouds.



Cian Higgins, descending from Adam's Peak.



The former capital, Kandy, was very beautiful, as we passed through on our way to the tea-growing region around Nuwara-Eliya. It involved an interesting but short train journey, not for the faint-hearted! In Nuwara-Eliya our taste for "Irish tea" (much of which comes from Sri Lanka) was challenged as we were told "Irish tea is no good!", due to over-processing after it leaves Sri Lanka. Regretfully, since we left Sri Lanka the Civil War has flared up again. Indeed, while we were in the country there were occasional incidents and attacks by the rebel Tamil Tigers throughout the country. One such incident involved a bus bombing close to where Áine was staying with her parents and Cathy during Christmas. There was another incident at the airport as we were getting ready to return home. Our

flight was delayed as the military thought that the Tamil Tigers might be on the way to attack the military portion of the airport. Luckily, we didn't find this out until we arrived in Dublin. I found the Sri Lankans to be a wonderfully hospitable people, always ready with a smile and a welcome. I feel it is such a terrible shame that the devastation wrought by the tsunami and the civil war is damaging tourism and preventing people from visiting this wonderful country. It is my hope to return there sooner rather than later and that they will soon enjoy the peace we are now belatedly experiencing on our own small Island.

*Cian Higgins*

## ***Brackloon Ball Alley - Restored***



*Men at work. L-R: Kevin Devaney, Kieran Dyer, Christopher Waldron, Darragh Sloyan, John Dyer, Denis Sloyan, Gabriel Morley, Dom Murphy, Tom Quinn, Noel Sloyan, Oliver Cribbin.*

On Saturday 4th October 2008 Mass was celebrated in Brackloon Ball Alley to commemorate the recent restoration of this well know local landmark. The Mass was celebrated by Canon Joe Cooney, P.P. After the Mass, a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the founders and deceased members of the community who played in the Ball Alley in the past. Despite the inclement weather conditions, a large attendance was present to witness this historic event.

According to historic records, Brackloon Ball Alley was built in 1914. The site was donated by a local farmer and the Ball Alley was funded and constructed by voluntary local effort. In those harsh economic times, the enterprise and resourcefulness of the local founders was admirable. The Ball

Alley was a thriving centre of sporting and social activity for several decades until it fell into disuse and disrepair in the 1970's. Fearing the imminent demise of such an irreplaceable historic artefact a committee was founded to set about the restoration. The committee was overwhelmed at the positive, generous response it received to its

fundraising efforts. Much of the material was sponsored by local suppliers and the considerable restoration work was carried out by volunteers from the local community. The committee would like to acknowledge all who contributed to make the restoration possible. It is envisaged to publish a commemorative booklet to record the history of the Ball Alley. We would like to invite anyone who has memories or anecdotes they would like to share, to forward their contribution to any of the committee.

It is furthermore proposed to use remaining funds in the construction of commemorative plaques in the local children's burial ground of Brackloon and Tully. On New Year's Day 2009, it is hoped to have a blessing of the children's burial grounds followed by Mass for all un-baptised children buried in the local area. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse.

*Mary Finan*



*A well earned break. L-R: Kevin Devaney, Ray Sloyan, Ben McGinty.*



# *A Very Short History of Ballyhaunis and District*

*To the end of the nineteenth century*

*This article is the basis of the 'Heritage Tour' programme presented by Paul Waldron and broadcast on MWR earlier this year. It deals briefly with aspects of the town and district's history from prehistoric times up to 1900. Though not a detailed account, it may be of interest to those not familiar with the area's history, and may serve as a starting place for those wishing to look into it in more detail.*

## **Landscape and Prehistory**

Ballyhaunis and the parish of Annagh are situated at the very centre of Connacht, on the edge of the central plain of Ireland, on relatively high ground with much of the land over 200 feet above sea-level. Limestone as the dominant bedrock, and there are hills of old red sandstone to the east and south-east. The bedrock is, in most places, buried under a layer of gravel and sand – glacial till – left behind at the end of the last Ice Age, about 12,000 years ago. The local landscape is characterised by many ridges (eskers) and hills (kames) of this material, and a large number of lakes, most of which owe their origin to glacial melt-water. In some of the hollows amongst the hills and ridges, bogs started to grow as the climate grew warmer when the last of the ice had gone. All of the major rivers in Connacht rise, or have tributaries that rise within three miles of the town: the rivers Robe and Dalgan (Corrib system), Suck and Lung (Shannon system), and Glone (Moy system).

The vast range of archaeological sites within five miles of the town attest to a long history of human habitation in this district. These sites include the remains of ancient dwelling places - ringforts, hut sites and castles; many of their burial places, including a sizeable number of megalithic tombs, such as the wedge graves at Greenwood, Raith and Altoir, a dual court grave in Cappagh, and several barrow graves, all dating back to the Bronze age between 1200 and 1900 BC. Saint Patrick passed this way during his mission in Ireland in the fifth century AD, visiting such sites as Holywell, Carrownedan and Aghamore. Church sites dating from the early centuries of Christianity near Ballyhaunis include Kilmullen (Grallagh), Annagh (Churchpark), Kilmannin, Kilonan (Carrownedan) and Kildonnagha (Coolnaha).

## **Medieval times**

One thousand years ago the dominant political force in the area were the various branches of the Ciarraige tribal group, the ruling family of which – the Ó Ceirín clan – had their headquarters around Mannin Lake. Sometime in the late 1200s the Anglo-Normans made their presence felt as Myles de Angulo and members of his family came from County Meath and took over all that country which would later become the eastern end of county Mayo, from Charlestown in the north to Irishtown in the south, including Ballaghaderreen, Ballyhaunis, Knock and Kilkelly. They overthrew the dominant Ó Gadhra and Ó Ceirín clans and built strong stone castles throughout the territory. Eventually they became 'more Irish than the Irish themselves', assuming the surname Mac Goisdéibh, which eventually became Costello – the name by which their territory 'the barony of Costello' also came to be known.

Descendants of the Costellos took on new surnames which were eventually anglicised Jordan, Phillips and Waldron, all of whom had their strongholds within the barony, including Beal Átha Gearr (Lecarrow), Tulrahan, Ballyveal, Raith, Island and Mannin, all in the Ballyhaunis area. Through the

fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the annals record regular warfare between these and neighbouring clans, particularly the McDermotts and O'Flynn's of Roscommon.

The Jordan family, or Sliocht Mac Siúrtáin Dubh, founded the Augustinian Friary in Ballyhaunis in 1348, according to local tradition, though no written reference to it has been found till about 1400. It is said that the Augustinian order generally came to places where there was already an established community of people, so there must have been some semblance of a settlement at Beal Átha h-Amhnas at this time. The origins of that name has been the subject of much study and debate over the centuries. Beal Átha means the ford mouth, but what the last element means is still the subject of debate. Suggestions range from derivatives of 'Abhann', meaning river, or of 'amhnas', said to mean 'strife' or 'plunder'. The site of the Friary was previously occupied by some type of fortress, allegedly associated with the de Barra family: banks and earthworks associated with it are still in evidence in the graveyard and adjoining fields.

## **Dillon Estate**

The greater incursion of the English government into Irish affairs through the end of the 1500s and early 1600s was seen most clearly in the Ballyhaunis area with the arrival of Theobald Dillon in the late 1500s. About the time he came here, in 1585, a report sent to Queen Elizabeth I complained that "...Bellahaunes Abbey amongst all the Abbeyes possessed by either Fryers or rebels, so that her Majesty hath no commodities by the same."

Acting as a broker for the local Gaelic and Old English families – including the Costellos and their kinsfolk - Dillon, through dubious means, amassed an estate of over 83,000 acres in Mayo and Roscommon, including most of the land around Ballyhaunis. Instead of ensuring their title to the land from the Crown, he got it into his own name and the existing landowners became his tenants under English law. His descendants, the Viscounts Dillon, and other branches of the family held onto this property for three hundred years presiding over a vast tenantry of middlemen, subsistence farmers and labourers, many of whom belonged to the families that had been long established in the district.

## **Cromwell, Penal times**

In 1608 the Friary church was 'dismantled' by crown forces, but tradition states that huts were erected along the insides of the walls and the Friars continued saying Mass and ministering to the local community as they had done for the previous 260 years. In 1649 Cromwellian soldiers attacked the Friary and burnt it down. On that occasion too they murdered Fr. Walter 'Fulgentius' Jordan and another unnamed friar who were celebrating Mass in Redpark, three miles outside town.

The Friary complex contained a school, hospital and model farm for many years and served both the spiritual and temporal needs of the local community. The church has occupied the same site since its foundation, though it has been refurbished and embellished over the years. Its plan is said to be typical of many early Anglo-Norman churches comprising a long rectangle (the main aisle) aligned east-west, with a chapel at the west, opening into the nave at the south (in this case), with the conventual buildings on the opposite (north) side. After the church was burnt in 1649 it remained in ruins and



without a proper roof. A simple thatched roof covered a portion of the interior - in the south-west wing - under which mass continued to be celebrated. There are many carved stone items of interest as well as other artefacts connected to the Friary, many of which are on display within the church. The graveyard attached to the Friary contains the graves of many generations of families from the parishes of Annagh, Began and Aghamore in Mayo, and Kiltullagh, Kilkeevin and Loughglynn in Roscommon. During the second half of the 1600s a number of families came to this part of this country on foot of Cromwell's 'to hell or to Connacht' order. Few records exist from the late 17th and early 18th century to account for the ordinary people during this time. Sometime in this era too a small colony of protestant families was established in the Ballinlough area, some of whom settled in Coolnafarna in Annagh parish.

On a lighter note, two well known entertainers spent time in the Ballyhaunis area during this time: Turlough O'Carolan, the blind harper and composer visited the homes of the gentry, and, for a living, composed tunes in honour of some of them, including James Beytagh and his wife of Mannin. Thomas Cassidy, an Augustinian friar better known as An Caisideach Bán was a member of the Ballyhaunis community for some time until he left to become a travelling poet, troubadour and mercenary soldier on the continent. One of his best known compositions is Máire Beal Átha hAmhnais.

The Dillons and other landed families somehow managed to remain Catholic most of the time during the penal times. Even when the then Viscount (by then an absentee landlord) converted to Protestantism in the 1750s, many of his middlemen and agents in the Mayo and Roscommon were Catholic and the effects of the penal laws were not felt as severely here as elsewhere.

### ***Nineteenth century***

The population of Ireland grew steadily through the eighteenth century with the increasing reliance on the potato as the staple food, and the continuing practise of land subdivision, so that by the early nineteenth century the country was over-populated. Catholic Emancipation in 1829 went some way towards giving greater opportunity to the majority of the local population. The Great Famine, between the years 1845 and 1850 halved Ireland's population of eight million, and it is estimated that as many as 1,000 people died in the parish of Annagh during these years. Like many other places little remains in local folk memory of these terrible years - such was the desire amongst those who lived through it to wipe it from memory - but locally known grave sites, along with official documents and letters bear testimony to much hunger, disease and death in and around Ballyhaunis.

Ballyhaunis was a small village up until the early 1800s: it lay at the junction of the Dillon, O'Grady, Knox and Taaffe estates and therefore no one landlord was willing or able to enhance the entire town through planning or elaborate buildings. However, local merchants and speculators, tenants of those landlords, took the lead and built the blocks of two and three storey buildings which still form the four main streets. Many of the occupiers of these let out smaller buildings to the reere of their own to labourer's families and the urban population grew steadily through the nineteenth century. The Friary church underwent the first of several restorations in 1827 under the then prior Fr. Robert Dore. The Post Office opened in Clare St. in the 1830s, a parish church was built (in front of the present parish church) on

Main Street in the early 1840s, and a courthouse and dispensary were established in Knox St. by the mid 1850s. The educational needs of the district were met by a number of hedge schools and at least two 'academies' in the town, with the National School opening in Abbey Street in 1865, and being replaced by a more modern building in Abbeyquarter in 1879.

The Great Northern and Western Railway came through Ballyhaunis in the early 1860s and the station was opened in 1861. The arrival of the railway opened up Ballyhaunis for development, as well as making emigration and seasonal migration an easier option. Earnings from these migrant labourers who travelled to England for the haymaking and harvest, and money sent back by emigrants in the U.S. boosted the local economy. The first bank in the town was the Hibernian Bank in Upper Main Street, which was established in the 1870s. In 1874, with the arrival of the new prior, Fr. James Anderson, the Friary church underwent another restoration. In 1888, under prior Fr. William Doran, the present Priory was built replacing the old three-storey house nearby. After the apparition in Knock in 1879, Ballyhaunis was ideally placed for the thousands of pilgrims who started coming there, being the most convenient railway station on the Dublin side. A busy trade in transporting and catering for pilgrims resulted, and several hotels were opened.

In 1866 the first Races of Tooraree took place, and these held an important place in the local and national social calendar for the next fifty years. The first GAA club in Ballyhaunis was set up 1887 and, having lapsed and been reformed through the years, still fulfils an important social function in the parish.

In 1893 the boundaries of Annagh and Began parishes were re-drawn making the two more sensible and compact units, and leaving the town at the very centre of the new Annagh parish, and not divided between Annagh and Began as it had been.

### ***Turn of the 20th Century***

The Land War, which was given impetus by the Land League meeting held in nearby Irishtown in 1879, culminated in various land acts at the turn of the nineteenth century. The Dillon estate was the first estate in the country to be bought out by the Congested Districts Board in 1899. In the ten years following other local estates, including those held by the Knox, Taaffe, O'Grady and Burke families, were acquired and divided amongst the tenantry who now became owner-occupiers (many of whose successors were still paying back the 'annuities' until the 1970s). The 1901 census - the earliest census of population for which household returns survive - shows Ballyhaunis to be a thriving business town, with an extensive and well populated rural hinterland at the turn of the twentieth century. This is illustrated by the fact that St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, built to cater for the educational needs of the local girls, was opened in that year, while work was just a few months under way on the building of St. Patrick's church, built to replace the old Parish Church which, though only about sixty years old at the time, had become much too small to cater for large population of the parish.

The past hundred years and more have seen a great many changes in the town of Ballyhaunis and surrounding district - too many to account for in the space available here, so this is where we'll finish for the time being.

*Paul Waldron*



# *I Walked Beside the Evening Sea*

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*"I walked beside the evening sea  
And dreamed a dream that could not be  
The waves that plunged along the shore  
Said only: Dreamer, dream no more"*

*George William Curtis, Ebb and Flow.*

It was September 2006 when a dream and a wish came through for me. After 15 years of living in Northern NSW, Australia, my beloved parents, Susan and Paddy Laffey decided to venture over and check out the homestead their daughter and son-in-law Marcus had created in an idyllic sub-tropical part of New South Wales. Until 2006 no amount of gentle (or coercive!) persuasion had worked on convincing my parents that the lifestyle we have is all very civilised and truly worth experiencing. The David Attenborough and Michael Palin versions were no doubt a reality in promoting the outback regions to the world, however, Australia is more than just red earth and sunshine; it has evolved as one of the most diverse, multicultural, vibrant, thriving lifestyles despite its tender age as a developing country. Over the many times of subtle (and not so subtle!) invitations to my parents to come for a visit, I had resigned myself to the fact that such an adventure, my dream, would never eventuate. The constant unfolding conversation about the long flight, the seemingly endless distance to travel, the anxieties around being in a tin box with wings in the sky for so long, compounded by the concern about whether the food would be ok, and the fear of wildlife, snakes, kangaroos, spiders and weird marine life in the ocean, all contributed to a passive resistance in packing a bag and venturing to the southern end of the hemisphere. Surprise and shock when my parents rang me in April 2006 with the news of their intention to finally consider the trip down under. I needed a few days off work to get my head around the concept – my god – they are coming over! So to make sure intentions could not go cold, at the speed of guilt, I set about arranging flights and making out an itinerary that would fill the five weeks. After all, you don't come this far south and not make the most of the wonders Australia has to offer for the adventurous and nervous travellers!

With only 127 days to go, (who was counting!) we lined up the vacuum cleaner, mop, Mr Sheen and Ajax to launch into action for the biggest spring clean in Ocean Shores history! As we deleted the days on the calendar, September 2006 came in a flash, bags were packed, tickets, passports and excitement all ready for the trip of a lifetime. I had arranged that my parents would travel back to Australia with Marcus and I following my sister Sandra's wedding in Mayo in August 2006, thereby ensuring a safe smooth journey with no fears of anyone getting lost at international airports in the excitement. After surviving the labyrinth of chaos at Heathrow airport, the opulence of Dubai and the duty-free dazzling ostentatious yellow gold jewellery of Brunei (and refreshed with a plentiful supply of in-flight hospitality along the way!), the four of us finally landed in Brisbane airport 30 hours after leaving the home sod. With the help of a late night taxi service we made tracks to our home in Ocean Shores, 30kms south of the Queensland border. After a few ham sandwiches and a sturdy night cap, Marcus and I tucked Susan and Paddy off to bed for a good night's sleep to get a head start on the jet lag. My dream had become a reality.

## **Ocean Shores**

The first week was spent nice and gentle to allow lots of relaxed time for the body and mind to catch up as jet lag robs you of your senses - of what's real and what's imaginary. In order to take in all the new stimuli, new home, tropical bird sounds, sunshine and the occasional

snake on the road, a few days sight-seeing and visits around the local area was just the trick. The Aussie Springtime weather came up trumps and provided gentle sunny days with cool pleasant temperatures (around 20 degrees) to allow the bodies to adjust to the brightness of this sunny nation. A trip to Byron Bay was essential to give a scenic overview of the wonderful, majestic Mount Warning Valley in which Ocean Shores nestles in its caldera. Coffee and cakes at the Byron Bay Lighthouse café essential whilst soaking in the views and absorbing the reality of the journey to these shores. Once the local views were sampled, the Aussie beers and wines road tested with the customary snags on the barbie anointed in tomato ketchup, it was time to head for more exciting jewels. My Australian friends had reminded me that all tourists must ensure they see the three "R's" - the Reef, the Rocks and the Rainforest! So first up was The Great Barrier Reef.

A short flight north of Brisbane saw my parents and I land in the seaside town of Airlee Beach, one of the gateways to the wondrous Great Barrier Reef through the Whitsunday Islands. Settled into our comfortable accommodation we busied ourselves arranging cruises to view the reef and all its marvellous chameleon marine magnificence. Out on the reef, we hopped into a submarine which allowed us to drift softly along the ocean floor and we had a close up view of this magical marine world below the clear blue waters of the reef. Everyone slept well that night after all the sea air (dreaming of Nemo and all his friends!). Another day cruise brought us to Hamilton Island and White Haven beach, two glorious islands that are part of the Whitsunday islands. The tropical weather brought out the shorts and sandals and my mum even managed a swim in the crystal clear blue warm water without any encounters with the local marine stingers. A wonderful four days were spent relaxing in and around Airlee beach, and more Aussie beer and fine wines were sampled before we returned for a few days rest again in Ocean Shores, reliving such a memorable adventure with so much colour and surprises – magic moments!

## **Sydney**

Batteries recharged, Marcus and I loaded everyone onto a flight bound for Sydney to explore all the famous tourist spots, not forgetting the Rocks (the first Europeans settled in this area in 1788). An apartment in the centre of the city

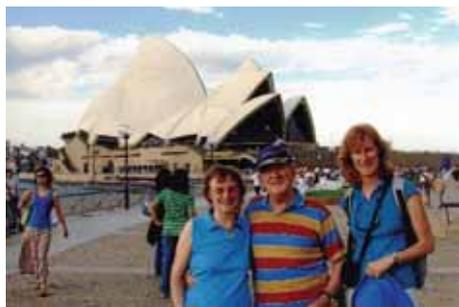
made for the best access to the buses and underground trains that would take us to Sydney Harbour and the ferries. Sydney Harbour and the Opera House were looking magnificent when my parents stepped off the train at Circular Quay. The sight they had witnessed for many years on postcards, calendars and numerous photos was in



*Siobhan Laffey-Gibney and Susan Laffey on top of the Sydney harbour Bridge.*

all its splendour right before their unbelieving eyes ready to be embraced, felt and experienced. Lunch at the Opera House, drinks on the 32nd floor of the Shangri La Hotel overlooking the Sydney skyline, ferry rides to Manly and Darling Harbour and ice cream while sitting on a park bench by the great Archibold fountain in Hyde Park.

The time in Sydney was memorialised by my mother and I climbing the Harbour Bridge early one morning (another dream come true for me). The views from the bridge are magnificent and the experience was one I'll never forget. I was so proud of my mother for



*Susan and Patrick Laffey in front of the Opera House in Sydney.*

embracing the challenge and our photos of the event are treasures I'll hold dearly. While my mother and I were climbing over the bridge my husband had promised to look after my dad.

Apparently a visit to some sports shops in

Kingscross was a highlight followed by a cool drink in the Ice Bar on Circular Quay which happens to be minus eighteen degrees inside! In order to withstand the temperatures, everything is made of ice including the seats, glasses, bar counter and bar tables. There are no signs of skimpily clad waitresses in this watering hole! A range of arctic thermal garments are provided for customers to wear during their stay to ensure you don't get frostbite. You are fitted with a timer worn around your neck which indicates when your half hour is up. To stay any longer runs the risk of hypothermia creeping in!

On the foreshore of the harbour at Circular Quay we came upon an Aboriginal theatre group dressed in tribal costume and painted bodies. They entertained us by singing in their native language to the haunting rhythms of the didgeridoo.

One last look around the Sydney sky line from the Centre Point Tower followed by rehydration in a classic Sydney pub in the Rocks brought this exciting visit to a close. The airport beckoned once more and we headed back to Ocean Shores for a few more days of rest for the tired but excited tourists!

### **Australia Zoo**

Once fully recovered from the Sydney adventure, we packed up again and headed for Noosa in the Sunshine Coast of Queensland to see the vibrant Rainforest. The tropical Queensland weather was perfect for touring the hinterland towns of Maleny, Monteville and the Glass House mountain range, which boasts some of the world's finest rainforest region. No trip to Noosa would be complete without a visit to Steve Irwin's ("The Crocodile Hunter") Australia Zoo. The Zoo is more like an animal safari as all the animals roam around free and those that need to be enclosed have plenty of space to exercise and play. The enthusiasm for animal conservation is palpable as you enter the grounds and the staff oozes with commitment. Their passion and dedication for the day to day hard work that they engage in ensures all the animals are well looked after and cared for and their every need is respected. (I was so impressed with the philosophy of the Zoo and what it stands for that I have since become a volunteer and work there once a month as an animal carer – my farming days in Galway have never left me!). It was the perfect environment for my parents to get up close to all the native Australian animals. A chance to cuddle the koalas, feed and pat the kangaroos, safely observe the beauty of the

native reptiles and watch crocodile feeding time. Within the canopy of the aviary you can walk around inside, feel, see and hear the rainforest birds and marvel at the exciting colours and sounds of some of the most spectacular birds in Australia. These were only some of the special things to do at the Zoo. The tigers and elephants would have to wait until the next visit! Sadly our time in Noosa came to an end after five days so we drove back to the sanctuary of Ocean Shores.

### **Homeward Bound**

Unfortunately, by now the time my parents had left on their visit was running short and departure date was looming. It's amazing how five weeks fly by when you are having fun, laughter and love. The time with my parents was precious as we laughed, chatted, swam, drank, ate and shared warm reflections. One final wish was realised for me when Marcus and I shared a glass of champagne with my parents on the beach near our home where we were married in 2005. The printed word on this paper can never describe the truly unique moment of bringing my parents to that special place on the beach where we all shared a loving hug and a quiet tear and a toast to our collective happiness.

During the last week of our time together we were joined by my sister Sandra and her husband Derek who were touring Asia and Australia as part of their honeymoon. It was magic to have everyone in our home and we made sure to burn the candle at both ends to honour and celebrate this special occasion. I was so proud of my parents for taking the time to travel this far and spend time with Marcus and I, and it was clear from their faces everyday, that the trip didn't disappoint.

On the last week of their time in Australia we consolidated our memories and created photo albums of all their adventures. We packed every moment with precious memories



*Enjoying a cool drink in the Ice Bar in Sydney, Australia, Patrick Laffey and Marcus Gibney, September 2006.*

and reminded ourselves that happiness can be found in the simplest of pleasures, such as time in each others company, living in the moment and appreciating how short our journey through life can be. This is no dress rehearsal so we lived each day to its fullest. Through the five weeks of our time together I came to know my parents on a deeper level and I thanked them for all the loving support they've given me all through the years. As expressed by Jack Kornfield we have only now, only this single eternal moment opening and unfolding before us, day and night.

With the loving support of my brother-in-law Seán, my parents were taxied safely back to Ballyhaunis from Belfast Airport, full of stories and recollections of their wonderful trip (a momentous way to celebrate their 45 loving years of marriage together) - a journey I was so proud they made as it demonstrated their loving support for Marcus and I.

My memories of the occasion are fondly nestled in my heart to be regularly reflected upon when the distance of miles between us becomes a heartache and a longing. Our adventures together have given us a whole new memory to share and relive together each time we go back for our yearly visit.

2006 was a dream come true for me and in the words of my Dad, a fluent Irish speaker, "Is laistigh den grá, tacaíocht agus suaimehneas dá chéile a mhairean daoine" - it is within the love, support and tranquillity for each other that people live.

*Siobhán Laffey-Gibney  
Ocean Shores, NSW, Australia, and formerly Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis*



## Earliest Memories

I always look forward to getting my copy of Annagh Magazine. It keeps you in touch with times present and past. Much of the success of this widely read annual has to be credited to the unselfish dedication of the people who produce it, with editorial qualities second to none; to the many sponsors who, with their unflinching generosity towards the production costs, ensure its longevity; and to all the people who contribute with a marvellous variety of stories and photographs – and all for the benefit of the reader. I am deeply honoured to be given a little space in this issue to add my contribution to the Annagh Magazine 2008.

I was born just outside the perimeter of Ballyhaunis parish, where it runs up by Derrymore, Lassiney, Carrowkeel, Annagh More, Holywell and beyond. My earliest memories go back to the mid thirties, living under the thatch with just the room above, the room below, the kitchen and, of course, the hag. Many of the younger generation will never have even heard of this latter facility called the hag – a small, rectangular ‘cupboard’ just about the size of a bed. It had no door or window; a large curtain sealed the entrance and it was generally used by grandparents as sleeping quarters: very warm and comfortable, with close proximity to the kitchen fireplace.

My father is having a new house erected up on the hill where you can see the horizon full circle, and not exactly the place to be on a winter’s night. I never found out exactly where he got the money. I was aware at the time that there was a loan of eighty pounds from somewhere or other. The rest he had to find himself. I’m absolutely gutted leaving the old house. It’s bad enough having to go to school, but coming home to a new house... well, how much worse can it get?

Confessions on Saturday at one o’clock – another nightmare. I never could see the logic of sending a seven year-old to the church to tell the vicar he stole sugar. That was the favourite sin in them days. Tuam Sugar Factory must have been stretched to the limit manufacturing enough sugar to keep the vicar in a job. Perhaps that was the reason they shut down. I leave school at thirteen and I cry all the way home – tears of joy. Looking back on it, maybe I’m one of the lucky ones. It’s what I should be thanking God that Donogh O’Malley would not be coming on the scene for thirty or forty years.

In the autumn of 1939 the German monster with the short ‘tash is ripping Europe apart. His aim is world domination and he firmly believes it’s his for the taking. My parents have bought a new radio – first ever radio in the village. Neighbours arrive most nights to hear Lord Haw Haw bringing us up to date about the German machine overrunning Poland with irresistible force and brutal atrocity. Apart from one or two air-raids we at home are spared. When the visitors leave we are all down on our knees for the Rosary – at least half an hour praying for peace, fine weather for the crops, with special reference to the pratie crop in case the blight strikes, bringing back thoughts of the Black ’47.

### *A year in college*

The spring of 1941 had all the signs of a good year and, with eight of us in the house, work was only a pastime. One particular day in the summertime of the same year my parents suggested to me that a year in college would do me no harm at all. And, who knows, there might be the makings of a priest in me. Lo-and-behold, after some friendly persuasion, I’m fully convinced that I can turn the collar back-to-front. Just imagine the pride and joy of a family with a priest thrown in for good measure. The whole parish will be congratulating us and, far more importantly, we’ll never see a poor day again.

Early September I’m away for the Sacred Heart College in Ballinafad with strict orders to get off the train at Balla station or only the Lord knows where I’ll finish up. Homesick as I am, I settle in well. I really enjoy doing Latin and find it quite simple. The word ‘amo’, for instance, means ‘I love’; and ‘amas’ means ‘you love’, and so on. Then

one day, rather bored listening to a lecture on Africa and about the lions and tigers we will encounter on the mission field, I make up a little poem in a mixture of English and Latin. It went something like this:

*Amo Amas, I love a lass  
Because she’s tall and slender  
Abo Abis, I’ll give her a kiss  
Because she’s feminine gender*

As I read over my production I just wonder if I could manage another verse and if I don’t make a priest I’ll make a damn good poet. All of a sudden the supervisor is standing beside me with my poem in his claws, and as he walks up to his desk I’m shaking like a leaf and telling myself I’m for the road. Instead of booting me out of the college he compliments me on my poetic tendencies. At the end of term I get top marks on all subjects – a very successful first term with just one flaw: I won’t be coming back with all my clerical aspirations. I’m fully aware that I won’t become a man of the cloth. As I head for the summer holidays it’s good-byes all around, and a special hug for my best pal John Clancy from Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare. Little did I think it would be sixty years before John and I would meet up again, but meet up we did outside Ballyhaunis church. Should I be allowed the space it’s a story worth hearing, and perhaps we will talk about it later.



*Christmas morning, 2007,  
at 10.20 am.*

*John Leneghan and Tony Carney on  
the way down from the summit of the  
Reek, in aid of Vincent de Paul.*

### *Blessing in disguise*

Breaking the news to my parents about my college termination is far easier than expected, and, as it turns out it’s a blessing in disguise. My late mother was laid up quite a lot with poor health and I was given the task of housekeeping. Like all other mothers she had endless qualities - baking, cooking, washing, ironing, knitting, sewing, darning, mending, just to mention a few - and I became an expert under her guidance. I could bake brown bread to die for. Making butter in the old dash-churn was my pride and joy. With a wooden dish and two ridged hand

‘spades’ I could make about ten different shapes of golden butter, each one just enough to cover a slice of bread. Two Rhode Island Red chickens for dinner cooked in the three-quarter oven, with the rendering of the last year’s pig killing, a skib of American Champions ‘taking off their jackets’, a mug of fresh buttermilk each to wash it down, and a whole tableful of people is fortified for eight to ten hours. Just give me twenty minutes and the dishes are back in the dresser; pigs fed, hens, ducks, turkeys, geese – the lot – all taken care of until night.

Off out the fields to add my services to the land army until we run out of work long before night. The full sweet-can of buttermilk mixed



with oatmeal is long devoured and the empty vessel is filled with blackberries: tomorrow's after dinner course will be blackberry pie with a plentiful shake of Sunshine Custard to top it off. Readers can be furnished with recipe for same by applying to the editor. Space in your magazine does not give me the option of covering all the ups and downs of a lifetime, so the best I can do is to scratch the surface. The year 1947 will always be remembered for the crippling snowdrifts that brought the country to its knees. A ten feet high blanket of snow covering everything in sight, temperatures reaching double figures below zero, not one single drop of water to be found anywhere, livestock parched with thirst can be heard lowing for miles around. The thought of paraffin oil running out means no light whatever. Food is not a problem, thank God, because of our ability to sustain ourselves in times like this. No need whatever to go to Ballyhaunis. Short of nothing except water. I will never forget

suggesting to my father we can make our own water. (Now you would put the double meaning twist to it, wouldn't you?). But don't forget, we are dealing with a life or death situation. Boil a large pot of snow and, after topping it up several times, you will have several gallons of boiled water. Doesn't make the best tea, but at least it's liquid and when the system is improved using a large container for melting the snow for animal use, we have our own reservoir. All rights for such invention strictly reserved. Just one hundred years since the Black '47, the threat of the White '47 is beaten with the exception of slippery surfaces. Somewhere towards the end of March I walk to Ballyhaunis for three stone of flour from Austin Jordan's, a gallon of paraffin oil, half pound of tea and four of sugar, and, as I head for home I catch up with Thady Devaney (RIP) with two buckets of water from the well.

*Tony Carney, Bekan Cross*



***Hazelhill Annual Christmas Party Night, 2007***

*Standing, L-R: Moira Noone, Michael Gallagher, Martina Gallagher, Robert Hughes, Stella Hughes, Bridie McDermott, Karol O'Connor, Karen Henry, Christina Knight. Seated, L-R: Milo Henry, Sr. Eithne Nolan, Freddie O'Brien, Bridie Brennan, Sr. Rosario Waldron.*



# Extracts from “The Good Samaritans – Memoir of a Biographer”

I have always said that everyone should write some account of his or her own life, short or long. My grandfather was alive in the Famine. What a treasure it would be if he had written a page about his life? My father got out of America, with his cash, just before the Wall Street crash of 1929. What experiences he could have written about? In recent years I decided to practise what I preached. The book is 260 pages long and consists of chapters on my childhood in Ballyhaunis, boarding in St. Jarlath's College, a seminarian in Maynooth, teaching in Special Education, meeting Daniel Day Lewis, The Samaritans, Losing a first baby, writing eleven biographies and many other stories...

### **Thomas Jordan & Delia Kedian**

My father, Thomas Jordan, was born in Cummer, in the parish of Aughamore, Ballyhaunis County Mayo, on 6 December 1894 to Anthony Jordan and Margaret Murphy from Mountain, Aughamore. They had been married on 14th February 1893. Thomas was one of six children. Urlar Lake separates the family home from Urlar Abbey, founded by the Dominicans in 1400. My mother's name was Delia Kedian. She was born on 11th October 1903 to Patrick Kedian and Margaret Kilkenny of Scrigg. They had been married on 3rd February 1894. Her half brother, Thomas Kedian, a Lance Corporal in the Lancashire Fusiliers, had been killed during the battle of the Somme on the 7th of July 1916. His body was not recovered but he is commemorated on the Ulster Tower at Thiepval. A second cousin of mine, Private Billy Kedian, was the last Irish soldier to be killed in the Lebanon in 2000. The Kedians came from Moneymore, a tiny village about two miles from the town...

### **Street Games**

We played street games of all descriptions. There was no differentiation between the boys and the girls. The term 'street games' is accurate because most of them were played on the street or in a field called the 'Lochán' just off the street. There was little vehicular traffic on Knox Street, so it really belonged to us. Football, hurling, rounders, handball, conkers, tick, fighting, hide-and-go-seek, all had their season. Eamon O'Toole, Teresa Moran, Noreen Morley, John Morley, the Rattigans, the Dillons, and above all Tony Greene, were among my closest companions. During autumn we collected hazel nuts and blackberries from the woods near the Giant's Hollow. This was a symmetrical cavern, the size of a football field, deep within which we played rolling games, yet always ready to escape fearfully, when someone decided to scream that he could hear the giant's steps lumbering towards the hollow. After the October Devotions, which consisted of the Rosary and Benediction, we played with the girls in the bushes in the churchyard...

### **Catholic Boys Scouts**

...The third element of my summer holidays lay with an organisation that played a huge part of my early life. The Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland had a troop in Ballyhaunis since 1942. It was named the 4th Mayo. I was a member for many years. During the winter we met weekly in the Scout's Den to practice a variety of skills. In summer we went on cycling weekends to Cong or Pontoon. We also had a major camp, lasting for a fortnight, in such places as Killarney, Dungarvan, Dublin, Enniscrone, Louisburgh. We usually indulged in the game of cricket during these camps.

The Boy Scouts had an estate in the Dublin Mountains

called Larch Hill. It overlooked the city and at night the vast array of lights resembled the Milky Way to boys from the country. I spent many happy times there, occasionally doing overnight hikes across the mountains. We usually kept a close eye out for the devil, while passing the eerie hulk of the Hell Fire Club. Paddy Forrie from Knox St., John Morley from Kilmannin and the inimitable Seamus Durcan from Abbey St. were the Scoutmasters during my happy time in the 4th Mayo. I attended the Morris Tribunal in late February 2007 to hear Jim Higgins MEP giving evidence. He explained how he had referred to an ex-Garda as a Garda, by saying, "Once a boy scout, always a boy scout". A smile passed my face as I heard a fellow Ballyhaunis man, and a fellow boy scout, refer to an era where he and I, and so many others, had such good times...

### **Introibo Ad Altare Dei**

I spent several years as an altar boy in the Parish Church. It had its advantages. We got to dress up in uniform on a regular basis. When we served at High Mass for a funeral, we often got a shilling from the sacristan or the undertaker. We also got released from school for the morning. The liturgy and ritual of the High Mass was of great beauty. Four priests participated, one of them usually a Friar from the Augustinian Abbey, each standing behind the other on the ascending altar steps. I can still hear Fr. Tom Rushe intoning the 'Dies Irae' with great gusto. We had to learn the Latin responses for the mass. The priest began 'Introibo ad altare Dei' and the server responded, 'Ad Deum quae laetificat juventutem meam'. The 'Stations' were another perk. These consisted of a Mass said in peoples' houses attended by all their friends and neighbours. This was a custom which began during the Penal Days. The Stations were held on a rotational basis, usually in the country. Afterwards there was a meal provided. The servers got a full day off school for the occasion. The Stations happened only at specific times of the year and the priest would announce their location at Sunday Mass. I always thought the names of the villages concerned rather romantic: "Scrigg, Leo and Kiltybo" and "Cave, Togher and Carrowreagh". When Tom Leetch became Head Server he instituted a prize for the 'best server'. My namesake, Jarlath Jordan from Upper Main St., (who is now a neighbour of mine in Sandymount and a daring world traveller) and myself shared first prize

### **All Aboard the Bus for St. Jarlath's**

A big brown suitcase was purchased in Forde's of the Square in which to carry all my new belongings. There were about ten boys from the town going to St. Jarlath's College for the first time. Because most people did not have motorcars, the journey to Tuam was made on the CIE bus, which travelled on to Galway. We waited outside Bertie Curley's shop near the Square for its 08.30 departure. Our suitcases were loaded on to the roof of the bus, where an indented shape gave them a secure hold. The bus conductor then covered them with tarpaulin in case of rain. Hurried goodbyes, some tearful, were made to parents and siblings by the first year contingent. The bus moved off and turned into Bridge St., out under the railway bridge to Devlis and right handed at the fork in the road for Cloonfad. For some it was like going on a picnic but others including myself, were full of apprehension. After passing through Cloonfad, County Roscommon we came to Dunmore, County Galway, where several more boys joined us. Edward Moran of Abbey St. and



Padraig and Seamus Forde of Upper Main St. were in my year.

### **Football Lore**

St. Jarlath's is almost synonymous with Gaelic football. If the place had a soul, it was round and made of leather. Those who played for the college teams were highly regarded by their peers. It was on a circuit of the 'Walks' with two of my class mates, John Geraghty and Enda Colleran, that I was first informed that I had been selected to play for the College Junior Football team, in the first round of the Connacht Championship. The boys from my hometown of Ballyhaunis were particularly vociferous at the news. Only later in the Study Hall did I receive semi-official confirmation. A note was making its surreptitious way to me from the team captain. When it was shoved into my grasp, I opened the lid on my study box and threw it inside. I checked that the Dean was not observing me and then took the note out again and read, "Anthony Jordan is on the Junior Team at left half back; Eddie Geraghty is left full back; Liam Campbell right back, Pat Sheridan is right full-forward, Pat Donnellan full forward. Pass this note on to them". All named were third years. My selection was a sensation, as far as I was concerned. I knew that my family would be proud. But my main thought was one of continuity between my hometown and the county of Mayo, football and St. Jarlath's. I was aware of a great tradition, and now at the age of fifteen, I was part of it.

### **Emigration**

Four out of every five children born in Ireland between 1931 and 1941 emigrated in the 1950s. The main reason for this was that there was little for them to remain at home for. Society was stagnant. The emigrants wanted a future for themselves and their families. Strange to relate, alongside this massive haemorrhage, lived a prosperous business and professional class, who sometimes decried the action of their fellow citizens for leaving. The well-off expected the poor to be satisfied with their lot. Some, such as James Dillon T.D. from Ballaghaderreen, even spoke about restricting emigration to those who could prove that they were going to relatives abroad. Other politicians and officials did not believe that Ireland would ever be able to cater economically for all its citizens. They thought it better that high emigration occurred, so as to preserve the quality of life for those remaining at home.... At one point in the 1960's I would recognise as many natives of Ballyhaunis outside the Holy Name Church in Manchester, as if I was at home. Today there are National Centres for the Orientation of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ballyhaunis.

### **Daniel Day Lewis**

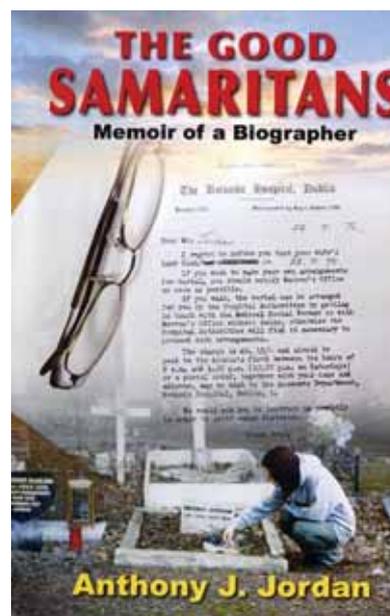
In 1988 a tall man knocked unannounced on the door of my small Principal Teacher's Office at the National Association for Cerebral Palsy Ireland, Sandymount School and Clinic. He gave his name as Daniel Day Lewis and said he was in Dublin preparing to play the role of Christy Brown in a new film. He wished to spend up to six weeks in our school. It was a Monday morning and I was trying to organise my schedule for the day. I did not ask him to take a seat, intending to send him on his way as quickly as possible. There had been several earlier abortive schemes to produce a film on Christy Brown and I was not about to devote any of my time talking about another. I engaged the visitor in a very brief conversation while opening the door to show him out.

### **National Museum, Collins' Barracks**

Early in 2007 the Director of the National Museum, Dr. Pat Wallace, invited me to give a series of lectures on W.T. Cosgrave at Collins' Barracks. These attracted full houses on each occasion and were graced by the presence of ex-Taoiseach Mr. Liam Cosgrave and members of his family. On the last night Mr. Cosgrave spoke and said how pleased he and the family were with my book and the lectures series. They were particularly glad that I had been able to establish that the street named Burke Place, at Ceannt Fort in Rialto, commemorated Frank Goban Burke, who was killed while fighting alongside his step-brother W.T. Cosgrave in the South Dublin Union during Easter Week 1916. A particularly enjoyable aspect of these lectures was that my wife was in attendance. I was also invited by the Military History Society to give a lecture at Griffith College on "W.T. Cosgrave: From Sinn Fein Councillor to the execution cell in Kilmainham" in 2008, when the vote of thanks was proposed by Liam Cosgrave and seconded by Risteárd Mulcahy.

### **Annagh Magazine**

The Ballyhaunis parish of Annagh has been producing a high quality magazine for more than thirty years. It has documented



the local history of people and places and events. I began contributing to it in a strange circumstance. In 1984, to celebrate the founding of the GAA, it carried an article on those people from Ballyhaunis who had won All Ireland medals. My name was omitted by some error. My good friend, Tom McCormack later suggested that I contribute to the following year's issue. I set out to write about what Ballyhaunis, then, meant to me. To my surprise I discovered the answer lay with the

people whom I had known and grown up alongside. Then I had to face the fact that most of those were either dead or no longer living in Ballyhaunis. I was shocked by this discovery.

I have contributed a variety of articles to Annagh during subsequent years and always await its publication with eager anticipation.

*Anthony Jordan*

**Editors' Note: Anthony Jordan's book "The Good Samaritans – Memoir of a Biographer" is available from all good bookshops at €16, or from [westportbooks@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:westportbooks@yahoo.co.uk)**

# Fatal Rescue Attempt

Seventy years ago, on 13 August, 1938, the Connaught Tribune carried the following report:

*While constructing a sewer shaft at Miles Platting, Manchester, Patrick Murphy, a native of Greenwood, Ballyhaunis, lost his life. The deceased was suffocated by fumes while attempting to rescue a labourer who was delayed in the sewer. A third man who went to the rescue also succumbed.*

Paddy Murphy was just 51 when he died alongside his colleagues John Mears, who had been an army sergeant in the Great War, and John Byrnes, a single man who resided with his widowed mother. All three worked for FW Chandler in Albion Street where Paddy Murphy was the ganger-in-charge on the job.



*Paddy Murphy, Greenwood*

On the morning of 28 July 1938 all three arrived to work at 7.30am at the corner of a street of red-brick houses. The sewer shaft was surrounded by a high wooden hoarding. Another colleague of the three men, 60 year old Walter Bellingham, who was described in newspaper reports as a 'veteran miner', arrived at the site first and descended the shaft ladder with a candle. An article in the Manchester Evening Chronicle later that day reported that 'gas had been so prevalent that precautions had been necessary before a descent to the base could be made'. When Walter Bellingham reached the platform, about 35 feet below ground, he was unable to light the candle and, suspecting gas, returned to the surface.

John Byrnes then decided to make his way down the ladder, followed by John Mears. Before reaching the bottom of the shaft, first John Byrnes and then John Mears were overcome by fumes and collapsed. A report in The Daily Despatch next day described what happened next:

Murphy, suspecting that his colleagues were in danger, immediately stepped into the bucket attached to a winch, by which the men were lowered, and went down. He tried to lift one of the men into the bucket but, feeling the fumes having an effect on him, he stepped back into the bucket and signalled for the ascent. When the bucket had travelled six feet he collapsed and fell to the ground by the side of his mates.

A policeman on the beat arrived on the scene and called the rescue services. Chief Officer Drummond of the Manchester Fire Brigade later told the Daily Despatch newspaper that Firemen Thomas and Prince were lowered into the shaft wearing breathing apparatus and roped the three unconscious men in the 'firemen's chair knot' before they were taken to the surface. Two of the men were already dead and Paddy Murphy died on his way to hospital. A large crowd looked on as the men were taken to the surface of the shaft.

John Mears was a married man with two young daughters aged 12 and 15. His heart-broken mother, who lived in London at the time, told reporters: 'When Jack was born his father had just been



*The scene of the fatal accident*

trapped in a mine. He wasn't rescued for three days.' John Byrnes, aged 31, was the sole support of his widowed mother.

At the time of the accident, Willie McDonnell – Paddy Murphy's nephew – of Currisloustia, Ballinlough, was working in Scunthorpe on the morning of 29 July when his landlady arrived with a telegram informing him of his uncle's death. He caught the train to Manchester and later met up with his cousin, Pake Murphy, who had travelled from Ireland to accompany home the remains of his father. In a letter home a few weeks later, Willie described his visit to the scene of the tragedy in Albion Street: 'You could see the shaft bottom very plain. There were two shovels there and two caps, mute reminder of the tragedy which was just over.' He also told about their visit to Wilbert Street Mortuary where the bodies of the three men reposed and, later, the removal of his uncle's remains to the train station to catch the Irish Mail train back to Ireland.

Willie McDonnell kept a copy of the photo of the accident scene, which was published in The Evening Chronicle just hours after the three men died. It shows a group of men looking down into the shaft, where a ladder leans against the side. The arm of a crane juts into the air above the shaft mouth. Two women stand nearby, their shock evident.

Some time after the accident, the family of Paddy Murphy were sent a framed certificate which read: In memory of the heroism of Patrick Murphy, who died as a result of effort to save human life at Manchester on 28 July 1938.



## Acknowledgement

Thanks to Michael McDonnell, Galway, for the use of the photograph of the Albion Street accident scene and extracts from letters of his father, Willie McDonnell.

*The author Patricia Byrne, formerly Patricia Murphy of Greenwood, is Paddy Murphy's granddaughter, and currently resides in Limerick.*



## The Virginian rides into town

*James Drury, Star of "The Virginian", with John Joe Philbin, Tooraree (right) and Conor and Eric Fitzgerald, Erriff.*

# Ireland

The weather, the smell, the culture, everything in Ireland is different. Most of my favourite memories are based around visiting Ballyhaunis. From trips when I was little up until last summer, it's always been something I look forward to.



It's about an hour on the plane from Omaha to Chicago, and then another eight hours on to Dublin. I always dread the plane rides: cold, stuffy air, the horrible food, the continuous low mumble of other passengers, and the awful smell that I can only describe as that of a packed airplane. My mom talks casually with passengers near us and I hear her accent picking up. I make sure to make fun of her for it.

Aunts, uncles and cousins wait for us at the airport; we're always glad to see them. Though I barely have an appetite, our first stop is always the food court. As if we haven't been sitting long enough, we head out in our rental car for Roscommon. Anne is always ready with a big supper, and by that time, I'm ready for some real food. We eat lamb and potatoes. The boys, led by their father, might I add, make sheep noises the whole time at the table and

succeed in winning my portion of lamb. I save room for cake and apple pie. It's back in the car again after supper; Granny is waiting. We talk as Mom and Granny drink tea in the kitchen. By that night, a good sleep is well needed. Sleep never amounts to much on the plane, and with the time difference we've been up and running for a good 24 hours.

Jet lag soon wears off and is replaced by excitement. There are so many people to see and things to do, and only three weeks to get it all in. My entire vacation is surrounded by family and lots of cousins. We jump on the trampoline, ride the four wheelers, and make frequent visits to Giovanni's, the best pizza in Ballyhaunis. We have fun of course, but words like "cell phone" or asking where the "trash can" is, make my sister Martha and I the butt of all the jokes. Stuffing as much food into our mouths as possible, we fill up on potato waffles, sausages, rashers, and lots of McVities chocolate, caramel biscuits (all the things we can't find back in Nebraska).

On other days, we toured the Guinness Brewery and downtown Dublin, climbed Croagh Patrick, and saw the Cliffs of Moher. One summer, we took a ferry out to Clare Island and spent all day on the beach.

Although the plane rides are never fun, visiting Ireland is always something I look forward to. My next two years of high school will fly by quickly, and I hope college will leave enough time for the occasional trip back to Ireland.

*Hannah Mitiku  
(daughter of Bridget, and granddaughter of Maura Griffin)*

## Annagh Members Honoured

On Wednesday night, 21st May 2008, the Annagh Magazine Society held a special evening to pay tribute to four of its members. Maisín Meath, Maura Griffin, Agnes Heaney and Joe Keane have, for many years now, worked on the many different tasks that go into producing the magazine. Their collective life experience, and the extent of their local knowledge are important resources, and ones which all continue to make readily available for the benefit of the magazine, and ultimately of its readership. Not only this but all have worked on the everyday tasks of

sourcing articles, collecting and identifying photographs, proof-reading, collecting patronage fees, distributing magazines, etc. Tributes were delivered by Jim Lundon, Chairman, and the four honoured members were presented with specially engraved Crystal timepieces.

Long may the Annagh Magazine benefit from their wisdom and insight.



*L-R: Maura Griffin, Agnes Heaney, Maisín Meath, Joe Keane*

*The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2009 is Friday, 23rd October 2009.*

*Email: [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net).*

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



## Interesting Extracts

### Brief Personal Notes on Parochial and Other Passing Events

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In last year's 'Annagh' we introduced a document, compiled by Dr. Michael F. Waldron, BA, LLd, of Knox St., in 1953 and entitled "Interesting extracts - Brief Personal Notes on Parochial and Other Passing Events". The extracts are a wide range of events and occurrences relating to Ballyhaunis and district, including cultural, political, religious and sporting events of local, national and international importance; local deaths; instances of extraordinary weather, etc. They are grouped by calendar date from 1st January to 31st December. There are a small number of happenings from the late nineteenth century and the first two decades of the nineteenth century. Local occurrences during the War of Independence and Civil War are listed, but most of the material dates from the late 1930s up to the early 1950s. As it runs to sixty-seven pages of typescript, it would be impossible to reprint it all here in once instalment. Last year we featured those events that took place on dates from 1st January to 30th April. This year the period covered runs from 1st May to 31st August.

#### May

**1st - 1931** - Visited 'holy stone' at Carrowkeel. **1938** - At Knock: blessing of Stations by Most. Rev. Dr. Walsh. **1939** - Mrs. Annie (James) Phillips, Main St., died. **1948** - Proposed Public Reform Society. **1950** - Rather rough and somewhat cold.

**2nd - 1932** - Wiring up of house for electric light supply. **1936** - Martin Devine (aged 88) died. **1944** - Patrick G. Glavey (late Knox St.) died in Castlebar.

**3rd - 1926** - Johnny Griffin died **1929** - Anew MacMaster's Shakespearean Company visit: Hamlet, Merchant of Venice, She Stoops to Conquer, Othello. **1931** - Joe Devaney died; man-hole on James Waldron's land visited; visited Churchpark ruins. **1948** - Mrs. (Broddy) Benson, Main St., died suddenly.

**4th - 1930** - Father Colleran, P.P., inducted by Archdeacon Fallon. **1931** - At opening of (man-hole) cist, James Waldron's land. **1948** - Mrs. Biddy Devaney (Joe's widow) died at Castlebar, aged 92.

**5th - 1942** - Miss Delia Hastings (music teacher, Convent of Mercy), died at Castlebar. **1945** - Irish Art, five days exhibition opened in Vocational School.

**6th - 1932** - Pipes for water supply laid down in house. **1935** - Thomas Cribbin (Lecarrow) collapsed in O'Connell St., Dublin and died. **1936** - Mrs. (Johnny) Carney died

**7th - 1939** - T. Melvin, Ballindrehid died.

**8th - 1926** - Mrs. Michael Freeley died. **1939** - Mrs. Luke Grealy (Anne Waldron), Drimbane died. **1951** - James Duffy & Sons Circus.

**9th - 1902** - First production of "The Land We Love". **1935** - Visited Derryvackna to view skeleton of giant Red Deer. **1942** - Ration books distributed.

**10th - 1943** - Ground covered with heavy snowfall; finished reading the sixteen numbers of Journal of Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, presented by National Museum.

**11th - 1907** - John C. Fitzmaurice died. **1938** - M. Clarke (ex-Station Master, Bekan), died at Aughrim. **1947** - Michael Hoban

(cancer cure man), Brackloon, died suddenly.

**12th - 1946** - Austin Crean, Solicitor and Sheriff, Windsor Villa, died; Pat. F. Murray (merchant), Devlis, died.

**14th - 1939** - Prayers requested for Peter Devine (son of Pat Joe) who died in Chicago. **1942** - Mrs. Peter Fitzmaurice (Maggie McGarry) died at Scrigg.

**15th - 1926** - William J. Waldron, Aghamore, died. **1931** - Mrs. M. M. Waldron died. **1943** - Francis Clarke, Gurteen, died. **1951** - Fawcett's Circus. 1952 - Mrs. Pat Tighe, Main Street, died.

**16th - 1941** - Paddy Carney (Kiltimagh), Michael's eldest son, died.

**17th - 1935** - Paddy Cunningham (dentist) died. 1944 - Outbreak of fire at Paddy Kenny's, Knox Street, 4 p.m., little damage.

**18th - 1944** - Report of shocking burning tragedy in Kiltimagh - eight lives lost.

**19th - 1914** - Tommy Freeley died; 1948 - Tommy Caulfield, Upper Main St., died.

**20th - 1888** - Pat Fitzmaurice (Togher) aged 82, died (according to inscription on tombstone). **1926** - Mrs. Ed. Murray, Devlis, died.

**21st - 1949** - Mrs. ("Spud") Murphy, Knox St., died. 1951 - John P. Doris (brother of William and P.J. "Mayo News") died in Dublin.

**22nd - 1896** - M. A. Waldron, Main St., died. **1946** - Ellen Finnegan (Mrs. J. Devaney) died.

**23rd - 1939** - Read paper at Librarians' Congress (Castlebar).

**24th - 1936** - Fine Gael meeting (very small): J. Fitzgerald-Kenney, J. Dillon, Mt. Nally. **1941** - Mrs. Molly Flatley (nee Smyth), Main St., died. **1942** - William A. Flynn, R.M., (son of William Flynn), died at Sydney, Australia.

**25th - 1919** - Johnny Gilmore, Knox St., died.

**26th - 1937** - May Dillon (Mrs. Conway) died at Castlereagh. **1938** - Ascension Thursday: Mrs. B. Glavey, Knox St., died. **1940** - Mrs. O'Loughlin (Kate Devine, Mrs. Harry McConville), died at Ballyvary. **1945** - Mrs. Dillon (Kite), Devlis, died after arriving from Dublin hospital.

**27th - 1900** - First meeting of New Church Committee. **1921** - Patrick Boland, Cloongownagh, shot. **1924** - First wireless concert given (P. Hayes). **1950** - Barney Lynch, Main St., died this evening; Derby race: Galcador 1, Prince Simon 2, Double Eclipse 3

**28th - 1946** - Michael Dillon (son of 'Parker') died in Castlebar. **1950** - Whit Sunday: Chancellor Prendergast addressed Congress, first time since accident six months ago; week's carnival opens with Rag - Foxford Brass Band leading. **1952** - The Derby - Tulyar 1st, Gay Time 2nd, Fauburg II 3rd

**29th - 1938** - Procession B.V.M. took place in torrential downpour.



**1948** - Mrs. Flatley, N.T. (Lieutenant's wife), Main St., died.

**30th - 1944** - (Tuesday) Polling for general election. **1946** - Mrs. (Barney) Lyons, Bridge St., died in Dublin, buried in Lucan. **1951** - (Wednesday) Polling for general election, (warm day); Derby race: Arctic Prince 1, Sybil's Nephew 2, Signal Box 3.

**31st - 1941** - Sensational reports of Dublin bombing. **1943** - Eddie Phillips (19), Barrack St., died as result of insect sting.

## June

**1st - 1921** - Turf boycott. 1923 - (Friday) Mark Waldron Jnr. Died.

**2nd - 1939** - Bronze Age found (sic) by John Keane, Arderry, Aghamore, delivered by Harry Dillon. **1940** - Eucharistic Procession. **1942** - Mrs. Thomas Rattigan (nee Lyons), Upper Main St., died. **1949** - Paragraph in Western People (4th dated) suggesting academy.

**3rd - 1934** - Corpus Christi Procession (Letterfrack band, etc.). **1945** - Corpus Christi Procession (Ballaghaderreen band). 1946 - Ordained yesterday, Father John Lyons (St. Patrick's College, Carlow); celebrated his first Mass here. **1951** - Eucharistic Procession, very warm day, Tuam Brass Band.

**4th - 1866** - First races over old Tooraree course. 1939 - Representative meeting in outer Church sacristy in connection with building of Parochial Hall; meeting at Friary to discuss local Museum project. 1948 - Mrs. Flanagan ("Cape of Good Hope"), Main St., died in Dublin. **1949** - Derby: Nimbus 1, Amour Drake 2, Swallow Tail 3.

**5th - 1922** - Attack on Ned Webb's house. 1933 - Boxing tournament (Italy v. Ireland). 1938 - CYMS conference in Dublin (three days). **1939** - Deputation to interview town residents in connection with Parochial Hall. **1948** - Derby race: My Love 1, Royal Drake 2, Noor 3.

**6th - 1948** - Open air Eucharistic Procession abandoned, heavy rain. 1950 - Listened to World Championship fight: Woodcock (Br.) Savold (U.S.); Woodcock retired fourth round.

**7th - 1941** - Austin Lanigan brought in ancient sandal dug up in Cave bog. **1942** - Eucharistic Procession (Ballaghaderreen band). 1945 - Mrs. Tommy Ruddy (nee Walsh), Upper Main St., died.

**8th - 1941** - Tom Greene (John's father) died last night in Carrowrea; first visitation of Archbishop Walsh: sermon after High Mass. **1942** - Funeral of Sergeant Moran (native of Coolnafarna), died in Roscommon Hospital. **1947** - Eucharistic Procession, very blustery, thirteenth year canopy bearer.

**9th - 1927** - General Election. **1930** - Johnny Kenny's premises burnt down; Athlone fire brigade brought in (Whit Monday). **1935** - Father Michael Owens (C.C. Knock) died in Dublin. **1941** - Forwarded to National Museum an ancient sandal found by Austin Lanigan while cutting turf on Cave bog, June 7th **1951** - Jeserich's Circus.

**10th - 1927** - Counting votes begins in school-room. **1947** - John Kelly, Brackloon South, reports finding on Saturday last of two wooden vessels in bog. **1950** - Visit of John Duffy & Sons Circus, Fair Green.

**11th - 1938** - Archbishop Gilmartin visitation; "Parker" Dillon died. **1944** - Outbreak of fire in Pat Tarpey's, Knox St. (2.30 am), little damage; Eucharistic Procession. **1948** - Bishop J. L. Heavey (Cairns, N. Queensland), aged 80, died. **1950** - Eucharistic Procession, brilliant sunshine, very warm; after Procession and Benediction, Chancellor Prendergast addressed congregation and announced that St. Patrick's Church would be consecrated in October - the first in Archdiocese.

**12th - 1936** - Mrs. Paddy Mulligan (nee Egany) died. **1938** - Archbishop Gilmartin preached (Sunday). **1940** - Ned Murphy (Fr. Jarlath's brother-in-law), Main St., died.

**13th - 1927** - Returns of elections declared. **1930** - (Friday) visited Roscrea (with Michael Carney). **1934** - Pat Doyle died. **1935** - Ned Mitchell, Knox St., died. **1939** - Completed town collection for Parochial Hall. **1943** - Whit Sunday: Anthony Morley Jnr, Knox St. (Tony's son), aged 36, died; two electioneering meetings: Fine Gael (Messrs. Fitzgerald Kenney, Martin Nally, J. J. Ruane) and Clan na Talmhan, farmers with band and banners (Messrs. Blowick, Commins and Cafferkey). **1948** - Feis opened by Dr. McCann (Dublin), brilliant weather.

**14th - 1934** - Patrick J. ('Joe') Carney died. **1940** - News of fall of Paris (288th day of war).

**15th - 1927** - Miss Annie Sweeney died suddenly. **1939** - Mrs. MacLean (Ellen Lyons) died, Chapel St. **1942** - Dr. Duignan (National Museum) visited district.

**16th - 1929** - Ned Webb died. **1935** - Eucharistic Procession (Letterfrack Band). **1945** - Thomas Kilkenny (Maguire), Falleighter, Aghamore, brought in bronze axe. **1949** - Corpus Christi - Most Rev. Dr. Leetch preached at 11.30 Mass.

**17th - 1921** - Attack on R.I.C. barracks. **1922** - Pat Smyth died. **1929** - Mrs. William Murphy died. **1934** - Blessing of Boy Scout colours. **1940** - News of surrender yesterday of French Army (291st day of war).

**18th - 1921** - Round-up by military; trench filling; curfew from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. **1931** - Work on public water supply started. **1939** - Eucharistic Procession (Salthill band). **1951** - Richard J. Bennett, Hollymount, journalist, died in Castlebar hospital.

**19th - 1942** - Johnny Daly (son of Ned) died in Castlebar hospital. **1949** - Eucharistic Procession, sultry day.

**20th - 1932** - Garret Dillon died. **1946** - Erection of steel framework for Clare Street Cinema begun, Corpus Christi. **1948** - Week's Carnival opened with Rag; Augustinian centenary.

**21st - 1949** - Midsummer Day, sweltering heat.

**22nd - 1925** - Returned from Dublin. **1927** - Father Molloy, P.P.



Aghamore, died. **1940** - German-French Armistice. **1941** - Eucharistic Procession (Ballagherreen band); report of Germany's invasion of Russia. **1950** - Miss Catherine Grealey (Canon Grealey's sister) died at Eaton's, Main St.

**23rd - 1933** - Father Collieran, P.P. (three years here) died (Friday). **1935** - First Ballyhaunis broadcast (St. Patrick's Church Choir, Prof. W. Atherton, organ). **1936** - Jim Fleming, Pollnacraoaghy, died. **1946** - Eucharistic Procession; Rev. Jarlath Waldron, ordained in Maynooth; wooden vessel found by James Cribbin in Togher bog brought in.

**24th - 1940** - Italian-French armistice. **1946** - Bill Hayden (ex-railway official), Devlis, died. **1950** - Fr. O'Donohue O.S.A. (five

(Gilmartin) triennial visitation. **1947** - John T. O'Farrell N.T. (Sean Ó Fearghail), asst. Derrylea, died. **1952** - Philip Waldron died at Feakle, Co. Clare; buried there.

**29th - 1922** - Feis (Thursday). **1930** - Visited Dunamon Feis and Castle. **1931** - Patrick Morley died (between 6 and 7 p.m.). **1935** - Archbishop Gilmartin preached in St. Patrick's. **1939** - Aeridheacht and Exhibition (Mr. T. Derrig, Minister of Education, present). **1942** - Tim Keane, Main St., died in Castlebar. **1943** - Feis (commemorative of 1903); Senator Buachalla, Fr. Prendergast etc. **1944** - Feis opened by Archbishop Walsh (evening very wet).

**30th - 1923** - (Saturday) Address presented to President Cosgrave when passing through (accompanied by Kevin O'Higgins and P. J.



*Pat Glavey (left) and Dr. Michael F. Waldron – both of Knox St. – with a keg of butter found at Pollnacraoaghy, 1934.*

years here) died in Cork.

**25th - 1942** - At funeral of Mrs. Jennings, Knock. **1944** - Visitation of Archbishop Walsh, sermon etc.

**26th - 1936** - Pat Haugh, Clare St., died. **1938** - Eucharistic Procession postponed to 5 p.m. owing to downpour. **1949** - Feis in Convent grounds.

**27th - 1937** - Pilgrimage to Killarney, venue of C. T. S. Congress; two bus loads (eighty) left here 6 a.m. **1943** - Mrs. Michael Lyons, Upper Main St., died; Eucharistic Procession, sweltering heat. **1948** - Week's carnival concluded.

**28th - 1926** - M. C. ('Sonny') Delaney died. **1935** - Archbishop's

Hogan) to Claremorris meeting; John Hunt's remains arrive from Dublin. **1927** - Mrs. P. J. Waldron died, about 2 a.m. **1946** - Feis (opened by Senator Buachalla), Chan. Prendergast, Maire Ni Scolaighe; Mrs. Anne Cribbin (relict of Thomas), Togher, died.

### July

**1st - 1930** - Mrs. Davitt died. **1941** - Willie Lavin died in Castlebar. **1942** - Very Rev. P. J. Flynn, P.P. (native of Ballyhaunis), Aughrim, Co. Roscommon, died. **1944** - P.D. Kenny ("Pat") died on roadside between Aghamore and Kilkelly (84 years).

**2nd - 1929** - "Dasher" (John) Glynn died. **1939** - Antiquarian and art exhibition closed (four days on). **1943** - Appointment of Fr. Prendergast P.P. as Chancellor etc.: announced in Press. **1948** - Patrick J. Tarpey, Knox St. died (89).



**3rd - 1883** - "Western People" first appearance. **1939** - Ned O'Malley, Knox St. died. **1946** - Forwarded to National Museum wooden object (Togher) and stone.

**4th - 1929** - Mrs. 'Mam' Doogan died. **1936** - Mrs. Mary Biesty, Knox St. died.

**5th - 1929** - Jack Loughlin died.

**6th - 1934** - Forwarded to museum: bog-butter firkin, wooden shoe and mether. **1947** - Mrs. Higgins (Lena Kenny) died in Castlebar. **1951** - Tenants begin to occupy Tooraree new (£30,000) eighteen cottages. **1952** - Violent lightning and thunder storm (5 p.m. to 7 p.m.), no damage.

**7th - 1939** - Brought in quern found by John Forkan, Aghatharn, Aghamore, and subsequently visited Urlaur ruins (Paddy Carney, Kiltimagh with me). **1940** - Defence meeting in Square (Fr. Prendergast, P.P., chair; Messrs. Martin Nally, M. O'Cleary and R. Walsh TDs spoke). **1949** - Second Gymkhana (James Waldron's field).

**8th - 1941** - Mrs. Duffy, Devlis (wife of E. Duffy, baker) died. **1952** - P. J. Rattigan ("Bawn"), Pollnacraoghy, died.

**9th - 1921** - Curfew off. **1938** - Mrs. Julia Gilmore (Knox St.) died. **1950** - At funeral of Mrs. Carroll, Erritt (mother of Mrs. M. J. Waldron), 92 years.

**10th - 1927** - Redemptorists open Mission (Fathers Collier and Curran); news of the murder of Kevin O'Higgins (said to have taken place this morning). **1942** - Mrs. Mary A. Swift, ex N.T., Kincora house, died aged over 90.

**11th - 1934** - Visited Began Lake to inspect old canoe. **1942** - Miss Mary Grogan, Main St., died. **1943** - Installation (by Dean Daly, P.P. Claremorris) of Fr. Prendergast as Chancellor of Archdiocese; Fr. Michael Fitzmaurice and Fr. J. Buckley O.S.A. ordained Rome. **1948** - Visit of Fawcett's Circus. **1952** - Newspaper strike begins.

**12th - 1921** - Markets re-opened. **1949** - Dr. Douglas Hyde died (89); very sultry day; remarkable rainbows (10 a.m.). **1952** - No papers owing to printers strike.

**13th - 1924** - (Sunday) Sports.

**14th - 1923** - (Saturday) Tommy Ruddy died.

**15th - 1942** - Assisted town collection for Vincent de Paul conference. **1945** - Sports (N.A.C.A) etc. **1951** - Very Rev. P. Joseph Carney (Kansas, U.S.A.) native of Ballindrehid, celebrated last Mass (11.30 a.m.) here.

**16th - 1895** - Mrs. Pat Fitzmaurice (nee Ellen Kilkenny), Togher, aged 80, died. **1937** - Mrs. Martin Fahy (widow of Martin Fahy, N.T.) died at Maynooth, buried in New Cemetery. **1948** - Mrs. Duffy (late of Crossard, 72) died at Garvey's, Knox St.

**17th - 1941** - Fire in Dom and Tommy Moran's, Knox St. **1948** - Mrs. John (Rose) McNamara, Clare St., died.

**18th - 1930** - Pat Deignan died. **1937** - Mrs. Donnellan (daughter of Martin Fahy N.T.) died at Maynooth, buried in Castlereah. **1945** - Miss Ronaldson (County Librarian) visited to discuss proposed exhibition at Castlebar.

**19th - 1927** - Tom Morley died. **1933** - Left for Lough Derg pilgrimage. **1942** - Mrs. Pat Freeley, Main St. died. **1946** - Miss Lizzie Grealy, Knox St. died.

**20th - 1939** - Father Mansfield, O.S.A., after nine years here, left for London. **1946** - Fatal accident to Kathleen Prendergast (10 years) in sewerage.

**21st - 1923** - Mrs. Waldron (Clare St.) died suddenly. **1946** - Mayo defeated by Roscommon (6pts - 1 g, 4 pts) in Ballinasloe.

**22nd - 1922** - (Saturday) Republican forces evacuate town. Attempt to burn barracks. Railway bridge at mill blown up. Great excitement. Free state forces (National Army) enter from Ballinlough and occupy town amid scenes of wild enthusiasm; arrests. **1934** - French amateur boxing team's visit.

**23rd - 1922** - National forces move on to Claremorris (Sunday evening) leaving a garrison. **1944** - Opening of step-together week, sports etc.; Tom Kennedy (Pat's father) died at Devlis.

**24th - 1927** - Close of Mission. **1933** - Visited Feamore tumulus, Larganboy and Carrowedan caves. **1949** - Visited family graves in old and new cemeteries; dog races in Hazelhill (Br. Byrne's field).

**25th - 1944** - Step-together week, question time.

**26th - 1942** - Sister Mary Imelda (Lily Coyne) died at Westport.

**27th - 1930** - Croagh Patrick pilgrimage; visited Murrisk Abbey etc., Papal Nuncio in Westport. **1947** - Transfer of Fr. Hugh Curley to Headford as P.P. announced by Chancellor at last Mass.

**28th - 1924** - Thomas Rattigan died. **1936** - Flaherty broadcast. **1940** - Unveiling of St. Patrick's statue at Kilonan (Mannin) by Rev. M. Carney P.P. **1942** - Visit of John Duffy & Sons' circus (some rather good turns). **1950** - Mrs. Walsh (Mrs. Mullins' mother), Hazelhill, died, advanced age.

**29th - 1929** - (Monday) Visited with B. Dolan, Island ruins (home of "Myles Bacach") and Ogham stone on Freely's land. **1942** - Chris Clinton Jnr. Carrowrea, died.

**30th - 1921** - Mrs. James O'Malley died. **1928** - Mrs. P. J. Neary died. **1947** - Valedictory visit of Fr. Curley, C.C. **1952** - Joe McWeeney, Main St., died.

**31st - 1947** - Tom Carney (Ballindrehid) died in Galway - **1947**

## August

**1st - 1920** - Pattern at Holywell. **1927** - Races over new Tooraree Course. **1949** - Called inquiring about relatives, John M. Burke, 311 Concord Ave., Lexington, Mass, U.S.A. **1951** - Galway Plate: St.



Kathleen II (1), Alberoni, 2, Dolphin, 3.

**2nd - 1920** - British military attacked at Holywell. **1937** - Austin O'Malley died at Castlebar. **1942** - At Parish Council meeting suggested cultivation of mustard. 1947 - Patrick O'Reilly, Main St. died in Sligo. **1950** - Galway Plate: Derrinstown 1, Whale Harbour 2, Homer Gray 3.

**3rd - 1904** - Mr. T. D. Sullivan addressed important letter on Irish question. **1949** - Mrs. Johnston (relict of Ned), Waldron's Terrace, died. **1952** - Severe attack (gastritis etc., etc.), Dr. McDonagh and Kelleher called in.

**4th - 1920** - The Holywell Ambush. **1940** - Parish Council formed (Very Rev. G. J. Prendergast in chair; Mr. Commissioner Egan, Secretary, Co. Council, present); Orlar Pattern day, very wet and windy.

**5th - 1905** - Anthony Morley died. **1923** - Public meeting addressed by Messrs. William Sears T.D., Desmond Fitzgerald T.D., etc. **1932** - Public lighting system formally opened. **1950** - Funeral of Miss Nora Waldron (Fr. Paul's sister), died in Dublin.

**6th - 1933** - Rev. G. Prendergast inducted P.P. by Canon McHugh. **1944** - Golden Jubilee of Sacred Heart Solidarity, Silver Jubilee of Pioneers: Dr. Walsh, Archbishop, present; message from the Pope. **1945** - Work on new sewerage system commenced.

**7th - 1928** - George Lyons died in Dublin. **1938** - Most Rev. Dr. Leech (USA) preached in St. Patrick's Church.

**8th - 1921** - First cattle fair since St. Patrick's Day. **1941** - At Mercy Convent, Tuam, Sister John Flynn (daughter of William Flynn, sister of Fr. Michael Flynn, native of Ballyhaunis, Vincentian) died.

**9th - 1947** - Mrs. Winifred Murphy, Main St. (mother of Fr. Murphy, sister of Fr. Jarlath) died.

**10th - 1936** - Visited Greenwood cromlech etc., with U.S.A. tourists. **1946** - Mrs. Taaffe (sister of P.J. Caulfield), Knock, died.

**11th - 1938** - Mrs. (Pat) Duignan died. 1941 - John Duffy & Sons' Circus, some good turns. **1950** - Pat Keane (father of Michael Keane), Annagh, died.

**12th - 1927** - Left for Lisdoonvarna with S. **1942** - Father O'Flynn OSA (84?) died. 1944 - James ("Jim") Rattigan died at Castlebar. **1946** - Funeral of Mrs. Taaffe (nee Caulfield), Knock.

**13th - 1935** - Pat McNamara died (at Castlebar). **1938** - John Lyons (rate-collector) died on way home from Dublin hospital. **1939** - Mrs. Campbell (Abbeyquarter) died.

**14th - 1923** - John Waldron, Knox St. died; Miss Mary McSweeney and others hold public (election) meeting. **1944** - Mrs. Catherine Byrne, Johnstown (Ed. Biesty's mother-in-law) died suddenly. **1948** - Statue of B. V. erected in memory of Canon Canning. **1949** - Mayo v. Meath football: Meath 3-10, Mayo 1-10. **1950** - Jill Roche (John Roche's daughter), National Bank, died in Dublin.

**15th - 1942** - Sister Mary Angela Flynn, Mercy Convent, Tuam, died. **1946** - International Boxing (French-Irish) in Friary Grounds.

**1949** - Mrs. (John) Delaney, nee Judge, died suddenly in Roscommon.

**16th - 1943** - John Duffy & Sons' Circus (in Friary Field). 1948 - Mrs. Michael Loftus, Knox St., died at Castlebar.

**17th - 1942** - Miss Margaret Doyle (84), Main St., died.

**18th - 1945** - Carmel Durkan, Abbeyquarter (John's daughter) died.

**19th - 1922** - Mrs. Anthony Morley died.

**20th - 1927** - Returned from Lisdoonvarna. 1933 - Jim Lydon died. **1946** - Mrs. John Glavey, Knox St. died.

**21st - 1879** - The first wonderful Apparition in Knock Chapel. **1922** - Jim Henry died this morning. **1938** - Visited Holywell, Greenwood cromlech and Island ogham stone with Mr. and Mrs. Parmentier (USA). **1949** - At dog races in Hazelhill.

**22nd - 1922** - Sentries disarmed at Moylett's Corner and fired on. **1939** - Went to Galway (stayed till Sept. 2nd). **1946** - Father Jarlath, O. Cist, visited Ballyhaunis (Mrs. Glavey's funeral). **1952** - Dominick Regan, Cave (oldest man in parish - 101) died.

**23rd - 1941** - Father John M. O'Reilly, C.C. Bekan, died in Castlebar hospital.

**25th - 1940** - Visited Urlaur (Rev. G. J. Prendergast, P.P. and Fr. Cassin, C.Ss.P). **1949** - At Horticultural Show (very sultry day).

**26th - 1923** - Athletic Sports. **1943** - Horticultural Show and Farm Produce (in Vocational Schools). **1952** - Lord Dillon and two children (Charles and Lady) called on way to Loughglynn.

**27th - 1923** - General Election polling. **1942** - Visited demonstration plot at Vocational Schools. **1952** - Paddy Kenny, Knox St. died.

**28th** - St. Augustine's Day, Pattern. **1923** - Miss Delia Waldron, Main St. died. **1930** - Mrs. Tom Flanagan died. **1932** - (Sunday) Opening of Abbey Carnival and Bazaar (three days). **1938** - (Sunday) Ceremonies of blessing Altars etc. in restored church; sermon by Fr. O'Driscoll (OSA); sports. **1942** - Searched through old school records for material.

**29th - 1949** - Sports in Friary grounds. **1952** - Tenth Horticultural Show.

**30th - 1945** - Horticultural Show at Vocational School. **1952** - Papers today, after seven weeks strike (July 12th - Aug. 30th).

**31st - 1941** - Sports, Pattern, Open air competitions etc., Augustinian Grounds. **1942** - John Leonard, ex. County Council, Brackloon, died in Castlebar hospital. **1944** - Horticultural Show and Home Produce. **1947** - August a brilliant month, harvest prospects bright. **1950** - Eight Horticultural Show, very fine, warm day. Dr.

Compiled by Dr. Michael F. Waldron

# My Memories of Joe Dolan

The first time I got to know the late great Joe Dolan was through working in Midas Nite Club (now Monsoon).

I remember clearly the first time I met Joe, to tell you the truth, I was a bit overawed, but after meeting him, I found him to be a simple and down-to-earth man - for someone who performed in places from the old Soviet Union, to Las Vegas, to South Africa. He told me on many occasions how he loved playing in the West of Ireland, and especially Ballyhaunis. He loved the people that came to see his show. He said money didn't matter to him: it was to see people smiling and being happy at his shows that pleased him most.

I recall on the occasions he performed here in Ballyhaunis in the Midas Club, the roadies would arrive at 5pm to set up the gear. My job was to be there to let them in. I have fond and good memories of cooking for them in "The Green Parrot Restaurant" which was adjacent to the Midas Club.

The roadies would have the gear up for 8pm and Joe, his brother Ben and the rest of the band would arrive at 8.30. I would then lock the doors. Joe and the band would do a sound check which would last an hour or so. I was kept busy helping them get ready for the night's performance. The rehearsal would last until Joe was completely happy that everything was right, and if it wasn't he would stop and start again - he was a true professional.

## Magical Moments

I will always remember Joe singing some of his hits, with no one in the hall only ourselves - magical moments which I will never forget. After the sound check, Joe, his brother Ben and the band, with the roadies, would sit around a table and the game of poker would start. Before the game would start, Joe would come over to me and say "Jimmy, would you make the tea for the lads". He was a man that never forgot to look after the people who worked with and for him.

When the doors would open (we would have to open them earlier than usual on account of all the people queuing outside), inside half an hour the hall would be full,

such was the attraction of Joe Dolan playing in the Midas Club, Ballyhaunis.

From the time Joe started his show with "You're such a good looking woman", to his singing the last song "Goodbye Venice Goodbye", he would always put his heart and soul into it, and into every performance he put on in the Midas Club.

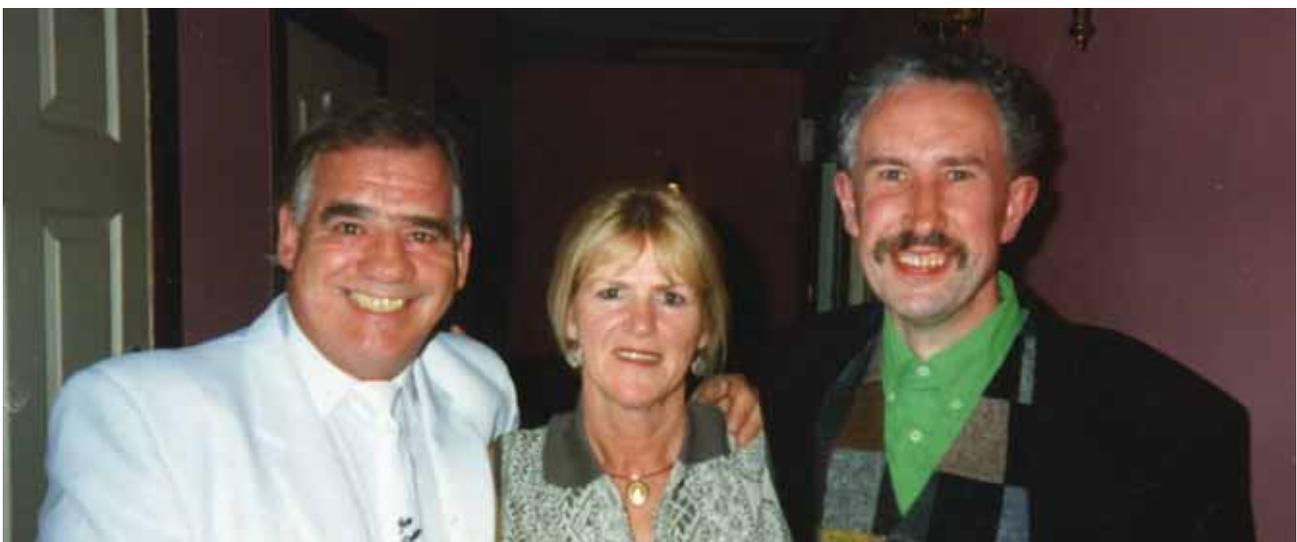
I attended the funeral of Joe in Mullingar last year. Such was his popularity that when I arrived at the Cathedral in Mullingar I just got into the porch, because the church was full - and this was at 10.30 in the morning and the Mass wasn't until 11am.

God bless you Joe - you will always be remembered in Ballyhaunis!

*Jimmy Fleming*



*"There's no show like a Joe show"  
Joe Dolan performing in Midas Nite Club, Clare St.,  
Ballyhaunis.*



*Joe Dolan with Kitty and Jimmy Fleming.*



***Leap year Triplets***

*Maggie Healy, formerly of Ballindrehid, with her husband Seamus Kelly and their triplets, James, Catherine and Mark who were born on 29th February 2008.*



***Main Street Kids New and Old, taken in the old Fair Green, 5th Sept. 2007***

*Front, L-R: Cathal Phillips, Ruby Phillips, Lucy Phillips, Tara Finn, Sean Finn, Oran McNulty, Mia Phillips, Keeley Finn (holding Siomha McNulty), Charlie Phillips. Back, L-R: Dean Koller (holding Charlotte Koller), Philomena Koller (nee Phillips), Patricia Finn, Robert Finn(at back), Jo Lise Finn, Cathy McNulty (nee Phillips).*



***Bekan IFA Committee, Dinner Dance, 1963***

*Back, L-R: Joe Lyons, Mattie Healy, Johnny Hennelly, Christina Carney, Tony Carney, John Naughton. Seated, L-R: Seamus Tarpey, Helen Tarpey, Fr. Kieran Waldron C.C., Eleanor Forde, Seamus Forde.*



***Gurteen Annual Christmas Party Night, 2007***

*Standing, L-R: Pat Freeley, Pat Phillips, Michael Brennan, Seamus Mulrennan, Maud Henry, Mary Mulrennan, Albert Madden, Donal Moran, Jarlath Henry, Marie Henry, Michael Henry, Jacinta Flynn, Mary Freyne, Michael Flynn, Bernard Freyne, Martin Brennan, Liam O'Boyle. Seated, L-R: Anne Phillips, Mary Henry, Rita Madden, Martin Keane, Carol Keane, Marian Prendergast, Orla Moran, Marie Brennan, Brid O'Boyle.*

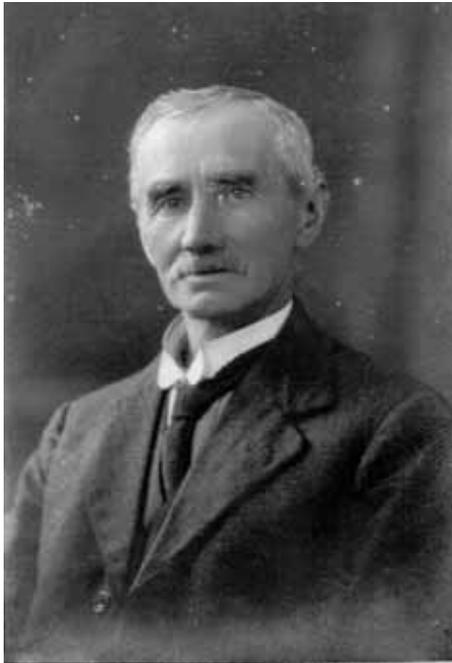
# "Only The Finest Lagnours Supplied"

*Remembering a Grandfather I never met!*

*(James Lyons, Ballyhaunis 1852-1932)*

How can you write about a grandfather from Ballyhaunis whom you never met? After all he died in 1932, all of six years before I was born. And his wife Kate died in 1915 when my mother was only thirteen years of age.

The answer lies in the fact that my maternal grandparents from Ballyhaunis had fifteen children, and even though one was a priest, two were nuns, one never married, and two died at birth, the rest produced forty-five children and loads of first cousins for me and my siblings. And my mother was very proud of her father and his entrepreneurial spirit. She inherited that spirit and inculcated it in me. And, importantly, she gave me, before she passed away in 1985, a shoe box marked "my snaps" which contains a huge number of photographs and press cuttings of her childhood in Ballyhaunis and Kilkelly, all neatly identified. When my grandmother Kate died at the early age of 50, my then teenage mother Gretta moved in with her elder brother John Lyons, who was then a dispensary doctor in Kilkelly. My mother was brought up by her brother John and his kindly wife Mae (nee Higgins) in Highland Lodge, Kilkelly. It was not unusual in those years of large families to have older children rear younger children.



James Lyons (1852-1922)

## Entrepreneur

My grandfather James Lyons was born in 1852 in Ballyhaunis, around the time of the Famine. He was one of five children from the union of George Lyons, a classics hedge-school teacher, and a lady from Dublin called Wade. James Lyons was a very small man in stature but he had great energy. He quickly built up a substantial business in Ballyhaunis. Not only was he a general merchant, but he had a commercial hotel, a seven day liquor licence and was an



Kate Lyons, nee O'Reilly (1865-1915)

undertaker as well. I have a copy of his advertisement in the Western People newspaper of 1894, when my grandfather was 42 years of age.

My granddad James was obviously a very successful businessman in Ballyhaunis at the turn of the century. As the son of a teacher he would have had a good education. And he used his relative wealth to ensure that his children were also well educated. Two children qualified as doctors - John Lyons who married Mae Higgins; and Sal Lyons who married Joe Sexton; one a priest - Fr. Laurence Lyons, C.C. Cong; two nuns - Bridie, Sr. Albeus, of the Sisters of Mercy, and Mollie, Sr. Mary Alice of the Sisters of Charity; and my mother Gretta who qualified with the degree of B.Comm, H.Dip in Ed, from University College Dublin in 1925: a rarity among women at that time. The other children were Annie (who married Bernard Lavin), Cissie (married Michael Tarpey), Aggie (married Tom Coyne), Kit (married Bill Neary), Jimmy (married Delia Lavelle), Tommie (married Margaret Ruane) and Eileen who never married. I have a unique photograph of them all at my grandfather's funeral in 1932. All of his then thirteen living children are present, except my Auntie Bridie, who was then Sr. Albeus of the Sisters of Mercy.

My grandfather certainly got a great "send-off" when he died in 1932. The funeral Mass was celebrated by his son (and my uncle) Fr. Laurence, assisted by forty priests. Yes forty! The obituary in the Western People was fulsome in its praise of him in the flowery language of the times:

"In the passing away of Mr James Lyons, Ballyhaunis has lost one of its outstanding and most honourable landmarks. Born close on 79 years ago in the town of Ballyhaunis, he came of a stock which for many generations had been very closely identified with the public and commercial life of Ballyhaunis and the county, of which it is the centre... For close on sixty years he himself has been in business in Ballyhaunis, and with an industry and an integrity of character for which there must be few parallels, he had all his undertakings crowned with success... In the sphere of life which he adopted he was brought into contact with countless people, and it is but the bare truth to say that everyone who ever came to know him, knew him as a man industrious beyond the ordinary, honest and just in all his dealings... He died on February 13th, full of years, and with his life's work done, and well done."

WESTERN PEOPLE 1894

**A Want Supplied.**

Hearse & Mourning Carriage.

—o—

**LYONS'**

COMMERCIAL & FAMILY HOTEL AND POSTING ESTABLISHMENT, BALLYHAUNIS.

—o—

**JAMES LYONS**, the proprietor of this old-established Hotel, feels pleasure in announcing that he has added to his already extensive posting establishment a HEARSE and an additional NEW CARRIAGE. Both vehicles are of superior description, built in the most modern style by eminent Dublin builders.

Mr Lyons desires particularly to announce to the people of Ballyhaunis and neighbourhood, who have had in the past to go to neighbouring towns for Hearse accommodation, that he is now in a position to supply from his establishment in Ballyhaunis a Hearse and Mourning Carriage. Also private Carriages, Cars, Brake and Luggage Vans always in readiness.

—o—

Funeral contracts undertaken and punctually carried out. Terms strictly moderate.



*Twelve of the Lyons children at the funeral of their father in 1932: Standing, L-R: Fr. Laurence, Tommie, Kit, Sal, Annie, Cissie, Aggie, John, Jimmy. Front, L-R: Gretta, Eileen, Mollie.*



*An advertisement for his shop makes the proud boast "Only the finest Langours"*

**Mystery**

There is one mystery about my grandfather which is not yet solved conclusively. You will see from the photograph of his shop front, where he is standing in the doorway, there is a clear advertisement "Only The Finest Lagnours Supplied". What are "Lagnours"? For the last ten years I have been trying to find the answer. I have consulted widely with experts on languages, with history experts and with local historians. I have had two explanations, endorsed individually as accurate by first cousins. One is that "lagnours" means wines. There is no doubt but that my grandfather supplied wines and that he would have had the finest wines. The other is that "lagnours" were a type of leather leggings worn by farmers which were strapped around their trousers to protect them from dirt. Both explanations are plausible. Perhaps I will get the definitive answer some day.



*Gretta Lyons (Murdoch), the author's mother, graduating at UCD in 1925.*

Well, while I never met my Mayo grandfather from Ballyhaunis, I certainly knew him because my mother Gretta made sure that I knew him and the influence he had on her life.

She married my father Archie Murdoch (from Dingle, Co Kerry) in 1933 and they had a long and happy life. Because he was a bank official and they were constantly on the move, I had no fixed abode in my early years (Cavan, Leitrim, Clare, Limerick, Cork) and no county that I could comfortably identify with. I have since been adopted as a stray by

Mayo, no doubt influenced by my mother and grandfather. I am a member of that fine organisation Muintir Mhaigh Eo and in the 1990's I had the honour to serve as Captain and subsequently President of the Mayo Golf Society in Dublin.

**Henry Murdoch**

The author, at age 70 is a semi-retired barrister and chartered engineer. He is the author of "Murdoch's Dictionary of Irish Law" (4th edition) and of the internet product "Murdoch's Irish Legal Companion". He is chairman of the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire. He plays golf off a handicap of 21.



*Henry Murdoch*

# “Ballyhaunis Was His Kingdom”

*Extracts relating to the late Ted Webb, from the book “House of Pain – Through the Rooms of Mayo Football”, By Keith Duggan. Reprinted with the kind permission of Mainstream Publishing Co. (Edinburgh) Ltd.*

Thirty years on, the name of Ted Webb still holds luminosity across Mayo.

It was not just that he was the most complete and forceful football player ever to emerge from his home town of Ballyhaunis or that he possessed a likeable sunny confidence. You can see it in the brimming energy evident in black and white photographs of him accepting the inaugural trophy for Ballyhaunis Footballer of the Year in 1974, in the winsome smile and dark, glittering eyes, the touch of Travolta in the wavy brown locks and flamboyant collars. It wasn't just that Edward Webb's youngest boy seemed to be singled out and groomed for the manageable glories and acclaim that came with being the star turn of his day. Ballyhaunis is



*Ted Webb receiving Club Player of the Year Award.*

a parish that has always been conscious of its geographical place, flush against Roscommon and on the edge of the Mayo interior; having Ted Webb made it seem as though the bigger towns looked east in envy for once. But it wasn't simply that he was special. The thing was that Ted Webb lived his twenty one years without ever becoming spoilt or aloof. He knew that his athleticism and the dark flashing looks gave him a distinct allure when it came to summer championship afternoons or the Sunday night dances in Ballinlough or Castlereagh. But he handled it with grace and appreciation and somehow managed to make people feel part of his good fortune rather than harbour any misplaced envy towards him. And then, suddenly, in a bizarre accident on a humdrum Thursday night not a fortnight after Valentine's, Ted Webb was killed and the handsome, bustling butcher's boy with the naturally quick smile and the easy word was gone. In a low-wattage, decent town like Ballyhaunis, that sort of incandescence is not easily replaced, or forgotten.

'Ted had it all,' sighs his brother Mike, one February evening as we sit in the family kitchen sorting through old newspaper clippings and photographs starring his younger brother. Mike Webb is in his early fifties now, a bustling and diminutive man who has maintained the family victualler's business, which dates back to his grandfather. Although Mike was a nimble and talented forward in his own right, he realised in his early teenage years that the game – of football and life – seemed to come that bit easier to his younger brother. Where Ted operated on charm, Mike tended to be feisty. While Mike was athletic in a slender, ordinary kind of way, Ted was, as he recalls, 'well over six feet tall and built like a bull.' Ted had presence. Mike remembers a moment from the day of the All-Ireland minor final in 1971, when Mayo beat Cork. Mike had been injured in the Connacht Championship and was a substitute on that September day in Croke Park. Ted was just sixteen and had gone on

what was a desperately exotic adventure that summer, across to London to work in the Shakespeare's Head, a pub on Carnaby Street owned by their aunt. He returned shortly before the final and was spotted in casual clothes as the team headed into the great stadium, all smiles and good wishes for his brother. 'I would give anything to have that fella in here with us today,' said Paddy Waldron, the county secretary, in a wistful voice.

Ted Webb's greatest national accomplishment was the goal he scored in Croke Park in the 1974 All-Ireland Under 21 Final against Antrim. It actually mirrored a goal he produced from nothing in Mayo's win against Brian Mullins' Dublin team in the semi-final. But the strike in the Antrim replay stays vivid to those who witnessed it and was caught on film that lies lost and unlabelled in the RTE vaults at Montrose. It was one of those signature Mayo goals, presaging the thunderbolt that Padraig Brogan would deliver some eleven years later in the Jones's Road cathedral. Racing onto a pass from Richie Bell, Webb came thundering through the Antrim defence towards the Hill 16 goal and let fly. 'From Thirty yards out and at an angle, he cracked in a blistering shot,' enthused Terry Reilly in the Western People match report. 'It was one of his specials with plenty of backspin and it flashed in under the crossbar to send the supporters wild.'

Afterwards, Michael O'Hehir ambled down from his commentary box to the tumult of the Mayo dressing-room and, in that mellifluous voice, assured Edward Webb that his son had produced one of the best goals he had ever witnessed in Croke Park. That 1974 team was supposed to transform what was threatening to be a woebegone decade for Mayo senior football. For Ted Webb, it was supposed to be the beginning. 'He had tremendous faith in that team. He was quite clear that his ambition was to win an All-Ireland senior championship with Mayo. And he believed they could do it,' Mike says now.

Ted Webb was always serious about football. Once he's finished school, he decided to cut loose and took up employment with Wicklow County Council; but after several months, he returned home one Friday night and gravely announced that he was ready to settle down in Ballyhaunis and work in the family business. Edward Webb was privately delighted but somewhat dubious about the idea. The care that Ted took in his appearance was something of a family joke. He was meticulous about his clothes and liked to be well turned out. 'Do you think you'll mind getting a bit dirty the odd time?' his father quizzed. 'Ted assured him he'd be fine and with that the deal was settled.'

Working at home meant Ted could practise his football whenever he pleased. He kept eccentric hours, regularly coming in from work at ten at night and phoning to persuade his cousin, another Michael Webb, to come up to the pitch so he could blast his high velocity swerving shots at him, often pointing the car headlights at the goalposts during winter sessions. One night, he borrowed his father's new white Peugeot 405 and drained the battery up at the field. Those solitary sessions did Mayo no harm: by the mid 1970s, Michael Webb had ascended to the position of first-choice county goalkeeper.

'I would have to say that if he had lived, Ted might have become one of the best number elevens in Ireland,' Mike declares. 'He had the speed and strength to knock people off. He had vision. He could give a ball left or right and he would put it into your chest. He was in motion all the time.'

## **26th February 1976**

'Ted always had great time for Mick Flynn, the groundsman in McHale Park, Lord have mercy on him now. Mick was a real character. The night that Billy Fitzpatrick came back into the Mayo panel after a long absence, Ted went up to Mick and put the arm



***Mayo v. Roscommon.***

*L-R: Ted Webb, Tony Regan (Roscommon), J. P. Keane, Gerry Mannion (Roscommon).*

around his shoulder. Billy Fitz must have been about the age of thirty then and everyone was delighted to see him back. And Ted said, "Sure, Mick, we'll head off now and come back here when we're thirty and we'll walk onto the Mayo panel." We were all laughing. And that was his last night. That was the night he was killed.

The Webbs have thought about that night, 26 February 1976, thousands of times. As the years have passed, the smallest details have become magnified. The family business is located in the heart of Ballyhaunis, a classic Irish butcher's shop with sawdust on the floor, a carefully dressed presentation counter, cheerful lighting and whistling staff in white coats. Mike Webb's family still live in the handsome townhouse above the shop. The kitchen has always been the gathering point, with a pleasant range and busy mantelpiece and high ceilings. Above the table where Mike's sons, Eddie and Michael, are sitting finishing dinner hangs a striking photograph of Ted leaping to claim the ball in some stilled instant from the 1975 Connacht senior final. The boys were not yet born when their uncle died but they speak of Ted as though they know him and they can recall the hours before his death with almost the same clarity as can their father or Cait, their mother.

Like so many of these things, it happened mainly as a result of terrible luck. Ted and Mike had returned from Mayo training in Castlebar and were settling down for the evening. Kojak was on television and Ted was eating a bowl of Ambrosia Creamed Rice. Word came that their uncle, Pat Lyons was in a pub across the road and needed a lift out to the home place in Skeaghard. Ted volunteered and left immediately. It was a couple of miles from Ballyhaunis but the road to the house is dissected by the main Dublin-Westport railway line. Strict observance of the rules of crossing the line meant unlocking both gates, driving the car across and then getting out to relock the gates. But nobody really did that. All the Webbs and Lyons knew the scheduled train times by heart, and anyway Ted was simply going to drop his Uncle Pat at the door and hightail it back in the road. He may have left the gates unlocked so that he wouldn't have to get out of the car and reopen them on the return journey.

'Ted had this habit of flicking off his headlights when he was coming onto a main road, so he could be sure nothing was coming,' Mike says. 'And I can honestly say he must have done that on the night.' The family can only piece together the likely sequence of events. The lone certainty is that as Ted approached the crossing line on his way back home, an unscheduled goods train was moving remorselessly towards the west. Ted was driving the white Peugeot that night. He probably had the radio on. He probably snapped off

the lights but because it was not a passenger train, there were no carriage lights to warn him, just two low headlights on the front of the engine, obscured by the grass banks. There was nothing to be seen other than the dark peace of the countryside. Ted moved on. The engine bulldozed the car 500 yards down the rack before it could be halted.

The next morning, up in Ballaghaderreen, John O'Mahony woke up to hear on the eight o'clock news that a Mayo football player had been killed. He was shocked and frightened but remembers thinking, 'Well, it's definitely not Ted Webb,' because he had dropped the Webb boys to the front door of their houses the previous evening. Then he learned that it had been Ted after all. He left his parents' house to try to teach in St. Nathy's but lasted about ten minutes before he broke down in tears.

Mike Webb often dwells on that journey home from training that night, the Webb brothers with Johnno driving and Jimmy Browne chatting away. They came upon a sharp bend somewhere and for an instant it felt as though they were going to skid into an open field, but Johnno managed to correct the car and they motored onwards, full of nervous laughter and banter, kidding O'Mahony about his driving. In the months and years afterwards, Mike Webb found himself wishing they had sailed into that heather and scrub grass, because they would surely have been fine, except for a few bruises. And that would have meant time would have been altered. Ted would have driven his uncle home much later and would have missed that infernal, malevolent train, cloaked by night. The sequence of events would have been changed and therefore rendered harmless.

'Those are the kind of things you wonder about,' Cait says. 'What if he had finished the dessert he was having? Those few seconds could have made a difference.'

Mike cannot recall much of the immediate hours and days following the accident but he does remember walking up through Ballyhaunis behind the hearse and spotting Cait, although the street was thick with mourners. 'That girl was a girlfriend of Ted's,' he told his father. Cait had gone out with Ted for some months the previous year and knew the family. She takes the photograph of the 1975 final down from the wall and points to the blurred background image of a blonde girl in large sunglasses seated near the front of the crowd. 'That's me. I was looking at this shortly after Mike and I got married and there I was.' She picks out a young man further along in the crowd, with unruly brown hair, intently concentrating on the aerial contest for the football, the players soaring through the open sky. 'And that is Mike in the crowd as well. We weren't together then but I always thought it odd that we should be in the photograph. They all thought it amusing in this house.'

She continues, 'It was the year after Ted died that I met up with Mike. And I suppose all our initial conversations would have been about Ted. But I am glad that I knew him because he was a lovely fella and he had a good way about him. And it was important because I heard so much about him, coming to live here for the last thirty years. If I never knew Ted, I would have always wondered how Mike and others were never jealous. Mike was a great footballer too but he was five foot seven and he hadn't the diplomacy that Ted had. Like, Ted was a bit of a charmer. He was only twenty-one and yet he made such an impact on everybody and made such an impression on people that to this day he is talked about. People talk about him in a way that means his personality never really left. Just at the weekend, I was up the street visiting with Mike's cousin Helen Lyons. And an old school friend of hers called in. This woman left Ballyhaunis long ago but Ted came up in conversation. And she was recalling how, when she was at school, all the girls would just be praying that this footballer would even say hello to them. And how on the night of the removal, she took a flower from one of the wreath and pressed it into



a diary. She said she still has the diary.'

In the immediate aftermath, there was the consolation of the association. The GAA president, Dr Donal Keenan, headed a distinguished list of officials. A special float, draped in the Ballyhaunis colours, was constructed to hold the floral tributes that began to arrive at the Webb household from Friday morning. Ted Webb's casket was draped in the green and red Mayo flag. The removal took place on Saturday night and the main street in the town was dimmed and silent while the cortege moved up towards the church. That night went late and in the houses and the pubs Ted Webb – not for the first time – was the talk of the town. They remembered his best matches, and which was his finest hour was open to debate.

In a tribute that appeared in the Western People the following week, Ivan Neill wrote:

In match reporting throughout the county, I had watched this young Ballyhaunis player in practically all major club and championship games and have many memories of his fine performances. But one performance which will always hold strong memories for me was in a senior championship game against Kiltane last season. On that very warm Sunday Ted Webb was the inspiration of his side's great victory when he kicked over four frees in succession from distances ranging between fifty and sixty yards. That's a feat I had not seen accomplished before or since.

Official estimates were that 4,000 people were present for the Monday morning funeral, but it felt like many, many more. The Reverend Father John Lyons, and uncle of Ted's from Youngstown, Ohio, was principal celebrant of the funeral. The Mayo football team and the club boys formed a guard of honour. It was all very quiet and poignant and hard to reconcile with reality. After all, he had just been dropping his uncle out the road. And then it was over.

Letters and seraphic cards and Mass cards continued to arrive. All those small consolations amounted to a considerable comfort. One night, the doorbell rang and Paddy Waldron came in with a proposition. He wondered if the Webbs might consider donating a cup for the new Under-16 Connacht championship. It became the Ted Webb Cup. Edward Webb was thrilled with that.

By eight o'clock, the main street is quiet and the pubs are

doing brisk business. Images from the big European soccer match between Liverpool and Barcelona flicker through the pub windows and look attractive from the street, full of bright, compelling scenes of contemporary sporting glamour. Ted Webb was a George Best fan. He idolised the Belfast Boy and maybe, in a naïve way, modelled himself upon him. Best had yet to quit Manchester United when Ted Webb died. Driving down past The Oak Bar and across the stone bridge and past the stately Ulster Bank, past Delaney's bar and Cunningham's shop and then around the bad bend under the bridge, it is easy to imagine how deeply Ted Webb must have loved this town, the source of all his triumphs and his cares. Ballyhaunis was his kingdom. It is yet.

*Keith Duggan*



**Mayo Senior Team 1975, Connacht Final**

*Back, L-R: Eamon Brett, Ted Webb, Ivan Heffernan, Con Moynihan, Frank Burns, T. J. Farragher, Willie McGee, John O'Mahony.*

*Front, L-R: Mick Higgins, Ger Farragher, Sean Kilbride, Tommy O'Malley, J. P. Keane, Ger Feeney, Seamus Reilly.*



**Leaving Cert Class, 1975. Taken 25th Feb. 1975.**

*Standing, L-R: Breege Regan, Mary Kenny, Mary-Teresa O'Reilly, Rosaleen Delaney, Claire McHugh, Mary Waldron, Bernie Salmon, Joan Hannan, Ann Hannon, Catherine Mulkeen, Sabina Conway, Ann Connell, Jean Finn.*

*Front, L-R: Mary Cruise, Mary-Teresa Finnegan, Christina Travers.*



# A Vision Fulfilled

## *Reflections on the Successful Development of Ballyhaunis Community School*

On a small table in the centre of the room stood three lighted candles. On a separate table stood one large unlit candle. The spacious staff room had a scent of fresh paint and the spotless carpet matched the brown leather-covered padded seats which were arranged in an elliptical formation around the room. The teachers from the three former schools, in anticipation, drifted in ones and twos towards the staff room, some making a conscious effort to sit beside a colleague from a different school – goodwill was the new axle-grease needed to propel us on a smooth journey ahead. This was September 1977, and it was the momentous occasion of the first staff meeting of the Community School in Ballyhaunis.

The meeting commenced by Fr. Des Walsh reading a special prayer invoking the help of the Holy Spirit for the success of the school. Then the three former principals, Sr. Joan Fahy, Fr. MacMyler and Mr. Eddie Thornton, from the Convent of Mercy, St. Patrick's College and the Vocational School respectively, took a rush each and lit it from one of the lighted candles. In turn they extinguished the candles and together they lit the large candle. There was an atmosphere of palpable silence, indeed there was a deep sense of emotion – the three old schools had just passed onto history. There were a few glazed eyes, especially among the older staff members. A wag sitting beside me leaned over and whispered, "Look, a rogues' gallery!"

We were now on virgin ground. The Community School was a new concept in education and unique to the West of Ireland. There were less than a dozen in the whole country at the time. The merging of three separate schools, each with its own ethos and identity, would barely be contemplated in most towns. It took vision, foresight and courage to embrace this innovation. We had now "put the hands to the plough" and there was no looking back. Personal interests and comfort zones were set aside in the interest of the common good.

There was a steely vision for a bright new future for secondary education in Ballyhaunis. The little ceremony was a powerful symbol of unity and harmony – something that has endured in the school to this day. We were embarking not only on a new educational journey, but what seemed like a spiritual mission.

The staff of nearly forty, which included four nuns and three priests, and of which almost two thirds were males, with the exception of six or seven were all in their twenties and thirties including the Principal, Eddie Thornton. We had a singular intent on making Ballyhaunis a centre of educational excellence. "Young men see visions, old men dream dreams."

### **Confidence**

There was a great confidence going forward. We knew that we had the professionals, the expertise and the reservoir of knowledge to compete with the best and now, with everything under the one roof and with the most up-to-date facilities and equipment, it was a matter of implementing the curriculum.

Students were no longer labelled honours or pass. They could now enjoy a system of time-tabling called setting. This system allowed students to slot into classes in individual subjects appropriate to their abilities and they could select subjects

for which they had an aptitude. Apart from the usual subjects, sport, recreation and culture were central to the educational philosophy of the school. Teachers brought all kinds of ideas on extra curricular activities to staff meetings. Anything worthwhile was implemented and this was possible because virtually every teacher got involved in some sort of leisure outside of class. The production of the biennial musical was and is the cultural highlight of the school. The co-operation of teachers was almost unreal. Large numbers of teachers travelled around the country supporting teams that reached All-Ireland semi-finals and finals in a variety of sports.

While extra-curricular activities were a central part of school policy, however, academic excellence had to take priority. All parents want their children to do well in their exams. It can be very satisfying and rewarding to see a pupil who, on enrolling, needs special education and then after five years, leaving the school as a happy and well rounded young adult with a successful leaving cert. There were several winners of the 1916 commemorative scholarships. There are seven of these awarded annually, based on the results of different groupings of subjects in the leaving cert. When the school won two out of seven in the same year, it prompted an educational correspondent for *The Irish Times* (the late Christina Murphy) to visit the school and write a major feature article on how a community school in a small town in the West of Ireland could win two out of the seven scholarships, considering that 60,000 students sat the leaving cert. On a personal level, one of the best achievements I experienced was a class result. This happened to my leaving cert maths class of 1994, when twenty-five A's were recorded and seventeen of these were A1's.

Overall, Ballyhaunis Community School has been a very positive and happy place in which to work. We had the sad experience of losing two wonderful colleagues in their prime: Michael Glynn, a brilliant mathematician, and Anton O'Malley, a tree of knowledge in English literature. Only four of the original staff remain after thirty years, but the replacement crop of young, vibrant, dedicated professionals are eager and willing to keep up the great tradition of the school. Although the gender balance is now reversed the application to duty is even better and the staff room is much easier on the eye! It's heartening to see so many past pupils coming back to keep the ship on course.

Having retired a year ago and looking back over the last thirty years and taking nostalgia into account, Ballyhaunis Community School, since its foundation has been a place of generous spirit, a place of small problems and large hearts. I think the hallmark of a good school can be judged on how the staff treats each other, and the way the school takes care of the weakest and on both counts the school comes out with top marks. Under the steady eye of the present captain, Pat McHugh, everything augers well for the future. The special education department in the school is second to none and the convivial atmosphere in the staff room has often been remarked upon by department inspectors. When all is stripped bare my abiding happy memories are of the breaks and free classes spent relaxing in the staff room having a chat with a friendly colleague.

"If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain"

*This article was taken from this year's Community School Yearbook (2008) on its thirtieth anniversary.*

*Christy Ruane*



# The Golden Anniversary of the Weissenbergers

The sanctity of marriage calls for dedication, love, devotion and honour between two individuals. Nothing reflects the perfection between a happily married couple better than a Golden Wedding Anniversary. Joseph and Della Weissenberger celebrated fifty cherished years of marriage in front of friends and family alike at the Smithtown Landing Country Club on Long Island, New York, U.S.A., in June 2008.

Della Byrne, a native of Derrymore, Ballyhaunis, married Joseph on June 14th, 1958. But Della's journey was far from easy. The eldest of six children, Della was the first in her family to depart for America, alone and unsure, back in 1953 at the tender age of nineteen. She travelled by boat for eleven days to start her new life in America.

After a year in the States, she met Joseph at a local church dance in

Brooklyn. Joe was living with his German parents in Ridgewood at the time, and was also serving in the U.S. Navy. Still, within a year of their meeting, they were engaged to be married.

Fifty years later, a lot has changed. Della and Joe raised six children and have enjoyed the company of their children's children. At their Golden Wedding Anniversary party, all of their children and all of their fourteen grandchildren (plus one more on the way) basked in the momentous day. Old friends travelled from far and wide; the couples' brothers and sisters came from throughout New York, New Jersey, Florida and Arizona; and long-time Long Island friends shared in the beautiful June Saturday, fifty years to the day that Della and Joseph were married.

Continued health and happiness to the Weissenbergers of Commack.

*Mark Weissenberger*



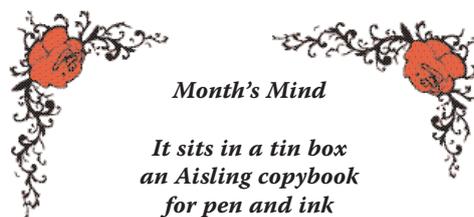
*Joseph and Della Weissenberger.*



*The Byrne Sisters of Derrymore, Ballyhaunis were all in attendance. Back, L-R: Josephine Butler, Attracta Poje, Patricia Lackner. Seated: Della Weissenberger and Margaret Byrne.*



*Della and Joe celebrated their golden anniversary at the Smithtown Landing Country Club in Kings Park, NY with their six children and their spouses, fourteen grandchildren (and one more grandchild on the way).*



## Month's Mind

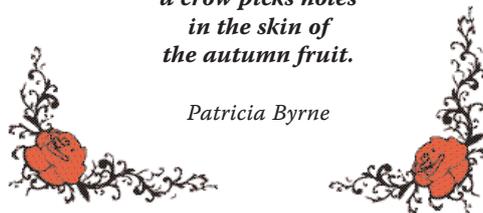
*It sits in a tin box  
an Aisling copybook  
for pen and ink  
in a class of its own  
on top of the oak wardrobe.*

*Starting from the back  
she had ruled columns  
listed names  
ticked in red  
those for my father's memorial cards  
ticked in blue  
those for acknowledgements.*

*A roll call of the same mourners  
who one month ago  
looked down on her body  
in its best tweed suit.*

*Out the window  
a crow picks holes  
in the skin of  
the autumn fruit.*

*Patricia Byrne*



*The Jordan Sisters - Ursula, Mary Hannah and Attracta - getting ready for their Route 66 Trip.*

# Patrick Roger Grogan 1912-1941

## “Lost At Sea”

This is the poignant story of a young man from Ballyhaunis, who following his dream met his death during the Second World War. From his papers, carefully preserved by his niece Margaret Rafferty (nee Mulkeen), it is possible to detail some aspects of his short life.

‘Rodgie’ Grogan was one of four children of Thomas Grogan of Cloonbullig and Margaret Folliard of C o o l n a h a , A u g h a m o r e . Their home at Cloonbullig lay between Hazelhill and Holywell.



Patrick Roger Grogan

His brothers were named Thomas and Michael and his sister Delia. ‘Rodgie’ was born in 1912 and attended the local National Schools.

Unusually, given that he came from an inland farming area, his life’s ambition was to become a ship’s radio officer. With the support and financial help from his sister Delia who, at the time was working in Madison Avenue in New York, he enrolled in the Senior Engineering Department of the Municipal Technical College at Hull in 1934 studying everything from Morse Transmitting and Receiving to Electrical Calculations. His College Reports of 1934 and 1935 say that he “has made satisfactory progress and works very well”. Rodgie Grogan graduated and went to work as a Radio officer on a variety of ships.

The Second World War had broken out in September 1939 and by 1940 it appeared that Germany was gaining the upper hand. Control of the air and sea passages was vital. German submarines targeted and sank many merchant ships on the high seas. Despite travelling in convoy and being protected by the navy, those who worked aboard were very vulnerable. Rodgie’s family worried constantly about him, eagerly awaiting news from whichever exotic port he visited.

On 18th September 1940 he wrote to his mother from Capetown saying that they arrived there two days earlier “on our homeward journey”. He received his mother’s and sister’s letter dated 25th July while in port. He described Capetown as a modern and up-to-date city. He said he expected to arrive in England at the end of October. He added, “The most dangerous part of the journey is yet to come but everything will be alright”. He hoped that his mother had written to him from her holiday at the seaside as he was eager for family and local news.

On 26th November 1941 official letters that all relations of serving personnel during wartime dread, began to arrive to his mother at 18 Welbeck St., Princes Ave., Hull. This was actually the address of his landlady Mrs. Leadley. She immediately informed Rodgie’s fiancée Miss Dorothy Arnott, and forwarded the letters to Ballyhaunis. The letter read, “We regret to inform you that the ‘Virgilia’ was sunk by enemy action on the morning

of the 24th instant. At time of writing there are only 22 survivors. Mr. Grogan’s name is not among the survivors and we are afraid that he must be counted as lost”. Another letter dated 26/11/1941 stated, “I deeply regret that no information is available regarding the fate of your son and under these circumstances he is considered as missing... the owners of the vessel have promised to let us have any further news and I sincerely hope and trust that I shall have some reassuring news regarding your son at an early date”.

Rodgie’s distraught family in Cloonbullig were desperate for information and Mrs. Grogan telegraphed for precise information, still holding out hope for their beloved Rodgie. These hopes were finally dashed when a letter came directly to Ballyhaunis on 2nd December saying:

*“We are very sorry to have to inform you that the steamer ‘Virgilia’ was lost by enemy action on 24th ultimo and there were only 22 survivors. Unfortunately your son is not among them and must be considered lost”.*



Patrick Roger Grogan’s Service Medals

A colleague of Rodgie’s, John Christie, wrote to Rodgie’s sister Delia Mulkeen from 76 Lordwood Road, Harborne, Birmingham on 1st January 1942 describing the terrible events. He told the family that Rodgie was known as ‘Paddy’ to his mates. His letter went on:

*“We were about ten or twelve hours out from London, homeward bound, when we were torpedoed. It was at night, in fact just about nine minutes past midnight. I had just come off watch and Paddy had taken over for the 12-4. I was having a snack before turning in, when we were struck. Paddy ran out on deck; I followed closely. “She’s on fire” he said, and went to assist in lowering a boat. I hurried back into our cabin, which was next to the winches room and dressed as quickly as I could. Then I came out on deck again and got into the lifeboat with Paddy and the chief R/O. As it was being lowered, the ropes holding the after end slipped, while those forward stuck. Consequently the lifeboat was tilted to a perpendicular angle, and everyone fell into the water.*



*We all had life jackets on, and I last saw Paddy holding up his emergency light swimming away from the burning ship. We all stayed together for a bit, and later I saw a lifeboat with the Captain in it being rowed away from the flames. I shouted "there's a boat, let's swim for it"; and struck out thinking that the others would follow, but when I looked round, no one was near me. I eventually got to the lifeboat, and was picked up a little later on by a naval motor launch. Although we cruised around 'til daylight, we found no more survivors. I wish to offer my deepest sympathy to you, but I feel that nothing I can say will make your loss easier to bear."*

A broken-hearted Delia Mulkeen responded to this letter and John Christie's mother who replied explaining:

*"My son, John Christie, has given you all the details he can of the loss of the Virgilia. He has been ill in bed or would have replied earlier. He does not seem to be able to tell you very much – indeed he has spoken very little, even now, of the dreadful experience. It has left its mark on him – he is only eighteen but seems a man now. If he had not been a strong swimmer he would have gone, but he kept afloat for an hour or more, and was picked up. The Captain was the only other surviving officer.*

*Your sweet sad letter, [which, even now, I cannot read without tears] has brought the tragedy home to us. Your brother, God rest his gallant soul, was just in his prime. The other radio officer was 21, just married. His wife was waiting for the ship to reach London.*

*I feel so deeply for you all in your grief, especially for your mother, whom God will help, for no others can. How I wish I could come over and see you, and assure you all of my very deep sympathy.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Alma E. Munch*

*P.S. The E Boat which fired the torpedo was itself sunk just afterwards, John says".*

The Radio Officers Union wrote from Hull to Mrs. Grogan on 29th January 1942 saying:

*"'Paddy' as he was known to all was a frequent visitor to this area. He was at all times a steady and reliable person and we feel sure that in his passing he will have left many friends who will mourn him for years to come. Miss Dorothy Arnott, his fiancée, has been in touch with us and she has pluckily endeavoured to do all possible to clear up his affairs. I have also had Mrs. Leadly to see me and advised her to communicate with you and to send you all papers etc. in her charge; this I understood has been done".*

Eventually Rodgie's service medals were sent to Ballyhaunis together with his personal effects. These included his 'St. Michael' brand naval shirt which his niece Margaret has lovingly preserved. His gross estate was valued at £472, seven shillings and five pence. Margaret Rafferty recalls that her mother, Delia, always avoided looking at the sea, even in the

movies.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II unveiled the Merchant Navy Memorial on Tower Hill on 5th November 1955. It was built by the Imperial War Graves Commission in honour of the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets and records the names of 24,000 officers and men who lost their lives in the 1939-45 War through enemy action and have no grave but the sea.

The names of those who fell are commemorated on the walls of the garden at the entrance to which stands the vaulted colonnade, completed in 1928, bearing the names of the dead of the 1914-1918 War. Panel 115 records the name of:

Grogan, second radio Offr., Patrick Roger. Merchant Navy. SS Virgilia [Glasgow] 24th November 1941. Age 29. Son of Margaret Grogan of Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, Irish Republic.
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Although Roger Grogan's life was tragically cut short he achieved much in a short time. He was doing a job he loved and had visited places around the world that as a young boy tossing the hay in the fields around Ballyhaunis he could only have dreamed about.

P.S. Another Ballyhaunis man, Lance Corporal Thomas Kedian, 10th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, died at the Somme on 7th July 1916, aged 26. He was my grand uncle. His body, coincidentally, was not recovered, and he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France. His great grand nephew and my second cousin, Private Billy Kedian, was the last Irish UN soldier to die in the Lebanon. All three Ballyhaunis men are commemorated on the recently opened Mayo Peace Park.



*Margaret Rafferty (nee Mulkeen, Cloonbullig) with her uncle's Service Medals.*

*Anthony Jordan*



*John Grealy and Christine McGrath on their wedding day in Manchester, October 2008, with the Killinaugher group who travelled out from Knock Airport to be with them on their special day. John Grealy is originally from Killinaugher. Christine McGrath was born in Manchester of Irish parents: her father Frank came from Aghamore and her mother Nora from Ballymoe, Co. Galway. We all returned to Ireland after having a brilliant weekend with the Grealy and McGrath families. Back, L-R: Padraic Regan, Evelyn Grealy, Marian Regan, Christine and John Grealy, Joe Diskin, Ann Connolly, Michael Connolly. Front, L-R: Catherine Connolly, Geraldine Connolly, Deirdre Diskin, Ann Breheny, Linda Cunney, John Connolly.*

# The Old Domestic Plan

*“When we were young, we had nothing”  
“When we were young, there was nothing we didn’t have”*

Both lines above are much alike, but so different when you analyse them. My best friend, now almost ninety years old, believes the first one is correct. I don’t agree with him. The second line belongs to me. He says we had no running water, no heat, no electricity, no transport, no sanitary facilities, no washing machine, no money - “nothing” - the list is endless. In the small space allowed to me in your widely read magazine I will try to clear up this matter. You, the reader, can have my side of the story and decide for yourself which of us is right.

How on God’s earth did this man live for almost ninety years without running water? He seems to have forgotten the beautiful spring wells gushing priceless water up out of the ground. Pollution and constant drainage spelled the end of the only pure quality drinking water. The nearest well to my own house suffered the same fate and all that remains is a county council notice: ‘Not fit for human consumption’. Our current supply comes from somewhere up near Ballinrobe, pumped directly into fifty-thousand gallon towers which will remain stagnant until used, and a special screen fitted at the base to prevent unwelcome matter reaching the household tap.

Next, he rants on about no heat. Surely he doesn’t forget the open ‘furnace’ in the centre of his house for sixteen hours a day, buried in the ash pit over night only to be refuelled the next morning? Has he ever seen the woman of the house suffer from shin brackets due to working beside this red menace? That is why they invented silk stockings to cover up the unsightly blotches. A special crock jar filled with boiling water placed between the sheets and the chances are you’ll dream of approaching hell. That’s what I call heat! And, like the



*Head of Early York Cabbage, July 2008.  
Monster size, and strictly organic.  
No compost, no fertilizer used.  
Sown on fresh lea land.*

running water, didn’t cost a penny. Another item my friends regrets not having when he was young was electricity. If he worked as many hours a day as I did there would be little need for light. For a ten bob note – ‘hen and chicken money’ – you could buy eleven gallons paraffin oil, more than enough to keep the wall lamps lighting for a full year. I was an expert at making rush candles, a beautiful smokeless light, ten candle-power surely. When you had to travel at night the carbide lamp would light up the darkest road for a hundred yards, or would pick out a quiet, sheltery spot for your romantic encounter with the girlfriend. Think of the cost of a year’s electricity – a standing charge before you switch on at all, unit prices, rising every few bills, a sprinkling of VAT that you never burned at all, and what have you got? There is only one winner: the Electricity Supply Board.

My friend also maintains he had no transport. What about the horse and trap, or the horse and sidecar, or the horse and cart? Did he ever hear tell of a bicycle? They even made a bicycle for two, called ‘a bicycle made for two’. My transport was called ‘two bicycles made for three’: thumb a lift from two cyclists and hop up, a foot on each carrier. Beautiful transport surely, provided the two riders kept the same distance apart. Anything less spelled disaster: any good

mathematician should be able to work that one out. No fuel costs was another great saving. Compare all that to the expense of lifting a 747 out of Shannon Airport with three or four hundred holiday-makers heading for the ‘Costa Living’. That must be more than enough to win the transport argument with my friend.

What about his stand on sanitary facilities, or the lack of them? Surely he can’t allow himself to forget the beautiful countryside he was raised in before mechanised Ireland took over? Ballyhaunis, like so many other towns, has suffered more than its share of land and air pollution, with absolutely no end in sight. Our environment minister has plans for improving the situation. I’m told that our light bulbs will be replaced with a more friendly type. When the new laws are enforced I hope to see the rush candle being introduced and I’ll become an instant millionaire. I’ll buy myself a brand new belt with a few extra notches and, when times get hard and the government makes a belt-tightening order I won’t be found wanting. Perhaps I’d buy a set of golf clubs and, when troubles would pile upon me, I would make for the golf course and try for a hole-in-one, and when I’d come back all my troubles would be gone. I wonder?

He also bellyaches about having no money. For his information you required very little money when you were self-sufficient. There was more than enough for the whole family. If a farmer was seen coming out of the shop with meat and vegetables etc., he could well be arrested by the blue boys on suspicion of grand theft. Perhaps money can be best summed up with the following few lines. When this friend of mine was young the favourite song on the hit parade went something like this:

*Money is the root of all evil  
Money is the root of all evil  
Can’t contaminate myself with it  
Take it away, take it away, take it away*

That song inspired me to look for a degree in economics. My very first lesson was as follows: “He who gathers much has too much; he who gathers little will never go short”.

Finally, who can forget the wealthy man’s daughter who thought she had nothing to learn: She’d a great and varied knowledge she’d picked up at a famous college Of quadratics, hydrostatics and pneumatics very vast; She’d discuss, the learned charmer, the theology of Brahma, All the ‘ologies of the colleges and the knowledge of the past. She knew all the mighty giants, all the master minds of science All the learning ever turning in the busy brain of man

But she couldn’t get up a dinner for a gaunt and starving sinner, Or concoct a simple supper for her poor old hunger Poppa, For she never was constructed on the old domestic plan.

When the reader comes to decision whether my friend of I have won, then read over my contribution to Annagh Magazine and give me your Number One. See you next year, God willing.



*Tony Carney, with old time Dash Churn, made around 1935.*

*Tony Carney,  
Bekan Cross*

## Almost Forty Years of Service to Local Education

Thirty-eight years of history came to a close at Ballyhaunis this summer when Cecily Moran decided to call it a day at her Knox Street based school book shop, Garvey-Moran's Ltd., which she has been operating since opening for business in September, 1969. Indeed, for the first time in living memory, pupils from the local catchment area were forced to travel further afield for their supply of school books, as scholars returned to the classroom for another year of study, this September.

Cecily took over the business of retailing school books, following the closure of Mrs. Waldron's store at Abbey Street in the 1960's. For almost forty years now, Garvey-Moran's of Knox Street has been the chief provider of school books for children of all ages, for both primary and secondary level, covering a large portion of the county.

Relaxing at her comfortable Knox Street home, Cecily recounted how she entered the business almost forty years ago: "In 1969, there was nobody in Ballyhaunis providing the service, so I was approached by a local teacher and asked if I would consider taking the contract of supplying school books for children of the area. After some thought, and discussions with my husband, Donald, who was a building contractor at that time, I made up my mind to give it a try. Joyce's in Foxford was the nearest outlet to Ballyhaunis providing the service at this time", Cecily recalls.

Looking back over four decades of supplying school books to the children of the locality, Cecily says: "In the early years, you knew every child coming into the shop. You knew their parents and where they were from, things are a lot different today", she says. "In the latter end, I was seeing three generations coming into the shop, the grandparent, child and grandchild, all of whom had purchased books in the shop over the ages", she recounted with some sense of nostalgia and satisfaction. Cecily enjoyed her work and enjoyed the banter with the kids, and she certainly provided the service with efficiency and total dedication. A wonderful service, which the town and its hinterland will greatly miss.

The former Cecily Garvey was born in England, and, while just a baby, was brought to Ballyhaunis, when her parents, Patrick and Brigid, set up a grocery business at their home on Knox Street. She married Donald Moran from Coolnafarna in September 1950. An accomplished footballer, Donald, who worked as a builder in Ballinasloe for some time, played senior football for the county Galway club and turned in many stirring performances for the Ballinasloe team, particularly in the championship seasons of 1937 and 1938. Following their marriage in 1950, the couple interrupted their honeymoon to attend the All-Ireland Football Final at Croke Park, which, of course, Mayo won, amid great celebration and jubilation. Sadly, Donald passed to his eternal reward when he died suddenly twenty years ago. He was laid to rest on Christmas Eve, 1988.

Many years before the thought of opening a book shop at her home ever entered her head, Cecily worked as a clerical officer for Dublin based builder providers, James Beckett & Company Ltd. She later returned to her Knox Street home and took over the running of the family grocery business. It wasn't too long after her return from



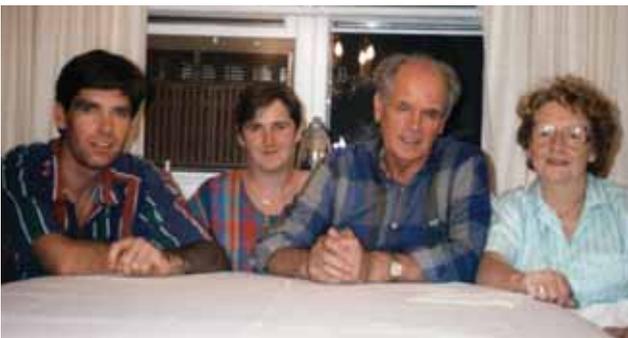
*End of an Era. Pictured outside her Book Shop on Knox Street, Mrs. Cecily Moran, where she successfully traded since 1969.*

Dublin to her native east Mayo town that her talents as a gifted and speedy typist, were being sought after. A fledgling new political party, namely, Clann na Talmhan, enlisted her services, and for almost three years in the 1940s, the Moran residence at Knox Street was the location for the Constituency Office of the popular farmers' party in county Mayo. The 1940s decade also saw Cecily's appointment as secretary of the Ballyhaunis branch of the Gaelic League, an organisation for where she was a dynamic and energetic activist. A woman of many, many talents indeed!

Now retired, and with more spare time on her hands than ever, Cecily, who is a mother of seven children (sadly, one of her children, Padraig, died tragically in 1981), is looking forward to devoting a little more time to a fancy which has been a passion for her since her childhood - namely the study of archaeology, and seeking out places of historical interest.

A lady whose name is well and truly carved into the annals and the history of the town of Ballyhaunis for many years to come, whatever Cecily Moran decides to do with the remainder of her life, one thing is for sure, she will be forever remembered as a lady of exceptional skills, whose contribution to the town of Ballyhaunis and its hinterland, will be remembered by generations to come.

*Mike Byrne*



*Taken in the U.S., July 1990.*

*L-R: Declan Phillips, Margie Phillips, Martin Lynskey (formerly Gurteen) and his wife Mary (nee Hopkins, Larganboy).*

## Sports Broadcaster of the Year

Ballyhaunis native, Nathan Murphy was crowned Sports Broadcaster of the Year at the annual 'Radio Oscars', the PPI Radio Awards, at a ceremony held in Co. Kilkenny on Friday, October 10th.

The Today FM sports reporter saw off stiff competition from RTÉ's Des Cahill, to win the prestigious award, which was judged on work over the past twelve months. The highlights of Nathan's work were his reporting of Giovanni Trapattoni's appointment as manager of the Republic of Ireland soccer team, and a revealing interview with Sunderland boss and former Manchester United star, Roy Keane. The former Ballyhaunis Community School student started his career at Galway student station, Flirt FM, before moving to Galway Bay FM, where he worked for four years, prior to being signed to Today FM as a full time presenter. Nathan is also a regular sports presenter with TV3.

He is son of Micheál and Dolores (nee Halpin) Murphy of Annagh, Ballyhaunis.



*Nathan Murphy (right) being presented with the Sports Broadcaster of the Year 2008 award by PPI Chairman, Denis Woods.*

## Paddy Joe Tighe - Music and My Roots

### *Introduction (by Alan Morrisroe)*

Paddy Joe was asked some time ago if he might consider writing an account of his life as a musician, and the worthwhile exercise it would represent for readers at large of the Annagh Magazine. Paddy Joe has committed himself whole-heartedly to this task and is now happy to present his account to all concerned. In turn he has asked me, Alan Morrisroe, to write an introduction to his account, which also involves recognition of his family roots as he best knows them.

I got to know Paddy Joe Tighe and his late mother Kate from about late 1973, and at a time when I first began frequenting the great music pub called The Ship Inn in Charlestown (Paddy Joe refers to The Ship Inn later). Although I had lived about eight miles from the Tighes by road and much less as the crow flies, my young age had prevented me from knowing them until then.

I am from the village of Barnacogue (pronounced Barnacuega), which is located immediately to the west of Knock Airport, and I grew up in a home where the natural form of traditional music was ever present. My father's mother lived with us, and given that she was born as far back as 1884, she showed that special quality of vitality in her music that was so typical of her age category. She was a dancer, having been taught by the travelling dancing master of that era, and also a singer and melodeon player. Her presence inevitably imbued in my father, and to whatever extent myself, a connection with that wonderful and essential element in dance music called lift. Lift does not exist, I feel, in our modern rendering of this music simply because people do not have traditional music feeling naturally in their lives anymore. I realised very quickly all those years ago that Paddy Joe had a quality in his music expression that was truly traditional, and I was to discover over the years to follow that this is not typical for a person of his time of birth. As a self professed researcher of what I call true traditional music, in other words involving what the word 'tradition' really means, I have judged that when traditional music-making began to first show signs of dying out from the late 1930s and especially through the 1940s into the 1950s, the language of both traditional music and dance stopped transferring to children born after the early 1930s (I use the year 1933 as a useful guide for my research purposes). In other words, people of my father's age, born in 1927, danced to older musicians and played his melodeon for older dancers, often

much older than him, allowing him to absorb the wonderful flavour of their music and dance. All of this activity took place typically at what used to be called 'house dances', the vast majority of which were in small thatched homes with stone flagged floors. Men and women wore clogs up to a certain point in time and the rhythmic sound from dancers on those floors must have been truly amazing. Should my father have been born five or six years later he might not have grown up with this experience, or most likely not to the same extent. Were he to have been born ten years later he would typically have had little connection with any of it, although his home, just like the Tighes, may well have seen it continue on. It would appear that nothing lasts forever, and as the house dances disappeared, especially as a result of the dancehall taking over, most of the older musicians now played less frequently in the absence of their natural platform, and in turn causing the vast majority of the younger generation to have little if any exposure and thus connection to what was a short time before a natural traditional recreation. Once upon a time someone said that 'Music is the Language of the Soul' and it sums matters up nicely for me. The language of our countryside music died out and only the occasional person of a much younger age like Paddy Joe still possessed it. Having been brought up in an environment involving an amazing strain of traditional music in his family, he possesses that all-important expression in his music that compels one to do something to it. It is unusual in the extreme, in my view, for someone like him born as late as 1942 to possess this degree of expression. He played in his youth for the natural step dancers and set dancers much as he would have done were he living a whole generation before. He was called upon as one of the few musicians available to play the real thing for the older generation who still felt like having a dance at whatever party gathering was taking place. One encountered home parties, house or hotel wedding parties, or indeed the traditional dances done in the pubs when the pub music scene began to develop from say 1960 on, including his later time performing in The Ship Inn. I remember the old half sets done in The Ship Inn in Charlestown through the 1973 to 1975 period.

I have recorded Paddy Joe and his mother Kate from as far back as the late 1970s, and I did so out of sheer necessity on my part so that I would experience as much of that category of music as possible, and since lesser expression from other sources of our



music had little meaning for me. I recorded my grandmother from the time we got our first tape recorder in 1970, and, after she had passed away in 1981 at the age of nearly 97, I attempted to meet musicians as near to her age group as I could so that I might capture still more of that wonderful expression. Ultimately I began collecting the oldest format of recorded sound, namely, the gramophone, or 78rpm records as they were also called, and which had begun to be recorded as long ago as 1916 in New York City (Paddy Joe refers to my record collection later). My wife Audrey, who is from Glasgow, Scotland, a classical musician by profession, who teaches music also, is a great admirer of Paddy Joe's musicianship. She visited with me the Tighe home often and got to know Kate Tighe very well. Audrey summed it up very well when I asked her how she might help me explain those essential aspects of our old countryside music, or any music, that may often cause one



*Paddy Joe's home-place in Arderry, taken in the early 1970s. Included are Kate Naughton Tighe and Philomena Stenson, a neighbour.*

to cry with joy - she replied with the following: 'if you try to analyse it you take away the magic of it'. In other words, what makes it special, one spoils in the attempt to explain it. I will hand over now to you Paddy Joe.

### **Mo Scéal Féin**

I am Paddy Joe Tighe and I was born on December 29th 1942 in Arderry, Aghamore, which is about three and a half miles south to south-east of Kilkelly in the direction of Tooreen. I am the only child of the late Michael and Kate Tighe and I moved on January 6th 2006 to Ballyhaunis, where I am now happily settled.

My maternal great-grandfather, Mickey Naughton, was born in Knockroe, Carrowkeel (located about two miles west-south-west of Ballyhaunis, towards Began), later moving to Tubber, Aghamore. Mickey's wife Ann Grealy, who was my great-grandmother, was born in Kilbrogan, Tooreen. Mickey and Ann had four daughters and one son. Their daughters were Mary, Bridget, Katie and Annie, and their only son was Michael. Michael, born about 1876, was my mother's father. I heard him say that when he used to visit his two uncles Thomas and Patrick Naughton, who shared the same holding of land in Knockroe, Carrowkeel, he used to walk across the fields to Mass in Began church. I was told too that Thomas supplied the people of

Ballyhaunis with vegetables which he brought into town with a donkey and cleeves (creels). The Donkey's name was Mary-Ann, and it was said that Mary-Ann knew their customers as good as Thomas himself. She would stand outside each door without being told, as the various deliveries were made. Thomas married Sabina Flatley, and their son Thomas was father of the famous Ballyhaunis-born writer, Bill Naughton, who inspired the formation of the Kenny/Naughton Autumn School in Aghamore village in 1993.

### **Bill Naughton**

Bill's father was a shop boy having served his time in Henry's (now Ford's), Ballyhaunis, later working in Foody's (now Delaney's), Bridge St. After Bill's father Tom married Maria Fleming from Tubber, Aghamore, they established a shop in Devlis, just outside Ballyhaunis, and at that time Tom worked with the Railway. When their shop business began to fail it became very difficult to survive on Tom's income alone and the decision was made to move to Bolton in Lancashire, England. They now had three daughters and two sons, where Bill was the youngest of the family. Bill was born in 1910, and was only four years old when his family moved in 1914. One more child was born to Tom and Marie and they named him Jim. So, Jim was the only child of their family born in England. Their father got work in the coalmines doing the very tough job of coal mining. When Bill left school he had various semi-skilled jobs involving labouring and driving, and the various times in between jobs he referred to in a later writing of his, as 'pleasant periods of unemployment'. At the outbreak of World War 2 he was driving a coal lorry and he was now married with two children. On having to register for military service, he made the entry 'conscientious objector' on the official registration form, and as a result was suspended from his job and was obliged to go to London to work for the Civil Defence Service. After many failed attempts at writing over his young years, it was finally in London that his writing skills began to be recognised. In 1943 a short story of his was accepted and published by the London Evening News. He gained more and more notoriety over the years that followed, leading eventually to a play of his being later televised, and entitled "June Evening". The play, which was about his street in Bolton, Lancashire, where he was reared from the age of four, was to form the basis for the very long running TV series "Coronation Street", which began as far back as the late fifties and has survived to the present day.

Pat Regan now owns the farm where the Naughton's lived in Knockroe, Carrowkeel. My great-grandparents, Mickey and Ann Naughton, are buried in Ballyhaunis graveyard.

### **Inspiration**

My grandfather Michael Naughton spent some time in New York, USA, as did his wife-to-be, Bridget Coleman from Ballinacostello, Aghamore. They were to meet in New York and were married there in the early 1900's. My grandfather was from the townland of Tubber, which was very nearby to Bridget's own home place. Three of their sons, Mick, Tom and John, were born in the USA. Then, in 1908 or 1909, they came back to Ireland and Bridget (my grandmother) inherited the family farm in Ballinacostello where she was born, from her parents Patrick and Catherine Coleman. My grandparents, Michael and Bridget Naughton, never went back to America, and the only exception of my grandfather being away from home after that, was when he went to work in England, like many of his fellow men of that day. Their daughter Kate, and only girl (my mother), was born in January 1910. After that, Paddy and Jim were born, Paddy in 1912 or 1913 and Jim a few years later.

I was told that my great-grandfather Patrick Coleman could play the tin whistle, and my mother and uncles, Paddy and Jim, were all

accordion players, as was their first cousin Johnny Burke of Tubber, Aughamore. They were inspired by their older first cousin, Johnny Burke and also by a lady called Kate Coleman, their next-door neighbour in Ballinacostello. Kate was a melodeon player and a second cousin of their mother Bridget. When they went in visiting



*Maney McDonagh (nee Ward), mother of Martin 'Redbreast' McDonagh, with a local girl, taken in Mannin, Aghamore in the late 1940s.*

to her she would leave down the melodeon and wouldn't play while her visitors were present. What they used to do was to listen outside when she would be playing and they learned her tunes in that manner. Kate Coleman was born sometime around 1880 and was just a little younger than her second cousin, my grandmother Bridget. I remember Kate Coleman but I never heard her play, and she was a nice accordion player according to my mother. She never married however. Another musician my mother used to love to hear playing was Tony Moran from Aghtaboy, Knock, who could play melodeon and fiddle, and who also emigrated to America never to come back, and whom I don't remember as he was before my time.

I heard my mother say many times, that when Johnny Burke went to America he played on occasions with the very famous McNulty Family, who made an extraordinary number of recordings in New York City from the year 1936 to about 1953. Johnny wasn't recorded with them however. Mrs Ann McNulty, of 'The McNulty Family', was born Annie-Bridget Burke (no relation to Johnny Burke) in Kiltewan, Co. Roscommon, in 1887. She immigrated to the USA in 1910 and began establishing herself and her young children, Eileen and Peter, presenting stage acts from as early as 1926. After her husband died a young man in 1928, she was forced to try to earn a living from the stage. Her husband John McNulty was from near Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim. The McNulty Family, as they were to become known, went on to become one of the most famous names among the Irish and others in America and performed with huge distinction right up to the early sixties. At the

end of October 2007 I had the pleasure of meeting Patricia and Jim Grogan, grandchildren of Ann McNulty, over in Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon. They told me that their paternal grandfather was from the Ballyhaunis area.

### **Gramophone**

My mother's playing was a great inspiration to me when I was young, as was the music of my uncle Paddy Naughton who lived in his birth home in Ballinacostello. My mother and uncle Paddy were from that era of people who learned their music and dance as one learns to speak. They grew up with it as it was played and danced in the most natural of ways in their and other's homes at the house dances or sprees as they were often called. Those homes at that time were nearly always of the thatched variety and all of them small in size. The soul of people was expressed in their music and dance, being handed on from the older generation with all of the qualities that compels you to get stuck in and do something to it, and one would dance their heart out, as we used to say. You don't get better than that. I wish to relate here my mother's memory of music occasions she spent with a travelling family camped nearby. My mother told me that in her young days in Ballinacostello a travelling family, known as the Wards, spent a lot of their time in the parish of Aughamore. This travelling family had a gramophone at a time when few country people had yet to possess one. Their only means of transport in those days was a donkey and cart and their sleeping accommodation was that of a very basic tent. The travelling man and woman in question were Tom Ward and his wife Biddy, and their youngest daughter, Bridgeen. During the 1930s when they came to camp near Ballinacostello, my mother and her friends, my uncles and their friends, would visit the Wards to listen to their gramophone records. At that time Tom and Biddy's four older daughters and two sons were married and gone their own way. My mother told me that there was many a set danced on the road to the music from those gramophone records. Bridgeen Ward soon learned to dance the sets and would join in with the rest of the dancers. One song that always stayed in my mother's mind, which she heard played on that gramophone player was entitled "Knock at my Window Tonight, Love". My mother said that Bridgeen Ward was a good singer. When my father and mother got married, the Wards, because they knew my mother so well, always made their visit in our house in Arderry. I don't remember Tom and Biddy since both died in 1946. They are buried in Aughamore graveyard. However, I do remember their oldest daughter very well. Her name was Maney, and she was married to John McDonagh. They were the parents of Martin 'Redbreast' McDonagh, who was well known around Aughamore and Ballyhaunis. Bridgeen Ward, who I have already mentioned, married a man called Barney Doherty, and Barney was one of the best bare-knuckled fighters among the Irish travellers. His son in turn, 'Blonde' Simon Doherty, is one of the best bare-knuckled men that ever left Ireland to cross over to England, where he has lived since his young days.

### **Local influences**

Other people I have to thank for my inspiration as a musician are Pat Leonard and Tommy (Thady) Stenson of Carrabaun, Aghamore, who were tin whistle players; Michael Carney from my own village, Arderry, who played the concert flute and tin whistle; George Stenson from Cappagh who played the tin whistle and fiddle, and yet another tin whistle player, John P. Murphy from Raith. It is important to state that most of the older men who played a tin whistle in their older years were flute players when younger.



I want to mention here that Tommy Thady Stenson's brother, Thady Stenson, was widely recognised as one of the best concert flute players you could hear, and on top of that Tom and Thady were second cousins of my father Michael. Also, Tommy and Thady's uncle, in days well gone by, was a man called John Cox 'the woodner', because he was a renowned wooden flute player. John Cox was a granduncle of Seamus Cox of Carrabaun, of Seamus Cribbin, Drimbane, Ballyhaunis, and of Mary Teresa Horan, Aghataharn, Tooreen. He was the brother of their grandfather Jimmy Cox who was a tailor as well as a farmer, in Carrabaun. John and Jimmy Cox were first cousins of my paternal grandmother Norah (Prendergast) Tighe. She and my grandfather Pat Tighe died a couple of years before I was born. I am told that my grandmother was a step-dancer, and I heard my father say that when she would hum (lilt) a certain tune, she would say "God be with John Cox" – it seems he had already emigrated to England or



*Paddy Joe's grandparents Michael and Bridget (Coleman) Naughton, taken in New York, U.S.A. in the early 1900s, before they returned home to Ballinacostello, Aghamore. Michael's father Micky Naughton came originally from Knockroe, Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis.*

America sometime before. My paternal grandparents were also grandparents of Joe and Kit Keane, Knox Street Ballyhaunis. From listening to all those fine tin whistle players mentioned above, I told myself I wanted to be a tin whistle player, and I achieved it. I learned to play the tin whistle before the accordion in actual fact.

### **School Days**

I went to Falleighter National School where my teachers were Tom Nolan and Maisie Fox. Tom was an uncle of Michael Nolan, Clooncan. Michael is very interested in all aspects of traditional Irish music and promotes it in every way he knows how. My memories of our teachers are of them being very capable, and they took a great interest in their pupils. They had a great love for the Irish language and taught it splendidly too. I wasn't a very enthusiastic student as music was my life and all I thought about. My neighbour and school friend Peadar Cassidy, and I were the only ones in our school interested in traditional music and I remember the two of us playing our tin whistles on the way home from school. Traditional music and dance had died out by that time.

I will always remember my last day in school. It was Christmas 1956 and Miss Gurrán had arranged a concert and play. She was our lovely young teacher whose first name was Martha, and who had taken Miss Fox's place when she went to become head teacher in Doogary, not far from Kilkelly, back in 1954. The highlight of my day was when we went for singing lessons to Martha's room. There was a partitioned-off empty room in between the two teaching rooms and I was in the Master's room at that point in time of course, and apart from the singing class, the only thing I liked about going to school was coming home when school was over. I still remember Martha coming to school all the way from Kilkelly on her pushbike, with a basket attached in front of the bike's handlebars. Going back to this happy last day in school, I remember the singers at the concert were Eileen Carney and John Cassidy, both from Arderry. The concert, which was so well arranged by Miss Gurrán, was held in the middle room with the partition pulled back. The audience were seated in the Master's room. Miss Gurrán had asked me to bring my button accordion, which was newly bought just one year before, to play for the concert. I had it in my shopping bag by my side waiting for her to prompt me to play at the correct moment. I was so happy, as I had only recently learned to play it, and to the delight and loud applause of the audience, I played a selection of tunes, some of which I learned from Michael Carney, who played the concert flute at the sprees those days, together with his friend Henry Folliard on his single-row accordion. The school play was called 'The Nativity', and the choir explained the story in song, with the girls wearing their Communion and Confirmation dresses. Their wings, so real looking, were made out of wire and crepe paper, and were without any doubt a work of art. Michael Duffy from Keelderra played the part of St. Joseph, Eileen Flatley from Falleighter played the Blessed Virgin, and a doll represented Jesus. Martha Gurrán is now living in Galway, and last Christmas she brought out a new CD called "Times to Remember". She is a first cousin of Margaret and Carmel Johnston of Knox Street, Ballyhaunis. Music went on to be a big part of my life. I remember playing at farewell parties for friends who were emigrating to England, as was normal in those days, some of whom were never to come back except for a holiday. There were four other women who, like my mother, were a great inspiration to me musically. Those women were: Bridget Adams and Norah Folliard, who were both accordion players; Bridgie Waldron, who played fiddle, and Kate Leonard whose singing I will ever remember. If Kate had gone to America she would have had, I have no doubt, a great singing career. Alan Morrisroe would have her in his collection of 78s today. Kate Leonard's granddaughter Carmel Leonard of Carrabawn, who is a teacher, is also a great singer, as is Kate's niece, Catriona Burke, who lives in Cloongoonagh, Tooreen, and sings in the choir in Tooreen church.

### Just memories

In those early days our house was a great 'visiting house' or 'rambling house', as those kind of homes were usually called. My father was the local barber and I remember people coming to have their hair cut when I was a young lad. Not only did the people from our own village of Arderry come to visit socially, but they came also from the surrounding villages as well. I have seen music sessions, singsongs, and sets danced in our home in the summer nights, and especially the long winter nights. There was never a dull moment in our village back then. During the summer and autumn time, people used to pass by our house going to and coming from Arderry bog, cutting, saving, and bringing home their turf. Along with that, people came fishing every evening to Arderry lakes nearby. Hunters hunted the hare with hounds, and shooting with shotguns took place in the surrounding bogs. All of that has gone now in the countryside, and are just memories for me.

Back in the 1950s the radio was a facility we could not afford. I would always go to my neighbours, the Tarpeys and Waldrons in Arderry, to listen to 'Dinjo' and the 'Ballad Makers'. The Tarpeys are all dead and gone now. Michael Francis Waldron, my neighbour, was the first person I heard talking about the late Margaret Barry, having heard her on his radio in 1957. To my delight, I heard her myself sometime later on the radio. So, in 1958, Monsignor James Horan, of Knock Airport fame, who was a curate in Tooreen from 1944 to 1959, invited Margaret Barry to perform in his renowned Tooreen Hall. This Hall was another creation of James Horan's as was Forkan's Post Office in the village. Little did I realise then that Margaret and I would become such good friends and that I would work with her in the music business in later years. For some reason I wasn't in Tooreen Hall the night of her first appearing there, but I remember that occasion well. Other cabaret artists I remember actually seeing in Tooreen hall were: Bridie Gallagher, Eileen Donaghy, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem, Danny Doyle and Johnny McEvoy. Artists I missed seeing in Tooreen Hall were the internationally acclaimed singers Michael Holiday and Adam Faith, and nationally acclaimed, Clodagh Rodgers and Joe Lynch. During the eighteen years of its existence, Tooreen Hall hosted some of the most widely known and best-loved bands and cabaret artists. I was going to school a very young lad when Tooreen hall opened its doors in 1951, and it was in business until 1969 when the sad day of its closure was announced. Seamus Cox's band The Riviera provided the entertainment on its final night. Back in those good old days there were six shops in Tooreen, one of them with the post office as part of the premises, but today, just like the hall, they are all gone and just a memory.

### First accordion

I remember when my father bought me my first accordion after him coming off the train, in Ballyhaunis, on his way home from England in Christmas 1955. It was bought in Hannan's of Bridge Street on the occasion of my father's arrival, and my mother chose it. I remember it was a dark coloured, single-row, Hohner make. I am fairly sure that I played a little that night in Paddy Jordan's of the Corner Bar, but I certainly remember my uncle Paddy, who had come in with us to Ballyhaunis, playing. Paddy Jordan was a native of Raith, Aughamore, but that premises is Nestor's Corner Bar today.

I can remember very clearly doing my first show, on my own, in Bill Campbell's in Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, in the summer of 1960. I remember Henry Folliard's brother, Tim, was home from England on holidays with his wife, and Tim step dancing to my music that night in 1960. (I have already made reference to Henry Folliard, the accordion player, and his mother Nora, earlier on in my reminiscences).

During the late 1950s I played mostly at house parties, station parties, farewell parties, and I played at a few house wedding receptions during the period from the beginning of 1960 to the Spring of 1962. I still remember the 'straw boys' at those house-wedding receptions. The straw boys would be the uninvited guests in the days gone by.

I played at wedding receptions in Kevin Griffin's of the Eagle Bar, Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis (now Colleran's pharmacy). Tony Rattigan from Ballyhaunis sang and played the guitar and Andy Flanagan from Errit, Carrowbehy, played the fiddle, with me on the accordion. Tony Rattigan was very popular in those days and the girls loved him. The early 1960s put an end to the house wedding receptions, as they were all held in hotels from that time on.

Tony Cunnane, with his wife Mary and their children Lillian, Kathy and Anthony, came home from New York USA and took over the Eagle Bar from Kevin Griffin and his wife Maureen in 1965. From Summer 1965 until Summer 1968 Tony Cunnane called to collect me with his car and took me to play in his pub from the beginning of the summer months until the end of September. The place would be packed with people in those years, with lots of people home on holidays from England and America. Lots of times I played on my own

in the pub in those years, but you would on occasions have people who would come up on the stage to play a tune and sing a song. I was joined by Mick Hopkins of Island, Paddy Hunt of Larganboy, and the above mentioned Tony Rattigan, on many occasions in the Eagle Bar in those days, as paid performers. Paddy Hunt was a very good saxophone player. Mick Hopkins played drums, and it was only in later years I got to know what a widely talented man Mick was, and still is, when I discovered that he also played the saxophone, the piano accordion, is a great man at recitations, and is the life and soul of any party.

It was hard to work in the hayfield and the bog in those days, and also having to be out every night playing. In Summer 1968, Angela Heaney, from near Ballyhaunis, and Tony Rattigan and myself formed a group. Angela, like Tony Rattigan, sang and played guitar. The group was called "The Heaney Trio", and that was my first experience of travelling outside Mayo doing gigs. Angela's mother, Aggie Heaney, did our dates and drove us to our gigs in her Volkswagen car. We did well for a start, but all of us went our own way for various reasons by 1969.

### Potato picking

I wouldn't like to give the impression that I did nothing else except play music - far from it. In 1962 I went over to Lincolnshire, England, to pick potatoes on what we used to call 'piece work'. In actual fact I spent five seasons at that particular potato farmer up to the year 1966. That was no easy task. I played music for the love of it, but I won't lie to ye and say I picked potatoes for the love of



*Máire Ní Catháin O'Malley, from Ballintubber, Co. Mayo, and Margaret Barry (right). Taken in the mid-1970s.*



it, because I didn't - I had to do it, as times were hard back then and money was scarce. There were always four of us in the gang at the potato picking. The men who were with me were: Bernie Ruane from Carrowbeg, who was the ganger man; his brother-in-law Tom Moran from Cappagh, Tooreen, and Jack Stenson, who was then living in Scardaune, Aughamore, but now living in Arderry nearby. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to wish God's Rest to the late Bernie Ruane, and to say thanks to his brother-in-law Tom Moran (who is now in his early nineties), because if they had not come to help me pick some baskets of potatoes out of my row, I would have had to leave the field. As this was my first experience with the hard graft of potato picking on such a scale, I wasn't hardened to it like the other older more experienced men, but as time proceeded during my potato picking I became more capable of keeping up with everybody else. Tom Moran, up to recently, has been cutting his own turf with the slane and him well past 90. Other men I worked with on the potato fields during those years were, Darby Grogan from Tavrane, Padraic Frain from Barcul, and Tommy Joe Stenson from Carrowscoltia. Darby Grogan was the father of the well-known accordion player, the late Dermot Grogan. There were always four of us in the gang at the potato picking. I remember 1962 when four of us picked forty acres of potatoes in a month and two days. The money we got was sixteen pound per acre. We were on 'piece work'. 'Piece work' means, that because you were not on a daily wage you worked on the basis of getting the work done as quickly as possible and then be paid. In other words, the longer you would be doing the job, the longer it would be until you got paid. It was both in the farmer's interest and the workers' interest to get the work done as quickly as possible. We 'subbed' so much each week while we were there and when we finished we had a hundred and ten pound each. We thought we were rich men, and according to the cost of living then, we were rich men.

'Subbing', as mentioned above, means that we would be paid enough each week out of what money was coming to us at the end of our term, so that we could pay the butcher and the grocer that came along with his travelling shop. It would keep us going with a few drinks too and stand our ground as we used to say. Many of the men needed their few cigarettes and those too that needed to send a pound or two home maybe. We would always work a half-day on Saturday. We started on the first day of October and we finished on the last day, which amounted to four weeks and two days.

I always looked forward to finishing the potato picking, as I would then get the Manchester train in Scunthorpe, and on arriving at Manchester I would get the Bolton bus at Salford bus station (I think it was a number 8 bus). I remember arriving in Bolton on the first day of November 1962, which was my first time there. Two of my uncles, Mick and John Naughton, lived in Bolton not very far from Manchester, and my youngest uncle, Jim Naughton, lived in Farnworth outside Bolton. I can still remember how I looked forward to those visits to Bolton. There were times when I came home after I had visited them all, but also those times I stayed on and worked for a while on the building sites. It was at this time that I heard my uncle Jim playing the accordion for the first time. He was playing in the Peacock pub in Bolton which was been managed by Martin Regan, its landlord, from Barroe, Carracastle, Co. Mayo. When I first laid eyes on uncle Jim I remember him looking more like my mother than any of her other brothers. Jim didn't come home on Holidays like Mick and John. My three uncles were married to English-born women. Uncle Mick's wife died in 1949 leaving him with a young family of three daughters and two sons. Misfortunes happen in people's lives, but Mick managed to rear his family with great fatherly endeavour in what must have been very difficult circumstances, managing to

succeed so extraordinarily well.

I had wonderful times with my uncles, their wives and families, and it was like home from home. I played in the pubs in England in those days too. Unfortunately all of my uncles and their wives are dead now, as is one of my cousins, Uncle Jim's son Michael. Fair play to my English cousins, as they all keep in contact with me to this day and two of them visited me since I came to live in Ballyhaunis.

### ***The Seventies***

As well as working in England, I also worked for four years and four months on the river Moy Drainage Scheme here in Ireland, from June 1967, to September 1971. My father passed away suddenly in August 1973 and as a result I had to stay at home with my mother and look after the farm after that.

In the early 1970s I played with Dick Prendergast's group called "The Broadway Melody". In that group there was Patrick Naughton (no relation) who played both button and piano-accordion, from Grange near Granlahan; Tom Jones from Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny, who sang and played guitar and lodged in Morley's of Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, if I remember correctly; Eamon Mulrennan, Tooreen, who sang and played guitar, and Tom Burke, Granlahan, who played button accordion. Dick Prendergast was an Aughamore man and a very good singer. We were doing very well and the crowds were enjoying us in the pubs. We travelled quite a bit, but in a short time that group had split up for one reason or another, and I, for one, was very disappointed. After that group split up I started playing in The Ship Inn in Charlestown about 1972. Vincent Smith from Co. Monaghan, and his wife Kathleen from Derryronan near Swinford, owned The Ship Inn (Kathleen now owns St. Anne's Nursing Home near Charlestown). Eamon O'Hara from Charlestown played keyboard, and Frank Gallagher, Killaturley, Swinford played drums. We were the resident group there for quite a long time and, like the Eagle Bar in Ballyhaunis, The Ship Inn lounge was packed with people all the time. Vincent and Kathleen were very good friends to me and they lent me their amplifier when Jimmy Joe Mulligan, Hagfield, Charlestown, and I began playing together there later in the seventies. We were advertised in the provincial paper (Western People) as Jimmy Joe and Paddy. I played the accordion, Jimmy Joe the drums and an occasional tune on his tin whistle. From 1978 to late 1980 I had a céili band on the road. The band was called the "Charlestown Quartet" as three of the players were from the Charlestown area: Bill Caferty, Sagura, Charlestown, played the fiddle; Padraic Callaghan, Botuney, Curry, played the concert flute and Oliver Durkan, Fuel, Curry, played drums. We were drawing the crowd every place we played, and that was many a place. We were kept busy all the time. I will never forget Mrs. Killoran in Tubbercurry for she always made sure we got a sit-down meal in her restaurant when our night was over. Although we were doing well with the band, the boys eventually decided to 'call it a day'. The 1980s in general were great years for me, despite all the disappointments. Joe Dunleavy, Derrough, Kilkelly (a very good concert flute player) and I started playing in the pubs in 1981 and we were together all through the 80s and onwards until 1991 - a long time together.

### ***Margaret Barry***

In 1981 Margaret Barry (whom I have already mentioned) and Máire Ní Catháin O'Malley were advertised for playing in various pubs, and I was involved in helping them with their playing dates around my part of the country. I attended some of their shows and joined them with my accordion on certain occasions. I first became acquainted with Margaret Barry in 1980 when I drove to



Ballycastle in North Mayo anxious to hear her for the first time performing live. I was accompanied on that trip to Ballycastle by Jean Skeffington, Bellaghy, Co. Sligo, who was my girlfriend then. Máire, who was originally from near the village of Ballintubber, Co. Mayo, but was settled in Slane, Co. Meath since the late sixties, could play the fiddle and dance to her own music. She was a P.E. teacher before partnering Margaret Barry in the music business, having first met each other in New York City, U.S.A., in the mid 1970s, and managed to do an open-air concert together at the Rockefeller Centre there at that time. Máire also starred in the film 'The Commitments', playing the part as the religious mother of Joey 'the Lips' Fagan, and played her fiddle in it too. She played a role in the film entitled 'Awaking Ned Devine' as the Post Mistress, which was partly filmed in the Isle of Man. I hear from her often and at the end of December 2002 she travelled all the way from Slane to be with me for my 60th birthday party. Her sister Sally was married to John McGuinness from Brickens near Ballyhaunis. At the time of this writing she is composing music and writing songs much as she has been doing for many years.

Margaret Barry made several record albums during her lifetime performed in her gutsy voice and accompanied by her flamboyant banjo-playing style. She recorded traditional numbers such as 'Come Back Paddy Reilly to Ballyjamesduff', 'Lovely Derry on the Banks of the Foyle', 'The Leprechaun' and 'The Half Door'. Margaret was born in Peter Street, Cork City in 1917, into a family of travellers who had been loosely rooted in the area for two generations. They were a musical family that included many street performers, and among them Margaret's father, who was also an occasional accompanist for silent films during the 1920s. Her maternal grandfather, Bob Thompson, was a well-known uilleann piper who took top prize at the Feis Ceoil in Dublin in 1898. Margaret told me that she was an only child, her mother having died when she was only twelve years of age. I learned later that she performed her first public singing at the age of thirteen, during the period following the death of her mother, and her father having developed another relationship. Her father and eventual stepmother travelled the country with her in-tow. I heard her say that her father took a job in a circus in the town of Macroom at one stage. She left home and was by herself at the age of 14 or 15. She travelled by bicycle from place to place and sang at fairs, markets, house parties, and to cinema queues. She lived in lodgings until she got her own horse-drawn caravan. In 1951 Irish folklorist Sean O'Boyle discovered her while she was busking in Dublin and alerted the American folk music collector Alan Lomax in time for his Irish field trip of that year. Alan Lomax, and his assistant Robin Roberts, caught up with Margaret in the town of Dundalk and after they heard her sing and play the banjo, Alan asked her if she would come to his hotel room to record for them. She promptly agreed as though this was an every-day occurrence. Alan was so impressed with her that he later took her to London where he presented her on BBC television with Irish singers and musicians, including fiddler Michael Gorman from near Tubbercurry. Margaret and Michael formed a lasting partnership and they played in all the entertainment spots for the Irish at that time. Michael Gorman's grandson Micheál Gorman, Tubbercurry, is married to Joanne Fitzmaurice, who is a daughter of Paddy and Maire Fitzmaurice, Abbeyquarter, near Ballyhaunis.

Also, in 1981, I had the pleasure of playing with the famous "Lissadell Folk Group" from Oxford, England, the leader of which was Michael Henry of Tooreen. Michael was the person who started the Tooreen hurling club fifty years ago and the Oxford Festival in England, where he settled years later. It was Michael who first told me, in 1987, where Bill Naughton the writer was living. I was living in Bolton, Lancashire in the 1960s when Bill's

sister May and brothers Edward and Jim were all living there. My uncles were in contact with Bill and his family over the years, but Bill was living in London then, later moving to the Isle of Man. I had no idea where he was until Michael gave me his address and phone number some twenty years or so later in 1987. So, we have to thank Michael Henry, or the Kenny/Naughton Autumn School would never have come to pass.

I also have to thank Michael for giving me the honour of asking me to play with his group when they were here on tour in 1981. I played with them on two occasions some years apart. It was also Michael who first told me of the singer and entertainer Pecker Dunne, and how he invited Pecker on a tour of England, after hearing he had written the song 'Sullivan's John'. The song 'Sullivan's John' had been recorded to great acclaim by the very famous group 'The Dubliners', some time before. I will mention Pecker later in my account.

I didn't have any contact with Margaret Barry in the years between 1981 and 1986 but we were in contact by letter and phone towards the end of that period. By coincidence, at the time of Monsignor Horan's death in 1986, Margaret Barry came to Ballyhaunis. She had been driven from Dundalk by a friend and was living in Laurencetown, Co. Down at that time. Joe Dunleavy and I used to play every Sunday night for Enda Murphy, owner of the 'Murphy Arms' (formerly The Eagle Bar) in Ballyhaunis. I arrived at the pub for my usual engagement and to my great surprise Margaret was there. I had arranged with her to come to Mayo at some stage in order to do appearances at various venues, but I had got such a surprise when she arrived so unexpectedly and without any indication. She was aware that I played in Murphy's pub, so she would have had no problem finding me. She subsequently stayed with my mother and me, in our home, for three weeks. The neighbours came in on a few occasions and enjoyed the chat with Margaret, and sometimes there would be a big session of music and singsong. We did lots of shows together in different parts of Mayo, Roscommon, and the county Galway town of Glennamaddy, over that three-week period. Enda Murphy gave us our first booking and three bookings in total. We did a show for Fred Hodgins in Charlestown; a show at my first cousin Martin Tigh's in Kilkelly, a show at The Wagon Wheel in Granlahan, and Kelly's in Glennamaddy. We also did a show on Paul Claffey's programme on Mid-West Radio.

### **Pecker Dunne**

Pecker Dunne came into my life in 1987. I read about him in the Roscommon Herald when he advertised for a pub in Roscommon and I was so anxious to see him after hearing Michael Henry singing his praises. I said to my mother that now is our chance to see him, and we travelled to that pub and enjoyed him singing, playing banjo, fiddle and guitar, and telling great stories. After the show I went to talk to him and indicated to him that we had never met before. I then reminded him of the time Michael Henry had taken him on a tour of England and I asked if would like to come to Ballyhaunis if I got him some shows. His response was very positive, and I knew I could meet him when he was back there in that same pub three weeks later. I later told Enda Murphy about him, and asked him if he would come and hear him. After only ten minutes watching and listening to Pecker, Enda gave him a booking for the following Friday night. I told Pecker to come early on that Friday so that I would arrange with Mid West Radio to give him an airing. On that day I drove him to Castlebar so that he could see the town where he was born, his birth having taken place in a barrel-topped caravan on the 1st of April 1933. I drove him to various towns that day and he got loads of bookings. That was his first show in Enda Murphy's that summer's night in 1987. He was



coming back doing shows for years after that and often came to our house when he would have finished doing his show, and we would have a chat until all hours of the morning. The last gigs he did in Mayo were in October 2000. He did one at the Kenny/Naughton Autumn School in Aughamore and the other at the Airport Inn in Kilkelly. His partner Madeline and his two daughters and two sons were there with him at that time, all of them musicians. As well as the song 'Sullivan's John', Pecker composed lots of other songs, which he put on an LP with the broadcaster and musician/composer Shay Healy. Shay's second cousin Madeline O'Boyle from Belderrig, Ballycastle, was married to my first cousin Sean Naughton from Ballinacostello. Madeline passed away some years ago, leaving Sean with two daughters. Sean and Madeline met and married in Dublin in 1970, later moving to Leeds, in England. Pecker has had significant ill health in recent times. I visited him twice in St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ennis. During February 2008, on the second of my visits, I was accompanied by Alan Morrisroe. I sang his song 'Sullivan's John' for him on my second visit, as well as playing my accordion both in his room and in several of the wards of the nursing home. In April 2007 I had the pleasure of being invited to attend Pecker's tribute concert, which was held in the Cois Na h-Amhna centre in Ennis, Co. Clare.

#### Set Dancers

In 1988 I had the pleasure of being the resident player for the Aughamore set dancing group, who won the Readóiri (PTAA) All-Ireland final set dancing competitions in Shinrone, Co. Offaly, on the 27th February of that year. The group had also qualified to represent Connacht in the All-Ireland Scor-Na-nÓg finals, but sadly we were unable to attend, because both competitions were held on the same date. The group were also winners of the all-Ireland Ceol an Gheimhridh (CCE) competition held in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, on the 20th of March. The group came first at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil in Kilkenny City in August of that year. In fact the group went on to win eight more All-Ireland finals after that time. Grainne (Kelly) Frain, Knock, was their teacher and, looking back now, she deserves great credit for all the journeys she made to Aughamore National School and the extraordinary number of hours of hard work involved practicing the dance figures. She really took a great interest in those youngsters. Seamus Duffy, at that time principal of Aughamore National School, facilitated us with the use of his school, always leaving it at our disposal. The same Seamus Duffy, who is one of the radio presenters on mid-west radio, sang on Radio Eireann, as it was known back in 1956. Another Aughamore person who sang on Radio Eireann in the 1950s was Noirín Ní Nearaigh from Doogary, Aughamore. She sang in the Irish language. Four of that Aughamore set dancing group had Ballyhaunis roots: Georgina Cribbin's father Tommy is from Toher; Sean Morris' mother Rita Waldron from Cave, and Michael and Patsy Duffy's mother, Mary Plunkett, from Mountain.

The 1980s were great years generally, but sadly my Uncle Paddy Naughton, Ballinacostello, died suddenly in Castlebar hospital on my birthday, December 29th 1989, and was buried with my grandparents Michael and Bridget Naughton in Aughamore graveyard on New Year's Day 1990. It was a sad New Year's Day for us all. My mother was ever so sad, as she was the only one of the Naughton family left. Her sense of loss was obvious. My mother's brothers Mick, John and Jim had died years before in Bolton, England, and Tom, in New York, USA. Mick and John died within three weeks of each other in 1968, and Jim, the youngest of them all, died suddenly on Boxing Day (St. Stephen's Day) 1969, and him only in his mid fifties. Tom, in America, passed away in the early 1980s. Father Moran was parish priest in Aughamore then,

and I will always remember what he said at uncle Paddy's mass. In his sermon, he said, Christmas is a lonely time to die but a nice time to go to heaven. He then said, "Maybe they might have a melodeon up there for Paddy to play". I will always be grateful to Tom and



*Paddy Joe Tighe.*

Noreen Glavey who owned, at that time, the present day Moran's Lounge in Aughamore, as they had uncle Paddy's framed photograph displayed on a shelf in their lounge.

#### Music sessions

In the early 1990s, John Austin Freely, from Brackloon, who played the fiddle, and I played on Tuesday nights in the Corner Bar, Ballyhaunis, for its proprietor Gerry McGarry. I played at many a great session in Jack Halpin's, Main Street, and if I was to mention the names of all the great singers and musicians I met at sessions during my life, there wouldn't be any space big enough in the Annagh magazine for them all. So pardon me if I only mention the names of the people I worked with in the music business. During this time Bill Naughton died in the Isle of Man in January 1992, and Joe Byrne, Billy Kirrane of Knock (another relation) and myself, flew out from Belfast for the funeral. The Kenny/Naughton Autumn School was established the following year 1993, thanks to Joe Byrne. Paul Rogers, from Aughamore village, took over as chairman in 1997, and the Kenny/Naughton Autumn School, held on the public holiday and last weekend of October, has proved a great occasion from its instigation to the present day.

I took part in the play 'The Passion' in Kilkelly in 1995, but apart from that nothing much regarding my public playing of music took place during the 1990s. I took my mother out to music sessions during those years, right up to the end of her life, as she liked to go out. When I went out by myself without her I used to be worried leaving her on her own. Sadly, my mother passed away in October 1997 at the age of eighty-eight years. She played the accordion at the music sessions in Moran's Lounge, Kilmovee and in Kevin Duffy's Lounge in Kilkelly as good that year as she did in her young days. The last time she ever played was at the session of music in Liam Regan's Lounge, Carracastle, on August 14th 1997. She had a stroke the next morning and died in Swinford hospital on October 18th of that year. Alan Morrisroe travelled from Dublin to attend her funeral Mass in Aughamore. Joe Byrne and the late Joe Burke, Coogue, played traditional music during the mass, and Alan Morrisroe and his father Joe played a march on their accordions as they walked behind the hearse from the church to the cemetery. There was more music played at the graveside. Des



Boyle from Foxford was also there. I hope I am not forgetting anybody and if I am, I am not meaning to.

Sadly, Uncle Paddy's wife Molly died in Castlebar hospital in 1998. She was Molly Fitzmaurice and originally from Mountain, Ballyhaunis. She was a lovely woman and very good to my grandparents. They all lived together in the old family home in Ballinacostello, and she always made us welcome when we went to visit.

So, the 1990s wasn't a period of great joy and also during that period my own health had begun to concern me. I had neglected my health, because, although I had been worried about myself, I was afraid to go to a doctor. Also I was worried about my mother in her old age, and as a result, I neglected my own health. It was on the advice, as late as 2001, from the district nurse, Mrs. Freeman, on noticing my appearance and suggesting I should see a doctor that finally caused me to be decisive about what action I should take.

In Christmas 2001 Johnny McGarry from Drimbane, Ballyhaunis, Helen Frecker, Carrowbeg, Kilkelly, and me started playing together in Val's Pub in Ballyhaunis. Helen played with us until 2004, is originally from England, and plays piano accordion, sings, and has taught piano. Johnny McGarry plays fiddle and sings. Johnny is a Ballyhaunis man with Aghamore roots and I am an Aghamore man with Ballyhaunis roots. I don't have to tell anyone how talented Johnny McGarry and his family are, but my opinion of them is one of, that I may have heard as good during my lifetime, but I never heard better. Johnny at the age of 89 is still doing gigs and if he is not in the Guinness Book of Records then he should be. He is a long time established performer and bandleader, from as far back as the early forties. Myself and Johnny play at present in Kennedy's pub in Williamstown on the second Saturday of each month.

Since I came to Ballyhaunis I joined various prayer meetings, as I feel I need this in my life at this stage in time. In September 2007, Father Tommy Commons CC, in Cloonfad, people from the Cloonfad area, and people from different of Mayo, and me, went on a trip to Medjugorje in Bosnia Herzegovina. The trip had been organised by Ann Kedian, Cloonfad, and Maureen Lyons, Aghataharn, Tooreen. We flew out from Knock Airport for a one-week pilgrimage and the weather was lovely there. I played my accordion on both the plane and in the bar called 'Columbus', every night while there. Father Tommy celebrated his birthday while we were there and there was a great party for him.

While there I attended concert given by a man called David Parke. I don't know very much about this man other than him having had several operations for bowel cancer, and after having a charity concert for him at some point, asked him if he would like to go to Medjugorje. After travelling there he appears to have been miraculously cured. Now he is out there giving free concerts the

whole time. I enjoyed his concert very much.

This year, Ann Powers from Ballyhaunis, some from the Ballinlough area, and more from the Westport area and other places, and me, climbed Croagh Patrick on the 15th of August for a very good cause. For some time leading up to this climb I walked from door to door, with my dog Sandy, in the surrounding villages, taking in parts of the parishes of Ballyhaunis, Cloonfad, Aghamore, Knock, as far as almost Kilkelly to the north and Cloonfad in the opposite direction, seeking sponsorship for this climb. I spent about fifteen days collecting and walked well over 150 miles. I would like to say a special thank you to everybody, as I eventually managed to collect over €3,700 for the project. The purpose behind all of these efforts was to raise funds for a retreat home in Killawalla, near Westport. When this home is eventually built, it will be called 'Mary of the Roses Retreat Home', and will cater for people with drink, drugs, and nerve problems. Next year, 2009, if God spares me, I am going to take to the streets of Ireland busking to raise more money for the same project. I will have my free public transport pass and I will follow in the footsteps of my great busking friends, Margaret Barry and Pecker Dunne.

### **Back to my roots**

As I come to a close now I want to tell you about some young people of the present day who have impressed me so much with their music making and who are giving me so much hope for the future of our countryside traditional music playing. There are three great musicians in my home village of Arderry today, namely: Marianne Knight, granddaughter of the late Michael Carney who played the flute and tin whistle, and whom I have already referred to earlier; the Cassidy sisters, Aoife and Noreen, who are grandnieces of Peadar Cassidy who played the tin whistle with me on our way home from school all those years ago on our way home from school. Aoife and Noreen are also related to the accordion player Alan Morrisroe from Barnacogue, near Knock Airport. My cousins, the Leonard family, Carrabawn, Aghamore, are very talented and who are related to Johnny Burke whom I also have mentioned earlier, and who played with the famous McNulty Family in New York City.

To bring my account to a complete close now I want to mention my next-door neighbour Mary Donohue who is a great friend to me since I came to Ballyhaunis, and want to thank her. I have lots of other good friends here too and I want to thank all who have helped me to reach this stage of being so well settled into the town of Ballyhaunis. I go for meals to the Hazel Bar and Restaurant, which is just across the street from me, every day, and there is no better place to go for a meal. I keep on playing my music and I am very happy here, and why not, sure I am back to my roots.

*Paddy Joe Tighe.*



**Outside Judge's Shop, Johnstown**  
L-R: John and Margaret Judge, who operated a shop in Johnstown for many years, with Pat Gildea, Johnstown, late 1950s.

## Gracenotes - Musical Year Sept '07 – Sept '08



*Gracenotes at the Limerick Festival of Church Music 2008 when we were awarded First Prize in the Sacred Music section. Back row L-R Tina Kirrane, Miriam Winston, Martina Kelly, Marayde O'Brien, Xanthe Pratt, Mairead Quinn, Helen White, Mary Lyons, Marge Hierons, Geraldine Collins. Middle Row L-R Breege Kenny, Anna Henry, Mary Patterson, Margaret O'Grady, Anna Butler, Ita Fahey, Eimear Thornton, Claire Stratford, Una Shields, Maureen Thornton & Aoife Keane. Front Row L-R Frankie O'Malley, Aisling Macken, Moira Stratford, Olivia Regan, Anne Lyons, Bridie Giblin, Marie Kelly, Musical Director-Laura Brogan, Mary Dawson, Monica Murphy, Mary Lanigan, Nuala Cahill and Mary-Hannah O'Connor. Stratford Photography.*

I am delighted to report that Gracenotes have had what could be described as our most successful year yet. We have been placed First, Second and Third in various competitions in three major choral festivals in Ireland this year. So we are all really delighted and are thoroughly enjoying our success. However, to get to the point of winning these competitions a lot of hard work has to take place. On our return to choir in September '07 after our summer break we welcomed back some former members and were pleased to see new ones. Laura Brogan our Musical Director handed each of us our music for the forthcoming year and it was at this point that we realised we had our work cut out! We all knew that the success of the choir depended on each of us learning our lines and committing all the music to memory; not always an easy task but I think we all secretly love the challenge! Our performing year started in October when we held a concert in Kinvara in aid of Trócaire. Then at the beginning of December we had an interesting Voice Workshop with Michel Durham. At Christmas we held our annual Recital of Carols in the Friary and raised funds for St. Vincent de Paul. We also sang to the residents of the local nursing home.

In January '08 our practices resumed and we started to really polish the competition pieces that we had been learning for the festivals. We also took part in the Mission Mass in the Parish Church. Then, on the first of March, all the effort that had been put in by the choir paid off when we were awarded First Prize in the Sacred Music section of the Limerick Festival of Church Music 2008, gaining a mark of 92%. I know that Laura was very proud of us all that day and likewise we were very proud of her. We were thrilled with the result especially as this was the main competition of the festival.

At the end of March we extended our congratulations to one of our members Karen Ronane who gave birth to her third daughter. We wish her family health and happiness. Then it was with great sadness in April that we heard that Enda Murphy had passed away. We send our condolences to his wife Kathleen. Enda had always greeted us each Thursday with a friendly chat at the door of the Parochial Hall and he looked after us very well by making sure the rooms were warm for us. We miss him. We would also like to pass on our sympathies to all the people in the choir who sadly lost family members throughout the year.

We sang at The Belmont Hotel in April for the French visitors of the Twinning Association and it went very well. We then had another Voice Workshop, this time with Mark Duley who gave us

further confidence in our singing before our next competition. At the beginning of May, on the Bank Holiday weekend, we set out to Cork for the Cork International Choral Festival. This festival is recognized as Ireland's premier choral event with choirs going there from all over the world. We were competing in two competitions and were thrilled to be awarded Second place in the National Open and Third place in the Sacred Music Section. We were then able to relax and enjoy the rest of the weekend knowing that we had done well. During June and July we were engaged to sing at local weddings. It is always a joy to be a part of these happy occasions. At the end of July we took part in 'A Pride of Place' and made a presentation in the Friary. It was a worthwhile exercise for us to compile all the information we had about Gracenotes since our inception and to then display it all on a board, along with our photographic memories on a lap top. We felt we made a good contribution to the event and hope everyone found it interesting. We even managed to sing a short song for the adjudicators!

I know I am meant to save this information for next year's Annagh Magazine as it is October at the time of writing this article, but we are so delighted with ourselves that I have to tell you now that we have just been placed First again in competition, this time at The Sligo International Choral Festival in the Equal Voice section and we also came a joint Third in the Sacred Music section. So we are again feeling so pleased that our choral singing is recognised as being amongst the best at this present time. We have consistently had good results over the years and we know that these are only ever achieved by putting in the work throughout the year so we will keep doing this but above all, we will continue enjoying the music and all the pleasure and friendship that it brings. Next year we hope to travel again probably to Croatia so we will update you on all the news of our trip in next years edition.

If you may be interested in booking Gracenotes for a wedding or any other event then please contact our Musical Director Laura Brogan on 086 821 3864 or Maureen Thornton on 094 96 30667

Our A.G.M. was held in September '08 and 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. Committee members: Anna Butler and Xanthe Pratt.

*Moira Stratford (P.R.O.)*



## **“Ask Me My Lifetime, I Could Tell You A Tale...”**

*Staff members of Brookvale Manor Nursing Home thought it would be nice to talk with residents and collect and collate stories of their life experiences – at home and abroad. Here is a selection of material they have submitted for publication.*

### **Look At Me**

Look at me, not my tired face.  
Yes, I am older and slow in pace.  
Look at me, deep in my eyes,  
Don't look for sorrow or surprise.

Once I was pretty, gracious and young,  
I, too liked music and to have some fun.  
Just 'cos my body is now old and frail,  
Ask me my lifetime, I could tell you a tale.

My hair is now grey and set once a week.  
Yes I am older, but not a freak.

Talk to me and find out who I am.  
Not just a wrinkly woman or man.  
I too have history and a story to tell.  
It's now up to you to see if you listen well.

My lifetime, my history, my love and my pride,  
Like you my fore-family have been my guide.  
Let my story show to you,  
There's more to a person with a wrinkle or two.

*Samantha Chapman*

### **Life Experiences**

The first lady to tell her story, Bridget, took one of the longest journeys away from home. In 1967, this lady, her husband and six very young children flew to London where they were sponsored for £10 each by the Australian embassy. From there they made their way to Southampton to start their voyage on the *Fairsky*, a passenger ship operated by the Sitmar Line. The ship itself was best known for her service on the migrant passenger route from Britain to Australia from the 1950's to the 1970's before finally being sold for scrap following a maritime accident in 1977. The passage to Australia was a long one taking six weeks. Life on board was one of restlessness, hope of better times, and fear of the unknown. The *Fairsky* itself was one of the last boats to go through the Suez Canal, where local youths dived for coins thrown in by the passengers on board. The trip was one of trepidation, often in rough seas – exciting for children but arduous for adults who suffered seasickness.

Once reaching Queensland, the new adventure was to begin. Bridget and her family started a jewellery business. It was slow in building up and second jobs were often needed to provide for the family on a daily basis. 1985 bought her back to her native land after the homesickness got too much.

**Mary** stayed in Ireland, where she was bought up on a working cattle farm, that had been passed down through the women in the family. She remembered, as an only child, helping her father when she was no higher than a grasshopper. Going out early each morning and often not returning till the light was fading. Each evening when they

returned home, her mother would have a welcoming fire to take the cold chill off them and warm them with a hearty stew. Sadly, her father became ill while she was still in her teens and she took over the role of farmer from then on. She married and had children of her own but still kept the farm running while ferrying children to and from school on the tractor.

**Rita** trained as a nurse towards the end of the 30's. After qualifying she travelled to England. It was a scary time as the country was still in strife and war torn. Often the air raid sirens would sound; you would have to find cover in air raid shelters. She remembers the uniforms and hats, all pristine and stiff with starch, the garters worn over your sleeves and the silver buckle she received when she first qualified. Matrons on the wards were a force to be reckoned with, but even they softened as the war progressed and many became friends. Later, she travelled to Canada for what was to be a short visit, but which turned out to be over six months. She visited her sister and worked in a convent as a nurse. She returned to Ireland in her 30's or 40's (it seems so long ago now), and never married but enjoyed her career in nursing and social gatherings with friends and neighbours.

**Winnie** is another lady who was used to working the land, while raising four girls and two boys. She would waken daily at 3am to stoke the stove and see her husband off to work with raw eggs warmed in a drop of milk. If able she would manage to go back to bed for a couple of hours before stirring again to get the children ready for school and start the day afresh. This would consist of sweeping the house from head to foot with the 'twig' brush. A large pot of water would be heating on the stove ready to get the pig feed ready. It was then a steady walk up the yard away from the house to feed 150 pigs and bonhams. Many's the time a sow would have trouble and vigils would have to be kept with the bonhams under a heat lamp. The yard itself then had to be swept daily as well as preparing the evening meal when all in the household would return home.

**Maira** trained as a nurse in Nottingham, England in 1950. Ireland then was very expensive to do your training. She and her sister could not afford the fees so that is what took them to England. After her training, she then went to Leeds for six months to do her Part I Midwifery training and then onto Doncaster to do her Part II midwifery. She stayed there for four years before moving to Kingston Hospital, Surrey where, at the age of 24, she was promoted to Ward Sister. At first it was strange holding the newborn babies by the legs as they came into the world. Many people assume that a baby cries as soon as it enters the world, but many would need a little slap on the bottom.

She then moved to America, initially for six months, to see the World Fair in 1963 and to save some money for her return home. However, she ended up working in Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre as an obstetrics nurse and stayed for three years, five months. Whilst in America Maira managed to see many other places including Niagara Falls, Indiana, Toronto, California and many more. She travelled with her sister and two friends.

On her return home she moved to Dublin (The Meath Hospital) where she nursed as a ward sister in surgical and orthopaedic wards until she retired at the age of 60. Her greatest reward during her nursing, she stated, was seeing very sick or badly injured people being discharged home after an intensive stay in hospital.



On retirement she built a bungalow in her birthplace. During her working life she made many friends and some have stayed in contact, but others have been lost where people have taken different paths in life. She felt that her faith was tested at times but since returning home her strength in her faith has been regained.

**Helena**, another nurse, nursed in fields that many a person would fear physically and emotionally. Her nursing took to her to far away countries where poverty and deprivation were strife. At the age of 18 in 1937 Helena wanted to see the world and everything in it: she had always been inquisitive. She decided that she would travel to Manchester, England. Her mother, naturally worried, gave her £5 to take with her should she want to return home. Little did she realise that would not happen until 1983. At 2am she landed after her boat trip in Holyhead on a freezing morning. She knew no one nor where she was heading. She had originally answered an advertisement in a local paper. She had to find the train to Manchester. She found the agency she had answered the ad to, and they in turn pointed her in the direction of the hospital, where she had an interview with Matron and was told she would have to find herself a second-hand uniform and work the next day from 6am to 8pm. All the patients would call her nurse because of her uniform which she found most amusing as she knew nothing about nursing at this stage. However, she completed her training in 1940.

War was declared in 1939 and all the hospitals were evacuated. All but a few ill and frail patients were sent to other establishments. She recalls one day when the doctors made their rounds, all their uniform sleeves had to be rolled down and garters applied. All had to stand in a straight line behind the doctor and not utter a word except Matron, and only when spoken to herself. Well, this confused patient shouted at the top of his voice that he too wanted to be evacuated; unfortunately it was not to another hospital. She recalls all the other nurses with her stood as still as they could trying not to break into laughter as the doctor was not best impressed.

After her graduation she received a letter saying that her mother was unwell. She knew that if she returned to Ireland then she would have to remain there for the duration of the war as many passenger boats were conscripted for war purposes, but she knew that she would have to return. Whilst home she worked in the old Sacred Heart Hospital in Castlebar and did vacation relief in Kiltimagh.

She was becoming more and more restless though especially after her mother sadly died. Germans had bombed Belfast by this time, and she wanted to help out again. She helped where she could for two years. They were hard, relentless times but some of the happiest days of her life. The salary then for a Ward Sister averaged around £120 per calendar month.

She went back to Derby, England to her main vocation in life, looking after patients with communicable diseases such as diphtheria, polio etc... After further training in this field and promotion she thought that she might be able to get into the tropical disease area, but unfortunately the English hospitals abroad were still looking after their servicemen and women. All jobs were frozen because of the state of the country. Bombs in Derby were few and far between. The war ended and people were released from their contracts in 1945. It was time to move on again.

Looking for a new challenge she studied midwifery,

then 'special duty private nursing' in Torquay, Devon. It was another world. She remembers having to walk through fields of daffodils and pick them daily for the house. You still had to survive on rations but somehow it was different there.

In 1951, her family already living in America called for her. They had travelled in and around 1921. Two of her sisters had been detained in Ellis Island until a letter was received from their aunt stating their intentions and her ability of supporting them. Her family paid for her passage of £60 on the Queen Mary. She remembers the boat hit a storm. She was staying in a roomette and the bed broke from the mooring. She was so scared to get up that she stayed in the bed for two days. She arrived in Oakland, California: she couldn't believe where she was. There were no rations; shops were full to the brim with food and goods. Everything was plentiful. New inventions were on the scene and often, on her days off, she would window-shop just amazed at all the shops held and wonder would she be able to afford any of these items.

Helena started to work as an office nurse with three doctors and initially stayed there for a year. She always believed the grass was greener elsewhere, though and began to work for a hospital. Nobody at that time wanted to work in obstetrics, but the money was good so she threw herself into it. She stayed there for five years until receiving her American Citizenship and was free again to go where she wanted. She longed to work with patients with communicable diseases again, deciding to work in immunisation involving polio. Up to 500 people could be given injections in one afternoon. People were lining the streets as the injections were free and the state was trying to wipe out Polio altogether.

Helena was around 50 and in 1967 she decided it was time to slow down a bit and returned to the office nurse corporation involving GP, General and Orthopaedic surgeons. She finally retired in 1981. During this time she and her sister now shared a house, as her sister was suffering with arthritis. They had planned to move to a better area and found a place in North California called Eureka (It had been named this after settlers first found gold there). Sadly her sister died. After making three trips back to Ireland during her time in America she knew it was time to come back home and returned, buying a home in Mayo. In memory of her time in America and the house she had chosen with her sister she called it 'Eureka'.

**Mary O** qualified as a teacher in her late teens, and her full working career was teaching home economics. Teaching was good for pupils as it taught them kitchen mechanics, cooking, budgeting, sewing and homemaking. Work was based on practical and theoretical assessment. It wasn't felt to be a calling, but it was a good career and something she would approach and see how she liked it. Little did she know that she would be teaching for most of her life and raising a family too. Classes in early years were a lot smaller than today's classrooms. You knew the children and their families because of the small community.

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



***Don't Judge Others Too Harshly***

Pray do not find fault with the man who limps,  
Or stumbles along the road,  
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears,  
Or struggled beneath his load.

There may be tack in his shoes that hurt,  
Though hidden away from view.  
The burden he bears, placed on your back,  
May causes you to stumble, too.

Don't sneer at the man, who's down today,  
Unless you have felt the blow,  
That caused his fall, or felt the shame  
That only the fallen know.

You may be strong, but still the blows that were his,  
If dealt to you,  
In the self-same way the self-same time,  
Might cause you to stagger, too.

Don't be harsh with the man who sins,  
Or pelt him with the word and stone,  
Unless you are sure, yea doubly sure,  
That you have no sins of your own.

For, you know, perhaps, if the tempter's voice  
Should whisper soft to you,  
As it did to him when he went astray,  
'Twould cause you to falter, too!

***(Author Unknown)***

***In Conclusion***

The residents have expressed many's a tale, story or yarn and they have shared their life experiences. Nobody said that life was hard, but laughed, as they shared the life tales. Indeed, as we can imagine, life was a lot harder, with war, moving away from home, quite often to a foreign country alone. Technology and machinery wasn't as advanced as it is now but there was still a sense of community, spirit and family

integrated. Older people have a lot of valuable skills and knowledge that can be passed on down the generations.

It is imperative that older people do not feel less valued just because they are retired. We need to question ourselves: could we carry out their jobs as they did during the hardships that coincided with their youth?

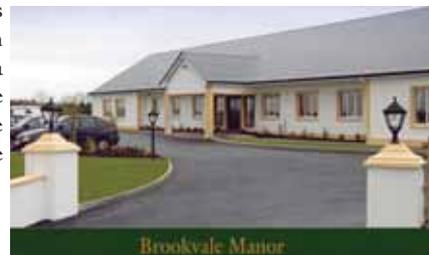
When we see an older person, look closer than the lines on their faces, for each one tells a story. Just because the body seems frailer it doesn't necessarily mean that the mind is less sharp or that the heart doesn't ache any less when hurt or devalued.

***You Are Beautiful***

Treat yourself the way you are, and you will remain so.  
Treat yourself the way you can become,  
and you will become so.  
Think freely. Smile often.  
Tell those you love that you do.  
Hope, grow, give, give in.  
Pick some daisies. Keep a promise.  
Laugh heartily. Enjoy. Trust life.  
Reach out. Let someone in.  
Make some mistakes. Learn from them.  
Explore the unknown. Believe in yourself.  
Celebrate your life! You are beautiful...

***(Author Unknown)***

Brookvale Manor Private Nursing Home, Hazel Hill, Ballyhunis opened 26th October 2003 as a Nursing Home and Convalescence Home for the elderly.



*Samantha Chapman*



***Youngsters of the village - Gurteen, 1950s***

*L-R: Marian, John, Martin and Padraic Brennan, Seamus and Marie Mulrennan.*



## *Ballyhaunis Fire Station - Over Fifty Years of Service*

Ballyhaunis has a modern fire station, a modern Class B fire appliance outfitted with the very latest rescue equipment and a crew of highly trained fire fighters. This is a far cry from the days when men like Eddie Biesty, Liam Smyth and Tommy Byrne put out fires with only a very few basic pieces of equipment. Late 1958 saw the formation of a new eight man crew. The officer in charge was Clarence Grogan with a crew comprising of Liam Smyth, Jim Toolan, Dan Moran, Kevin Moran, Jim Gilmore, Michael Moran and John McGuire. In January the following year, 1959, a new Land Rover fire appliance was delivered to Ballyhaunis Fire Station. Fr. Rushe blessed it. Attending the ceremony was the then County Chief Fire Office Captain Cathal Garvey, the man responsible for organising the fire service in Mayo. Subsequent retirements brought the enlistment of two new men to the crew, Michael Mulhern and Sean Freyne. When Clarence Grogan retired Sean Freyne became Station Officer where he served with distinction for forty-one years. When Michael Mulhern retired in 1978, his son Edward joined. He joined as a driver, becoming Sub Officer in 1983 and became Station Officer when Sean Freyne retired in 2004. Edward himself retired in 2007. Gerry O'Connell became Station Officer then.

### *Changes*

The crew changed over the years, as has the equipment – both what the fire fighter wears and uses. In the early days a fire fighter wore oilskins and a black helmet. The fire appliance was a Land Rover with a pump. Today's appliance can pump 2,000 litres a minute and the fire fighter has the most up to date personal protective clothing, helmet and gloves. Today's fire fighter receives extensive training. It begins with a two week recruitment course. This covers working with

ladders and water supplies for fire fighting, hose-laying and the correct use of equipment. Next is a two week breathing apparatus wearer's course. This teaches the fire fighter how to safely enter a smoke filled room or building to search of people and deal with fires. Next on the list is a road traffic accident course. This course teaches the fire fighter how to extricate people from vehicles involved in accidents including cars, lorries, buses, trains etc. and how to correctly use the equipment needed to perform these tasks. Courses are provided for drivers, for pump operators, in Health and Safety, in water rescue, winch courses and manual handling. Mayo County Council Fire Service provides numerous courses which help today's fire fighters do their work - which is inherently dangerous - more safely and efficiently.

### *Present Crew*

The present crew is made up with fire fighters with varying degrees of experience. Some of the crew have thirty years service and the newest member of the crew has less than a year's service. The present crew is a body of men who between them have 125 years of experience and knowledge which enables them to deal with all the emergencies they attend. The present crew and the dates they joined are as follows:

Station Officer: Gerry O'Connell (2002); Sub Officer: Enda Caulfield (2005); Drivers: Michael J. Lyons (1980), Tim Plunkett (1999); Fire fighters: Mike Griffin (1977), John Finnegan (1982), Myles J. Walsh (1986), Mark Connery (2008).

Ballyhaunis Fire Station has a highly trained crew capable of dealing with every emergency.

## *In the Slipstream of the Flight of the Earls*

It's Saturday July 12th 2008 and I'm standing on the side of Lake Lugano in Switzerland, sheltering from a huge afternoon thunderstorm. My water-proof jacket is anything but, I'm starving and the fork lightning is getting a lot closer. I start to wonder what the hell the Earl of Tyrone, Hugh O'Neill, would have made of it



*Sunday, 20th July, 2008 at the grave of Hugh O'Neill in St. Pietro in Montorio, Rome. Cyclists and Supporters. Back, L-R: Oisín Cleary, Mary F. Cleary, Grahame, James Kivneen, Maria Duggan, Damien Hardiman, John Guilfoyle, Mick Dolan, Brid Cleary, Mike Cleary. Front, L-R: Clodagh McCallig, Rachel Cleary, Diarmuid Cleary, John Cleary.*

all. The purpose of his "flight" from Ireland was clear; to solicit support from the King of Spain to come and pick a religious fight with our Anglo-Saxon neighbours. "What was ours?" I thought as I looked over at another soggy cycling 'earl' sheltering under a tree with a big, lightning-proof, cardboard box over his head. I could only laugh.

Simply speaking our purpose (apart from looking ridiculous) was to retrace Hugh O'Neill's historic route across Europe which became known as the 'Flight of the Earls'. Leaving in September 1607, Hugh O'Neill and ninety-nine of his followers left Rathmullan in Donegal. Arriving in Quillebeuf-sur-Seine in Normandy, they travelled to Louvain in Belgium, then down through Eastern France, Switzerland and Italy; eventually finishing in Rome in April 1608. The journey took them eight months; on the 400th anniversary of their arrival in Rome we aimed to do it all in three weeks on bikes!

After eight months training, planning, creating websites, and learning Italian (Ciao Bella!) we had a formidable team in place. Damien Hardiman from Athenry and Mick Toland from Clonmany in Donegal, both friends from my UL days, signed up for the deluxe package. This involved the usual blood, sweat and tears, as well as the occasional hangover. No trip like this is complete, or allowed, without the original Annagh Wheelers, so into the mix came Mike Cleary, Bernie Jennings, James Kivneen and the miracle man himself, Martin Connery. For the final week we signed up some new recruits to show us the way through the undulating (just ask Abdu!) hills of the Apennine mountains in Italy; namely John Guilfoyle, Rachel Cleary, Diarmuid Cleary and Niall Magee.

We set off from the shores of the Seine in Quillebeuf on



Saturday 28th June with everything we needed strapped to the bikes – maps, camera, chamois cream, Italian phrasebook, bananas and Debbie (our own personal masseuse). The km's passed relatively easily and we quickly settled into a daily routine. A typical morning involved getting up, putting gear on, wolfing down as many croissants as possible, stuffing pockets with any leftover croissants, packing bikes, waiting for Mike, taking a photo and easing the arse into the saddle. The rest of the day involved cycling. Now that may sound boring but that's the last thing it was. Every day was different, every turn in the road brought a brand new view, and every lunch-time was a calorie-fest.

It is a cliché but the entire trip was never about our destination, it was never about Rome. It was our holiday and it was about the everyday experiences along the way... the journey, I suppose. It was about the places and stunning scenery we pedalled through– the battlefields and graveyards of World War I, Louvain, le Ballon d'Alsace, Lac Lucerne, the Devil's Bridge, the climb up to Intragna, the plains of Lombardy, the streets of Assisi. It was about the highs, the lows and the craic: the punctures, the rare searches for a hotel when the booking hadn't materialised, the blood spilled on the Belgian border, the Alpine descents, the broken spokes, the cries of 'Is that you Günther?', the search for Apecchio, the water-polo in Terni.

However, most of all it was also about the people – from those characters we met along the way like the French waitress we showed how to make hot whiskeys for very wet and cold Irish cyclists; to a 68 year old mountain biker in Altkirch who cycled 70km a day and scoffed at us. Not forgetting the warm welcomes we received from Malachy Vallaly in the Irish College in Louvain and Monsignor Liam Bergin in the Irish College in Rome as well as the back-up and morale support in Italy from Bridgie, Maria, Oisín and Clodagh.

As well as setting ourselves our own personal goals we also managed to raise money for the Irish Cancer Society – a worthwhile cause which became even more relevant for all the members of Annagh Wheelers during the year. The amount raised currently stands at nearly €9,000. A huge word of thanks to everyone who gave us their full support and who donated money online or otherwise. A final word on the money we raised: all the money we raised goes directly to the Irish Cancer Society, we saw the event as a holiday (ok, we fairly stretch the definition of the word holiday), so everything was paid for out of our own pockets.



*Some members of the Flight of the Earls Cycle team pictured on Rathmullan beach in Donegal, May 2008. Rathmullan was the departure point for the Flight of the Earls in 1607. L-R: Bernie Jennings, Sean Gallagher, Mike Cleary, Mick Toland, Grahame Cleary, Michael Jennings and Damien Hardiman.*

And so it was that on Sunday afternoon, the 20th July, we pedalled up to the steps of San Pietro in Montorio church in Rome. A crowd of family and friends were there to welcome us and, thanks to some shenanigans by Dad, we managed to have the church carpet rolled back so we could pay our respects at Hugh O'Neill's grave. We had finished. 2,444km in twenty-three days had brought us to this point. It was a proud, emotional and somewhat surreal moment. The 20th of July also happened to be the anniversary of the death of Hugh O'Neill (who died in 1616) which added some poignancy to the occasion – even if it was completely accidental.

What started as a throw away comment over a cup of tea and a Mikado biscuit in a Clare Street kitchen in August 2007 evolved to become a unique experience for everyone concerned. It was a very special trip that will always live in the memory. Thanks to everyone who made it so special.

*Grahame Cleary*

[www.flightoftheearlscycle.com](http://www.flightoftheearlscycle.com)



*Taken in 1990 outside their family home at Upper Main St., two of the Caulfield sisters – Mrs. Josephine McGreal and Mrs. Eileen Fitzgerald. Josephine, born in 1898, was fondly known as 'Auntie Josie' to generations of her family and friends, and was the eldest of the family. Eileen (mother of Edward Fitzgerald, Upper Main St. and Jenny Glynn, Doctor's Road) continued in the retail business by working alongside her son Tom Fitzgerald (Mayo GAA Minor and Senior) in the family run Mace Supermarket on Main Street during the sixties, seventies and eighties. Both sisters had many happy memories of their early days working in Caulfield's shop – the 'Egglers' and travelling shop.*



# My Croatia Chronicle

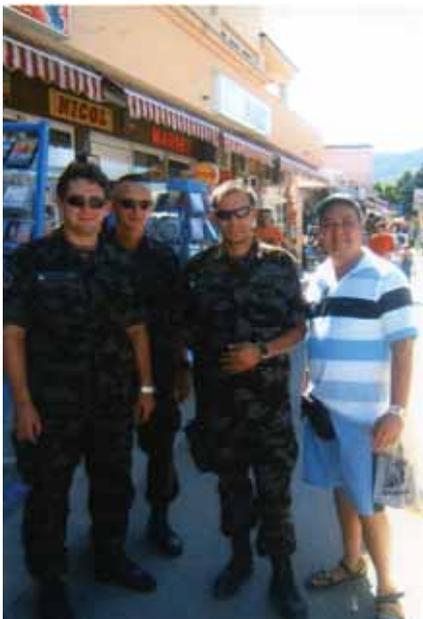


Mount Krizevac (Mountain of the Cross), Medjugorje.

When I approached a representative of the Annagh Magazine to see if they would be interested in printing the photos that I took in Croatia and Medjugorje, they asked me would I type up a story to accompany them. So here are a couple of stories about my experienced out in Medjugorje and South Croatia. Hope you enjoy the photos!

Medjugorje is a beautiful place for those of you who haven't had the opportunity to see it. If you do get a chance, go. It's a fair old spin on the coach from the airport, 250 to 300 miles north of Medjugorje. It was a twelve hour journey from Knock to there, because of flight delays and also the bus trip, so we were pretty tired by the time we arrived. I travelled solo and not with a group, so I could travel freely around the country. Croatia is packed with beautiful scenery and mountains with pretty dangerous roads, so I was glad when the lady beside me told the courier to ask the driver to stop texting on his phone as he was taking the corners. I'm not an over religious person but I said a few prayers at that stage.

We arrived at our B&B at four in the morning, and that same lady happened to be staying there. We were looked after by a lovely couple, whose B&B was at the base of Mount Krizevac (The Mountain of the Cross).



Spot the unfit guy! Johnny O'Shaughnessy (right) with members of the Croatia Army.

I sat in the pub one evening and an Irishman and his wife from Kildare sat beside me, where we started chatting. I was explaining to him the value of the local currency and what it cost for the drinks. So after a couple of hours, I explained to him how the courier had a problem pronouncing my name when showing me my

B&B. He replied "What is your name?", "Johnny O'Shaughnessy" says I. Then he duly produced his business card which read "Johnny

O'Shaughnessy" also. "My God" I said, "the only other Johnny O' I know is my father". What a coincidence, don't you think?

I got talking one day to members of what I presumed to be the Croatian Army, which normally the local people would avoid. They were very interested in where I was from and asked me how things were politically back home, because the two countries would have similar political backgrounds and history. Bear in mind that, where I was, the war had not been long over and the streets and the skies were still being patrolled by some members of the Army. After a few minutes chat, it was the sergeant that took this picture. They headed on their way. Twenty minutes later, when I stood at the street corner with my ice cream, the squad car comes around the corner, followed by the army jeep with these four members, with their arms out of the window, waving and shouting greetings to me. The people beside me I'm sure were wondering "Who the hell was this guy?"

I was glad to hear, when Breda and Adrian Murray's daughter Aideen told me, that the forty school members who visited the place went back again the next year. She had an amazing story that I'm not going to go into now.

Nothing miraculous happened to me in Medjugorje but it's still a place I'd like to visit again.

The second half of my holiday was a 200 mile trip south of Medjugorje not far from Dubrovnik, to a small scenic town not far from the coast. The name escapes me. This is where I took these photos at dusk. When I walked into a bar on my first night, the four bartenders (two male and two female) stared at me in a strange manner. "What's the story?" I asked, "is there a problem?" "No" said the barman "but are you not .....?" He mentioned their country's version of Pavarotti. As he showed me a photo he pulled from a magazine, sure as eggs is eggs, wasn't your man the image of meself! They gave me some free drinks and a pizza and asked me to sit at their bar, which I did for three nights, as they would get great satisfaction going down to their customers at the tables and telling them who they had on their premises, and I would gladly oblige, waving back at these fans. I didn't want to spoil it for them.

So there are a couple of little stories to accompany the photos. I hope you enjoy them.

Johnny O'Shaughnessy



Sunset on the coast near Dubrovnik.

# Ballyhaunis Golf Club



*Pictured at the Captains Drive-in in Ballyhaunis Golf club on March 9th 2008 are Anne Freeley (Lady Captain) and John Doyle (Men's Captain). Also included in the picture are Fred Herr, Tadhg Buckley, Victor Tener, Dave Hierons, Alo Reddington, Finian O'Brien, Eoghan Collins, Marge Hierons, Liam Lynskey, Gavin Potgieter, Kevin Henry, Stephen Tarpey, Ivan Freeley, John Moran, Stephen Ryall, Orla Doyle, Hannah Doyle, James Doyle, Kate Doyle, Liam Damron, Bea Hope, Helen Cleary, Joan Flynn, Norrie Dillon, Tom Meehan, Seamus Swift, Cait Webb, Moyra Patterson, Phil Glynn, Marie Connell, Ina Freyne, Shane Buckley, Pdraic Duffy, Alan Delaney, Joan McGuire, Shane Freeman, P.J. Moran, Mariette Potgieter, Tom McGuire, Anthony Cunnane, Mike Webb, Tom Grogan, Roisin Hill, Ann Eaton, John Mooney, Kay Buckley, Alex Eaton, Carol Freeley, Anne Cunnane, Ann Curley, Stephen Murray, Shay Walsh, Seamus Cox, Mike Lyons, Pat Feeney, Siobhan Herr, Marina Coyne, John Cleary, Ita Fahey, Fiona Prenty, Sean Sloan, Chris Waldron, Laurena Freeley, Mary Frances Cleary, Carl Hampson. Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

Officers for 2008: Captain – John Doyle; Lady Captain – Ann Freeley; President - Alex Eaton; Secretary – Laurena Freeley; Treasurer – Roisin Hill.

2008 was a difficult year weather-wise and many golf courses throughout the country had limited or no play for long stretches of time. Ballyhaunis Golf Club did not suffer in this respect because the natural drainage of the ground, added to the professional expertise of the greens staff, meant that the course was playable even in the worst of the weather.

The Open Week held in mid-July was well supported by members and visitors alike, while every weekend the Sunday

competitions also featured large numbers of participants. The winners of the major competitions in the club in 2008 were: Men's Captain's Prize - Brendan Mooney; Lady Captain's Prize - Laurena Freeley; President's Prize - Seamus Forde; Club Matchplay - Tommy Grogan.

The club's Ladies and Gents teams competed in several inter-club competitions under the auspices of the Connacht Branch of the G.U.I.. The Junior Cup team made a good charge before suffering a narrow defeat in the Connacht final by the eventual All-Ireland winners, Ballina Golf Club. Despite the best efforts of all the adult teams in the club, we failed to capture an elusive Connacht champions pennant.



*Some of the Past Captains of Ballyhaunis Golf Club who played in the competition for Past Captains held in the Club recently. Back, L-R: Columba Jordan, Liam Damron, Tom McNicholas, Ivan Freeley, John Collins, Brian Hunt and Alex Eaton. Centre, L-R: John Mooney, Helen Cleary, Alan Delaney, Sean Paul Tighe, Seamus Swift, Cait Webb, Liam Lynskey. Seated, L-R: Norrie Dillon, Marie Sharkey, Tom McGuire, Fiona Prenty, Kay Buckley, Maura Burke and Jenny Glynn. Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*



**Captain's Prize**  
*John Doyle (Captain) presenting his prize to winner Brendan Mooney, Kiltimagh. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*

The club is always happy to welcome new members and encourages their participation in beginners' classes every Wednesday evening, as well as in Tuesday evening scrambles. This year there was also a series of lessons for beginners from our visiting professional, Nigel Coyle, and the improvement in some beginners over the course of the year had to be seen to be believed.

Junior Golf: The Junior Captain for 2008 was Connor Freeley, and he was among many of the juniors who made significant improvements in their golf in the course

of the past year. Junior teams from the club participated in Connacht inter-club competitions, the Fred Daly Cup and Plate, and in the Kenny Cup. After leading the qualifiers from the northern section of Connacht by twelve shots, the boys eventually reached the final of the Cup, only to lose narrowly by three matches to two in the final to Curra West. We also played in the Connacht Junior foursomes, and several junior golfers from the club also took part in singles competitions at Connacht level.

During the summer, Wednesday is Junior golf day, and large numbers of juniors turned out every Wednesday. The largest crowd on any one day was 66 children, while a total of 95 different children

played junior golf at some stage during the summer. They also enjoyed professional coaching this year from Nigel Coyle under the JGI (Junior Golf Ireland) golf development programme, with in excess of 40 juniors availing of professional tuition. There are currently five juniors from the club receiving coaching from the



**President's Prize**  
*Alex Eaton (President) presenting his prize to winner Seamus Forde. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*

Connacht professional coaching staff – four under 12s (Cian Henry, Cian Charlton, Eimhin Charlton and Jack

Mullarkey) and one under 16 (Eoghan Collins). The club sponsors these juniors, in the interest of improving the standard of junior golf in the club.

New members are always welcome and anyone interested in taking up the game is asked to contact any member of the committee for further information, or visit the club's website [www.ballyhaunisgolfclub.com](http://www.ballyhaunisgolfclub.com)

Incoming officers for 2009: Captain - Kevin Henry; Lady Captain - Roisin Hill; President - Siobhan Herr.

*Kevin Henry*



*Mary Dillon Leetch presenting the Dillon Leetch Memorial Cup to winner Tony Cribben, Bridge St., Ballyhaunis, at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



*John Morley celebrating St. Patrick's Day with friends*

# Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club

The club goes from strength to strength every year. This year saw several new young members joining. The membership now stands at an all time high of sixty-five.

Clay target shooting is very popular in the club and this year the club won the County Clay Pigeon Shoot. The club gets involved as much as possible in local activities such as raising funds for local charities, mainly Western Alzheimers and Croi.

This year the club released 500 pheasants and 200 duck into the wild. Control of vermin is one of the main activities of the club. This is very important for our released game and also of benefit to local farmers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all local farmers without whom we could not function. Also a special word of thanks to our generous sponsors over the year.

Over the last couple of years the club have organised shooting trips to Northern Ireland. These trips so far have been to the shores of Lough Erne where goose, pheasant and duck shooting is provided. Our Northern associates then visit our club and they help us out with the control of vermin. When they come down they stay for the weekend at local guesthouses. This is an area of great potential and one we would like to develop more. The Northern Ireland people are very welcoming when we visit them and they really enjoy their weekends with us.

The officers elected for this gunning year are: Chairman - John G. Greally; Secretary - Packie Waldron; Treasurer - Padraig Kiely; PRO - Flan Moroney.

Yours in sport,

*Flan Moroney*



*Ballyhaunis Gun Club, representing County Mayo at the All-Ireland Interclub champions on Sunday, 21st July 2008, at Ardee Shooting Grounds, Co. Louth. Back, L-R: Martin McGuire, Mark Kelly, Ciarán Waldron, Padraic Kiely. Front, L-R: John Greally, Gareth Delaney.*



*Mary and her family enjoying the celebrations held in her Daughter's house; Mass celebrated by Mary's son Sean, readings by her sister Teresa and singing by all present.*

*Mary Fitzgerald, Bridge St., who celebrated her 80th birthday last January (2007), would like to thank her family, friends and neighbours for all their good wishes on this occasion.*



*Mary and her two grandchildren Nuala and Leagh at Nana's 80th party.*



## The Star Cinemas



*Michael J. Morley (left) and Anne Madden making a presentation of a specially inscribed clock to Martin Kirrane to mark his retirement as projectionist at the Star Cinemas, Ballyhaunis, 24th Jan. 1995*

I can well remember the first film I went to see. And no, it was not in the Star Cinema. I was going to school at the time when word went around that a travelling cinema was coming to the 'Club House' in Tooreen. I thought the night would never come as this was my first chance to see a 'moving picture' as they were then called. Well, the place was packed as this was long before TV. Looking back now it was a crude set-up. The screen was a white cloth pinned to the wall. The projector, which was in the middle of the floor beside the people, was powered by a generator situated outside. The films were black-and-white and silent, and the stars on the night were Charlie Chaplin, and Laurel and Hardy. Everyone enjoyed the show.

After I left school one of the first films I saw in the Star Cinema, Ballyhaunis, was Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh in 'Gone With The Wind'. Other great films around that time were 'The Quiet Man', 'The Sound of Music' and 'Doctor Zhivago'. When I joined the cinema staff in the Summer of 1975 it was no longer the Star Cinema – it was now Star 1 and Star 2.

I was no stranger to Gerry McGarry, the owner of the cinemas, as I had worked for him in the early seventies. Star 2 was only a few months old at the time and Mike Morley and myself shared the job of projecting the films there. Tommy Jordan was a long-time projectionist there, so he stayed in Star 1. In the beginning I was not content as you could never leave the operation box while the film was being shown. The film came in small reels which had to be changed every twenty minutes. The lighting was of the 'carbon arc' type and this had to be adjusted every few minutes or the film would go dark. When a big film came, it played in Star 1 for a week or more. It was then shown in Star 2 for another week. As we entered the eighties the crowds began getting bigger. It was not unusual to see 'full house' signs put up in both cinemas so more shows were put on to accommodate the crowds. Then things changed. The projectors were upgraded. All the film was put on one big reel instead of five or six small ones. The 'carbon arc' was replaced with a high watt bulb. This gave more freedom to the operators to sit outside and watch the film. Thousands of films were shown in both cinemas while I was there. For the Western fans we had 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' and 'Shane'. The comedies: 'Mrs. Doubtfire', 'Nuns on the Run'; and for the kids we had 'Jungle Book' and 'The Lion King'. This is only a sample of the ones that were shown. More were a lot better, and some a lot worse. Into the nineties I began thinking of calling it a day. And so with the winter approaching I showed my last film in December 1994, after nineteen and a half years.

I thought that was the end of the cinemas as far as I was concerned, but to my surprise I was invited to a retirement party organised and given by the management and staff of the cinemas. It was a great night with plenty to eat and drink, and plenty of music and song. I was then presented with a beautiful clock by Mike Morley on behalf of the management and staff. Many thanks to all.

In today's world we have VCR, DVD and big screen HD TVs, but never, ever will they capture the atmosphere of the cinema. To quote from the advertisement – 'A night at the cinema is a great night out'.

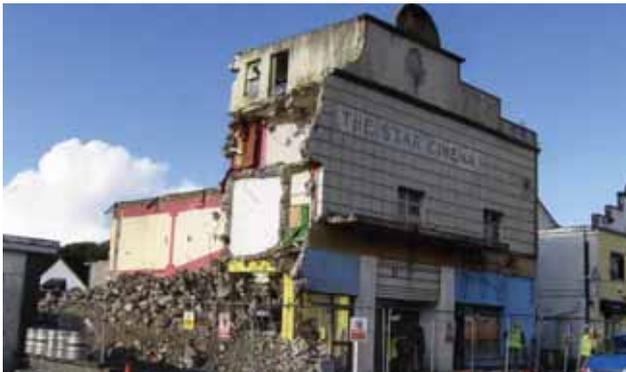
*Martin Kirrane*



*Martin Kirrane with friends and work colleagues, on the occasion of his retirement from the Star Cinemas, Ballyhaunis, 24th Jan. 1995*  
 Back L.-R.: Liam Lyons, Mary T. Griffin, Pauline McGarry, Michael J. Morley, Al Madden, Martin Kirrane, Gerry McGarry, Eddie Murphy, Tom Monaghan, Michael Brennan, Mike Griffin. Front, L-R: Anne Madden, Bridie Morley, Loretta Kirrane, Mary Monaghan, Mary Brennan..



*These images were taken in the spring of 2008 when workmen attached to harnesses and wearing protective masks and white body suits began dismantling the old asbestos roof. It took many weeks to complete this part of the project. The first image was taken on 27th March and the second image was taken on 8th April.*



*Above and below:  
Going, going, gone. These images were taken on two consecutive days, 1st & 2nd of October.*

*Shows the distinctive red walls of the hall on the way down to Star 2 which was situated on the ground floor. The Star 2 screen is to the right of the image. See also where posters used to hang in the corridor advertising movies of the past and future. This image was taken on one of the few fine days of the summer on 1st June over the June bank holiday.*



*'End of an era as the Star Cinema in Ballyhaunis is demolished.'*

*8th October 2008. Finally the cinema is no more. The last piece of demolition was a very delicate operation as the wall of the cinema adjoined the ladies toilets of the neighbouring Monsoon Nite club were one and the same.*

*If it had still been in operation, the Star Cinema would have been celebrating its 60th birthday this year. Finally open for business in 1948, the construction of the cinema began in 1945 when the foundation was laid. A company of men all the way from Scotland erected the iron framework. The massive concrete walls and asbestos roof were built by local men, led by contractor Bernie Byrne.*

*As the construction of the star cinema took nearly 3 years to complete, so the demolition was to take time also. Last spring (as the accompanying images show) the asbestos roof was carefully dismantled by workmen attached to harnesses and clothed in masks and white bodysuits. The painstaking operation was to avoid the asbestos dust particles becoming airborne.*

*The former site of so many magical nights at the movies, looked so desolate and neglected over the summer months with its roof taken off. But work began in earnest again on the 26th September last to demolish the outside walls and inside what was left of the two star screens and Eddie Murphy's sweet shop.*

*And so finally, after many lorry loads of broken concrete and rubble were removed from the Clare Street site, the iconic facade of the once bustling Star Cinema came tumbling down. The end of an era indeed!*

*Photographs collated by Sinéad Freyne*



*Steelwork of the Star Cinema being erected in 1945, with houses in Clare Street visible in the background.*



# Ballyhaunis Chamber

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**B**allyhaunis Chamber is a business representative organisation. It is an affiliated member of Chambers Ireland, which provides access to the services of the largest business organisation in Ireland. The Chamber's primary structure is its membership. Each year at the Annual General Meeting its executive council is elected by the members. This council comprises of ten members as follows: Enda Caulfield (President), Eddie Murphy Jnr. (Vice President), Martin Fitzmaurice (Hon. Sec.), Alison Legg (Recording Sec.), David McConnell (Hon. Treasurer), Vinny Biesty (Asst. Treasurer), William Nestor (PRO), Tom Forde, John Dillon-Leetch and Paul McDermott. The Chamber employs a Chief Executive Officer. It is supported in its endeavours by representatives of the business sector and community groups in Ballyhaunis and its surrounding areas. Specific projects are identified and delivered in the context of economic development and business support in the locality. The structure encourages and promotes active participation by members on committees and projects.

## **Why become a Member?**

Membership of Ballyhaunis Chamber offers you the opportunity to have a voice in the local and national business community. It provides you with the channel to play a constructive role in shaping the business environment you are operating in. More importantly, Chamber membership will introduce you to your colleagues in the region through our networking circle. The Chamber's activities are driven by our members' needs. Our job is to help make your life easier. Members are encouraged to interact on a regular basis with the Chamber Executive Council. While a number of members are active in trying to develop business for the town, so much more could be achieved if every business in the area was actively involved to make our town a better place to live.

## **Chamber Activities**

Ballyhaunis Chamber has a close working relationship with the Community Council, Tidy Towns Committee, Abbey Partnership, Knox St. Residents Committee, B.R.C.I.E. Ltd. and Ballyhaunis Social Housing Ltd. This relationship was evident at a recent meeting called by the Ballyhaunis Chamber Council Executive on the 9th of October with Mayo County Council Director of Service, Seamus Granahan, Senior Engineer, Patsy Burke and Tom Feerick. Cllr. John Cribben and Cllr. Michael Carty were also in attendance. Members from each organisation attended. The outcome of the meeting was very encouraging with the following commitments being given:

1. To begin work to provide pay-and-display in the town to encourage the use of our car parks and to improve parking on the main streets.
2. To keep pressure on the NRA to improve the N83 and to publish the preferred route for the by-pass.
3. To progress the Town Development Plan pre-draft for publication.
4. To provide footpaths and lighting out the Knock Road to the GAA pitch
5. To continue works to improve the look of derelict sites in particularly Annagh Lodge (owned by Mayo County Council), and the burnt out house on the N60 turn off. We also requested contact to be made with the owners of the former Dillon's premises (located on the square) to improve the exterior of said premises.
6. To continue works for a new library and fire station

for Ballyhaunis.

7. To remove the bottle banks from their current position (on a bend) in the Upper Knox Street Car park to a safer position in said car park and to discuss the possibility of putting in CCTV to deter illegal dumping of household rubbish.

Ballyhaunis Chamber were delighted to see that work began on Monday, 13th October in the Swimming Pool car park with a promise that the works on the two existing car parks in Knox Street shall follow on directly after this work is completed. The upgrading of our car parks will be a positive step forward for Ballyhaunis.

Along with all the lobbying activity by Ballyhaunis Chamber of the NRA and Mayo County Council, the Ballyhaunis Chamber & District Gala Dinner Dance is being organised – thanks to a generous contribution from Vinny and Louise Biesty of Ballyhaunis Tile Flooring & Bathroom Centre. The Gala Dinner shall begin at 7.30pm comprising of a Punch and Canape Reception followed by a six course meal and music on the night shall be by Jivin' Ivan and Caroline. The dinner will be held on Saturday 29th November in Knock House Hotel with Bed and Breakfast. The proceeds of this year's raffle will go to a very worthy cause - Western Care's Training Centre in Ballyhaunis. All are welcome but tickets are limited.

Also hard at work were the Summer Festival Committee for the annual May Bank Holiday Festival. This year's festival was held in conjunction with the Abbey Pattern over the last weekend in August. We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions towards the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival: The Office of the Minister for Integration, Bridgestock Ltd. & Midtown Hotel, Foras na Gaeilge, Connaught Scaffolding, Dawn Ballyhaunis, The Hazel Bar & Restaurant, The Oak Bar/Delaney's hardware, Cashels Engineering Ltd., EPS, JP Bookmakers, P&P Plastering, Major Equipment Ltd. (Grascare), Phoenix Restoration, Local Business Promotions, Dillon Travel (under new management of Maureen Towey), Nestor & Co., Agri Spares, The Billabong, Phillips' Bar, MacSuirteáin's, Fitzer's, The Clock, Curley's Bar, Nicholson's, Gill's Bar, Delaney's Bar.

The Christmas lights committee are also hard at work in order to have Ballyhaunis town lit up for the festive season. Anyone wishing to join the Christmas lights committee would be very welcome.

A new organisation initiated by Ballyhaunis Chamber and Asylum Seekers from the Old Convent is 'Volunteer Ballyhaunis'. This organisation with members from the Old Convent is willing to carry out voluntary works in the community seeking no payment. The volunteers have various skills and are eager to get placements in order to help alleviate boredom and to keep up their skills. A list of volunteers and their skills is held in the Chamber Office. Anyone wishing to avail of their service please contact (094) 9630311 for further information.

Ballyhaunis Chamber would like to take this opportunity to thank all its members and the residents/business owners of the town and surrounding area as always for all their help and support over the years as we look forward to the future and the betterment of the town. By working together priorities and goals for Ballyhaunis can be achieved.

*Anne Cunnane, C.E.O.*



*Martin Finnegan, Bohogue, and his mother Mary (nee Hopkins), taken in the pony and side-car outside Caulfield's shop, Upper Main St., 1936.*



*Mrs. Margaret Finnegan, Bohogue, with her godson Mark Connery.*



*Bernie Walsh (Bracklaghboy), Leonie Connery (Bohogue).*



## Back at the Mart again

Met Paddy Waldron from Redford at the Mart. He has just received his Diploma in Agriculture. Mr. Waldron was one of a group of young farmers who attended night classes in the Vocational School doing a course in Agriculture in 1961. Of course nothing now remains of the 'Tech' except the limestone tablet from over the main entrance with the name of the school and the date 1940. It was just about to be taken away with the rest of the rubble by the demolition teams when it was retrieved by Martin Caulfield and Seamus Mulrennan. On the successful completion of the course, certificates were awarded in a formal ceremony which took place at the school. However, Mr. Waldron was not present on the night to receive his "diploma" and the certificate was laid aside, later to be placed in a drawer or filing cabinet where it lay for forty-seven years until it was presented to Mr. Waldron in an informal ceremony outside "The Gem" on a sunny Sunday morning in the Spring of 2008, by retired agricultural adviser Mr. Paddy Laffey.

As well as a sale of cattle there was also a show of cattle. Paddy and I were leaning across the rails watching red, blue and yellow rosettes being placed on the backs of the prize winners and runners up when Mr. Francis Cruise came along and we started

talking. After a life time in the cattle trade, what Mr. Cruise does not know about what goes on in the trade isn't worth knowing. That said, when he told us that the judge in the ring was a bank manager we looked at one another in disbelief and voiced our disbelief. Francis calls aside an acquaintance of his who confirms that the judge was indeed a bank manager from Roscommon. This gave us lots of food for thought. Had the banks finally collapsed despite all the frantic propping up that had taken place in the past weeks, and had the bank manager chosen a winner and was now embarking on a new career? And now practising what he had often preached to 'cap-in-hand customers' - 'if the job ain't paying close her down and try something NEW'. After a while we began to feel sad at the demise of the bank manager. After all the majority of us always had a balanced relationship with the bank manager: in good times we did not want them, in bad times they did not want us.

You must excuse me now, my cattle are about to enter the sales ring. On this occasion I will be satisfied with a modest price. Don't want to go over the gross income threshold and lose my medical card.

*Jimmy Cribbin*

## A Christmas Carol

"More distractions" – that was a phone call from Santa Clause. Guess what he spent most of the time talking about? His dealings this year with the Manager of the A.I.N.P.B. (Allied International Northern Pole Bank). About this time every years to meet his many commitments Santa has to take out a short term loan. In the past this was no great problem, but this year his request was met with a frosty response. The Eskimo girl at the reception desk was friendly enough but the Manager would not be available for a few hours and could he call back later. On his return he was told the manager would see him presently and would he please take a seat. Customers came and went, some lodging reindeer headage cheques, others enquiring about loans to build igloo extensions, buy new snow mobiles or extra reindeers.

Curious glances were cast in his direction, it being unusual to see Santa in this situation and looking very uncomfortable and out of place. He glanced through the leaflets that lay on a table offering loans for everything from fishing tackle to holidays in Fiji as he waited to be invited to enter the inner sanctum of the Manager's office. There was no queue either entering or leaving. He noticed just one girl entering the office carrying a tray with a steaming mug of tea and some Kimberly and Mikado biscuits. She smiled at him as she left but this did not hasten the business he had come for. He had all his documents ready and his case well rehearsed by the time he was invited in. He got a sympathetic hearing but no money. His application would have to go to the regional office. He waited two weeks and heard no work from the bank. He decided to call in again. The regional office wanted more information. He gave the information verbally. He waited another two weeks. The regional office wanted documentary information. He thought they had enough information about his affairs and he declined to give any more in the interest of personal security. The following day he got a phone call from the bank. No loan – sorry. As he crunched his way through the frozen snow he pondered for the changes that had taken place in the bank since he was there last year. Gone were the 'spend, spend, spend, and God will send' posters. Gone too were the offers of '100% mortgages'. He sat beside the log fire with the little woman and they talked things over. She reminded him about the prize bonds he bought long ago. Time to encash them. There were shares in the co-op, they could be called in too. Parts of the Arctic could be sold like Alaska was sold by the Russians to the Yanks years ago. All things considered, they could manage even if on a reduced budget. When one problem is solved, there is always another to take its place.

Santa now has no cheque book. Mrs. Claus, outraged at his treatment by the bank, took the cheque book, stormed into the manager's office,

threw the book on the desk and told the manager to shove it where the sun never shines. Not even in the land of the midnight sun. She rarely uses vulgar language, normally placid and angelic, but she is a fearsome and fearless little woman when her temper is raised. He is not happy about the smaller presents he is parcelling up just now. He had intended to replace the old sleigh – it would never pass the NCT test in its present condition. It has to be sent for repairs and time is running out. He had intended to get a set of new maps to keep up with the many changes that have taken place in the last few years including changes in the names of places. For example there is no such place now in Kerry as Dingle, where he often brought toys when Jim Lundon was a boy. There are changes everywhere. In New York, Wall Street is now known as Fall Street, while in London, Threadneedle Street where the Bank of England is, is now known as Threadbare Street.

Santa was greatly impressed when I told him that I have the last present he ever brought me - a set of draughts and a draught board. The cardboard is not in mint condition but I can make out the date written in pencil. It predates the date on Paddy Waldron's diploma by eleven years. The twenty-four timber pieces are in good condition.

Santa sends his best wishes to everybody and promises that he will do his best to put something in every stocking. He only wishes the young people could enjoy Christmas as it was enjoyed by their parents and grandparents long ago. He told me he is keeping his present for the little woman simple and sensible this year. A book he knows she will enjoy reading again. She had read it before even they met. They talked about it on their very first date. It is entitled "A Christmas Carol".

*Jimmy Cribbin*





# Ballyhaunis District Community Council

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It has been yet another busy year for Ballyhaunis District Community Council and a lot of hard work has been achieved by its various working groups. The Community Council helps in the development of projects/activities that will bring new services to Ballyhaunis and supports local voluntary groups in carrying out their activities. Our group is run by a Management Board of twelve members who meet every month and are elected on a yearly basis at the AGM.

## **Tidy Towns**

Many volunteers helped this working group achieve First prize in the 2007 Litter Action League competition and a big thanks is expressed to one and all for giving of their time and assistance. Ballyhaunis again reached the Final in the 2008 Competition which is a great achievement. Ballyhaunis also takes part in the annual National Tidy Towns Competition and for a second year were awarded an increase in points. The adjudicators complimented many aspects of the town as well as pointing out some areas needing attention and these will be looked at by the Tidy Towns Committee during the coming year.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

The elderly are a very important part of any community and all of us should watch out for our elderly neighbours and relatives living nearby. This working group helps our elderly community achieve security and peace of mind as without Neighbourhood Watch in our midst, many people would be without personal alarm devices, phones, outdoor security lights and locks for their doors and windows. Neighbourhood Watch applies for grant monies each year and completes the necessary paperwork to be submitted. It is one of the most successful Neighbourhood Watch groups in the county with regard to the obtaining of grant monies and this is all due to the hard work and dedication of its voluntary committee.

## **Abbey Partnership**

Ballyhaunis District Community Council has four representatives on the Abbey Partnership and it is very important that our community has a voice on this Board regarding the future use of the grounds, church and house buildings. Ballyhaunis District Community Council together with Mayo Co. Council, Ballyhaunis Chamber, the Augustinian Order, HSE, IRD Kiltimagh and Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, helps maintain and protect these important assets for the benefit of the local community. St. Mary's Abbey is regularly used as an Arts, Heritage and Cultural Centre and has hosted many social and cultural events during the last year. Many local groups have all availed of the beautiful Church space for their particular group's needs.

The Friary House is extensively used as a centre for community services, activities and learning provided by Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre and the V.E.C. and also holds regular meetings for local community groups. Future plans include an All-Weather Multi-Sport Centre to be built on the grounds as well as a child-care centre/pre-school facility run by Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre.

## **Pride of Place**

One of the events Ballyhaunis District Community Council was proud to be involved in was the national Pride of Place Competition in July 2008. This competition is hosted by Co-operation Ireland under its Local Authority Programme. The competition focus is on recognising and celebrating the vital contributions that community groups make to society and to creating civic pride in their area. Approximately twenty local community groups got together at various meetings over the summer on how best to showcase Ballyhaunis and its environs and helped put together a plan for

Adjudication Day. Each community group had their own stand in the Friary Church where the exhibition took place and Par Higgins, Chairperson of BDCC opened the day's events with a very detailed and interesting history of Ballyhaunis from its origins to present day. The judges visited each stand and questioned every group on their contribution to the local community. The sun shone brightly that afternoon so enabling a walk around Ballyhaunis. Locations visited included Guilers Twinning Memorial as well as the Swimming Pool (packed due to the good weather that day!), the Social Housing Scheme at Clare Court, the new GAA Grounds and Clubhouse, Western Care in Tooraree, and the Millennium Spire at St. Patrick's Church. Results of the competition are due out in November 2008 but regardless of whether we win or not, it was a great way of getting all of the voluntary, local community groups in Ballyhaunis working together towards a common aim. A special thanks to Neil Sheridan of Mayo County Council, Community and Enterprise Department who assisted us along the way and who helped make the day so successful.

## **Local Area Plan**

We are all aware that Ballyhaunis Town is in need of its Local Area Plan and the Community Council, together with Ballyhaunis Chamber, has been involved in various meetings and discussions with Mayo County Council and local councillors over the course of the last eighteen months. At a meeting held in early October 2008, Seamus Granahan, Director of Services for Mayo County Council, advised that the draft Town Development Plan has been sent to the Department of Environment for Strategic Environmental Assessment and is one of a number of plans being assessed. He further stated he was aware the publishing of the draft plan was way behind schedule but that work was ongoing to progress its publication. It would be our hope to see a draft plan published for Ballyhaunis during 2009.

## **Parking**

Parking problems was one of the major issues that people wanted tackled in the Community Futures Questionnaire in 2007 and this problem has been regularly discussed with council officials. A meeting was held recently with Seamus Granahan, Director of Services for Mayo County Council when Ballyhaunis District Community Council together with Ballyhaunis Chamber again requested resurfacing of the car parks to the rear of Knox Street and the introduction of "Pay and Display" parking in the town. As a result of this meeting, council officials have now agreed to put the wheels in motion to introduce this type of parking for Ballyhaunis. Council officials have also agreed to resurface and upgrade existing car parks. It will take approximately twelve months from start to finish, but it will be great to have parking problems tackled at long last.

## **Concerns**

Over the course of the last eighteen months, local residents raised concerns at the high level of asylum seekers and refugees resident in Ballyhaunis. BDCC was involved in raising these concerns at meetings held in July and August 2007 with Department of Integration officials and Mr. John Haskins, Head of Integration, who look after the refugees in the Orientation Centre on Clare Street. A meeting was also held with Mr. Michael Gillan CEO of Bridgestock Limited in April 2008 concerning the high levels of asylum seekers in the Old Convent Centre and surrounding houses. Mr. Gillan stated by letter of 30th April 2008 that absolute capacity in his centre would not exceed 315 and stated categorically that any future hotel development would not be used in any way to accommodate asylum seekers or refugees. At a meeting held in October 2008 in Ballyhaunis about a recent programme on Mid-West Radio concerning



Congolese refugees arriving in our town in April 2009, Mr. John Haskins, Head of Integration, reassured local residents that the causes of their concerns were untrue and unfounded. He advised the group arriving will be made up of families who currently live in camps provided by the United Nations and whose current circumstances are bleak. Their coming to Ireland under the United Nations Programme, offers these families a chance of a brighter future. He also reassured local residents that none of these refugees would be housed in Ballyhaunis after their eight week programme, nor in the county of Mayo as two earlier groups had already been housed in Ballina and Castlebar. It was also raised at this meeting that Ballyhaunis needs government funding to upgrade existing services in our town such as a new Library, or a new Community Centre, which would help with the integration of all the nationalities in Ballyhaunis. A delegation group from Ballyhaunis is to meet in Dublin with the Minister for Integration, Conor Lenihan T.D. and Minister Eamon Ó Cuiv T.D. so that a proper case can be put to them requesting financial input for resources.

### **Management**

Earlier this year, Ballyhaunis District Community Council lost one of its staunchest supporters, Enda Murphy, when he sadly passed away. Enda, was a first class voluntary worker and participated in all of the Community Council's working groups in which he had a deep interest. His passing came as a great shock to us all and he is still sorely missed from all of the groups he worked with.

Many voluntary groups in Ballyhaunis are seriously undermanned and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining any of the working groups of Ballyhaunis District Community Council or if you think there is an issue that could be developed through our group, then please feel free to contact us c/o The Friary House, Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis. The following are members of BDCC Management Board for 2008/09: Pat Higgins (Chairperson), Paula Grogan (Hon. Secretary), Jarlath Fahey (Hon. Treasurer), Manar Cherbatji, Mary Donnelly, John Durkan, Mike Griffin, Michael Kelly, Gabrielle Lyons, Seamus O'Boyle, Patricia Plunkett, Martin Walsh.

*Paula Grogan, Secretary*

## ***Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns***

As we review the activities of Tidy Towns 2008 we recall with great sadness the loss of Enda Murphy – a founder member, staunch activist and esteemed chairman at the time of his death on March 28th. His sudden and untimely passing came as a great shock and is still deeply felt by all of us. A great motivator, Enda was passionate about Tidy Towns and availed of every opportunity to 'bend the ear' of some official or indeed anyone who might be in a position to assist him in promoting the ideals of Tidy Towns.

He charted our progress through several Tidy Towns Competitions and Litter Action Leagues – always hopeful of that elusive accolade that he felt Ballyhaunis deserved. There was no prouder man than Enda when success finally came our way and Ballyhaunis emerged as outright winner in the 2007 Litter Action League. Aptly described elsewhere as "The Grand Marshal of Ballyhaunis" Enda is fondly remembered by all associated with Tidy Towns. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

### **Highlight**

The highlight of the past year was receiving the Litter Action League winner's award for 2007 and having Ballyhaunis declared as one of the cleanest towns in Mayo. The award was presented at a function hosted by Mayo County Council in Ballina on 22nd April 2008. Many tributes were paid to the late Enda Murphy by County Council officials and others whom he had encountered during his years in Ballyhaunis. It was a great regret that Enda was not with us to accept the award, he was extremely proud of our success and the efforts of all the members in winning this award.

We competed in this year's Litter Action League which commenced in April and reached the final against Crossmolina in mid-October. We await results at the time of writing and are hopeful of repeating our previous success.

### **Enhancement**

During the past year we continued our work of enhancing the town to the best of our ability with flower planting and landscaping in many public areas. With Ballyhaunis competing in the Pride of Place competition this year, an extra effort was called for in ensuring that the town looked its best for the visit of the judges on July 24th.

As part of the National Spring Clean Campaign 2008 we

organised a major local area clean-up on 21st April. We were very pleased with the turn out of in excess of forty volunteers and several areas including the river and approach roads got a major facelift! We carried out several clean-ups throughout the summer and as we progressed into the final stages of the Litter Action League in October, members were on the litter trail most evenings of the week.

The Sunday morning street cleaning service continued during the summer months and we again acknowledge the support of Ballyhaunis Chamber and the Summer Festival Committee in funding this service. Our annual Children's Art Competition took place in April and the theme this year was "Team Up to Clean Up". Some excellent posters were submitted by the children and three prizes were awarded in each class. We thank the teachers and staff of Scoil Iosa for their continued interest and co-operation with this project. We participated in the presentation for Pride of Place during the summer and assembled a very colourful display on our stand in the Friary on July 24th.

We maintain ongoing contact with Mayo County Council and during the year held meetings with Sharon Cameron, Environment Awareness Officer, Tom Feerick, S.E.E. and Cllr. John Cribbin to enlist their support in addressing certain problems. Representatives of Ballyhaunis Chamber, Community Council and Tidy Towns met on two occasions with Seamus Granahan, Director of Services, other senior officials and local representatives in a joint effort to secure investment in services and improvements for the town.

### **Volunteers**

We thank the willing volunteers who helped with the major task of hanging, watering and maintaining the hanging baskets; despite the wet summer weather regular watering was necessary to maintain the good show of flowers we had this year. We thank all those who regularly pick litter in their own time in various areas, also John Waldron and the outdoor staff of Mayo County Council for their hard work and assistance, in particular the extra effort made in preparation for the Pride of Place adjudication in July. We also thank all our sponsors for their contributions and support.

### **National Tidy Towns Competition**

Our entry for the National Tidy Towns Competition was submitted in early May and we worked hard to have all our floral displays in place for the



adjudication in June. We were pleased to receive a marginal increase in marks; 220 as against 216 last year. Adjudication took place on 17th June and the following is a summary of the report received in September.

**Overall Development Approach 39/50**

The adjudicator stated that the detailed entry form and supporting documentation made very interesting reading. He commented favourably on the community, organisational and agency support that Tidy Towns in Ballyhaunis enjoys.

**The Built Environment 31/50**

In this category the adjudicator favoured the modern design approach and stated that one of the exciting things about the built environment in Ballyhaunis is that the Planning Authority has had the courage to allow the development of modern buildings with some architectural style.

In this respect the Credit Union office, Mid West Radio Broadcast Centre, Hazelhill Family Practice and Annagh Medical Centre received special mention. Other buildings noted were the newly painted Friary Church and house, St. Patrick's Church, Curley's Bar, James Lyons' for the simplicity of lettering style and Ford's for good use of colour to highlight architectural detailing.

The initiative of the Tidy Towns Committee was commended in relation to bilingual townland signs and cleaning of the river bridge.

The adjudicator was critical of the number of derelict sites/premises in Ballyhaunis and advised continued pressure on the Local Authority to exercise its powers under the Derelict Sites Act. He also noted a number of premises, gates, railings etc. in need of repainting and suggested some emphasis on this for 2009.

**Landscaping 31/50**

The window boxes in Clare St., the tiered planters at the Square, other flower tubs and containers, the riverbank area and the flowerbed at Knock Road/bypass road all drew favourable comment. However a concern was expressed about a discharge into the river at the swimming pool car park.

**Wildlife & Natural Amenities 16/50**

The Friary park is described here as the highlight with its well maintained

sloping grass areas and new seating. However the adjudicator would like to see some wildlife interpretation in the near future.

**Litter Control 27/50**

The Tidy Towns Committee was commended for its efforts in this category such as Litter Action League success, Spring Clean Day, Sunday morning street cleaning, and appeal to publicans regarding disposal of cigarette butts. The recycling banks came in for criticism for their unsightly appearance.

**Waste Minimisation 9/20**

Promotion of composting and contact with Waste Disposal companies was noted and it was suggested that the Race Against Waste booklet might provide further ideas in this category.

**Tidiness 12/30**

The poor condition of car parks, street parking, and a number of other 'eyesores' came in for criticism here as also did plastic retail signs which in the opinion of the adjudicator should be replaced by more visually sympathetic materials.

**Residential Areas 23/40**

In this category Aisling Drive, Beech Park, St. Gerald's Court and some well landscaped houses at Abbeyquarter received favourable mention; the opposite being the case with Abbeyvale and a small number of houses in the centre of the town which were described as in need of painting. The concept of Residents' Associations was encouraged.

**General Impression 7/10**

The adjudicator stated that it was a pleasure to visit Ballyhaunis for the first time and looks forward to his next visit to the town.

At this time of year our activities wind down somewhat but early in the New Year we begin planning for another year's work. We would welcome new volunteers to join us and help with our efforts in presenting the best possible image of Ballyhaunis. Please consider spending an hour or two each week working with Tidy Towns. Many hands make light work!

Mary Donnelly



*Presentation of award to Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee as winner of Mayo County Council Litter Action League 2007.  
Back: Mike Griffin, Sally Higgins, Mary T. Griffin, Nell Rochford, Bimbolah Salami, Josie Nevin, Gabrielle Lyons, Moyra Patterson, Frances Maye, John Waldron.  
Front L.-R.: Cllr. John Cribbin, Deirdre Browne, Cllr. Seamus Weir; Cathaoirleach Mayo Co. Co, Mary Donnelly, Pat Higgins, Chairman Ballyhaunis Community Council.*

# My Work in Zambia - June 2008

Never had I imagined that at this stage of my life, I would partake in a humanitarian mission to Zambia, a landlocked country in Southern Africa.

The neighbouring countries are the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Tanzania to the north-east, Malawi to the east, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia to the south, and Angola to the west. The copper belt region in the north is where the N.U.I.G's 'Habitat for Humanity' team was assigned on the 31st May 2008. After submitting my form in January, I waited for the interview to be included on the team of 21 students, who would be chosen to represent the University on this huge humanitarian effort. The interview was held by the University Chaplain and the three team leaders who were past students of the college.

The team consisted of students from all around the West of Ireland ranging from 1st years to postgraduates. Every Wednesday we met at the University Chapel at 8pm to discuss the fundraising aspect and engage in preparatory work for the experience that lay ahead.

## Fundraising

Having only been picked for the team in late January, we had until May to raise approx €60,000 and saying there was a lot of work to do is an understatement! We had to try and do the majority of it in February, March and early April as exams would be looming shortly afterwards. There was a major emphasis on team fundraising to help relieve the burden on individuals. We planned team fundraising efforts in the form of bag packing in Dunnes Stores, flag runs around Eyre Square, Church Gate collections, concerts, buy a brick day and societal events but to name a few.

I was ecstatic with the support received in Ballyhaunis. I organised a pub quiz in the Billabong Bar which brought in a fantastic amount and there was also Church gate collection in Ballyhaunis during the Easter months. Mr. Gerry Markham, Principal of Carrick National School kindly organised a coffee morning in aid of the project, and a very generous amount of money was given by the parents, teachers and children of Carrick N.S. I also visited the school and gave a little presentation to the students about the Third World.

I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank all sponsors; your patience and interest in helping me was overwhelming and really proves community spirit is truly alive and kicking! Fortunately, we surpassed our €60,000 target and raised over €100,000 with our team of 25 in just four months! The surplus amount was put into a separate fund to build a community centre and buy sewing machines. The village women will be able to develop their creative skills, in sewing, embroidery and making African souvenirs which they will be able to sell in local markets. This proves you can raise any amount if you just put your mind to it!

## We're off!

I was doing my final LLB exams in May and it was only in the two weeks prior to the departure that I had the chance to mentally prepare myself for the conditions that lay ahead. A shocking 70% of the village people have AIDS and malaria is as common as a sore throat to Irish people. There is no electricity, running water or indoor toilets in the village. On Saturday 31st May, most of the team travelled from NUIG to Dublin Airport while the others met us up there. We had done so much work in the months prior but the real work only began when we arrived to our host village Kawama.

The first engulfing sight of Africa when descending off

a plane is a warm, rustic orange landscape with a few baobab trees scattered across the horizon. To a child it is truly just like the opening few scenes in Disney's 'The Lion King', and to an adult, underneath this landscape, immediate problems seem very apparent. When arriving in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, my throat seemed to gasp with the lack of humidity in the air. The ground was so dry that it was just hardened dirt and only little patches of grass were dotted around the car park of the airport.

The team stayed overnight in Lusaka and the next morning we bought our food supplies which we brought to the village. It took nine hours to travel north over rocky unfinished roads to Kawama, which is a small village in the suburbs of the city of Ndola; a copper mining town on the border of the Congo. Arriving into the village was astounding; hundreds of children followed our two vans screaming with delight!

It was the first time that most of the children had ever



Here are some close friends I made in Kawama.

seen white people before and many tried to wipe the freckles off our faces believing they were pieces of dirt! We were all relieved to have arrived safely at our new homes and to help them out in any way possible for the next few weeks. We were there to build three new houses, share our Irish culture and customs, and to assist these people in their everyday ordinary lives.

## Building Commences!

As it was the cold season in Africa, dawn was at 5.30am, work started at 8am and sunset at 6pm. Three mud brick houses were to be built using the natural resources of the area and from the other supplies our funding provided. Previous trade work experience was not a compulsory prerequisite as there were local master tradesmen at every site.

We spent the first few days preparing the foundations and making the mud bricks from the clay of the surrounding ant hills. I found these 12 foot high ant-made mounds - a truly spectacular sight! The ants rebuild their huge homes back to a tremendous height every five years and they live only at ground level so we weren't disturbing any colonies in the process. Tools such as wheel barrows, handpicks, axes, hammers, and trowels were all bought to help the project. The master builder on my site only had a hammer and a trowel at first, so these extra tools were no doubt a godsend to the team and will be a great resource to be used by the community in the future. The clay in the Copperbelt region is red in colour and slips through your fingers like dust. It was from this clay that the mud bricks were constructed with a brick shaping machine and a few extra added

ingredients! The brick making was slow and tedious work. They had to be made in the early hours of the morning so at midday in the roaring heat they would properly set.

The houses contained two bedrooms, a kitchen and a living area, all of ample size but in comparison to Irish standards quite small. Windows and doors were installed in the last two days of our stay while we were also finishing the outdoor toilet and showering area in the back garden. These dwellings are providing three more families basic adequate shelter and a



*This is a photo of the house I helped build in its 'near completion' stage. Windows and doors still had to be installed. The house was handed over to Miriam who is the lady on the left with the headscarf.*

chance to have a better life than living on the streets or in the traditional mud huts, which have to be rebuilt every year after the rainy season.

Previous 'Habitat' built homes in the estate had the most amazing gardens! Some contained banana and mango trees; others just beautiful beds of local flora and fauna. None of the shrubs were bought in a garden centre but collected from the nearby forest bordering the Congo. The women carried barrels of water from the village pump back to water these plants every day.

Midday was also the hardest time to be on site, as the sun was dangerously hot and the risk of sunstroke was ever-present. Thankfully the team experienced only slight illnesses during the trip and nobody needed to cut short their stay.

### **Zambian Culture**

Evenings were spent learning about Zambian culture over a couple of burning logs in the village. Zambians are predominantly Christian and most of their songs and stories are of religious origin. They retain great hope in their lives and thank God for every blessing. These people have absolutely nothing in material possessions yet portray an immense wealth in responsibility, friendship, loyalty and community spirit.

You are quite fortunate if you possess a radio, so most people are left ignorant to many different types of music, national politics and international news. Some children in the private schools have access to the internet and I was surprised when my 14 year old friend Cynthia asked me what I thought of Rhianna's 'Umbrella' song! She told me that watching this music video on You-tube made her feel very conscious of the contrast between the Western and Third world. Far away from Zambia are teenagers just like her, but they are shopping for new clothes, going to the cinema, eating nice foods, listening to

music on i-pods and going on holidays. Cynthia was a very mature 14 year old girl; her father died from Aids two years ago and she has to help her mother in raising her younger siblings. She worries about whether she'll be able to continue going to school as there is no longer a basic income coming into the household. The only time she has a chance to do her homework is in the middle of the night accompanied with a stump of a candle.

In Zambia, education is not entirely free. There are both private and public schools, but money is needed to send your children to public schools, albeit not the same amount as for the private. As it is a widows and orphans village- most fathers are dead from malaria or Aids and this presents great barriers to mothers from going to work with young families. Sometimes children have to put their education on hold and work themselves to pay the fees. This is a heartrending point of reality for a lot of these kids who are lucky enough to have full health.

### **Journeys End...**

We successfully built three new houses in the time provided and took part in a ceremony to hand these homes over to their new families. This took part in the large hut in the centre of the village on our second last day. The surplus money raised was transferred in August to the 'Kawama Trust Fund' to build a new community hall.

The saying that 'Africa needs to help itself' is partially true. From my experience I believe that for Africa to prosper economically, continuous handouts to the Third world is some how wounding their cause. We need to lend our knowledge that our society has taught us and share it with our African neighbours. Education is the key to developing the Zambian nation. It's a bitter situation when even the most basic education is costly and money is scarce but the situation will remain stagnant for eternity unless this conundrum is solved.

Without doubt I would recommend to readers, if the opportunity ever arose, to visit Zambia; go there and embrace its diversity with open arms. Zambians are very hospitable and friendly people who love swapping stories and enjoy life's little pleasures despite many obstacles.

*Laura Freyne*



*Mrs. Monica Biesty, Carrowkeel milking the cows.*



**Bringing home the turf, 1990s**

*L-R: Patrick McGuire (Redford), Celia Lyons (Gurrane), Patricia McGuire (Redford), Desmond McGuire (Redford), Jim McGuire (Lecarrow).*



**Silver Dollar, Bridge St., 1970**  
*Majella and Phil McGuire.*



**Manchester, 1940s**  
*L-R: Unknown, Pat McGuire (Redford), Austin Byrne (Gurrane), Mike Judge (Ballinphuill).*



*McGuire family with cousins, 1930s*

*L-R: Jim McGuire, Brian McGuire, Celia Conway (Cullintra), Dominick Stenson (Cappagh), Alice McGuire, Pat McGuire, Michael McGuire (Lecarrow).*



*Jim McGuire, taken in Lecarrow, 1947.*



*Joe McGarry (standing) with Mrs. McGarry, Began village, in the horse trap. Taken 29th Sept. 1941.*

## Twenty-Five Years Twinning

In April 2008, a group of 65 Bretons visited the Ballyhaunis area to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Ballyhaunis-Guilers Twinning Association. They spent seven days in the area and were hosted by families from the Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough and Gortaganny areas. The visit was the culmination of 25 years of reciprocal hospitality, friendship, broadened horizons and enriched lives.

*The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page*

Through the auspices of the Ballyhaunis Twinning Association, many people from the area have had the opportunity to turn the page and discover to their delight, a world of colour, warmth and friendship.

The notion of a town twinning arose from the noble aspiration of building a peaceful Europe. The concept was inspired by the realisation that the best way to avoid conflict and promote harmony was to give the people an opportunity to get to know each other. In the pursuit of this worthwhile goal a system of town twinning and cultural exchange was developed. It was anticipated that friendship and understanding would inevitably ensure when people discovered how much they had in common and how little kept them apart. The success and longevity of the Ballyhaunis-Guilers Twinning Association is testimony to the veracity of this ideal.

Cultural exchange also has many benefits for the individual. It is invaluable in the development of cultural awareness and enhancement of linguistic proficiency. Irish people are justly proud of their tradition of "flaithiúlacht" or hospitality to the stranger; through the experience of twinning one realises that this generosity and open mindedness is also an intrinsic part of the Breton culture. In a society where materialism and greed are so prevalent it is indeed cheering and life-affirming to discover that these traditional values are still prized in other European cultures.

*"To have another language is to possess another soul"*

The opportunity to develop linguistic proficiency is another considerable benefit of the twinning exchange. Linguistically there are strong links between Brittany and Ireland. Breton is a Celtic language which is still spoken in parts of Finistère and has strong similarities with Irish.

The Guilers Twinning Delegation was led by their president Ms. Anne Haus and accompanied by representatives of the Conseil Municipal. A traditional group of Breton pipe players called 'Bagad' and Breton dancers were also part of the delegation. The Breton musicians delighted in performing with local Irish musicians in several local venues. The Breton tunes played on the traditional Breton instruments: the biniou and the bombarde have a resonance which evoke traditional Irish music.

On Sunday a formal reception was held in the Friary in Ballyhaunis. Mrs. Rena Burke, president of the Ballyhaunis Twinning Association gave the formal address. An exchange of gifts took place. These gifts are at present on display in the Enterprise Centre Ballyhaunis. A display of traditional music, song, dance and poetry was followed by a formal reception. Stories were exchanged and old friendships renewed.

During the course of their visit, the Breton visitors had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture and visit places of historic interest. A highlight of their stay was a visit to the Dáil Eireann where they were greeted by John O'Mahony T.D., Frankie Feighan T.D. and Michael Finneran T.D.

A formal soirée d'adieu took place in the Belmont Hotel Knock. Guests of honour included Mr. Eamonn Ó Cuív, Minister for the Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs, Jim Higgins M.E.P., and local councillors John Carty, Pat McHugh and John Cribbin.

The President of the Twinning Association Mrs. Rena Burke



*Ballyhaunis and Guilers Town Twinning Committee exchanging gifts at the launch of the 25th Anniversary Magazine in the Abbey, Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Rena Burke, Thierry Maestrius, Anne Haus, Mary Finan, Pascale Mahé, Marie Léon, Kevin Hora, Martin Finan. Front, L-R: Rita Garvey, Marie-Paul Page, Bernie Greally, Jeanette Webb. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*

and the committee members Rita Garvey, Mary Finan, Kevin Hora, Jeanette Webb and Bernie Greally would like to take this opportunity to thank the host families and all who made this visit such a success. It is hoped that the links between our two towns will continue to flourish in the future. Vive le Jumelage!

*Mary Finan*



*Lisa Webb and Yvonne Byrne, Kiltimagh-Knock Utd. AFC  
Photograph courtesy of Conor McKeown*

# My Canadian Experience

**M**r. Tom Fitzmaurice of Derrynacong was the County Mayo representative on the FBD Scholarship Tour to Canada in October 2007. A member of Ballyhaunis IFA, he was one of a group of over thirty farmers drawn from that organisation's 945 branches around the country for their voluntary help in developing the association's membership.

The scholarship tour, which was sponsored by the FBD trust and led by Pat Smith, IFA, visited farms and met with co-operative representatives and farm leaders across the state of Ontario, which alone is ten times the size of Ireland.

The nine and half hour flight from Dublin to Toronto left on a Friday morning, and they returned back home after a nine day visit on the following Saturday.

Here Tom writes about his visit to Canada and the huge challenges and opportunities facing farmers there, who are battling with the consequences of a severe drought, market restrictions due to BSE outbreaks and cheap imports impacting on the unprotected farm sectors.

## Dairying

Dairy farmers appear to be doing best with strong milk prices (\$0.42+ / litre net) and plenty of opportunity for farmers to expand - with an exodus from the industry of the smaller operators - attracted by an extremely high price for milk quota.

Like Europe, Canada has a quota system for milk and this supply management control appears to be working very well for those involved. Without quota you can't expand and while quota is available freely to any farmer regardless of size, to acquire extra quota is extremely expensive, e.g. to buy quota for a two thousand gallon cow currently costs about \$20,000. Consequently, it is almost impossible to get into dairying if you are not already in it, and the value of quota is extremely important on the balance sheet and provides vital security for bank borrowings. Clearly, Canadian dairy farmers are against a WTO deal as it could destroy the value of their quotas. Housing and the mechanisation facilities are modern, yet it appeared that the dairy farmers were labour intensive compared to Irish dairying set-ups.

## Beef

Beef producers are experiencing the very same problems as we in Ireland with cheap imports driving down prices and high feed costs putting the future viability of the industry at risk. There is an excellent beef industry in Canada with all the main European breeds prevalent on farms with a bias towards the Angus breed. The industry was knocked to its knees with the closure of the American border following an outbreak of BSE a couple of years ago. Farmers are only now looking forward to the re-opening of their vital American market in the near future. Cheap imports from America have caused beef prices to drop from \$1.15 per pound to \$1.00 per pound in the last three months and many of the feed lots are currently losing money. It also appears that Canadian beef processors have lost significant money in the last couple of years and the only winner is the retail sector, which is enjoying huge margins. The level of husbandry on Canadian beef farms is excellent and bureaucracy and paper work is a lot more practical than in Ireland. For example farmers only have to tag their beef animals when leaving their farms.

## Tillage

Canadian tillage farmers have had mixed fortunes this year. Maize and Soya bean yields have been very poor on many farms due to the severe drought and prices have not increased proportionally to compensate. GM seed technology is widely used and even the most sceptical Canadian farmers now admit to the benefits. Their view is clearly that GM technology benefits them by at least 70 euro per acre and no farmer expressed concerns re- environmental risk or on commercial grounds. They simply reported that GM seed reduced workload and costs by reducing sprays. Some farmers were growing non GM Maize and Soya to meet the EU demands for same and they could not understand the resistance to the use of the technology in Europe. Canadian wheat growers fared much better with significant price increases rewarding growers even where severe drought restricted yields.

Canada is a vast country and Ontario, the state where we spent

most of our time, is ten times bigger than Ireland and the potential to increase agriculture output is immense with the main restricting factor being water and very harsh winters. They see that the development of GM (Genetic Modification) technology to produce more drought and cold resistance seed can result in higher yields into the future. Canadian farmers are very hard working and very committed family people. Their ambition is to expand and develop and leave their farming business in a strong position for the next generation to take over and continue their way of life in farming.

## Incredible

Canada is a wonderful country and has an abundance of beautiful sights, huge natural resources and access to the major American market on its doorstep. The splendour of its cities such as Montreal and Toronto are a sight to behold for tourists and it is understandable why twenty million people visit Niagara Falls every year. Their buildings, transport and infrastructure are incredible. Beautiful skyscrapers provide affordable and convenient accommodation, housing people close to services and their work. The standard of cleanliness in city and country was impressive and there was no sign of litter anywhere.

The underground Metro in Montreal was a lesson on how to cost-effectively move people around a city and utilise freely available space underground to provide shopping and other services. Sixteen lane highways make travelling in and out of their cities easy, once you're in the right lane.

The climate is extreme, compared with Ireland. While we were there the temperature went from 21 to 30 degrees in nine days. The winters are harsh, but everything continues as normal regardless of snow and frost. Many people skate to work. The degree to which the Canadians are prepared for their climate can be seen where one particular canal in Montreal is lowered at the end of Autumn to a depth of one metre: this then (inevitably) freezes and is used as a roadway during the winter months.

Amongst other memorable sites we visited were Windfields Farm, Oshawa, Ontario, where we saw the grave of 'Northern Dancer', the thoroughbred racehorse, and the most successful sire of the twentieth century, who died in 1990. We climbed the famous CN Tower in Toronto which, at 1815 feet high, was the tallest free-standing structure until last year (it has been superseded by a structure built in Dubai). We ate in the revolving, glass-floored restaurant 1120 feet up.

Canada is a country that has a lot in common with Ireland with a huge influx of immigrants over the years a proliferation of small industry and massive inward investment from companies such as Toyota.

This was a tremendous trip and I would like to thank FBD Trust and the IFA for giving me the opportunity of experiencing first hand the friendliness of the Canadian people and the potential of their agriculture.



Tom Fitzmaurice at the grave of 'Northern Dancer' at Windfields Farm, Oshawa, Ontario.

Tom Fitzmaurice



## St. Patrick's Dramatic Society

Big Maggie came to town in 2008 and boy, did she make an impact. It all started in November 2007, with the AGM of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society. At this meeting it was decided that we would be performing John B. Keane's "Big Maggie". It also emerged that a new face would be calling the shots, Jim Donnelly.

It was obvious from day one, the passion and commitment that Jim holds for drama. Auditions were held and the cast was selected. Jim was also putting his own team together. He drew from the tremendous pool of talent that exists in Ballyhaunis; Frankie Ralph would assist direction. He also had the vast experience of Pat Doyle at his shoulder. Hours were spent consulting with the talented John Caulfield on minute details in areas such as props and set design.

The vital cogs were in place, so we got stuck in to rehearsals for our big opening night in March. The cast itself was a strong one. Years of experience mixed with a sprinkling of new additions provided a successful combination.

A play of this nature is a big commitment. St. Patrick's Dramatic Society has a long and distinguished history. Standards had to be met and, not only that, but the new man in charge wanted them raised. The commitment given by each and every cast member and those involved back-stage was admirable. We practiced for three nights a week for three months, solid.

The final few weeks, as is tradition, were mayhem, but thankfully it all came together in the end. A particular highlight for most of us involved was the speech given to us on opening night by our director. Any County Manager would have been proud of the way Jim motivated us that night. His efforts were justified by the excellent reception we received from the people of Ballyhaunis on that night

and indeed on all three nights.

Below, I have included a review which was written by Crona Esler of the Western People for the paper following the play.

### Review

"The cast and crew of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society from Ballyhaunis were in full flight earlier this year when they took to the stage with the popular John B. Keane play, 'Big Maggie'. Showing no signs of their 'amateur drama' status, the cast shone from beginning to end and, realistically, would have felt right at home touring the Drama Circuit across the country.

In his first role as Director, Jim Donnelly took to position like a duck to water and produced a thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable show. Sometimes, bringing out the comedy in 'Big Maggie' can be a task in itself, but the Ballyhaunis group seemed to do it with ease.

Working with a relatively small stage area, John Caulfield did a great job with the Set Design, while Mike Griffin was on hand throughout the night looking after the props as too were Seamus O'Boyle and Moira Noone. The lighting was well done by Frank Heraghty. An old hand at drama, Frankie Ralph did a great job on the costumes for the show, while Anne Hosty and Kit Keane were well suited to their roles looking after the actors' make-up.

Maggie herself (Jackie Caulfield) was truly brilliant. Although quite small in stature, Jackie commanded the stage and certainly brought out the larger side of her character. In the lead role, Jackie was a joy to watch, as she laid down the law and brought her family to their knees... sometimes literally!

Playing characters with opposite personalities, Ann Grealley



The cast and stage crew of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society who staged 'Big Maggie' by John B. Keane in Ballyhaunis earlier this year. Back, L-R: Austin Finn, Pat Doyle, Michael Goulding, Seamas Lundon, John Caulfield (set design), Michael Kelly, Seamus O'Boyle (stage crew) and Ruairi Caulfield. Seated, L-R: Stella O'Neill, Martina Kelly, Jackie Caulfield (Big Maggie), Anne Grealley, Kathrina Sweeney, Moira Noone (stage crew). Front, L-R: Mike Griffin (props), Frankie Ralph O'Malley (costumes) and Jim Donnelly (director). Missing from photograph:

Anne Hosty, Kit Keane (make-up), and Frank Heraghty (lighting).

Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.



as Gert and Martina Kelly as Katie were very impressive on stage. Seamas Lundo did a great job as Maggie's son Maurice and played alongside his equally-talented stage-brother Mick (Michael Goulding).

Collectively, the four offspring of Maggie and her late husband, Walter Polpin, were strong in their roles and held the show together, even though the family was falling apart! As the Travelling Salesman Teddy, Ruairi Caulfield was hilarious, as too was Michael Kelly as Byrne. The pair provided many a laugh throughout the show and, as they fought for Maggie's attention, they certainly turned on the charm! Although playing smaller roles, Pat Doyle and Austin Finn were brilliant as the two old men. Well made up and coming close to falling into the 'village idiot' category, Pat and Austin stirred lots of laughter through the Parochial Hall.

Mary Madden (Stella O'Neill) and her mother Mrs. Madden (Katrina Sweeney) both played their parts well. Quiet and reserved at the outset, but gaining more momentum as Maggie failed to succumb to her request, Stella did a good job as the poor pregnant girlfriend. However, any degree of softness was quickly forgotten when Mrs. Madden entered the Polpin household. Loud and aggressive, Katrina was powerful in her role.

Overall, the Ballyhaunis crew did themselves proud when they staged 'Big Maggie' in the Parochial Hall and, as word of their ability circulated throughout the area, it was little wonder that the hall was filled each of the three nights. For now, St Patrick's Dramatic

Society are hanging up their costumes for another year. But, having gone along to witness their talent this year, I'll certainly be making another date with the Ballyhaunis group".

Our thanks to Crona for such a lovely piece.

I cannot finish this article without saying how deeply saddened all of us involved in the Drama Society were at the passing of Enda Murphy. He was with us every night we practiced. If we needed anything, he obliged. He was a great friend of the Society and will truly be missed.

Finally we would like to thank all who helped in the production of "Big Maggie". Your time and effort was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank everyone who came out and supported the play this year. We had a fantastic turnout. Hopefully we will see you all again in 2009.

*Seamas Lundo (PRO)*

## The Bread Men

A friend of mine in Castlebar retired last week. His name is Jimmy Keane and he was a breadman. Jimmy delivered bread to Ballyhaunis for many years. His retirement reminded me of the many breadmen that delivered to Ballyhaunis down the years.

I suppose Boland's would have been the big one years ago. I remember the late Paddy Ryan before he opened his first supermarket driving for Boland's. The late Oliver Levins also drove for Boland's for many years. I can remember the crusty pan, the tiger loaf, and of course the lovely batch loaf.

Kelly's from Kilcock also came to Ballyhaunis. Their driver was a man called Frank Cunnane. One of their loaves was the turnover. They also did a batch but it was not as nice as Bolands.

At a more local level we had Paddy Dunne from Kiltimagh. Dunne's buns were a great seller. McNicholas's also came from Kiltimagh selling bread and confectionery until their closure a few years ago. From Claremorris we had Hanley's. Joe Duggan who now drives for Bus Eireann was one of their drivers. From Charlestown we had Holsum. Their driver was a man called Tony but I never knew his surname. We always called him Tony Holsum.

Dyar's bakery was in Castlebar. Among their drivers were Frank Cahill, Tommy Roddy and Willie Broderick. I also remember Paul Claffey's father delivering to Ballyhaunis from Castlerea. He specialised in brown bread and cakes.

Nowadays we still have O'Hara's from Foxford. Western Pride from Ballinrobe, Lydon's from Galway and Pat the Baker.

The growth of the big multiple stores have led to the demise of many of the small bakeries. Of course, the reason that so many bread vans came to Ballyhaunis is that for many years we had no bakery of our own. I don't myself remember any bakeries in Ballyhaunis but I am told that Hubert Lyons had a bakery on Knox Street, James Waldron had a bakery on Main Street and George Delaney had a bakery on Abbey Street.

I remember the late Mide Freeley telling me one time of getting a tip for a horse from a Mr. Odlum. Odlum's, of course,

supplied the flour to the bakeries. The horse lost of course.

I know that Ned Maguire of Cherryfield worked in James Waldron's bakery. I'm also told a story that the men who delivered Delaney's bread went on strike once. Annie Kennedy who worked in Delaney's took over the delivery with a very young Paddy Delaney helping her.

I myself worked as a helper for Boland's as did Michael Eamon McGrath (Carrowneden), James Caulfield (Bohogue), Ollie Concannon (Main Street) and Kieran Folliard.

Many of the people mentioned in this article have now gone to their eternal reward. They provided a great service in a time when bread was very much a part of people's diet. With the present recession under way we could well be heading back to those days

*Eamon Murren*



**Give it a Swirl**  
Bridie Hunt's (Larganboy) granddaughter Robyn Neilan with TV Presenter Miriam O'Callaghan at the launch of 'Give it a Swirl Day' - Volunteer Centre Ireland.



## *Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership*

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2008 has been another productive year for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership building on the work carried out over the last six years following the withdrawal of the Augustinian Order and the formal transfer of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey and Grounds to the local community under the 999 year lease signed with the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust Ltd – a company established by the Community Council, Mayo County Council and the Augustinians in 2005.

The Abbey Partnership aims to promote through community development methods, the overall development of the property of the Augustinian Order in Ballyhaunis on behalf of the Abbey Trust 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 living in the Ballyhaunis area, particularly of those who are socially excluded.

One of the priorities for the Abbey Partnership in 2008 was to improve communication with the local community and promote a better understanding of the role that the Abbey Partnership plays as a consequence of the decision by the Augustinians to withdraw from the town. An information brochure was prepared and distributed to every household in the parish and surrounding areas highlighting the work carried out to date and describing the future projects the partnership hopes to implement.

During 2008 the Friary grounds continued to attract people of all ages and backgrounds to avail of this invaluable community amenity – despite the poor weather, with the Children's Playground and attractive woodland and river walkway being used on a daily basis. Great credit is due to the Rural Social Scheme staff whose dedication and hard work keeps the Friary grounds in their impressive state, with our appreciation going to Sean Biesty and John Joe Lyons for all their hard work in maintaining the grounds over the last year.

The Friary grounds were further developed during 2008 with the addition of ten new park benches to the river walkway, which were kindly donated by one of our local company's Cashels Engineering. The public lighting along the river walkway is now fully installed and it is planned to hold a formal switching on ceremony before the end of this year, which marks another positive step to further enhance this community amenity. The Friary grounds continues to provide school children and their teachers with opportunities to engage in outdoor projects and small educational visits.

The Scout Den was also fenced off during 2008 to prevent any future accidents and to enable its future development. The Abbey Partnership also agreed to support the development plans for the Scout Den which are being put together by BRICE Ltd (the company responsible for developing the Enterprise Centre) and Ballyhaunis Community Council Ltd.

An application was made to the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism earlier in the year for financial aid to develop a multi-purpose all weather sports facility in the Friary field, near to the Scouts Den. This application was granted €80,000 by the Government and plans are

well underway to raise the additional €100,000 needed to see the project to fruition.

Planning permission for the development of a childcare centre was also approved in 2008 which has enabled the Family Resource Centre to develop a new pre-school children's facility on the car park at the Friary grounds. The partnership has contributed to this worthwhile development and hope it will further enhance the attractiveness of the property with the new centre due to be opened before the end of 2008.

### **Events**

St. Mary's Abbey hosted a number of social and cultural events during the year. Students from the Community School recorded their CD in the Abbey to mark the school's 25th anniversary, the Community Council held the Pride of Place Open Day there during the early summer as did the Guilers Twinning Committee. The Gracenotes Choir group continue to use the Abbey building for their performances and the Mayo County Council Summer Music programme also continued with Blazing Fiddles - a well known traditional music group performing this year.

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern continued in 2008 with a very successful Pattern being held this year – on one of the few days that the rain stayed away. Once again full credit goes to the organisers, the Abbey Pattern Committee. The Pattern event followed the annual Cemetery Mass held at the Abbey with Fr. Kieran Burke and Fr. John Concannon the funds generated will be put back into the community to support activities for children.

A number of positive developments are already on the horizon for 2009 with the new sports facility and the redevelopment of the Scout Den being the top priorities within the town and the Abbey Partnership for the coming year.

It was with great sadness during the year that the Partnership lost the services of Enda Murphy who had represented the Community Council on the Abbey Partnership since it was first established in 2002. Enda had been deeply involved in the work and activities of the abbey partnership and very committed to community life in the town. Our thoughts are with Kathleen and the family.

The Abbey Partnership brings together eight organisations with its board composed of Chairperson: John Coll (Mayo County Council), Vice-Chairperson: Peter Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chambers), Treasurer: Mary Donnelly (Community Council), Secretary: Stephen Grogan (Family Resource Centre), Anne-Marie Carroll (IRD Kiltimagh), Cllr. Michael Carty (Mayo County Council), Eugene Connolly (HSE West), Cllr. John Cribbin, (Mayo County Council), Anne Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chambers), John Durkan (Community Council), Pádraic Flanagan (Mayo County Council), Michael Kelly (Community Council) and Fr. Michael Mernagh (OSA).

*Stephen Grogan*



# Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

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2008 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 at St. Mary's Abbey along with deepening contact with our different communities and families throughout the town.

The Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre was started some four years ago 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.

Some of the activities which have taken place this year include our Computer Courses designed to provide an introduction to computers and Information Technology, especially for adults and older people. Over 120 people took part in these courses which were run in at morning and evening times during 2008, while our Community Internet Service – which provides a free Internet Café weekdays and on Monday evenings, was used by over 2,000 visitors during the year.

The Family Resource Centre have continued our assistance to the Active Retirement Group who now hold their regular Thursday evening meetings in the Friary House and we continue to work with the group, we also plan to publish a Directory of Services for Older People to improve and increase the type of information about activities available in the town for our senior citizens. The Citizens Information Service also operates from the Family Resource Centre every second Tuesday in the morning times with an increasing number of people using this service to check on their and their families rights and entitlements.

Our counselling service which was started last year also continues but now on Monday mornings at St. Mary's Abbey, with Áine Egan. The counselling service is for anyone who wants help, perhaps at a time of crisis or otherwise, who is unhappy with his or her present circumstances and hopes for change, or who wishes to make progress in personal development.

The Centre continues its work with the International community in Ballyhaunis, improving contacts and working together to provide a mix of activities for children and families. This year will mark the completion of our second pre-school childcare service which will be at St. Mary's Abbey and employ's two childcare workers. Where numbers allows, the service will also be open to children from other communities in the town.

Other supports to our International communities have also continued with the Centre providing Computer and Personal Development Courses for adults and an After School Club for children. 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 is complemented by our continued support for the UN refugee families who spend their first six weeks in Ireland at the National Refugee Orientation Centre – on

Clare Street. This centre is the first arrival point for these refugee families, whom the Irish Government invites to come to live in Ireland under a United Nations programme refugee scheme. The Family Resource Centre provides an extensive programme for the children of these families during their time here, helping them to make the transition to Irish life. This year we assisted four such groups who arrived in Ballyhaunis and then moved to their permanent home in another town – from Burma and Sudan.

## Services

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 Training Centre. The three Family Resource Centre staff members at the Sonas Service also expanded the range of activities provided in 2008 with the provision of an Easter and Summer Children's camp that arranged a number of out of town visits for children during the year.

The Family Resource Centre's work with children and young people continued with an After School club two evenings per week in the Friary House.

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 VEC Training Centre with Terry, Mary and Denise McDonagh along with Martin Mongan joining us for a number of weeks at the start of June. The FRC Office also benefited from the student work experience programme run by the community school with Faisal Saleh and Kelan Webb working with us at different stages during the year.

The Family Resource Centre is an active member of the Community Council, Abbey Partnership and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and taking an active part in the Pride of Place event held in the town at the start of the summer.

It was with great sadness that we bid a fond farewell to one of our founding members, Betty Regan, who passed away during the year and will be greatly missed. The AGM elected the following officers for 2008/2009: Chairperson - Seamus Grogan, Secretary - Marie Jordan, Treasurer – Christina Concannon, PRO – Stephen Ng'ang'a. The other members are Dolores Biesty, Manar Cherbatji, Stephen Grogan, Betty Koinange, Teresa Maughan Eileen McDonagh Mary Morrissey, Hina Rehman, Mamoona Zafar, Aliya Shakoora. A copy of the annual report is available to anyone interested, just call into the Friary House at St. Mary's Abbey.

The Staff are Stephen Grogan and Tracey McDermott in the Friary House along with Pauline Mallee-Hunt, Lisa Ganley and Mary Cleary in Sonas at Tooraree. Patricia Kelly, Barbara Plunkett Liz Ward, Cliona Mulvaney and Helen Kiely at the Old Convent, and with Mona Herr, Aine Delaney, Nicola Ryan and Kathleen Dennehy working with the Burmese families on Clare Street.



*At the top of the Reek, 1950s*

*L-R: Kathleen Culliney (Tavnaughmore), Sr. Mary Teresa McCarthy (U.S.A.), cousin of the Cullineys, Michael Culliney (Tavnaughmore).*



*Sheila Brownsell, formerly Sadie Finnegan, Tavnaughmore, 1938.*



*Catherine and Thomas Finnegan (Tavnaughmore) with their grandson Tony Hallinan (Manchester), centre. Taken in the 1940s.*

## *Ballyhaunis I.C.A.*

Ballyhaunis I.C.A. meet every second Wednesday of the month at 8pm in the Friary House. We have taken part in charity walks for breast cancer, quiz nights and have done a variety of crafts during the year. New members are always welcome.

Our Chairperson is Mary Waldron and Vice Chairperson is Margaret Kenny.

The Secretary is Maura Fitzmaurice and the Treasurer is Margaret Dyar.

The Federation meeting was hosted by Ballyhaunis ICA. We also had our Christmas Dinner in the Billabong. A great night was enjoyed by all.

*Maura Fitzmaurice (Secretary)*



### *Golden Wedding Celebrations*

*Kathleen and Michael Egan, Knockbrack, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary earlier this year. The occasion was celebrated with Holy Mass in Ballyhaunis, with chief celebrant, Canon Joe Cooney, P.P., followed by a social gathering for family, friends and relatives at the Belmont Hotel in Knock.*

# National Post for Ballyhaunis Man

Local man Paul Sykes has been appointed Breed Development Officer by the Irish Limousin Cattle Society. A well-known Limousin breeder for the past twenty-four years, Paul has a vast knowledge of the Limousin breed and its breeders in Ireland and Europe. He imported one of the first heifers of the breed into the West of Ireland in 1984 and since then has built up the impressive 'Cavelands' herd currently numbering twenty-two breeding females and followers. One of the highlights of the herd's history was the winning of the Sersia All-Ireland Calf Final in 2002. 'Cavelands Shelley' beat off stiff competition from nine other heifers and eighteen bulls to win the prestigious award which is sponsored by the French Limousin Herdbook and



*Paul and Mary Sykes with some of the Awards won by their 'Cavelands' pedigree Limousin herd.*

Sersia (a French A.I. station). The prize included a trip for two to the Paris Show, and a magnificent bronze figure of a Limousin bull. The herd has also been the North-west regional winner in the 'Herd of the Year Competition' twice - in 2006 and 2007. Paul's wife Mary and sister-in-law Alta are instrumental in the day-to-day running of the herd and Paul is quick to acknowledge their role in developing the herd to its current high standard. A founder member of the North West Limousin club where he was chairman on three occasions, Paul has judged several major pedigree cattle events in Ireland and Northern Ireland. His initial responsibilities as Breed Development Officer will be to oversee the field based services of the society including services to new members, breeding advice and herd inspections. Paul's appointment to this challenging position comes at a time when the Limousin breed continues to expand and grow in Ireland. Recent CMMS (Cattle Movement Monitoring Service) statistics show the Limousin breed in firm position as the number one Suckler Dam and number one Beef Breed in AI in the country. With some 2,200 members and 8,000 registered cows in Ireland, Paul's work involves travelling to the four corners of the country, visiting farmers and herd owners, and talking with them about their breeding strategies and the development of the Limousin breed in Ireland. Paul was born in Leeds and came to live in Ballyhaunis in the early 1970s. His mother is the former Mary Waldron of Cave. His father, the late Reuben Sykes, a native Yorkshireman, was a well-known and popular figure in the Ballyhaunis area. Paul is married to Mary (nee Regan) and they live in Agloragh.



*Paul Sykes with some of his Limousin cows.*



*Left: Thomas Healy of Drimbane (1889-1949), father of Patrick, Mary, Delia, John, Michael and Jim Healy.*

*Below: John and Jim Healy, formerly of Drimbane, enjoying their regular summer break in Ballyhaunis, May 2008, where they met up with their former neighbour, Kevin Eagney (centre).*



*Above: Jim and Fran Healy at the recent wedding of their youngest daughter Frances Jane in South Wales.*

**Below: Completion of new house**

*Taken at the completion of the new Healy bungalow in Drimbane, 1957. Back, L-R: John Healy, Pa Hunt (died 1983), Delia Hunt (nee Healy), Jim Healy, Michael Healy (died 1993), Paddy Fitzmaurice. Front, L-R: Mrs. Julia Hunt, Mrs. Margaret Healy (died 1963), Mary Conboy (nee Healy, died 1976). All three children are Mary Conboy's.*



## Ordained in Birmingham

Congratulations to Fr. John Peyton of Birmingham and formerly of Island, Ballyhaunis, who was ordained to the Priesthood in July this year. Fr. John's mother was Catherine Murray from Derrintogher, Ballyhaunis, and his father Patrick Peyton from Dromada Gore, Killasser, Swinford. They lived in Island for a number of years and, in 1961 they sold their farm and moved to Birmingham. They retained the house in Island where they spent their summer holidays every year thereafter.

Fr. John studied chemistry at Birmingham University, and worked in the chemical industry from thirteen and a half years. His father died in 2001, his father having passed away in 1991. After his mother's death, John began to consider a calling to the Priesthood. He entered in 2003, after one year at the English College, Valledolid, Spain – a spiritual year – he completed four years study at the Pontifical Beda College, Rome.

On 19th July this year, John was ordained to the Priesthood in his home parish of Sacred Heart and Holy Souls, Acocks Green, Birmingham by Bishop Phillip Pargeter. There was a congregation of six hundred worshippers, including fifty priests in attendance. This was the first ordination in the parish in thirty years. He celebrated his First Mass the next day Sunday 20th July.

Fr. John now works as assistant priest at St. Patrick's Church, Dudley Road, Birmingham, where he is also chaplain to the nearby City Hospital. Fr. John is a regular visitor to Island as also are his brothers and sister.

Fr. John celebrated Mass on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September last, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, where big crowds received his blessing. He is wished every blessing in his ministry, and he is always assured a C ad M ile F ilte on his annual return visits to Ballyhaunis.

*Vona Moran*



*Fr. John Peyton with friends and neighbours from Island and Ballindrehid*

*L-R: Pado Moran, Vona Moran, Ann Kelly, Margaret Hopkins, Mary Kelly, Fr. John Peyton, Sean McDermott, Bridie McDermott and Joe Freeman.*

## Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

The Bridge Club meets in The Hazel, Main Street on Tuesday and Thursday nights from mid September to early May.

The President this year is Alacoque McManus; Secretary – Maureen Hunt; Treasurer – Christina Jordan; Handicap Director – Michael Mahony; Tournament Director – Donal Geraghty.

Our main sponsors are Ballyhaunis Credit Union, Allied Irish Banks, Ulster Bank and Bank of Ireland. We are grateful to them for their interest and generosity.

A major competition is held each month: The Murphy Cup, Christmas, Easter and Summer Prizes. Last year Claremorris Club hosted the Angela Joyce Competition. Many players travelled from Ballyhaunis Club and had a very enjoyable night. Eddie Murphy & Sons sponsorship during the year was much appreciated.

The President's Prize was the highlight of the year. The preparations made by Fiona Prenty ensured that we all had a good night. The winners of the President's prize were Mary Walsh and Donal Geraghty.

Our Bridge Club members were bereaved by the death of Mollie Concannon. Mollie was a long standing member of the Bridge Club.

*Maureen Hunt*



*Winners of this years Presidents Prize,  
Left to right – Donal Geraghty, Fiona Prenty  
(President), Mary Walshe.*



*Winners of the Bank of Ireland Prize  
Left to right – Ina Freyne, Fiona Prenty (President), Kathleen Cribben.*

## Weddings



*Gerard McGuire, Upper Main St. and Lorna Shields, Knocklyon, Dublin, married in St. Colmcille's Church, Knocklyon.*



*Oliver Devaney, Coolnaha and Hui Chee Chong who were married in 2007.*



*Suzanne Kilcourse, Aisling Drive and John Huggard, Chapelizod, Dublin, married in Park House, Kiltimagh.*



*Mary Hosty, Lavallyroe and Niall O'Hagan, Phibsboro, Dublin, married in Ballintubber Abbey, 2007.*



*Aidan Cleary, Johnstown and Niamh Sharkey, Donegal, married in Corofin, Galway. Stratford Photography.*



*Mike Finnerty, Creagh, Ballinrobe and Celine Keane, Roundfort, who married in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Roundfort. Mike is son of the former Marie Mulrennan, Gurteen.*



*Elaine Webb, Main St. and John Condron, Malahide, Dublin, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Dillon Photography.*



*Karen McGuire, Ballykilleen, Cloonfad, and Micheál Rafferty, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.*



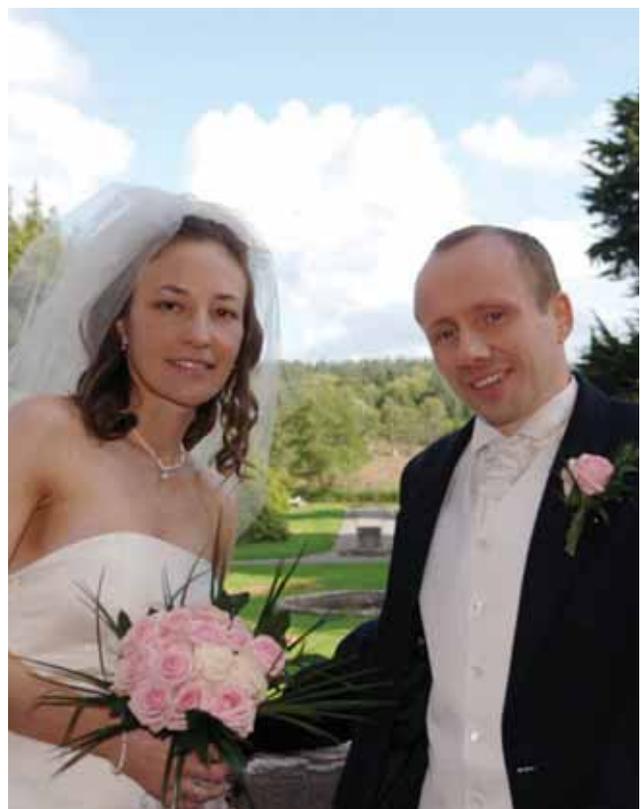
*Frances Healy, Wales and Jason Jones, married in Llanelli, South Wales. Frances is daughter of Jim Healy, formerly of Drimbane.*



*Karen Henry, Upper Main St. and Karl O'Connor, Dublin, married in Mijas, Spain.*



*Deirdre O'Connor, Hazelhill and Sean Ward Coolough, Menlo, Galway, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Rebecca Kiely, Doctor's Road and James Moriarty, London, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, Stratford Photography*



*Stephen Biesty, Carrowkeel and Carol-Anne O'Connor, Galway, married at St. Oliver Plunkett's Church, Renmore, Galway.*



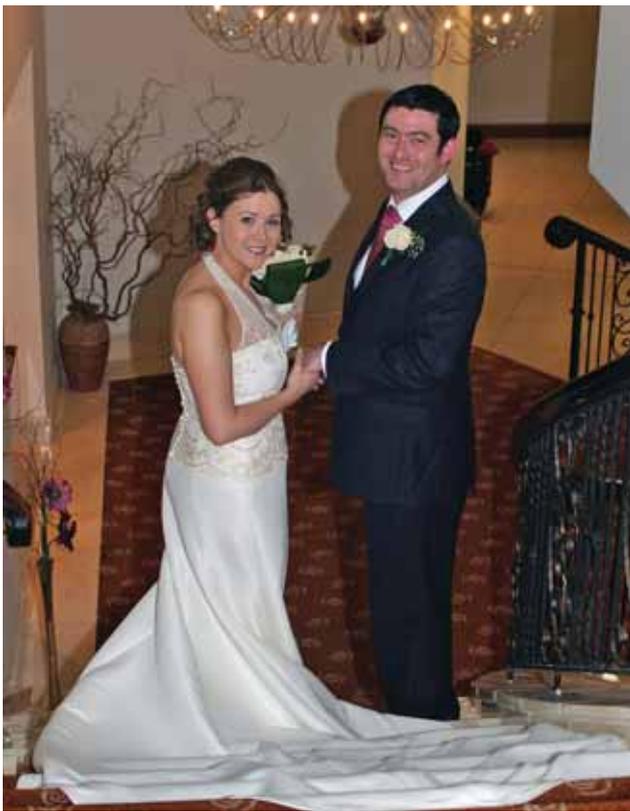
*John Grealy, formerly of Killinaugher, and Christine McGrath, Manchester, who married in St. Mary's and St. Claire's Church, Levenshulme, Manchester.*



*Colette Greene, Cloontrasna, Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon and Patrick McDermott, Cloonbunny, Loughglynn, Co. Roscommon, who were married in Cloonbonniffe Church, Co. Roscommon.*



*Carmel Hunt, Lecarrow and Justin Maloney, Lowberry, Granlahan, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon, who were married in St. Mary's Church, Westport.*



*Irene Byrne, Knox St. and Oliver Nicholson, Bridge St. who married in Longwood, Co. Meath,.*



*Lorraine Murphy, Coolloughra and Dominick Mulligan, Scregg, Ballyhaunis, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Tony Smyth, Upper Main St. and Cheshire Torres who married in Naas Co Kildare. Photography by Barry Cronin.*



*Kevin Waldron, Redford and Edel Grennan, Ferbane, Co Offaly, married in St. Mary's Church, Ferbane, Co Offaly.*



*Robert Keane, Knox St. and Louise Courrell, Ballina married in St. Muredach's Cathedral, Ballina.*



*Eugene Coggins, Granlahan and Claire Daly, Ballinlough married in Ballintubber Abbey.*



*David Burke, Devlis and Noelle Waldron, Abbeyquarter married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Kevin Devaney, Brackloon and Maureen Reilly, Belmullet married in Binghamstown.*



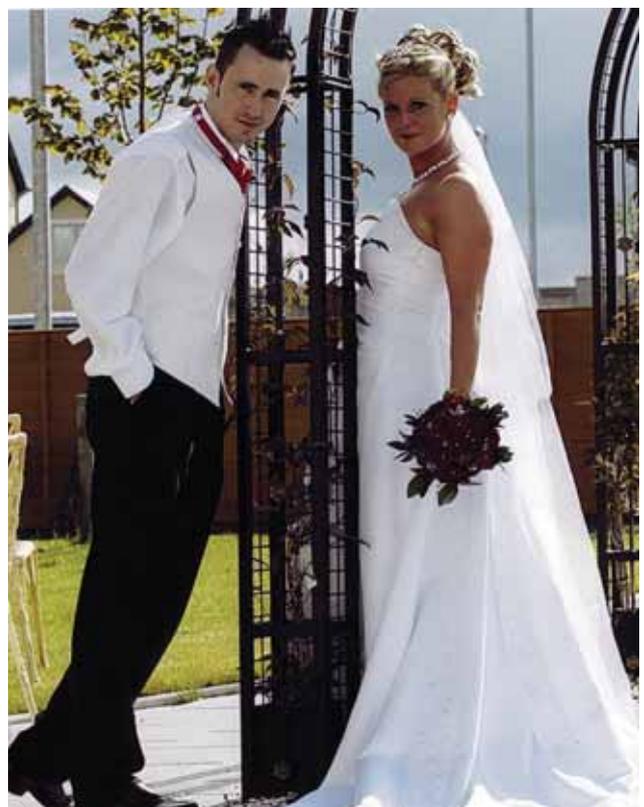
*Austin Finn, Main Street and Maggie Ruane, Holywell married in Ballintubber Abbey.*



*Patrick Gallagher, Bargarriff and Amy Gately, Ashling Drive married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



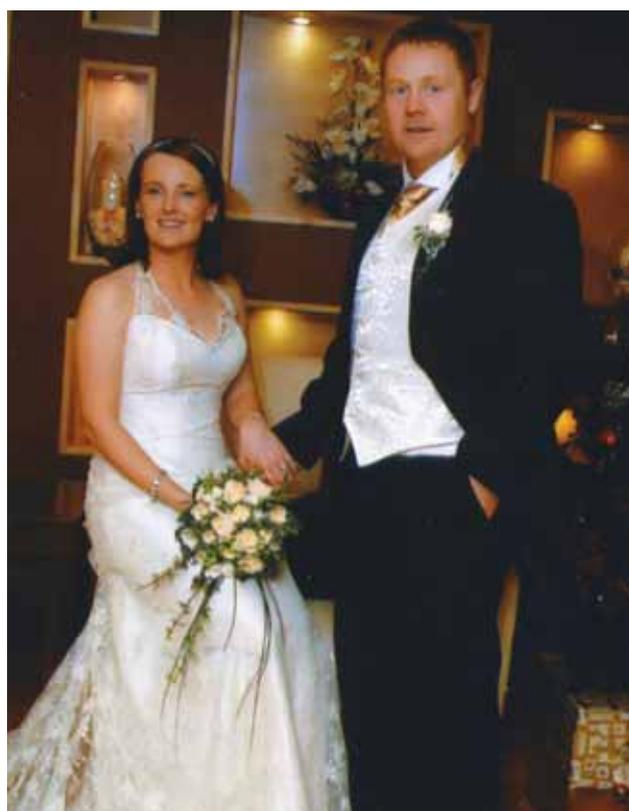
*George Garrity, formerly of Cloonacurry, Knock (son of Vincent and Evelyn) and Jennifer Fitzgibbon married in Smithtown, New York.*



*James Waldron, Abbeyquarter and Breda Hynes, Sylane, Tuam married in the Sacred Heart Church, Belclare, Tuam.*



*Patricia Mulhern, Knock Rd. and Padraic Murphy, Bracklaghboy who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.  
Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



*Martina Murphy, Brackloon, and David Squires, Tooreen married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Tomas Murphy, Gurteen, Ballyhaunis and Aoife Folliard, Casheltourley, Aghamore who married in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore.*



*Michael Shanaghy, Larganboy and Mya Mahoney, Benicia, California, U.S.A., who married in California.*



*Michael Comer, Langanboy and Yoshie Terada, Japan, married in Castlebar.*



*Dr. Caroline Noone MB BCH BAO. Caroline graduated from University College, Dublin, in June 2008 with a degree in medicine. Caroline is the daughter of Dr. Patrick and Moira Noone, "Ard Patrick", Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis, and is now working in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin.*



**Proud grandparents**

*Mary and Frank Healy of Ballindrehid with triplets James, Catherine and Mark Kelly.*



**First Holy Communion, 1956.**  
L-R: Val Rattigan and Mike Herr.



**Young at heart**

A House Party in July 1967. Tom Fitzgerald (Clare St.), Tony Cribbin (Main St.), Margaret Byrne (Derrymore), Brian Byrne (Clare St.)



L-R: Paddy Mulligan, Rita Mulligan, (possibly) Jim Sweeney, Maria Cribbin, Bertie Curley. Taken in 1952.



# Scoil Íosa Primary School

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Scoil Íosa Primary School extends Christmas Greetings to Annagh readers and everyone connected with the school in the past and the present. There are 266 children attending the school.

## **Board of Management**

John Griffin (Chairman Patron's Nominee), Fr. Kieran Burke (Patron's Nominee), Jim Landon (School Principal) Kevin Henry (Elected Teacher), Patricia Uí Shuilleabháin (Parents' Representative), Tommy Caulfield (Parents' Representative), Olive Lyons (Community Representative), Paula Grogan (Community Representative).

In October Fr. Kieran Burke CC left Ballyhaunis to take up a new post as Parish Priest of Leenane, Co. Glaway. Fr. Kieran was a member of the board for five years and is wished well in his new parish. He is replaced by Fr. Benny McHale who is most welcome to the board.

## **Staff 2008-2009**

Jim Landon (Principal), Augustine Kearns (Deputy Principal), Kathleen Lyons (Assistant Principal), Jimmy Duggan (Assistant Principal), Margaret O'Flaherty, Aisling Toal, Sheena Flanagan, Olivia Burke, Ann Durkan, Stella McGrath, Ita Fahey, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, June Duffy, Joanne Shally, Lisa Watchorn, Kevin Henry, Delia Coen, Aine Delaney, Mary Fleming, Annie Kilroy and Ciara Byrne.

Special Needs Assistants: Brigid Lynskey, Marina Coyne, Kay Healy and Bianca Blessing. School Secretaries: Carmel Cassidy and Mary Dillon. Caretaker: John Hurley. French Teacher: Seamus Caulfield.

## **Retirement**

In September Deputy Principal Sally Fahy and teacher Marie Byrne retired from teaching. Sally had spent nearly all her teaching career in Ballyhaunis where she instilled a great love of learning in all her pupils. Marie started teaching in Cloghans Hill before coming to Ballyhaunis. She was also a dedicated teacher who encouraged all her pupils to fulfill their potential. They are both wished a Happy Retirement by the whole school community.

## **Our Sad Loss**

The entire school Community and Parish were shocked and saddened to hear about the death of Betty Regan on 16th July 2008. Betty taught in St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School Ballyhaunis before joining St. Mary's N.S. in 1979. Both schools amalgamated in 2001 and Betty taught in Scoil Íosa right up to the summer holidays this year. She will be greatly missed by all her pupils, her teaching colleagues, parents and very many past pupils. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family.

## **Parents' Association 2007/8**

Orla Moran (Chairperson), Eamon Healy (Vice chairman), Frank Browne (Secretary/PRO), Cathal Carroll (Treasurer), Tommy Caulfield (Board of Management Representative), Patricia Ní Shuilleabhain (Board of Management Representative). Committee: John Durkan, Pat Ryan, Laura Webb, Niamh Henry, Ann Lyons, Stacia Carney, Martin Walsh.

The untimely death of Eamon Healy, our member and former Chairperson, shocked and saddened the entire school community. Eamon was an active and diligent member of our Parents Association for many years. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family.

## **Attended Book Launch**

Pupils from Sixth Class attended the launch of the book "This is the Place I Like Best" - a collection of stories, poems and illustrations for

children all over Ireland at the County Library, Castlebar. The Book, published by Kids Own, features children from Ballyhaunis, Castlebar, Fermoy, Clonakilty, Stillorgan, Letterkenny, Falcarragh and Deansgrange, and is available in bookshops and in libraries. The children that contributed to the book were Aisling Tarpey, Caoimhe Henry, Clare Moran, Damien Callaghan, Gerard Freeley, Jasmine Moss, Jason McGoldrick, John Cribbin, Laura Araviciute, Michael Naughton, Momna Shafique, Morgan Lyons, Patricia Daly, Robert Morley, Shannon Biesty, Viktorija Konovalciuk. Their Class Teacher is Mrs. Kay Lyons. Scoil Íosa would like to thank Eleanor O'Toole, Castlebar Library, and Eleanor Freyne, Ballyhaunis Library, for giving the children the opportunity to take part in this exciting project.

## **Irish Pride Winner**

Irish Pride launched a new competition call "Pride in your school". The pupils were asked to write in 500 words telling them what makes them proud of their school. It could be any topic, e.g. a special achievement in their class or school, a fellow pupil overcoming a challenge or a teacher who has inspired them. Michael Naughton was one of the entries that stood out. He was awarded a hundred Euro voucher for his prize.

## **Pioneer Quiz**

Scoil Íosa won the Pioneer Quiz organised by the Ballyhaunis Community School Pioneers Association which was held in Ballyhaunis. The winning team comprised of Caoimhe Henry, Claire Moran, Jason McGoldrick, Damien Callaghan.

## **Recycling**

Scoil Íosa held a recycling week for clothes, mobile phones and ink cartridges. A large amount of used stamps was sent to the missions in aid of the Kiltegan Fathers.

## **Kenny Naughton Autumn School**

Pupils from Scoil Íosa who won prizes in the Kenny Naughton Writing Competition for Primary School Children were: Rory Nestor who came second in the Short Story section; Chantelle McDonagh who came first and Erika Webb who came fourth in the Poetry section.

## **Tag Rugby Extravaganza**

Sixth Class Pupils attended and took part in the 2008 Tag Rugby Extravaganza which was held in Corinthians Rugby Club. Each school in the competition was nominated a country to research and dress up in their national costume for the opening of the 'National Parade' ceremony at the beginning of the Extravaganza. Scoil Iosa was allocated Georgia and each player dressed up in the red and white colours of Georgia. Over twelve hundred pupils took part. The teams were accompanied by their coach Georgina Costello and teachers Kay Lyons and Kevin Henry.

## **Another Close Game**

In the second round of the Cumann na mBunscoil Division One Football Championship, St. Aidan's, Kiltimagh defeated Scoil Íosa Ballyhaunis by 1-9 to 1-8 in an exciting game played in Kiltimagh. Scoil Íosa players: Shazad Rehmon, Joseph Lyons, Kevin Kilbride, James Lyons, David Cleary, Stephen Nolan, Cormac Reidy, Morgan Lyons, Shane Healy (Capt.), Ryan Kilbane, Cian Henry, Cathal Carney, Jason McGoldrick, Robert Morley, Andrew Whelan, Robert McCormack, Fraz Ahmad, Sean Herr, Sean Carrick, Oisín Henry, Mikey Hill, Shane Cribbin, Philip Fitzmaurice, James Reynolds, Rory Nestor, Matthew Grogan.

**Exciting Football Game**

Scoil Íosa lost narrowly to Swinford National School by 3-6 to 3-5 in the Cumann na mBunscoil Division One game in Ballyhaunis. Scoil Íosa players: Robert McCormack, Mohammad Ahmad, Robert Morley, Joseph Lyons, Kevin Kilbane, Jim Reidy, David Cleary, Shane Healy, Morgan Lyons, Jason McCormack, Ryan Kilbane, Cathal Carney, Cian Henry, James Lyons, James Cribbin. Subs: Cormac Reidy, Andrew Whelan-Manning, Fraz Ahmad, Sean Herr, Oisín Henry, Mikey Hill, Shane Cribbin, Matthew Grogan, Jason Gardner, Philip Fitzmaurice and Rory Nestor.

**Girls Football**

Scoil Íosa Girls Seven-a-side Football competed in the Cumann na mBunscoil Blitz which was held in Claremorris. Scoil Íosa defeated Roundfort National School and drew with Knock National School in the Competition. Scoil Íosa Panel: Aisling Tarpey, Shannon Biesty, Clare Moran, Caoimhe Henry, Tasha Coyne, Kaitlyn Clarke, Niamh Murray, Leanne Henry.

**First Confession**

Pupils from Second Class in Scoil Íosa Primary School Ballyhaunis made their First Confession on Monday 10th March 2007 in St. Patrick's Parish Church. They were: Marina Carney, Maedhbh Caulfield, Piotr Cieslikowski, Maja Cieslikowski, Eddie Cleary, Olivia Cleary, David Cunnane, Helen Gallagher, Megan Gaughan, Brendonas Graf, Evan Henry, Liam Henry, Liam Herr, Aibhinn Herr, Oliwia Lukaszawicz, Roisín Lyons, Aoife Nolan, Laura O'Connell, Benas Pakonis, Cormac Phillips, Chloe Ryan. Their Teacher is Mrs. Ita Fahey.

**First Communion**

Children from Scoil Íosa Primary School who made their First Communion on May 10th 2007 in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis: Marina Carney, Maedhbh Caulfield, Piotr Cieslikowski, Maja Cieslikowski, Eddie Cleary, Olivia Cleary, David Cunnane, Helen Gallagher, Megan Gaughan, Brendonas Graf, Evan Henry, Liam Herr, Aibhinn Herr, Olivia Bukowska, Riosín Lyons, Aoife Nolan,



**First Communion Class 2008**

Back L-R: Father Kieran Burke C.C., Ita Fahey (teacher), Jim Lundoín (Principal), Marina Coyne (Special Needs Assistance), Canon Joseph Cooney P.P. Third row, L-R: Olivia Cleary, Cormac Phillips, Roisín Lyons, Maedhbh Caulfield. Second row, L-R: Helen Gallagher, Maja Cieslikowski Aibhinn Herr, Aoife Nolan, Benas Pakonis, Olivia Bukowska, Piotr Cieslikowski. Front, L-R: Marina Carney, Megan Gaughan, Brendanos Graf, Liam Herr, David Cunnane, Eddie Cleary, Chloe Ryan, Laura O'Connell, Evan Henry.

**Cumann na mBunscoil Hurling**

Scoil Íosa Ballyhaunis and St. Brigid's, Tooreen, played some very skillful hurling in the Cumann na mBunscoil Hurling County Final Competition in McHale Park, Castlebar. St. Brigid's won a very exciting game. Scoil Íosa Kevin Kilbride. Aisling Tarpey, Mohammad Ahmad, Bilal Amin, James Lyons, Shane Healy,(Capt) Ryan Kilbane, Stephen Ryan, Damien Callaghan, Rory Nestor, Sean Herr, Waqas Rehman, Cathal Carney, James Cribbin, Morgan Lyons.

**School Mission**

A very enjoyable week-long School Mission given by the Ceili Community Kilbeggan was held in Scoil Íosa in February. The highlight for the children was the presentation that they made in a packed St. Patrick's Parish Church on the Thursday night.

Benas Pakonis, Laura O'Connell, Cormac Phillips, Chloe Ryan.

**End of another School Year**

The Annual and End of Year Mass and Presentation of Certificates to Sixth Class was held in Scoil Íosa in June. The ceremony was attended by parents, godparents and other family members. John Griffin, Chairperson of the B.O.M. of Scoil Íosa, congratulated the thirty-two pupils in Sixth Class and their parents. He thanked all the teachers that taught them since they started school, and especially Class Teacher Kay Lyons and Resource Teachers Sr. Geraldine Farrell and Lisa Watchorn. He presented certificates to the class on behalf of the B.O.M. Orla Moran, on behalf of the Parents' Association, congratulated the pupils their parents and thanked the teachers before presenting a laminated photo and calendar to each pupil. Then followed the End of Year Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr.



Kieran Burke C.C., a member of the B.O.M. Scoil Íosa Choir, conducted by Ita Fahey, sang. School Principal Jim Lunden congratulated the thirty-two pupils and wished them every success in the future.

**Sixt Class 2007/2008**

Members of Sixth Class 2007/2008 were: Ali Raza, Laura Araviciute, Naureen Ashraf, Shannon Biesty, Damien Callaghan, David Cleary, Tasha Coyne, John Cribbin, Patricia Daly, Gerard Freeley, Shane Healy, Andrew Henry, Caoimhe Henry, Kevin Kilbride, Viktorija Konovalciuk, Morgan Lyons, Tessa Lyons, Haider Ali Mahmood, Sean McDermott, Martin McDonagh, Jason McGoldrick, Mary Maughan, Claire Moran, Robert Morley, Jasmine Moss, Michael Naughton, Jim Reidy, Shahzed Rehmon, Momna

*The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2009 is Friday, 23rd October 2009. Email: [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net). Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please support local business and industry.*



**Scoil Íosa, Junior Infants, 2007-2008**

Back, L-R: Tara Cullen, Jamie Allen, Hannah Waldron, Tamzin Whelan, Daniel Hill, Ruth Henry. Third row, L-R: Peter Maughan, Tamara Squire Keane, Patrick Daly, Cian O'Mahony, Jakub Jurak, Barbara McDonagh, Cian Walsh. Second row, L-R: Dylan Ronayne, Farina Khalid, Simon McDonagh, Bothina Kezzeh, Tommy Cleary, Anna Cunnane, Kevin Durkan. Front, L-R: Rida Naseer, Dara Rattigan, Selina Ward, Theresa Cleary, Gabriella Cervenakova, Raymond Benkhelifa, Maham Asif. Missing from photograph: Joshua Webb, Ibrahim Mohammad, Tomas Maughan.

Shafirque, Asia Tayyab, Aisling Tarpey, Andrew Whelan-Manning.

Laura Freyne won the prestigious "NUIG's Societies 'Individual' of the Year Award 2008" for her contribution to University life through her leadership role of Auditor Elect 2008 of the International Students Society (ISS). She graduated in 2007 with a BA Int. in Legal Science and French (Honours) and has recently graduated with a postgraduate LLB (Honours) in October 2008. She is pictured here being presented with her award by Prof. Jim Browne, President of NUIG, at the Societies Ball in the Galway Bay Hotel, March 2008.



# Patterns and Plane Crashes

## Some Recollections of Ned Judge, Lisduff

*Earlier this year we visited the home of Ned Judge in Lisduff and spent a number of fascinating hours in the company of our host, his sister Josie Garside and their neighbour Anne Lynch. Once the preliminary introductions were over, and talk about the weather and topics of national and international importance were completed, the subject of conversation turned to the history of this part of the country. Here we put together some of the topics we covered that evening.*

### Millers and Carpenters

The Judge family home lies in Lisduff just over the border in the parish of Bekan, however, the mearing with Derreens townland and the parish of Annagh is just a few short yards from the house. Indeed, Lisduff belongs historically to the old parish of Annagh and, along with its close neighbour Agloragh and a number of other townlands in the Logboy church area, it was transferred to Bekan when the parish boundaries were re-drawn in 1893.

In the early years of the twentieth century the townlands of Lisduff and Agloragh were owned by Austin Freeley of Carrowreagh. He had a substantial grazing farm in each of the townlands, while the rest was let to tenants who struggled to make a living from their meagre small-holdings. His cattle herd was Tom Regan, grandfather of the late Peter Regan, while Henry Mannion was shepherd in charge of the sheep flock. The land agitation, with its origins a few short miles up the road in Irishtown, and which brought an end to the landlord-tenant system, took much longer to reach a conclusion here than on other adjoining estates. Mr. Freeley was reluctant to give up his grazing farms for striping and redistribution to the tenants to give them more viable holdings. Eventually he relented, but not before a crowd from his Lisduff/Agloragh estate went to plead with him at his home in Carrowreagh.

Ned's family originated in nearby Agloragh, where there were three families of the surname Judge living in the early 1900s. Many of the corn mills in the Ballyhaunis area, including one in Agloragh, were operated by Judge families and Ned heard it said they originated in Crossmolina, and that through many generations they followed the rivers setting up and operating mills as they went. Other Judge families that had corn mills were in Carrowreagh, Carrowbeg and Clooncrim (Ballinlough). Jack Judge, the music hall artist and composer of 'It's A Long Way To Tipperary' was a distant relation. Millers were often good carpenters too – they needed to be in order to keep the moving parts of their mills in good working order – and this is the trade that Ned's father John and grandfather Edward followed. His grandfather worked on the construction of the parish church in the early years of the twentieth century, on the building of Doctor Crean's house, the Congested Board houses in Derreens and the old cottages in Tooraree, among other jobs in the district.

### Fairy Bush

The Burkes owned the adjoining Holywell estate, made up of the townlands of Holywell Upper, Holywell Lower and Derreens. The family home, a fine two storey over-basement dwelling, still stands. The last of the Burke family to live here was Edmond Burke, known locally as 'Mister Eddie' who died in the early years of the twentieth century. After him, Doctor Crean owned the place, though he never lived here. Ned had an interesting story concerning Doctor Crean's time as landlord here, and a dose shave he had with the fairies: "There were three well known Fairy bushes in this area, and the local people would never disturb them. Doctor Crean, anyway, decided to dig one of them up that was in Carney's field. He brought it up to his own house on the Doctor's Road and planted it. Whatever happened anyway, he soon dug it up again and brought it back and re-planted it where he got it, and nobody ever went near it since!" There was a castle in Holywell too one time, though nothing remains of it now. It's remembered as 'O'Garra's Castle' and was situated at the turn as you go into where Pake O'Malley lived one time, later owned by Conway's.

Ned also recalled hearing stories from the old people of lights being seen around the Fairy bushes at night. The 'Will o' the wisp' a glowing light seen moving slowly over the ground from a distance, was another regularly seen phenomenon. Another ghostly occurrence seen in years gone by was the Fairy train seen coming up the line and disappearing into a dump of bushes. Though they never heard her themselves, Ned, Josie and Anne knew people who heard the banshee at one time or other. There was a strong tradition that the banshee cried only for families of Gaelic Irish origin, whose names began with 'Mac' or 'Ó'.

### Pattern

Holywell was visited by St. Patrick during his journey through Ireland, and ever since has been venerated by the people of the district. A Pattern was held here on the first Sunday in August. It was a big social event and people came here from miles around. It usually started around two o'clock in the afternoon and went on till nightfall. Sports events including Running, Long-jump, High-jump and Tug-of-war were held in Michael Grogan's field (later Healy's), while there was Irish dancing competitions on a specially built platform near the holy well. The adjudicator was Tom Flatley, and, on at least one occasion Rory O'Connor, the famous Dancing Teacher, also adjudicated here.

Refreshments such as tea, minerals, buns and cakes were for sale. Alex Green, the shopkeeper from town, had a van selling refreshments here too. Another regular vendor was John King, who sold his goods (including fish) around the country from an ass-and-cart. Later on in the evening there was a cèilí at the crossroads, with local musicians providing the music, including Tom Tarpey on the melodian and Gus Lanigan on trumpet.

Ned recalls John Freely from Main Street as a regular at the Pattern. He'd buy a full can of sweets and give them out free to everyone there.

At the time of the 1938 Pattern a football match took place in McManus' field, between Ballyhaunis and Holywell. Tommy Flatley was referee – a case of history repeating itself as he had refereed at a match in Garryedmond that Ned's father John played in years before, along with P. and Autie Kenny and Mike Henry. Ballyhaunis won the 1938 match. Football matches were also held in Sergeant's Field, Ballyveal, which was where local teams trained during the summer.

Agloragh had a famous Tug-of-War team that competed at events around the country during the forties and fifties. The eight member team comprised of John Mannion and brothers Peter and Tom Regan (Agloragh), John Waldron and brothers David and Ned Judge (Lisduff), Mick Hopkins (Drimbane) and Jim Waldron (Cottage). They won the Junior Competition at the Friary Pattern in 1940 – the prize was £5 and a medal each.



Tug-of-War Medal

### Races

The Tooraree Races have entered folklore as one of the biggest events in the country around a hundred years ago, attended, as they were, by hundreds of people of all backgrounds. After a lapse of around twenty years the races were revived for a number of years in the 1930s. They were much smaller, and held in a field across from the old Tooraree course, in what was Laurence Reilly's land. Ned attended these as a youngster.

Holywell played an important part in the history of the Tooraree Races. Mr. Crawley was the owner of the lands over which the Tooraree course was laid out and, one year, he fell out with the Race Committee. Faced with the option of cancelling the races, or finding another suitable venue, they approached the Burkes in Holywell, and they made some of their land available. This was well before Ned's time – in fact it was the first races his father John was at – but he heard it said that the trains stopped especially along the line at Holywell to let patrons off and on.

At the first races Ned attended he remembered the 'Farmer's Race' in particular. This was a race confined to horses belonging to local farmers. The jockeys were usually young men from the locality. That year the winning owner was Martin Trench of Feamore. An interesting feature was the tussle for last place between local jockeys Mick Webb and Philip Morley.

### Congested Districts Board

The lands of Holywell and Derreens were purchased from the Burke estate by the Congested Districts Board (CDB) around one-hundred years ago, and the land divided up amongst families who needed sustainable holdings. The CDB built eight new houses on the newly re-organised holdings – four in Derreens, three in Holywell Lower



and one in Holywell Upper. The four new farms in Derreens went to Austin Kelly (Holywell Upper), Michael Tamney (Holywell Lower), Jim Waldron (Spotfield) and Jack Grogan (Larganboy). Three new places in Holywell Lower were acquired by Pat O'Brien (Larganboy), Michael Grogan (Larganboy) and Pat Healy (Eden, Knock). The Caulfield family also had a CDB house built, near their original home in Holywell Upper.

The Lisduff and Agloragh estate was acquired some years later from the Freeley estate by the Land Commission and it was they who sorted out the redistribution of land there.



*Ned Judge*

#### **Holywell Ambush**

In August 1920 a consignment of ammunition was being transported along the Ballyhaunis-Claremorris road accompanied by a small force of military. Not far from Cloontumper crossroads, on the Ballyhaunis side, the lorry went over the ditch as it swerved to avoid a woman driving an ass-and-cart. Being unable to make progress, the soldiers had to make camp there for the night. Word of this got around and a small part of local volunteers decided to try and capture the ammunition.

In the exchange that ensued local volunteer P. Kenny was shot and injured. His comrades carried him to the Caulfield family home nearby where his wounds were cleaned up. It was a race against time and, injured or not, Kenny had to keep on the move before the soldiers caught up with him. From Caulfield's he was brought to a succession of local houses. In Pat Healy's he was treated by Dr. Smyth. As soon as possible they left there in Dr. Smyth's car, driven by his nephew. They headed towards the railway crossing and, no doubt, lives were saved when a quick-thinking Michael 'Ganger' Lyons (the gate-keeper) shut and locked the gates at the level-crossing as soon as they passed through. A few short minutes later a military contingent arrived at the railway-gates and were thus delayed. Lyons, when questioned at gunpoint, denied that any car had passed there recently. When further questioned if a doctor had passed

through at any time, he explained that the doctor had been at a 'confinement' case earlier over the village!

P. Kenny and the Smyths had another close shave when they met an oncoming military lorry in Drimbane, but managed to get away unnoticed. Eventually, P. Kenny was brought to Mullarkey's in Barganiff where he was kept for some time, before being brought to Churchfield House, where the woman of the house was a sister of Dr. Smyth's.

The next day a number of local men were brought in to the barracks for questioning, but it was confirmed that they weren't involved in the ambush. Amongst them were Jack Caulfield who was brought to the mill on the Clare Road where they tried to get information from him by holding him under water and otherwise mistreating him.

#### **Airplane**

An event that is vividly recalled in the locality concerns an airplane that made an emergency landing not too far away: "It was a small plane on its way to an air-show in Castlebar, and it ran out of fuel, so the pilot landed it on McManus's F-ill, not far from the church ruins in Churchpark. The pilot was shocked, but not badly hurt. All the locals got together to help out and they pushed the plane up to the top of the hill - it was only about the size of a car. Someone was sent into town, got fuel from John Freyne, and the plane was refilled. It took off from the field without any bother. It happened on a Sunday morning, around 1951 or 1952, and was the talk of the place after Mass and for a long time after."

This wasn't the only plane to come down in this area: another landed in Patterson's, near Ballinlough during the last War and the Russian pilot was detained until after the war. Yet another, owned by Cork people, landed on Treston's land at Cloonthue, near Claremorris also during the War. The pilot successfully got airborne again. Some time after the Trestons were told there was a 'parcel' waiting for them at Claremorris station. Imagine their surprise when they discovered the 'parcel' was a Baby Ford car given in thanks for their help!

*We would like to thank Ned for sharing some of his memories with us. Thanks to Josie and Anne for their help confirming details and for their hospitality.*

*Seamus Mulrennan, Paul Waldron*



*This photograph of the famous Sarsfields team was taken in 1945, the year they played Erin's Hope, another Ballyhaunis team, in the Old Race Course, Tooraree. Back, L-R: Mike Finn (Gurteen), Ned Judge (Lisduff), Tom Loftus (Logboy), Jim Waldron (Holywell), Joe Cribbin (Lecarrow), Paddy Carney (Holywell), Tom Byrne (Knock). Front, L-R: Seamus Salmon (Knock), Jim Lynskey (Gurteen), Paddy O'Brien (Holywell), Pdraig Judge (Agloragh), Tom Regan (Agloragh), David Judge (Lisduff), Peter Regan (Agloragh), Paul McGarry (Bekan). Paddy Heneghan (Lisduff), holding the ball.*

# Parish Mission

The Parish Mission was truly an overwhelming experience - well prepared, well organised, relevant, and entertaining. The mission was preached by the Ceili Community from Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath, a wonderful group of lay and clerical ministers who bring the word of God to every house and school in the parish. The mission was led by Mons. Pat Lynch and Fr. James Kinnane. Preached over two-weeks, the mission had as its theme 'The Beatitudes'.

Week one was given to visitation of homes and schools. One Ceili team visited the homes in the parish, another team visited Scoil Iosa and the Community School, teaching prayer, singing and drama.

Week two concentrated on our Catholic Faith through the celebration of the sacraments especially the Eucharist, reconciliation, preaching, liturgy and encouraging the faith of Priest and people. Three masses were celebrated each day - 7am, 10am and 7.30pm. The Mission Priests preached on the relevance of the Beatitudes in our daily life.

The Parish Council would like to say a huge "Thank You" to the people who gave their time so generously in helping accommodate, feed, drive, look after and make the mission team feel at home.

The name Ceili speaks of companions, togetherness, hope and above all, joy. May the experience we shared at our Parish Mission be forever in our homes and hearts.

*Michael Goulding  
PRO Parish Council*



*Back, L-R: Jim Donnelly, Mons. Pat Lynch, Frances Maye, Michael Goulding, John Mooney, Fr. James Kinnane. Front, L-R: Fr. Kieran Burke C.C., Patricia Plunkett, Kay Curley, Mary Donnelly, Marie Brennan, Christine Concannon, Canon Joe Cooney P.P.*



### Twenty Years On

*Members of the Ballyhaunis County Intermediate winning side of 1988 who met up recently at an under-age blitz at St. Brigid's, Co. Roscommon. L-R: Vinnie Caulfield, Paddy Phillips, Seamus Caulfield, Tommy Caulfield, Eamon Glynn, Eamonn Cunnane and James Reidy.*

# Ballyhaunis to Beijing

I consider myself incredibly lucky to have a job that has allowed me to experience three Olympic Games. Sadly, I lack the sporting talent required to actually participate but as a sports physiotherapist, I have a job that is considered essential to support those who have! In Sydney and Athens, I was extremely proud to be part of the Olympic Council of Ireland Olympic Medical Team as team physiotherapist. I had many fantastic experiences at those two Olympics and worked with some great athletes and fellow medical staff. In fact, being picked to go to Sydney was one of those life-changing moments that you only really appreciate in hindsight. Sydney was an amazing Games and I had a very steep learning curve in the eight weeks I spent out there in August 2000. It gave me a taste of what it was like to work with elite athletes in a high performance arena. I loved the buzz and the dynamic nature of the job and knew I had found something I was passionate about. It also introduced me to the sport of rowing – a sport that I hadn't much experience of prior to Sydney. I liked what I saw and was intrigued as to how something that looked so easy was clearly very painful! To cut a long story short, my interest in rowing led to me a research project on rowing for my MSc in Sports Medicine. I continued to work with the Irish Rowing Team over the next two years and also moved to England and a job with the Cambridge University Boat Club as team physio. I spent four very happy years there, inadvertently becoming an expert rowing injuries physiotherapist. At Cambridge, I worked with international rowers from Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Canada, USA and Great Britain. When I left Cambridge, I moved to London to work in private practice, specialising in sports injuries.

Living in another country meant I was no longer able to work with the Irish Rowing Team. I was sad to have to stop in 2003 but I applied to be part of the Irish Team for Athens in 2004 and was picked as physiotherapist to work in the holding camp in Cyprus where the athletes (apart from rowing) trained prior to their competition. The time between Olympics passes very quickly and fate has dealt me a good hand! After I left Cambridge, I was asked if I would be interested in working with the Great Britain Rowing Team. This involved attending training camps from time-to-time in various spots around Europe. I saw this opportunity as an extension of my job in Cambridge that would allow me to continue to work with elite athletes, coaches and the rest of the support staff – all of which I really enjoyed while being a good challenge that would stop me getting bored with the day job of private practice! Indeed many of the squad were boys whom I knew from Cambridge and my old boss at Cambridge took up a position as Lightweight Coach with GB Rowing at the same time. I travelled on my first GB Rowing camp in July 2005 when I spent three weeks on an altitude camp in Austria – a truly beautiful, if remote, spot high in the Alps. It went well and I kept getting asked back! Over the next three years, my involvement in GB Rowing grew and grew and I attended numerous camps and competitions including World Cup Regattas each year and I was selected for the World Championships in 2007.

## Preparations

In May 2007, I also started working with the team on a daily basis running a triage service at their training venue near Reading where they have a 2000m lake, boathouse and gym. This involved twenty minute assessment and mini-treatments, the aim being to prevent niggles becoming injuries and to identify any injuries early on. Over the last year, I would leave home at 6am to beat traffic and drive to Reading, spend mornings working with the rowers and at 1pm, drive the hour commute back into London and then continue with my private practice clients until 8pm. Thankfully, I have a fantastic job that I enjoy and love and that made getting out of bed every morning in the dark much easier! I also have a very understanding husband and family who put up with my frequent absences. I really can't thank them enough for their support and patience as Rowing and the Olympics took up more and more of my time and attention. It being Olympic Year meant there were many tough training camps to be

attended too and I travelled to Sierra Nevada and Seville in Spain, Varese in Italy, Poznan in Poland and Silvretta in Austria in the months prior to travelling out to Beijing (and I didn't go on every camp the athletes did either!). They are a great bunch to work with which makes my job much easier! Spending a lot of time away, living and working together meant it became like a large extended family.

My increasing involvement with GB Rowing meant I ruled myself out of doing a third Olympics with the Irish team. While a little sad not to be wearing the Green of Ireland, I was very honoured to be asked to travel to Beijing with the athletes I had come to know so well and help them achieve their Olympic goals. And so, I found myself climbing aboard a British Airways flight to Beijing on July 30th along with 47 rowers, 13 coaches, three other physios, two physiologists, one psychologist, one boatman and one doctor – all part of the rowing team. We all knew each other very well and had worked a lot together: this was a very well tried and tested team – hugely important for the 'goldfish bowl' environment we were about to enter. The support team is a real mix of nationalities – the physios alone are Irish, Kiwi, Zimbabwean and Dutch! Add in the German and Australian coaches and it's a real international team!

## Beijing

I was unsure prior to the Olympics what to expect as I had never been to



*Gillian and Iain Edmondson take time out from her busy Olympic schedule to visit the Great Wall of China.*

China before. On arrival in an enormous airport terminal they had built especially for the Olympics, everything went very smoothly and my fears were unfounded. Baggage arrived, accreditations and visas were processed quickly and efficiently, we had our own greeting party to direct us through the airport to our transport to our hotel where we were greeted with a special welcoming ceremony. The volunteers were everywhere, smiling and helpful and all of Beijing seemed to be embracing the Olympics. As the rowing venue was an hours drive north of the Olympic Village at a place called Shun Yi, it had been arranged for rowing to stay in a hotel five minutes from the course. We were joined in our mini-village by the GB canoe slalom team, flatwater canoeist and long distance swimmers who all were using the same venue. Some other teams were also staying at our hotel – the Chinese, New Zealand, Russia, Bulgaria and Norway and we were subject to full Olympic airport-type security as a result so it really felt like an extension of the Olympic Village.

We arrived ten days before competition started so we had plenty of time to acclimatise. There was much talk in the press prior to leaving about the smog and pollution. While it was certainly hazy and humid on



arrival, it was no worse than any hot, tropical country and would build over a few days before having a massive thunder storm that cleared the air until it started to build again. It was a rare day in Beijing not to get wet either through sweating due to humidity or from the frequent and heavy rain showers!

On our second day, we visited the Olympic Village – a very impressive set-up of apartment blocks and houses that were all to be sold as residential housing after the Games. The massive Food Hall was present again (in fact, it is the same one that moves from Olympics to Olympics) and a medical centre fully equipped with the latest scanning equipment. We were greeted by the Team GB Chef de Mission, Simon Clegg and his assistant Chef de mission, Clive Woodward, who gave a motivating speech and presentation. While we all enjoyed the visit to the Village, the athletes were all happy with the fact that we were based near the course and far away from the many distractions of the Village.

The main competition venues were amazing – the Bird's Nest and Cube are well known and iconic buildings that I am sure you all know. Up close they were every bit as expansive and impressive. In fact, big and impressive probably sums up the Beijing Games quite well but it was at a cost of 30 billion pounds! What the Chinese didn't do well was fill the stands – tickets to events were impossible to buy or get from touts but every venue had empty seats. Transport was efficient, air-conditioned and ran on time but the driving was a bit chaotic!

We settled into our hotel and normal pre-competition routine. Thankfully, we didn't have any serious problems prior to competition but it was steady nonetheless, with legs to be massaged, backs to be kept in good shape and any other niggles kept at bay. Time went by faster than I have known it on any other camp and suddenly it was time for the Opening Ceremony. As Rowing started on the first day of competition, none of the rowers attended the actual ceremony. Instead, everyone got dressed up in their parade uniforms and we had our own mini reception, team photo and sat down to watch the ceremony together. The opening with the drummers was spectacular and set the scene for what was to follow in the coming weeks!

### Satisfying

In rowing, because there are so many different boat types, racing is separated into two groups competing on alternate days over a week ending up with Saturday and Sunday finals. Days continued to speed past and everything proceeded according to plan with ten out of twelve crews making the A finals. I had perfected the art of getting from the hotel to the spectators' stand at the course in fifteen minutes on my bike – this was vital as I would remain at the hotel until the last racing crew had left (usually only fifteen minutes before our first racing crew started!). I got to see all finals racing though (and most of the semi-finals) and it was extremely exciting and satisfying to see all our athletes do so well. On the Saturday, the Women's Double Scull won bronze in a very close race followed by the Men's Double also winning bronze in another extremely close race. Then the Coxless Four - put in the race of their lives and won gold in the closing stages. I was so happy for them as they had such a rough few months with injuries in the run-up to the Olympics. There was a whole lot of physio time invested there! A quick congratulations to them and it was back on my bike and back to the hotel to do a stretching session with the Men's Eight who were racing the following day. Unfortunately, two girls from the Women's Eight contracted flu in the last two days and had to be withdrawn. We instigated a strict segregation and hygiene policy in order to prevent others from being affected and thankfully were successful (unlike some other countries which had several crews affected). It's tough to see that four year's hard training goes out the window so quickly and the girls and crew affected were distraught unsurprisingly. I have no doubt they would have challenged for a medal but sadly, it wasn't to be. However, Sunday brought another gold and two silvers in the Men's Lightweight Double Scull, Women's Quadruple Scull and Men's Eight, bringing the total rowing haul to two gold, two silver and two bronze

medals – all-in-all a very good few days at the office and GB rowing's most successful Olympics to date! Seeing the smiles on the athletes' faces and the medals around their necks was a great feeling – knowing I had in some small way helped them achieve their best is what it's all about and will provide the motivation for another four years of early mornings and lots of travel away from home to camps. It was also a time to provide lots of hugs to the girls from the eight who managed to finish fifth despite having to change two of their crew members.

On Sunday night there was a big Team dinner for all the athletes, support staff and their families and friends. The following day, some staff flew back to England, the athletes headed into the Olympic Village to begin a week of partying and watching other sports and I headed into Beijing to join my neglected husband for a few days of rest and relaxation. We got to see some athletics in the Bird's Nest and did some sight-seeing in Beijing – the Great Wall was definitely a highlight of my trip! I travelled home two days before the closing ceremony, having fully enjoyed my Beijing Olympics. Each Olympics has been special for different reasons and I couldn't pick one as being better than the others. All I can say is, with the next Olympics on our doorstep in London, get your tickets for 2012 and get involved – you won't regret it!

*Gillian Edmondson (nee Keane)*



*Olympic Gold Medal  
Beijin 2008*



*Photograph taken at Stations in Fitzmaurice's,  
Mountain, 1980. L-R: Molly Naughton (nee Fitzmaurice),  
John Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Hickey (nee Fitzmaurice)*

## Croí Ballyhaunis and District

Events that took place in aid of Croí Ballyhaunis and District, during the past year, included a Clay Pigeon Shoot organised by Ballyhaunis Gun Club, a Church Gate Collection, very successful Card Game which took place in Coney Island Bar, Gorthaganny; and a Function in the Belmont Hotel, Knock, was held in conjunction with Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Bord na nÓg, on St. Valentine's Night.

Croí Christmas cards are available from Helen Meehan, Curley's Chemist and Ryan's Supervalu and other outlets.

For further information on the important work that Croí – The West of Ireland Cardiology Foundation undertakes, check out their website [www.croi.ie](http://www.croi.ie)

*Helen Meehan*



*Jarlath Fahey (left), Secretary Bord na nÓg, and Tommy Caulfield (right), Ballyhaunis GAA, presenting cheque of share of proceeds from GAA/Croí fundraising function, to Noel Sloyan, Croí - West of Ireland Cardiology Foundation*

### *The State of My Health*

*My blood pressure is high my insulin is low  
I have a pain in my tum and a pain in my big toe.*

*When the doctor said 'Valetudinarian'*

*I thought I'd get a heart attack*

*Then the specialist said 'Hypochondriac'*

*My suffering I don't have to explain –*

*It takes such long words to describe my pain.*

*People say I look very pale*

*Perhaps I need a long holiday*

*Drinking Buckfast Wine and good ale.*

*The other day I heard someone whisper*

*'Pain in the Neck'*

*Funny I didn't realise I had one there*

*Probably because I was suffering so much*

*With all the other pains everywhere.*

*Today I went to the chemists*

*I'm a little bit better now.*

*When I heard the price of the tablets*

*I got cured by the shock*

*The next time I have money*

*I think I'll buy a new frock.*

*Taken from a book of poetry entitled "A Sea of Bluebells" by Maura O'Grady.*

*Maura lives in Dublin but is a native of Carracastle, Co Mayo. She is also a book illustrator and her paintings have been exhibited in the Burr Gallery, New York and in Ireland at Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, The Guinness Hopstore, Bank of Ireland Baggot Street and Merrion Square. Maura's connection with Ballyhaunis is that her parents were married on 12th June 1933 and hired a car to go to Ballyhaunis for the day. Her mother didn't want a hired car going all that way half empty, so they brought her first cousins, who were young boys at the time, with them. They were Luke Towey and Pauric Roddy.*



*President Mary McAleese officially opens Clare Court Communal House in Ballyhaunis. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



*Clare Court Communal House*

# Ballyhaunis Social Housing and Clare Court

## What a difference a year makes!

*“Fairy tales can come true, it can happen to you - if you're young at heart!  
For it's hard, you will find, to be narrow of mind - when you're young at heart”*

In the twelve months since our last article our development has gone from strength to strength. Not only have our grounds continued to flourish, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our grounds man Michael McNamara and warden Gerry Kilbride, but also our new communal house is now open to residents and local senior citizens.

Canon Joe Cooney initially opened the communal house in July of this year with a blessing, and since its doors were opened it has been used for coffee mornings, social gatherings, traditional music nights, drama nights and art classes. The Clare Court residents were very lucky to benefit from “Memory Board Art Classes” sponsored by IRD Kiltimagh. Many thanks to Anne Marie Carroll and Ciarán Friel for these.

### Presidential visit

Of course on Tuesday, October 7th of this year Clare Court residents and staff had a very special day. We were honoured to have our communal house officially opened by President Mary McAleese. President McAleese and her husband Dr. Martin McAleese were very impressed with our development.

President McAleese congratulated the Social Housing committee and staff on the accommodations for the residents and described Clare Court as “A happy, homely and welcoming place – a place of peace, rest and recreation for all who live there”. She also stated that the provision of such a facility sends out a message to senior citizens that they're our most valuable citizens and a message to our Irish emigrants that they are welcome home. President McAleese spoke individually to all the residents and staff before

departing for her other engagements, but all who were there on the day will fondly cherish the memories of her visit to our little community of Clare Court.

Next, we are all looking forward to the residents' Christmas Party that will take place, for the first time, in the communal house. As always it promises to be a lively affair! We urge the senior citizens of our town to take a walk through the gardens and visit our communal house – or just to sit by our fountain and



Clare Court fountain

enjoy the peace and tranquillity in a little oasis called “Clare Court”.

For more information on Clare Court and Ballyhaunis Social Housing Ltd. please call to our office in The Enterprise Centre or telephone us at (094) 9630311. Ask for Anne, Elma or Mary.

Elma Kilbride



Residents and staff of Clare Court photographed with President McAleese and her husband Martin, at the official opening of Clare Court Communal House, Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Fr. Kieran Burke CC, Pat Higgins, Maureen Higgins, Sean Reilly, John Joe Philbin, Elma Kilbride, Gerry Kilbride, Liz Kilbride, Anne Flanagan, Talib Chaudry, Gulzar Chaudry. Centre, L-R: Michael McNamara, Agnes Heaney, Gerry Byrne, James Reynolds, Mrs. Reynolds, Maureen McCambridge, Mary Barrett, Michael Daly, Bridget Daly. Front, L-R: Patricia Morrisroe, Mary Moylan, Mary Ellen Frehill, President Mary McAleese, Martin McAleese, Mary Stacey, Doris Kedian.

Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.



*Tanner Jordan Dougherty,  
grandson of Marian  
Dougherty (nee Jordan,  
Lecarrow).*



*Marian Dougherty (nee Jordan, Lecarrow) and her husband  
Tim at Sterling Winery, Napa Valley, California.*

### *The Flanders Fields*

*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 quarrels 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*

*John McCraw (1872-1918)*



#### *Sixth Class 1970, Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis*

*Back, L-R: Teresa Morris, Margie Judge, Noreen Burke, Sr. Magdelene, Patricia Finn, Mary-Teresa O'Reilly, Vivienne Lynch,  
Bernadette Regan. Front, L-R: Ann Kearney, Ann Hannon, Cecily Moran, Monica Finnegan, Mary Eaton, Ann Regan, Breege Regan,  
Helena Caulfield, Dolores Halpin, Ann Connell.*

# Ballyhaunis Summer Festival

The Annual Summer Festival, which was due to be held on the May Bank Holiday Weekend, was cancelled as a mark of respect to the late Declan Byrne, Gurteen, who died as the result of a tragic accident in Galway. Some of the festival events took place later in August, in conjunction with the Abbey Pattern.

## Annagh Rose

The annual Annagh Rose pageant took place in conjunction with the Ballyhaunis Festival, in Monsoon Nite Club on Friday, 29th Aug. The winner was Edel Kilcourse representing The Billabong Bar and Val's Bistro, Main Street Ballyhaunis. A great night was had by all. Thanks especially to the sponsors of the pageant – The Hazel Bar and Restaurant, Major Equipment, Cashels Engineering, P & P Plastering - the night was a great success. Special thanks to Jacinta Larkin and Elma Kilbride, the Annagh Rose Committee, in doing such a fantastic job.

## RUA Star

The RUA Star competition took place in Monsoon Nite club on Friday, 29th Aug. It was a great night with good acts entertaining the audience all night. The winners were "Whiskey Dancer" with their version of "Whiskey in the Jar". The winning act represented The Billabong Bar and Val's Bistro, Main St. A special thanks to Connaught Scaffolding as sponsors of this event, and to P. J. Smith as the RUA Star organiser.



'Whiskey Dancer', RUA Star winning act. L-R: Paddy Costello, Sean Carney, Brendan McHugh, Vivienne Prendergast.

## Pub Quiz



Tommy Joe Lyons, captain of Paddy Phillips' Bar team, being presented with the winning trophy for the Pub Quiz by Alison Legg from Local Business Promotions, sponsors.

As part of the Festival the annual Pub Quiz took place where questions were broadcast to all pubs through a specially organised radio link. The winner of the pub quiz was Phillip's Bar, Main Street. The Pub Quiz was sponsored by Local Business Promotions. The Quiz-master was John Aldridge.

## Best Shop Front

In conjunction with the Summer Festival a Best Shop Fronts competition was run for retail and non-retail premises. The winners were:

**Best Retail:** 1. Bank of Ireland; 2. Cosy Cup, Main St.; 3. Poppies, Bridge St.

**Best Non-Retail:** 1. G. Donnellan, Clare Street; 2. Bridie Levins, Clare Street; 3. Parish Church, Main St.

**Best Public House:** 1. Gill's Bar, Clare St.; 2. Billabong, Main St.; 3. Curley's, Clare St.

**Best Overall:** Gill's Bar, Clare Street.



Annagh Rose 2008, Edel Kilcourse, with her mother Ann.



Annagh Rose finalists, 2008

L-R: Edel Hopkins, Michelle Brennan, Zita Michalove, Gerry Glennon (MC), "Annagh Rose 2008" Edel Kilcourse, Ciara Lyons, Siobhan Lyons and Catriona Tierney.

## Garden Draw

The Delaney's Garden Draw, with a First Prize of €1,000 worth of garden products, took place on the festival weekend with the winner being Shane Finnegan of Began. A special thanks to the sponsors of this prize, Delaney's Hardware, Hazelhill.



Martin Fitzmaurice (representative of the Festival committee), David Finnegan, Shane Finnegan (winner of the Garden Draw), Fergal Delaney (sponsors) and Marie Finnegan.

Caroline Rega



*Annagh Rose 2008, Edel Kilcourse, with family and friends. L-R: Michael, Ann, Valerie, Edel, Brian and Brenda Kilcourse, Teresa Morris, Michael Kaurisna.*



*Above: At the Ballyhaunis Community School Class of 1997 Reunion, Christmas 2007. Back, L-R: Michael Rabbitte, James Healy, Patrick Waldron, Aidan Cleary, Michael Regan, Paul Biesty, Mark Donnellan, Karl McManus, Austin Finn, James Culliney. Front, L-R: Michael Dillon, Mark Neenan, Gerard Lyons, Sean Hunt, Micheál Burke.*



*Left: Enjoying themselves at the Class of 1997 reunion. L-R: Angelina Walsh, Joanne Robinson, Eleanor Moran, Gerard Lyons, Micheál Burke.*

## Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union - Twenty-Five Years



Back, L-R: John Doyle, John Mooney, Sean Freyne, Peter McCafferty. Middle, L-R: Pat O'Connor, Tina Kirrane, Maura Murphy, Margaret Byrne, Madeline Niland. Seated, L-R: Edward Mulhern, Justina Lyons, Mary Henry, Rita Lundon and Frances Mulhern.  
Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.

In a world where everything is constantly changing, our Credit Union, twenty-five years in existence this year, has somehow managed to embrace those changes without losing sight of and living out our philosophy and purpose, that of mutual self help, equality and equity.

Where else would one single euro of your money afford you the opportunity of gaining membership to one of the most unique organisations operating worldwide – 50 years in Ireland and over 500 Credit Unions? 2.9 Million people cannot be wrong!

Credit Union is a unique concept in that what started out as a voluntary movement has still remained so, despite the onslaught of modern day bureaucracy – and the same is true for us. We in Ballyhaunis continue to run our organisation with a completely voluntary Board of Directors at the helm.

### Foundation

What started out twenty-five years ago as the “brain child” of an outstanding group of volunteers in what was then the hub of the community – The Scouts Den, in Abbey Street – was soon to become a reality, and Ballyhaunis & District was born from humble beginnings in the Parochial Hall. The membership slowly grew, and thanks to the commitment of those same people, who sacrificed their Saturday nights and Sunday mornings to open for business, the organisation went from strength to strength.

Progress itself forces change, and within a few short years our office moved firstly to Oliver Jordan's in Upper Main Street and secondly, in 1992, to newly refurbished premises previously owned by Mr. Joe Tighe (Shoemaker) on the Main Street.

It soon became apparent that longer opening hours were needed, as was a change over from manual work to computers, and permanent staff needed to be employed to conduct day to day business. A combination of software, hardware and most especially hard work, has taken this Credit Union to where it is today.

### New Premises

The present Board of Directors were honoured to be part of our proudest achievement to date, that of the opening of our doors on May 24th 2008 to our new Credit Union Offices at Clare Street. That pride was also shared by those who came through our door on June 28th at our Open Celebration Day. Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union is now where it deserves to be - proving itself to be able

to compete handsomely with much longer established competitors.

### All Inclusive

Here in Ballyhaunis we are in a unique position with regard to putting into daily practice one of our principles – that of inclusiveness and non-discrimination of race, religion or politics. At the present time, we are privileged to have approximately several different Nationalities as part of our community, and we welcome ever increasing numbers of them through our doors each day, and provide the best possible service to them according to their needs and circumstances.

### Mutual Self Help Organisation

By its make-up Credit Union is community based. We operate within a “Common Bond” i.e. all members are linked by address, work association or a particular occupation. We work similar to a co-operative, thus an accumulation of members shares allow us to give out inexpensive loans to those members who require them. They are in turn paid back at a special agreed interest rate, or at a 1% maximum per month interest rate. All members' shares are insured at no additional cost to the member, and no penalty clause is incurred if a member pays off a loan before the agreed time.

### Equity & Equality Guaranteed

That first Euro each member pays on joining, places them on a par with every other member already there, and in the true sense of democracy, one share is equal to one vote at the A.G.M. Credit Unions are member owned and controlled, are not for profit organisations, i.e. earnings are shared amongst all members.

They are run by an elected Board of Directors and various committees, overseen by Supervisors, and in turn by an independent Auditor who verifies all accounts. Irish League of Credit Unions represents all affiliated Credit Unions.

Life is a learning process for all of us. We are constantly on the lookout for prospective new volunteers, with fresh ideas about how we might improve our service to members. Although our Credit Union is twenty-five years old this year, we feel we are still in our infancy, and as we strive to continue the great work started by that forward thinking group of people back in 1983, one thing is abundantly clear... Retirement is not an option.



*Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union's new premises on Clare Street.*



***Taken in Phillips', 28th Oct. 1989***

*Seated, L-R: John Comer, Paddy Kelly, John Morley, Mary Kelly, John Glynn, David Moran, Eleanor Moran. Back, L-R: Mrs. Glynn, Paddy Phillips, Una Phillips, Mr. Kenny, Noreen Moran, David Moran.*

# Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

The Swimming Pool is one of the old amenities left in Ballyhaunis town. We opened the door this year in July. Thanks to Fr. Burke for blessing the pool so all the children using the facility would be safe.

We would like to thank Mayo County Council for all their help in painting and re-vamping the area: without their input it would be impossible to keep the pool and grounds up to standard.

This year we ran two Irish Water Safety weeks. The one at the beginning of the season went really well - even the weather was good. The second one was ran at the end of the season and, even though the weather was not great, a great number of children availed of it.

This year we had a special event happening in town, called the Pride of Place competition. All amenities took part and the swimming pool, as part of the 'Sport and Recreational' section for children, was one of the facilities chosen to be visited by the judges. The weather on the day was great and the pool was filled with children swimming, diving and having great fun. The judges were very impressed with the pool

and delighted to see the amount of enjoyment the children were getting from an outdoor pool. Thanks to all the parents who turned out on the day - all having an excellent day.

We finished this year's season with a Gala and party for all the children who used the pool over the two months. It was a great success with every variety of swimming and novelty races.

The overall trophy for the most improved swimmer went to Marina Carney, with the best attendance trophy going to Katie Hough. Congratulations to you both.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our lifeguards, without whom the pool would not open: Michael Jordan and Caroline Cleary, and our office staff, Lisa Jordan and Paul Higgins.

Thank to all the children using the pool during the season, and hope to see you all again next year.

*Agatha Higgins  
Secretary*



**Ballyhaunis Swimmers 2008.**

*Included are: Cathal Carney, Tommy Cleary, Eddie Cleary, Thomas McDonagh, Cormac Phillips, Eamon Phillips, Lisa Higgins, Michelle Lyons, Marian Carney, Cathy Lyons, Katie Moran, Jessica Carroll, Hannah Clarke, Jenny Cleary, Gary Higgins, Niamh Murray, Lisa Jordan, Caroline Cleary (Life Guard), Louise McNamara, Kasey Clarke, Kaitlyn Clarke, Demi Greally, James Lyons, Claire Moran, Erika Webb, Lisa Hunt, Megan Carroll, Lawrence McDonagh, Emily Worden, Katie Hough, Claire Walsh, Laura Culliney, Joseph Lyons.*



*The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2009 is Friday, 23rd October 2009. Email: [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net). Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please support local business and industry.*

**Celebrating together**

*Gurteen's oldest citizen, Johnny Brennan, pictured on the occasion of his 98th birthday on November 4th 2008, with Una Phillips from Main Street, who celebrated her 80th birthday in mid October.*



## European Tractor Pulling Champion

Patrick McHugh of Dunmore, Co. Galway and his top driver, Albert Madden of Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis loaded up Patrick's new CASE Magnum 310 and John Deere 7530 tractors and headed off on the 2600km round trip by road to Bakel in southern Netherlands. They were there for the 2008 Dutch National Tractor Pulling Championships which was also running two European Open Farm Classes, and this year every Tractor Puller's dream came true for Patrick as Albert, in the John Deere 7530, became the first Irish man to win a tractor pulling title in Europe.

Patrick himself also came fourth in the thirteen ton class with his CASE Magnum 310. Afterwards, Patrick said "we did it and harvest or no harvest we'll be back again next year to defend our title". He went on to thank the ITPC (Irish Tractor Pulling Committee) for helping to organise the trip and said it was great to see the twenty ITPC members from both north and south of Ireland frantically waving the tricolour at the end of the 100 metre track. "With harvest weather so unpredictable here in Ireland over the last couple of years, it's very hard to plan a trip to Europe at this time of year, but at enormous expense we went for it and it was worth every penny", he concluded.

Albert is son of Al and Ann Madden of Hazelhill.

*Courtesy of 'The Western People' newspaper.*



*Albert Madden, on the right, with Patrick McHugh.*

## World Class Performer

Congratulations to Olwyn Murray on her recent World Championships achievement.

She came second the World Performing Arts Olympic Championships (13-15 age group) in the Contemporary Singing competitions, held in Los Angeles in July 2008.

As well as this, Olwyn has been selected to sing live on national television on this year's Late Late Toy Show.

She would like to thank her vocal coach from Lavinia Slater Gilmartin from St. Cecelia's School of Song, Ballina; her music teacher in school, Siobhán Devine from Ballyhaunis Community School, and her own parents Adrian and Breda Murray, Hazel Court (proprietors of The Clock, Knox St.).



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

## *Pride of Place Winner*

Ballyhaunis took centre stage at Cappoquin, County Waterford on Saturday night, November 9th, when the local entry captured the top prize when the results of the Pride of Place All-Ireland community awards competition were announced. The Ballyhaunis entry, which was presented to the judges last July, involved over twenty organisations from the local area, representing the community as a dynamic and diverse society.

The Ballyhaunis entry beat off stiff opposition from the four provinces to capture the coveted award, which was presented to committee representative, Paula Grogan, by President Mary McAleese.

Organised under the auspices of Co-operation Ireland, the thirty-two county competition was initiated back in 2003 by Tom Dowling of the Local Authority All-Ireland Community and Leisure Sub-Committee. The concept behind the competition is to recognise and celebrate the vital contribution which community groups make to society, and Ballyhaunis, with its entry - "Celebrate, Volunteer and Diversity" - certainly stood out amid the many entries which the judges have been studying over the past three months.

Practically every organisation in the town came together on July 24th, for an unprecedented joint effort to portray Ballyhaunis as an unique community, working together for the good of the local area, a presentation which certainly paid off when the final results were announced at the County Waterford venue. Well done to one and all involved, a great achievement indeed.



*Paula and Seaumus Grogan (right) accepting the Pride of Place All-Ireland community award from President Mary McAleese.*



*Representatives of Ballyhaunis Community Council with Pride of Place judges*

*Stephen Grogan, Paula Grogan, Alison Boyle (Meath Co Co), Pat Higgins, Tom Dowling (Meath Co Manager), Mary Donnelly and Jarlath Fahey*

# Abbey Pattern

It has to be one of those ironies that in the run up to this year's very successful Abbey Pattern all the talk was of cancelling because of the weather. As it turned out, apart from a heavy shower just before the start, the afternoon was dry and even sunny on occasions. This good weather encouraged a big crowd to turn out and, after Mass in the Friary, the Pattern was opened by the Balla Pipe Band.

The field looked fantastic and a huge 'Thank You' to all who helped it looked so good. The flags along the running track, the sheaf tossing posts and nets, dog show arena, the marquee and bouncy castles set the scene for a fun afternoon. Without the support of our fantastic local sponsors none of this would be possible. Special thanks must go to the raffle sponsors; Sweeney Oil (Claremorris), Ryan's Supervalu and Harvest Fresh.

The races for all ages took centre stage and many heats had to be completed to get to the finals in each category. From toddlers to veterans there was huge competition to gain an Abbey Pattern medal.



Toddler boys race top three: Sean Caulfield, Talhian and Cian Burke

## Results

**Toddler Boys (Four and under)** 1. Sean Caulfield 2. Talhian 3. Cian Burke

**Toddler Girls** 1. Shanelle Ronayne 2. Alyssa Waldron 3. Jessalyn Jennings

**U-6 Boys** 1. Tommy Cleary 2. James Mc Donagh 3. Luke Walsh

**U-6 Girls** 1. Allannah Hanmore 2. Niamh O'Neill 3. Hanna Burke

**U-8 Boys** 1. Patrick Caulfield 2. Conal Caulfield 3. Barry Cribbin

**U-8 Girls** 1. Hazel Kenny 2. Michelle Grogan 3. Santelle Ubazuona and Muirghéal Ottewell (Tied)

**U-10 Boys** 1. Gary Higgins 2. Brian O'Neill 3. Macangel

**U-10 Girls** 1. Michaela Walsh 2. Vanessa Deegan 3. Katelyn Concannon

**U-13 Boys** 1. Jason Kenny 2. Ryan Peake 3. Jason Fahey

**U-13 Girls** 1. Aisling Forkan 2. Pamela Ubazuona 3. Orla McCann

**U-16 Boys** 1. Jason Kenny 2. Ryan Peake 3. Jason Fahey

**U-16 Girls** 1. Robyn Moran 2. Emma Dillon 3. Aisling Forkan

**U-18 Boys** 1. Jason Kenny 2. Jason Fahey 3. Ihsan Almas

**U-18 Girls** 1. Emma Dillon 2. Aisling Forkan 3. Robyn Moran

**Dad's Race (Frank Connolly Memorial)** 1. Simon Mc Donagh 2. John Waldron 3. Martin Walsh

**Mum's Race Joint Winners.** Aisling Caulfield and Joanna Hunt. 3. Anne Hussey

**U-9 3-Legged Race (Boys)** 1. Macangel/Aifo 2. Jacob/Genss 3. Eddie Cleary/Evan Henry

**U-9 3-Legged Race (Girls)** 1. Hanna Janst/Insia Saleh 2. Brigitta Curry/Muirghéal Ottewell 3. Helen Gallagher/Laura O'Connell

**U-13 3-Legged Race (Boys)** 1. Damien Gallagher/Rory Nestor 2. Morgan Lyons/Shane Healy 3. Cathal Carney/Ryan Kilbane

**U-13 Girls 3-Legged Race** 1. Claire Moran/Shannon Biesty. 2. Aisling Forkan/Orla McCann 3. Jennifer Cleary/Ellie McDonagh

**Boys Sack Race** 1. Jason Kenny 2. Morgan Lyons 3. Joey Fahey

**Girls Sack Race** 1. Aisling Forkan 2. Julia Gossy 3. Leanne Henry

**Boys U-9 Egg and Spoon Race** 1. Conal Caulfield 2. Sean Caulfield 3. Matthew Webb

**Girls U-9 Egg and Spoon Race** 1. Maedhbh Caulfield 2. Megan Morley 3. Michaela Warde

The revamped dog show, organised by Seamus Grogan, attracted a record number of entries, not least in the all-new categories of 'Waggiest Tail' and 'Best-dressed Dog'. The interest in the dog show and the fact that the winner of the waggiest tail was a rescue dog from the Mayo SPCA, led the Abbey Pattern Committee to provide funds of €250 to the Mayo SPCA for the purchase of a dog trap. This piece of equipment will allow them to catch stray dogs quickly and with minimum stress to the dog - a big improvement over the four months it took them to catch a stray roaming at the Ballinrobe mart.

Another beneficiary from the Abbey Pattern will be the Annagh Special Olympics Club. A €1,300

donation from the Pattern will cover the running costs of a weekly training club



Mum's Race winners: joint first Aisling Caulfield and Joanna Hunt. 3rd Anne Hussey



Abbey Committee members Suzi Ottewell (left) and Stella Hughes (right) presenting cheque for €250 to Mayo SPCA member Marian Biesty (centre) while rescue dog Goofy takes it in his stride

for the next year.

The Abbey Pattern Committee would like to thank all our sponsors, the local businesses that helped to sell raffle entries and all the helpers in the run up to and on the day. In addition, as Chair I thank the Committee - Stella Hughes, Martin Walsh, Seamus O'Boyle, Anne Lyons, Michael Egan, Aisling Caulfield, Stephen Grogan and Deirdre Moran for all their hard work. Enthusiastic helpers for next year's event are much needed to ensure the Abbey Pattern continues. Please call (094)9630663 if you would like to be involved.

Suzi Ottewell  
Chairperson of Abbey Pattern Committee 2008



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## ***Baptisms in Annagh Parish, Nov. 2007 to Oct. 2008***

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Michael Chukwunouso Denobis  
Timothy Anthony Chukwunebuka Denobis  
Emma Henry  
Ellena Maria Coffey  
Naame Yea Henrietta Ampong  
Sasha Nana Elizabeth Ampong  
Nana William Kwame Ampong  
Nana Mary Adau Ampong  
Katie Francesca Damron  
Caoibhe Sinead Meehan  
Matthew Charles Molloy  
Louise Maria Ward  
Darren Paul Quinn  
Sonia Molga  
Roisín Anne Henry  
Joshua Cunnane  
Arnas Krizka  
Alex Tobias Byrne  
Adam Patrick Kelly  
Alisha Forde  
David Lupinek  
Shane Trias  
Allanna Maria Mongan  
Sarah Anna Kaczmarek  
Jake Patrick Powers

Ava Josephine McCormack  
Chloe Ann Walsh  
Brendan Terence Sweeney  
Tom Michael Donnellan  
Joseph Ted Cleary  
Rachel Shruthy-Suresh  
Johann Sanjeen-Suresh  
Ramona Tayamalini-Anthonypillai  
Mich Adau Ampong  
Lauren Agnes Lyons  
Chloe Mary Donohue  
Barbara Agyeiwaa Ansong  
George Antwi O Fori  
Edna O Fori  
Anita O Fori  
Francesca Yobouet  
Jacinta Gabrielle McDonagh  
Mary Eleanor McDonagh  
Charlotte Jane Henry  
Tadgh Senan Kelly  
Peter Roman Samko  
James Peter Flanagan  
Veronika Sharon Furdanova  
Connor Francis Reynolds  
Harry Anthony Waldron

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## ***Marriages in the Parish of Annagh, Nov. 2007 to Oct. 2008***

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David Squires, Tooreen & Martina Murphy, Brackloon  
Sean Ward, Galway & Deirdre O'Connor, Hazelhill  
Thomas Curran, Doctor's Road & Alma Gallagher, Drimbane  
David Burke, Devlis & Noelle Waldron, Abbeyquarter  
Patrick Gallagher, Bargarriff & Amy Gately, Aisling Drive  
John Condron, Malahide & Elaine Webb, Main St.  
Ian Connaughton, Granlahan & Miriam Lily, Johnstown  
James Moriarty, London & Rebecca Kiely, Doctor's Road

Dominick Mulligan, Milton Keynes & Lorraine Murphy,  
Knockbrack  
Padraic Murphy, Knock Road & Patricia Mulhern, Knock Road  
Nana Kwame Ampong, Abbey Heights & Nana Adau Ampong,  
Abbey Heights  
Michael Thompson, Manchester & Tracey Phillips, Main St.  
Aidan Bailey, Tulsk & Sinead Nevin, Hazel Lawns

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### ***Marriages Elsewhere***

Gerard McGuire, Upper Main St. & Lorna Shields, Dublin  
Austin Finn, Beech Lawn & Margaret Ruane, Beech Lawn

Tomás Murphy, Devlis & Aoife Folliard, Aghamore  
Justin Maloney, Cloonfad & Carmel Hunt, Lecarrow

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## ***Deceased of the Parish of Annagh, Nov. 2007 to Oct. 2008***

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Mary Agnes O'Reilly  
Gabriel Forkan  
John Regan  
Maureen Tarpey  
Kathleen Kerrigan  
David Judge  
John Lyons  
Julia Eagney  
John Mullen  
Enda Murphy  
Owen McDonagh  
Philomena Fox  
Declan Byrne  
Tom Hopkins  
Claire Dillon-Walsh

Phil Maguire  
Kathleen Regan  
Mollie Concannon  
Kitty Mitchell  
Betty Regan  
Patrick Niland  
Patrick Forde  
Margaret Hoban  
Jarlath Moran  
Michael Cleary  
Eamonn Healy  
Kate Morrell  
Mary Buckley  
Josephine Garvey



## Class of '87 Reunion



L-R: Bridie Levins, Maggie Finnegan, Alan Henry, Seamus Geraghty, Paul Damron, Mary Hunt.

The plotting and planning for our school reunion began in October 2006 and, in January 2007 we got down to the task of naming and locating the 111 past pupils of the Class of '87, Ballyhaunis Community School. An enthusiastic bunch made up of Ashling Webb, Maggie Finneagn, Joanne Morley, Attracta Gallagher, Kathleen Meenan and Brendan Donnellan, met in

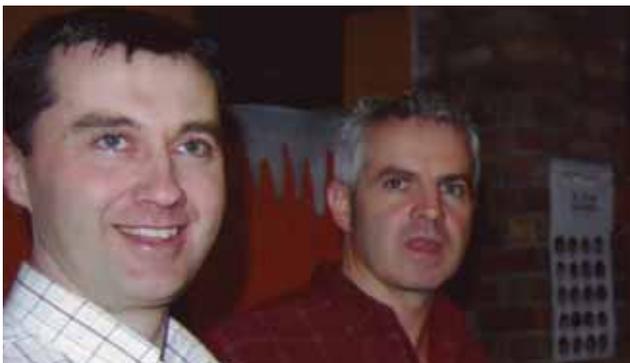


L-R: Lizanne Fitzgerald, Martina Stenson, Carmel Waldron, Mary F. Byrne, Colette Jordan.

Delaney's Bar. We each took a list of names and, after many phone calls, emails etc., we got a home or current address for everyone. Each was sent an invitation.

The date was set for 28th Dec 2007 in the Billabong, Main St. Word quickly spread from friend to friend and, as the time approached, it was all we talked about. All we wanted was a good turnout and have some fun.

Unfortunately three classmates passed away since our school days: John Joe Keigher, Brendan Joyce and Tommy Glynn – May they Rest in Peace.



Brendan Donnellan, Martin Kearns, Niall Delaney, Barry Mulligan.

A Memorial Mass for them and their families was held in the Parish Church that Friday evening. We then went on to the Billabong to catch up with old friends and share memories and stories.

Past pupils had come from near and far, from places as diverse as South Africa, America, France, Asia, England and all parts of Ireland. We talked, laughed, ate and drank until the small hours. Some even kept going a little longer! A great night was had by all and the effort put in by everyone was well worth it!

See you all in 10 years!

*Attracta Gallagher (nee Greene)*



Mary Carney, Vera Waldron, Marie Cleary, Cathy Murphy, Kathleen Meenan.



L-R: Aisling Webb, Joanne Fitzmaurice, Joanne Morley.



*John O'Shaughnessy, now resident in Ballyhaunis, was Chauffeur to Lady Winifred Fitzgerald of Raglan Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin from 1949 to 1950. John says: "I had the honour of having lunch in Lord Powerscourt House in Enniskerry and also the honour of having lunch in the Jameson Whiskey Distillery in Killiney, Co. Dublin. She had a little dog called Bonny. Part of my job was to take him for a walk every day. She had a gardener, a housemaid and chauffeur. She was a lovely person. I had the honour of meeting Sir Chester Beatty. He came to Lady Winifred one evening for dinner. He was a gentleman. I enjoyed my work with her. It was indeed a pleasure. May God rest her. During my limousine driving career I also drove Sir Stanley Matthews, renowned English footballer, from Dublin to the Mardyke in Cork in the 1950s."*

*In the photograph above John is pictured with two vehicles he used to drive when working for Kirwan's Funeral Directors, Fairview, Dublin. On the left is a Ford Granada, and on the right a Rolls Royce Silver Cloud.*



*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 9.00 (Summer). Al-Anon and Al-Ateen meet in Scoil Iosa Senior School, Abbeyquarter at the same times.*

*Winner in the Mack's Bakery's Hallowe'en promotion draw, 1991  
L-R: Leo Mullarkey (Mack's Bakery), Mrs. Mary Donoghue, Kathleen Donoghue (winner), Canon Patrick Costello PP, Tom Hopkins, Paul Walsh (Mack's Bakery).*



## Where Are They Now?

The photograph shows a group of young people in Johnstown just as they were about to “fly the nest” and go their separate ways, which begs the question where did they go and where are they now? Happily we can report all present and correct in the land of the living and all a credit to their native place, none of them having let the side down.

From left to right in the back row is Liam Gildea who became a plasterer, was a very busy man at his trade during the recent boom years and is still a busy man. He worked in Birmingham for a number of years, on returning home he built a house in Gurrane, where he now lives with his wife and family.

Next is Tom Cleary who also became a plasterer. He has lived and worked in Birmingham most of his life where he is active in the affairs of the Irish community there. Maria, a daughter of his was chosen as the English Midlands Rose to take part in the Rose of Tralee Festival in 2000. However no Roses travelled across the Irish Sea that year, but a Regional Rose Festival was held in London and Maria was the overall winner.

Nuala Flanagan was a visitor to Johnstown. She trained as a nurse, worked in Ireland, Canada and Australia where she now lives in New South Wales.

Monica Cribbin works in the Central Bank. She remembers hectic days during the changeover from pounds, shilling and pence to decimal currency and later in the change to the Euro but nothing compared to the flurry of activity of recent weeks. She lives in Rathfarnham.

Ann Cribbin started work in Dublin Castle with the Revenue

Commissioners and remained in the service until she retired. She lives in Harold's Cross.

Tim Byrne worked at various jobs in England and Ireland including a managerial position with North Connacht Co-Op. He is now on the managerial staff of “The Hazel” Lounge Bar and Restaurant, Main Street. He lives in Johnstown in the house he built just a few dozen yards from the spot where he was born.

In the front row is Pat Cribbin who worked for Durkan's Bottlers and Distributors and various local builders before going to England. Like many others including the “wild colonial boy” to “Australia's sunny shore he was inclined to roam”. His last job in Ireland was working on the extension to the Scouts Den that was to become the Boy Scout Little Theatre, home of the “Good Counsel Players”. His first job in Australia was working on the construction of the Sydney Opera House. He now lives in semi retirement at a place called Diggers Rest in Victoria.

Kitty Cribbin on finishing school worked in Flatley's Newsagency before getting a job with the now disbanded National Savings Committee. She now works at NUI Maynooth and lives in Celbridge.

Those are just snippets of what are much longer stories. Each one has their own story to tell of good days and bad, joys and sorrows, achievements and disappointments that came their way since the photograph was taken out there in the lawn all of forty seven years ago.

*Jimmy Cribbin*



*Back, L-R: Liam Gildea, Tom Cleary, Nuala Flanagan, Monica Cribbin, Ann Cribbin, Tim Byrne. Front, L-R: Pat Cribbin, Kitty Cribbin.*

## Reunion of 'Class of 1978'

Three schools came together to make a joint effort to succeed as one Community School in 1978. This year we decided it would be good idea to get together and so we organised a thirty years out of school reunion. We set the date for 4th July 2008. We sent out letters to all the past pupils. We had Mass in the parish church celebrated by Fr. Des Walsh. It was wonderful to meet all the pupils after such a long

time. As the night went on in the Belmont, it was like we had never been apart. The night was a great success and everyone had a great time. Here's to the next thirty years!

Mary T. Griffin



Back, L-R: James McManus, Clar Grogan, Pat Feeney, Billy Phillips, Gerard Kilkenny, Tommy Eagney. Third row, L-R: Mary Hurley, Johnny Cunnane, Mary Teresa Lyons, Margaret Waldron, Mary Flanagan, Catherine Lynskey, Noreen O'Reilly, Anne Marie Moran, Marie Forde, Grainne O'Connell, Martha McGee, Maureen Ronan, Brendan Morrissey, Robbie Herr, Seamus Salmon. Second row, L-R: Mary Morris, Pat O'Brien, Bernadette Lyons, Anne Griffin, Chris Forde, Marie Gormley, Joan Keegan, Maeve Waldron, Noelle Keegan, Sarah Regan, Helen Lyons, Marie Murphy, Martha Folliard, Della Garvey, Breda Boland. Front row, L-R: Cathy Grady, Carmel McHugh, Catherine Plunkett, Carmel Lynch, Geraldine Lyons, Teresa Regan, Mary T. Carroll, Marie Coyne, Carmel Ronayne, Maureen Brennan, Celine Curran, Jacinta Jordan.  
Photograph by Stratford Photography.



### **The Ballyhaunis – Leeds Connection**

L-R: Paddy Fitzmaurice (Abbeyquarter), Paddy Philbin (Tooraree and Leeds), Billy O'Brien (Ballyhaunis and Leeds), Sean Tarpey (Ballyhaunis and Leeds).



## **Knock Airport**

*As I sat in the car at Knock Airport,  
And watched a single engine plane  
up in the sky.  
It made a welcome humming noise,  
and so well it may,  
On this beautiful fading sunny even'  
Of a lovely day.*

*On this hilltop high I see  
The silhouette of the distance hills look nigh  
The foothills and low-lying lands  
Enveloped in a hazy mist,  
Their peaks so clear,  
Protruding through the fog  
Like painted pyramids of the East.*

*The sun is just about to set at my back.  
The sky is getting black,  
As if it will rain.  
I remain on, sitting here,  
Dallying the time,  
Awaiting the Luton-Knock scheduled aeroplane.*

*I saw the pale yellow moon a few times  
Now and then, darting in and out  
Between the blackened, broken clouds.  
They now seem as if they are going  
To shroud the airport of some dreams,  
But now, reality it is.*

*Taken from a booklet of poems by Kevin Burke (1923-2003),  
Ballycastle.  
Father of Fr. Kieran Burke, former C.C. Ballyhaunis, now Parish  
Priest of Leenane.*



*Maura Hoffman (nee Kenny) daughter of Margaret and the late Joe Kenny of Brackloon, with Ann Mariea Freyne enjoying a glass of wine this summer at Maura's home in Connecticut, USA where she lives with her husband Robert and son Harry. Ann Mariea is daughter of Sean and Ina Freyne, Clare Street, was visiting her school friend from her home in Boston, Massachusetts.*



*Passengers from the first flight into Knock Airport from Manchester, 13th Apr. 1987. Including Michael Griffin and his wife Bridie (nee Lyons, Redford) on the extreme left.*

# Ballyhaunis GAA Club



**Official Opening 5th May 2008**

*Back, L-R: Ray Sloyan, Noel Sloyan, Tommy Glynn, Paraic Duffy (Árd Stiúrtheoir, Cumann Lúth Cleas Gael), Mike Dillon, Brendan Rudden, Mike Webb. Middle Row: Tommy Waldron, Val Byrne, Johnny Biesty, Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Hugh Rudden, Emmett Keane, Gerry McGarry, John Prenty, William Nestor. Front: John Halpin, Donal Moran, Anna Shanaghy, Bernard Waldron, Tony Cribbin, Mary Prenty.*

2008 has been a very successful year for Ballyhaunis GAA Club. Congratulations to the Executive Committee, Project Committee and Development Committee, in particular, and everyone who helped in the completion of our new Clubhouse, fencing and Grounds this year. Our efforts have been rewarded by the recent announcement that we are "Mayo Club of the Year for 2008. We are now automatically entered into the "Connacht Club of the Year". We have teams competing in both football and hurling and Congratulations to our Senior Hurling team who are County Champions and to the U-21 and Minor Hurling teams who won their "B" championships this year.

Congratulations to the 1st year footballers of Ballyhaunis Community School who competed in both the League and Championship and won the Mick Tarmey Cup under Captain Patrick Kiely.

Congratulations to Anna Shanaghy who was voted Club person of the Year for 2007.

Congratulations to Derek Walsh, Footballer of the Year, and Austin Lyons, Hurler of the Year.

## **Club Development**

The past year has been a milestone in the history of Ballyhaunis GAA Club with the official opening of our new Club House on the 5th May 2008. We were treated to basking sunshine for the opening of the refurbished grounds at Knock Road on the May Bank Holiday weekend. Major redevelopments were undertaken early in the year which included a new building comprising of four dressing rooms, shower facilities, toilets and a social room with views onto the main pitch. A walkway around the perimeter of the pitch with new fencing displaying advertising hoardings and new dugouts and ball stops nets were also incorporated in the refurbishments by the club. The club welcomed a huge crowd of supporters to a feast of activities throughout the day, which was highlighted by the meeting of the

Mayo and Laois senior footballers in a challenge match. After the Mayo/Laois game both teams were catered for by Maureen Hunt in a specially erected marquee on the grounds.

Padraic Duffy, Director General of the GAA, officially launched the opening of our development and an updated publication of the club's history entitled 'Ballyhaunis GAA Club: 100 years and More!' The complex and playing grounds were officially blessed by Canon Joe Cooney, PP. Musical entertainment was provided by the Castlerea Brass and Reed Band.

M. C. for the day, John Halpin Vice-Chairman, welcomed the dignitaries which, as well as the Director General, included the Officers of the Connacht Council, Mayo County Board, East Mayo Board, local clubs and Sponsors of the development.

Ballyhaunis senior footballers played host to neighbours Aghamore in the Centenary Cup, and U-14 hurling team played Tooreen in a hurling game. Ballyhaunis under-age hurling and football matches were played from early morning on the landmark occasion for the club. Thanks to Officers of Both Aghamore and Tooreen for their support and cooperation on the day.

The initiative taken by Ballyhaunis GAA Club to develop their grounds was partially funded by local businesses that generously sponsored advertising hoardings at the venue. The club also received grants from the National Lottery and the Connaught GAA Council to fund the development.

The development committee, chaired by Padraic Regan, put an enormous effort into the project and many fundraising nights were organised and well supported such as the race night and the raffle. A day of celebration and pride for Ballyhaunis was enjoyed by all, as the club took a huge step into the future.

The Project committee: Hugh Rudden, Brendan Rudden, Emmet Keane, Johnny Biesty, Padraic Regan, Bill Comer and Donal Moran.

Fundraising Development committee: Padraic Regan

(Chairman), Mary Prenty, Anna Shanaghy, Hugh Rudden, Brian Murray, Emmett Keane, John Prenty, John Higgins, Liam Rochford, Kurt Reinhardt, Tommy Grogan, Bernard Waldron, Mike Webb and Michael Gallagher.

The builders of the new complex were Ray and Noel Sloyan Construction Ltd., Brackloon, Ballyhaunis.



#### **Barry Butler Shield winners 2008**

*Back, L-R: Jason Foody, Martin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Henry, Robbie Herr, Vincent Higgins*

*Middle: Eamon Phillips, David Cunnane, Sean Herr, Gary Higgins, Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield, John Ross Madden, John Cunnane, James Reynolds, Mikey Hill, Oisín Henry, Evan Henry. Front: Liam Foody, Darren Coyne, Evan Fitzmaurice, Patrick Caulfield, Cormac Phillips, Eddie Cleary, Jack Coyne, Liam Herr.*

#### **Club History**

The history of any organisation is very important and it is imperative that a record of all events and occasions be documented and recorded. During that time many events have taken place, people have been involved in running the Club, games have been played, championships have been won and lost, friends have been made, places have been visited and photographs have been taken. To mark this occasion it was agreed that this was the right time to publish a complete history of the Club from its foundation to the present day. This publication was compiled by Johnny Biesty, John Cleary, Tommy Caulfield and Billy Lyons and they worked relentlessly to complete this comprehensive record of Club events over the last one hundred years. This fine publication is currently on sale at the club and in local shops at €15, or by contacting any of the Club officers.

#### **Development Fundraising:**

The Christmas Raffle was a very successful venture and the prize winners were: 1st Prize, Tim Byrne, The Hazel; 2nd Prize Shane Cribbin; 3rd prize Tom McGann, Mace, Claremorris and 4th Prize Annette Clancy, Cloonbook, Claremorris.

A special word of thanks to Michael Webb Jr., Lisa Finn, Michael Gallagher, Brian Murray, Hugh Rudden, Kevin Henry, Helen Worden, John Halpin, Anna Shanaghy, Padraig Regan, Martin Fitzmaurice and Mary Prenty. Special thanks to Ryan's Supervalu for allowing the use of their premises to sell the raffle tickets. Special thanks to everyone in the greater Ballyhaunis area who supported this raffle. Your support is appreciated.

The Race Night was held in the Billabong Bar and Tony O'Hehir was our Master of Ceremonies. This was another very entertaining night for the club and special thanks to the senior football players who helped out on the night. Kurt Reinhardt spent

hours putting advertisements on screen for the evening. Many hours of work went into the planning, advertising hoardings and booklet for the night. Special thanks to Phyllis and Noel Reinhardt who looked after the "odds" on the night and to Liam Folliard, of The Billabong Bar, who hosted the race night for us and provided refreshments free of charge to mark the occasion. A special presentation was made to Tony O'Hehir, sponsored by John Prenty.

Race Night Committee: John Higgins, Kurt Reinhardt, John Prenty, Anna Shanaghy, Mary Prenty, Derek Walsh and to all who helped out on the night.

#### **Bord na nÓg - Mock Wedding**

What was billed as the "Wedding of the Year" was held in the Belmont Hotel, Knock in aid of Croí and Ballyhaunis Bord na nÓg early in the year. The novelty fundraiser, a mock marriage, was attended by over 200 people. A fantastic night of entertainment was provided for guests by a wedding party of eight characters. As well as acting as the Parish Priest and Best Man respectively, Murray and Doyle crafted together the idea of the wedding reception for 'Mickey Ramsbottom' and 'Cleo Ball' played by William Nestor and Leo Forkan. Also in attendance at the top table was the Bishop (Brian Hunt), Father of the Bride (Noel Sloyan), Mother of the Groom (Katrina Sweeney) and Bridesmaid (Donal Byrne). A great night of laughter and dancing was enjoyed by all, with music from McDermott and his band. The organisers - Vinnie Caulfield, Robbie Herr and Bernard Waldron - went to great lengths to have all in order for the annual Bord na nÓg fundraiser. A donation from the proceeds was presented to Noel Sloyan, for Croí.

#### **Bord na nÓg Summer Draw**

Vinnie Caulfield, Chairman, organised a Summer Draw to help defray the cost of running underage football in the club. Books of tickets were given to all the children and prizes included a Sat-navigation system, Over-mantle mirror sponsored by Classic Mirrors, and Club Carrier Bag.

Winners: Sheila Fitzmaurice, Tonragee; Patrick Caulfield, Annagh; Brendan Regan, Killinaugher.

Bord na nÓg wishes to acknowledge all our sponsors and encourage all our members to show their support to these sponsors.

#### **Mayo Club Development Draw**

The Mayo GAA Club Development Draw continues to be a major fund raising initiative to support both the day-to-day running of the Club and repayments on our Development. Sixty Tickets had to be sold this year to cover our levy to the County Board and the Club retains €90 of each remaining ticket sold. Our winners were Peter Meenan €500, Barry Cribbin €250, Pauline Mc Garry €250, Mary Rudden €250, Seamus Conboy €250, Gerald Madden €250, Liam and Bernadette Lyons €250, and Billy Lyons, Holywell €250. We hosted the May Draw in our new Clubhouse this year and it was well attended and refreshments were provided for all who attended. If you wish to support the club and be a potential prize winner you can do so by purchasing a ticket for the 2009 Draw by contacting any of the officers. Remember the more tickets sold the more the Club benefits. We thank everyone who purchased a ticket in the past and we look forward to your continued support in the future.

#### **Club Lotto**

The Club Lotto continues to be a regular fundraising tool of the Club and draws are held weekly. Draw tickets can be purchased in outlets in the town or purchased online [www.ballyhaunisgaa.com](http://www.ballyhaunisgaa.com). The club wishes to thank all who support our Lotto and to the business people who facilitate the sale of Lotto tickets weekly. Thanks to Eddie Murphy Menswear for his generous sponsorship of our new Lotto

promotional signs on each road approaching Ballyhaunis. These signs have generated a new awareness of our Lotto and we welcome new volunteers to promote sales of Lotto either weekly or annually or both. We wish to thank Tommy Waldron, Tommy Glynn, Johnny Biesty, John Halpin and other committee members for their dedication and commitment weekly. We acknowledge the help, guidance and support of Tommy Moran, Main St, who has decided to have a rest from the weekly draws.

### **Scór**

In addition to promoting the national games a GAA priority is to encourage local community and social activity. This is achieved through the annual Scór events in which Ballyhaunis Club participate enthusiastically and is open to all the community with events for all talents at both adult and under-age level.

Ballyhaunis GAA participated in 2008 Mayo County Scór which was held in Kiltimagh and this year's competition was bigger than ever and resulted in a very enjoyable display of the great variety of talent within the County. The large audience were enthralled by the Ballyhaunis representatives Pat Doyle and Paddy Joe Tighe, Pat's 'GAA Comedy sketch' and Paddy Joe's rousing song earned long applause from the enthusiastic attendance.

Another annual Scór event is the 'Tráth na gCeist', a Quiz as Gaeilge that was held in Claremorris with over twenty clubs participating. Ballyhaunis was represented by Johnny Cribbin, Daniel Tarpey and Gordon Biesty who achieved a very respectable result, up there with the top scorers. 'Scór na nÓg' is an ideal opportunity to try out new and young talent; singing, dancing, music group, tell a story, play on a quiz team, you are invited to come along and enjoy the fun of Scór.

Thanks to Gerry McGarry who organised a "Wren Boys" on St. Stephen's Night which helped our fundraising efforts for our Clubhouse. Thanks to Paddy Joe Tighe, Billy Lyons, Patrick Noone, Hugh Rudden, Brendan Rudden, Anna Shanaghy, Helen Worden, Ryan Worden and Mary Prenty for helping out on the night.



*Vinnie Caulfield (Chairman of Bord na nÓg) presenting the Mick O'Connell cup to Sean Herr, Captain of the winning Under-10 team. Also in the picture is Michael O'Connell (son of the late Mick O'Connell) who travelled from Dublin for the presentation.*

### **Under 8 Football**

Training took place on Friday evenings commencing in March until end of October. We participated in blitzes hosted by Kilmovee, Michael Glavey's, St. Brigid's of Roscommon and Clonberne-Kilkerrin of Galway. One of the highlights of the year for us was the

Go Games exhibition game on the day of the official opening of the club's new dressing and facilities. This year we hosted the first of the Mayo GAA County Board Go Games divisional blitz for our U-8's on May 17th, May 24th and May 31st which is played under the "Play and Stay with the GAA in May" coaching programme. As we were the host club refreshments were provided for all the players and mentors in the Clubhouse. U-8 panel: Conal Caulfield, Neil Carney, Patrick Caulfield, Cormac Phillips, Dylan Gaughan, Ethan Keane, Barry Cribbin, Tristan Walsh, Zain Azhar, Ciaran Guilfoyle, Dara Rattigan, Kevin Durkan, Harob, Jack Coyne, John Reidy, Conor Keane, Joshua Webb, Luke Walsh, Daragh Healy, Danny Hill, Kevin McHugh, and Jack McGoldrick. On a sad note this year marked the sudden passing of former U-8 Manager and Club Player Eamon Healy, R.I.P. Eamon always gave generously of his time in the promotion of Gaelic football and will be sadly missed by his family and all his friends at Bord na nÓg. Team Management: Tommy Caulfield and Seamus Caulfield.

### **Under 10 Football**

2008 was a busy year for the U-10s with training on Friday evenings, either in the club grounds or in the Community School with up to seventy children playing. Early in the year we travelled to Michael Glavey's and this set the tone for what turned out to be a very successful season for the boys. We experimented with lots of positional changes throughout the year, with a view to allowing our players to develop a wider range of skills, a better understanding of team play and the importance of all positions and all team members. In June we took part in a series of mini blitzes with Eastern Gaels and Kilmovee under Eugene Lavin, of the Mayo County Coaching programme and a reception was held for the visiting teams and mentors in the clubhouse where the players were afforded an opportunity to meet with some of the Mayo senior football team. Two of the highlights of the year were the visit of Corofin of Galway and the trip to the Co. Roscommon club St. Brigid's. Both of these clubs are considered among the top clubs in their respective counties so it was a matter of great pride that we managed to overcome them both in two closely contested friendly games. The team management enjoyed the opportunity to renew old acquaintances with former Ballyhaunis senior players Eamon Cunnane, and Eamon Glynn, mentors with the St. Brigid's U-10s.

Barry Butler Memorial Blitz: Our Club U-10 Blitz was extra special this year as it was the first time it was played under the title of the Barry Butler Memorial blitz, in recognition of the enormous contribution the late Barry Butler made to under-age football in the club over a long number of years. Eight teams participated in the blitz held on its traditional August Bank holiday Monday date. After some really thrilling games and high emotions, the outcome depended on a play-off between the top two teams, Ballyhaunis and Claremorris. Things looked ominous for the host team as we fell behind early on but, fittingly, we rallied to take a lead that we were to retain to the end. The final whistle was greeted by huge roars of delight mixed with relief. As the Butler family presented the Shield and medals to the victorious Ballyhaunis team it was difficult to escape the feeling that we may have had help from above, because not only did the result go our way but the whole event passed off very successfully on what was one of the very few fine days during the summer. We had a rotating captaincy during the year – on the day of the blitz our captains were Cathal Carney, James Reynolds and Darren Coyne. All teams, mentors and supporters enjoyed a reception with refreshments in the clubhouse afterwards to cap a memorable day.

Our U-8, U-10 boys and girls team participated in the Go Games exhibition for the opening of the new clubhouse and facilities on the May Bank holiday weekend. It was a great honour for our



young players to perform in front of a large crowd and to see the Mayo senior team at close quarters. They were fascinated watching the senior players going through their pre-match warm up routines and after the game they had lots of opportunities for autographs and photographs.

Under 10 panel: Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield, Oisín Coffey, Darren Coyne, David Cunnane, John Cunnane, Evan Fitzmaurice, Liam Foody, Evan Henry, Oisín Henry, Liam Herr, Sean Herr, Michael Hill, Gary Higgins, John Ross Madden, Eamon Phillips, James Reynolds, Conor Sloyan and Eddie Cleary. Thanks to Fiona Freyne, Ann Curley, Robyn Moran and Rosanne Nolan for your time and commitment to our girls team.

Team Management: Jason Foody, Martin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Henry, Vincent Caulfield, Robbie Herr and Aidan Hill.

### **Mick O'Connell Cup**

The Mick O'Connell tournament was held on Sunday November 2nd 2008 at the GAA grounds, the traditional end of year tournament played among teams from within the club and generously sponsored by the O'Connell family in memory of their father Mick O'Connell. We are grateful to Marion, Grainne and Michael not only for their sponsorship but their keen interest in, and attendance at this competition in our Club each year.

The U-8 final got proceedings under way and it turned out to be a thrilling, high scoring match featuring ten goals. It was tight and tense throughout but at the final whistle it was Piarais Caulfield's team that emerged victorious by a narrow margin.

Team A: C. Caulfield (Capt.), P. Caulfield (V-Capt), J. Coyne, J. Reidy, C. Keane, J. Webb, D. Healy, D. Hill, K. McHugh, J. McGoldrick, L. Walsh, O. Cleary, M. Caulfield, S. Lyons, M. Grogan, N. O'Neill, H. Browne, R. Fitzmaurice, G. Foody, E. Lyons, L. O'Connell, R. Reynolds.

Team B: N. Carney (Capt.), C. Phillips (V-Capt), D. Gaughan, E. Keane, B. Cribbin, T. Walsh, Z. Ahzar, C. Guilfoyle, D. Rattigan, K. Durkan, H. Gallagher, N. Foody, R. Lyons, G. Lilly, E. Murray, T. Whelan-Manning, A. Foody, A. Nolan, M. Gaughan, M. Lyons, A. Nolan.

### **U-10 section:**

There were four teams in the U-10 section and the live draw immediately prior to throw-in pitted Sean Herr's team v Liam Foody's Team and Oisín Henry's team v Piarais Caulfield's team. After two tense and keenly contested semi-finals, Sean Herr's team and Piarais Caulfield's team came through to the final. This turned out to be a highly entertaining game for the large crowd in attendance, as first one team and then the other took the initiative.

Sean Herr's team led by 1-3 to no score mid-way through the first half only for their opponents to hit them with three quick goals. Their one-goal lead was cancelled out on the stroke of half time by a well-worked goal. The second half was equally exciting and as both teams tired approaching the end of the game it was Sean Herr's team that just managed to hold on for a victory that was greeted equally by huge celebrations on one side and disappointment by the gallant losers. Afterwards Michael O'Connell presented the cup to the winning captain, Sean Herr. All players received medals as mementos of an exciting day that brought the curtain down on a busy and successful season for these young players.

Team A: Sean Herr (Capt.), C. Carney, (V-Capt.) E. Cleary, J. Cunnane, C. Henry, D. Coyne, N. Carney, D. Gaughan, J. Coyne. Team Manager: Robbie Herr.

Team B: Liam Foody (Capt.), E. Phillips (V-Capt.) L. Herr, C. Sloyan, J. Cleary, A. Nolan, M. Carney, D. Healy, P. Caulfield. Team Manager: Jason Foody.

Team C: Oisín Henry (Capt.), G. Higgins, (V-Capt.), M.

Hill, D. Cunnane, E. Fitzmaurice, L. Henry, E. Webb, K. Clarke, D. Grealley, Team Manager: A. Hill.

Team D: Piarais Caulfield (Capt.), J. Reynolds (V-Capt), D. Coyne, E. Henry, J. R. Madden, R. Ní Suilleabháin, A. Mulrennan, C. Phillips, J. Reidy. Team Manager: Martin Fitzmaurice.

### **Under 11 Football**

Coaching and management of the 11-a-side Blitz in Go Games were held in Ballyhaunis in September for our players with Eugene Lavin in attendance. All players born in 1999 were informed and they benefited from the skills demonstrated. Our Club was a designated centre for these games and other Clubs attending included Kilmovee and Eastern Gaels.

U-11 Panel: Cathal Carney, Sean Carrick, Piarais Caulfield, Eddie Cleary, Oisín Coffey, Darren Coyne, James Cribbin, Shane Cribbin, John Cunnane, Liam Foody, Fraz Ahmad, Calum Gardiner, Jason Gardiner, Matthew Grogan, Cian Henry, Liam Herr, Sean Herr, Micheal Hill, Diarmuid Keane, Ryan Kilbane, Joseph Kelly, Robert Mc Cormack, Eamon Phillips, Cormac Reidy, Salami Gbolahan, David Webb.

### **Under 12 Football**

Training commenced in early April and continued until the Joe Webb Final in October. Training took place each Friday evening with games on Mondays. We played in eighteen U-12 games between Spring and County Summer League fixtures. One of the best results this year was our game against Tourmakeady.

All the players played in the U-12 league with four teams competing. The top two teams played in the A final and Rory Nestor, Capt., received the Vincent Caulfield Cup from Kathleen Caulfield. The B final was won by Joey Fahey's team and he received the Julia Donohue Cup from Jarlath Fahey, Secretary Bórd na nÓg on behalf of the Donohue Family.

U-12 panel: Sean Carrick, David Cleary, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, Shane Cribbin, Damien Egan, Joey Fahey, Philip Fitzmaurice, Matthew Grogan, Cian Henry, Ryan Kilbane, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Robert Mc Cormack, Mohammed Arshad, Rory Nestor, Stephen Nolan, Mark Phillips, Cormac Reidy, Stephen Ryan, David Webb, Cathal Carney, Eamon Phillips.



### **Under-11 team**

Back Row: Damien Egan, James Cribbin, Cormac Reidy, Mikey Hill, John Cunnane Eamon Phillips, Ryan Kilbane, Cian Henry, Sean Herr, Gary Higgins, Kevin Henry (Manager)

Front Row: Eddie Cleary, Oisín Henry, Liam Foody, David Cunnane, Liam Herr, Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield James Reynolds.



### **U-12 Hurling:**

Trip to Croke Park: U-10 and U-12 footballers enjoyed a very special day in Croke Park for the all Ireland semi-final on August 24th 2008. Both the All Ireland Minor semi final Mayo v Kerry and senior football game, Kerry v Cork, ended in draws and proved to be a wonderful experience for the children. Everyone enjoyed refreshments in Athlone on the journey home. Thanks to Vinnie Caulfield for organising this trip and to the parents who travelled for the day out.

### **Scoil Iosa Football**

The Scoil Iosa boys team played Swinford, Kiltimagh, losing narrowly and went on to play Ballaghaderreen and ended up being defeated on the day. Girls competed in seven-a-side tournament organised by Cumann Na mBunscoil in Claremorris. We won all games but lost out on scoring average and failed to advance to county finals.

Coaching: Eugene Lavin co-ordinated a Go Games blitz which was ran internally in the school. Two blocks of eight weeks coaching was provided from mid April to mid June and a further three weeks since mid September. The School League was incorporated into the Vincent Caulfield and Julia Donohue Cups with the club U-10s and U-12s in May.

A presentation of a signed Kerry Jersey was made to Principal of Scoil Iosa, Jim Landon by James Reidy, to acknowledge his work and commitment to Gaelic Games in the School on behalf of Bord na nÓg. Jim has been at the grassroots level of the GAA since he came to Ballyhaunis and the following past pupils have gone on to play County Football: David Fitzgerald, Tony Morley, David Nestor, Fergal Kelly and Keith Higgins.

### **Under 8 / Under 10 Hurling**

The practicing and developing of hurling skills and games took place every Saturday morning under the supervision of Pete Higgins, Howard Morley, Ray Lucey, Michael Regan and assistance from members of the senior hurling team panel throughout the year. The emphasis was on skills, team participation and respect for each other.

Hurling training for underage teams began with over thirty players training on Saturday mornings in the Club GAA grounds and preparation and training was assisted with a number of the Ballyhaunis and Mayo senior panel of players coaching the young Hurlers of the future.

U-12, U-14, U-16 and U-18 participated in the Suck Valley League, a Hurling League run between teams from Mayo, Roscommon, North and East Galway. Ballyhaunis was nominated as Team of the Year 2008 in recognition of their commitment on the field of play and their sense of Fair Play and Cooperation off the Field. A special thanks to Kitty and Howard Morley for your time and dedication to this cause.

### **Under 12 Hurling**

It was a very successful year for this team. From the beginning of the year they showed great commitment to training and great dedication and discipline on and off the field of play. They won their group games and reached a Division 1A Final against Castlebar. However, the stronger physicality and hurling of Castlebar proved to be too much for Ballyhaunis and Castlebar ran out winners.

U-12 Panel: Cathal Carney, Damien Callaghan, Fraz Ahmad, James Cribbin, James Lyons, Joseph Kelly, Mark Phillips, Mohammed Ahmad, Ryan Kilbane, Stephen Ryan, Stephen Nolan, Rory Nestor, Jason Coyne, Sean Herr, Oisin Coffey,

National School: Soil Iosa N.S. played in the Indoor Cuile Hurling Tournament and got to the Group Final, only to be pipped by Knock N.S in the Final. At National School Hurling

Championship, Scoil Iosa won their Group to get to the Division 1 Final. On the day of the Final they came up against a very well balanced Tooreen side and lost out to a superior team. Thanks to Jim Landon and his staff at Scoil Iosa for their help and cooperation during the year.

National School Panel: Rory Nestor, Ryan Kilbane, Mohammed Ahmad, Aisling Tarpey, Stephen Ryan, Abusafyan Ahmad, Stephen Ryan, Morgan Lyons, James Cribbin, Damien Callaghan, Shane Healy, James Lyons, Cathal Carney, Kevin Kilbride, Waqas Rehmon, Sean Herr.

### **Under 13 Hurling**

This was a competition inaugurated in 2007 which has turned out to be an outstanding success and in their first year Ballyhaunis performed very well to beat Westport and draw with Castlebar to earn a place in the County Final. The team, depleted due to family holidays, nevertheless, gave a sterling performance in the County Final but succumbed to a better side on the day.

U-13 Panel: Aisling Tarpey, Cathal Carney, Damien Callaghan, Fraz Ahmad, Haseeb Arshad, Jack Hughes, James Cribbin, James Lyons, Jamil Kezze, Jason Coyne, Joseph Kelly, Kevin Kilbride, Lisa O'Connell, Mark Phillips, Mohammed Ahmad, Morgan Lyons, Rory Nestor, Ryan Kilbane, Sean Herr, Shane Healy, Stephen Nolan, Stephen Ryan. Mentors: Ray Lucey, Michael Regan, Paul McConn, Peter Higgins.

### **Under 13 Football**

Training commenced in August and continued to the start of the County competition. We competed in all games and were victorious against Mayo Gaels and Ardmoy.

U-13 panel: Cian Henry, Cyril Collins, Damien Callaghan, Damien Egan, David Cleary, Jack Hughes, James Lyons, Jason Coyne, Jason McGoldrick, Jim Reidy, Mark Phillips, Michael O'Rourke, Morgan Lyons, Robert Morley, Rory Nestor, Ryan Kilbane, Shane Healy, Stephen Nolan, Kevin Kilbride, Jamil Kezze.

### **Joe Webb Cup**

Four teams were drawn for this "round robin" competition and aggregate scores were taken into account with Michael O'Rourke's team playing Jim Reidy's team in the final. Michael O'Rourke team won by two points in a hard fought game.

Tyrone Team: Michael O'Rourke (Capt.), Robert Morley, Jason Coyne, Stephen Nolan, Robert McCormack, Jason Fahy, Damien Egan, Andrew Henry, Sean McDermott.

Wexford Team: Jim Reidy (Capt.), Damien Callaghan, James Lyons, Mohammad Ahmad, Rory Nestor, James Cribbin, Matthew Grogan, Jamie Skeffington, Fraz Ahmad.

Mayo Team: Jack Hughes (Capt.), Morgan Lyons, Jason McGoldrick, Stephen Ryan, Ryan Kilbane, Cyril Collins, David Webb, Philip Fitzmaurice, Joseph Kelly.

Kerry Team: Shane Healy (Capt.), Kevin Kilbride, David Cleary, Mark Phillips, Cian Henry, Sean Carrick, Shane Cribbin, Jamil Kezze, Gbolahan Salami.

Thanks to the Webb Family who have a keen interest in this competition, and who were present for the games when the Joe Webb Cup was presented by Eavan Caulfield in the Clubhouse to Michael O'Rourke. Players, family and friends enjoyed refreshments in our Club house.

### **VHI Cúl Camp**

Ballyhaunis GAA Cúl Camp commenced on the 14th July for five days with 63 children in attendance ranging in age between 6 and 13 years. Activity for the week included mini- games, blitzes, fun games and skills training in Football, Hurling and Rounders.



Gold Medal Winners in Football: Jarlath Carney, Conor Nolan, Jason Coyne, Aisling Tarpey.

Silver Medal Winners in Football: Jason McGoldrick, Stephen Nolan, Robert Morley, Kevin Kilbride, Damien Callaghan, Brian O'Neill and Cathal Carney.

Gold Medal Winners in Hurling: Aisling Tarpey, Kevin Kilbride, Damien Callaghan, Jason Coyne, Shannon Kedian.

Silver Medal Winners in Hurling: Conor Nolan, Stephen Ryan, Shane Healy, Brian O'Neill, Emer Kiely, Jarlath Carney.

Football Star of the Future: Conor Nolan

Football Star of the Future: Aisling Tarpey

Hurling Star of the Future: Jason Coyne

Race Winners: Jarlath Carney, Aisling Tarpey, Patrick Kedian, David Cunnane, Conal Caulfield.

Coaches in attendance included Camp Ambassador Conor Mortimer, Liam Feeley, Donal Feeley, Niall Walsh, Colm Boyle, Lisa Cafferkey and Adrian Hession.

I wish to thank Andy Moran, who helped to promote our Camp and to Billy McNicholas and Eugene Lavin for their continued help and support. Camp co-ordinator: Mary Prenty.

### **Community School**

Ballyhaunis Community School First Year team claimed the 2008 Tarmey Cup with a good win over St. Louis, Kiltimagh. This team put the disappointment of a narrow defeat behind them in the Connacht semi-final and can feel proud that they have silverware to show following a long season. The game was skilful and competitive but the Ballyhaunis team managed their victory in style. Adrian Brennan presented the Cup to Patrick Kiely, Capt.

Team Panel: Patrick Kiely, Capt., Jason Fahey, Jarlath Carney, Eanna McNamara, Conor Nolan, James Cribbin, Rory Mannion, Daniel Cunnane, Liam Conboy, Connor Hussey, Ryan Peake, Darren Tarpey, Darren Duffy, Thomas McGuire, Luke McDermott, Michael Flynn, Declan Muldoon, John Lyons, Liam Coll, Paul Finnegan, Adrian Phillips, David Bance, Lewis Seddon.

### **Under 14 Football**

The U-14 panel commenced training in March and in preparation for the league played challenge games against Michael Glavey's and Davitts. The first game in the league was at home against Kilmaine which was crucial in getting off to a winning start. Ballyhaunis were on top for the majority of the game but could not turn the amount of possession into scores. In the end a late goal for Kilmaine sealed victory for the away team.

We subsequently had defeats away to Belmullet and at home to a very strong Kiltane side. In our next match we lost to Ballinrobe away. For the remaining league games we struggled to get teams out and were beaten by Moy Davitts and Islandeady. Overall the year was very disappointing. The position in League 3 was perhaps asking too much of this team. However there is no doubt there is plenty of talent amongst the players and U-15 next year will provide the platform for the players to show this to be the case.

U-14 Panel: Andrew Whelan Manning, Andrew Henry, Adrian Phillips, Conor Nolan, Cyril Collins, Damien Callaghan, Darren Nolan, David Cleary, Eanna McNamara, Edward Cleary, Hannan Iqbal, Jack Hughes, James Cribbin, Jamie Skeffington, Jamil Kezze, Jarlath Carney, Jason Fahey, Jason McGoldrick, John Flynn, John McCormack, Kevin Kilbride, Mark Phillips, Michael O'Rourke, Morgan Lyons, Patrick Kiely, Robert Morley, Shane

Healy, Stephen Nolan, Stephen Ryan, Aisling Tarpey, Lisa O Connell. Team Management Peadar Walsh.



### **Ballyhaunis U-15 team 2008**

Back, L-R: William Nestor, Kieran Mc Dermott, Conor Nolan, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Hannan Iqbal, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Martin Mc Donagh, Paul Webb.  
Front: Stephen Nolan, Adrian Phillips, Shane Murphy, James Cribbin, Patrick Kiley, Jarleth Carney, Mike Dillon.

### **U-15 Football**

At the time of writing this league is still ongoing. We have been narrowly defeated by Ballinrobe, a draw with Mayo Gaels and a great win over Balla.

U-15 Panel: Conor Nolan, Daragh Richardson, Adrian Phillips, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Hannan Iqbal, James Cribbin, Jamil Kezze, Jarlath Carney, Jason Fahy, John Flynn, Kieran McDermott, Morgan Lyons, Patick Kiely, Martin McDonagh, Sean Griffin, Shane Murphy, Jason Coyne and Shane Healy. Team Management: William Nestor, Mike Dillon and Paul Webb.



### **Under-16 team with the Nestor Cup**

Back l/R: Jarleth Carney, Gearoid Keane, Mike Dillon (Selector) Hannan Iqbal, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiley,  
Second Row: Cathal Fahey, Gareth Carrick, Kevin Byrne, Sean Griffin.  
Third Row: John Flynn, Jamil Kezze, Isaac Carroll.  
Front Row: Christy Mc Donagh, Jason Fahey, Gerard Grogan, Eoghan Collins, Gerard Grogan, James Cribbin, Damien Kedian, Ryan Worden, Kieran Mc Dermott, Connor Freeley  
William Nestor. (manager)

### **U-16 Football**

Our U-16 team had a good run in Division 2 this year, reaching the semi-final of the competition and were narrowly beaten by

Knockmore in conditions that didn't allow for free-flowing football. Triumphs over Ardnaree, The Neale and Knockmore earned us a playoff match with Shrulc-Glencorrib to earn a semi-final spot. Having lost to Shrulc in the opening round of the league, our boys were up to the task and secured fourth place and a date with Knockmore in the semis. The semi-final was played in Knockmore and the result may have more favourable had underfoot conditions been better. We were defeated by a good Aghamore side, in the East-Mayo semi-final played in Kiltimagh, which went on to win the East-Mayo Final. The loss of the influential Damien Kedian through injury for the best part of the year was a blow to our hopes of success; however the entire panel put in a great effort throughout the year and will certainly be gunning for glory next year. Congratulations to Isaac Carroll, Ryan Worden and Kevin Byrne for their involvement in this year's Mayo Under-16 panels representing their club honourably.

U-16 panel: Jason Fahey, Gerard Grogan, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, Conor Freeley, Ryan Worden, Sean Griffin, Isaac Carroll, Cathal Fahey, Kieran McDermott, Jarlath Carney, Gearoid Keane, Damien Kedian, Eoghan Collins, John Flynn, Jamil Kezze, Kevin Byrne, Hannan Iqbal, Christy McDonagh, Martin McDonagh, James Cribbin, Gareth Carrick. Team Management: William Nestor, Mike Dillon, Paul Webb and Cathal Carroll.

#### **Under 14 Hurling**

We commenced training in March with a panel of twenty players and attendances were good. We took part in the Suck Valley League against Four Roads, Athleague/Tremane, Ahascragh/Fohenagh and Ballinasloe, and competed in all our games but failed to make the final stages. In the U-14 championship we were grouped with Castlebar, Tooreen and Ballina, but in the end did not make the concluding stages of the competition.

U-14 Panel: Hannan Iqbal (Capt.), Adrian Phillips, Aisling Tarpey, Claire Moran, Conor Nolan, Cyril Collins, Damien Callaghan, Darren Nolan, Haseeb Arshad, James Cribbin, James Lyons, Jason Coyne, Jason Fahy, Jarlath Carney, John Flynn, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Lyons, Kevin Kilbride, Lisa O'Connell, Mark Phillips, Mohammed Ahmad, Morgan Lyons, Patrick Kiely, Philip Fitzmaurice, Ryan Kilbane, Shane Healy, Sheraz Ul Hassen Stephen Nolan, Stephen Ryan, Waqas Rehman, Azhar Tayyab. Team Management: Jason Powers, Ray Lucey.

#### **Under 16 Hurling**

The U-16 team commenced training in April under the direction of Jason Powers and Ray Lucey. We took part in the Suck Valley League and competed in all our games but failed to make the final stages. The Mayo championship took place in July with a game against Castlebar which was lost by a few points. Our next game was against Tooreen and again after a very good contested affair we went down by a few points. Sean Griffin was presented with a Cork jersey as U-16 player of the year and David Fitzmaurice got the most improved player of the year.

U-16 Panel: Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, John Cribbin, Cathal Fahy, David Fitzmaurice, Jason Fahy, John Flynn, Sean Griffin (Capt.), Shane Healy, Hannan Iqbal, Haseeb Arshad, Gearoid Keane, Damian Kedian, Jamil Kezze, Kevin Kilbride, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, David Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Andrew McCormack, Kieran McDermott, Shane Murphy, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Adrian Phillips, Sheraz Ul Hassan.

#### **Under 18 Hurling**

The season started with the Suck Valley League. We played well with good results winning two of our games; however we did not get to the final stages. In the first round of the County A championship we played Castlebar and were beaten. We then competed in the B final

and beat Ballina.

U-18 Panel: Ayaz Ul Hassan, Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron, David Fitzmaurice, David Lyons, Faraz Ul Hassan, Gearoid Keane, Joseph Flynn, Kamran Afzal, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Morley, Kieran Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Liam McDermott, Paul Carney,



*Adrian Brennan receiving the Under-21 Shield from Johnny Hopkins, Chairman of the County Hurling sub-committee.*

Paul Freeley, Sean Griffin, Sean Ronayne, Shane Murphy, Shane Nolan, Tadhg Morley, Zaheer Javid Iqbal, Zia Shafique.

#### **Under 21 Hurling**

This was Ballyhaunis' first year to field an U-21 team and it proved to be a great success. We played our first game v Westport and won. In the semi-final we played Tooreen and only a couple of missed chances and with good defending by Tooreen left us two points short at the end of the game. We competed in the B final against Ballina and it ended in a draw. However we made no mistakes and ran out winners in the final.

U-21 panel: Adrian Brennan (Capt.), Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Stephen Hoban, Luke Cribbin, Brian Waldron, Shane Nolan, Liam McDermott, Robert Frayne, Brian Hunt, Arslann Afzal, Kamran Afzal, Paul Freeley, Ayaz Ul Hassan, Joseph Flynn, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Morley, Kieran Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Paul Carney, Shane Nolan, Tadhg Morley, Zaheer Javid Iqbal, Zia Shafique, Brian Gallagher, Pat Kelly. Team Management: J. P. Coen, Jason Powers Frank Browne.

#### **Minor Football**

The panel commenced training in March and as I write this we still have not finished our league due to its fragmented nature and Mayo being involved in the minor All Ireland Final.

This is the first Ballyhaunis minor team to play in the A championships for some time and even though we struggled at times during the league, due to ongoing injuries, and lack of numbers to adequately replace them the lads acquitted themselves admirably. In April, a home game, we lost to Ballaghaderreen, conceding two late goals against the run of play. Our next game v Ardnaree resulted in Ardnaree winning by four points. Louisborough granted us a walkover and then we played Crossmolina away in a thrilling game where Crossmolina snatched a draw with the last kick of the game from a 45. Our next game against Davitts was called off due to the opening of our new Club house and unfortunately when we re-arranged it recently our pitch had been sanded so we had to concede the game. We played Kiltimagh away and lost by four points and have yet to play Swinford in the League. In the "A" championship we played Swinford and after a hard fought game we lost by 2 points.



**Senior Football Team**

*Back, L-R: Alan Regan, David Hannan, Padraic Carney, Declan Doyle, Austin Lyons, Kevin Gallagher, Ciaran Griffin, Sean Hunt, Vincent Healy, Seamus O'Dwyer, Paul Jordan, John Gallagher, John Joe Hoban. Front Row: Ian Prenty, Joe Freeley, Brendan Rudden, Paul Finn, Christy McCrudden, Brian Mulrennan, Niall Richardson, Paul Prenty, Conor Mulrennan, Niall Prenty, John Prenty.*

Minor Panel: Ruairi Finan, Kamron Afzal, Brian Hunt, Paul Carney, Sean Griffin, Kevin Nestor, Tadhg Morley, John Gallagher, Isaac Carroll, Liam McDermott, Kevin Byrne, Kevin Moran, Craig Hughes, Cathal Fahey, Joe Flynn, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Niall Assilia, Johnny Maughan, Ryan Worden, Damien Keadin, David McNamara, Gearoid Keane, Kevin Morley and Brian Waldron. Team Management: Michael Gallagher, Martin Finan, Padraig Regan, and Cathal Carroll.

**Under 21 Football**

Injuries and players travel hampered our chances at this grade in 2008. However we still competed strongly and lost our two games, to Moy Davitts and St. Gerard's, by the narrowest of margins. The future looks bright for this panel with all but two of the players being young enough for at least another year.

U-21 Panel: Austin Lyons, Ruairi Finan, Niall Prenty, Kevin Gallagher, John Gallagher, Kevin Waldron, Liam McDermott, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Enda Griffin, Brian Hunt, Tadhg Morley, Arslan Afzal, Adrian Brennan, Brian Gallagher, Craig Hughes, John C. Halpin, David McNamara, Stephen Hoban, John Jordan, Fergal Lyons, Brian Waldron and Kevin Nestor. Team Management: John Higgins; John Prenty.

**Parish League**

The Parish Football League got off to a flying start with over 100 players taking part in the first weekend of games. Three competitive games were played simultaneously on different pitches for six weeks in January. It was a very enjoyable competition for team manager, players, referees and supporters alike to be involved. Players past and present participated and the competition was won by Mark Patterson's team, which defeated Christy McCrudden's team in the final. Sean Hunt was selected as Player of the Tournament. The league has recommenced again and it is planned to run it annually before the lead up to Christmas from now on.

Thank you to Brian Murray, Connacht Scaffolding Services, Ballyhaunis for their very generous sponsorship to this league.

Team A: Brian Kilcourse, Capt., F. Kelly, V. Healy, P. Keane, B. Mulrennan, J. Jordan, A. Afzal, B. Hunt, T. Buckley, B. Murray, J.C. Halpin, P. Biesty, A.P. Kelly, R. Hughes, A. Javid, A. Madden, R. Finan.

Team B: Brendan Rudden, Capt., J. Morley, C. Mulrennan, K. Gallagher, L. Lyons, P. Nolan, P. Cribbin, L. Mc Dermott, H. Mc

Kermit, S. Caulfield, R. Caulfield, R. Healy, L. Finan, R. Sloyan, K. Higgins, I. Prenty.

Team C: Paul Finn, Capt., T. Morley, P. Phillips. S. O'Dwyer, A. Regan, N. Richardson, D. Healy, T. Murphy, J. Powers, J. Boyle, K. Lyons, M. Dillon, S. Carney, A. Brennan, E. Monaghan, P. Walsh.

Team D: William Nestor, Capt., D. Doyle, J. Doyle, E. Griffin, J. Freeley, C. Griffin, S. Jenkins, K. Nestor, F. Walsh, T. Waldron, M. Kilcourse, D. Tarpey, D. Lyons, J. Vahey, P. Webb.

Team E: Mark Patterson, Winning Capt., P. J. Fleming, P. Prenty, A. Fitzmaurice, R. Grogan, S. Hunt, J. Gallagher, S. Hoban, K. Henry, A. Egan, E. Keane, C. Hughes, D. McNamara, F. Fitzmaurice.

Team F: Christy McCrudden, D. Hannan, N. Prenty, A. Lyons, H. Carney, P. Jordan, P. Carney, T. Morley, J. Cribbin, D. Moran, P. Gildea, M. Keane, A. Grady, F. Lyons, P. Freeley.

**Senior Football**

The Ballyhaunis Intermediate team exited at the same championship stage as 2007 to our near neighbours and arch rivals, Aghamore. Having lost to newly promoted Achill in the opening round, the lads replied with a courageous win against a resolute Mayo Gaels who



**TJ Tyrrell Cup**

*Paul Lynch receiving the T. J. Tyrrell Cup from Johnny Hopkins, Chairman of the County Hurling Board.*



**Senior Hurling Team**

*Back L-R: Tadhg Buckley, Niall Murphy, Liam Lyons, Jason Powers, Liam McDermott, Fergal Lyons, Paul McConn, Austin Lyons, Miceal Walsh, Hugh McKermitt, Stephen Hoban, Tadhg Morley, Joe Flynn.*

*Front: Left to Right: Peter Heally, Pierce Higgins, Kevin Morley, Derek Walsh, Paul Lynch, Keith Higgins, Christy McCrudden, Adrian Brennan, Fergal Walsh, Derek McConn, Brian Hunt Supporters: Shane Heally and Darah Heally*

were no doubt anxious to reverse their 2007 defeat by Ballyhaunis.

Against the odds the lads pulled off an amazing eight point victory over a highly fancied Westport to emerge from the tightest of groups to the knock out stages by a scoring difference of just one point, with a performance on the day to make all the club supporters proud of. However, the quarter finals clearly indicated that Aghamore were destined for senior football and our boys had a considerable challenge in front of them in 2009, leaving us with the disappointment of not progressing on the previous year's championship stage.

League restructuring placed our team in division four with each of the divisions having reduced numbers. After a good start, a draw against Parke and a one point defeat to Ballina placed us in danger of playing the same grade for 2009 given the reduced room for error in a smaller grouping. A further defeat to Crossmolina confirmed this.

Panel: Vinny Healy, Padraic Carney, Conor Mulrennan, Declan Doyle, P.J. Fleming, Brendan Rudden, Rob Grogan, Joe Freeley, Keith Higgins, Fergal Kelly, John Prenty, Jason Morley, Ian Prenty, Derek Walsh, Paul Prenty, David Hannan, Sean Hunt, Niall Prenty, Seamus O'Dwyer, Austin Lyons, Hughie Carney, Brian Mulrennan, Kevin Gallagher, Paul Finn, Liam Lyons, Alan Regan, Ciaran Griffin, Christy McCrudden, Paul Jordan, John Gallagher, Patrick Keane, Kevin Waldron, Liam Mc Dermott, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Stephen Shanaghy, James Mulrennan, Enda Griffin, Brian Hunt and David Nestor. Team Management: Seamus Egan, John Prenty, John Joe Hoban.

Ballyhaunis Senior Team regained the Keane Kitchen sponsored "Good Fellowship Cup" by defeating Eastern Gaels in the Final on St. Stephen's Day. Thanks to Keane Kitchens for their generous sponsorship of this competition each year. Also over the Christmas period a very enjoyable game between the 1987 minor team and the present day senior team took place.

Ratoath 7-a-side Football Competition: We competed in this inaugural competition and our young team acquitted themselves very well. We lost two games and one the last one. Players that travelled were Paul Prenty, Brendan Rudden, John Prenty, Ciaran Griffin, Ian Prenty, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Brian Hunt, David Mc Namara, and Niall Prenty. Team Manager: John Prenty.

Ballyhaunis Junior and Senior Hurling Teams Ballyhaunis hurling started with a new management team who promised to bring the T. J. Tyrrell Cup back to Ballyhaunis. Training started in February with great commitment from a senior panel of thirty players. This proved to be a success as the red and black junior team went unbeaten through the group stage with solid performances from Brian Waldron in goals, Adrian Brennan, Liam McDermott and Brian Hunt. We got to the junior final but were beaten in a hard fought game against Tooreen by two points and so we moved onto



*Keith Higgins receiving Man of the Match Award, County Semi-final, Ballyhaunis v. Westport, from Noelle Horan, County P.R.O*

the senior where again we topped the group with a lot to spare.

The semi-final with Westport which was played in Castlebar proved successful on the day and we ended up in the Mayo County Final on 26th October 2008 against our local rivals Tooreen. The game was played in a sporting manner and the dedicated supporters who turned up on the day witnessed a game which was won by Ballyhaunis on a score line of 0-15 to 2-7 and Paul Lynch accepted the T. J Tyrrell Cup from Mayo Hurling Chairman, John Hopkins. Ballyhaunis competed in the Connacht Intermediate Hurling Championship v Four Roads in Ballyforan the next day and the even and close fought game ended in a draw. In extra time Four Roads



*Ballyhaunis Panel for Kilmacud Crokes Seven-A-Side  
 Back, L-R: Ray Lucey, Pete Higgins, Niall Murphy, Padraic Carney, Tadhg Buckley (Capt.), Paul Lynch, J. P. Coen (Manager). Front, L-R: Pierce Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Micheál Walsh, Hughie McKermitt, Derek McConn, Liam McDermott.*

proved the stronger team on a score line of 2-13 to 2-11. The Ballyhaunis players can be proud of their achievements and credit to all concerned.

Senior Team Panel: Niall Murphy, Michael Regan, Tadhg Morley, Fergal Lyons, Liam Lyons, Tadhg Buckley, Peter Healy, Hugh McKermitt, Micheál Walsh, Liam McDermott, Joe Flynn, Padraic Carney, Stephen Hoban, Pierce Higgins, Brian Waldron, Jason Powers, Brian Hunt, Kevin Morley (Mascot), Adrian Brennan, Derek Walsh, Fergal Walsh, Paul Lynch, Christy McCrudden, Derek McConn, Keith Higgins, Hugh Carney, Paul McConn, Austin Lyons, Brian Gallagher, Padraic Carney. Team Management: Martin McDermott, Pete Higgins, John Joe Hoban and J. P. Coen.

Kilmacud Crokes 7-a-side Annual Competition: Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling team took part in the 7-a-side Annual Hurling Competition but failed to make the concluding stages of the competition. Panel: Niall Murphy, Padraic Carney, Tadhg Buckley, Paul Lynch, Pierce Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Micheál Walsh, Hugh McKermitt, Derek McConn and Liam McDermott. Mentors: Ray Lucey, Peter Higgins, J. P. Coen (Manager)

**Club Players on County Panels:**

Senior Football: Keith Higgins.  
 East Mayo County Cup: Brian Hunt, John Gallagher, Kevin Nestor, Liam Mc Dermott, Brian Waldron, David McNamara, Liam McDermott and Tadhg Morley.  
 U-16 Football: Ryan Worden, Isaac Carroll, Kevin Byrne.

Senior Hurling: Micheál Walsh, Derek Walsh, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Pierce Higgins, Keith Higgins, Niall Murphy.  
 U-21 Hurling: Tadhg Morley, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons.  
 U-18 Hurling: Brian Hunt, Tadhg Morley, Liam McDermott.  
 U-16 Hurling: Gearoid Keane, Sean Griffin, John Flynn, Kieran Kiely.  
 U-14 Hurling: Patrick Kiely, Jarlath Carney, Hannan Iqbal.

The club fully participated in the town submission for the National "Pride of Place" award. The judges visited our new development and were very impressed with all the voluntary efforts that takes place within the Ballyhaunis GAA Club. Thanks to William Nestor, Johnny Biesty, Hugh Rudden and John Halpin for their contribution

on this submission. Thanks to Hugh Rudden for all the hours he put in to have our grounds in pristine order for our official opening and throughout the year. Thanks to Brendan Rudden, our engineer in charge, for his expertise and patience in one of the biggest project undertaken by our club. To Brian Murray and his team who worked non-stop for weeks on end to get our fencing completed on time, and to Liam Rochford who co-ordinated all the hoardings which are on display in our grounds. To Tommy Glynn, our gate collector and flag man, well done. Thanks to all who helped with catering and refreshments during the year and for our official opening, especially Anna Shanaghy, Maire Caulfield, Marion Regan and Mary Prenty. Thanks to the few stewards who always turn up to help with the

games we hosted during the past twelve months. Thanks to Kieran Moran who worked diligently on the old building for the official opening. To Hugh Rudden and Gerry McGarry who ensured that our Bilingual signs were on view for the day. We wish to thank our young Lotto sellers, Jim Reidy, Cyril Collins, Mikey O'Rourke, Cormac Reidy and Kevin Kilbride for their co-operation and support of our Lotto committee during the year.

Congratulations to all our players who participated in our games, to the team managers, selectors, referees and parents who continue to be



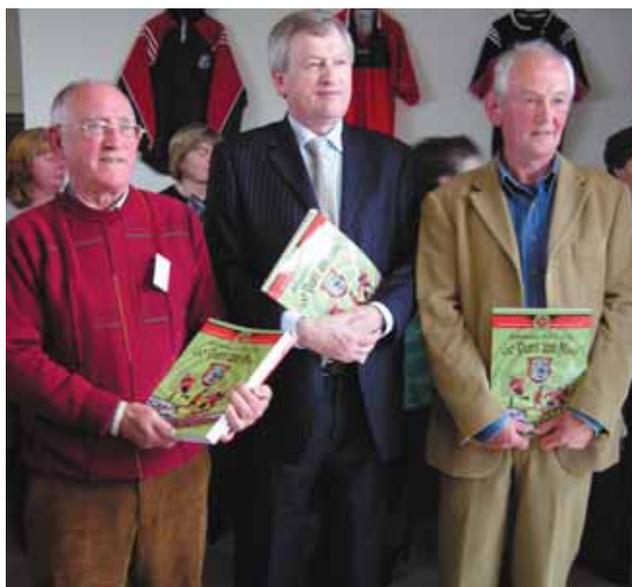
**Presentation of bags to Minor Football Team**  
 L-R: John Prenty, Tommy Waldron, Shay Walshe (representing Brian Hunt Machinery Ltd.) Seamus O'Dwyer

involved with our teams. Thanks to our sponsors for their financial and moral support throughout the year. We wish to thank all of our hardworking officers, committee members, FÁS workers, for their time and generosity. This has been a very busy year for us and I wish to congratulate everyone on our achievements and hope that next year we will be able to sustain the goodwill that we have received and that everyone will enjoy the results of all the hard work that has gone into to making our grounds the best there is in Connacht and beyond. Thanks to Kelly Furniture Manufacturers, Drimbane.

*Mary Prenty, Club Secretary*



*Making silage in Carrowkeel in the early 1970s  
L-R: Tommy Reilly, Dan Tarpey, Mike Biesty, Sean Biesty, Jim Cunnane.*



*Ballyhaunis GAA Launch of Club History  
l/r Johnny Biesty, Paraic Duffy, Director General GAA,  
John Cleary.*



*Pictured at the All-Ireland Football Final, 2008. L-R: Mikey  
Sheehy, Tommy and Patrick Caulfield, Patricia and Tommy  
Grogan.*



*Patrick and Josephine Lyons (Brackloon North) with their family Patricia, Billy and Leo (in her arms), and Josephine's father Bartley Gorman (Gorthaganny)*



*Cathal O'Reilly (Devlis) with his grandmother Josephine Lyons, on her 90th birthday.*



*Standing, L-R: Patrick and Josephine Lyons (Brackloon North). Seated: Patrick's mother Bridget Lyons with grandchild Ann.*



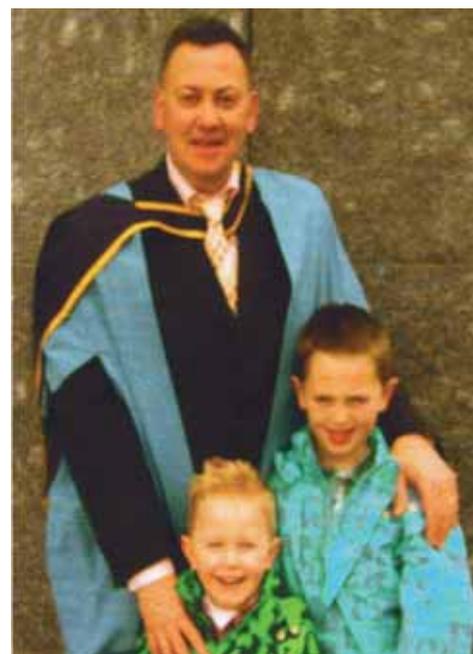
*Josephine Lyons' 90th Birthday Party, 2005, with her neighbours from Brackloon. Seated, L-R: Kitty Sloyan, Phil O'Gorman, Geraldine Sloyan, Josephine Lyons, Patricia Davitt. Standing: Anita McNamara and Sheila Broderick.*



*Barry O'Reilly with his grandmother Josephine Lyons, on her 90th birthday.*



*Lisa Lyons, Logboy, pictured (front left) with a group of seventeen people who travelled to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, May 2008, to take part in the 100 Kilometre Charity Walk in aid of Mayo Roscommon Hospice. Thanks to all who donated so generously to this worthy cause.*



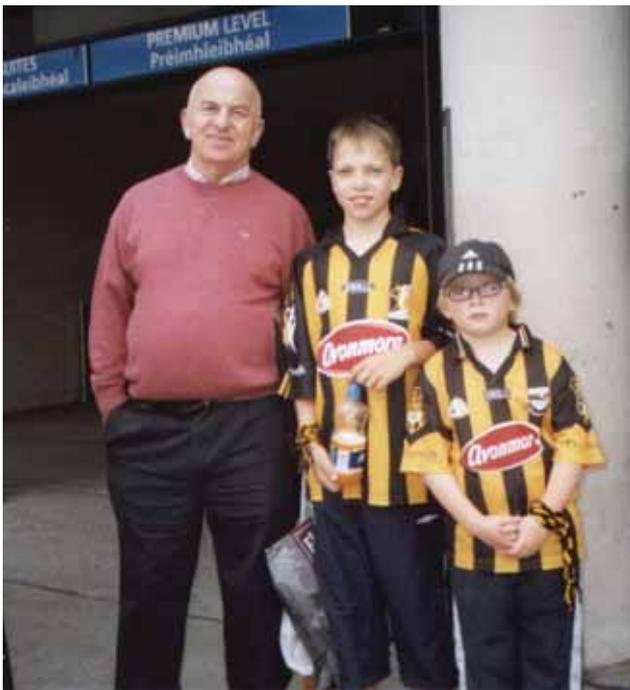
*Tommy Caulfield MA Ed., pictured at his graduation earlier this year with his sons Patrick and Sean.*



*January 2007. This photograph shows an icicle on the railing outside the Annagh Medical Centre, Doctor's Road, in January 2007. What appears to have happened is that water inside the railing froze, expanded and was pushed outwards through a small circular hole in the metal. As it did, the colder temperature outside froze it further it kept expanding, causing the icicle, which eventually curved nearly all the way around the railing! Cigarette lighter shown for scale.*



*Patrick Curley from Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis, who was a winner on the National Lottery 'Big Money Game Show', 23rd August 2008, pictured receiving his cheque. L-R: Peter Plunkett (Head of IT, National Lottery), Patrick Curley, Laura Woods (Big Money Game Show host), Nadia Balabanova (National Lottery Ticket selling agent).*



*above left: Eamon Healy with his sons Shane and Dara outside Croke Park at the All-Ireland Hurling Final, 2008.  
above right: Shane and Dara Healy with RTE Sports Broadcaster Marty Morrissey and Kilkenny hurling legend, Eddie Keher, outside Croke Park.*



*Two Generations of the Greene Girls, Carrowreagh  
Above: L-R: Freddie Tighe, Teresa Mueller, Sr. Helen, Mary Fitzgerald.  
Below: L-R: Sharon Redmond, Siobhán Ronan, Attracta Gallagher.*





**1962 Convent of Mercy Ballyhaunis**

*Back, L-R: Margaret Cribbin, Kitty Fitzmaurice, Unidentified, Bernadette Hussey, Kathleen Flatley, Mary T. Duffy. Front, L-R: Teresa Biesty, Denise Sweeney, Helena O'Connell, Pauline Melly, Molly Connolly, Mary Lynskey, Della Concannon (standing).*



**Leaving Cert Girls, June 1967.**

*Clockwise from left: Cinta Hannan, Rita Barry, Rita Lyons, Gertrude Maguire, Sr. Dolores, Mary Byrne, Evelyn Caulfield, Phyllis Regan, Denise Earley, Mary Regan.*



**1982-83 4th Class Girls - Convent of Mercy Ballyhaunis**

*Back Row: Maggie Frayne, Caroline Murphy, Julie Morley, Ruth Jordan, Breda Byrne, Assumpta Biesty, Katherina Sweeney, Miss Karena King (Teacher). Middle back: Sandra Keane, Roisin Shields, Martina Daly, Liesel Mooney, Olwyn Johnston, Lorraine Leonard, Hilary Madden, Joanne Madden. Middle front: Maureen McCrudden, Margaret Healy, Ann Greally, Sylvia Denny, Pauline Tarpey, Niamh McGarry, Mae Flatley, Joanne Coyne. Front Row: Samantha Webb, Bridget Webb, Louise Fitzmaurice, Yvonne Ryan, Dora Forde, Sinead Freyne.*



**Old school friends meet in the mid-eighties**

*L-R: Mary Conway, Mary Cunningham, Lisa Dillon-Leetch.*



**Irish Dancers Kathy and Mary Jo Fitzmaurice, Tully, Carrowbehy, 1998.**



*Above: J. P. Freyne in front of his garage, Clare St., in the 1950s.  
Below: Freyne's old garage, Clare St., now the site of the new Credit Union premises.*



*John Phillips' (Cloonernane, Knock) 80th Birthday. Back, L-R: Tom Corr, Mark Phillips, Clare Corr, Katie Phillips, John Phillips. Centre, L-R: Dearbhla Phillips, Sr. Claire, Gertie Phillips Corr, Adrian Phillips, Samuel Corr. Front, L-R: Cait Phillips, Diarmuid Phillips.*



*L-R: Noel Levins, Peg Greene, Aggie Molloy, Sean Tarpey, Maggie Levins, enjoying a break in Ballyhaunis.*



*Back, L-R: Maggie Gavin, Chris Brennan, Patsy Levins, Maisie Levins. Front, L-R Angela Brennan, Billy Brennan.*



*James Molloy, Barrack St., taken in the 1940s.*



*Taken in the 1950s.  
L-R: Maisie Levins, Kieran Benson, Noel Levins with his mother Mary Levins.*



*Peg Levins, Jimmy Melvin and Patsy Levins.  
Photograph taken 1940.*



*Gus Levins and Eddie McHugh, taken in Barrack St., August, 1949.*



***Eightieth Birthday Celebration***  
*The Brennan Family (Upper Main Street) gathered at Knock House Hotel last August to celebrate Bridie Brennan's 80th birthday. Bridie was joined on this happy occasion by her children, grandchildren, her brother and sisters and other family members. She is pictured here with her son and daughters. Back, L-R: Anne, Gerard, Ita; Centre, L-R: Maureen, Helen.*  
*Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



***Football match in action in Mulligan's Field, Hazelhill, mid-1960s. Looking on from Mulligan's Hill is Martin Morley, Island. Can you identify any of the players or onlookers?***



# Patrons

*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.  
Please Support Local Business and Industry*

*All numbers are 094 code unless otherwise stated.*

<b>Abbey View, Dry Cleaners and Launderette, Abbey St</b> .....	9631940
<b>AIB Bank, Bridge St</b> .....	Fax 9630726; Tel 9630464
<b>Alma's Ladies &amp; Gents Hair Salon, Clare St</b> .....	9630354
<b>Annagh Medical Centre, Doctor's Road</b> .....	9632232; 9632322
<b>Avondale B &amp; B and Holiday Homes, Clare St. (prop. Bridie Levins)</b> .....	9630345
<b>Ballyhaunis Chamber, Enterprise Centre</b> .....	9630311
<b>Ballyhaunis &amp; District Credit Union, Clare St</b> ..... <a href="http://www.ballyhauniscu.ie">www.ballyhauniscu.ie</a> .....	9630998
<b>Ballyhaunis Irish Dancewear (Dresses, Shoes, Accessories, Wigs)</b> .....	(086) 3891462; 9631073
<b>Ballyhaunis Plant &amp; Tool Hire, Abbeyquarter</b> .....	Mob (087) 2548355; Tel 9630979
<b>Ballyhaunis Tile, Flooring &amp; Bathroom Centre, Cave</b> .....	Mob (087) 2246172; Tel/Fax 9630503
<b>Ballyhaunis Transport Services (to &amp; from Dublin)</b> .....	Mob (087) 2549077; (086) 3898535; Tel 9630477
<b>Bank of Ireland, The Square</b> .....	9630073
<b>Brennan, Bridie, Upper Main Street</b> .....	
<b>Beauty For You, Bridge St. (prop. Anita Duffy)</b> .....	9631424
<b>Bridge Club, Ballyhaunis</b> .....	
<b>Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Hazelhill</b> .....	Fax 9631655; Tel 9631555
<b>Byrne, Mike, Local Correspondent, Connaught Telegraph</b> .....	9631381
<b>Byrne, Pat, Victualler and Grocer, Knox St.</b> .....	9630283
<b>Campbell's Auctioneers and Insurance Brokers, Knox St</b> .....	9630082
<b>Carty, Senator John, Carrowmore House, Knock</b> .....	9888149
<b>Carty, Cllr. Michael, (Publican &amp; Auctioneer), Knock</b> .....	9388103
<b>Caulfield, Enda (Tiling)</b> .....	(087) 8238788
<b>Caulfield's Grocery and Newsagents, Upper Main St</b> .....	9631400
<b>Clock Tavern, Knox St.</b> .....	9630344
<b>Colleran's Pharmacy, Bridge St.</b> .....	9630028
<b>Communicare (provides nurses &amp; carers in private home)</b> .....	086 8115761
<b>Community School, Knock Rd.</b> .....	9630238
<b>Connacht Council GAA</b> .....	9630335
<b>Connacht Gold Trading, Store, Cave</b> .....	9630166
<b>Connacht Scaffolding Ltd., Knock Rd.</b> .....	Fax 9630336; Tel 9630198
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<b>Cosy Cup, Main St. (Paula Jordan)</b> .....	(086) 1288025
<b>Crean, O Cleirigh, O'Dwyer, Solicitors, Bridge St</b> .....	9630011
<b>Cribbin, Cllr. John, (Clinic Parochial Hall Tuesdays 10.30am-1pm)</b> .....	Mob (087) 2920368;
<b>Cunniffe Construction Ltd., Tooreen</b> .....	Mob (087) 2612838; Tel 9649035
<b>Cunningham's Londis, Foodmarket, Abbey S</b> .....	9630730; 9630162
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<b>Curley's Chemists, Main St</b> .....	Fax 9631191; Tel 9630110
<b>Curley's Jewellers, Bridge St</b> .....	Fax 9631191; Tel 9630110
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<b>Delaney's Ltd., Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St. &amp; Hazelhill</b> .....	9630296
<b>Delaney's, Gareth, Select Bar and Lounge, Abbey St.</b> .....	9630024
<b>De-Luxe Cleaning, Carpets, Upholstery, etc., Vincent Higgins</b> .....	9630284
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<b>Dillon's Hardware, Unit 11, Enterprise Centre, Clare St.; Blind and Paint Centre</b> .....	Mob (087) 6698023; Tel 9630789
<b>Dillon's Travel Agency, Upper Main St. (Maureen Towey) .maureen@dillontravel.ie;</b> .....	Tel 9630021; 9630269
<b>Doherty's Betting Office, Main St.</b> .....	9630628; 9630738
<b>Dolan, Eugene, Long Island, New York</b> .....	
<b>Donnellan's - Joinery, Undertakers, Funeral Home, Clare St.</b> .....	9630045
<b>Donnellan's Service Station, Devlis (Heating Oil, Motor Diesel)</b> .....	9631157
<b>Eagney Insurance Services Ltd., Bridge St.</b> .....	Fax 9630795; Tel 9630793; 9630794
<b>Electrical and Pump Services Ltd.</b> .....	Fax 9630761; Tel 9630226
<b>Elegance Boutique, Main St.</b> .....	



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<b>Elwood School of Dancing</b> .....	
<b>Finn, Footwear Specialists (Ballyhaunis &amp; Kiltimagh)</b> .....	9630141; 9381970
<b>Finn, Martin &amp; Co., Auctioneers, Insurance &amp; Life Assurance, Clare St</b> .....	Mob (087) 2536343 9632754
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<b>Fitzgerald's Grocery &amp; Confectionary, Bridge St.</b> .....	
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<b>Freyne Family, Clare Road</b> .....	
<b>Gallagher, Michael, Knock Rd., Building Contractor</b> .....	9630605
<b>Gallagher's Builders' Providers, Furniture, Main St. &amp; Clare Rd</b> .....	9630020 & 632708 Tel/Fax 9630314
<b>Ganley Auctioneers, Ballyhaunis</b> .....	sean@ganleyauctioneers.com 9632633
<b>Garvey-Moran, C., School Supplies, Knox St.</b> .....	9630079
<b>Gem - Costcutters (Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery), Bridge St</b> .....	9630840
<b>Gill's Pub, Clare St. (props. John and Bernie Gill)</b> .....	9630039
<b>Glynn, Pat, Photographer, Doctor's Rd.</b> .....	9630026; Castlereagh – 9620094
<b>Goulding, Jim Conservatories Builder, Doctors Road</b> .....	9631272
<b>Greene, Tony &amp; Pauline, Box 127, Green Drive, Schola, PA 18458, U.S.A.</b> .....	001-5705597079
<b>Griffin, John, Orthodontist</b> .....	9630534
<b>Griffin, Mike, Taxi Service, Clare St./Devlis</b> .....	9630213
<b>Grogan, Austin, &amp; Sons, Concrete Products, Cave</b> .....	9630072
<b>Gud2G, Healthy Wholesome Food, Upper Main Street</b> .....	9632850
<b>Gurteen Kitchens Ltd., Gurteen</b> .....	Mob (086) 8244386; Fax 9630751; Tel 9630797
<b>Halpin, John &amp; Breege, Floral Occasions (Teleflorist)</b> .....	Mob (087) 6883383; Tel 9630012
<b>Hannan, Denis, Oak Bar, Bridge St</b> .....	9630099
<b>Harvest Fresh Fruit &amp; Veg., Main St. (Props. William &amp; Margaret Nestor)</b> .....	9630736
<b>Hazel Bar &amp; Restaurant, Contact Margaret/Tim, Main St</b> .....	9630885
<b>Hazelhill Family Practice, Hazelhill</b> .....	9632170; 9632171
<b>Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd., Europallets</b> .....	alan@hazelhilltimber.ie Fax 9630825; Tel 9630094/9630250
<b>Healy, Joe, Registered Building Contractor, Annagh</b> .....	(086) 6005581; Tel 9630481
<b>Helen's Laundrette, Barrack St</b> .....	9630841
<b>Heneghan's Carpets &amp; Furniture, Main St.</b> .....	Fax/Tel 9630770
<b>Herr, Fred, Grocer, Knox St.</b> .....	9631305
<b>Higgins Auctioneer &amp; Financial Services, Main St.</b> .....	www.johnhigginsauctioneers.com Fax 9630463 Tel 9631372/9630088
<b>Higgins, Pat, Adult Education Officer, Devlis</b> .....	9623159
<b>Homecare Medical Supplies Ltd, Tooraree</b> .....	info@homecaremedicalsupplies.ie Fax 9633930/Tel 9633800
<b>Iris' Florists, Interflora, Abbey St</b> .....	9630015
<b>J.B. Plumbing &amp; Central Heating, Devlis</b> .....	(086) 6035126
<b>J.G.'s Barber Shop, Barrack St.</b> .....	(087) 2450079
<b>Jennings, Bernard, B.D.S., Knox St</b> .....	9630315
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<b>Jordan's Windows &amp; Double Glazing, Clare St.</b> .....	9630641
<b>Kay's Beauty Salon, Knox St.</b> .....	9630065
<b>Keane Kitchens Ltd., Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd.</b> .....	9630038
<b>Keane, Brian, Heating &amp; Plumbing</b> .....	Mob (087) 6224604; Tel 9640351
<b>Keane, Joe, Knox St.</b> .....	9630751
<b>Kelly, Pdraic, Bar Furniture Manufacturer, Abbeyquarter</b> .....	9630089
<b>Kelly, Rosaleen, RPN, MIRI, SK, CPP, Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties</b> .....	Fax 9632751Tel 9630022
<b>Kenny, Joe, Knox St. and Tullamore</b> .....	
<b>Kirrane Bros., Seamless Gutters, Fascia, Soffitt; Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis</b> .....	Mob (086) 3858922; Tel 9646079
<b>Lilly, John Joe, Plant Hire, Johnstown</b> .....	9630352
<b>Local Business Promotions, River Park Centre</b> .....	www.lbp.ie Fax 9632617; Tel 9632616
<b>Loughran &amp; Burke, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., Upper Main St.</b> .....	9630017
<b>Lyons, Michael G., Agricultural Contractor, Cloonfaughna, Knock</b> .....	9880249
<b>Lyons, Michael, Coach &amp; Minibus Hire, Lecarrow</b> .....	9630347
<b>Lyons, Tommy, Publican, Main St.</b> .....	
<b>M.W.R. fm (96.1 Mhz), Clare St.</b> .....	9630169; Ads 9630553
<b>MacSiurtain's, Publicans, Main St. (Live Music)(prop. Stephen &amp; Nuala Nolan)</b> .....	9630854

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<b>Madden, Gerald</b> , Snooker Tables, Gurteen	9630228
<b>McCran Tyres</b> , Clare Road, Tyres, batteries, 24hr breakdown service	Mob (086) 8614341; Tel 9630573
<b>McGarry Development Consultants</b> , Engineers, Architects, Clare St.	9630170
<b>McGarry's Ladies Wear</b> , Main St.	9630084
<b>McHale, Fr. Benny C.C.</b> , Hazelhill Downs	9630095
<b>McNamara Car Dismantlers</b> , Dublin Rd.	9630439
<b>McNamara, Eamon</b> , Car/Tractor Repairs (24-Hour Service)	Mob (086) 6061739; Tel 9630386
<b>Mercy Sisters</b> , Hazelhill.	9630108
<b>Moran Coaches &amp; Minibus Hire</b> , Knock Rd.	Fax/Tel 9630346
<b>Moran, Donal K. &amp; Sons</b> , Building Contractor, Knox St.	9630079
<b>Moran, Donal</b> , T.V. Systems, Knox St.	9630569
<b>Moran, Tommy</b> , Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St	9630493
<b>Morley, Tony &amp; Sons</b> , Exterior and Interior Decorators, Knox St.	9630944
<b>Mulhern, Edward</b> , Taxi Service, Knock Rd.	Mob (087) 6961579; Tel 9630249
<b>Mulrennan, James &amp; Sons, Ltd.</b> , Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens)	9630038
<b>Murphy, Eddie, &amp; Sons</b> , Menswear Specialists, Main St	9630651
<b>Murphy &amp; Sons Autosales Ltd.</b> , Service Station & Shop, Dublin Rd.	(087) 2490634; Fax 9631440; Tel 9630307
<b>Nestor &amp; Co., Accountants</b> , Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.	Fax 9631936; Tel 9632000
<b>Nestor's Corner Bar</b> , The Square	9631011
<b>Nestor, William</b> , Local Correspondent, Western People	william.nestor@westernpeople.ie 085 1360131
<b>Newsround</b> (Prop. Mohammed Jamil Ahmad), Newsagents/Toys/Gifts, Main St.	9630897
<b>Nicholson's Bar</b> , Bridge St.	9630357
<b>Noone, Dr. Patrick &amp; Moira</b> , Ardpatrick	
<b>O'Connor, John, Ronoco Ltd.</b> , Doctor's Rd.	9630037
<b>O'Connor, Fr. John O.S.A.</b> , Duck Pool House, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	
<b>O'Mahony, John, T.D.</b> (Clinic Parochial Hall 3rd Friday of every month at 3pm)	9373560
<b>Occasions Royale</b> , Weddings, Corporate Events, River Park; contact Maggie	www.occasionsroyale.com; (086) 2624125
<b>P &amp; P Plastering Services and Building Contractors Ltd.</b>	9630144; 9630715
<b>Parochial Hall</b>	For bookings contact Mob (087) 7924439
<b>Patterson, Noel</b> , M.R.C.V.S., Main St.	9630113; 9630865
<b>Phillips Clothes Shop</b> , Dalton St., Claremorris.	9372020
<b>Phillips, Drapers</b> , Main St.	9630368
<b>Phillips, Shoes</b> , Main St.	9630368
<b>Phillips, Eamon</b> , High Class Victualler, Main St.	9630381
<b>Phillips, Paddy</b> , Publican, Main St.	9630118
<b>Red Square</b> , Fast Food/Restaurant (prop. Seamus Grogan)	9631360
<b>Rochford Motors</b> , Main Mitsubishi/Seat Dealers, Knock Rd	Fax 9630570; Tel 9630350; 9630163
<b>Ruane, P.</b> , Radio & T.V. Dealers/Repairs, Knox St.	9630129
<b>Ryan's Supervalu</b> , Newpark	9630359
<b>Scoil Iosa Primary School</b> , Abbeyquarter.	Fax/Tel 9630505; Tel 9630310
<b>Star Signs &amp; Graphics</b> , (prop. Johnny O'Shaughnessy)	(086) 2890325
<b>Stratford Photography</b>	(087) 2469355; Tel. 9630293
<b>Tasty Dish</b> , Restaurant, Knox St.	9632963
<b>Timoney, Martin</b> , Carrownedan, RECI, Electrical Contractor	Mob (087) 2398402
<b>Tynan Dillon &amp; Co</b> , Chartered Accountants, Clare St.	9630261
<b>Ulster Bank Ltd.</b> , Abbey St	9630049
<b>Val's Bistro &amp; Billabong Bar</b> , B & B, Main St. (prop. Liam Folliard)	Fax: 9631854; Tel. 9630068
<b>Valerie's Ladies &amp; Gents Hair Salon</b> , Barrack St.	9630681
<b>Waldron, Anthony</b> , Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh	Mob (087) 4141462; Tel 9631326
<b>Waldron, Austin</b> , Derrymore	
<b>Waldron's Electrical Appliances</b> , Knox St	Mob (087) 6217839; Tel 9631922
<b>Webb, M. J.</b> , Master Butcher, Main St.	9630003
<b>Weissenberger, Della &amp; Joe</b> , New York	
<b>Western Bathrooms</b> , Tooraree	Fax: 9630733; Tel 9630850; 9630860
<b>Winston, Gerard</b> (Sweeney Oil), Devlis	9630395
<b>Western Brand Group Ltd.</b> , Knock Rd	email wbrand@iol.ie Fax 9630834; 9630069

You can contact Annagh Magazine by email at the following address: [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net)



*Abbey Street in the 1940s*

## ***Some Guidelines for contributors of articles and photographs***

*If you wish to contribute an article or photograph for next year's magazine, you can contact Annagh by email at [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net), or visit our website [www.annagh.com](http://www.annagh.com).*

*The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2009 is Friday, 23rd Oct. 2009.*

### ***Articles***

*Articles should not exceed 4000 words.*

*Hand-written or typed submissions are acceptable.*

*Articles submitted by email or on CD should preferably be in Word format, though Wordperfect and Rich Text Format (RTF) are acceptable. We cannot accept material in Microsoft Publisher format.*

*It is the policy of the magazine not to include obituaries or memoriam notices.*

*Due to space constraints, not all photographs or articles can be guaranteed inclusion.*

*The list of baptisms, marriages and deceased comes directly from the Parish Priest.*

*The deceased list includes everyone whose funeral Mass takes place in the Parish Church.*

*The earlier in the year that material is submitted, the better.*

*All work done on Annagh Magazine is done on a voluntary basis. New members or any help you can give will be most welcome.*

### ***Photographs***

*All photographs should be fully named and dated, if possible, and the owner's name included on the back.*

*The contributor's name will be published only if this is requested.*

*Photographs sent digitally, by email or on CD, should be in jpeg format.*

*Photographs should not be imbedded in WORD documents: they can be sent separately as jpegs.*

*Photographs will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.*

*Photographs taken by cameras with less than 4 Mega pixels cannot be reproduced.*

