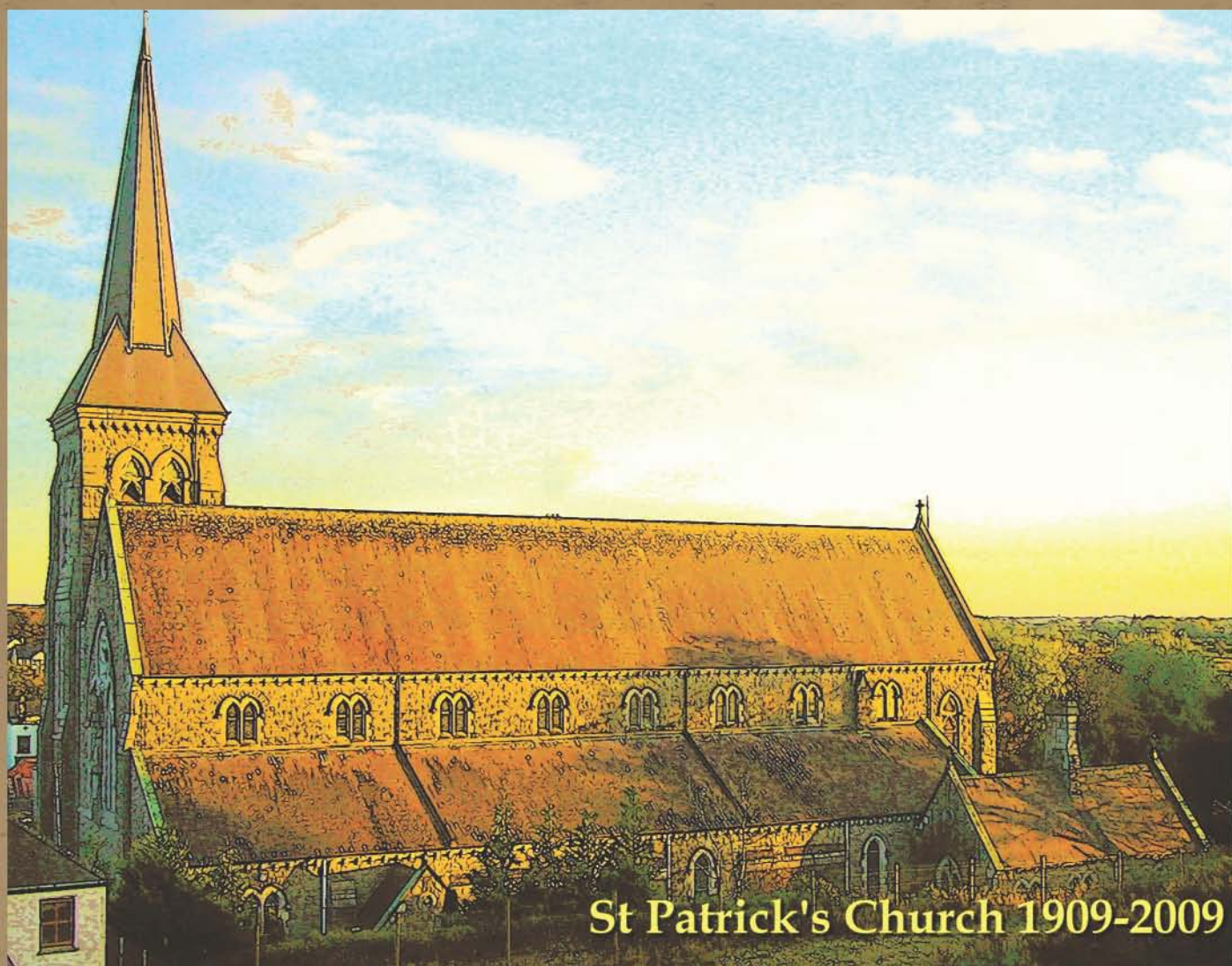


# Annagh 2009



St Patrick's Church 1909-2009

# Season's Greetings

The arrival of Annagh Magazine heralds the arrival of Christmas and once again may I wish all the people of the parish a very happy and holy Christmas and may Christ the new-born child of Bethlehem be your guiding light during the coming year.

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

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

This year, on October 11th we celebrated the centenary of the opening and dedication of St. Patrick's Parish Church. It was a joyous occasion, with a packed church for the Mass, which was attended by Archbishop Michael Neary and concelebrated by eighteen priests. The magnificent singing by four choirs was a joy to listen to and afterwards there was a most enjoyable get-together in the Parochial Hall.

On behalf of Father McHale and myself, I pray God's blessing on you and your families and wish you every blessing in 2010.



*Joseph Rooney*

## Editorial

Christmas Greetings 2009 to all the readers and friends of Annagh Magazine. May you all, at home and abroad, have a Peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Despite the storm clouds of unemployment and recession on the horizon, it was upwards and onwards in many ways during 2009. On October 11th we celebrated the centenary of St. Patrick's Parish Church. New gates and new railings in keeping with the Gothic architecture of the church were installed and these were made locally. The church was painted and new louvres for the windows in the spire were provided, and with flags and bunting and banners, it really looked wonderful. The Mass with a great number of priests who had worked in the parish, natives of the parish and the Augustinians, with four choirs, was a joyous occasion.

The new Rugby pitch was officially opened by the President of the IRFU. The grounds are first class and every amenity, stands, lighting, dressing rooms and showers are there. Great for the young and the not-so-young of the area!

MidWest Radio celebrated its 20th Anniversary - a long way from a pokey room with one phone line in the old Starland Ballroom, to the 21st Century building of glass and steel on Clare St. A great success story and congratulations to the founders and staff of MWR.

We wish to thank our patrons, those who contribute articles, photographs and club reports, and all our readers for their loyal support.

We hope that everyone, at home and abroad, will find something to refresh their memory, and may be show young people a new slant on life. Should you wish to submit an article or photograph for possible inclusion, our email address is [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net).

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

## Deadline

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2010 is Friday, 22nd October 2010. 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.



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## The 2009 Diary

### January

Former Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis, Canon Paddy Costello is remembered at a special Mass in St. Patrick's Church. Canon Paddy was the chief architect in bringing the first boys' secondary school to Ballyhaunis back in 1961, when he helped to launch St. Patrick's College. Canon Costello, who died in August 2006, was appointed Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis in 1977, following the tragic death of Canon J.G. McGarry. Chief celebrant at the memorial Mass, Canon Joe Cooney, was assisted by Fr. Kieran Waldron, Fr. Fintan Monaghan, (Archbishop's Secretary), Fr. Pat O'Brien and Canon James Kelly, Tooreen... Ballykilleen native, Davy McGuire retires from Delaney's hardware store in Bridge Street, where he worked since 1960... Dr. Marc McCafferty from Doctor's Road receives a Scholar-In-Training award from the American Association of Cancer Research, in recognition of a highly meritorious proffered paper, related to breast cancer research, at the 31st San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium in Texas. Dr. Marc is son of Peter and Helene McCafferty (nee Halpin), Doctor's Road... Well known optician over many decades in Ballyhaunis, Muriel Murphy of Coolloughra, dies, following a brief illness... At the January meeting of Ballyhaunis Chamber, the proposed introduction of Pay & Display parking system for Ballyhaunis is discussed: the plan has been approved in principle by Mayo County Council and is expected to be introduced before the end of the year... A committee is put together to have a number of Defibrillators placed at various centres around the town. The committee is comprised of Paula Grogan, Marie Cribbin, Edward Mulhern and Mike Griffin.

### February

Aghamore and Kilmovee are winners of the Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union Primary Schools' Table Quiz in the Parochial Hall. Question master is Mr. John Mooney... At their January Area Meeting, Mayo County Council representatives confirm that the Pay & Display parking system will be introduced in Ballyhaunis in the coming months. The Area Meeting also confirmed that the new parking by-laws to be introduced for the town will also see the end of parking being permitted along the narrow Bridge Street... Ballyhaunis GAA Club takes two awards at the Connacht Council Development Awards Banquet in the Traveller's Friend Theatre, Castlebar. The Ballyhaunis club win first prize in the Mayo County category and, also, beat off stiff challenge from the rest of the province to win the Connacht Club Award as well. Club chairman, Padraic Regan accepted the trophies from Connacht Council President, Lauri Duffy, at a packed Castlebar venue... Also on GAA matters,

Ballyhaunis native, Bernard Keane is appointed to the prestigious position of President of the Provincial Council of the GAA in Great Britain. Son of the late Nora and Michael A. Keane, Annagh, Bernard has been a driving force for the Gaelic Athletic Association, since emigrating to England back in 1964. A member of the Roger Casements GAA Club in Coventry, Bernard, with much support and help from his wife, Margaret, has contributed enormously to the development and success of the Coventry city club, and to the GAA as a whole, throughout Warwickshire over the past 45 years... Ballyhaunis native and Today FM sports presenter, Nathan Murphy announces his engagement to Dublin native primary school teacher, Debbie Mullock... Fr. Benny McHale begins a weekly series of talks in the parish church, exploring the Sunday liturgy for the season of Lent... Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Joe Mellett performs the official launch of a booklet celebrating Ballyhaunis' great win in the All-Ireland Pride of Place competition at a special victory function in the Friary. The evening, hosted by the Ballyhaunis Community Council, was a night of celebration, marking the victory in the prestigious competition last November. The attendance at the launch also includes Mayo County Manager, Des Mahon.

### March

Litter Action League gets underway. The very active Tidy Towns committee appeals to all community members to make a special effort to keep the streets of the town clean, as we approach the summer season... New Golf Club captains, Kevin Henry and Roisín Hill drive into a new season at the Coolnaha course... The Winter League competition, meanwhile, which had been running at the Golf Club since last December, is brought to a conclusion, in a very exciting climax. The winning team, The Sensations, is comprised of: Mariette Potgieter, Shane Freeman, Victor Tener, Martin Keane, Patsy Glynn, Carl Hampson, David Burke, Brian Phillips and Liam Lynskey... As the recession bites deeper and deeper into the country and the economy, St. Patrick's Night celebrations are reported to be somewhat muted, to say the very least this year... Three pupils from Scoil Íosa primary school are invited to attend the launch of the inter-cultural calendar at Castlebar. They were Niamh Murray, Laura Carney and Quasim Nazir... Three students from Ballyhaunis Community School are awarded All-Ireland Scholarship awards in the inaugural competition, sponsored by horse-racing legend, J.P. McManus. The scholarships, valued at ?6,750 per annum, will continue for the duration of the



undergraduate programmes chosen by the scholarship winners. The winners were Cliona Hensey, Maria McGuire and Donal Rochford. They were presented with their scholarship awards by Minister for Education, Batt O'Keefe... Fifty-six boys and girls from the local primary school receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Patrick's Church. Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary presides over the ceremony... Catriona Biesty from Pattenspark begins a Lenten Prayer programme for young adults in the Sacristy at St. Patrick's Church. Daughter of Austin and Joan Biesty, Pattenspark, Catriona is a former student of Our Lady's School of Evangelisation at Knock... Ballyhaunis mourns the death of Tommy Jordan from Knox Street. Tommy was a projectionist at the Star Cinema and was highly regarded by neighbours and friends alike... Midwest Radio's Padraic Walsh wins first prize at the National Advertising Awards ceremony in Dublin. Son of Drimaderra native, Tom, and Sarah Walsh, Padraic received the award for a feature which he penned on Galway Airport. The Castlereagh native, whose sister, Paula Donnellan, from Clare Street, is also a member of the broadcasting team, joined Midwest Radio in 1991... Ballyhaunis, like the rest of the country, may be in the grips of a recession, but the financial downturn has failed to dampen the spark of love in the village of Johnstown. In what many people reckon to be a record, a total of eight young people from the village are currently engaged to be married. Those eight love birds are: Fergus and Janette McGuire, son and daughter of Seamus and the late Mary McGuire; Annette Healy, daughter of James and Teresa Healy; Marita Byrne, daughter of Tim and Margaret Byrne; Laura Byrne, daughter of Joseph and Helen Byrne, Padraic Gildea, son of Patrick and Connie Gildea, James Ruane, son of Bridie and the late Seamus Ruane, Sinead Byrne, daughter of Pat and Síle Byrne - all from the village of Johnstown.

### April

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club celebrates the official opening of their new pitch and changing facilities on the Doctor's Road. The official opening is performed by President of the IRFU, Mr. John P. Lyons... Popular Ballyhaunis shopkeeper, Aisling Caulfield celebrates her 40th birthday... Scoil Íosa pupil, Niamh Murray wins first prize in the Scór County Final (Solo Singing), in The Neale... Frances Grogan joins the ranks of An Garda Síochána when she graduates at the Passing Out ceremony at Templemore Barracks, Co. Tipperary. Frances is daughter of Joe and Teresa Grogan, Knockbrack.

### May

The month begins on a very sad note when former Ballyhaunis Gaelic footballer, Tom 'Short' Cribbin, passes to his eternal reward. An All-Ireland Minor medal winner with Mayo in the 1966 championship, Tom was also a member of the Ballyhaunis Intermediate side which won the county title, back in 1967... Ladies choral group, Gracenotes wins first prize in the Church Music section at Cork's International Choral Festival. The group, under the direction of Laura Brogan, also claim second prize in prestigious National Open competition at the Cork venue... Senator John Carty launches the Never Too Late computer course at the Community House at Clare Court. Over ten people take part in the beginners course... Children from more than ten countries take part in International Day at Scoil Íosa NS. Countries represented in the International Day splash of colour included: Pakistan, England, Nigeria, Syria, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Ukraine, Iraq, Poland, and of course, Ireland. All representatives are pupils of the Ballyhaunis primary school... Ballyhaunis native, Fr. Kieran Waldron, gives a most comprehensive talk on the history of Ballyhaunis Parish Church, in the Parochial Hall, in preparation for the 100th anniversary of St. Patrick's Church, which takes place later in the year... Meanwhile, preparations of another sort begin, as arrangements are put in place for the introduction of Pay and Display parking system on the streets of the town.

### June

Ballyhaunis County Council representative, John Cribbin, is re-elected to the local authority with a massive vote in the local elections. Councillor Cribbin is appointed Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, the first Ballyhaunis native ever to hold the office. He holds the position for one year. Kevin Henry wins the President's Prize (Siobhan Herr) at the Golf Club. Playing off a handicap of seven, Kevin captured the top prize in one of the closest fought contests in recent years; his winning score of 100, edged out Mike Phillips (12) into second place, who finished with a round of 100.5. Scoil Íosa's Jim Lundon retires from the position of Principal of the local primary school, after 33 years at the helm. Fr. Benny McHale, CC., presides over the celebration of Mass at Scoil Íosa, to honour Jim for his 33 years of service.. Knox Street resident, Kit Keane dies following a brief illness. Kit, who lived all of her 82 years in Knox Street, was the quintessential Ballyhaunis person; all her life she was a dedicated promoter of all that is good about the town, from her work as caretaker of the Parochial Hall, to make-up artist with so many drama productions in the town. She will be sadly missed,

not only by her neighbours at Knox Street, but by her many friends throughout the town... Ballyhaunis golfer, Kung Fanning wins the Connacht Women's Junior Championship title, with a top class performance at Athlone Golf Club.

### *July*

Well known and popular Drimbane musician, Johnny McGarry, is joined by his family, friends and a host of musicians, when celebrates his 90th birthday, at a rousing function at the McWilliam Park Hotel in Claremorris... Nuala Fitzgerald wins the Lady Captain's (Roisín Hill) Prize at the local golf club... Knockbrack native, Tommy Leonard is the new owner of the Billabong Bar & Restaurant (formerly Val's) on Main Street. Tommy is son of Teresa and the late Frank Leonard, Knockbrack... Meanwhile, further down the Main Street, Began native, Michael Dee and his wife, Anne, takes over the ownership of Harvest Fresh Fruit & Veg., previously operated by the Nestor family... It's a month of anniversary celebrations in Ballyhaunis: the Pioneer Association celebrates 90 years of activity in the town, while the local branch of the Legion of Mary celebrate their 75th anniversary. Both organisations mark their anniversaries with the celebration of Mass in the parish church, followed by a reception afterwards... Paul Hickey from Greenwood sets the Coolnaha golf course on fire with a hole-in-one to lift the Curley Cup at the local club... Aisling Drive resident, Dominick Morley's recently established, My Star Charity presents a cheque for ?10,700 to the residents of Bohola Cheshire Home... Internationally renowned flautist, Matt Molloy teams up with an all-star line up for a concert at the Friary on July 31st. The Westport based musician is accompanied by well known guitarist, Arty McGlynn and fiddle player, John Carty for the two hour concert. The event is hosted by Mayo County Council as part of their Summer Music Series... Garda John Commins retires from the Ballyhaunis station, having served the community with distinction since 1991. A special presentation was made to Garda Commins in Paddy Phillips' Bar, to mark his departure from Ballyhaunis and his retirement from the force... Sarah Buckley embarks on a six week mission with the Third World charity SERVE, for voluntary service in drought torn, Parnaiba, in Brazil. She is daughter of Tadhg and Kay Buckley, Knock Road.

### *August*

A fundraising Barn Dance, held at Michael Burke's farm in Coogue, attracts up to 1,000 revellers on the Bank Holiday Weekend. The event raised a significant sum of money for the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation...

Garda David Conlon scoops the gold medal at the World Police and Fireman's Boxing Championships, held in Vancouver, Canada. Son of Michael and Geraldine Conlon, Abbey Street, this is David's second time winning the gold medal at the World Games, having previously captured the award in Canada last year... Ballyhaunis Under-16 footballers win the East Mayo Championship for the first time in many years. The team defeat Moy Davitts in an exciting final. Team mentors were Brian Murray, Seamus Caulfield and William Nestor... Weather watchers begin to get somewhat bogged down as Ireland experiences one of the wettest months of August in memory, following a very, very wet month of July... Fr. Benny McHale, CC., presides at his first celebration of Holy Mass in the Augustinian Abbey, to launch the 2009 Abbey Pattern and Sports Day... And, at the Abbey Pattern itself, pretty Angela Egan from Knockbrack, wins the award for the Best Dressed Lady at the sports event.

### *September*

Knock native, Kenneth Dennedy, takes up the position as principal of Ballyhaunis primary school, Scoil Íosa, succeeding Jim Lundon who held the post for the past 33 years. Son of Bert and Nuala Dennedy, Knock, Kenneth is husband of Ballyhaunis native, Deirdre Durkan, daughter of Dorothy and the late Seán Durkan, Abbey Street... The oldest parishioner in Ballyhaunis, John Brennan of Gurteen, is laid to rest, just five weeks short of his 99th birthday... Ballyhaunis senior hurlers capture the All-Ireland Sevens title in Kilmacud Crokes GAA grounds in Dublin. A last minute point from dual star, Keith Higgins clinches the title for the Ballyhaunis men. The All-Ireland winning team is comprised of: Michael Walsh, Brian Hunt, Paul Lynch, Christopher McCrudden, Fergal Walsh, Derek McConn(Capt.), Niall Murphy, Keith Higgins, Liam McDermott and Stephen Hoban. The team mentors are Dave McConn, John Joe Hoban and J.P. Coen. Well done lads! Three Ballyhaunis lads successfully reach the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, in a bid to raise money for Third World charity, Bóthar. The boys, John Prenty (Jnr.), James Mulrennan and Brian Kilcourse raise a total of ?21,150, towards the Bóthar project... Well known Holywell historian, Ned Judge, is laid to rest, at the age of 86 years... New park lighting switched on at Friary Riverside Walk... Martin Fitzmaurice is elected President of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce. Martin has served the organisation with distinction for more than 15 years... Clare Court residents enjoy a day at Áras an Uachtaráin with President McAleese and her husband, Martin. The group is accompanied by Ms. Elma Kilbride.



## October

Upwards on 1,000 people attend Holy Mass in St. Patrick's Church on October 11th, to mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the church, on October 10th, 1909. Canon Joe Cooney, PP., assisted by Fr. Benny McHale, CC., is joined by Archbishop of Tuam Dr. Michael Neary for the centenary celebrations. Approximately twenty-five priests participate in the concelebrated Mass, including former curates, Ballyhaunis native priests, and representatives of the Augustinian Order, who served the community in past years. The homilist for the Mass was Fr. Enda Lyons, a native of Knox Street... Ballyhaunis shopkeeper, Seamus Caulfield celebrates his 40th birthday, when he is taken by surprise by friends and family at a function in Billy Nestor's Corner Bar... Ballyhaunis Hurling Club capture the Mayo Senior County title yet again, when they defeat neighbours, Tooreen, in the final, on a scoreline of 2-9 to 1-7... The death takes place of Fr. Des Fahey of Cortoon, Co. Galway. A native of Levallyroe, Ballyhaunis, Fr. Des was brother of Fr. Frank, Ballintubber Abbey and of former Ballyhaunis Community School principal, Jarlath Fahey, Devlis. Burial takes place at the parish cemetery, Ballyhaunis and is officiated at by Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary... Great excitement at Scoil Íosa as Ballyhaunis Hurling Club officers parade the three trophies, won by the East Mayo club during the year – T.J. Tyrell Senior Championship Cup, Genfitt Senior League Cup and the All-Ireland Kilmacud Crokes Sevens

Trophy... Bank of Ireland manager, David McConn goes into peak training, as he prepares to take on the New York City Marathon, on November 1st, all in support of the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation... More retirements at Scoil Íosa primary school: Gus Kearns, from Kilgariff in Knock, leaves his desk for the last time, having served at the Ballyhaunis school for over 38 years. Gus took up duty at the old St. Mary's NS in 1971, when he replaced the late Johnny Higgins, R.I.P., and joined the teaching staff of Mrs. Mary Higgins, R.I.P., and Principal, Brendan Forde. Mrs. Margaret O'Flaherty, from Kiltimagh, retires also from the Ballyhaunis academy, having served at the school since 1988... As the economic recession and financial downturn continues business both at home and abroad, Ballyhaunis Chamber launches a major shopping promotion at the Credit Union office on Clare Road. The promotion runs until Christmas week... Great celebrating in Aghamore as Dublin native, Sharon Commins (32) is released unharmed by kidnappers in Darfur, Sudan. Ms. Commins, whose father, Mark Commins hails from Aghamore, was held by her captors for 106 days. She was serving as a voluntary worker with the aid agency, GOAL, in Africa, when the kidnapping occurred. Her colleague GOAL colleague, Hilda Kawuki (42) from Uganda, was also held captive by the African guerrillas in the 106 day ordeal. All is well that ends well!!

*Mike Byrne*

## Ballyhaunis Community Celebrates Pride of Place Win

*"Ballyhaunis ... A community that deserves to be proud of its past and confident of its future"*

The Ballyhaunis Community was the winner of the prestigious All Ireland Pride of Place Award in its category and Mayo County Council was awarded the title of County Council of the Year. The Pride of Place trophy, a beautifully inscribed Waterford Glass bowl, was accepted from President Mary McAleese, on behalf of the whole Ballyhaunis community, by Community Council Honorary Secretary, Paula Grogan, who was accompanied at the presentation event in County Waterford, by her husband Seamus, Chairperson of Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre.

The Ballyhaunis community, together with Mayo County Council members and officials, assembled in the historic surroundings of Ballyhaunis Abbey to mark the achievement. Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr. Joe Mellett praised all involved for bringing the

prestigious first prizes to Mayo. He urged that more people become involved in the affairs of the community, particularly at this time of recession, when people may have more time on their hands and neighbours may have greater needs. He pledged that the volunteers working for their local community development will continue to have the maximum possible support of both the Council elected members and officials.

County Manager, Des Mahon, congratulated the Ballyhaunis community on its achievement in winning first prize, on its first attempt at the competition, the elected members and his fellow officials of Mayo County Council on the achievement of the Council of the Year award, and the Crossmolina community on achieving second place in its category. Saying that the Ballyhaunis Community is an example for others in the positive way it has embraced



*Back, L-R: Michael Kelly (Ballyhaunis & District Community Council), Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P., Cllr. John Cribbin, Mary Donnelly (Ballyhaunis & District Community Council), Des Mahon (Mayo Co. Manager), Cllr. Joe Mellett (Cathaoirleach, Mayo Co. Council), Pat Higgins (Chairman, Ballyhaunis & District Community Council), John O'Mahony, T.D., Cllr. Michael Carty, Jarlath Fahey (Ballyhaunis & District Community Council), Seamus Granahan (Director of Services, Mayo Co. Council), Neil Sheridan (Project Development Officer, Mayo Co. Development Board). Front, L-R: Gabrielle Lyons (Ballyhaunis & District Community Council), Manar Cherbatji, Anne Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chamber), Paula Gragan (Ballyhaunis & District Community Council) Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

change, he noted that 29 clubs and organisations had participated in the Pride of Place competition. He urged that people take advantage of this large variety of local organisations by committing to voluntary work on behalf of the community. He echoed the comments of the Cathaoirleach, committing elected members and officials to the maximum support for local voluntary endeavour quoting the old Irish adage, "ní neart go cur le chéile".

### **Historic Occasion**

Mr. Pat Higgins, Chairperson, Ballyhaunis & District Community Council, who was master of ceremonies for the occasion, told the assembled community that it was a privilege to be in that position on such an historic occasion. He welcomed the distinguished guests and thanked the 29 community organisations which had participated in the presentation to the competition judges during their visit, saying that the Ballyhaunis community is one of the most ethnically diverse in the whole country. He said that such diversity could lead to community fragmentation, but that the preparation process for the Pride of Place Competition was a wonderful example of Community Meitheal as an effective antidote to the challenge for community cohesion that such diversity presents, and will continue to present. He thanked the event organising committee and all

community volunteers for their commitment to the development of the community. He thanked, County Development Board official, Neil Sheridan, for his inspirational advice and leadership during the preparatory work leading up to the judging event. He thanked the Manager and elected members for the many benefits they have brought to Ballyhaunis and for their ongoing support for local community developments. He particularly thanked the County Manager for his commitment to the Ballyhaunis Abbey project, which has facilitated the maintenance of the buildings and grounds to such a high standard.

Cathaoirleach, Joe Mellett, formally launched the Ballyhaunis Pride of Place commemorative booklet, which is a photographic record of the presentation to the competition judges. It records the past and present activities of community organisations and local industries, together with graphic descriptions of planned futuristic developments. The booklet is introduced by County Manager, Des Mahon, who outlines the history of the competition, and the significance of the County Council, Ballyhaunis and Crossmolina wins. It also contains an interesting article by Mr. Tom Dowling, Meath County Manager, who, with fellow judge, Ms. Alison Boyle, visited and adjudicated on the Ballyhaunis entry. He points out



that the competition looks at the vibrancy of a community, its viability in terms not just of current actions, but at evidence of its potential to go forward as a cohesive unit. He says, "We found that Ballyhaunis gave an excellent presentation, involving a wide range of groups. There was evidence of great cohesion in the participation of Ballyhaunis' many new communities, who expressed great joy at living in Ballyhaunis. There were many examples demonstrated to us, which convinced us that the Ballyhaunis Community is a caring community. The combination of voluntary work linked with that of official people, particularly the excellent relationship with Mayo County Council is an example for other communities throughout the country. It was obvious that most initiatives, as demonstrated to us, involved a healthy combination of public and voluntary effort, which, in our view, is what sustains a community into the future". He concluded that the judges became convinced that Ballyhaunis will be an even better place in the years to come and that it deserves to be proud of its past and confident of the future.

### *Sense of hope*

To commemorate the event the Cathaoirleach, Joe Mellett, on behalf of Mayo County Council, presented the Ballyhaunis Community with a Liam Lyons framed iconic photograph of the first sunrise of the millennium at Old Head, taken at 8.15 on 01.01.2000. Accepting the

presentation on behalf of the whole community, Pat Higgins said that the recorded scene was an very appropriate image, in the context of the sense of hope that new beginnings bring and the importance of the rising and setting sun to our ancient ancestors and the commencement of a new community project, which will seek to identify the path of the pre-Christian and patrician Tóchar as it extended from the East to West through the Ballyhaunis area, following the path of the sun to Croagh Patrick.

The Chairperson pointed out that events such as the award celebration do not happen by accident. He thanked the organising committee, Paula Grogan, Mary Donnelly, Jarlath Fahey, Patricia Plunkett, Manar Cherbatji, Michael Kelly, Anne Cunnane, Peter Cunnane, and Gabrielle Lyons. He expressed particular appreciation of the work of Gabrielle Lyons as Artistic Director for both the presentation to the judges and the design of the commemorative booklet. He also thanked Stephen Grogan for preparing the rolling video presentation, Joanne Morley for the excellence of the catering for the event and Seamus O'Boyle, Seán Biesty and John Joe Lyons for their maintenance of the Abbey property and its preparation for the event. He too echoed to call for even greater volunteering within the community. It is obvious that the Ballyhaunis community is conscious of and motivated by the old Irish proverb "Is ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine".



***Celebrating Tom Quinn's 80th Birthday in Coney Island Pub, January 2009.***  
***Back L-R: Bernie Sloyan, Brackloon; Catherine Sloyan, Tully; Ita Daly, Tully; Bridget Mulrennan, Tully; Mary Quinn, Gorthaganny; Eileen Sloyan, Tully; Patricia Lilly, Tully; Jeanette Webb, Tully; and Bridie Sloyan, Brackloon.***  
***Front L-R: Carmel Elwood, Coney Island Pub; Bernie Lilly, Tully; Tom Quinn, Tully, Mary Nolan, Tully and Ann Nolan, Tully.***

## Mary Ellen's 80th Birthday Celebration

Mary Ellen Frehill of Clare Court Estate, on the celebration of her 80th birthday last April. A native of Castlerea, Mary Ellen lived for the greater part of her life with Kit and Mike Freeley at their residence in Island, before moving to Clare Court a number of years ago. Friends and neighbours of Mary Ellen joined with her at a special birthday party at Clare Court centre, to mark the big day.



*Mary Ellen Frehill from Clare Court estate in Ballyhaunis, pictured on the occasion of her 80th birthday celebration last April.*



*Bringing Home the Water. July 1954. Taken in Island. Mike Frehill (left) and John Freeley with Margaret Freeley.*



*Taken in Island, 2005. Sr. Eithne, Mary Ellen Frehill, Margaret Freeley.*



*Taken outside Sloyan's house, Brackloon, July 1957. L-R: Rhoda Freeley, James Joseph Sloyan, Mary Ellen Frehill, Mike Frehill, Bridget Sloyan, James Sloyan and Margaret Freeley (front).*



## St. Patrick's Church Centenary



*The organising committee of the Centenary Celebrations. Back, L-R: Jim Donnelly, John Mooney, Michael Goulding. Front, L-R: Gabrielle Lyons, Marie Brennan, Christina Concannon, Patricia Plunkett and Kay Curley. Glynn's Photography.*

On October 11th we celebrated the centenary of the opening and blessing of St. Patrick's Parish Church. It was a beautiful sunny day, unlike the wet day on October 10th 1909. It was also a most memorable occasion with at least a thousand people packed in for the Mass which was concelebrated by eighteen priests with Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam presiding.

The homily at the Mass was preached by Fr. Enda Lyons, a native of Knox St. He spoke about his great love for the church and the significance of church in the lives of people.

The Archbishop in his address complimented the parish on having such a beautiful church which plays such an important role on the sacramental occasions in the life of the parish community.

The priests who attended were natives of the parish, priests who served in the parish, Augustinians and former College priests. The magnificent singing, thoroughly enjoyed by all present, was provided by four choirs – The Parish Choir, Gracenotes, The Abbey Male Choir and Scoil Iosa Children's Choir. Noel Henry, a native of the parish and a music teacher in Nottingham, composed two beautiful musical pieces for the Mass.

Afterwards everyone was invited to the Parochial Hall for refreshments and for the presentation by Archbishop Neary of prizes for a children's art competition which had the parish church as its theme. There was a great sense of pride and joy and I feel the occasion will be remembered for a long time.

### *Proud History*

However, it may be no harm to look back on the proud

history of the church and thus ensure that the memories of the past century are kept alive.

Originally, the land on which this church is built was first given to the parish by Sir Robert Dillon in 1742 on condition that it is used for ecclesiastical purposes. That is significant because it was over a hundred years later before the first church was built on this site, around 1850. Catholic Emancipation had been won in 1829 and now that the terrible famine, which had decimated the population of Ireland was over, the building of churches began in many surrounding parishes - Knock, Began, Aghamore, and Ballyhaunis. The old Annagh parish church in Ballyhaunis, built around 1850 was a very basic building, functional but without much comfort and unable to accommodate the large congregations on a Sunday morning.

In 1894 Canon John Canning was asked to come to Ballyhaunis from Westport. He was told by Archbishop McEvilly that he would have to build a house, a school, a convent and a church. It is said that he fled when he heard all that but was persuaded to return and assured that it didn't all have to be done at once.

So he started and built the Parochial House in 1894, the convent and school in 1898. On 27th May 1900 a meeting was held to consider the building of a new church. It was decided to build it between the old church and the parochial house and in Sept. 1903, Archbishop Healy laid the foundation of the new church. The architect was W. H. Byrne, Suffolk St. Dublin. It seems strange there was no officially designated contractor as such but John Charles Fitzmaurice was clerk of works and fulfilled the role admirably.

### *Mammoth Task*

Hammered limestone was quarried in Hazelhill, and sandstone came from Leow with cut stone facing from Hollymount. It was a mammoth task for builders when one considers the ceiling is 65 feet high and scaffolding was fairly primitive at the time. Fr. Stephen Walsh was curate and he was sent to America to collect funds and returned with £2,000. Later, another curate Fr. John Grealy, later P.P. Knock, went to The United States and collected £3,200. Sadly we have no record of what the overall cost was but from the information we have regarding the cost of building other churches at the time, a very likely estimate would be in the region of £10,000. The church was finished in six years and on October 10th 1909 was formally dedicated and opened by Archbishop John Healy.

As you come into the church grounds, you will notice the pointed arch over the front door which tells us it is of Gothic design. Coming inside you observe that all the other arches reflect the same design with the exception of the ones over the confessionals which display a different style.

Inside on the right, there is the large crucifix which was presented to the old church by Fr. John Grealy, and is the only religious object from the old church to be placed in the new church.

### *Windows*

The priests and parishioners of the day spared no expense and were determined to have one of the most beautiful churches in the Archdiocese. In this they certainly succeeded. The windows are worth noting. They were designed and made by Joshua Clarke in his studio in North Frederick St. in Dublin. His name is inscribed on each one with the date 1908/09. He was the father of the renowned stained glass designer Harry Clarke and it is more than likely Harry Clarke worked on these windows in his apprentice days. In themselves, they are wonderful works of art and are well worth taking a close look at. The thousands of pieces of coloured glass are all embedded in lead and the detail is extraordinary.

Entering the church, the first one on the left portrays the angel Victor. The next one shows St. Dominic receiving the Rosary from Our Lady, followed by a window depicting St. Peter with the adjoining one dedicated to "Our American Benefactors" and depicting St. Rita. The fifth window beside Our Lady's altar is dedicated to St. Patrick and was presented as a gift from the children of the Convent School.

On the right hand side the first window shows the great Irish missionary St. Columba or Colmcille, followed by one representing St. Paul and the other to St. Brigid.



*Archbishop Michael Neary, Canon Joseph Cooney P.P. and Rev. Fr. Benny Mc Hale C.C. photographed with visiting priests who concelebrated the Centenary Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Frs. Matt Cooney OSA, J. J. Cribbin, James Cribbin, James O'Grady, Michael Kenny. Centre, L-R: Frs. Francis McMyler, Vincent McCarthy OSA, Kieran Waldron, Des Walsh, John O'Connor OSA, Sean MacGearailt OSA, Peter Waldron. Front, L-R: Frs. Austin Cribbin, Benny McHale, Joseph Cooney, Dr. Michael Neary, Frs. Enda Lyons, Kieran Burke, Patrick Williams. Glynn's Photography.*



The two windows over the side altars are not by Joshua Clarke but by Messrs. Earle and were presented by the clerk of works John Charles Fitzmaurice. The names of the donors of most of the windows can be seen on the windows. The large window at the back of the altar has many scenes. The left panel is dedicated to Our Lady with the Nativity depicted at the bottom and the finding of the child Jesus in the temple at the top. The centre panel includes depictions of Jesus at the Last Supper and



*Sisters of Mercy. Back, Sr. Eithne Nolan, Sr. Pauline Feely. Front, L-R: Sr. Teresa Fahy, Sr. Assumpta Flannery, Sr. Rosario Waldron, Sr. Maura Callaghan. Glynn's Photography.*

the Crucifixion. The right panel is dedicated to St. Joseph with the upper image showing the angel's appearance and the lower one capturing the Flight into Egypt.

All these windows were taken away to Dublin in 1995 and repaired and re-lead at a cost of £35,000. Incidentally, in 1909 the windows cost £440 and in 1999 they were valued at £143,500 which I suppose today would place their value at well over €250,000.

When the church was first opened in 1909 there was only a temporary altar and no seats. In 1914 the beautiful altar with the reclining crucified Christ and the magnificent reredos at the back was presented as a gift from the parishioners of Ballyhaunis. The materials used had a truly international flavour - the white marble came from Carrara in Italy, the coloured marble from Connemara, France and Belgium and the panels on either side of the tabernacle are onyx from Brazil.

Other features worth noting are the columns down the centre of the church which were made from granite and were transported all the way from Aberdeen. I am told that they came by train to the station and were brought to the church on two horse carts tied together.

## Changes

From 1909 onwards, many changes and additions have been made to the church. In 1922 the old church was demolished, surrounding walls were built and gates and railings erected. In 1922 seats were installed and in 1930 the great pipe organ was purchased. One bit of history worth noting is that the church was consecrated by Archbishop Walsh on 24th Oct. 1950 making it the only consecrated parish church (apart from the Cathedral), in the archdiocese. The gold crosses, on a red background beneath the Stations of the Cross, indicate this consecration.

In 1961 radiators were added, even though pipes were in place from the beginning. The original floor was a concrete one and in 1961 the present blocked floor was laid. It may be just as well that the late Fr. Rushe is not around today to see the re-emergence of stiletto heels on which he waged unrelenting war!

In 1974, in keeping with the Second Vatican Council, the late Canon McGarry, had the centre altar rails removed and the altar brought forward to face the congregation.

Again in 1994, further modifications took place - the sanctuary was extended and the altar moved forward to its present position. All electrical wiring was replaced and some flood lighting was installed on the outside. That same year the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the back was constructed.

## Spire

Then in 1999, to celebrate the new millennium and to finish the work our forefathers had been unable to complete, it was decided to implement the original plan of 1909 and add a spire to the church. The spire was completed on December 4th 1999 and was unveiled at a special Mass on the eve of the New Millennium Dec. 31st 1999. It was on that same night the present system of flood lighting was switched on for the first time.

Recent church developments saw the drainage system being replaced in 2008 and in the current year of 2009 a new heating system was installed, the timber louvers in the tower were replaced and new railings and gates, designed and manufactured at Cashels Engineering, are in place.

On October 11th the parishioners of Annagh proudly celebrated the centenary of the church which their forefathers had the courage to build a hundred years ago. Other generations, right down to the present, have played their part in maintaining it. Now, its maintenance and its future in the history of Annagh, is in the hands of future generations and we trust they will not fail.

*Joseph Cooney P.P.*

## *Ballyhaunis & District Community Council*

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Ballyhaunis & District Community Council had a very successful 12 month period since our update in last year's Annagh Magazine.

Monthly meetings were held for members of the Management Board and there were also weekly meetings regarding our participation in the National Pride of Place Awards 2008. Special thanks are expressed to each and every person who contributed to that event and who helped to make it a great success. Without doubt, a highlight of year was our participation in the National Pride of Place Competition. Ballyhaunis won Category 5 for populations 2,000-5,000. Twenty-nine groups in Ballyhaunis participated in the Pride of Place Presentation day in July 2008 when the Judges, Mr. Tom Dowling, Manager of Meath County Council and Ms. Alison Boyle, also of Meath County Council, visited Ballyhaunis. The Judges advised "This group showed pride and passion as they demonstrated their approach in integrating everybody (native and newcomer) into their community. Apart from the social aspect, the effort involved in building the church spire and running the swimming pool in particular showed wonderful examples of a robust community". President Mary McAleese presented the awards to the winning entrants during a Gala Night held in November 2008 in Lismore, Co. Waterford and I, personally, was very proud to accept the award on behalf of the community of Ballyhaunis. Our participation in such a competition showed us all how Ballyhaunis groups and organisations can work together to a winning end as well as highlighting the substantial number of voluntary groups and work undertaken within our community.

In January 2009, a Commemorative Booklet was produced to celebrate our achievement and many thanks to the group of dedicated members of the management board of BDCC who helped produce it. Contributions in the booklet also came from Ballyhaunis Chamber and Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre making it a very popular and successful publication. It was a fantastic showcase of our town's achievements as well as taking a look at future plans for the community as a whole. In March 2009 a Pride of Place celebration night took place in the Friary Church and was attended by members of Mayo County Council, local councillors as well as many members of the twenty-nine groups who participated in the presentation day. The Commemorative Booklet was officially launched on that night by Des Mahon, County Manager, who paid compliment to Ballyhaunis on winning First Place in its category for the first time. Emphasis was made that night urging people to become involved in the affairs of their community and particularly at a time of recession when people may have more time on their hands and their neighbours may have greater needs.

### *Dedication*

A positive year was had by all the working groups of Ballyhaunis & District Community Council and thanks are given to all for their hard work and dedication. The Tidy Towns Committee reached the Final of 2009 Litter Action League Competition as well as gaining six points in the National Tidy Towns Competition. They deal with the daily

challenge of presenting our town in the best possible light, and all done on a voluntary basis. The Abbey Partnership hosted many musical, artistic and choral events during the year as well as supporting the annual Mass in the Friary and the Abbey Pattern Sports Day afterwards. Plans are advancing for a multi-sport facility in the grounds and a new community childcare facility under the auspices of the Family Resource Centre and the HSE West is now located in the car park of the Abbey grounds. Plans by BRCIE Ltd. for the development of a new community centre at the Scout Den are being supported by the Abbey Partnership. Neighbourhood Watch received over €5,000 grant monies to supply socially monitored alarms and sensor lighting to the elderly in our community. This group needs volunteers from each townland to act as co-ordinators so the elderly in their townland have a point of contact in obtaining the alarms, phones, locks and lights that are available. A new working group, formed in January 2009, was the Ballyhaunis & District Defibrillator Group. This arose out of a suggestion from the management board of the Community Council that people in our parish should be trained in basic CPR techniques and in how to use a defibrillator in the event of an emergency. This group successfully fundraised earlier this year and has purchased ten defibrillators and outside boxes to date. These are currently being put in place around the Parish. Training is ongoing and it is hoped to have a number of people from every townland trained before the end of this year.

During the last year, BDCC has been involved in meeting with the Director of Services, Seamus Granahan of Mayo County Council and Ballyhaunis Chamber in trying to improve services for Ballyhaunis. As a result, the car parks in the town have now been upgraded as well as improving the area around the Bottle Bank. Cameras have been installed at this area to deal with the illegal dumping of rubbish. To help alleviate the traffic problems in town that a lot of people wanted resolved under the Community Futures Plan, Pay & Display parking may be introduced into Ballyhaunis within the coming twelve months. BDCC is agreeable to this, only on the understanding that it improves the current traffic flow through the town and solves existing parking problems. We do not want more traffic problems created instead.

### *Integration*

With regard to the Orientation Centre on Clare Street, there are currently asylum seekers from the Congo residing there. A delegation group from the Community Council and Ballyhaunis Chamber recently met with Anne O'Gorman the new Head of Integration at the Department of Reception & Integration. She advised that it is unclear, in the current climate, whether funding will be available to continue this project into the future. If no funding is made available, this would mean these UN groups would be placed directly into communities nationwide. This could, in fact, lead to more serious problems arising in these communities in the future and more money being spent in the long run. Her department is also raising these concerns with the Minister for Justice. Concerns were also raised with the Manager of the Old



Convent, Mr. Pat O'Connor, regarding the possible future use of the Orientation building on Clare Street in the event of the department not continuing with the orientation project. He assured the delegation group that no Asylum Seekers from the Old Convent building would be housed in the building on Clare Street as they are better suited to the one location where they currently are. None of the working groups of BDCC would be successful without the commitment and hard work of each individual member and the Management Board of Community Council would like to thank all members for their time and dedication, all given voluntarily, to help our town of Ballyhaunis. The working groups of BDCC include: The Abbey Partnership, Tidy Towns Committee, Neighbourhood Watch, Community Futures and Ballyhaunis & District Defibrillator Group. If any person is interested in the work of any of our working groups or would like to commence a new working group, then please feel free to contact any of the

Management Board committee who would be more than happy to give any assistance required.

Finally, a special word of thanks to our out-going Chairperson, Pat Higgins. He brought new impetus through his chairmanship of the Community Council and he helped the organisation enormously during the preparation of the Community Futures Plan as well as with our participation in the National Pride of Place Competition 2008. Our group achieved a lot under his chairmanship and we'd like to thank him for giving of his time during this period.

### **Board**

The new Management Board for 2009 elected are as follows - Chairperson: Jarlath Fahey; Hon. Secretary: Paula Grogan; Board: Manar Cherbatji, Mary Donnelly, Mike Griffin, Pat Higgins, Michael Kelly, Gabriel Lyons, Seamus O'Boyle, Patricia Plunkett, Martin Walsh.

*Paula Grogan (Hon. Secretary)*

## **Fact and Fiction**

Just back from the Ploughing Championships and the flat fertile fields around Athy. Chauffeured there and back by John Joe Lilly. My pen may ramble into the realms of fiction before this piece is finished, but I will make one unequivocal and irrefutable statement for a start. Mr. Lilly will not be remunerated on a pro-rata basis to the fare paid by that politician for the much shorter journey between two terminals at a London airport not long ago. Being chauffeured around is a pleasant and exciting experience but I would not like to make a habit of it in that you hand your independence, your ability to prepare for the unexpected, to somebody else. I believe that much of the malaise the country is in at the minute is caused by Ministers being driven around in state cars. If those fellows drove themselves around in private cars, preferably demanding vehicles like second-hand Ladas, it would engender character, independence, self reliance, courage, foresight, honesty, trustworthiness, an understanding of economics, and other desirable leadership qualities - conspicuous by their absence in the present lot - but seldom more badly needed than now. Back to the shining mould-boards and the men and ladies who will get no recognition unless they plough a straight furrow, and the 800 or so stands promoting almost all aspects of activity nationwide. On the machinery stands, salesmen are putting on a brave face: things are about to turn around; there are signs of improvement in the last month etc., as they try to flog machines with a price tag that would go some way towards clearing the national debt. At another stand an elderly lady was looking not for a man but for men who

might have a vocation for the religious life. She gave Lilly a leaflet which contained a prayer for guidance. She had correctly figured out that he was the more probable of two. At another stand a pretty young one was demonstrating how to erect a wire fence, stressing the importance of pulling the wire tight. She had the figure and fingers that nature never designed for rough farm work! With upward of 80,000 people present we thought we would meet somebody we knew. The day was passing by and we thought we might meet somebody in the Fine Gael tent. Crowd there, but nobody we knew. Any port in a storm, we head for the Fianna Fáil tent. Big crowd there as well, but nobody we knew.

### **Celtic Cuckoo**

At the same time they were celebrating 250 years of the black stuff up in the city. A demonstration of a bubble blowing kit at one of the stands reminded me of the "case of the frothy pint" which was heard in London about 1965. A Guinness drinker claimed that when he bought a pint he was entitled to a full pint of the black stuff and that the pint glass should be quarter of an inch taller to accommodate the white head or collar which he correctly maintained was merely comprised of thousands of bubbles. The case was lost. Never go to court unless you have more money than the other fellow. A brother-in-law Kevin Doyle once brought me to see Arthur's final resting place in a country churchyard in North Kildare. The stone that marks the spot wouldn't hold a candle-light to the monuments to some of our dearly departed brethren in Ballyhaunis cemetery.

With the ploughing over, the hurling and football finals over, and members of the editorial committee of Annagh asking me to write another bit of “bull” for them, reminds me that we are fast approaching the end of another year. Looking back this was the year the bubble burst and the Celtic Tiger pulled plant and left town. That is if he ever existed. Was it more likely that what visited us in recent years was a Celtic Cuckoo who arrived with great publicity shouting his name from the tree-tops, exploited others by laying its eggs in borrowed nests, and getting naïve foster parents to rear its young while their own perished because of the greedy interloper in the nest who monopolised both food and space and then flew away as a tax exile when he had milked the system dry. Arriving back one Spring he found no dawn chorus and no new nests being built. He went looking for a bail-out - alternative places to place their eggs in but found that jackdaws and magpies had placed exclusion zones around their nests and had conspired to throw them out. There was disagreement as to how this should be done. A majority thought they should be kicked out by the back door, while those with power and privilege thought they should be given a golden handshake at the front door.

When a bubble goes bang, the usual post mortem is hardly ever unanimous. Such was the case when the P&T bubble burst some years ago. Now I have a theory why so many people were short-changed on that occasion. The phone company had cut down the fairy tree known as the “crooked bush” in the Redford road. Now it’s common knowledge that it’s not lucky to interfere with fairy trees and nobody in their right mind would dare. The poet writing about a fairy tree where men were supposed to have been hanged from, says:

“Twas said that Cromwell hung them  
But that could never be  
He’d be afraid like others  
To touch the fairy tree”

But touch the fairy tree the phone company did and they have had no luck ever since and neither did people have with the shares they bought. The phone company is up for sale again for the fifth time. Would you buy a yoke that had five previous owners? The fairy tree in question is on a roadside fence on my lands. Apart from losing on the shares like everybody else I’ve had no bad luck because I carried out the following precautions. I never cashed the first dividend cheque that I received. Although I had no hand, act or part in the outrage I wrote the following note and nailed it to what was left of the fairy tree. “To whom it many concern. Cheque No.

288182:90:1335:1902252:09 is available on demand, being part restitution for damage to this tree”.

The bubble about which most has been written is the South Sea Bubble of 1711. Many of the big knobs around London got caught and burned that time including Sir Isaac Newton who wrote a lot about falling apples but nothing that I have come across about falling shares. I believe he was a part-time farmer and the first time he came to public notice was when he was brought to court for allowing his sheep to trespass on a neighbour’s land. The high and mighty have taken a fall in recent times. Something similar happened in the mid-nineteenth century during the Great Famine. As a consequence of this disaster many landlords went bankrupt and, to deal with the situation a special Court known as The Encumbered Estates Court, was set up in 1848. It had power to order and supervise the sale of those “Encumbered Estates”. Of interest to us here is the sale of one such estate on 16th Day of July 1852. A large estate comprising in all 18 lots in four different counties. Lot 15 comprised the townland of Lecarrow. The following is taken from the “Descriptive Particulars” circulated at the time and also included a map of Lecarrow (editors’ note: we hope to obtain a good copy of the map with holdings identified for next year’s Annagh).

### *“County of Mayo*

Lot 15 – These Lands are situate in the Barony of Costello, and within half a mile of the Town of Ballyhaunis, and about five miles of the Town of Swineford, both Post and Market Towns. The Tenantry are peaceable and industrious, and the Lands convenient to good Markets and Fairs”.

We have no information as to how the sale went but it appears that the purchaser was Thomas Wallace because in the Griffith Valuation of 1856 he is named as the landlord of the townland of Lecarrow, extending to 515 acres, 3 roods and 6 perches, comprising 32 holdings of land.

There was a time not long ago when land offered for sale was snapped up at prices that would indicate that it was bought on the assumption that there was a pot of gold at the end of every rainbow. Not the case as I found out a long time ago when as a boy I chased to where I saw it end in the distance, hoping to put a peg to mark the spot only to find when I got there it had moved even further away. I watched a beautiful rainbow some time ago and it seemed to end right on top of a hayshed in Lecarrow. Later it came to my attention that there was excavation work going on inside the same shed. It was not being



**SALE on FRIDAY, the 16th Day of JULY, 1852.**

In the Matter of the Estate of **WILLIAM GRAYDON**, deceased, carried on in the Name of **GEORGE GRAYDON**,  
*Ex parte ANNA DOROTHEA PUTLAND, Petitioner.*

COUNTIES OF KILDARE, GALWAY, MAYO, AND CITY OF DUBLIN.

**Rental and Particulars**  
OF VALUABLE

**FEE-SIMPLE AND LEASEHOLD ESTATES**  
**TO BE SOLD,**

BY THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE SALE OF INCUMBERED ESTATES IN IRELAND,  
**At their Court, No. 14, Henrietta-Street, in the City of Dublin,**  
On **FRIDAY, the 16th Day of JULY, 1852**, at the Hour of Twelve o'Clock, Noon.

Pursuant to the absolute Order made in the above Matter.

For Rentals, with Maps, and further Particulars, apply at the Office of the Commissioners, 14, Henrietta-street; or to Messrs LEWIS & HOWE, Solicitors having the Carriage of the Sale, 22, Nassau-street; JOHN LITTON, Esq. Solicitor, 26, Leeson-street; Messrs. KNOX & CROOKSHANK, Solicitors, 4, Binsington-street; ROBERT SIMPSON Esq., 42, Upper Sackville-street, Dublin; Messrs. LOWNES, ROBERTSON, & BATESON, Solicitors, Liverpool; Messrs. RICHARDSON & SADLER, Solicitors, Golden square, London.

BROWN & SONS, PRINTERS, 21, NASSAU-STREET, DUBLIN.

done by machinery but by pick and shovel and according to the old formula – dig deep and throw well back. This method is still favoured by archaeologists and treasure seekers. The digger was very secretive and would not talk to any of his neighbours about what was going on. It was a mystery and the longer the digging went on, the more the mystery deepened as did the hole inside the shed. I don't remember mentioning the rainbow to anybody but the rumour went around that he was digging for gold. Time passed as time does and the digging was forgotten about until one day I met Joe Hosty as he was talking about his travels in the county of Clare. He told me how

he came across a farmer who had converted a hayshed into a slatted cattle shed doing the entire job on his own including digging the large hole for tank by hand. The penny dropped. It was confirmed later that concrete and building blocks were being delivered at the end of the rainbow. No pot of gold, but the man is to be commended on his industry, self reliance and initiative in providing cost effective housing for his livestock. Celtic Tigers and Celtic Cuckoos may come and go, but the people of Lecarrow are peaceable and industrious - same as their ancestors were back in 1852. The evidence is there at the end of the rainbow.

*Jimmy Cribbin*

## Ballyhaunis Rugby Club

### *Official Opening of Ballyhaunis Rugby Club*

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club Grounds and Clubhouse facilities were officially opened by Mr. John P. Lyons, President of the Irish Rugby Football Union, on Saturday April 25th, 2009 and formally blessed by Canon Joe Cooney P.P. The club were deeply appreciative and honoured by the presence of Mr Lyons, considering that the occasion coincided with Ireland winning the Grand Slam for the first time in sixty-one years. In his address Mr. Lyons said that IRFU were aware and appreciative of the Ballyhaunis club's endeavours, as the union is steadfast in its determination to ensure the development and welfare of the game at grassroots level.

Even though this was a truly joyous day in the club's history, it was also tinged with great sorrow due to the sudden death of our President Eamon Healy, during his year of office. It was a major shock to us all to lose our



*Players Tony Gleeson, David Lilly and Michael Jordan photographed with the Temple Crown and Grad Slam Trophies at the opening of the new Rugby Pitch in Ballyhaunis. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



*Photographed at the opening of the Rugby Pitch in Ballyhaunis. L-R: Hugh Curley, Ned Curley, Peter Gallagher, David Walsh, John Lyons (IRFU President), Canon Joseph Cooney and Bernie Jennings. Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

foremost official and a man who had worked tirelessly to bring this auspicious day to fruition. May he rest in peace.

Dave Walsh was the obvious and unanimous choice to replace Eamon for the duration of the season, considering the club had been chosen to host the first of the junior inter-provincial matches for the season, Connacht vs. Ulster to coincide with opening. As a brief reminder Connacht won the match 18-17 but narrowly lost the series overall. In Dave's address he thanked John Lyons and the executive members of the IRFU for

affording us the great honour of having the Grand Slam and Triple Crown trophies on display to enhance the occasion. The club also acknowledged the role played by Peter Gallagher in liaising with Leo Galvin, Connacht Branch IRFU representative, in securing the silverware for the day.

### *History*

Founder member and former player, captain, and president, Dr Alan Delaney outlined the history of the



*Triple Crown and Grand Slam trophies come to Ballyhaunis to mark the opening of the new Rugby Pitch. L-R: Junior Geraghty, Padraic Walsh, Hugh Curley, David Walsh, John Lyons (IRFU President), Leo Galvin, Ned Curley, Bernard Jennings, Peter Gallagher and Tony Henry. Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*





***Rugby Quiz Night, The Horseshoe Inn,  
Abbey St., 1984***

***L-R: Mick Morris, Tommy Geraghty (front), Tony Morley, Peter Gallagher, Alan Delaney, George Hannan, Junior Geraghty, John Hanley Barry Butler.***

club from its humble inception in 1977. Alan arranged a meeting in the Central Hotel to resurrect a club that existed briefly in the town during the 1930s. At this meeting Alan, Hugh Curley, Dr Declan Shields along with John and Brian Gallagher decided to make another start. Initially their playing venue was Tom Forkan's field at Coolnaha and the dressing rooms were located at the rear of Mick Morris' pub The Horseshoe Inn (formerly Peter Hannon's Abbey St.). This was the home to the club for almost twenty years until the present grounds were purchased from the late Joe Greene for £30,000. This was a huge amount of money at the time and the major fundraising draw for a tractor yielded £36,000. The club was in a position to repay the bank in under a year. This was phase one of the development plan. Phase two followed in 1991-1992 involved the development of two playing pitches and car parking. During this phase a further 1.5 acres were purchased. Phase three involved the construction of the clubhouse using a loan from the bank and a number of FAS schemes. The ground floor consisted of four large changing rooms, two sets of showers, toilets, referee and medical rooms. The first floor is open plan and doubles as crèche, meeting hall, indoor training facility and function room. In 2008 in recognition of these developments the club received the prestigious AIB/IRFU award as a model for sustainable rugby clubs. The other provincial winners were Ashbourne RFC Co Meath (Leinster), Clonmel RFC (Munster) and Coleraine RFC (Ulster).

On behalf of Connacht Rugby, President Mick Grealish spoke of his great joy and that of his fellow executive officers to be present on this special occasion. He paid tribute to the great strides both on and off the

pitch in developing a state of the art clubhouse and facilities. He particularly welcomed John Boyd, President of the Ulster Branch and all the travelling party from Ulster and hoped they would enjoy their trip to the west.

The season 2008/2009 was also a successful one for the club on the field of play. The club finished a respectable fifth in the very competitive Connacht Junior 1 B League. Sligo RFC beat Ballyhaunis in the second round of the Heineken Junior Cup. This is the foremost Junior Cup event in Connacht and we were very honoured in January 2009 to be chosen as the club to host the Heineken Cup Draw in the Billabong Bar. Representatives of the other twenty-two clubs in the province were present on the night and thoroughly enjoyed their visit. We would like to thank Gerry Kelly, CEO Connacht Branch, Mick Grealish, President and Eamon McGuffin, Branch Organiser for affording us the opportunity to host this prestigious event. As the venue rotates annually this draw is unlikely to be held in Ballyhaunis for the next twenty years. In the Cawley Cup we were beaten by our close neighbours Dunmore RFC in a hard fought game on a score line 3-0, in atrocious playing conditions. However the game was played in a most sporting manner.

In May 2009 at the Connacht Rugby Awards Dinner held in the Radisson Hotel Galway to honour the professional and amateur game alike, Ballyhaunis RFC won the Referees Association Award for fair play and sportsmanship, for accumulating the least number of red and yellow cards and for being a venue in which the referees find themselves treated with respect and courtesy. The award was accepted on behalf of the club



***Rugby stars of the future***

***Pictured the opening of Ballyhaunis Rugby Club new grounds were underage stars, (from left): Morgan Lyons, Shane Healy, Kevin Kilbride, Thomas McDonagh, Cian Caulfield, Martin McDonagh and Mickey O'Rourke.***

by Ned Curley, Ballyhaunis RFC delegate to the Connacht Branch, accompanied by Hugh Curley and Dave Walsh. This was a most enjoyable occasion as this afforded guests the opportunity to mingle with the professional players from the Connacht team, Branch Executives and dignitaries from other clubs. On the occasion the guest on the night was Declan Kidney, coach to the Irish International team.

The future of any club has to be in the development of its youth. Ballyhaunis RFC fielded teams in all the under age groups. Despite a lack of silverware, these young players thoroughly enjoyed themselves and remain keen to participate in the future. We would like to pay tribute to our Youth Development Officer, Coach and Health and Safety Officer Georgina Costello for her work and effort at under age, ably assisted by Ian Cunnane, Rob Morley, Aiden Healy and a host of other

helpers. Perhaps some talent may emerge from these ranks to emulate the heroes of the Grand Slam side of 2009. Rugby is alive and well in Ballyhaunis and we extend an open invitation to anyone interested in joining us as a player, supporter, coach, official or in any capacity associated with the game of rugby. We would like to acknowledge the work and effort of the players, members and club officials in undertaking the myriad of tasks the official opening demanded, mainly under the leadership of Paddy and Gabriel Gallagher and the expertise of a host of club friends.

Finally, we would like to thank the sports department of Midwest Radio and in particular, Angelina Nugent for her extensive publicity and coverage before and on the day of the event. It was deeply appreciated.

*Eamon Curley  
Peter Gallagher*

## Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary was founded in Dublin on 7th September 1921 by Frank Duff. Over the years it has spread to almost every country in the world. It is estimated that there are over two million active members and over ten million auxiliary members.

In July 1934 a branch or praesidium was set up in Ballyhaunis at the request and with the permission of Archdeacon G. J. Prendergast who was Parish Priest at the time. The praesidium, which was given the name 'Our Lady of Perpetual Succour' has persevered unbroken in the parish down through the years. Last July we celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

Our celebrations started with the Rosary followed by Mass in the Parish Church. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Benny McHale, our present Spiritual Director, and Canon James Kelly, Tooreen, concelebrated. Canon Joseph Cooney was also in attendance.

Afterwards refreshments were served in the Parochial Hall. We were joined by past Legionaries, past Juniors, Auxiliary members and Legionaries from Tooreen, Aghamore, Knock, Claremorris and Ballinrobe. Paddy Joe Tighe provided the music and Grainne Conroy, Ballinrobe sang Ave Maria. It was a very enjoyable occasion and we thank all who joined us on the evening.

Our works have varied over the years and we try to adapt to the needs of the times. For many years we had a Junior branch which met weekly in the Parochial Hall. Over the last four years we have conducted the Junior meetings in Scoil Iosa in 5th and 6th classes. This year there are three groups and two Senior Legionaries look

after each group. We would like to thank the teachers for their cooperation and welcome.

We take the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to homes where we recite the Rosary with the family and leave the statue for a week. Again we would like to thank all the families who have welcomed us into their homes. We visit Brookvale Manor nursing home weekly and say the Rosary with the residents. We also visit the Asylum Seekers in the Old Convent complex.

Presently we have six members and we are most anxious to get new members to help in the work which is undertaken for Jesus and Mary. Anyone interested in joining should 'phone (094) 9631281 or (094) 9630197.



*Spiritual Director, Fr. Benny McHale C.C., and members of Ballyhaunis Legion of Mary, cutting the cake at the 75th Anniversary celebrations on 14th July 2009. L-R: Margaret Johnston (Secretary), Mary Ellen Frehill, Freddie O'Brien (President), Fr. Benny McHale CC (Spiritual Director), Mary Murray (Vice-president), Helen Hoban (Secretary), Kathleen Caulfield. Helen Hoban*



## Knox Street Memories

I was born and reared in Knox Street and I lived there during the 40s and 50s. I thought 'Knox' was an unusual name for a street in our part of the world, though I seem to remember that there is a street of that name in Ballina. Outsiders surprisingly assumed the name was 'Knock Street' because of our proximity to Knock. I remember there was some talk at one stage of re-naming it 'Boland Street' in honour of Paddy Boland from the area who was shot during the War of Independence. That may have been pub-talk, but in any case nothing ever came of it.

probably no less important but for some reason have not imprinted themselves as firmly on our minds. There is the risk also that we romanticise the past especially as the years close in on us! So, with these two caveats to temper my enthusiasm, I give you the Knox Street I like to remember.

John Gilmore's yard was our eighth wonder of the world. Traps and sidecars were built there; headstones were meticulously carved out; coffins were prepared for funerals. The slender timber wheels were shaped for the



*Knox Street in the early 1960s.*

Our street was considered the poor relation in Ballyhaunis. Main Street held pride of place in that it was the main shopping area, had the Church, the Parochial Hall and further out, the Tech., and of course the road led to Knock. Bridge Street/Abbey Street had the Post Office, The Friary and the Convent on the hill, and further on, the Railway Station. There was a touch of class about Abbeyquarter, a sort of affluent suburban area in the centre of town and near the river. Clare Street had the Star Cinema and the Eclipse Ballroom - and the road was the gateway to the West.

### *Hidden Treasures*

Knox Street had little to commend it, or so it seemed. But the street of my childhood was a land of hidden treasures. It should be said, though, when one ventures down memory lane the experiences recalled are selective and very subjective. It is the case with all of us that when we look back we give more prominence to some events and some people to the exclusion of others. These others are

traps and sidecars and the heavy wheels for the carts. There were the little circular fires where the metal rims were expanded and then fitted on to the wheels and cooled to fit tightly. The process required great precision and was intriguing to watch.

The stone works were at the other end of the yard where Paddy Kelly and John painstakingly chiselled the blocks of limestone with their wooden mallets to create intricate and elegant gravestones. The only mechanical aid available was an electric polishing disc. It was in much later times that John acquired a diamond-studded saw to cut through the blocks of limestone. Prior to this he had to make do with wedges and crowbars.

Inside the workshop there was the darker task of preparing the coffins, lining them with pitch and fine cloth. These were the vehicles of death, the final resting place, but as we watched as children it was the polished oak and the brass handles and the long screws with a cross on top and the soft trimmings that caught our fancy.

John Gilmore was no ordinary resident in our

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street; he was a man of many talents and much underrated. He was a veteran of the War of Independence and a staunch republican. He was a sculptor, an artist, a gifted carpenter, craftsman and a poet (he entrusted his poems to me before he died). He had a love of music and

the arts generally. He was polite to a fault. I remember he had this endearing mannerism of a little cough as he approached our kitchen door so we would not be taken unaware.

Perhaps he was best known locally as an undertaker. He did his work sensitively and with great dignity. I visited the cemetery recently and sought out John's grave. I had visualised a prominent tomb fitting for a man who himself had adorned so many graves there, and fitting also for the man who accompanied so many parishioners on their last journey to that spot. It was an irony to find his modest grave without trappings tucked away in a quiet corner. I thought, on reflection, that there was possibly something authentic about that – a modest grave for a modest man.

### *Craftsmen*

Remember this was a time when harness and tackle were much in demand. There were few cars but the countryside abounded with carts, side-cars and traps. Next door to Gilmore's and a few doors down from us was the Saddlers. J.T. Smith and Liam, his son, provided an essential service for the locals. They operated from a small premises sufficiently open to the street to allow us young children to see them at work. Leather products were their business. The smell of leather and containers of various dyes in the corner perfumed the air around. J.T. was a small bespectacled man. There he would roll the wax on his thigh, and hand-stitch the carefully-shaped saddle with the waxed thread, while Liam packed the 'collar' with straw and fitted the large brass buckles to the



*Knox Street in the 1960s*



thick leather straps. It was a privilege to witness such skill in that small shop.

There were other crafts too in our street. My aunt was married to Patrick Tarpey. He was a Master Tailor and they lived beside the bank. The workshop was behind the shop and I had unlimited access to it. There, two and sometimes three tailors (the name Michael Prior comes to mind) in stockinged feet sat cross legged on a raised platform – it seem more like a stage to me at the time. I remember the large goose-irons and the long wooden T-square, and the enormous scissors to cut the rolls of pin-striped suit-lengths, and the discs of chalk to mark the alterations required after the first fitting.

Towards the end of the street Pat Keane had another tailoring shop. He was later joined by Joe, his son, who carried the skill on for a further generation and more. Across the road from there Tom Forde, and later, Johnny Forde were our shoe-makers. New shoes were a rare luxury so new soles and heels and the metal tips and studs for the winter were the order of the day.

Further down, at the very end of Knox Street Michael A. Keane - a man far ahead of his time - owned our very own factory. So many local lads served their time there as apprentice cabinet makers and went on to set up their own business. Mikey, as he was known, did Ballyhaunis some service in providing employment in the hard times. It is a tribute to his foresight that the business founded by him thrives to this day. However, as far as we were concerned Keane's was out of bounds. We were not allowed the easy access we had to other places. In truth, we knew very little of what went on there. I think Mikey felt the presence of kids around the place was an unwelcome distraction.

### *Novelty*

Johnston's across the street was my second home. Margaret, Tommy and Carmel were my contemporaries. Their father had a thriving business. They were the agents for Pierce Ploughs in the earlier days, and later for International Tractors. It is the bottling business that I particularly remember. There was a huge cellar (or so it seemed at the time) under the shop and we spent hours there bottling the stout from the large barrels. They had their own name on the Guinness labels and we would painstakingly glue them individually to the bottles. We then placed the bottles in the three-dozen crates for delivery. I don't think that Durkin's were yet in that business.

They had a huge store at the rear with steep steps leading up to it. Machinery and grain were stored there and on the wet Saturdays we played there among the bits and pieces. I remember Johnston's had long-wave on their

radio. That was a novelty. We would listen to the Light Programme in the evening to hear 'Dick Barton, Special Agent'. When that was over at seven it was the cue to go home and tackle the homework to present to Mr Bill Mulligan in the morning. They had an unusual mode of transport for leisure – a 'float',

a four-wheeled trap-like contraption with rubber tyres which was drawn by a pony. I thought it a great privilege to set off with them on a Thursday or Sunday down to 'the land' in Coolnaha. Later on, they progressed to a Ford 14.9 with the accelerator on the steering wheel! That was even a greater thrill.

Forry's yard was some spectacle on a Sunday night during the war years and after. Sunday night was then special in Ballyhaunis. Crowds flocked into town for the pictures in the Parochial Hall or Star Cinema or for the dance in McGarry's Hall or for a spot of late-night drinking (Ballyhaunis was notorious for after-hours). Forry's yard provided the 'car park' service in those days. Hundreds of bicycles were lined in rows each with a numbered ticket stuck on the rear mudguard. The owner was given the counterfoil of the ticket to reclaim the correct bike afterwards. It was a thriving business, though I imagine it was more a service to the people than a lucrative venture.

### *Games*

We had no purpose-built playground or pitch for our games. There was always the Fair Green but we were more at home in our own 'Anfield' – the Lochán. We picked our teams and played our football there even when it was partly flooded. The hill of the Fair Green which overlooked the Lochán was the scene of many a battle between the Knox Streets and Upper Main Streets. Stones, homemade catapults, slings, bows and arrows were known to feature on such occasions. I have a clear memory of James Lyons (from Main Street, but he sided with us) and Jimmy McArdle from the other side fighting it out on the side of the hill. These were epic battles and



*Friends meet on Knox Street  
Broddie Morley, Eileen Crean,  
Nora Biesty.*



James was our Cúchulain and Jimmy their Ferdia.

Jim Byrne, who owned the Lochán, was very tolerant of us for the most part but he moved us on occasionally. We had other options however. We had P.A.'s field, though it was no good for a game because of the hill, but Carney's and Gilmore's fields on the New Road were available options for our games of 'backs and forwards'.

Our swimming pool was a wide stretch of water at the bend of the river in Pollnacraoigha. When I think of it now it was a long enough trek from the town – through P.A.'s field, Webb's field, Carney's field, Paddy Byrne's field. I don't know who owned the field where the pool was. I imagine the summer weather was not very different then but I seem to recall endless sunny days by that river. There were no showers or bath-towels then and the lads would run a circuit of the field to dry off. It was there I acquired a life-long dread of water when my brother was teaching me to swim: he lost his footing and pushed me under – for the first and last time! The girls' 'pool' was further on in the next field but needless to say in the times that were in it segregation was absolute – a different planet as far as the lads were concerned!

### *'The Path'*

The houses on Morley's side of the street had spacious back gardens reaching almost as far as the river. Between the gardens and the river was our 'Tarzan's Jungle' known as 'The Path'. It stretched the length of the street. It was long, overgrown, dark, narrow and full of mystery. Each time we went 'down the Path' there was a vague expectation of a new discovery, imagining strange exotic creatures secretly lived there. This was the spot where we lived out the fantasies of the adventure world we had entered for a few magical hours at the Saturday matinees in the Parochial Hall. When we were little we played hide-and-seek there. At the more adventurous age we climbed the trees, and swung from the branches, sought out the birds' nests; played cowboys and Indians, fashioned our bows and arrows from the hazel bushes and stealthily sought out and shot at imagined enemies.

To go down the Path we would pass Eddie Biesty's bicycle repair shop and maybe take a drink at the public water pump beside Morley's. We would pass Broddie Morley's abattoir and look through the grill to see Terence McHugh at his task. He led the lambs to the slaughter and then the gruesome business ensued. In that connection, I recall Mick Jordan, whose profession it was, killing a pig in our own yard. The slaughtered pig was suspended from a beam. There was a large table, loads of boiling water and buckets of blood. The pig meat was for domestic consumption. The neighbours also shared in the spoils. The remainder was cut, salted and



*Philip Morley (centre) and his son Seamus (left) with Eddie Biesty outside his bicycle shop on the west side of Knox Street.*

preserved in wooded boxes for the winter. Strangely, we did not have a sense of outrage and disgust at those pretty raw spectacles as far as I remember. We were close to basics then and did not have the luxury of sanitised living that we enjoy today.

Two bachelor brothers lived at the end of the street. P.A. Waldron had been headmaster in the local school. I remember him as an elderly man nipping into Grealy's opposite us for his daily 'refreshments'. He was well retired then, and he seemed a pleasant man though he took every opportunity to tease me about my little dog. I did not realise that he presented a very formidable figure to the generation of lads he taught before my time. His brother, Michael, who seemed younger, was a very friendly man. It seems he was a towering figure in the cultural life of the area. He was learned, well versed in literature, archaeology, history and he was an enthusiast for the Irish language. After his death there must have been a priceless legacy of documented material and artefacts. I often wondered whether that legacy fell into good hands. (No doubt, as part of his research he would have traced the origin of the name 'Knox' which we wondered about earlier).

### *Tribute*

Naturally my devoted parents and brothers mostly shaped my outlook and values. Our family was not

blessed with wealth and neither were most other families in our street but our lives were enriched by good neighbourliness and good fun. My aunt and cousins who lived across the street were so close that we made one extended family. There were neighbours whose ghosts visit my memory from time to time. I think, among others, of the warmth of Bridie Foudy with her fag and "it's only me" greeting; the enduring determination of Mary (Wat) Waldron, the quiet kindness of Dom Moran and the flair of the indomitable Fred Herr who had a way of lifting threatening clouds of gloom. Their story and the story of so many others on the street have not been

told. They are long gone, but to me and to those of my generation they live on that, at least, may be a tribute of sorts to the worthy lives they lived.

Knox Street formed me. The people, places and events linger in the subconscious. On those rare occasions when we set about unearthing the past we are permitted, I think, to dip into the pool of nostalgia and echo the words of Thomas Moore:

*"Too fast have those young days faded  
That even in sorrow were sweet"*

Noel Lyons

## *Ballyhaunis & District Defibrillator Group*

This working group was formed in January 2009 and its committee has met practically every Thursday night since that date. There are currently 14 members on the Committee. A successful house-to-house collection was undertaken in March 2009 and a total of €22,357 was collected. Extensive research was undertaken by the committee on the best type of defibrillator to obtain and a total of 10 defibrillators have been purchased. It is hoped to have them in their various locations throughout the parish by Christmas 2009. A defibrillator was sponsored by the Parish Church for use in this community project and our committee is extremely grateful for this. Thanks are expressed to Ballyhaunis Golf Club who agreed to their own defibrillator being placed outside the Clubhouse for use by the community. The GAA are also agreeable to their defibrillator being located outside their main gates. This will bring the number of defibrillators in the parish to 12. We would like to thank the people who have agreed to a defibrillator being located on their property. When all the defibrillators are in place, each townland in the parish will be advised of their nearest defibrillator as well as the names of people trained in their locality.

### *Training*

Training is ongoing and further sessions of training took place during the months of June, July and September. 65 people have been trained to date. So that people don't forget their training, it is hoped to provide revalidation training every 90 days. This will remind people of their CPR techniques and how to use a defibrillator. People already trained will be contacted about their revalidation training when dates have been finalised. A special word of thanks is expressed to all the instructors from the neighbouring areas of Ballinlough, Granlahan, Cloonfad, Loughglynn, Lisacul and Gorthaganny who have undertaken, voluntarily, to train the people in

Ballyhaunis. In particular, special thanks to Mary Tarmey and her team from Ballinlough and Granlahan who have trained the majority of people in Ballyhaunis. Without their enthusiasm, dedication and commitment, we would not be in the successful position that we are in. In October 2009, four volunteers from Ballyhaunis undertook an intensive Instructor Training Course affiliated to the Irish Heart Foundation. This means our town will be able to provide its own training in the future as well as helping our neighbouring towns/villages with their revalidations.

Sincere thanks to Ballyhaunis Credit Union who provide free of charge the use of their fantastic new building for our group's training purposes. Having such warm and comfortable surroundings helps enormously with each training session and we would like to thank Mary Henry, Manageress of the Credit Union for their generosity. A special mention also to Flogas Ireland Limited who made a very substantial and generous contribution towards our fundraising initiative and our committee would like to thank them sincerely. A Dublin company, Tradecraft Limited, also donated the insulation required for the outside boxes, and our group is extremely appreciative of this.

Finally, our committee would like to thank the people and businesses in our parish who so generously contributed to our fundraising collection. These contributions have enabled our committee to purchase 10 defibrillators, outside boxes for each, allowed 4 people to undertake an Instructor Training course as well as purchasing specialist training equipment for our 4 Instructors. Everybody should learn basic CPR techniques and how to use a defibrillator because you never know when in your life you might need to use one or when your training might be useful to a person in the future.

Paula Grogan

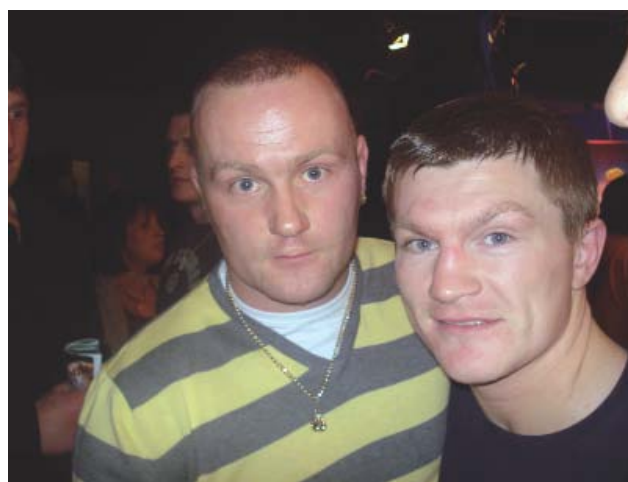
## John "the Warrior" Waldron



*John in the ring with Roman Shevchenko*

By the time you read this, hopefully, I am one step closer to capturing the Irish Light-Heavy weight Boxing title. A dream I hope to fulfil as a professional the same way as I did as an amateur. 20 years boxing as an amateur with approximately 200 fights, clocking up over 150 wins, numerous Mayo and Connacht titles and one National title, I decided at the Bernard Dunne fight in Castlebar that I would give the pro game a shot, as I seem to be more suited to this style of fighting. In July 2008 I went about getting my professional licence, and signed up with Team Dolphin. This team comprises of my coach Phil Sutcliffe, who fought in two European championships and represented Ireland in the Olympics of 1980 and 1984. He is regarded as one of the top coaches in the country and has 6 professional boxers in his stable. Don O'Leary a well-known businessman from Cork deals with the promotional side of the game.

In October 2008 I stepped through the ropes in the INEC Killarney for my first professional fight. Having my original opponent pull out two days prior to this fight, the only person they could get at such short notice was former professional Middleweight Champion of Ireland, Ciaran Healy, from Belfast.



*John with Professional boxer Ricky Hatton*

After four hard rounds I came out at the wrong end of a 39/38 points decision. A fight that my coach and spectators thought I had won quite handily (the only person that didn't was the Belfast referee). My second outing was against the tough Englishman James Tucker in the City West Hotel in Dublin, winning all four rounds and getting my first win as a pro. My third fight was in Leisureland, Salthill. I was up against another Englishman by the name of Danny Couzens. He came into the ring with only one loss out of his previous 6 fights and is currently ranked at number 12 in the British ratings. Giving away five inches in height I took the fight to him from the start. Near the end of the first round I caught him with a great body shot, which saw him hit the canvas for the first time in his pro career. Unfortunately, a clash of heads in the third round left this fight being abandoned and deemed a no-contest. A month later I was back in the ring in the Royal Theatre Castlebar, my opponent the undefeated Latvian Roman Shevchenko. After two rounds his corner pulled him out deeming me the winner.

I travel to Dublin twice a week and train four nights a week in Kiltimagh Boxing Club under the guidance of Karl Eglington. Hopefully, I can keep the winning streak going and be the first professional west of the Shannon to bring an Irish title home.

### *Annagh Magazine Photo Competition For all our readers!*

*Take a photo of yourself reading Annagh Magazine anywhere in the world.*

*It can be somewhere exotic or far flung or with a famous landmark in the background.*

*Surprise us!*

*The best 3 photo images received will win a copy of the 2010 magazine and will be posted to you anywhere in the world.*

*Entries can be sent by email to [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net) (the image must be at least 8 megapixels) or by post to Annagh Magazine, Ballyhaunis. Closing date is October 22nd, 2010.*





## Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club was founded at a meeting in the Parochial Hall in 1962. The chairman of the first meeting was the late Rev. P. Costelloe former Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis. The club then started playing at the Central Hotel on Main Street. The first Captain of the club was the late Dr. Eamon Waldron and the first President was the late Rev. T. Rushe.

In 1994 a new constitution was adopted for the club, under the constitution the office of Captain was discontinued. The last Captain of the club was Michael Cameron and the late Peggy Henry was President that year - 1993/94.

The President for 2008/09 was Alacoque McManus. The President's Prize for 2009 was played for over two nights in April and the winners were Mary Walsh and Donal Geraghty.

The Angela Joyce Memorial Trophy Competition was held in March. A number of players from the Claremorris Club travelled to Ballyhaunis to compete and the winners were Kay Lyons and Marina Coyne.

Other competitions held during the season were: The Murphy Cup, Credit Union and the A.I.B. Cup. The club are very grateful to the Credit Union and A.I.B. for their generous sponsorship.

Prize Nights were also held at Christmas, Easter and Summer. Bridge is played in The Hazel, Main St. every Tuesday and Thursday night commencing at 8 pm and new members are always welcome. The Bridge season starts in September and finishes early May.



*Ballyhaunis Bridge Club End of Season Dinner 2008-09, in The Hazel.*

*Back, L-R: Eileen Carney, Kathleen Walsh, Pauline Egan, Breege Halpin, Mary Murphy, Ina Freyne, Ann Greenaway, Corinne Flatley, Mary Morris, Mary Cleary, Bridget Hanley, Marian Glynn, Mary Keane, Maire Burke, John Halpin. Front, L-R: Justina Lyons, Alacoque McManus (President), Noreen Culliney, Chris Jordan, Chris Finn, Nell Rochford, Noreen Walsh, Joan Flynn, Teresa Keane.*

## Fr. Michael Philip Kelly OSA

Michael Kelly was born in Devlis, Ballyhaunis 22nd Aug. 1937. He attended the Convent Primary School and St. Mary's National School, and obtained his secondary education in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam. He entered the Augustinian Order in 1956 and some time later pursued a course of study in UCD where he obtained his degrees.



He was ordained a priest on the 8th May 1966 in Rome. Following a further course of study, he obtained his Higher Diploma in Education in University College, Galway and embarked on his teaching career in the Good Counsel College, New Ross, Co. Wexford. He later moved to serve as Parish Priest in the Augustinian parish of Meath Street, Dublin. During his priestly career he has spent a number of years on the Missions in Ecuador. He is now attached to the Friary in New Ross and is one of the six friars who assist the Father Provincial – Fr. Gerry Horan – in directing the Irish Augustinian Province, which has priests in Ireland, Rome, Nigeria, Kenya, Ecuador, Australia, Canada, UK and the US.

## *Baptisms in the Parish of Annagh, Nov. 2008 – Oct. 2009*

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Ellen Marie Murphy  
Bridget Louise Allen  
Cillian Martin Caulfield  
Genetia Maria McCormack  
Christiano Patrick Manke  
Ryan Patrick Gleeson  
Adam Daniel Vagenknecht  
Eamon William Monaghan  
Eva Sarah Boyle  
Marcel Raymond Brandon Finn  
Paulina Zborowska Dorosz  
Aaron David Jordan  
Gabriela Julia Grabowska  
Amy Sophie Thomas Caulfield

Bernard McDonagh  
Saoirse Marie McKermitt  
Emma Caulfield  
Rhianna Nicole Caulfield  
Jamie Alfred Webb Claxon  
Faith Grainne Nsela Ikoli  
Ben Vincent Byrne  
Lauren Feeney  
Thomas Martin Curran  
Liam Joseph Hill  
John Paul Nolan  
Jamie Robert Nolan  
John William Burke  
Cian Thomas Moran

Thomas McDonagh  
Annie Teresa McDonagh  
Grace Catherine Gallagher  
Fuad David Animaschaun  
Oreoluwa Mary Animaschaun  
Tomás Eoin O’Laighin  
Nicole Noelle Allen Forde  
Joshua Scott Maughan  
Jules Rebecca Gossy  
Gloria Ruth Matumdu  
John Peter Matumdu  
Benedicte Mary Matumdu  
Jakob Halas  
Lochlan Tobias James Waldron

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## *Marriages in the Parish of Annagh, Nov. 2008 – Oct. 2009*

Aiden Fleming, Castlereagh &  
Bernadette McNamara, Tullaghaune  
David Ward, Tuam &  
Louise Cleary, Cherryfield  
Shane Ledwith, Ballymahon &  
Rosemary Nestor, Doctor’s Road  
Patrick Coyle, Smethwich &  
Assumpta Biesty, Carrowkeel  
Declan Kirrane, Ballyglass &  
Janette McGuire, Johnstown  
Colin Jordan, Lecarrow &

Michelle Regan, Killinaugher  
Sean Healy, Galway &  
Elaine O’Boyle, Carrowkeel  
Edward Johnston, Dundalk &  
Caitriona Rochford, Knock Road  
Paul Monaghan, Forthill &  
Joan Gleeson, Forthill  
Martin Maughan, Dublin &  
Mary McDonagh, Tooraree  
Patrick Kilcourse, Station Rise &  
Sinead Cunnane, Claremorris

Tomás Colleran, Ballaghaderreen &  
Noelle Barrett, Devlis  
Fiachra McLoughlin, Athlone &  
Orla Donnelly, Ballinphuill  
Derek Finnegan, Began &  
Marita Byrne, Johnstown  
Sean Reynolds, Sligo &  
Catherine Kelly, Island  
Michael Kilbane, Derrynacong &  
Karen Gildea, Gurrane

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## *Marriages Elsewhere*

Kieran Connolly, Lecarrow &  
Rosemary Gallagher, Dublin  
Gordon Biesty, Carrowkeel &  
Bernadette Clancy, Began  
John Waldron, Abbeyquarter &  
Margaret Hanmore, Castlereagh

Martin Donal Fahey, Devlis &  
Brid Collins, Cratloe, Co. Clare  
Richard Cussens, The Maples &  
Tanya Collum, The Maples  
Blazej Chmielewski, Esker Pines &  
Janina Anna Kwasniak, Esker Pines

Wojciech Chojnacki, Abbeyvale &  
Jolanta Krystyna Kedjerska, Abbeyvale  
Joseph Rochford, Knock Road &  
Noreen Leamy, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary

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## *Deceased of the Parish of Annagh, Nov. 2008 – Oct. 2009*

Helen Hannon, Devlis  
Gus Greally, Drimbane & England  
Jimmy Connolly, Holywell  
Howard Morley, Derrymore  
Maisie Smith, Drimbane  
John Dyer, Brackloon  
Muriel Murphy, Coolloughra  
James Brennan, Greenwood

Teresa Ronayne, Clagnagh  
Kevin Hunt, Tullaghaune  
Anthony Cribbin, Tooraree & London  
Thomas Jordan, Knox St.  
Thomas Cribbin, Main St.  
Thomas Regan, Agloragh  
& Manchester  
Kit Keane, Knox St.

Oliver Mullarkey, Tullaghaune  
Johnny Brennan, Gurteen  
Padraic Cleary, Johnstown  
Fr. Des Fahey, formerly of Lavallyroe  
Tom Cunningham, formerly of  
Abbey Street

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## Ballyhaunis Memories

A framed photograph that my son Tomás presented me with brought back a host of memories of my early days growing up in Ballyhaunis. My wife, Marian, found the old photograph somewhere in the house and Tomás



***Taken in Ballyhaunis, 1975. L-R: Michael Mannion, Paddy Greally, Jack Greally, Frank Greally and Tom Greally. Frank was home on holidays from Tennessee at the time.***

decided that it would be a nice surprise for me to receive a framed copy.

The photograph, which was taken outside the Horse Shoe Bar in Abbey Street in the Summer of 1975, must be one of the rare occasions when my late father Tom Greally and his two brothers, Jack and Paddy were photographed together. Also included in the picture is my late uncle, Michael Mannion – another Drimbane man.

That Summer long ago I arrived home from Tennessee to spend a few weeks with my parents, Tom and Kathleen Greally in our home in Devlis. I have many happy memories of that time - especially some of the evenings I spent in the company of those who feature in the photograph.

At that time, I had completed three years of a four year athletic scholarship at East Tennessee State University. It felt great to be back home in Devlis with time to spend with my parents who were then pushing on in years.

That old photograph from 1975 was taken by a great friend of mine - Benny Patrick - a proud son of Texas, USA who befriended me in East Tennessee. Benny, who sadly died last year, loved his visit to Ballyhaunis and spoke and wrote warmly about his Irish experience. He was a great writer, an accomplished photographer and a wonderful friend.

### ***Aunt Dell***

The photograph got me thinking back to the first day I arrived in New York on my way to East Tennessee State University. I visited my aunt Dell in the Bronx on that first visit State-side and I have often thought about that first visit with the late Dell Hughes - a woman of great faith and courage. Dell was my aunt on my father's side. She was only a young woman when her husband Pat died leaving her with two young children Donald and Adelena. No long afterwards, Dell's sister Sarah died in New York and Dell took Sarah's young daughter Anna May into her care and raised her along with her own children.

It was a tough time to be rearing children in New York City back then and my late aunt had also to go back nursing at the Foundling Hospital to make ends meet. I asked her one time how she got through it all and she told me: "I put it all down to the faith I learned at my mother's knee back in Drimbane, Ballyhaunis". "I brought that faith with me all the way to America and that is how I survived," she said.

### ***Summer Sunday Evenings***

I was born in the Old Coombe Hospital in Dublin on June 1st, 1951 but I grew up in Ballyhaunis. When I think of Ballyhaunis back then, I remember in particular Sundays and especially Sunday evenings. On Sundays, I often went to the pictures in the Parochial Hall and I remember very clearly walking home with my parents on Sunday evenings after the Devotions in the Abbey where my late father worked.

On those Sunday evenings you would see the showbands rolling into town - The Royal, The Clipper Carlton, The Dixies, The Premier Aces and many other outfits - all heading for various dance halls across Connacht. The Central Hotel was a great stopping off



***Tom, Frank and Marian Greally.***

point for the showbands – a place to meet and enjoy some refreshments. When I was a little older, I often waited outside the hotel with some of my friends hoping to get a glimpse of some of the Showband stars - or, if one was really lucky, a signed photograph. There was a lovely innocence about it all back then.

On those Summer evenings, as we made our way home from Devotions under the Railway Bridge, I can remember seeing the 'Drimbane Gang' - Mick and Gerry Cleary, Michael and Gus Greally, J. P. Ruane, John Stephen Greally and a few others from further up the road like Seamus Kelly and Owen Judge - all together in lively step and with loud banter as they headed into town for the 'Pictures' in McGarry's Cinema.

It is so sad now to realise that Michael and Gus Greally are no more and that Mick Cleary, J. P. Ruane and Owen Judge have also gone to their eternal reward. They were also so full of life back then - we were all young and thought that we would never die.

### *Sports Fanatic*

It was in Ballyhaunis that I discovered that I had some talent as a long distance runner and it was another great but long departed friend Pat Cribbin from Lecarrow who showed me how to succeed in the sport of athletics. I can still see Pat after all these years and he running by my house in the early morning on his way to work in Connell's Joinery - a pint bottle of milk sticking out of



***Pictured at the launch of his new book- "Running Commentary" - is Devlis, Ballyhaunis native Frank Greally with the legendary Con Houlihan who wrote the introduction to the book. Running Commentary contains a number of pieces relating to Frank Greally's early running experiences in Ballyhaunis. The book is available from the editor by contacting him by email- editor@irishrunner.ie or by phone (087) 2569690.***

one pocket of his heavy work-coat and his wrapped lunch poking out of the other pocket.

Pat had read that the legendary Emil Zatopek trained in heavy boots, and so the boots he wore on those morning runs were sturdy enough to help absorb the impact of his six-foot frame on the tarmac. In those innocent days of more than four decades ago, Pat Cribbin



***Pictured at the launch of Running Commentary- a new book by Ballyhaunis man Frank Greally are former Irish Olympians Jerry Kiernan and Eamonn Coghlan.***

was a mould breaker and sports fanatic and the closest friend I ever had. It was Pat Cribbin, the late Michael Nestor and Michael Curley (Ronnie) who combined to show me that I could succeed as a distance runner. Little did I think in those early days in the sport that for years to come running would, in one form or another, be central to my life and would bring me to many countries around the world.

I had a rare chance to talk about all of this when, a year ago, my brother Tom paid a visit from Australia where he has lived for many years. Tom is nine years older than me and because he was a boarder in St Jarlath's College in Tuam, I did not get to see him a lot in my early growing up years. My son Tomás and myself visited Tom and his wife Cathy in Sydney a couple of years ago, but it was wonderful to be able to have my brother home again and to be able to enjoy walking around our native town together.

### *More memories*

It is late at night and I am beyond the deadline with this short piece. I just felt like putting a few memories down on paper. Home is where you start out from and, for me, Ballyhaunis will always be that home.

A few final memories that come back as I finish off: Early mornings in Devlis when the neighbours,



Emily Dempsey, Molly Fleming and Maggie Gilmore would call in to my mother on their way up to John Hunt's spring well. From my bedroom I would hear the lively banter down in the kitchen before my mother joined her neighbours for the trip to the well for fresh water. On the return journey, everyone would come back into the house for tea and more banter. Evenings in the Square in Ballyhaunis - the characters lined up at the wall outside Joe Regan's Bar - Cyril O'Malley, Johnny Lanigan, Tawdy Devaney, Martin Mongan, Eamon Meath, Frank Glynn, Tom Gilmore, Eddie Webb, Frank Webb, Joe Webb and many more - the fun, the wit and the laughter. The peal of the Angelus bell up in the Friary

as my father did the three threes followed by nine single rings. The Friary hay field and the Abbey Pattern. Saturday mornings in my best friend Michael Joyce's house in Abbey Street - going in to Mike Lyons for a quarter of Bulls Eyes - the sound of cattle lowing early on a Winter morning as farmers herded them towards the Fair in Ballyhaunis - Saturdays - and the arrival of Cunningham's Travelling Shop - the van driven by Johnny Regan - the Christmas Box that Johnny always delivered to my mother on Christmas week - the sounds of people passing the road on their way to and from Mass - the friendly neighbours and the feeling that you were safe and happy. Hard but happy times in my home town.

*Frank Greally*

## *Redmond Carroll - An Emigrant's Story*

Redmond Carroll was born in 1814 in Forthill, Ballyhaunis, County Mayo, Ireland. His parental background is unclear, but it is known that he had two sisters, both of whom later emigrated to the United States. The presence of Carroll family members in Forthill from the mid-1700s to the mid-1800s is well documented. They belonged to the Catholic gentry class, were relatively well off, and were prominent in local affairs up to the early nineteenth century. Notable among

them is the record of a slightly older Redmond Carroll (possibly the emigrant's father or uncle), who served in 'The Loughglynn Cavalry', a local militia raised in 1796. The elder Redmond also appears to have been an agent or "middle-man" for Viscount Dillon, a Protestant, who was then one of the largest landowners in the West of Ireland.

The subject of this article, Redmond, and his first wife Mary Doland whom he married in 1843, lived on and farmed this land, now part of the Fitzmaurice property three miles northeast of Ballyhaunis town, Mayo. The Carroll house in Forthill stands to this day, and has recently been re-occupied. A daughter, Maria, was born to the Carrolls in 1844. Sadly, her mother Mary died in that same year, probably in childbirth.

Four years later, on September 30, 1848, Redmond, age 34, married 21-year-old Eliza Kelly of nearby County Sligo, daughter of John and Bridget Mullarky Kelly. The marriage was solemnized in St. Attracta's Church at Tourlestrane, parish of Kilmacteigue near the village of Aclare, Sligo, the Rev. D. Mullarky, R.F. officiating. Church records indicate that the apparently prosperous Mullarky family had largely funded the construction of St. Attracta's a few years earlier. Redmond and Eliza's first child, Henry Joseph, was born two years later in 1850. By then, if not sooner, the Carroll and Kelly families were already putting together a carefully laid plan to emigrate to America, with Redmond leading the way. What compelling reasons would have dictated this decision to leave their beloved homeland for an uncertain future in a distant land? They had managed to survive, if not prosper, in the terrible famine which began in 1845 and had taken the lives of one million of their fellow countrymen from hunger and related disease, and driven



*Redmond Carroll (1814-1889).*

another million to foreign shores. But even for the relatively well-off, the suffering, despair and death all around them must have severely diminished their own quality of life, and their hopes and plans for a future in their native land. As devout Catholics, they were still affected by many discriminatory legal and economic measures and practices, and the recently-enacted Encumbered Estates Act of 1849 had created widespread land speculation and instability, further dimming Redmond's long-time dream of owning and farming his own land. To them, America must have seemed to offer that prospect, as well as the hope of raising their children in a society less engrained with centuries-old religious bigotry and class prejudice. But as waves of Irish emigrés would soon discover, those same communal evils had already infected the social fabric of the new nation.

### *New World*

Leaving Eliza and the two children in the care of his sisters and the Kellys, Redmond arrived alone in the new world in 1851, all his worldly possessions packed in a small but sturdy wooden carton, now fondly known as "Mickey's box", a tangible link to this pioneering patriarch still held by Carroll descendants and proudly displayed at family reunions. Once ashore, an arduous 800-mile journey westward by land and river conveyance

took him to rural Kenton County in central Kentucky, where he intended to establish a home and support his family by share-cropping on land owned by distant Carroll kinsmen in that area. Eliza, Maria and Henry joined him there the following year. They are believed to have been accompanied on their ocean voyage by Eliza's mother and several of her brothers, most of whom eventually settled in Fernandina, Florida, where generations of Kellys became prominent in local and state government. But as these brave emigrants left their native shores, their high hopes and expectations could not totally overcome the wrenching pain of loss as each departing family member bade farewell, perhaps forever, to parents, siblings and cousins left behind, as touchingly described in Redmond's sister Eliza's letter written from San Francisco on June 18, 1872: "My Dear Brother..... I was glad to hear that Maria is married. I will never forget the day I put her aboard the steamer. She cried and said: 'Aunt Eliza, I shall never see you again!'" One can only imagine how many thousands of times that sad scene must have played out in countless towns and villages throughout Ireland during the years of the Great Emigration.

Very little is now known of the twenty years the Carrolls lived in Kenton County. Redmond supported his growing family by share-cropping or farming on



*Carroll Family Reunion, Henderson, Kentucky 1921. Descendents of Redmond Carroll and his two wives.*

*Redmond's seven surviving children, ranging in age from 58 to 77, are seated in the centre row, names underlined. Henry and Maria were born in Forthill, Ballyhaunis; the others in Kentucky. Back, L-R: Clarence Manion, Redmond Carroll, Joe Marstall - holding Paul Marstall, Mary Carroll Marstall, Nora Manion, Jim Manion, Ed Marstall, Mary Manion Marstall, Bernard Posey, Margaret Manion Posey, Elizabeth Carroll, Agnes Carroll, Evelyn Carroll, Katie Carroll, Ann Manion, Alice Carroll, Johnnie Carroll, Eliza Cates - holding Susan Cates, Hal Cates, Matie Blake, Redmond Blake. Centre, L-R: Anna Dickerson, Redmond Carroll, Henry Carroll, Maria Carroll Blake, Ed Blake - holding Mary Margaret Blake, Elizabeth Carroll Manion - holding Mildred Marstall, Edward Manion - holding Mary Jane Marstall, Mary Ann Cunningham Carroll - holding Mary Virginia Cates, Frank Carroll, Kate McHugh Carroll, James Carroll, Anthony Carroll. Front, L-R: Dora Manion, Elizabeth Marstall, Edward Blake, Blake Marstall, Herman Marstall, Mary Alice Posey, Dorothy Posey, Paul Posey, Edward Posey, Dorothy Dickerson, Bob Dickerson, Billy Carroll, Martha B. Marstall, Maria Carroll, Catherine Carroll, Margaret Carroll, Mary Cornelia Carroll.*





*The five Carroll brothers, late 1920s. L-R: Jim, Redmond, Frank, Anthony and Henry.*

leased land, as there is no evidence in the county's archives of his ever holding title to any property there. As the years passed, Anthony (1853), Elizabeth (1855), Redmond (1856), Frank (1857), Catherine (1860) and James (1863) joined their older siblings Maria and Henry around the increasingly-crowded Carroll dinner table. The children, as they grew older, took their places alongside their parents in the field, barn or kitchen, accepting the hard work and drudgery of a farm family, while enjoying its simple rewards and pleasures. Shared hardships forged a lifelong bond among the eight siblings. There was no public education available in this remote area at the time, so their schooling was probably limited to intermittent attendance at a small rural private school, and home schooling, comparable to that of fellow-Kentuckian Abraham Lincoln a few decades earlier. Their cultural upbringing was decidedly Irish, with songs, stories and traditions of the old country passed along, together with the faith and values of its people.

The bloody five-year American Civil War took place during the Carrolls' sojourn in Kenton County, and it must have greatly impacted the family's lives and fortunes. Kentucky was a slave state, but it did not join the southern Confederacy and vainly sought to remain neutral in the conflict. Thousands of its sons fought and died on either side, but none of the Carroll boys was old enough to serve. As the war dragged on, the state became a corridor of passage for military units of both armies, with mounted detachments raiding the farms of nearby residents for food and fodder as they went. Oral history tells of passing cavalymen using their bayonets or pikes

to spear chickens and small farm animals huddling under the Carroll porch or crawl space. On an even darker note, stories are told of occasions, toward the war's end, when Maria and Elizabeth would have to hide under a haystack in the barn to avoid attracting the malevolent attention of armed stragglers and ragged deserters seen approaching the farmhouse for handouts. Such frightening experiences must have haunted these young women throughout their lives.

### *Lifelong dream*

In 1871, Redmond moved his wife and their eight children to Henderson County in western Kentucky, a more sparsely-settled region of the state. One of its major advantages over Kenton County was several large tracts of arable land owned by former slave owners, now being divided into smaller farms due to the abolition of slave labour, and offered to settlers for sale or lease. Tragically, Eliza Kelly Carroll died early the following year of unknown causes, and was the first parishioner of the then



*Shirley and Donald Wathen (Carroll descendents) outside the old homestead in Forthill.*



*Carroll Family Reunion held in Henderson, Kentucky, 3rd Aug. 1991. The 146 people pictured include members of the Beaty, Boyd, Brisby, Carroll, Cates, Chadderdon, Culver, Cunningham, Davis, Deck, Deckert, Dickerson, Dossett, Egart, Garrett, Greenfield, Greenwell, Hamilton, Hazelwood, Hite, Hoggard, Jarrett, Jennings, Kellen, Konsler, Kramer, Kuhn, Manion, Markwell, Marstall, McCutcheon, Naiser, Nantz, Neel, Parsons, Ploch, Posey, Ratley, Schimweg, Steigmeyer, Thrasher, Tweddell, Wathen, Welsh, Werner, West, Willers and Wrinkles families.*

tiny Catholic population to be buried in newly-consecrated St. Louis Cemetery. For more than a decade thereafter, as his now-motherless children grew to full maturity, Redmond leased and farmed a section of the James Alves farm near Smith Mills. It was only in the mid-1880s, after all three of his daughters had married and left the household, that Redmond finally realised his lifelong dream. On December 31, 1886, in equal partnership with his five sons, he purchased from William J. and Lucy Posey Marshall 133 fertile acres, known henceforth as "the Carroll farm". There was a hand-dug well and three small but well-constructed log cabins on the property. The six Carroll men moved into the largest of these, believed to have been the home of the landowner's former slave-master. An interesting family story from around this time relates how, early one Spring morning when the Carroll brothers were busy gathering tobacco plants out on the farm, they were approached by two men on horseback asking for food and directions to the nearest grocery store. The brothers gave them food and the necessary directions, only later to find out that the two strangers were the infamous Jesse James and his brother Frank.

The original Carroll residence was enlarged by felling trees from nearby woods and cutting them into logs and planks. As each son married, he would build a new home on his one-fifth share of the farm. But happily, for the last three years of his life, Redmond Carroll lived and farmed on land he could proudly call his own. He died on July 14, 1889 and was laid to rest alongside his

wife Eliza, half a world away from their first home, the modest cottage in Forthill, County Mayo, Ireland.

Seven of Redmond's eight children married, and produced twenty-seven grandchildren who lived to maturity. With each succeeding generation, the number of his descendants has increased exponentially, and the total of those now living is conservatively estimated to exceed one thousand. Hundreds have spread throughout the country and the world, but many continue to live in or near Kentucky's Henderson County, and hold their Carroll heritage dear. At the most recent family reunion in 2005, attended by hundreds, small Irish flags were placed on the graves of every one of the many Carroll descendants buried in St. Louis Cemetery. Redmond and Eliza, true to their Irish roots and the Carroll motto "In Fide and in Bello Fortes", imbued in their children a strong and undeviating devotion to the Catholic faith for which they had been so sorely oppressed and subjugated in their native land. When the beautiful Holy Name of Jesus Church was built in the town of Henderson in the early 1890s, the Carroll siblings donated twin stained glass windows inscribed and dedicated to the memory of Redmond and Eliza. Those windows rise just above the pews where their descendants continue to worship to this very day.

*John Thornton Posey  
April 13, 2009,  
Based on research carried out  
by the late Joanne Posey Chadderdon*



## *The Carrolls of Forthill*

### *A Historical Background*

The Carroll family of Forthill was descended from the Ó Cearbhall Éile clan (O'Carroll Ely) with its origins in what is now county Offaly. A distant ancestor, Donncha Ó Cearbhall (Donogh or Denis O'Carroll), lived in Boolebrack (now the townland of Ballybrack), Co. Offaly, about four miles west of Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, around the mid-1600s. His lands were confiscated by Cromwell in 1659 and, when given the option of 'to hell or Connacht', Donncha moved with his family to Beagh, near Kilteevna, Dunmore, Co. Galway. His son John (born c.1650) married Margaret O'Crian of Sligo, and one of their children was Redmond O'Carroll (c.1680-1755) who was for some time a merchant in Brussels before settling down in Ardagh near Glinsk, Co. Galway. Redmond married a distant relative, Susanna O'Carroll of Emmell, Co. Tipperary, and they were the parents of Anthony who was the first of the family to live in Forthill. Anthony had a brother and two sisters: Redmond, who succeeded his father at Ardagh; Elizabeth, who married twice into the Burkes of Glinsk castle; and Susanna who married Paul Davis of Cloonshanville, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon, and who was possibly an ancestor of Dr. James Davis, one of our first medical doctors here in Ballyhaunis.

Anthony O'Carroll, who was born probably in the 1720s, married "a daughter of O'Flaherty Esq. of Johnstown, Co. Mayo" according to a Genealogical Office pedigree in the National Library, Dublin. This seems to be Johnstown, Ballyhaunis, but the identity of "O'Flaherty Esq." is unclear. An old pedigree of the O'Flahertys shows one "Edmond of Ballyhaunis" who would have been living in the mid-1700s, so it might have been he who lived in Johnstown at that time. All that is known of Anthony and his wife is that they had a son Redmond Anthony O'Carroll (born probably c.1750) and that he married Louisa MacDonnell of Mount Pleasant near Ballyglass, Claremorris. The Genealogical Office pedigree doesn't detail their family any further, as they were very distantly related to the man who had it drawn up in the late 1800s.

#### *Minor gentry*

The Carrolls of Forthill belonged to the Catholic middle-class or minor gentry class along with other local families such as the Tyrrells (Annagh), Beytaghs (Mannin), Dillons (Hazelhill) and Burkes (Holywell). The penal laws precluding Catholics from owning land appear not to have been strictly enforced around here and they managed to hold onto large amounts of land through the 1700s while remaining Catholic most if not

all of the time. It seems the local landlord Viscount Dillon (one of the largest landowners in the west of Ireland) was reasonably tolerant, and didn't care if his rents were paid by Catholic or Protestant tenants – as long as they were paid.

Few records have been found to tell how the Carrolls fared through the eighteenth century, or indeed to help trace the exact descent of the family down to the nineteenth century. Anthony O'Carroll and his family would have been agents or middle-men for Lord Dillon, holding large tracts of land on lease from him, some of which they would have had for grazing (when the livestock trade was good), or sublet to individual or partnership under-tenants. The Registry of Deeds, in Dublin, contains a record of a deed made on 30th Mar. 1791 between "Redmond Carroll, of the one part, and Henry Lyons, Thomas Walsh and Patrick Walsh and their co-partners, of the other part" regarding the "lands of Clofsaghroe part of Cloonaskragh". This is probably the Redmond Anthony mentioned in the 'pedigree' as son of Anthony. It seems that Carroll had leased the townland of Classaghroe from Lord Dillon some time earlier, and that he (Carroll) had sub-let this to Anne Staunton, who in turn sub-let it to the occupying tenants represented by Lyons and the two Walshes. The lease between Staunton and the occupying tenants was due to expire in 1796, while the Dillon-Carroll lease was to expire five years later in 1801. This deed records that the Classaghroe tenants paid Carroll £14. 15s. 9d to secure their tenancy of the land under the Dillon-Carroll lease.

Five years later Redmond Carroll of Forthill (probably the same man again) was listed as a member of the 'Loughglyn Cavalry' a local militia embodied on 28th Dec. 1796. Composed of Catholic minor gentry from the area, it was formed to keep law and order at a time before there was an organised police force, and as a reaction to rebellious feelings then spreading through the country following the French Revolution some years earlier. This reference seems to be the earliest written record of the placename Forthill. Other records before and after this refer to it as 'Cloonascra' which appears to have also taken in the townlands of Mountain, Tawnaghmore, Gurteenmore and Gurteenbeg at one time or other.

Redmond Carroll seems to have disposed of his interest in Classaghroe during the 1790s as a Dillon estate rental from 1800 shows that it held on lease directly from Lord Dillon by Thomas Lyons at a yearly rent of £48.17s.5d. The same rental shows that Forthill was then held under lease by John Dillon, whose identity



*The townlands of Forthill (holdings A to I) and Barheen (holdings J to R), surveyed by Michael Phillips, 1848. The legend (below right) gives the amount of land of each quality held by each tenant. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*

is unclear. It appears that the Carrolls had undergone a change in circumstances by this time and had reverted to the status of tenant farmers, probably paying rent to John Dillon, who was now the local middle-man for Lord Dillon.

One brief reference in the Genealogical Office Carroll pedigree shows that they had a burial vault in the Friary Ballyhaunis, and that it was used not only by the Forthill family but by their cousins in Ardagh, Glinsk as well. A Redmond Carroll of Ardagh – nephew of Anthony of Forthill – died in 1816 and was buried ‘in the family vault, Ballyhaunis’.

#### Changing times

In the very early 1800s Lord Dillon appointed Jarrard Strickland from the north of England as agent for his west of Ireland estates. Strickland and his son Charles more-or-less oversaw the running of the Dillon estate all through the nineteenth century. As old leases between the various Lord Dillons and the middlemen or partnership tenants expired through the 1800s, surveyors were employed to draw up townland maps showing the

extent of the different land qualities. Under the Stricklands’ guidance the land was then divided up or ‘striped’ into compact, self-contained holdings, thus getting rid of the rundale/partnership tenancy

| Reference.                     |                    |                      |                    |                   |                  |                   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| A <sup>2</sup>                 | Arable<br>a. r. p. | Shedding<br>a. r. p. | Barren<br>a. r. p. | Woods<br>a. r. p. | Peat<br>a. r. p. | Other<br>a. r. p. |
| A <sup>1</sup> Redmond Carroll | 94.2.7             | 2.1                  | 2.2.4              | 4.6.1             | 6.2.4            | 37.6.7            |
| B Widow Lyden                  | 2.0.20             | 1.10                 | 3.10               | —                 | 2.2              | 3.3.4             |
| C John Fiedly                  | 6.1.8              | —                    | 3.0.4              | 1.50              | 1.3.0            | 11.9.19           |
| D Peter Fitzmaurice            | 6.2.24             | 2.3                  | 1.2.4              | 2.0.2             | —                | 10.2.23           |
| E John Fitzmaurice             | 6.0.33             | —                    | 3.0.4              | 3.14              | —                | 9.3.13            |
| F Thomas Kaine                 | 1.1.28             | —                    | 3.1.4              | —                 | —                | 7.2.23            |
| G Mark Fitzmaurice             | 7.2.2              | 4                    | 3.29               | —                 | 8                | 8.2.3             |
| H Will <sup>o</sup> Flatty     | 5.2.31             | 4.5                  | 3.30               | 1.1.30            | —                | 8.1.24            |
| I Mich <sup>l</sup> Carrol     | 1.0.24             | 2.26                 | 1.37               | —                 | —                | 2.1.7             |
| R Pat Fitzmaurice              | 4.0.30             | —                    | 1.2.16             | 2.33              | 1.0.50           | 7.9.39            |
| L Widow C. Fitzmaurice         | 4.4.18             | 33                   | 1.2.10             | 3.2.1             | 1.0.2            | 10.3.23           |
| M Mark Flatty                  | —                  | —                    | 19                 | —                 | 2.5              | 3.2               |
| N Widow Flatty                 | —                  | —                    | 18                 | —                 | 2.5              | 3.23              |
| O Widow B. Fitzmaurice         | 5.14               | —                    | 2.29               | —                 | 1.0.32           | 2.2.35            |
| P Mich <sup>l</sup> Lyons      | 2.2.20             | 34                   | 1.0.17             | 3.1.13            | 1.2.16           | 8.3.25            |
| Q Pat Steyne                   | —                  | 1.0.26               | —                  | —                 | 1.10             | 1.3.31            |
| R Reserved Bog                 | —                  | —                    | —                  | —                 | 33.0.7           | 33.0.7            |
| Lakes                          | —                  | —                    | —                  | —                 | 6.1.37           | 6.1.37            |
| Roads                          | —                  | —                    | —                  | —                 | 1.0              | 1.0.4             |
| Totals                         | 77.1.32            | 4.6.23               | 21.3.31            | 15.2.13           | 57.0.20          | 176.1.2           |



arrangements that prevailed widely up to then. Most of the tenants, with their newly outlined small farms, now paid their rent directly to Lord Dillon through the Stricklands rather than to the middlemen as they had in the past. This, no doubt, had an adverse affect on the livelihoods of those – including the Carrolls – who had acted as brokers and agents between the Lord Dillons and the many thousands of tenants who lived on and worked the land. It also literally ‘cut out the middleman’ and increased Dillon’s income considerably.

These hand-drawn are held in the National Library, Dublin, but most from the immediate Ballyhaunis area were cut out of the bound volumes at some time or other and their whereabouts are now unknown. Fortunately, the one of Forthill and Barheen – showing the exact location of the Carroll farm – survives (see below).

In 1834 a Redmond Carroll was paying tithes for the adjoining townlands of Forthill (listed as a subdenomination of ‘Cloonescra’) in the parish of Began, and Boreen (Barheen) in the parish of Annagh. It’s unlikely that this is the man mentioned in the 1791 lease and 1796 cavalry list. He was possibly Redmond the emigrant who would then be about twenty. Tithes were an unpopular tax levied on each townland for the upkeep of the Protestant church.

The hand-drawn map of Forthill and Barheen, surveyed for Lord Dillon in 1848 by Michael Phillips shows how the land there was ‘striped’ into nine farms. Redmond Carroll’s farm of thirty-seven Irish acres (nearly sixty statute acres) was quite big by local standards. The same map shows a smallholding of two

and a quarter Irish acres (three and a half statute acres) at the other end of Forthill belonging to a Michael Carroll whose connection to Redmond (if any) is not known. This map was surveyed in 1848, the same year Redmond married secondly, his first wife having died four years earlier. Little is remembered of the effects of the Great Famine in this area, but census figures confirm that many died or moved away during this time. Two years later, in 1850, Redmond himself was on the emigrant ship to America, to be joined by his wife and two young children two years later. When ‘Griffith’s Valuation’ was compiled in 1855, a lot of changes had taken place since 1848: John Fitzmaurice had acquired the holdings either side of him, held previously by Peter Fitzmaurice and Thomas Kaine. Peter Fitzmaurice acquired the Carroll farm and moved across the road there, while Michael Carroll’s smallholding was incorporated into Flatley’s (now Gerry Plunkett’s) holding. Meanwhile, Redmond and his young family were making a new life for themselves on the American frontier.

The Carrolls have been in Kentucky now for about 160 years – longer than they were in Forthill, and much longer than any of the other places in which they lived since uprooted by Cromwell from their ancestral homestead in County Offaly two-hundred years before that. The family is only vaguely recalled in Forthill today, but recent visits by their descendents, including the late Joanne Posey Chadderdon who carried out extensive research into the family history, and her cousin Donald Wathen have renewed their connection with the place and have ensured that Forthill will occupy a cherished place in the long history of this extensive family.

*Paul Waldron*

## *New Year’s Eve Military Ball, 1972*



*Patricia and Martin Grogan, brother and sister, formerly of Clare Street.*



*Dr Pat Freyne and Dr Paddy Ann McBride formerly of Clare Street and Ballindine.*

## Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club

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The 2008/09 season has once again been very successful for the Club.

### Game

A good number of pheasant and duck were reared in newly constructed pens and released into the wild. A campaign was also mounted to erect feed hoppers for the birds. As a result there are a good number of birds on the ground.

### Clay Shooting

It was also a busy year on the clay shooting front. As usual the club ran the annual Clay Shoot in aid of Croí where a substantial sum of money was raised. Once again this year the club was represented at county level in the All-Ireland Inter County shoot where they acquitted themselves well. The two team members from the club were Ciarán Waldron and Enda Merrick.

### Vermin Control

Vermin are the bane of every gun club and with this in mind Ballyhaunis had their usual Control Programme in place. Mink are an ever-increasing threat and this year upwards of fifty mink were trapped.

### Special Thanks

A special thanks to the club members who helped out with the annual Alzheimer's Church Gate Collection. The club would also like to thank their generous sponsors throughout the year and also the farming community for their co-operation and good will.

### Officers

The following officers were elected for this season: President/Liaison Officer – Jack Lannon; Chairman – John Greally; Secretary – Packie Waldron; Treasurer – Padraig Kiely; Safety Officer – Paddy Gallagher; PRO – Flann Moroney.

*Packie Waldron*

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## A Parting Gift

It was a great pleasure for me to be back with you to celebrate the centenary of your magnificent church, of which everyone in the parish must be rightly proud, and which stands a glorious symbol overlooking the town, and a living, daily reminder of all the dedicated priests who served there. I was deeply moved twice over: firstly, to receive an invitation to attend, and secondly, with the delighted welcome from Canon Cooney, whose true friendship was always there for me in my time in Ballyhaunis. (May I add that my confreres, Frs. Matt Cooney, Vincent McCarthy and Sean Mac Gearailt happily shared those sentiments.) Naturally, it was a bonus to be able to meet and chat with so many after the celebrations – all knowing (as well as those I did not meet) the place they have in my heart. In the light of that (and realising that I do not now travel as widely as I used to), may I use this little space to leave you a parting gift. Of course I leave you the venerable Friary Church and the Mother of Good Counsel (whose image is also out in Knock), and the garden and river walk, which delighted me, and the bones of many holy friars who await the resurrection in this blessed corner of Mayo. Take care of them. I will name only one – one of your own as it happens, whose burial place is at present unknown, but who may be resting (we think) out near the remaining gable of the church that is close to St. Patrick's Well. I mean the Venerable Fulgentius (Walter) Jordan, OSA, whose name was among the ninety or so that were



*Pauline Curley, Anne Madden, Fr. John O'Connor OSA, Máisín Meath, at the Centenary Celebrations of St. Patrick's Parish Church.*

presented to Rome in the early years of the twentieth century, with a view to beatification. The Ven. Fulgentius (in religion called after the fifth/sixth century St. Fulgentius) assuredly died for the faith in 1649, not at the Abbey, as we at one time thought, but out beyond the town. We have some pointers as to how he died, but more needs to be known. So research is necessary, and the recording of any tradition that may exist. Important too is prayer – living prayer to him as a possible saint, and prayer to God that He will bring about his beatification. It would be a happy day if Ballyhaunis were to be blessed by Rome with its own saint (a symbol indeed of all the holy people the town has known). So especially I give into your kindly hands the Ven. Fulgentius of Ballyhaunis of sacred memory. Every Blessing.

*John O'Connor, OSA*





*Patrick O'Reilly (P. J.) standing in the doorway of his shop on Main St., now Finn's shoe-shop. Patrick was son of Laurence O'Reilly and Cecelia Noone who owned a shop where the Furniture Shop is now, also on Main St. Patrick was brother of Laurence O'Reilly jnr. and of Kate Josephine O'Reilly who married James Lyons, again of Main St. Patrick's mother Cecelia was married twice, firstly to Laurence O'Reilly and secondly to Thomas M. Neary.*



*John Thomas Heneghan, Agloragh and his brother-in-law Miko Manning (Clifden) in Cunningham's, Abbey Street, c. 1960.*



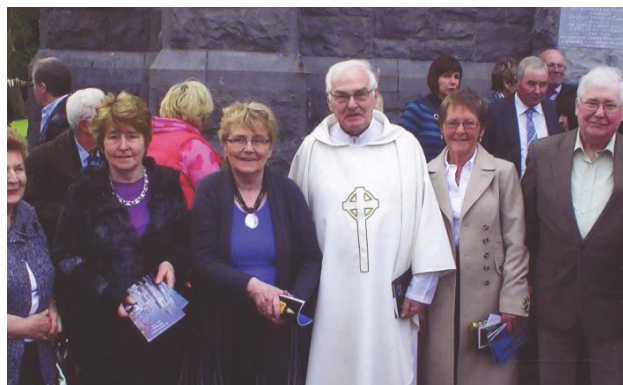
*Baby (Annie) Heneghan and her brother Paddy in 1942/3.*



*John Thomas Heneghan and his son Paddy outside the house in Agloragh, 1936.*



*Pictured after the St. Patrick's Church Centenary Mass, Fr. Patrick Williams, retired Professor of Greek in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, with three of his former pupils from Ballyhaunis. L-R: Johnny Biesty, Fr. Patrick Williams, Anthony Jordan, John Cleary.*



*Pictured after the St. Patrick's Church Centenary Mass. L-R: Delia Flanagan, Kathleen McBride, Mary Margaret McBride, Fr. Enda Lyons, Attracta Jordan and Columba Jordan*



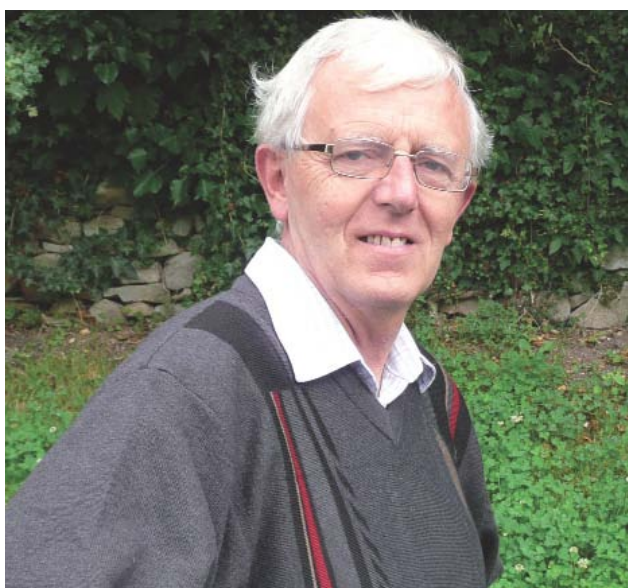
*Seamie Sloyan, Tully, with his 2 year old Colt, winner of 1st prize at the National Draught Show in Galway on 27th September, 2009.*

*Tom Quinn, Tully, celebrated his 80th Birthday in January 2009 with friends. Back L-R: Denis Sloyan, Raymond Sloyan, Francis Daly, Tommie Fitzmaurice, Noel Sloyan, Séamus Sloyan, Thomas Mulrennan. Front L-R: Kevin Webb, John Joe Fitzmaurice, Tom Quinn, Martin Lyons.*





## Matt O'Dwyer Retires



The 2009 summer holidays at Ballyhaunis Community School were that little bit extra special for teacher, Matt O'Dwyer, when he left the classroom for the last time, after 39 years of service to secondary education in his native town.

Matt began his journey in secondary education in Ballyhaunis in 1970 when he joined the teaching staff at

the Convent of Mercy, Abbey Street. Following the amalgamation of the three local secondary schools in 1977, the Abbeyquarter native became part of the new Community School, under the principalship of Mr. Eddie Thornton.

Matt, who was a teacher of Science at the Community School, was described by one of his colleagues as: "A man who always put his pupil in first place". A great team man, Matt introduced the School Sports Day a number of years ago, which became a very successful annual event for everybody involved in the school. He believed in giving everybody a chance to give it their best shot, and this certainly worked to great success in the school's athletics programme, which Matt himself designed. He started ladies soccer and gave encouragement to all girls to get involved in the sport.

He was Year Head to various classes over the years and was always held with respect and regard by all pupils. His presence will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike at Ballyhaunis Community School in the future.

Outside of his working life Matt has been involved in many community activities in Ballyhaunis over the years, including Junior Chamber and Annagh Magazine. He is wished a long and happy retirement.

*Mike Byrne*

## Sharing in History

January 20th, 2009 was an historic day in the United States. On that day one and a half million people gathered on the Mall in Washington, D.C. to witness the inauguration of the first African American President. Barack Obama, son of an immigrant father from Kenya, and a mother with ancestral roots in Ireland placed his hand on the Bible and took the oath of office as the 44th President of the United States. Forty-five years after the passage of the Civil Right Act it was unimaginable that an African American could be elected President of the United States.

Barack Obama's theme throughout the campaign was "Yes We Can", and he committed himself and his administration to the promise of Change in America. The reality of that change was exemplified in his election. While there was unprecedented joy in his election, an air of reality also hung over the Inauguration. President Obama was inheriting the most severe economic recession since the Great Depression of 1929; the challenge of two wars, he was expected to fix health care, offer solutions for immigration and world terrorism. The "air of reality", while not dampening the enthusiasm

of the historic nature of his election, reminded all Americans that unlike previous presidents, President Barack Obama would have no honeymoon period.

Nine months into his Administration this reality is borne out in the challenges he is facing as he tries to address the major domestic and foreign problems that are on his agenda. Since January 20th a nationwide anger tinged with racism, is creating a negative political environment that is making it much more difficult to come up with bi-partisan solutions to domestic problems. Nowhere is this more evident than in the current debate around health care reform. The reform of health care in America was one of President Obama's top agenda item. While having the highest quality health care in the world, the reality is that in America over 40 million people are uninsured, and the cost of insurance and health care delivery is escalating at an uncontrolled rate.

### *Health Care Reform*

As one who is involved with this issue on a daily basis through my work at Unity Health Care, Inc. (Unity) in Washington, D.C. the reality of uninsured people is

evidence of a broken system. Because of the President and First Lady's interest in health care reform, and in particular for the model of care offered by Unity, I have been privileged to meet both President Obama and the First Lady personally, and share with them the challenges



*First Lady Michelle Obama with Vincent Keane.*

of our work. First Lady Obama visited one of our health centres in June and announced a grant award to Unity in the amount of \$2.5 million. In September I was honoured to be a guest of the First Lady when the President addressed a Joint Session of Congress on the issue of health care reform. Afterwards I spent a few minutes speaking to both of them, and encouraged the President to visit Ireland to trace his ancestral roots, even if it meant going to Offaly! I also offered to be their tour guide, as of now they have not taken me up on that offer.

The following article from the Irish Voice details both of these events and my participation in them. As someone who has admired both the President and First Lady Obama since they first came on the national scene this was truly a unique honour for a Ballyhaunis native from the village of Annagh.

### ***Irishman Stumps for Obama on Health Care Reform***

***- Mayo man says pay should not be a barrier to good quality health care***

By April Drew and Stella O'Leary, 'The Irish Voice', U.S.A.

Irish man Vince Keane from Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo is helping U.S. President Barack Obama to try and overhaul the health care system in the U.S.

On Wednesday, September 9th, when President Obama gave the most important speech of his early presidency, Keane sat in the gallery with the first lady, Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, and Victoria Kennedy, wife of the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

Keane, 63, is President and CEO of Unity Health Care, a community health care centre that serves 81,000 people in Washington D.C. - people who would otherwise go without health care. Unity is part of about 1,000 centres nationwide that provide care for the uninsured and others who lack health care in the commercial market.

In June, Keane was introduced to Michelle Obama when she visited the Unity Health Care facility in the Upper Cardozo area of Washington to announce the release of \$851 million in grants to address immediate and pressing health care centre facility needs. These grants will provide immediate access to health care for millions of Americans.

Senator Kennedy made the first federal appropriation for these health care facilities in 1965, and they were part of President Johnson's war on poverty. The Obama administration expects to expand these centres as part of a health care reform bill to serve the many millions uninsured.

"Mrs. Obama came to visit us in January and again in June to see some of the work we were doing," Keane told the 'Irish Voice'. "She met with some of our clients, our doctors, held a press conference, and a few weeks later I got invited by the first lady to attend the President's health care address last week. What an honour it really was to be there, sitting in the same box as the first lady, Mrs. Biden and Vicki Kennedy".

Keane, who visits Ireland nearly every year, emigrated to the US from Mayo 40 years ago and spent the first 20 years as a priest in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. "I left the priesthood in 1987 and shortly after began working with what was then known as Healthcare for the Homeless," said Keane. He sees his work as a provider of health care to the uninsured, as a continuation of his mission to help the less fortunate in our society. "The early Irish immigrants built hospitals and schools to serve those who otherwise would go without health care or education," he said. "Irish Americans have never forgotten the people left behind."

Keane is proud of his dedication to advocating for the underprivileged, and feels he is continuing the Kennedy tradition of commitment to social programmes. Even while being honoured for his work at



Unity Health Care, Keane wants to focus on the issue at hand. Health care reform, he says, remains a high priority for all Americans, especially the uninsured. Therefore it was extra special for him to be able to attend the address to Congress last week.

Following the address, Keane had a one-on-one visit with President Obama. "Those who were in the box with Mrs. Obama were invited downstairs after the President's address to meet him. He is just a lovely man," said Keane. It really was quite an honour. He (Obama) was so gracious. I complimented him on his wonderful speech and ensured him that we are there to support his efforts." Keane told the President, "I am from Ireland, and over there they are checking out your ancestry but that I'm not from your county, Offaly. I'm from Mayo." Keane said the President laughed at his remark because he has heard time and time again how Ireland has claimed him as one of its own.

The Mayo man feels that both of the Obamas are "major assets" to the US. "I believe very strongly in what the President is trying to achieve with health care reform," he said. Keane, who has seen his fair share of hardship down through the years with Unity Health Care, said it's imperative that those in power listen to the President and pass a fair and workable health care

package as soon as possible. "I really do believe that common sense will prevail this time, and although I'm sure not everything will be agreed upon, the key elements of the programme will pass, the elements he outlined in his speech in Congress last week," Keane feels.

In recent months, with more people losing their jobs and subsequently their health insurance, Keane said that there are many more people utilising Unity Health Care and not enough resources in place. "The funding we just got will increase our ability to help more people," he said.

The largest Unity Health Care building is located in the heart of an immigrant population, said Keane. "We do serve a tremendous large immigrant population and we don't ever check anyone's immigration status. We see all comers," he said. Pay is not a barrier. We are required to serve people regardless of ability to pay. If they can pay we have a sliding fee scale according to their income. No one will go unseen for any reason."

Vincent A. Keane is President/CEO of Unity Health Care, Inc. located in Washington, D.C. Mr. Keane's e-mail address is [vkeane@unityhealthcare.org](mailto:vkeane@unityhealthcare.org)

*Vincent Keane*

## *Memories of a Retained Fireman*

As a young lad, Ballyhaunis Fire Station was an old shed in Barrack Street, known locally as the 'back way'. It was leased by Eddie Fitzgerald to the County Council to house the fire engine and the crew. The old call-out siren sat on top of a shed at the rear of our house in Clare Street. Clarence Grogan was then Station Officer and was my next-door neighbour. His wife Delia was in the house 24/7 to answer the Fire Brigade phone (telephone number 55) for any emergency. Delia always used to say "I am a prisoner in my own house"! When the fire siren would wail, all the children of the town would race to the street to see what the emergency was. The fire engine was a red Land Rover. It was a pick-up type vehicle with the rear covered with a Healy plastic sheet, with a bench seat each side for the crew to sit on. The registration number was DIZ 831. There was a pump mounted on the rear of the vehicle for pumping water through the hoses onto a fire. There were about eight men in the Fire Brigade, and going back to the late 1950s and into the



*Mike and Mary Teresa Griffin.*

1960s, and even into the early 1970s, some of them depended on bicycles to get to the fire station for a fire call. Back in those days they wore black helmets, black PVC coats with reflector strips,

black pull-ups and wellingtons. They also wore a belt with an axe attached. At that time Cathal Garvey was the Chief Fire Officer in Castlebar H.Q. He had been a Captain in the Irish Army. Cathal Garvey moved to Cork city to take over as Chief Fire Officer there. Tom Ruddy then took over as Chief Fire Officer in Castlebar for Mayo. Around 1977 I took an interest in being a fireman. I applied to Mayo County Council to join the Fire Brigade. November of 1977 I was called to an interview in Ballyhaunis Fire Station. A Senior Officer from Castlebar, John Donegan, conducted the interview. A few weeks later I received a letter telling me to join at the next practice meeting. I joined on the 26th December 1977. My first fire call was at a kitchen fire at a house on the Galway Road. On the first day of January 1978 Sean Freyne took over as Station Officer at Ballyhaunis Fire Station. He was later succeeded by Edward Mulhern and Gerard O'Connell, the present Station Officer.

### Call-Outs

Down through the years, the summer period was always a busy time with forest fires, bog fires and gorse fires. It was like being a full time fireman for about two to three weeks. Putting out those fires was hard tough work, but it helped to get rid of any cholesterol! The month of July 1979 I was sent by the Chief Fire Officer to Castlebridge in Co. Wexford for a two-week training course in the use of breathing apparatus and qualified to wear same. About fifteen other firemen from County Mayo went on the same course.

Some of the fire call-outs that I have attended include the following: On Sunday 24th September 1989 a pilgrim train travelling from Dublin to Claremorris derailed two miles from Claremorris, on the Ballyhaunis side, near

Ballygowan Bridge. A Major Accident Plan was put into operation. Some carriages were turned on their side. Passengers had to be rescued. Some were injured. Ambulances took the injured to hospital. Five Fire Brigade units attended including Ballyhaunis along with Senior Fire Brigade Officers from within the county. There is a photograph of the overturned train in Ballyhaunis Fire Station.

On Tuesday 5th January 1992 a major fire started in the Halal Meat Packers Plant in Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. At 2pm that day an emergency call was received at Ballyhaunis Fire Station, reporting the fire and requesting assistance. The crew then proceeded to Ballaghaderreen. It was the biggest blaze we ever attended. We returned home to the station on Wednesday at 3pm some twenty-five hours later. There were ten Fire Brigades present at the scene fighting the fire. Three hydraulic platforms, one from Castlebar, Roscommon and Sligo were used. The Chief Fire Officer from Roscommon, Castlebar and Sligo attended. Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade was again called back on the Thursday for assistance and returned to station that evening.

On Holy Thursday, which was April 1st 1999, a major fire erupted in a factory in Belmullet in Co. Mayo. The factory produced large rubber mats, which are used for cattle to lie on. Several Fire Brigade crews fought the fire on Thursday afternoon and evening. Ballyhaunis crew were put on stand-by on Thursday night and were re-called to Belmullet at 8am on Good Friday morning. We spent the day damping down hot spots in the building and returned home to station at 9pm that night.

Unfortunately, I have also attended some fire situations where there was loss of life. May they rest in peace.

*Sarah Jane Lynskey was awarded an Entrance Exhibition by Prof. John Hegarty, Provost, Trinity College Dublin in Michelmás Term 2008.*

*Sarah Jane is daughter of Brigid and Liam Lynskey, Gurteen, Ballyhaunis and is a past pupil of Scoil Iosa NS and Ballyhaunis Community School.*





## Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

The Ballyhaunis Pool opened its doors this year on Saturday, 27th June. Thanks to Fr. Benny McHale for blessing the pool and all its facilities. We would like to thank Mayo County Council for their help with all the repairs and painting, which was carried out. Without their input it would be impossible to upkeep the pool grounds. The weather was beautiful the weekend we opened and the number of children using the pool was way above our expectations. All we hoped for was that it was going to continue and we'd get this Indian summer we were promised! Well this wasn't to be. But this didn't stop the children using the pool.

This year the pool ran two Irish Water Safety courses: one on the 6th July, and the other on the 24th August. The number of children attending both courses showed a huge increase on other years. As well as the pool achieving great numbers passing their Irish Water Safety Courses we had three of our lifeguards who passed their National Lifeguard awards, congratulations to all. We know the pool season is only for 8 weeks, but for

these weeks it gives the children a place to be active and have fun. We think it is important to maintain this facility for the children of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas, as it's one of those activities that you can enjoy everyday and also learn one of the most important skills in life - swimming.

We finished our season with the Swimming Gala & Party. The children had a great day, all the events were organised by the lifeguards and office staff. They organised a variety of swimming and novelty events e.g. three-legged race, obstacle course, biggest splash. It guaranteed all children went home with a medal. Our overall trophies, of which there are two, went to Lauren Gallagher, for most improved Swimmer and Lucy Moss for best attender. Congratulations to you all winners. We would like to thank our Lifeguards, Lisa Jordan, Fiona Freyne, Dean Feeney and our Office Staff, Lisa Carney and Gareth Carrick.

Look forward to seeing you all again next year.

*Agatha Higgins*



*Swimmers on the day of the Gala, August 2009, after receiving their medals. Back, L-R: Michelle Lyons, Jessica Carroll, Claire Walshe, Grace Lyons, Laura Culliney, Lisa Hunt, Joseph Lyons, Demi Greally, Saoirse Caulfield, Roisín Ó Suilleabhain, Fiona Freyne (Lifeguard). Third row, L-R: Lauren Gallagher, Claire Fahy, Danielle Coyne, Cormac Phillips, Kaitlyn Clarke, Cian Henry, Mathew Grogan, Evan Fitzmaurice. Second row, L-R: Lucy Moss, Roisín Fitzmaurice, Aoibhean Herr, Sean Herr, Eamonn Phillips, Cathal Carney, Gary Higgins, Lisa Jordan (Lifeguard). Front, L-R: Evan Henry, Marina Carney, Aoife Conway, Kasey Clarke, Hannah Clarke, Conal Caulfield, Liam Herr, Jenny Cleary, Gareth Carrick (Office Staff).*

## Jim's Birthday Party

The "twenty-first" is often marked by a big birthday party by the up-and-coming generation nowadays. For many senior citizens the "twenty-first" passed quietly and quickly by, often unnoticed. Many waiting up to four score young years before having an organised birthday party. Such was the case with Jim Fitzgerald of Redford



*Peg Leahy (left) with her first cousins Jim Fitzgerald and Tom Coen at their home in Redford, Ballyhaunis.*

who celebrated a landmark birthday during the past year. A card from Jim's niece Charmaine invited many of Jim's relations, friends and neighbours to a function marking the occasion in the McWilliam Park Hotel Claremorris. Sister Babe coming from England as did cousin Bridie Griffin. Other cousins who did not have to travel so far included Noreen Coggins, Jack Hunt, Ann McHugh and Sr. Kathleen Lyons. From across the Atlantic we had Jim's cousins Peg Leahy, Daniel Leahy, Teresa LaFlam, Meg LaFlam, Andy Leahy and Kevin Leahy.

Noreen Coggins in her usual charming manner gave us a brief account of Jim's life and times, recalling the letters that came to the Lyons household from England, even

remembering Jim's English address after all those years. Billy Lyons turned back the history pages of the Fitzgeralds going back to Norman times. Present were Myra and Teresa, two ladies who bore the Fitzgerald name before they married brothers Jim and Gerry Healy, two Galway men. Another Galway man present was Pat Kelly who met and married Jim's next-door neighbour Maureen Burke in Sydney. Jim never married. There never was a man or woman who could not have been married. Jim was no exception. He talked on one occasion about that English girl he knew long ago. They never walked up the aisle. Although they had been brought up to worship the same God, they had been taught to pray at different altars.

### England

Noreen Coggins had told us that at an early age Jim had taken the well-worn path to England. He talked to me once about the culture shock it was, arriving there in the years immediately after the war with rationing, scarcities and strict war-time regulations still in force. Leaving a rabbit infested country it was an eye opener to see a workmate being prosecuted and fined ten shillings for taking a rabbit away from a cornfield. Taking the good with bad, working hard, he saved enough money to return to the spot where he was born, building a modern bungalow, reclaiming the land, like many others of his generation.

It was an occasion enjoyed by all, with recitation, song, music, dance and lively conversation between people who meet often, had not met for years, or had never met before. Music on the occasion was provided by the best known traditional musicians in the locality including Paddy Lyons, Connie Gildea, Jim's cousins Billy Lyons and his brother Declan and the bearded troubadour himself, Paddy Joe Tighe.

*Jimmy Cribbin*



*Left:  
John Prenty,  
BSc Honours,  
in  
Physiotherapy,  
University of  
Bradford,  
England.*



*Katie Concannon, Ann Phillips and Mary Henry ran the Dublin City Marathon in 2008 in aid of Western Care Association. They raised €10,796.*



## Interesting Extracts

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

#### Part 3

In the last two issues of 'Annagh' we featured brief notes of events and occurrences in and around Ballyhaunis, contained in a document entitled "Interesting extracts - Brief Personal Notes on Parochial and Other Passing Events", and compiled by Dr. Michael F. Waldron, BA, LLd, of Knox St., in 1953. The extracts list 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. Because it runs to sixty-seven pages of typescript, it was impossible to reprint it all in once issue of 'Annagh', so here is the last of three instalments taking calendar dates from 1st September to 31st December.

### September

#### 1st

**1930** - Went to Lisdoonvarna. **1940** - (Sunday) Augustinian Pattern, sports, ceilidhe, etc. **1941** - New Vocational Schools opened.

#### 2nd

**1938** - Trip through Connemara with Paddy O'Higgins: Kylemore Castle; lunched at Renvyle.

#### 3rd

**1937** - John Cribbin (late P.O.) died at Castlebar. **1947** - Ned Daly, Barrack St. died.

#### 4th

**1916** - Last races over Tooraree Course. **1921** - Branch of White Cross established. **1936** - Pat Byrne (Bridge St.) died, aged 82. **1938** - Miss O'Loughlin (Devlis), died, advanced age. **1939** - Michael J. Waldron, Knox St. died.

#### 5th

**1942** - John Glavey (late of Scrigg, Aghamore), died at Knox St. **1945** - Fire-fighting demonstration and instruction.

#### 6th

**1922** - National troops ambushed at Tavrane, five wounded brought in; Vol. Tierney fatally injured. **1936** - Jack Moran (75) died. **1938** - John McGivern (house owner), Ardearg "Redford" died. **1944** - Six o'clock broadcast "The King's Secret" (Dan O'Herlihy reader).

#### 7th

**1922** - Death of Mrs. P. Byrne; Military funeral of Vol. Tierney, wounded at Tavrane.

#### 8th

**1932** - Electric light in house. **1935** - Thomas F. Curran-Tyrrell (solicitor) died. **1942** - Mrs. ('Paky') Dillon, Abbeyquarter, died suddenly. **1943** - News: Italians surrender unconditionally to Allies.

#### 9th

**1941** - Mick Dwyer (ex. R.I.C.), Barrack St., died. **1945** - Jim Waldron, late Water Superintendent (Tooraree), died.

#### 10th

**1928** - John M. Conry died; Austin Jordan (Snr.) died.

#### 11th

**1944** - Mrs. Owen Leonard, Crossard, died; Mrs. McDermott (nee Lyons), Waldron's Terrace, died. **1949** - Two weeks Mission (Redemptorist Fathers Murphy and Kieran) opened.

#### 12th

**1910** - Thomas Glavey, Knox St., died suddenly. **1933** - David ('Darby') Morley died at Mullingar. **1943** - Fortnight Mission, Passionist Fathers (Austin and Terence) opened. **1944** - Pat Judge, Carrowrea, died suddenly.

#### 13th

**1930** - Returned from Lisdoonvarna.

#### 14th

**1914** - Most. Revd. Dr. Heavey (Bishop of Queensland) honoured. **1920** - Capt. Glavey and three others killed at Ballinlough. **1935** - Mrs. Ned Webb (Lizzie McConville) died. **1952** - Redemptorists open mission (Frs. Flaherty and O'Connor).

#### 15th

**1943** - Patrick J. Heavey (late London Customs), Cottage, died in Baggot Street Hospital. **1946** - Redemptorist Mission (Frs. Lawlor and Gorey) opened. **1952** - Fire in Durkan's bottling stores.

#### 16th

**1934** - Mission by Vincentian Fathers (Frs. Gilmartin, MacElligott and Glynn) opens. **1950** - Mrs. Eddie Byrne, Bridge St., died (four daughters).

#### **17th**

**1940** - Visited Ogham Stone in Island with Dr. Thomas B. Costelloe (Tuam) and Prof. MacAlister (Dublin); Dick Philbin (Hazelhill) died; Woman's (Mrs. Mary McDonagh) body found near tinkers' camp, Cloongoonagh. **1945** - Death of John Count McCormack announced. **1946** - James Caulfield, Abbey St., died.

#### **18th**

**1905** - Harry A. McConville died. **1924** - J. T. Ruane died. **1942** - Paddy ("Mike") Smyth, died at Swinford.

#### **19th**

**1938** - Miss Mary Jane McDermott (Fr. Frank's sister, Ballinlough), died. **1941** - Miss Mary A. Lyons, Main St. (aunt of Fr. Lyons, Dr. Lyons, etc.) died.

#### **20th**

**1939** - Michael Francis Hunt (Derrynacong) died in Dublin.

#### **21st**

**1926** - Michael Regan killed in sandpit in Johnstown. **1930** - Redemptorists (Frs. Kelly and Murphy) open Mission. **1938** - Nurse (Jubilee) Whiteside died in Dublin.

#### **22nd**

**1938** - Tommy ('Blue') Gavin died in Castlebar. **1940** - Big Whist Drive in aid of Parochial Hall. **1945** - Last night stormy with torrential rain.

#### **23rd**

**1923** - Mission opened by Redemptorist Fathers. **1926** - Mrs. D. Feely died. **1938** - Mrs. Kate O'Brien (nee Glavey), Knox St., died. **1951** - Football Final – Mayo 2-8, Meath 0-9.

#### **24th**

**1930** - Mrs. K. Waldron (Brackloon) died. **1947** - Joe Griffin, Clare St., died (hospice of dying, Dublin); Mrs. Sarah Brennan, Waldron's Terrace, died. **1950** - All-Ireland Final – Mayo 2-5, Louth 1-6; Dr. Andrew Smyth died suddenly.

#### **25th**

**1942** - Inclement weather: heavy snow showers and sleet. **1949** - Blazing hot day; Meath beat Cavan in All-Ireland Final; Mission closed.

#### **26th**

**1940** - Thomas Cribbin, Togher, died (Thursday). **1948** - All-Ireland Final: Cavan 4-5, Mayo 4-4.

#### **27th**

**1928** - Mrs. Thomas Moran died. **1946** - Pat Morley (90), Main St., died.

#### **28th**

**1923** - Address to His Grace – Most Rev. Dr. Gilmartin. **1931** - Mrs. John T. Ruane died. **1952** - Torrential rain, stormy; Redemptorist mission (Frs. Faherty and O'Connor), closes.

#### **29th**

**1940** - Redemptorist Mission opened (Frs. Cassin, MacDevitt and O'Brien). **1946** - Redemptorist Mission (Frs. Gorey and Lawlor) closed.

#### **30th**

**1932** - P. A. retired. **1934** - Fortnight's mission (by Vincentian Fathers) closed. **1935** - Miss Mary K. Smyth died (at Ballycumber).

## **October**

#### **1st**

**1922** - (Sunday) Attack on National Forces (about 9.30 – 10.30 p.m.). **1927** - John MacNamara died. **1941** - Mass in Vocational School (Fr. Prendergast, P. P., celebrant). **1948** - Eddie Gilmore, Bungalow, Pollnacraoaghy, died suddenly.

#### **2nd**

**1922** - (Monday) Another attack (11.30 p.m.). **1943** - Miss Catherine Freeley (Pat's sister), Church St. died. **1947** - Bernard Lavan (Brian), Ballinlough, died.

#### **3rd**

**1935** - Italo-Abyssinian War broke out. **1938** - Day of storm and rain followed by night of high wind. **1940** - Miss Tyrrell (Annagh) died yesterday. **1944** - Miss Mary Lyons (78), Waldron's Terrace, died.

#### **4th**

**1922** - Firing at night (11 p.m.). **1948** - Mr. Rogers, Manager, Ulster Bank, died; outbreak of fire in St.



Patrick's Church after evening devotions.

### **5th**

**1922** - (Thursday) Fierce attack – 9.30 p.m. **1940** - William M. Killeen (G.P.O., native of Ballyhaunis) died in Dublin. **1946** - Denis (George) McGillicuddy, Knox St., died in Ballinrobe.

### **6th**

**1926** - Tony (A.T.) Morley died. **1941** - Act of Thanksgiving. **1948** - Roco Bros. Circus and Menagerie.

### **7th**

**1922** - (Saturday) Another fierce onslaught starting about 1.30 a.m.; further fierce attack at about 10 to 11.30 p.m. **1923** - Mission closed. **1933** - Gathered mushrooms

### **8th**

**1939** - Dr. Conor Maguire lectured on "Mayo in '98". **1945** - Onny Rattigan, Barrack St., died aged 84.

### **9th**

**1920** - Sensational visit of party of Black and Tans. **1933** - Brilliant display of meteors – 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### **10th**

**1909** - Dedication of St. Patrick's Church. **1921** - District Court (sat as Chairman). **1922** - Another attack on National Forces (about 9.10 p.m.). **1927** - Walked to Knock and back.

### **11th**

**1922** - Brief bombardment about 9 p.m. **1949** - Sister Ita (Delaney) died at Convent; burial Westport.

### **12th**

**1922** - Thomas King, Law Clerk, killed at station by train – 3.10 p.m. **1930** - Three weeks' mission closed. **1936** - Michael Mulkeen (Mrs. Lavelle's brother) died. **1947** - Mrs. King (73), Barrack St. died at Castlebar.

### **13th**

**1940** - Redemptorist Mission closed; prayers requested for Paddy A. Murphy (Lecarrow), killed in air raid, England. **1945** - Mrs. James Treston, Cottage, died (aged about 80); Cardinal McRory died (aged 84).

### **14th**

**1922** - Motor accident (fatal) to Pat Phillips. **1935** - Pat Comber (plumber) died. **1939** - Dr. Gilmartin, Archbishop of Tuam, died.

### **15th**

**1936** - Mrs. Mike O'Brien (Clare Rd.) died.

### **16th**

**1923** - Mrs. William Cooney died. **1938** - Miss Annie Cuddy (P. Glavey's niece) died at Castlebar.

### **17th**

**1941** - Picture "Wings of the Morning" (Parochial Hall) with John McCormack (songs) and Steve Donoghue (in Derby race).

### **18th**

**1920** - W. D. Coyne arrested.

### **19th**

**1922** - Brief bombardment (about 10.30 p.m.). **1942** - Margaret Mary (Stella) Regan, Upper Main St., died; funeral to Tuam.

### **20th**

**1922** - Vigorous and prolonged attack commencing about 10.30 p.m. and lasting until 5.30 a.m.

### **21st**

**1928** - Mrs. David Lyons died.

### **22nd**

**1911** - Mark Waldron died.

### **24th**

**1950** - Solemn consecration of St. Patrick's Church; present: Archbishop Walsh, Bishop Fergus, Chancellor Prendergast P.P., Precentor Gunnigan, Canon McDermott, Canon Neary (Cong), Canon Carney (Aghamore), Fr. P. Waldron P.P. Kilkerrin, Fr. Jennings, Fr. Hugh Curley (Headford), Fr. Fynne etc., etc.

### **25th**

**1922** - Mrs. Anne Flanagan died.

### **26th**

**1941** - Picture, Parochial Hall "Goodbye Mr. Chips", splendid. **1948** - Bitterly cold rain and wind last night, snow on ground this morning.

### **27th**

**1935** - Mrs. Helbert (Clare Road) found dead. **1940** - Tim Hannon (late Birmingham) died at Tom's in Coolnaha. **1947** - Visit of Roco Bros. Circus and Zoo. **1948** - Cambridgeshire: Stereotype (1st), Royal Tara

(2nd), Patchonly & Impeccable (3rd).

### **28th**

**1922** - Flying column visit district and make several arrests, including Maurice Mullen, around Aghamore. **1939** - Mrs. (John) Durkan, Abbey St., died. **1944** - Tom Byrne (nailer)(83 years), died at Devlis. **1946** - Stephen Hannon, Cherryfield, died at Castlebar. **1952** - Stormy, heavy rainfall last night and this morning.

### **29th**

**1922** - Several arrests: J. P. Jordan, John Grealy, etc., nine in all.

### **30th**

**1922** - (Monday) Fair Day; intense bombardment (11 p.m. to 12.30 p.m. next day); estimated that 20,000 rounds were expended. **1941** - Pat McGreal (Clare St.) died. **1950** - Michael Regan, Upper Main St., died.

### **31st**

**1928** - Pat Fitzmaurice, postman, Knox St., died. **1934** - Heavy fall of snow.

## **November**

### **1st**

**1916** - John J. Waldron died. **1922** - Brief attack about 11.p.m. **1950** - Assumption Dogma proclaimed by Pope Pius XII.

### **2nd**

**1950** - George Bernard Shaw (94) died.

### **3rd**

**1941** - All Souls Day (Monday) in substitution for Sunday (2nd); brilliant sunshine, like summer.

### **4th**

**1940** - Members of Parish Council begin cleaning New Cemetery; Dominick Byrne (tailor), Main St., died.; address, etc., to Rev. Martin Hannon about to leave for Nigeria. **1952** - Michael Byrne (44), Spotfield, Bekan, died as result of injuries; U.S.A. election: Eisenhower and Stevenson for president.

### **5th**

**1931** - Mrs. Jordan (Austin's mother) died. **1942** - Miss Mary Ellen Rattigan (Bridge St., Michael's daughter), died in Castlebar.

### **7th**

**1935** - Mrs. Mulligan (nee Flatley) N.T. died (City of

Dublin Hospital). **1942** - Mrs. McHugh (Barrack St.) died. **1952** - Mrs. Pat Garvey (Knox St.) died.

### **8th**

**1905** - J. L. Snee died. **1944** - Gave some rose (white) slips to Mr. Cormican (National Bank).

### **9th**

**1942** - P. A. Waldron died about 10.25 p.m.

### **11th**

**1945** - Parish Council meeting suggested 'free fairs and markets' and abolition of Customs, also made suggestions for planting of forest and fruit trees. **1947** - Mass (Chancellor Prendergast) for P.A., parents and sister Sarah. **1952** - Fr. Michael Caulfield (missionary, Japan) called inquiring for book.

### **12th**

**1926** - Michael O'Connell died. **1931** - Mrs. William Cox died. **1940** - Michael Freeley, Ballindrehid, died. **1951** - Alec Greene, Main St. died suddenly this morning.

### **13th**

**1940** - Mrs. Maggie Cassidy (Tooraree) died. **1947** - Set some slips of rambler roses. **1948** - Mrs. (Tom) Forrie, Knox St., died.

### **14th**

**1937** - Mission by Vincentian Fathers opens. **1942** - Mrs. (Tony) Morley, Knox St. died. **1948** - Letter in Sunday Independent "The 'Solving' of Hamlet" (Article in Western People "Thoughts on Shakespeare", Oct. 4th 1947).

### **15th**

**1921** - Mrs. P. McGreal died. **1926** - Michael Flatley ex N.T. died. **1952** - Manchester November Handicap: Summer Rain 1, Knock Hard 2, Solar 3.

### **16th**

**1929** - Walter Waldron died. **1938** - Miss May Curran-Tyrrell (Annagh) died. **1941** - Golden Jubilee of Parnell's death, Davitt and Manchester Martyrs, fireworks, bonfires, ceilidhe in McGarry's Hall; dancing to late hour. **1943** - "Zurika" in Parochial Hall (Miss Eaton). **1952** - Prayers for Paddy Waldron (Cave) who died in Chicago.

### **17th**

**1920** - Party of Black and Tans visit and create a sensation. **1944** - Fierce gale last night, lasting from 10.30 p.m. to 5.30 a.m. **1947** - Heavy frost last night. **1952** - Jimmy O'Dea and Company open three nights' entertainment.



### 18th

**1920** - Plots in Pollnacraoaghy allotted. **1941** - Entertainment in Parochial Hall and operetta "Princess Ju-Ju". **1942** - Death of Canon Michael J. McHugh, P.P. Claremorris (P.P. Annagh 1921-30). **1943** - Johnny Rattigan, Tooraree cottages, died. **1947** - Heavy snowfall last night and today.

### 19th

**1945** - Mrs. (Tom) Fitzmaurice, Devlis, died. **1946** - Very Rev. Canon John Grealy, Knock, died. **1950** - Special religious ceremonies and town decorated and illuminated following promulgation by Pope Pius XII of Dogma of Assumption.

### 20th

**1921** - Public meeting: Sean McKeown and Tom McGuire and William Sears present. **1922** - Intense firing (11.15 p.m. to 12.45 a.m.). **1925** - Mrs. Thomas Smyth died. **1949** - Frances Rattigan, Bridge St., died in Castlebar.

### 21st

**1905** - Mrs. M. Delaney died. **1920** - Jim Henry arrested by military and marched to Claremorris. **1946** - At funeral of Canon John Grealy, Knock (Archb. Walsh presiding).

### 22nd

**1920** - Felix Murray and Rodgers arrested. Sent for internment at Ballykinlar.

### 23rd

**1922** - Brisk attack (10.45 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.). **1947** - Cecil William Davis (born in Ballyhaunis), Cloonshanville, Frenchpark, died. **1952** - Long and interesting letter re Dillon clan received from Mr. Gerald Dillon (Mount Dillon branch), Bank of New South Wales, Head Office, George Street, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

### 24th

**1918** - National Defence Committee dissolved. **1937** - Tommy Murray, Clare St. died. **1937** - Pat McGreal (Ballindrehid) died. **1941** - Patrick R. Grogan ("Rodgy") aged 30, native of Cloonbullig, wireless operator, lost off New York when ship was torpedoed. **1942** - John J. Halpin, Abbey St., died. **1944** - Jim Flatley, Main St. died. **1952** - Intense frost last night.

### 25th

**1922** - Fierce attack (8.30 p.m. beginning); Felix Murray shot dead at Mount Delvin.

### 26th

**1927** - Mrs. Ed. Fitzgerald died. **1949** - Enteric fever outbreak; scare during week; general inoculations. **1950** - Intense frost last night and today.

### 27th

**1917** - Chas. T. H. Kunz died Novem. 27. **1917** (New Cemetery inscription). **1922** - Lively attack for about an hour (8.30 p.m.). **1930** - Talkies first appearance (Carron Bros.). **1935** - Nuala Eaton (aged 15) died in Mater Hospital. **1937** - Pat Lyons (Coollougher) died in Baggot Street Hospital. **1946** - Bound to the peace at District Court: Messrs. Cafferky and Cummins, TDs. **1947** - Father Malone (Chinese Mission) called.

### 28th

**1926** - Leo Snee died. **1937** - Mission closed (Frs. Gilmartin, O'Sullivan, Mullins, CMs).

### 29th

**1903** - Father Conroy's lecture "Irish Life in Ancient Times". **1938** - Thomas F. Moran (85), Home Assistance Officer, died. **1939** - David Healy (Healy & Lyons, Knox St.) died at Castlebar. **1940** - Death of Rev. Thomas Burke, C.C. (four years), Ballyhaunis. **1947** - Very heavy frost last night. **1949** - Jack Fitzmaurice (Clagnagh), died at Swinford, victim of Typhoid. **1952** - John Freeley, Upper Main St., died.

### 30th

**1922** - Lively attack for over an hour (1.30 a.m.). **1949** - Mrs. Paddy Donnellan, Clare St., died in Galway. **1949** - Chancellor Prendergast removed to Dublin in ambulance after accident.

## December

### 1st

**1922** - Vigorous attack for over four hours beginning about 10.30 p.m.

### 2nd

**1940** - Funeral of Fr. Burke; first visit of Archbishop Walsh. **1948** - Dick 'Chuck' Levins died in Castlebar.

### 3rd

**1922** - Attack for over an hour (about 11 p.m.). **1943** - Mrs. John Charles Fitzmaurice (nee Waldron) died in Cork. **1950** - Severe frost and snow last night and today. **1952** - Michael Higgins, Bridge St., died.

#### **4th**

**1922** - Vigorous hour's attack beginning about 9 p.m.).  
**1952** - Severe frost continues.

#### **5th**

**1922** - Fierce attack for over an hour beginning about 10 p.m. Vol. Moyles killed. **1927** - Mrs. Thomas Byrne (Main St.) died. **1948** - Tommy Coyne, merchant, The Square, died this morning.

#### **6th**

**1922** - Military funeral of Vol. Moyles. **1942** - Mrs. (Johnny) Conway, Bridge St., died. **1949** - Mrs. Bridget Freeley, relict of David (Old Barrack), died.

#### **7th**

**1938** - Mrs. Freeley (nee Margaret Morley, Carrowrea), Moate, died. **1940** - Father Prendergast celebrated Mass and blessed Parochial Hall.

#### **8th**

**1921** - Celebrations connected with the home-coming of internees and prisoners. **1930** - Dr. Charles E. Crean died (aged 83). **1935** - Mrs. Mark Waldron, Cave, died (aged 93). **1940** - Opening of Parochial Hall; Dr. Walsh, Archbishop present; concert and "The Bohemian Girl" (Miss D. Eaton, director). **1941** - Mrs. Ellen Moloney (nee Biesty), Main St., died. **1949** - Very cold: sleet, frost and snow. **1952** - Mrs. James Kelly (Ballintubber) died at Knox St.

#### **9th**

**1938** - Johnny Kenny (84), draper, died.

#### **10th**

**1922** - Brief attack about 11 p.m. **1941** - Mrs. Maggie Halpin, Abbey St., died in Dublin hospital.

#### **11th**

**1935** - John Dillon (Parker's son) died. **1943** - Michael Gibbons, hall care-taker, died at Castlebar hospital. **1952** - Dick Trench (late Clare St.) died in Dublin.

#### **12th**

**1937** - Meeting in connection with erection of Parochial Hall: Rev. G. J. Prendergast, P.P., presiding.

#### **13th**

**1940** - Frank McNelis (Manager, Ulster Bank) died. **1951** - Mr. Hector O'Connor (77 Merrion Square) called about early Irish art objects, and Mr. Fanning.

#### **14th**

**1952** - Snowfall and heavy frost last night and today.

#### **15th**

**1929** - Edward C. Killeen, formerly Postmaster, Ballyhaunis, died. **1945** - Mrs. Sabina Kilroy, Main St., died. **1952** - Snowfall: bitterly cold today.

#### **16th**

**1950** - Arctic conditions: heavy snowfall, frost, intense cold.

#### **17th**

**1947** - Operetta "A Royal Jester" (Mrs. Hughes trainer, etc.). **1952** - Frost and snow, very cold; finished reading "The Fall of the Russian Empire", Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J.

#### **18th**

**1892** - Canon Waldron, P.P. Annagh, died. **1937** - Mrs. Heneghan (Central Hotel) died.

#### **19th**

**1926** - Body of Mary A. McGarry found floating in Cullintra Lake. **1941** - Mrs. Freeley (Mrs. Peg Mullen's mother), Abbeyquarter, died. **1947** - Gold coin – George II 1758 – found by Joseph Cribbin, Johnstown, forwarded to Museum (registered). **1949** - Very stormy last night; small fair; cold.

#### **20th**

**1920** - Mike Waldron died.

#### **21st**

**1948** - Ned Glynn (Tooraree), Frank's brother, died in Castlebar.

#### **22nd**

**1921** - Constable Slattery shot and wounded. **1945** - Edward C. Kelly, ex-Capt. B. Army, died. **1947** - Fr. Oliver Cooney (Chinese mission) ordained in Navan yesterday, said first Mass at St. Patrick's.

#### **23rd**

**1920** - Military make several arrests: J. T. Ruane, John Gilmore, M. J. Rattigan, John Caulfield, James Rattigan, Pat Healy, T. McNamara. **1921** - Michael Delaney died. **1950** - Banks close for Christmas: not to re-open until end of strike.

#### **24th**

**1920** - More arrests. **1936** - Tom Hunt (Derrynacong) died in Dublin. **1948** - Mrs. J. T. Smyth, Knox St. died.

#### **25th**

**1922** - Accident to Walter Waldron. **1946** - Guard Michael Kelly died in Ballinrobe (buried in Ballyhaunis).



**1949** - A wild, wet Christmas morning; torrential rain at intervals. **1950** - A beautiful day: frost and brilliant bursts of sunshine; Fr. Jarlath (Ronayne) O.Cist. died at Roscrea (aged 81). **1951** - Up at 6.30 a.m.; frost last night; lovely day. **1952** - Morning downpour; Ven. Archdeacon Prendergast, P.P. and Fr. M. Godwin, C.C. visited house.

#### 26th

**1885** - First amateur dramatic and variety entertainment ("Robert Emmett"). **1901** - Thomas M. Neary died suddenly. **1931** - Mrs. Dominick Byrne died. **1941** - (and 27th) "Pride and Prejudice" film, Parochial Hall, splendid. **1944** - John Caulfield ("How Go?") died at Castlebar. **1949** - Frank Helbert, Lecarrow, died at Devlis, aged 85. **1950** - James Stephens (68), poet, author of "Crock of Gold" died in London.

#### 27th

**1895** - First production of "The Wearin' of the Green". **1944** - John Prenty (83), Tooraree, died. **1945** - Opera "Maritana" and carols, etc. **1951** - Snow, sleet, squally showers, bitterly cold.

#### 28th

**1947** - Carols and Benediction in St. Patrick's.

#### 29th

**1930** - Austin Freeley died; famous law-suit follows. **1947** - Frost and snowfall last night and this morning.



*Michael F. Waldron takes a break from reading, 1906.*

#### 30th

**1931** - Martin Fitzmaurice (Loughrea, late of Togher) died. **1938** - Mrs. Bid Plunkett (Main St.) died.

#### 31st

**1939** - Mrs. (Michael) Foudy, Bridge St., died. **1941** - Mrs. Prendergast, Claremorris (M. M. Waldron's daughter) died; year of commemoration. **1944** - Nice, mild day. **1946** - Johnny Kilroy (67) died in Castlebar. **1948** - Snowfall last night and this morning. **1950** - Frost last night; heavy snowfall this morning, cold; rainy, slush. **1951** - Year ends cold, rain, sleet, snow.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary



*Michael and Bridget Daly, on their wedding day, 18th Oct. 1958, in Manchester.*



*Bridget and Michael Daly celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with family and friends in the Pontoon Bridge Hotel, on 15th Aug. 2009.*

## *The Set Dance Gang*

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The set dance gang are a lively lot  
They dance about, they dance on the spot  
Some are great steppers, others not so hot  
All of them give it what they've got

The band strikes up, away they go  
Hand in hand, heel and toe  
Lead around and back again  
Grab your partner and you swing

Advance, retire across you go  
Some are fast, more are slow  
Advance retire and home again  
Tops take a rest, sides step in

It's wheelbarrow time and its reels again  
Ladies chain, dance her home and dance her in  
Dance them out, and in and out and in  
Four together and another swing

The Ballyvourney Jig, now in this set  
You start the house on the second step  
Square, slide and change, home once more  
It's a hectic pace and that's for sure

Two hand dances we sometimes see  
A Schottische and the Stack of Barley  
There are two more that some do fancy  
The Barn Dance and Shoe the Donkey

It's an old time waltz and off they go  
A couple o' steps is all you need to know  
Wheel about as around the floor you go  
It's a one-two-three, heel toe toe

The set dance gang to the great dancing Fleadh they came  
From all over the world in the big aeroplane  
They danced every night, and they danced every day  
Some danced in their sleep, or so I've heard say

Now come on all you great steppers  
Fair women and fine men  
Keep stepping out the set dances  
'till we meet soon again

*Martin Forde*

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## *Sarah Forde - A Great Centenarian!*



Sarah Forde, Bekan, recently celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by all her family, nieces, nephews, good friends and neighbours. They gathered in the Parish Church, in Bekan on Saturday 8th August to mark this great milestone. Fr. Patrick Mullins P.P. celebrated Mass there, which was followed by a reception in Knock House Hotel. Sarah was in great form and enjoyed the day. Prior to that, on her birthday, Thursday 6th Aug. there was a big, lively party in Claremount Nursing Home where all the residents and staff joined in toasting Sarah and singing "Happy Birthday".

Sarah was born Sarah Morley on the 6th August 1909

in Lissaniska, Bekan. The Lissaniska Sarah was born into was very different from the modern village we know today. According to the 1911 Census there were over twenty houses in Lissaniska at that time. Most of the houses were thatched and on average had two rooms. Many of the household names are long gone; some remain the same and new names have been added. In the 1911 census the following family names are found: Kirrane, Finnegan, Kelly, Doogan, Keane, Morley, Cunnane, Mulrennan, Morris, Tighe, Jordan, Murray, Murphy, and Mullaney. There were at least four households named Morley.

Sarah was the second youngest of eight children born to Michael & Julia (Conway) Morley, and is the only surviving member of that family. Her father died during her early childhood, so she has really no clear recollection of him. Her mother died in the 1930's. Life in those early years was difficult as there were no pensions and no children's allowances. To this day Sarah talks of her mother with great love and admiration. Julia was a great cook and loved reading.

### *Career and Family*

The Lissaniska community was very close-knit and the people drew inspiration and courage from each other. The "Meitheal" tradition was strong and faith also united and inspired the people.

Four of Sarah's siblings emigrated to the U.S.A. This





*Sarah Forde with her children Mary, Sr. Jacinta, Helen, Anne and Liam (back).*

was the era of the "American Wake". John, the oldest was the first to go. He arrived in the States on 23rd Oct. 1916 aged seventeen years. Mary followed in 1921, Margaret in 1923, and Celia some time later. John and Mary settled in New York but Celia and Margaret returned to Mayo after a number of years. Margaret married Peter Burke and Celia opened a hairdressing business in Ballyhaunis.

Sarah received her early education in Began N.S. She went on to qualify as a teacher in University College, Exeter, England 1930-1932. She returned to Lissaniska and began her teaching career. She firstly taught in Began

Girls' N.S. and later in Facefield N.S. The principal in Facefield at that time was the late Malachy Garvey. After leaving Facefield Sarah became Principal of Larganboy N.S and she taught there for many years. Her teaching companion during those many years in Larganboy was Miss Nora Farrell of Treenreevaugh, Began (R.I.P.). Sarah loved her years in Larganboy and to this day the school, its pupils and parents hold a special place in her affections.

In 1964 Sarah was appointed principal of Began Girls' N.S. She retained that position until Began Boys' School, Began Girls' School and Larganboy School were amalgamated in the mid 1960's. Teachers and pupils all moved then to the new Began central school under the principalship of the late Raymond Forde. Sarah continued teaching there until her retirement at the age of 65 in 1974.

In April 1941 Sarah married Tim Forde of Cloonfaughna. Tim was born on 13th Dec 1913, the eldest of the eight children of William and Ellen (Raftery) Forde. Tim and Sarah began their married life in Began and settled there.

Tim was appointed District Court Clerk, a position he enjoyed and held until his retirement. His office was in the Courthouse, Main Street, Ballyhaunis. Over the years he officiated at court sittings in Balla, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis, Ballaghaderreen, Charlestown, Hollymount Ballinrobe, Ballinlough and Castlerea. During his years as court clerk he got to know all those practicing law in the area and also all the Gardai who came and went. The late Sergeant Nally was a great friend of his. Tim retired in 1978.

Tim and Sarah had five children, four girls and one



*Tim Forde, at his desk in the Courthouse, Ballyhaunis, on the eve of his retirement.*



*Sarah Forde with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Back, L-R: John Nestor holding Seán Óg Nestor, Ruairi Nestor, David Forde, Michael Johnston and Sarah E. Forde. Centre, L-R: Sarah Maguire, Deirdre Nestor, Sarah holding Ciaran Maguire, Margaret McCarthy holding baby daughter Sarah Ann, Jennifer McEvoy with nephew Simon O'Keefe, Susan O'Keefe with son Jack, Caoimhe Nestor asleep in buggy. Front, L-R: Cathal Maguire, Aebhin Nestor, Katie O'Keefe and Tara O'Keefe. Five grandsons missing from photo.*

boy. They were wonderful parents and lived to see their children getting on well with their lives. They didn't spare themselves in providing as many opportunities as they could for their family. They delighted in their fifteen grandchildren and took a keen interest in all their doings. Down the years they were much in demand at exam times with requests for prayerful support! Tim and Sarah were daily Mass goers and had great faith. This was recognised by their grandchildren who firmly believed that their prayers would work miracles - and indeed they often did! As grandparents they spent a small fortune lighting candles before the Blessed Sacrament in Began Church and doing Holy Hours on behalf of their grandchildren at all critical times!

Tim died after a short illness in 1993 just before his 80th birthday. His death was a great loss to all the family and especially to Sarah. They had celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in April 1991 so had been married for over fifty-three years. They had enjoyed many years of retirement together and grown even closer during those years. They were free to travel, went abroad on holidays, visited their children and grandchildren. But their hearts were firmly rooted in Began and all it stood for.

### *Many interests*

As their family left the nest and money was more plentiful Sarah indulged her love of style. She was always "clothes conscious" and wouldn't dream of going to Mass or to town without a hat, a pair of gloves and a handbag. The women of her generation were all the same - they all liked to be "well turned out". Concannon's and McGarry's in Ballyhaunis were for many years her shopping destinations, but as time went on she went further afield to shop for that special "rig-out" for some special occasion. She loved hats and there still exists a collection of some of the creations that adorned her head as she set out for Mass each Sunday.

Sarah continued living in her home in Began for the next twelve years. She was supported by family, friends and wonderful neighbours. She never complained of loneliness, though there must have been a great void in her life after Tim's death. She rejoiced in becoming a great-grandmother and has ten great-grandchildren. It was a cause of great sadness to her that Tim didn't live to see any of them. A woman of tremendous faith she continued attending daily Mass, made frequent visits to the church each day, and at home had her daily routine of the Rosary and private prayer.



Sarah loved books and, even in her nineties, she was an avid reader: novels and autobiographies were her favourites. She got the daily paper which she read to keep up with all the news and she did the crossword. She had her favourite programmes on radio and T.V. She was interested in and followed political debates. She enjoyed a good film and was known to stay up late to watch snooker on T.V.!

She was a super cook and took great pleasure and pride in producing wonderful meals for all the family. She catered for the particular tastes of her grandchildren when they visited, dishing up their favourite foods as if by magic.

She went for walks for as long as she could. Sarah still loves to be out in the fresh air and “to feel the breeze on her face”. But no breeze now can compare with the wind

in her face as she cycled the roads of Began and Lissaniska long ago or the fragrant breezes that blew down from the bogs around her “old home”.

Sarah continues to be in good health, without “a pain or an ache”. She has a good appetite and enjoys ‘a little drink’. Her sight and mobility are not what they used to be. In 2007 Sarah took up residence in Claremount Nursing home in Claremorris. There, she is lovingly and respectfully cared for by Ann-Marie, Fiona, and all the wonderful nurses and carers. She is the oldest resident in Claremount. In spite of her infirmities she still takes pride in her personal appearance. Her hair is done professionally each week by Patricia, she has regular manicures and still loves “a bit of style”. Sarah attributes her long life to hard work, healthy living, a positive attitude, and her trust in the Lord.

## *Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre*

2009 has been another busy year for Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, which continued to grow as a community organisation, improving the range of activities and opportunities provided from the Friary House at St. Mary’s Abbey along with strengthening the contact with our different communities and families throughout the town.

The Family Resource Centre was started some 5 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.

One of the major events of the year was the formal opening of our new childcare facilities. The Family Resource Centre has established two childcare services – the Greater Tomorrow service which is based in the Old Convent Asylum Accommodation Centre, and the Ballyhaunis Community Pre-school which is based at St. Mary’s Augustinian Abbey. Both services provide over 62 childcare places each week and employ 4 local childcare staff.

The two childcare services form part of a wider Family Support Project being delivered by the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre and HSE Early Childcare Services to support Asylum Seeker families living in the town and provide Integrated Childcare opportunities to all families in the community.

Some of the other activities which have taken place this year include our Digital Photography courses and 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 2009, 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 continues to provide an outreach office to Mayo Citizens Information who attend once a month to answer questions and help people find out about their entitlements and rights.

### *Counselling*

Our counselling service, which was started last year, also continues at St. Mary’s Abbey. 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. The opening of the new Community Preschool at St. Mary’s Abbey will enable children from all our communities in the town to share and learn together.

Other supports to our International communities have also continued with the Centre providing Computer and Personal Development Courses for adults. 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 6 weeks in Ireland at the National Refugee Orientation Centre – on Clare Street. This centre is the first arrival point for these refugee families, who 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 Congo.

The Centre has continued to support the Ballyhaunis Traveller Pre-School in Tooraree, which provides an excellent and affordable service, complementing the work of the VEC Training Centre.

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 and the Community School.

The Family Resource Centre is an active member of the Abbey Partnership, Community Council, and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and taking an active part in their activities held in the town.

The Family Resource Centre is controlled by a board of directors made up of people living in the Ballyhaunis community, in 2009 the officers were: Chairperson - Seamus Grogan, Secretary - Marie Jordan, Treasurer – Manar Cherbatji. The other members are Christina Concannon, Stephen Grogan, Betty Koinange, Stephen Ng'ang'a, Teresa Maughan, Eileen McDonagh, Mary Morrissey, Hina Rehman, Mamoon Zafar, Aliya Shakoor. 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 childcare workers Patricia Kelly, Barbara Plunkett, Liz Ward, Cliona Mulvaney and Helen Kiely. The UN refugee programme is delivered by Mona Herr, Kathleen Dennehy and Nicola Ryan.

*Stephen Grogan*

## *Reaching the Roof of Africa Kilimanjaro Climb 2009*

As the hectic months of fundraising initiatives drew to a close and we reached our fundraising target there was nothing left for us to do... that is but climb the mountain! In late 2008 in the depths of winter, my good friends Brian Kilcourse and John Prenty and myself signed up to participate in what was to be one of the most challenging experiences any of us had ever undertaken. To scale Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Why? To raise money for the Irish charity organisation Bothar. The following article is our personal account of our Kilimanjaro trek to give those people who were kind enough to help us and sponsor us some idea of what it was like.

So... first things first: where exactly is Mount Kilimanjaro? Well, it is located on the northern border of Tanzania - a far flung country in East Africa, overlooking neighbouring Kenya, just over 200 miles south of the Equator. On September 5th last we set off on our African Odyssey departing Dublin early in the morning at 6:00am for Amsterdam where after a short stopover a

subsequent eight hour connecting flight took us onto Arusha airport in Tanzania. We touched down in Tanzania at 8:00pm in the evening where after successfully managing to negotiate airport Immigration Control we were greeted by our travel representatives supplied by Bothar. Once our belongings had been loaded into the supplied minibus we piled in and commenced the final leg of our journey for the day to the neighbouring town of Moshi. This town would act as our base for the duration of our stay. The hour and a half trip from airport to hotel was eye opening as it gave us our first experience of driving Tanzanian style. This was to prove interesting to say the least as we quickly witnessed some driving practices and manoeuvres which while commonplace in Tanzania if performed on Irish roads would quickly get you disqualified! On arrival at the hotel we checked into our rooms where we encountered surroundings that were modest but comfortable; however the Hilton this was not!

Next morning, following a sound night's sleep we



were collected from our hotel by representatives from Bothar who brought us into the rural outskirts of the Moshi district. The drive out enabled us to get an appreciation of our surroundings for the first time. Corn, coffee and bananas were the crops being grown with plantations stretching as far as the eye could see. Also one could not help but notice how busy the country roads were with people walking in their best attire, clutching bibles as they made their way to the nearest church.

As we made our way along the slopes of Kilimanjaro we were told by our Bothar representatives we would be visiting three of their projects. The first two were poor families who had benefited first hand from the animals Bothar provide. The common theme with both families was that they had been ravaged by AIDS. Both had family members who had succumbed to the killer virus. In the first family both parents had died leaving the 90 year old grandmother to care and rear the seven grandchildren. In the second family a widow had been left with six children to rear after her husband had died from AIDS. The homes of both families were modest single room dwelling houses fabricated from sticks, mud and galvanize. Bothar had provided these poor families with a dairy heifer and goat at Christmas the previous year.



*Flying the flag for Ballyhaunis, at the summit of Kilimanjaro (5895 m/19,340 ft.). L-R: James Mulrennan, John Prenty and Brian Kilcourse.*

The benefit of these two animals was twofold: 1.) It provided the family with a much needed source of nutrition with the milk being consumed daily; 2.) Any excess milk or offspring from the livestock could be sold thus providing a sustainable income source to cover the expenditure of items such as the cost of schooling. The proviso in selling any livestock is that the buyer must receive training for looking after the livestock. The final project we visited was a beekeeping project. Here we were

shown how stingless bees were being managed to provide the family household with a food source and an additional source of income from its sale. The beekeeper extracted bee hives which were found in hollow tree trunks which then were transferred to wooden boxes the honey was easier to extract. It was apparent how much less demanding beekeeping was in terms of investment, labour and time spent than other agricultural practices.

This concluded the overview of the Bothar projects. Viewing everyday life for the many thousands of people living in Tanzania had proved a real eye opener to us and was an extremely humbling experience. We arrived back to our hotel in the late afternoon - our accommodation suddenly looked the lap of luxury.

### *Machame Gate*

On day three we were up at 7.30am to get washed and have a last minute check of our gear. After breakfast we were introduced to the seventeen other climbers that would make up our twenty strong group on our journey up Kilimanjaro. As we passed through the Machame Gate and into Kilimanjaro National Park we were greeted by a large crowd of locals gathered outside trying to sell their wares. Everything from hats to t-shirts to confectionery was on offer and we found the price of goods varied wildly depending on who you spoke to. With our guides busily preparing and sorting all the equipment needed for the next week (i.e. tents, food and cooking equipment) we went to sign in at the park office and register for the climb. It took some time to sort everything out and it was 1:00pm before we were able to start off on the trail. We settled into walking at our own pace as we commenced a steady climb on the track which led us through dense rainforest. It was very scenic if a little eerie with the mist floating in over the tree tops. We were careful to take it nice and slowly, or as our guides preferred 'Polé, Polé' (slowly, slowly).

In all we walked for four hours before we arrived at Machame camp for the first night on the mountain. We found our tents had already been pitched and so we unpacked our belongings before gathering for dinner in the dining tent. So with night rolling in we made our way back to our tents for a chat amongst ourselves before turning in for some sleep. A pretty restless first night on the mountain was in store for all three of us as we struggled to sleep. We frequently woke up only to be greeted by loud snoring and other strange sounds from fellow group members in the neighbouring tents.

Morning arrived and shortly after 9.00am with breakfast finished we departed camp. The surrounding scenery changed dramatically over the day as rainforest turned to scrub and then to rock and rubble. We began to

climb above the cloud as the ground became dustier and the vegetation thinned at the increased height. Around mid afternoon our next campsite came into view. The barren, dusty landscape of the Shira plateau. This was broken only by the colourful red tents which had been put up to accommodate us climbers. We reached camp around 3:00pm, unloaded our belongings and settled into our tents where after we spent some time sitting in the sunshine taking in the sights whilst the guides bustled around camp busily preparing dinner. There were some brilliant views up to the summit, with the glaciers of the ice fields dropping steeply down the flanks of the mountain. Dinner was served at 6:00pm and like clockwork darkness fell. We had a short briefing from our guides about the next day. In order to acclimatise we would be trekking up to a height of 14,500ft to the base of a Lava Tower before descending for an overnight stay in our next camp Barranco at 13,000ft. In total there would be four to five hours walking, which would not be as strenuous as today...or so we were told! Following another night of broken sleep we departed Shira camp at 9:00. The pace slow and steady was dotted with intermittent stops – to rest, or take on water. As we climbed the terrain changed from rock to more of a desert, with dust sweeping across our pathway. About two hours into the day I had a throbbing headache and my stomach was beginning to churn, Brian was having similar feelings. John it appeared to be ok. Lucky sod. Shortly after both Brian and I were physically sick - our first encounter with altitude sickness. After a couple of repeat performances we were left sapped. Every ounce of

energy had been drained from our limbs leaving us dizzy and disorientated. Trying to walk at altitude in the searing heat is tough enough without this.

Personally, I felt like sitting down and going to sleep for a week and it was to prove a real challenge to keep going through the day. A couple of times I thought I would have to turn back. Through the support and encouragement of our guides and other members in our group we struggled on and dragged our weary bodies to our next campsite Barranco. We arrived mid afternoon and practically fell into our tents. The lower altitude of camp coupled with a short nap and some water benefited both Brian and me greatly and so later that evening we got up and made our way to the dining tent for dinner. After dinner our guides made us aware that tomorrow would bring another tough day. A morning scramble up the sheer rock face of one of the sides of the valley called the Barranco wall. This would take us to the same height we had been at today 14,500ft where altitude had taken its toll. This information left a miserable feeling.

After completing such a tough day we all found sleeping much easier that night and were able to get a comfortable rest. We were up at 7.30 and went through the normal morning routine on auto pilot before moving off after breakfast. Once we got moving we found the day most enjoyable from a climbing point of view. From the heights of the valley side there were outstanding views of waterfalls dropping down into the river valley and of the thick cloud blanket covering the landscape below. Trying to convey the sheer vastness of the surroundings is difficult to put into words. Once we reached the top of



*James Mulrennan, John Prenty, Brian Kilcourse, with Annagh 2008 at the base of Kilimanjaro.*



the valley wall we stopped for a break. It was at this point that Brian and I realised we had none of the symptoms of our altitude sickness from the previous day. No repeat performance. Thank God.

The climb eased after our stop and we arrived at camp in the Karanga Valley after five hours of hiking. For the first time the cloud below us was not the usual thick blanket and we were able to see parts of the surrounding planes of land below. We were aware during the day that other members of the group had been unwell and had started to feel the effects of altitude sickness.

### *Barafu*

Day five on the mountain was divided in two parts. A short three hour morning hop to the penultimate campsite – Barafu and then the big push for the summit later that night. We arrived at Barafu midday to find a campsite located on an exposed hillside along the side of a rocky ridge. We passed the afternoon chatting amongst ourselves, surveying the summit and lying in our tents, mindful not to over expose ourselves to the strong afternoon sun. There was definitely an air of anticipation in camp. After a restless few hours we made our way to the dining tent for dinner. At this stage appetites were taking a severe hit but we knew eating something even a little was necessary to get the vital energy required for later.

After dinner all our guides crowded into the dining tent with us to outline what would be happening later. They started by reinforcing the clothing we would need to wear – fleeces, woolly hats, waterproofs and thick gloves. We would be departing camp at midnight and reaching the top would take us over six hours. We would need to keep moving, though slowly and our water bottles would need to be kept in our backpacks as they would freeze if left exposed to the sub zero temperatures. After the briefing we made our way back to our tents. We all knew that there were going to be a few tough hours ahead.

We were roused at 11:30pm by our guides, and set to wrapping ourselves in our various layers of clothing. There was a chill wind blowing as the full moon in the clear night sky illuminated the a white sparkling frost which had covered the ground. Shortly after midnight we departed camp. Beams of light from our head torches punctuated the darkness as a procession of head torches zig-zagged up the mountain.

Step by step we slowly climbed higher and higher and with each passing hour the more we felt the strain of altitude on our bodies. No one was free from its effects even John, who despite a steely resolve up to now was succumbing as he found himself being sick on more than

one occasion. Sometimes no amount of personal willpower can overcome the debilitating impact altitude can have on you. I too felt pretty awful. Tired limbs, thumping headache, churning stomach. Was all this worth it? Three thoughts kept me going:

- 1.) The amount of work and effort we had put in to get to this point.
- 2.) The three of us had pledged to reach the top together for our charity Bothar.
- 3.) Everyone else was feeling bad so suck it up.

As John began to wane and requested “Just another few minutes” during our pit-stops we uttered some words of encouragement. Some weren’t too flattering but he wasn’t long returning the favour later on!

Suddenly without being aware of it, we found ourselves on a steep dusty slope at which point our guides informed us we were nearing Stella Point, the penultimate point before the summit. A great boost. As we reached Stella Point we were greeted with the most spectacular view. The Kibo Crater at the top of Kilimanjaro bathed in the golden rays of the rising morning. We looked on in awe as we paused to enjoy the spectacular view. A special moment.

As we congratulated each other on getting this far it suddenly dawned on us - we still had 650ft more to go to get to the summit Uhuru Peak. John and I were now in hot pursuit of Brian. My trekking poles were literally propping me up. On the way we noticed we had the company of a colossal wall of ice on our left hand side. A massive glacier which rose majestically from the barren dust and rock. It looked so out of place, perhaps we were hallucinating?

### *Uhuru Peak*

Approximately forty minutes after we left Stella Point we were there. The elusive Uhuru Peak – we’d made it. We were thrilled but absolutely wrecked! We hugged and congratulated each other on reaching the top. The three of us were literally running on empty exhausted after the long climb as we stood around patiently waiting our turn for photographs at the world famous sign, proudly displaying the height 5,895m / 19,340ft. It was hard to take in what we had done. In fact just writing this it all still seems quite surreal! The guides (nor me the way I was feeling) were not particularly keen on us spending too long at this elevation, so after we’d taken our fill of pictures and had a chance to take in the view we began our descent filled with a sense of achievement. It was an amazing experience, one none of us will ever forget.

While we were prepared physically for the climb the

mental challenge posed when climbing Kilimanjaro exceeded all our expectations. The multitude of days of trekking at high altitude, weather conditions ranging from extreme heat to below freezing, broken sleep patterns and the effects of altitude sickness does take its toll. Only for the help and encouragement of the guides and the strong sense of loyalty we had to each other we may not have reached the summit.

The ordeal that was involved in organising and planning this expedition took well over a year and I think we'd all agree that our efforts in fundraising were almost more difficult than the actual climb itself. From raffles to bag-packs, there was lots to do. We would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to all those who helped and supported us in our fundraising efforts as without them this expedition would not have been possible:

- To Ballyhaunis GAA Club who provided our first introduction to fundraising when they included

Bothar as part beneficiary in their annual Christmas raffle from which one third of the proceeds raised went to Bothar.

- To Gerry McGarry for allowing us a one-third share in the proceeds of the St. Stephen's Day "Night with the Wren" in town.
- To all those who supported Bothar and this expedition by purchasing tickets for our fundraising raffle.
- To those individuals who generously sponsored prizes – namely: Micheál Quinn, Croke Park Hotel, Elvery's Sports, Val's Bistro Ballyhaunis and Curley jewellers.
- Lastly, but not least, to all our family and friends who aided us in our bag packing efforts as well as our bucket collections in Ballyhaunis and Knock all of which proved very successful.

*James Mulrennan*

## *Clare Court & Ballyhaunis Social Housing Ltd.*

Well another year has flown by and, as with the last couple of years our community has gone from strength to strength.

Our grounds continue to flourish and bloom thanks to the dedication and green fingers of our grounds keeper Michael McNamara and our warden Gerry Kilbride. When the summer sun attempted to shine this year on Clare Court the fountain in the grounds proved to be a very popular retreat with residents and their families – especially their grandchildren.

The Communal House, which is in the grounds of Clare Court, is a fabulous building providing a safe and

pristine environment to hold courses and social gatherings for the residents. The Communal House is looked after and maintained to its high standards by our on-site warden Gerry Kilbride and his wife Elizabeth.

### *Events*

We have had some courses and events in our Communal House this year. Some of these were a computer course for beginners, which were kindly provided by Stephen Grogan in The Family Resource Centre, a healthy cooking course which was organised by the local Active Retirement Group and was presented by the HSE. Also



*Meeting the President. L-R: Gulzar Chaudry, Talib Chaudry, Agnes Heaney, Elma Kilbride, Dr Martin McAleese, President McAleese, Mary Ellen Frehill, Maureen Higgins, Pat Higgins and Maureen McCambridge.*



this year Senior-cise classes started in the Communal House. Senior-cise is a gentle yet very effective 30 minute exercise aimed at the over 65's and people with disabilities. All of the exercises can be done from a chair and a wheelchair. These classes are growing in popularity and take place every Wednesday morning in the Communal House at 11.30am. The classes are free of charge and you are all welcome to join us. We would like to extend our thanks to Tracy Cunnane from TC's Fitness Studio who is kindly letting us borrow some of her aerobic equipment until we can afford our own.

### *Áras an Uachtaráin*

On September 15th this year eight representatives of Clare Court-Ballyhaunis Social Housing Ltd were invited to a Senior Citizens reception with President McAleese and Dr. Martin McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin. A fabulous high tea was served on the day at the Áras and music and entertainment was provided. One of our very brave residents Mrs. Maureen Higgins even got up on the stage and entertained all present with a song. The President and Dr. McAleese took the time to sit at each table and chat with everyone. Both are extremely down to earth and could not have been more hospitable. During her speech President McAleese expressed how grateful our country needs to be to our senior citizens, both those who worked in Ireland and those who worked in other countries and sent money home. Our seniors deserve the utmost respect for all they've done for us and President McAleese said the day at the Áras was her way of saying a 'thank you' to some of the senior citizens. President McAleese, Dr. McAleese, all the staff and the Civil Defence could not have been more welcoming and attentive. It really was a superb day which will be fondly remembered by all who attended for a long time to come... even the sun shone brightly for us!

### *Safe Home Ireland*

At Social Housing we work with Safe Home Ireland which is a national organisation that seeks to assist older Irish born emigrants to return to their homeland. They work with us to secure housing in the Voluntary Sector (housing specifically for the older person) for applicants as near to their home place as possible all over Ireland. The criteria for application is that people must be older Irish born emigrants, aged close to or over 60 years, must be living in rented accommodation and must be seeking to return to their county of origin or a county they have close, verifiable links with. Returning to Ireland is an enormous step so Safe Home will give information about coming home to anyone who would like to receive it. The help and assistance is there so please avail of it. Feel free

to call into the Social Housing office for details or contact the Safe-Home programme directly at:

The Safe-Home Programme Ireland,  
Saint Brendan's Village,  
Mulranny,  
County Mayo,  
Ireland  
Chairman Dr Jerry Cowley TD

Tel: + 353 (0) 98 36036

Fax: + 353 (0) 98 36037

Email: safehomeireland@eircom.net

### *Safe-Home Mission Statement*

In recognition of the unique role played by our emigrants, economic refugees, who left these shores, many unwillingly, and whose remittances sustained the Irish economy and were our original 'Celtic Tiger' the Safe-Home Programme seeks, with support of the booming Irish economy, to repay the just debt owed to those who, in their twilight years want to come home.

Through lobbying for Local Authorities and the Voluntary Housing sector to wholeheartedly embrace the Amendment to the Capital Assistance Scheme which recognises the desire of a small number of older emigrants to return home.

Through widespread dissemination of information at home and abroad the Safe-Home Programme wishes to afford elderly Irish people an option to return home through ensuring that knowledge of the Programme exists among the emigrants themselves and among those who work with them.

### *Invitation*

We consider Clare Court and Social Housing a family and once again we extend an invitation to come and join us for activities and courses. Details for these are always available in the office. Our office is situated in The Enterprise Centre, Ballyhaunis and our telephone number is (094) 9630311. Our office is staffed by Anne Cunnane, Martin Fitzmaurice, Mary Moylan and Elma Kilbride. So that's it for this year. Who knows what next year will bring, all anyone can do is enjoy each day for what it is and as always make each day count. I'd like to finish with a quote I found recently online:

"The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person."

*Elma Kilbride*

## *My Friend Eamon Kelly - The Seanchaí*

Eamon Kelly was born in Rathmore, Co. Kerry in 1914, and went on to become Ireland's Master Storyteller.

He had a successful career as an actor in the Abbey Theatre and all over. He played in *The Apprentice* (1995), *The Journeyman* (1998), *Bless Me Father* and *In My Father's Time*.

He lived in St. Brendan's Drive, Coolock. We became friends as I lived in Coolock, nearly opposite his house. We would have a drink in our local, Kyle's Pub - Michael Houlihan, himself and myself.

I remember my school days. Eamon was telling stories on the radio, no one spoke a word while he was on. I never thought I would see the day that he would be my friend. He did a documentary on TV, his life story. Part of it was done in Kyle's Pub. He asked me to bring along my violin to accompany him singing "Teddy O'Neill", which we did. We then had a few drinks after the show. He died October 2001. May he rest in peace.



*From Left to right, Michael Houlihan, John O'Shaughnessy and Eamon Kelly, the Seanchaí.*

*John O'Shaughnessy*

## *Growing Up in the Forties and Fifties*



*Sean O'Lone and Noel Levins.*

I was born and reared in Barrack Street, Ballyhaunis. My parents were Richard (Chick) and Mary Levins, R.I.P. My father was a shoemaker. We lived next door to the McHugh's - Marcella, Eddie and Jack, my favourite. He used to give me a halfpenny every day for a lollipop. Off I would go to Alex Greene for my lollipop. May they Rest in Peace. Also my neighbours were the Kearns, Dwyers, O'Malleys, Kilduffs, Mulligans, Ronaynes, Tarpeys and Molloy's.

I went to the Convent of Mercy school, and left at 15. My first job was in the Central Hotel owned by Cora Freeley. I worked for a spell in Dillon's, The Square, and for a spell in Flatley's (Kate) Café. Then myself and Nora Hollingsworth (nee Molloy) went to work in the Mental Hospital in Castlebar. We were there for some time, left there and came up to Ballyhaunis again as we missed all our friends, Chrissie Mugan, Mary Ronayne (R.I.P.), Mary Mulligan, Mary Tarpey (R.I.P.), Nancy Morrison and Winifred Regan. All of us grew up together over the 1940s and 1950s. Some, not many keep in touch. I remember all of us going to the old McGarry's dance hall for the two bob 'hop'.

We had good times as children. We played all sorts of games, skipping, hop-scotch, tipsy-cat, hide-and-seek and many more like putting on shows. David Mulligan and Donie Phillips used to make them all up, such as Robin Hood and many more which I can't recall to mind. David (R.I.P.) was the man for the music. He used to bring out his mother's gramophone and some records. That was our pastime. We did not have much but we were very happy as we grew up.

### *London*

We scattered and I came to England - London - with Dr. Dermot Waldron and his wife Maureen and their two kids Ann and Paul. Their whereabouts are unknown to me. I worked for them as a housekeeper and nanny. They left town and stayed with his wife's parents in Blackrock,





*Maisie Levins and cousin Tom Frain, Tubber, Aghamore.*

Dublin. They brought me with them, till they headed for Leeds. I came to London with them, we parted at Euston Station. My sister Nellie met me at the station that morning we arrived, so we parted. It was sad for me as I missed Ann and Paul very much. It took me some time to get over them. So I settled in London, it took sometime.

It was here that I met my husband Sean at a dance in Camden Town. We got married in 1957, so you see if God spares we will be 52 years married. By the way I forgot to mention he is a Roscrea, Tipperary man. So here the two of us are here in Ballyhaunis on holidays. We are staying with my brother Noel. The first person we met was my godson. You can imagine the surprise I got. Her mother Delia and my mother were great friends and neighbours. They always helped one another out if any of

us or hers got sick, sore or sorry.

Well I am sorry to say Ballyhaunis has changed. I only recognise a few shops. All the places where I grew up have long gone. Dwyer's Hill, where we used to spend most of childhood days during our school holidays. We visited the church, I sat for half an hour reminiscing. I could picture myself as a young girl of seven years, my first Holy Communion and Confirmation at twelve years with all my friends mentioned. Where the years have gone - just flew, no doubt. That's about all, I must end here.

PS. I still love the old town. I want to thank John Halpin for asking me to put pen to paper and write my memories for the Annagh Magazine, also my brother. God bless all.

*Maisie O'Lone (nee Levins)*



*Relaxing in the garden, June 2009. L-R: Maisie Levins, Kieran Webb, Noel Levins.*



*Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Captains Prize (Kevin Henry) August 2009*

*The Henry Family: Front L-R: Caoimhe, Kevin, Milo, Anna, Marie. Middle row L-R: Frank, Jack, Cian, Oisín Karen, Niamh, Back row L-R: Noel, Ja, Diarmuid, Gina, Karl O'Connor and Alan.*

## *New Principal at Scoil Íosa*



*Kenneth Dennedy*

A new era of primary school education was ushered in to Ballyhaunis on Monday morning, 31st August 2009, when Mr. Kenneth Dennedy took up duty as principal of Scoil Íosa Primary School, taking over the position held by Jim Landon for the past 33 years.

A former pupil of Knock primary school, Kenneth received his secondary education at Ballyhaunis

Community School, before moving to St. Patrick's College in Drumcondra, where he graduated in 1985. His first teaching appointment was at CBS primary school in Westport, in 1985. After four years of service in Westport, Kenneth travelled overseas and held teaching posts in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and London. On his return home, in 1998, he took up a position at St. Patrick's Primary School, Castlebar for one year. The following year, 1999, it was on to Williamstown, Co. Galway, where he was appointed Principal of the Primary School, and where he has served for the past 10 years.

Married with two teenage daughters, Aoife (16) and Niamh (13), Kenneth has been a proficient sportsman in his day: he played underage football with Aghamore for a number of years, winning an Under-21 county medal with the club in 1981. He later donned the red and black for the Ballyhaunis Rugby Club, where he turned in many stirring performances during a two year spell with the local club.

Son of Bert and Nuala Dennedy, Knock, Kenneth is husband of Deirdre, nee Durkan from Ballyhaunis. Deirdre, who is principal of Taugheen Primary School, is daughter of Dorothy and the late Seán Durkan, Abbey Street.

We join with the community of the local district in welcoming Kenneth to Scoil Íosa, and wish him every success in his new surroundings.

*Mike Byrne*

## *Paddy Waldron*

### *From Lofty Heights to Cabaret Nights*

Paddy Waldron from Cherryfield is a familiar figure to most of us who call Ballyhaunis our home. A quiet, gentle, man, who goes about his daily routine, in an unobtrusive manner, minding his own business, at peace with the world around him. It must be said, before I go any further with this article, that it took some persuasion, arm-twisting and coaxing, to get Paddy to agree to share his story with Annagh Magazine readers. However, after many nights of persistence on my behalf, he finally agreed to surrender. 'Thank you, Paddy,' I know our readers in Ballyhaunis and around the world will enjoy your story.

Born in Cherryfield in 1934, to the late John and Kathleen (nee Deignan) Waldron, Paddy secured his first job at 14 years of age as a so-called Messenger Boy, for Michael Freeley at the Central Hotel on Main Street. A messenger boy he may have been, but the chief occupation for young Paddy at the hotel, was that as a

'shoe-shine boy'. During this time – the 1948/49 period – the Central Hotel was a busy place indeed and what you might call a 'hive of activity'. On most week nights, it was almost 'full house', with commercial travellers using the hostelry as their base from which to carry out their business. The custom at the time was for residents to leave their shoes (or boots), outside their bedroom door, in order to have them nicely polished for the days work ahead. This was Paddy's chore - cleaning and polishing every piece of footwear, ensuring that all shoes were nicely presented for the client, before descending for the morning breakfast. After this stint at the hotel, Paddy was offered a job by his namesake, Paul Waldron, MPSI, at his chemist shop on the Corner. His office here was, once again, as a Messenger Boy, and he served the Ballyhaunis Pharmacy well for quite a period of time.

Austin Grogan had just come back from England, and was in the process of setting up a gravel business at





*During his Cabaret days in "The Buffalo", London, Paddy (right) with Frank and Bridie Judge, from Longford, performing as 'The Three Gems'.*

Drimbane. Paddy was one of the first to sign on as an employee for the fledgling entrepreneur from Aghamore, at the Drimbane sandpit. Next it was on to Durkan's, where he worked as a delivery man for the Abbey Street drinks company. With Mick Mulhern as driver, the pair served the western part of the county, delivering to Castlebar, Westport and Louisburgh, and during peak times of the year, into Galway city, particularly in the run-up to the week of the Galway Races. The mode of transport used for local deliveries, Paddy remembers, was an old Essex type motorcar, which was purchased from B.T. Lynch, Main Street. The car was modified and converted to a pick-up truck, ideal for the work in hand! Paddy has fond memories of his bottling days with Durkan's. Those were the days of the old hogs-head, bottling both beer and Guinness from the 54 gallon wooden keg.

### *The London Gems*

At the age of 19, in 1953, the bright lights of London beckoned for Paddy. He arrived in London and was welcomed with great hospitality by Sean McGuire, whose father, Ned (Paddy's former neighbour), worked as a caretaker in the Convent for many years. It wasn't too long before the 19 year old got fixed up with work. In fact, for the next 23 years, Paddy was never without work, operating during the great building boom of the 1950's and 60's, with McAlpines, Lang, Wimpey and a host of other prominent contracting firms in the British capital. Scaffolding was his speciality: he had no problem with

heights, and scaled the dizzy heights of London's skyline day-in and day-out for well over two decades. One of the jobs which stands out most prominently in his mind is the time spent working on the Post Office Tower, London's tallest building, back in 1963. This was the winter of the so called 'Big Freeze', and Paddy recalls many cold and frosty days on top of the famous edifice, which, when completed, rose to a height of 640 feet. Having served most of his time across the water, working for other building contractors, Paddy eventually set up his own contracting business, and, as chief entrepreneur, he enjoyed many years of great success, at the helm, in his own operation.

Before departing to England, Paddy had perfected the art of playing the piano accordion. Having spent many nights watching Gus Lanigan perform at his home near Clare Street, with the late Tom Swift, Gus's daughters and other visiting musicians, it wasn't too surprising that before too long, Paddy learned to play an instrument. One night, while visiting a hostelry near Heuston Station, in London - The Lion & Lamb - Paddy was invited to perform with a husband and wife duo, who hailed from County Longford. This performance certainly was a hit with the punters at The Lion & Lamb - so good was it, in fact, that Paddy, on accordion, Frank (M.C. and vocalist), and Bridie Judge (drums), were signed on at the venue, where they performed regularly for a period of ten years. Yes, ten years. Calling themselves The Three Gems, the trio soon became in big demand all over London, for all kinds of gigs. Hardly a weekend



*Paddy (left) performing in The Silver Dollar, Ballyhaunis, 1986, with Paddy Hunt, Larganboy (R.I.P.).*

went by that The Three Gems were not booked to play at a wedding reception in some part of London, such was the popularity of the Irish band. Indeed, their nightly schedule did take some hard work and perseverance.

When closing time came at The Lion & Lamb, it was on to The Buffalo Bar and Ballroom, for a further performance into the wee hours of the morning. Ah yes indeed, 'those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end....' - the Swinging Sixties!

After 23 years of working day and night, so to speak, Paddy decided to return to his native Ballyhaunis homestead, in 1976, where his father, John (Rancher), was still in residence. After periods of work with Mick Murray's Connaught Scaffolding; scaffolding exploits at the ESB Power Station at Moneypoint, the Aughinish Alumina refinery plant in Limerick, and at the Cement Works plant, also in Limerick, he decided to wind down, take it easy and retire. From the lofty heights of London Town, and the cabaret nights at the Ballroom of Romance, to the quiet escape of his Cherryfield abode, where life began, 75 years ago, Paddy Waldron reflects on a life well lived, and, indeed, lived well.

*Mike Byrne*

## Abbey Pattern Draws the Crowds

Hundreds of children made the most of a break in the August weather to take part in the sprints, sack races, three-legged races and egg-and-spoon races that always form the heart of any Abbey Pattern.

Special thanks to the Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union who sponsored all of this year's medals – and to Ann Greally and Madeline Niland who did a fine job of presenting them on the day. A particular thank you also goes to the volunteers who organised and marshalled the races.



*U-9 girls 3-legged-race medallists: 1 Bernice Borman/Ciara Keane, 2 Holly Browne/Amy Nevin, 3 Maedhbh Caulfield/Aoife Conway. Madeline Niland (left) and Anne Greally (right) representing Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union.*



*U-10 girls sprint medallists: 1 Muirgheal Ottewell, 2 Chloe Keane, 3 Marina Carney.*

### Medallists

This year's medallists are:

U-4 toddler girls: 1 Jesslyn Jennings, 2 Chloe Henry, 3 Alyssa Nestor Waldron.

U-4 toddler boys: 1 Tahlan, 2 Daire Caulfield, 3 Simon Morley.

U-6 boys: 1 James McDonagh, 2 Jack Jennings, 3 Shaun Morley.

U-6 girls: 1 Erin Murray, 2 Megan Gallagher, 3 Maeve Donnellan.

U-8 boys: 1 Tommy Cleary, 2 Sahib Arshad, 3 Steven Maughan.

U-8 girls: 1 Niamh O'Neill, 2 Aoife Conway, 3 Caira O'Grady.





***U-9 girls egg-and-spoon medallists: 1 Megan Morley, 2 Nikita Maughan, 3 Niamh O'Neill.***

U-10 boys: 1 Patrick Caulfield, 2 Liam Herr, 3 Darren Maughan.

U-10 girls: 1 Muirgheal Ottewell, 2 Chloe Keane, 3 Marina Carney.



***U-9 boys 3-legged-race medallists: 1 Abdullah/Ameer, 2 Luke/Cian Walsh, 3 Patrick/Conal Caulfield.***

U-13 boys: 1 Thomas McDonagh, 2 Brian O'Neill, 3 Piarais Caulfield.

U-13 girls: 1 Aisling Forkan, 2 Niamh Murray, 3 Leanne Henry.



***U-10 boys sprint medallists: 1 Patrick Caulfield, 2 Liam Herr, 3 Darren Maughan***

U-16 boys: 1 Cian Henry, 2 Cathal Carney, 3 Thomas McDonagh.

U-16 girls: 1 Aisling Forkan, 2 Anna Tierney, 3 Ciara Keane.



***U13 girls egg-and-spoon medallists: 1 Jennifer Cleary, 2 Niamh O'Neill, 3 Jenita McCormack.***

U-18 boys: 1 Cian Henry, 2 Brian O'Neill, 3 James Cribbin.

U-18 girls: 1 Aisling Forkan, 2 Anna Tierney, 3 Jennifer Cleary.

U-9 girls 3-legged-race: 1 Bernice Borman/Ciara Keane, 2 Holly Browne/Amy Nevin, 3 Maedhbh Caulfield/Aoife Conway.

U-9 boys 3-legged-race: 1 Abdullah/Ameer, 2 Luke Walsh/Cian Walsh, 3 Patrick Caulfield/Conal Caulfield.

U-13 girls 3-legged-race: 1 Bernice Borman/Ciara Keane, 2 Leanne Henry/Sarah Skeffington, 3 Jenny Cleary/Claire Fahey.



***Ursula and Aine Delaney, at work in the Pattern Tent.***

U-13 boys 3-legged-race: 1 Azad/Geger, 2 Cathal Carney/Thomas McDonagh, 3 Martin McDonagh/Owen Maughan.

U-9 boys sack-race: 1 Conal Caulfield, 2 Patrick Caulfield, 3 Jordan Maughan.

U-9 girls sack-race: 1 Niamh O'Neill, 2 Megan Morley, 3 Olse.



*Things get serious in the sack race*

U-12 boys sack-race: Cathal Carney, 2 Brian O'Neill, 3 Mac Angel.

U-12 girls sack-race: 1 Zoz An, 2 Leanne Henry, 3 Aisling Forkan.

U-9 boys egg-and-spoon: 1 Steven Maughan, 2 Luke Walsh, 3 Cian Walsh.

U-9 girls egg-and-spoon: 1 Megan Morley, 2 Nikita Maughan, 3 Niamh O'Neill.

U-13 boys egg-and-spoon: 1 Jordan Maughan, 2 Carlton, 3 Seán Carrick.

U-13 girls egg-and-spoon: 1 Jennifer Cleary, 2 Niamh O'Neill, 3 Jenita McCormack.

Ladies' Race: 1 Joanna Hunt Webb, 2 Anne Hussey, 3 Cathy McGlynn.

Frank Connolly Memorial Shield Men's Race: 1 John Waldron, 2 Martin Walsh, 3 Gabriel Morley.

### *Thanks*

Congratulations also to Linda Egan, who won the prize for the Best-Dressed Lady and to Pat Regan for being the Best-Dressed Man at the Abbey Pattern.

In 2008 the Abbey Pattern committee donated €1300 to the Annagh Special Olympics Club and €250 to the Mayo SPCA for the purchase of a dog trap. This year, Ballyhaunis Rugby Club will receive €500 to buy new jerseys for the youngsters and Ballyhaunis Foroige will receive the same amount towards its activities.

The Committee – Suzi Ottewell, Stella Hughes, Martin Walsh, Anne Lyons, Michael Egan, Stephen Grogan and Seamus O'Boyle – would again like to thank all of the sponsors and volunteers on the day: without them it wouldn't happen. Anyone who would like to get involved with Abbey Pattern 2010 can find out more from Suzi on (086) 3203018.

*Suzi Ottewell*



*Gaelic Park, New York May 2009  
Tony Greene (left), Knox St. and Tom Colleran, Bridge St.*



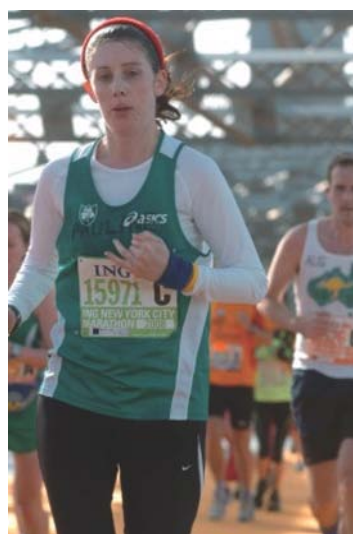
*Peggy Daly, Helena Lynch (nee Daly) holding Sinead, and Jimmy Lynch holding Jimmy, taken in the U.S.A.*



## New York Marathon 2009

When I decided to run in the New York Marathon last October, I sought out a charity organisation that I believed would be different. I have known plenty of people who, unfortunately, had to spend time in Beaumont Hospital, but they have always commented on the friendship and care they received during their stay. Therefore, I decided that I would run for the Beaumont Hospital Fund (BHF). I was delighted to find that, not only was I fundraising for a worthy cause, but that all the members of the Foundation were very friendly, concerned for their fundraisers health and well being, and also kept in touch after the event.

It took months of training to prepare for the marathon. Thanks to all the crew at Tallaght Athletic club, especially Ray Fitzsimons, who gave up so much of his time (and listened to us moaning), to help us cross the finish line. The New York Marathon was a fantastic experience, a combination of a superb marathon and a vibrant, unique city. On November 2nd, 2008, I started at the Verrazano Bridge on Staten Island, then crossed



*Pauline Madden running the New York Marathon.*

into Brooklyn and then proceeded through Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan, finishing in Central Park. But after 3 hours and 58 minutes running through the streets of New York, I crossed the finish line! Words cannot describe the emotions that I felt on the day.

I just want to say a big thanks to all family and friends who supported me. I am proud to say that in some little way my efforts have helped

BHF to create a better environment for the patients in their care.

*Pauline Madden  
(daughter of Anne and Al Madden, Hazelhill)*

## Sr. Helen Regan A 21st Century Missionary

2009 has seen Ireland gripped in an economic recession while at the same time our politicians are running up expenses of huge proportions. The current headlines read of Lisbon II, bankers, NAMA, public servants and private sector groups at each others throats. However, putting all of it into perspective, and the realisation that there are always other people much worse off than us, is the work of Ballyhaunis native Sr. Helen Regan. She lives and works amongst Brazil's poorest and most vulnerable in the slum communities of Sao Paulo.

Entering her 60th year, Sr. Helen has given 42 years of her life to a religious vocation. Daughter of Pat and Delia Regan, she grew up a few miles outside the town in Gurteen Beg. Her mother Delia later lived in retirement in Abbey Street. After completing her education in the Girls' Convent Secondary School in Ballyhaunis, Helen joined the Sisters of St. Louis Order in October 1967. She wanted to go on the missions. The inspiration came from her uncle Fr. Martin Kenny, who spent most of his life as an African missionary based in Nigeria. After completing her teacher training education in Roehampton Institute in London she spent many years teaching both in Belfast and Bundoran. In 1989, Sr. Helen would fulfil her ambition to go "on the missions" when she went to Brazil to work in Pastoral care, in a

place called Tocantins, in the state of Goiania, near the state capital.

At present the Sisters of St. Louis number approximately 500 sisters around the world including Ireland, Brazil, England, France, Ghana, Nigeria and in the USA. The order was founded in Juilly near Paris, France in 1842. It is involved in many areas of work including: health care, education, retreat giving, spiritual direction, parish ministry, care of the elderly. It has been working in Brazil since 1977 and there are currently four





Irish sisters working there, including Sr. Helen. Their mission statement states that the sisters “commit ourselves to live God’s love for the whole of creation and especially to stand in solidarity with the poor and marginalised”.

### *‘Wish Me Well’*

October 2009 saw Sr. Helen spend twenty years of her life in Brazil, sixteen of them in Sao Paulo where she moved to in January 1993. This is where she cares for people suffering from HIV/AIDS and living in shanty town communities awash with drugs and violence. Sao Paulo is the largest city in South America and according to the ‘Bem Me Quer’ website, has 57,000 cases of the disease with 20% or approximately 12,000 living in the villages and districts of northwest Sao Paulo, where Sr. Helen is based. She is the only member of her order here and, in December 1996, this is where she started Project Bem Me Quer (BMQ), which literally means “wish me well”. It was legally established in May 1997. The organisation is a civil, not for profit charity which aims to benefit, inform and care for vulnerable people and their families living with HIV/AIDS.

In the beginning, attention was turned to home care of AIDS patients in the advanced stages of their illness, those also of limited mobility and those who had been abandoned by their families and society in general. The work of the organisation has expanded since then to include areas of:

#### *(1) Education and Prevention.*

This is where programmes focus on giving out information on the prevention of STDs and HIV through workshops and meetings.

#### *(2) Social Welfare*

This is where they aim to improve living conditions and livelihoods of families assisted by the project through

home and hospital visits and also assistance with basic food supplies. Following a diagnosis, many people are referred to Sr. Helens charity by hospitals in the region. To minimise the impact of hunger on infected people, the BMQ project provides non-perishable parcels filled with food, basic toiletries and cleaning products. Everyone registered with the charity receives a parcel once a month.

#### *(3) Human Development.*

Unemployment is a very significant problem and it contributes to poverty, depression, addiction and general poor physical and emotional health. Many people are semi-illiterate and living below the poverty line. BMQ believes recovering self esteem and social reintegration of adults and children by teaching them to acquire skills will better prepare them to obtain, sustain and become financially independent.



In March 2007 Project Bem Me Quer established a headquarters in the area through a donation from the Irish Missionary Resource Service, known as Miseen Cara. The building is fully equipped with furniture and appliances and includes meeting rooms, a semi-industrial kitchen, a big room for meetings of larger groups as well as providing administrative support and research services. Miseen Cara was founded by Irish missionaries in 2004 as an organisation to support the development work of missionaries in the form of financial and operational support.

It’s a long way from Ballyhaunis to Brazil, but Sr. Helen has now been living and working there amongst the poorest of the poor for the past 20 years. She may not be able to help them all, but she lives and breaths trying to help as many as she can. As I look through these accompanying photographs of Sr. Helen throughout the course of her life’s work, I “wish her well”. I wish her



strength, health and continued faith in the pursuit of her life's vocation. As I wrote earlier, it puts a lot of things into perspective.

### *Donations*

If you would like to assist Sr. Helen Regan with her work, you can make a donation to the following bank account:

Bank Account Name: - **Bem Me Quer Project**

**Bank of Ireland**, Shopping Centre, Galway.

Sort Code: **90-38-24**. Account Number: **33658386**

Or by contacting the Sisters of St. Louis, Beech Court, Ballinclea Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin or by telephone on (01) 2350304, quoting Sr. Helen Regan's name.

If you would like to find out more about Sr. Helens work, the following websites may be of interest to you: -

[www.bemmequer.org.br](http://www.bemmequer.org.br)

[www.stlouissisters.org](http://www.stlouissisters.org)

[www.miseancara.ie](http://www.miseancara.ie)

*Sinead Freyne*

## *MidWest Radio*

### *Twenty Years on the Air*

Midwest Radio has been synonymous with Ballyhaunis for many years. This year the popular radio station celebrates its 20th year on air but residents in Ballyhaunis will know only too well that "Radio Ballyhaunis" goes back a lot further than that...



*Paula Donnellan, Chris Carroll and Gerry Glennon in the On-Air Studio in the old premises in Abbey St., in the mid 1990s.*

### *'Ballyhaunis Radio'*

The Clare River has seen a lot of water pass under the bridge since Midwest Radio first began broadcasting from Ballyhaunis. From humble beginnings in the cloakroom of Midas Nite Club in Clare Street to more spacious accommodation in Abbey Street Midwest Radio returned to its roots in Clare Street in 2003 to take up what will possibly be its long-term residence in state-of-the-art studios that are the envy of most radio stations in Ireland.

Midwest has come a long way in more ways than one. When Paul Claffey and Chris Carroll decided to start up a 'pirate' station in Midas Nite Club not even they could have imagined the level of success that was to

follow. The key to the success of the project was the simple concept of giving people what they wanted – not what they thought they wanted.

It's a philosophy that to this day is instilled in every member of the staff that work for Midwest Radio. Whilst all the 'pirates' played pop and rock, Paul and Chris played Irish folk and country and quickly realised they had uncovered the secret formula. In the days prior to legalised local radio Midwest Radio quickly became an institution in Ballyhaunis. It may have been known as "Ballyhaunis Radio" but the signal travelled throughout Connacht and the listenership base grew rapidly.



*Presenters Seamus Ó Dubhthaigh and John Duggan, taken in Byrne's Bar (now Gill's), Clare St., in the mid 1990s.*

### *Lucky omen*

When all illegal radio station operators were forced to close down in 1988 the old Midwest came to a sudden and sad halt. The final broadcast from Midas took place on Friday December 30th, 1988 when hundreds crammed into the Nite Club for the final farewell and thousands more listened tearfully on Clare Street. It was akin to a family bereavement. Suddenly, the companion in the corner of the room was silent.

However, a massive loyal listener base had been cemented and it was of little surprise when the Independent Radio and Television Commission announced that the Midwest consortium had won the licence to broadcast in County Mayo. "Radio

Ballyhaunis" was back in business – and more to the point in Ballyhaunis. Although a studio network was put in place that included operational studios in Ballina and Castlebar Midwest Radio held on to Ballyhaunis as its headquarters and that remains the position to this very day.

Paul Claffey and Chris Carroll regard Ballyhaunis as their second home and there appears to have been a lucky omen about the connection between the town and the station. The station continues to be highly popular and the impressive building adds to the appearance of the entire town. "Ballyhaunis Radio" may no longer be the catch-phrase but 20 years on and Ballyhaunis continues to be at the centre of this thriving radio station.

*Tommy Marren*



*Grand Final of 'The West/Northwest Radio Drama Awards', Downhill Hotel, Ballina, 17th May 1996. Back, L-R: Mary King (NWR); winner of the Adjudicator's Award; Eileen Brophy (IRTC); Michael O'Keeffe (IRTC); Ita McMorrough Adjudicator's; winner of Short Story Award; Gerry Glennon (MWR); Sinead Freyne (MWR); Geraldine Lavin (MWR); Sr. Bernadette McCarrick; Joan King. Front, L-R: winner of Best Actress Award; Martin Forde (Best Producer, winner "The Bear", performed by St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis); Paul Claffey (M&NWR); Robert Carrickford Adjudicator (former Glenroe actor); Micheál Smyth (Winner of the Best Overall Play as performed by the Phoenix Players, Tubbercurry); Award winner, Tiernan Gill (Sponsor).*



## Anyone for Cricket?

Within the boundaries of the Parish of Annagh there would be many a person who has achieved major sporting awards in many sports, but very few would have received the accolade of playing for their country at an International level. One of those who did receive this recognition was Joseph Patrick Burke, husband of Maire, Doctor's Road, Ballyhaunis.

Joe was born in Dublin on 31st January 1923 and was a former Irish cricketer. A right-handed batsman and right-arm fast medium bowler, he made his debut for Ireland in a match against Scotland in July 1953. He played for Ireland six times in total, his last match coming against the

### Joseph Burke Ireland (IRE)



|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Batting style</b>        | Right-handed batsman  |
| <b>Bowling type</b>         | Right-arm fast-medium |
| <b>First-class record</b>   |                       |
| <b>Matches</b>              | 3                     |
| <b>Runs scored</b>          | 36                    |
| <b>Batting average</b>      | 12.00                 |
| <b>100s/50s</b>             | 0/0                   |
| <b>Top score</b>            | 19*                   |
| <b>Balls bowled</b>         | 156                   |
| <b>Wickets</b>              | 3                     |
| <b>Bowling average</b>      | 35.00                 |
| <b>5 wickets in innings</b> | 0                     |
| <b>10 wickets in match</b>  | 0                     |
| <b>Best Bowling</b>         | 2/32                  |
| <b>Catches/Stumpings</b>    | 2/0                   |

Marylebone Cricket Club at Lords in September 1958. Of these games three had first class status.

Source: Cricket Archive

(<http://www.cricketarchive.co.uk>)

Copyright © 2003-2009 CricketArchive



*Joe Burke at one of his cricket matches taken in 1953.*

Joe played for Merrion Cricket Club in Dublin with quiet a few players who were also International players for Ireland (Shortt, Little, O'Donnell and Waldron). Joe's international career finished when he left Dublin at the age of 39.

Joe and Maire came to Ballyhaunis in 1976 as manager of Bank of Ireland where he retired to live in Doctors Road. Whilst in Ballyhaunis he continued his love of sports. He played golf both in Ballyhaunis and Claremorris winning the Captains Prize. Joe passed away on 26th June 2005 and unfortunately he never got to see Ballyhaunis cricket team in action or win their All Ireland.

*John Halpin*

## *Abbey Partnership*

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2009 has been another productive year for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership and Abbey Trust, building on the work carried out over the last four years following the withdrawal of the Augustine Order in 2005 and the formal transfer of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey and Grounds to the local community under the 999 year lease.

The entire property and buildings are held by the Ballyhaunis Abbey Trust Limited who have appointed the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership to manage the property on a day to day basis.

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

### *Abbey Grounds and River walk*

During 2009 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.

Mayo County Council also continue to make a significant contribution ensuring the property is insured, the playground area inspected on a regular basis and taking responsibility for the maintenance of the both St. Mary's Abbey and the Friary House.

2009 also saw the Abbey Partnership take part for the first time in the National Tree Planting Week along with the Children from After School Club of the Family Resource Centre, adding to the property's natural flora.

### *St. Mary's Abbey*

St. Mary's Abbey continues to be used to host a number of social and cultural events throughout the year. In 2009 the Abbey was used by the Community Council to hold the Pride of Place Awards Ceremony.

The Gracenotes Choir group continue to use the Abbey building for their performances and the Mayo County Council Summer Music programme also continued with Matt Molloy, John Carty and Arty McGlynn - a well known traditional music group performing this year.

The annual Graveyard Mass also took place in 2009 marking the feast of St. Augustine held in conjunction with the Abbey Pattern on the last Sunday of the year. Fr. Michael Mernagh OSA joined Fr. Benny McHale C.C. to concelebrate this year's remembrance.

### *Friary House*

The Abbey Partnership continues to rent out the Friary House to the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre and to Mayo VEC Further Education Centre. Both organisations work to provide opportunities and supports to the entire community, with a focus on those most disadvantaged and socially excluded - in keeping with the ethos given to us by the Augustinians

### *Childcare*

The Abbey Partnership have continued to work with the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre to develop a Community Childcare facility on the car park at the Friary grounds. This facility - Ballyhaunis Community Pre-school has was formally opened by Minister Dara Calleary TD and Cllr. John Cribbin, Cathaoirleach of County Mayo. The Community Pre-school employs four local Childcare Workers and has a capacity for 28 children each day.

### *Multi-Purpose Sport Facilities*

An application was made to the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism in 2007 for financial aid to develop a multi-purpose all weather sports facility in the Friary Field, near to the Scouts Den. This application was successful with a grant of €80,000 made by the Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism. Since then planning permission has been obtained and the tendering process completed for the project which will cost in total €180,000. Mayo County Council will contribute another €80,000 towards the project with the balance coming from Local Contributions via the Abbey Partnership. Work on the new multi-purpose sports facility will take place in the autumn of 2009 and be completed by the end of the year.

### *Abbey Pattern*

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern continued in 2009 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.

### *Conclusion & Plans for 2010*

A number of positive developments are already on the horizon for 2010 with the new sports facility due to



come into operation and the development of a foot bridge linking the River walk to the new Soccer Pitch developed alongside the Station Rise/Cherryvale housing estates.

### ***Abbey Partnership board***

The Abbey Partnership board is composed of Chairperson: John Coll (Mayo County Council), Vice-Chairperson: Peter Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chamber),

Treasurer: Mary Donnelly (Community Council), Secretary: Stephen Grogan (Family Resource Centre), Anne-Marie Carroll (MNELP), Eugene Connolly (HSE West), Cllr. John Cribbin (Mayo County Council), Anne Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chamber), John Durkin (Community Council), Pádraic Flanagan (Mayo County Council), Michael Kelly (Community Council) and Fr. Michael Mernagh (OSA), Cllr. Damien Ryan (Mayo County Council).

*Stephen Grogan*

## ***2009: A Memorable Year for Ballyhaunis Fine Gael***



***New Elected Cathaoirleach, M.C.C. John Cribbin with family members. L-R: Pat Joe Lyons (uncle), Michael Monaghan, Margaret Monaghan, Des Mahon (County Manager), William Cribbin, Mary Prendergast, Una Collum.***

***Photo: Tom Campbell.***

At the A.G.M. of the Ballyhaunis Fine Gael Branch held in mid February the main focus of attention was to plan strategy for the forthcoming County Council Elections. Monthly meetings were arranged and an election team appointed. One of the main concerns of local party activists was the loss of 510 votes in the Aughamore/Tooreen Area transferred to the Swinford Council Area as a result of the boundary revisions and how it would impact on the local candidate John Cribbin. The launch of Councillor Cribbin's election campaign held in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis in mid April was a huge success. The campaign was officially launched by Joe Mellett, Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council. The campaign was now underway with posters being erected and door-to-door canvassing arranged.

### ***Election Campaign***

As the election day of 5th June approached Councillor Cribbin's campaign gathered momentum when the Party

Leader Enda Kenny T.D. visited Ballyhaunis to encourage support for the local candidate. The campaign was further boosted when Councillor Cribbin was named in the best 3 performers of the outgoing 31 councillors by a leading political journalist in the week before the election.

### ***Election Result***

From lunch time on the Saturday of the count it was apparent that Councillor Cribbin had increased his first preference vote and would be elected comfortably. The final outcome was not clear until mid day on Sunday when it emerged that Fine Gael had 17 seats on the new Council, with the balance of 7 to Fianna Fail and 7 to others.

### ***New Cathaoirleach***

At the first meeting of the new council on the 19th June local Councillor John Cribbin was unanimously elected Cathaoirleach for the coming year. In a wide-ranging address Councillor Cribbin outlined his priorities for the year ahead and acknowledge the great honour bestowed on him and his pride in attaining the high office. He said that he looked forward to representing and promoting his county at home and abroad during his term of office. He thanked all his supporters, many of whom were in attendance in the Council Chamber for his historic moment, including his 94 year-old uncle Pat Joe Lyons.

### ***Homecoming***

Bonfires blazed as the entourage set off from Brickens via Tulrahan and Logboy to Ballyhaunis to welcome home the new Cathaoirleach with supporters coming from far and wide to participate in the celebrations. At Logboy National School a presentation was made by the Board of Management to acknowledge its first past pupil to



*Cathaoirleach, M.C.C. John Cribbin, being congratulated by his ninety-four year old uncle Pat Joe Lyons, Holywell.*

become the First Citizen of Mayo.

In Ballyhaunis the new Cathaoirleach was welcomed home and introduced to large gathering by local party

activist, John Mooney who was M.C. for the occasion. The platform speakers included local Chairman Mike Webb, Party Leader Enda Kenny T.D; John O'Mahoney T.D and Michael Ring T.D. The new Cathaoirleach then addressed the crowd and reiterated what a great honour it was for the town and the council area to be elected to office of First Citizen of Mayo.

The Cathaoirleach was joined by his family, friends, council colleagues and loyal supporters in great evening of celebration in Monsoon night club where the celebrations continued into the early hours to the music of local group Tempo.

### *Officers for 2009*

President: Kevin Durkin; Vice President: Michael McQueeney; Chairman: Mike Webb; Vice Chairman: Michael Lyons; Secretary: Helen Lyons; Treasurers: John Joe Flanagan and Oliver Cribbin; P.R.O: Tony Cribbin; Organiser: Gerry Winston; Director of Elections: John Prenty.

### *Weekly Clinics*

Councillor Cribbin holds his weekly clinic in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis every Tuesday mornings. He can also be contacted by phone (087) 2920368.

*Helen Lyons (Secretary)*

## *Ballyhaunis Chamber*

It has been said that Ballyhaunis is a great business town and this has proved itself over time. Back in the 80's when the country was on its knees, Ballyhaunis had full employment. Now in the present national crisis, we still are a major employer. While other towns regard themselves as progressive with a number of multi-national businesses, Ballyhaunis is unique in that most of our businesses are local people who are in second and third generation. In our case it is local people who benefit from the prosperity of the town. For this reason, I believe we have an excellent town. Our town provides virtually every service required and profits are then reinvested in the town for future expansion. We still have some vacant premises on the Main Street, but would welcome any new business to the town. Ballyhaunis Chamber will assist anyone in any way possible to set up business in the town.



*Martin Fitzmaurice, President, Ballyhaunis Chamber.*



### *What Ballyhaunis has to offer:*

- Modern shops and large range of services.
- The three main banks
- An ultra modern Credit Union
- Auctioneers and Insurance Brokers
- For families, full range of pre-school facilities, Primary school and Community school
- A large range of housing is available from a starter 3 bed semi to luxurious detached housing
- Private nursing homes
- Commercial industrial units for rent/storage
- Social Housing facilities.

The list goes on...

### *Recreation*

We have state of the art facilities at Ballyhaunis GAA club. At time of writing our Senior Hurlers have qualified for the Connaught Final – a great achievement. The newly opened pitches and club house at Ballyhaunis Rugby Club, Ballyhaunis. A Swimming Pool, which provides great facilities during the summer months. Ballyhaunis Golf Club is regarded as one of the finest 9 hole courses in the country. Multi-purpose Ball Court: at time of writing, plans are afoot to build an outdoor court which will be roofed and fenced. This court will be suitable for all sports 12 months of the year i.e. Basketball, Tennis, Soccer, Badminton etc. It

will be unique in Ireland and should be available for use from early 2010.

There are over twenty voluntary organisations in the town whose members contribute so much.

The Centenary celebration of St. Patrick's Parish Church took place on October 11th. This was a very special day and there is great credit due to all involved. Ballyhaunis is home to the National Orientation Centre on Clare Street.

Ballyhaunis is home to GAA Connaught Council building with its full time staff. They are also in the process of building a centre of excellence on the Knock road over the next few years. This will be a massive asset to the town.

### *Work of Ballyhaunis Chamber*

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organisation which represents business interests in the town. People who are actively involved try to promote the town's assets and stimulate business where possible. I would like to invite any business person in the area who is willing to give of their time and life experience to join us and assist us in our ambition to make our town a better place to live, work and do business.

One of the main concerns this year is rates on businesses in the town as they have been increasing substantially in recent times. We have worked together with other Chambers in Mayo and are currently waiting for a meeting with Mayo County Council officials. To



*L-R: Jim Lundon, Mike Byrne, Pat O'Connor, John Mooney, Edward Mulhern, Maura Murphy, Sean Freyne, John Cribbin (Cathaoirleach, Mayo County Council), Mary Moylan, Mary Henry (Manager, Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union), Martin Fitzmaurice (President, Ballyhaunis Chamber), Enda Caulfield at the launch of the Ballyhaunis Shop Local Loyalty Scheme 2009.*

date, we have got a commitment that there will be no increase in rates this year, but we are presently looking for a decrease.

We have also been pushing for a town by-pass, upgrading of town parking facilities and completion of town plan. Progress is being made on all fronts.

Our Summer Festival for 2009 was a week-end of sport. This was our first ever sports week-end and it was a great success. It was run over the weekend of 26th June from Thursday to Sunday. It was run as an inclusive weekend – with a day for the elderly and a day for people with special needs. On the Sunday we ran “Tar agus Triall” – Come and Try – where all the different clubs gave a display of what they had to offer and people could try out everything. The high point of the week-end was our biggest ever Road Race, which is now an annual event as part of the C & C Cellular Mayo league. Thanks again to all our sponsors, voluntary assistants and Mayo Sports Partnership who helped to make our week-end a great success.

In September we ran our 5th live Inter-pub quiz. This year Phillips’ bar were going for three in a row, but after a three way tie, were just pipped at the post by Gill’s Bar. This is a very competitive and fun event, which also raises some funds for Mayo Autism. Thanks again to all our volunteers who made this event so enjoyable for all. We have just launched our first ever Loyalty Reward Scheme for shoppers on Friday 23rd October. Nearly every business in Ballyhaunis has supported this Chamber initiative and we are very grateful for your support. It involves giving out tokens to shoppers each time they spend ?20 in each shop and they are in for a free draw for cash prizes. This is run in conjunction with a major advertising campaign on radio and local papers. The main prize draw is planned to take place on 21st December – so you might have some extra shopping money for Christmas – but you have to shop to get the tokens first.

In November, we plan to have a massive Craft Fair. Everything is not finalized yet, but we are hoping to incorporate Christmas lights switch-on, maybe a week-end sale and a Santa visit at the same time.

### *Dinner Dance*

This year’s Dinner Dance has been moved forward to January 23rd 2010. We feel this is a better time as there is too much on around Christmas. This year, we would like to open it up to the community of Ballyhaunis and anyone is welcome to join us for a night out. It’s a great night’s entertainment which includes: Punch & Canape Reception at 7.30, six-course dinner, followed by live band till late – all for just ?40 per head. It takes

place at Knock House Hotel. So why not join us for a great night’s entertainment and meet new friends.

### *Thanks*

I would like to thank Mayo County Council for improvements made to the town this year, all the local councilors and especially John Cribbin who is chairman of Mayo County Council this year. I would like to congratulate MidWest Radio on celebrating their 20th birthday broadcasting this year. This has been one of the many success stories of the town. Thanks to all the local and regional newspapers and their reporters who assist us to promote the town in a good light at all times.

I have two main principles which I would apply to Ballyhaunis Chamber: firstly, “anyone who is involved in business in the town should be involved in an organisation to stimulate and promote business in the town”. My second principle is: “if everyone did something, which cost them nothing – we would have the best town in Ireland”. While we have a large membership, I would encourage all members to be more active and invite all non-members to join us. If we all give a little of our experience and life knowledge, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

I am greatly honored to have been elected President of Ballyhaunis Chamber and hope that I can contribute in some way to the organisation. The following officers were elected:

### *Officers*

CEO: Anne Cunnane; Vice-President: M. Jamil Ahmed; Hon. Secretary: Alison McDermott; Hon. Treasurer: Enda Caulfield; P.R.O: Jim Lundon. Other Council members: Michael Dee, Tom Forde, Paul McDermott, Patrick Gallagher, Stephen Costello, John Dillon Leetch, Eddie Murphy Jnr. and Donal Shanaghy.

I am proud of our town and I think we have a wonderful town. A town where so many people give freely of their time to all the different organisations that provides us with such a high quality of life. I hope we can all work together to improve our town and make it a better place to live, work and do business. I would like to thank all the businesses who supported the Chamber over the years, all the existing officers and all the staff at the Enterprise Centre who each contribute so much every year. I hope you and your families have a very Happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Martin Fitzmaurice (President)*



## Ballyhaunis Boxing Club

The new Ballyhaunis Boxing Club was opened in the summer of 2007 by Martin Peake, after having been closed for a period of eleven years.

The club currently trains in Began Community Centre on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8.30. We have three coaches and three IABA qualified judges.

During the two boxing seasons we have been open we have won numerous titles, including 24 Schoolboy Championships, 21 Mayo Championships, 14 Connacht Championships and 2 National Titles. Last season we were awarded best club at the schoolboy championships, this is a great achievement considering there are 42 clubs in Connacht.

We look forward to the 2009/10 season and hope to win many more titles for Ballyhaunis.



*Pat Jordan, Treasurer, Mayo Boxing Board, presenting Anthony Brereton, Ballyhaunis Boxing Club, with his award as Most Active Boxer 2008/9.*



*Tommy Murphy, Vice President IABA, presenting Brandon Peake, Ballyhaunis Boxing Club, with his award as Best Young Boxer at Mayo Championships 2008/9.*



*Tommy Murphy, Vice President IABA, presenting Ryan Peake, Ballyhaunis Boxing Club, with his award as Best Boy 4 Boxer at Mayo Championships 2008/9.*

## Deadline

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2010 is Friday, 22nd October 2010. 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.



## *The Good Life... With The Ballyhaunis Gardening Club*



*Pictured during the Ballyhaunis Gardening Club's outing to Kylemore Abbey were, L-R: Catherine Sloyan, Clodagh Sloyan, Conor Sloyan, Pauline Egan (back) and Noel Sloyan.*

On the 6th of February 2009 the first meeting of the Ballyhaunis Gardening Club took place. While everybody was talking recession, gloom and doom, we



were thinking more of the 'Good Life'. We didn't aim for self-sufficiency, but hoped to get people back to producing their own food and, more importantly, to enjoy growing their own.

We had fifteen people at our first meeting whose range of experience and expertise went from one extreme to the other: some had little experience of growing their own, while others had a lifetime's experience working with the earth and a first class

knowledge of how to work with nature. This is something that we have lost by the introduction of technology. These meetings have enabled us to capture and preserve some of the old, tried and trusted methods of gardening from the past.

Our gardening meetings were held on the first Friday of

every month. We started the seasons by first testing the soil for its fertility and then swapping plants and seeds to kick-start the calendar year. The best of the old ways, combined with fresh ideas and new ways of approaching things – this was the focus of our meetings.

We finished our year of gardening by taking a trip to

Kylemore Abbey, in the heart of Connemara. This was the highlight of the year for all of us in the Club. Robert Hosty (the head gardener at Kylemore) gave us a history of the gardens and the way in which they operated in the past. Robert also told us of their plans for the future. It was a well worth trip, and practically on our doorstep.



*Margie Phillips*



## Scoil Íosa

Scoil Íosa Primary School extends Season Greetings to Annagh readers and to all members of the School Community, past and present. The current enrolment in the school stands at 266 pupils.

### Board of Management

John Griffin (Chairperson/Patron's Nominee), Fr. Benny McHale (Patron's Nominee), Kenneth Dennedy (School Principal), Kevin Henry (Teachers' Nominee), Patricia Uí Shuilleabháin (Parents' Nominee), Tommy Caulfield (Parents' Nominee), Paula Grogan (Community Nominee).

### Staff 2009/2010

Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Kathleen Lyons (Assistant Principal), Jimmy Duggan (Assistant Principal), Aisling Toal, Sheena Flanagan, Olivia Burke, Ann Durkan, Stella McGrath, Ita Fahey, Joanne Shalley, Ciara Byrne, Annie Kilroy, Kevin Henry, Lisa Watchorn, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, Elaine Brady, Donal O'Brien, Mary Fleming, Edel Cuniffe, June Duffy, Seamus Caulfield (Modern Language Teacher), Brigid Lynskey (Special Needs Assistant), Carmel Cassidy, Mary Dillon (Secretaries), John Hurley (Caretaker).

### Retirements

2009 saw the end of an era with the retirements of School Principal Jim London, Deputy Principal Augustine Kearns and long serving teacher Margaret O'Flaherty.

Jim began his time in Ballyhaunis in 1976 when he moved from City Quay National School in Dublin where he had spent the first eight years of his teaching career. Initially Jim served as Principal of St. Mary's Boys National School until its amalgamation with St Joseph's Convent Primary School in 2001. From that time until August 2009 Jim served as the distinguished and hugely popular Principal of Scoil Íosa National School.

Gus began his teaching career in St. Mary's Boys National School in 1971 and has spent his entire career as teacher and, more recently, as Deputy Principal of Scoil Íosa. Gus' experience and calm, measured approach to his work marked him out as a valued colleague and as a highly respected teacher.

Margaret commenced her career in Ballyhaunis in 1988 having previously served as a teacher in Cloonfallagh National School on the border of the parishes of Aughamore and Knock. Margaret was a very dedicated teacher whose gentle disposition influenced those around her. Her dedication to the children in her care was second to none and marked her out as a very popular colleague and teacher. All three teachers are wished a Very Happy Retirement by all in the school community.



*Fr. Benny McHale CC with Jim and Rita London, after the Mass to mark Jim's retirement, June 2009.*

### Parents Association 2008/2009

Fergal O'Mahoney (Chairperson), Laura Burke (Secretary), Cathal Carroll (Treasurer), Pat Ryan, Orla Moran, Niamh Henry, John Durkan, Martin Walsh, Patricia Uí Shuilleabháin, Tommy Caulfield, Frank Browne, Ann Lyons.



*Pictured after the special school Mass to mark their retirements, Mrs. Margaret Flaherty, Canon Joseph Cooney P.P. and Augustine Kearns, October 2009.*

### Kenny Naughton Autumn School

Pupils from Scoil Íosa who won prizes for their creative writing in the competition for Primary School Children were: Huma Arshad (11 years and over) short story section, and Saoirse Caulfield and Robert McCormack (11 years and over) poetry section. Well done to all who participated.



*Mass servers on the occasion of the Centenary of St. Patrick's Church. Back, L-R: Sean Herr, Cathal Carney, Roisin Ní Shuilleabháin. Front, L-R: James Cribbin, Chloe Ryan, Oisín Henry, Laura O'Connell.*

### *Recycling*

Scoil Íosa continues to promote various recycling initiatives among our school community. This year's

projects include: recycling old mobile phones in aid of the Jack and Jill Foundation; a clothes collection in aid of Cancer Care West; recycling used printer cartridges and collecting used stamps in aid of missionary charities.

### *School Sports*

As well as competing in the various Cumann na mBunscoil competitions the children in Scoil Íosa also took part in a number of 'in house' competitions. Among these were the Junior and Senior Soccer Leagues in which all of the children were encouraged to compete. The senior league was won by the 'Sunderland' team consisting of Hamzha Yousaf (Capt.), James Reynolds, Steven Nolan, Neal Folliard, Saoirse Caulfield, Oisín Henry, John Cunnane and Dylan Maughan.

In the Junior League the 'Liverpool' team captained by Eamonn Phillips emerged victorious. Members of the winning team included Megan Gaughan, Maudasir Rehmann, Brendonas Graf, John Reidy, Emma Lyons, Zain Azhar and Uneeb Nasser.

Well done to all involved.

### *Mayo Anti Racism Poetry Competition*

Congratulations to Niamh Murray on taking first place in the recent poetry competition sponsored by Moy



*Sixth Class, Scoil Iosa Confirmation 7th March 2009. Back, L-R: Stephen Ryan, Kathleen Lyons (Teacher), Chantelle McDonagh, Marlena Staszczuk, Laurence McDonagh, June Duffy (Teacher), Sr. Geraldine Farrell (Teacher), Jim Lundon (Principal). Third row, L-R: James Lyons, Laura Carney, Steven Nolan, Joseph Lyons, Ailish Phillips, Niamh Murray, Erika Webb, Danielle Byrne. Second Row, L-R: James Burke, Neil Folliard, Philip Fitzmaurice, Lisa Higgins, Ryan Kilbane, Rory Nestor. Seated, L-R: Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Archbishop Michael Neary, Fr. Benny McHale C.C.*  
*Glynn's Photography.*





*First Communion Class, Scoil Iosa 2009. Back, L-R: Jim Lundon (Principal), Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Fr. Benny McHale C.C., Ita Fahey (Teacher), Kay Healy (Special Needs Assistant). Fourth row, L-R: Ellen Phillips, Darren Maughan, Allanah Nolan, Mary Ellen McDonagh, Weronika Grabiasz, Aoife Conway, John Reidy. Third row, L-R: Laura Limataures, Eimear Murray, Anna Naszkierska, Michelle Grogan, Shauna Lyons, Aoife Davis. Second row, L-R: Deirbhile Finn Richardson, Emma Nolan, Siofra Murray, Jenita McCormack, Kathleen Ward, Kasey Clarke, Dylan Gaughan. Front, L-R: Barry Cribbin, Aran Rattigan, David Ratkauskas, Neil Carney, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Dara Healy, Mattheus Vinicius de Oliveira Ramos. Glynn's Photography.*

Valley Resources in conjunction with Mayo Education Centre. Niamh's poem was included in an anthology of children's poems "All Different, All The Same" published by Cló Mhaigh Eo.

### ***St Patrick's Church Centenary Celebrations***

Scoil Íosa was well represented at the recent centenary celebrations for St. Patrick's Parish Church. The school choir, under the direction of Mrs. Ita Fahey, excelled during the ceremonies and the Mass servers also participated during the proceedings. Congratulations are extended to all those involved.

Congratulations also to the children who took part in the centenary art competition. Prizewinners were: 2nd Class (Mrs. Fahey): 1st Clodagh Byrne, 2nd Rebecca Reynolds & Irtaza Rehman. 2nd Class (Ms. Flanagan): 1st Grace Abinbola, 2nd Mila Maciukaite & Harron Shabir. 3rd Class (Ms. McGrath): 1st Ellen Phillips, 2nd Emma Nolan & Zineddin Rahmani. 4th Class (Ms.

Shalley): 1st David Cunnane, 2nd Meadhbh Caulfield & Mounza Muneer. 5th Class (Mr. Kearns): 1st Jessica Carroll, 2nd Gary Higgins & Sana Almac. 6th Class (Ms. Byrne): 1st John Cunnane, 2nd Katie Moran & Zaid Gulzar. 6th Class (Mrs. Lyons): 1st Saoirse Caulfield, 2nd Milena Gawlowska & Hassan Mahmood.

### ***Quiz Teams***

Teams from Scoil Íosa participated in a number of quiz competitions over the course of the year with varying degrees of success. Notable accomplishments included qualification for three regional Sports Quiz finals in Claremorris. Team members were: Steven Nolan, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Rory Nestor and Ryan Kilbane.

### ***Writing Competition***

Ryan Kilbane from 6th Class (Mrs. Lyons) took 2nd place in the Writing Competition sponsored by Westport House Hotel. His poem was entitled "Pirate

*Kenneth Dennedy (Principal)*



*Fifth Class, Scoil Iosa Confirmation 7th March 2009. Back, L-R: Jim Lundon (Principal), Dylan Maughan, Augustine Kearns (Teacher). Third row, L-R: Mikey Hill, Robert McCormack, Tautvydas Mackevicius, Cormac Reidy, Milena Gawlowska, David Webb, Daniel McCormack. Second row, L-R: Matthew Grogan, Daniel Spicyn, Kaitlyn Clarke, Saoirse Caulfield, Leanne Henry, Sean Carrick, Thomas McDonagh, James Reynolds. Seated, L-R: Canon Joseph Cooney P.P., Archbishop Michael Neary, Fr. Benny McHale C.C., Kamil Maliszewski. Glynn's Photography.*



*Fifth Class, Scoil Iosa Confirmation 7th March 2009. Back, L-R: Jim Lundon (Principal), Rosina Lukoseviciute, Anna Khromova, Mantas Aguonis, Jimmy Duggan (Teacher). Third row, L-R: Oisín Henry, Katie Moran, John Cunnane, Cian Henry, James Cribbin, Radek Cervenak. Second row, L-R: Tommy Folliard, Roisín Ní Shuilleabháin, Piarais Caulfield, Sean Herr, Cathal Carney, Shane Cribbin, Aoife Nolan. Missing from photo: Demi Greally, Roisín McDonagh. Glynn's Photography.*



## Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

*'Helping to make Ballyhaunis a nicer, cleaner and more enjoyable place to work and live.'*

That is the profile of Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns used in the website of 'Mylocalnews.ie'

Our Tidy Towns Committee strives to live by that profile by working to improve the appearance of our lovely town each year. 2009 has been a very busy time for our loyal and hardworking committee and volunteers. This year we increased the number of sites that were planted with flowers and shrubs. This has increased the number of baskets and beds to be maintained to 128. Fortunately we have now purchased the Cashels machine for power washing and watering. A similar unit was very kindly loaned by Cashels Engineering for the past few seasons and we are very grateful to Peter Cunnane for his sponsorship of this and indeed much more.

### *An Taisce National Spring Clean Campaign*

The turn out on Good Friday this year for the National Spring Clean was very good. A major clean-up was done all over the town and on the approach roads. It gave a great incentive to our committee to continue with our twice weekly rubbish picks. Our Residents Associations were out in force on the day and if more areas would consider forming their own groups the town would benefit greatly. The supplies of bags, gloves etc are free and all that is needed is people power.

### *Mayo County Council Litter Action League*

This is a competition that is run each year and Ballyhaunis in the first year, 2005, reached the final and we were narrowly beaten by Belmullet. In 2006 we didn't feature at quarter final stage. 2007 was our year and we beat Crossmolina in the final. We slipped a little in 2008 and came second to Crossmolina. At the time of this report we are waiting for the result of the 2009 final between Ballyhaunis and Crossmolina. The effort put in by all our volunteers in the weeks leading up to the final will hopefully see us win the title. And even if we don't win the compliments passed by many people regarding the cleanliness and tidiness of our town is sufficient reward.

### *National Tidy Towns Competition*

The results of the 2009 competition were released in early September. Ballyhaunis has again increased its marks to 226 – a jump of 6 marks from last year. The adjudication was done this year on Sunday 14th June and while the report is generally favourable there are areas that worry our committee. Earlier on this year we campaigned to have the Recycle banks area improved and the bring banks replaced. The area was upgraded and re-paved but

unfortunately the old banks remain. We power washed them but the age of the units and damage marks make them look unsightly. Added to this it appears that rubbish was dumped at this site overnight and the adjudicator took this into consideration in his report. However we welcome and acknowledge the work of Mayo Co. Council in the recent upgrade of the car park where the bring banks are located and in particular the installation of cameras.

The following is a summary of the adjudicator's report:

### *Overall Development Approach 40/50*

The adjudicator was impressed by developments at Ballyhaunis Abbey and by the fact that this major asset has been inherited on a 999 year lease for use by the local community. The work of the Public Art Commission of Mayo Co. Co. in locating a number of sculptures in the town was much admired. The efforts of the Tidy Towns Committee in establishing good working relationships with Ballyhaunis Chamber, local businesses, schools and local representatives were commended.

### *The Built Environment 31/50*

A number of areas and premises were admired in this category, e.g. Bridge St. and its buildings, Irises Florist for a cheerful display, Abbey St., the children's playground, The Hazel Bar for its attractive hanging baskets, St. Patrick's Church, Hazelhill Family Practice, Community School, Mid-West Radio. On the negative side a number of commercial premises sporting plastic signage and buildings, railings and fencing in need of painting and/or refurbishment drew criticism. Replacing plastic signage with more traditional timber was advised and the practice of removing render from vernacular street buildings to reveal stonework was discouraged. The report states: "this is not only incorrect from a conservation point of view, but can lead to problems with water penetration."

### *Landscaping 32/50*

In this category public art features such as the market day sculpture in the Square and the granite ogham stone at St. Gerald's Court were admired, as were the tiered tubs of petunias at the Square, and the Sundial at the swimming pool. Landscaping work on the siding of the railway station, attractive planting leading down to the car park and the grottos on the Ballinlough Road and Gurteen created a good impression.

### *Wildlife & Natural Amenities 16/50*

A brief comment in this category advised signposting to

nature walks in the area, and an endorsement of negotiations with the Abbey Partnership and the Fisheries Board.

### ***Litter Control 30/50***

The adjudicator congratulated Ballyhaunis on being runner-up in last year's Litter League describing it as "no mean feat for a town of your size". Some litter was evident on the day at Abbey View.

### ***Waste Minimisation 9/20***

Dumping at the recycling banks came in for criticism here. The establishment of closer links with local businesses and residents associations regarding waste minimisation was advised.

### ***Tidiness 12/30***

The amount of dereliction and abandoned property in the town and along approach roads, particularly premises in prominent locations, created a bad impression for the adjudicator. Consequently there is no positive comment whatsoever in this category.

### ***Residential Areas 24/40***

There was much to admire in this category for the adjudicator, in particular houses and gardens along the Roscommon Road, the stone wall and entrance area at Old Racecourse, St. Gerald's Crescent, stone work and pebbledash at the newer St. Gerald's Court, Clare Court Social Housing, Aisling Drive and Knox St. Residents' Associations were congratulated for their participation in the National Spring Clean Campaign, and promotion of the ethos of Residents' Associations was recommended.

### ***Roads, Streets & Back Areas 25/50***

Advertising hoardings were criticised in this category by the adjudicator as they can give approach roads a rather cluttered appearance. Grim boundary walls, overgrown verges and faded signage on approach roads were also criticised. On the positive side the bi-lingual townland signage was admired and the planned outer distributor road and upgrading of car parks were looked forward to.

### ***General Impression 7/10***

The report states: "It was a number of years since this adjudicator had the pleasure of visiting Ballyhaunis and it was impressive to see how well it is being cared for. It is a lively, vibrant town with much to offer visitor and resident alike."

### ***Future Plans***

With outdoor work at an end for the winter, our schedule is the planning of the many tasks to be undertaken next

year. Some of our ambitious plans include:

- More hanging baskets
- More flower beds
- River cleaning
- Provision of litter bins on all streets
- Enhance the town well area
- Improve the slipway and surround at Bridge St./Abbey St.
- New brackets for hanging baskets on the Friary wall
- Planning and introducing a nature trail
- A possible outdoor art competition

Many of these projects cannot be completed without the help and co-operation of many bodies in Ballyhaunis. However with a combined effort all things are possible.

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns wishes to acknowledge the support received every year from many people, companies and organisations:

- Cashels Engineering and Peter Cunnane for the continued sponsorship and support
- Margie Phillips for flowers
- Ryan's Super Valu for sponsorship
- Ballyhaunis Chamber for sponsorship and support
- Cllr. Michael Carty for his allocation of Council funds
- Cathaoirleach John Cribbin for his allocation of funds and his continued support
- All businesses which have our Mite Boxes and those who contribute to them
- All who contributed to our church gate collection

Our AGM took place in March 2009 and the following officers were elected: Chairperson; Mary Donnelly, Secretary; John Joe Kelly, Treasurer; Helen Biesty, Asst. Treasurer; Nell Rochford, PRO; Gabrielle Lyons, Committee; Moira Patterson, Frances Maye, Frances Mulhern, Bimbo Salami, Kieran Timoney, Michael Heffernan, Mike Griffin. Our occasional volunteers who lend their willing hands in watering the hanging baskets and picking litter deserve great credit and appreciation. Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns will continue with the challenge of presenting our town in the best possible light. We will accept all forms of constructive criticism and we will accept all forms of help in pursuit of a better Ballyhaunis.

Finally we appeal for new members. We are not an exclusive club. We do not have a membership fee. In fact all we offer is a big welcome, plenty of fresh air and the many compliments we receive from the residents of our town who appreciate the work being done on their behalf.

*John Joe Kelly*





*May 1987, The first Order of Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes via Knock Airport included ambulance corps members from Knock, Castlebar, Tuam and Sligo, together with ten invalids and other pilgrims. Pictured in front of the Lourdes Grotto are members of the Knock contingent including Capt. John Egan and Dr. Diamuid Murray, Medical Officer.*

## Gracenotes Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the year flies by. Again it is time to be writing my article for the Annagh magazine and this year it is again a pleasure as musically, I have only good things to report. This year 2009 is Gracenotes tenth Anniversary year and what a year it has been. I remember recounting last year that we'd had our most successful year to date, but I can now tell you that this year we have surpassed our own record. In three major choral festivals in Ireland this year in various competitions, we were twice awarded First place, twice Second and once Third. We are continually striving to improve as a choir and when we get results like these, it is really encouraging.

Gracenotes is a choir made up of a diverse group of people, but we all have a common love of music and for many of us singing has become a major part of our lives. Our choir practices are not just about singing though, as the weekly practices are also social gatherings where we all chat and generally catch up with each other. As with every year, this one has had its ups and downs. Three members of the choir have sadly lost close loved

ones, we send them our sympathies and hope that the choir has been a support to them in their time of loss. There have also been members of the choir who have thankfully recovered well from various medical surgeries and procedures and we wish them continued good health. There have also been some very happy announcements too throughout the year, with our former musical director Anna Butler and our Chairperson Maureen Thornton becoming first time grandmothers, also two of our choir members had babies. Soprano singer Olivia Regan had a baby boy in November and Alto singer Aoife Keane had a baby girl in June of this year. We wish them all and their families health and happiness with their new bundles of joy.

### *Singing Year*

So our singing year started in September '08 when our weekly Thursday choir rehearsals resumed and we started into learning our new pieces of music. This is always a challenging time when it's hard to imagine having them ready for performance or competition in only a few

months time but, we know that Laura (Brogan) our musical director will gradually bring us up to that standard as the weeks go by. In early October we sang at Clare Court and this coincided with National Choral Singing/World Mental Health Day. The Sligo Choral Festival was then our first competition of the year and it proved to be a very successful one for us as we came First in the Equal Voice Competition and Third in the Sacred Music Section. In November we heard that Ballyhaunis had won the Pride of Place Award and we like to think that the stand we made explaining all about Gracenotes contributed to this achievement. In December, we held our annual recital in The Friary in aid of St. Vincent de Paul and despite the weather being very frosty we had a good turnout and the audience enjoyed the programme. Just before Christmas a group of us went to visit the residents of Brookvale Nursing Home and we hope we raised their spirits by singing some Carols for them.



*Gracenotes photographed singing in the open air in Montserrat having just sung in the Basilica, July 2009.*

Practices began again early in the New Year and at the end of January we had a Post-Christmas Party in Pontoon. This was a nice social evening where we could all relax and enjoy each other's company. It was a great evening that of course ended up with us all singing a tune or two! It was then back to work as it was time for us to start concentrating on our pieces for the Limerick Festival of Church Music. Our hard work was again rewarded as we came Second in the Sacred Music section. At the end of March Mark Duley returned to give us a Voice Workshop which we all really enjoyed and found very helpful. Laura then concentrated on getting the choir ready for our next big musical event, the Cork International Choral Festival. This festival is a special one for us, it always falls on the May Bank Holiday weekend so the choir travels down and we stay over. It is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends from

other choirs around the country who are also competing. It is also a great opportunity to hear some superb singing from choirs from all over the world. We were all so pleased when we were awarded First place in the Sacred Music competition and Second in the National Open competition in the most prestigious choral music festival in Ireland. We felt as though we had made Laura proud and that all the hard work that we had all put in had paid off. We did so well that we have now been invited to move up to a new category in the competition next year.

### *Spain*

The year had progressed so well for us that it seemed impossible that it could get any better, but then we went on tour to Spain where we sang in the Basílica de Santa Maria Del Pi - a beautiful old church in Barcelona - and then in Sant Antoni de Padua, a modern church in Tarragona. The audiences at both concerts were fantastic and very appreciative of our programme especially when we sang not only in Spanish but also in Catalan. We were also lucky enough to be granted a spot to sing in the Basilica at Montserrat (Monestir de Montserrat - Benedictine) and this for many members of the choir was a real high point of the tour, a truly unique and moving experience. We had a fabulous time in Barcelona: it really is an incredible city with so much to see and do. We stayed in a lovely quarter of the city within easy walking distance of Casa Mila and other impressive Gaudi buildings. We really enjoyed our trip and now look forward to planning our next one!

So all in all, it was a fabulous anniversary year for Gracenotes where our achievements really reflected the effort that we had all put in. The standard that we have now achieved is a testament to our musical director, Laura, but somehow I don't think we will be allowed to sit back this year, as the pressure is already on to work equally as hard in this coming year and to keep progressing as a choir. We are also recording a CD which we hope will be out in the spring of 2010, so do look out for it.

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 our Chairperson 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; Ordinary members: Mary Dawson, Anna Butler, Karen Ronane & Xanthe Pratt.

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



# Ballyhaunis Outer Bypass

## Preferred Route Unveiled

### Background

The N60/N83 Ballyhaunis Outer Bypass will provide a high quality and sustainable road network that will promote strategic development within the town and county and is consistent with the aspirations outlined in both the National Development Plan 2003-2013 and the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020.

An objective of the Mayo County Development Plan 2003-2009 is to identify and preserve the lines of bypasses and relief roads on the National and Non-National Road Network. In June 2008 five route options were presented to the public for consideration.

Description of the emerging preferred route (Route Option C1)

The emerging preferred route, route option C1, as presented takes off from Pattenspark Townland (Td) with a tie-in to the existing N60 Claremorris Road and diverges off the existing road as it heads eastwards into Hazelhill Td. An at-grade T-junction is proposed for access into Ballyhaunis town.

The bypass continues eastwards crossing over the Westport-Dublin railway line, a local road and the Dalgan River before entering Drumbaun Td and intersecting with the Irishtown Road, south of the entrance to the old Lecarrow Quarry. A staggered junction is proposed at this intersection.

The bypass passes along the southern boundary of Abbeyquarter Td and entering the Lecarrow Td continuing in an easterly direction. It is proposed to provide a roundabout junction at the N83 Galway Road intersection north of the Lecarrow Road junction. A slight realignment of the Galway road would be required to facilitate this junction type.

From the Galway Road roundabout the bypass heads northwards into Devlis Td intersecting the N60 Castlerea Road with a roundabout junction. A minor realignment of the Castlerea Road is required here to facilitate the positioning and level of the roundabout and to maintain adequate levels to cross over the eastern leg of the Westport-Dublin railway line.

Once the bypass crosses over the railway line north of the N60 Castlerea Road it continues in a north-westerly direction through Ballinphuill Td and into Clagnagh Td. At the intersection with the Clagnagh Road a staggered junction is proposed. The road continues in a north-westerly direction into Cherryfield Td, crossing the Dalgan River into Pollinacroaghy Td and ending at a roundabout junction with the N83 Charlestown Road

just south of the Kilmannin Cross Roads. Route Option C1, the Emerging Preferred Route is approximately 4.9km long and will link 4 no. national roads and 2 no. local roads. The Emerging Preferred Route will also cross both the Westport-Dublin railway line and the Dalgan River twice.

### Selecting the preferred the preferred route

Following engineering, environmental, human and economic assessments on each of the route options and a review of submissions, it became clear that Route Option Coravariation of same was emerging as the preferred route. A number of issues from the route options assessment on Route Option C required further investigation and changes to the original route option and this gave rise to the development of Route Option C1.

Route Option C1 was developed to reduce the severity on an important ecological site in Hazehill and to avoid a complex of esker ridges containing a potential archaeological site both impacted by Route Option C. The original proposal of running Route Option C through the esker ridge complex in Devlis would have a very negative landscape and visual impact so close to Ballyhaunis Town. Also, from public submissions and further design investigations, an alternative realignment of the N60 Castlerea Road is now proposed.

As explained earlier, each route option has been assessed from an engineering, economic, human and environmental perspective. It was clear from this assessment that the Emerging Preferred Route (Route Option C or its variant Route Option C1) is the best option for the N60/N83 Ballyhaunis Outer Bypass. Additional investigations of the emerging route and considerations of submissions from the public following this public consultation are to take place to confirm the suitability of the choice.

### What happens next?

- The Preferred Route will be fixed following a review of the information gathered at this public consultation together with the additional studies on the emerging preferred route.
- If the Preferred Route is ratified by the elected members of Mayo County Council, the route will be sterilised for planning and included in the Ballyhaunis Local Area Plan.
- Any planning applications located on any of the other route options, that were previously deferred

**Ballyhaunis**

**Emerging Preferred Route Option C1**

**NOTE:**  
The Emerging Preferred Route may be subject to change as a result of further detailed investigations including geotechnical, land surveys, and environmental surveys, together with a review of local sewerage and accommodation issues.

N67 Knock Road  
R50 Clonsilla Road  
N85 Chesham Road  
N90 Castlebar Road  
N90 Carnagee Road

PEDALING MAY BE DESIRABLE TO MAINTAIN PROPOSED ROUTE ON LOCAL HIGHWAY NETWORKS ONLY





*Staff of Scoil Iosa after the Mass to mark Jim Lundon's retirement as Principal, June 2009. Back, L-R: Jimmy Duggan, Augustine Kearns, Lucy Fleming, Olivia Burke, Kathleen Lyons, Sheena Flanagan, Mary Fleming, Stella McGrath, Anne Durkan, Aine Delaney, Fr. Benny McHale C.C. Centre, L-R: Sr. Geraldine Farrell, Mary Dillon, Marina Coyne, Annie Kilroy, Lisa Watchorn, Aisling Toal, Ciara Byrne, Joanne Shalley, Delia Coen, Kevin Henry, Brigid Lynskey, Kay Healy, Ita Fahey. Seated: Rita and Jim Lundon.*



*Ballyhaunis Pioneer Total Abstinence Association 95th Year Celebration  
Back L-R: Paddy & Tess Waldron, Teresa Sloyan, Mary Fitzmaurice, Helen Hoban, Seamus O'Boyle, Pado Moran, Michael Sloyan. Front L-R: Mary Ellen Frehill, Mai Fitzmaurice, Mary Plunkett, Patsy Flanagan, Teresa Healy.*

## *A Visit to Hazelhill Family Practice*

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"Is life worth living", I hear myself say.  
After a visit to Mrs. Noone today,  
She gave me a list and some good advice,  
If I really want to live a long healthy life,  
My cholesterol is high, my blood pressure too,  
And goodies in life I fear will be few,  
A lifetime of chicken, pulses, brown rice,

Goodbye to pasta and cakes by the slice,  
No more choccies, crisps or scones with my tea,  
Or pills for life. It'll then have to be,  
I know it's the right thing and I know you mean well,  
"But Moira it feels like life could be hell",  
So I'll get on my old bike and pedal real fast,  
And make high cholesterol a thing of the past.

*Christine Marigliano, Island*

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## *Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre*

2009 has been another busy year for Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, which continued to grow as a community organisation, improving the range of activities and opportunities provided from the Friary House at St. Mary's Abbey along with strengthening the contact with our different communities and families throughout the town.

The Family Resource Centre was started some 5 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.

One of the major events of the year was the formal opening of our new childcare facilities. The Family Resource Centre has established two childcare services – the Greater Tomorrow service which is based in the Old Convent Asylum Accommodation Centre, and the Ballyhaunis Community Pre-school which is based at St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey. Both services provide over 62 childcare places each week and employ 4 local childcare staff.

The two childcare services form part of a wider Family Support Project being delivered by the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre and HSE Early Childcare Services to support Asylum Seeker families living in the town and provide Integrated Childcare opportunities to all families in the community.

Some of the other activities which have taken place this year include our Digital Photography courses and 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 2009, 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 continues to provide an outreach office to Mayo Citizens Information who attend once a month to answer questions and help people find out about their entitlements and rights.

### *Counselling*

Our counselling service, which was started last year, also continues at St. Mary's Abbey. 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. The opening of the new Community Preschool at St. Mary's Abbey will enable children from all our communities in the town to share and learn together.

Other supports to our International communities have also continued with the Centre providing Computer and Personal Development Courses for adults. 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 6 weeks in Ireland at the National Refugee Orientation Centre – on Clare Street. This centre is the first arrival point for these refugee families, who 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 Congo.



The Centre has continued to support the Ballyhaunis Traveller Pre-School in Tooraree, which provides an excellent and affordable service, complementing the work of the VEC Training Centre.

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 and the Community School.

The Family Resource Centre is an active member of the Abbey Partnership, Community Council, and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and taking an active part in their activities

held in the town.

The Family Resource Centre is controlled by a board of directors made up of people living in the Ballyhaunis community, in 2009 the officers were: Chairperson - Seamus Grogan, Secretary - Marie Jordan, Treasurer - Manar Cherbatji. The other members are Christina Concannon, Stephen Grogan, Betty Koinange, Stephen Ng'ang'a, Teresa Maughan, Eileen McDonagh, Mary Morrissey, Hina Rehman, Mamoon Zafar, Aliya Shakoor. 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 childcare workers Patricia Kelly, Barbara Plunkett, Liz Ward, Cliona Mulvaney and Helen Kiely. The UN refugee programme is delivered by Mona Herr, Kathleen Dennehy and Nicola Ryan.

*Stephen Grogan*

## Wedding Photographs



*Kirsty Murray, Perth, Scotland and Alan Parfery, Edinburgh, who married in Holy Family Church, Dunblane, Scotland. Kirsty is daughter of Anne Murray nee Halpin, Main St.*



*James Sloyan, Brackloon and Anna Denes who married in Poland on the 24th of October, 2009.*



*John Waldron, Abbeyquarter and Maggie Hanmore, Castlereagh who married in Castlereagh Church.*



*Sarah Regan, Cloonfad and P. J. Moran, Levallyroe, who married in St. Patrick's Church Cloonfad. Hurson Photography (Roscommon).*



*Orla Donnelly, Ballinphuill and Fiachra McLoughlin, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Riona Rochford, Knock Road and Eddie Johnston, Dundalk, Co. Louth, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*





*Hugh Curley, Derrymore and Natalie Foster, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, who married in St. Benet's Church, Beccles, Suffolk.*



*Bernie Clancy, Cloonbook and Gordon Beisty, Carrowkeel, who married in St. Margaret Mary's Church, Bekan. [www.stratfordphotography.ie](http://www.stratfordphotography.ie)*



*Louise Cleary and David Ward, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. [www.stratfordphotography.ie](http://www.stratfordphotography.ie)*



*Nuala Flatley and Pdraig Harnett, who married in Cloonfad. [www.stratfordphotography.ie](http://www.stratfordphotography.ie)*





*Adrian Muldowney, Doctor's Road and Ariana Makowsky, New York, who married in the Church of Saint Patrick, Glen Cove, New York.*



*Kate Kelly, Island and Sean Reynolds, Drumcliff, Co. Sligo, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Karen Gildea, Gurrane and Michael Kilbane, Derrynacong, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Assumpta Biesty, Carrowkeel and Patrick Coyle, Glengad, Belmullet, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*





*Rosemarie Gallagher, Derrintogher and Kieran Connolly, Lecarrow, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Hurson Photography.*



*Joanne Carney, Brickens and Alan Stewart, Scotland, who married in Edinburgh.*



*Daniel Carney, Brickens and Michelle Hanley, Galway, who married in Ennis, Co. Clare.*



*Michaela Stachova, Czech Republic and Pavel Joun, Czech Republic, who married in Czech Republic, now living in Ballyhaunis.*





*Tanya Collum, Devlis and Richard Cussens,  
Mountbellew, Co. Galway, who married in Church Los  
Dolores, Puerto del Carmel, Lanzarote.*



*Marita Byrne, Johnstown and Derek Finnegan,  
Lissaniska, Began, who married in St. Patrick's  
Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Michelle Regan, Killinaugher and Colin Jordan,  
Lecarrow, who married in St. Patrick's Church,  
Ballyhaunis.*



*Colm Flynn, Abbeyquarter and Emer McDonnell,  
Kildare, who married in Cross Church.*





*Janette McGuire, Johnstown and Declan Kirrane, Ballyglass, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Deirdre Markham, Ballinlough and Thomas McCready, Ballybofey, who married in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon.*



*Padraig Kilcourse, Ballyhaunis and Sinead Cunnane, Beka, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.*



*Aisling Neilan, Roscommon and Neville McCormack, Roscommon, who married in Derrygonnelly, Co. Fermanagh. Aisling is granddaughter of the late Tom and Noreen Hopkins, Upper Main St.*

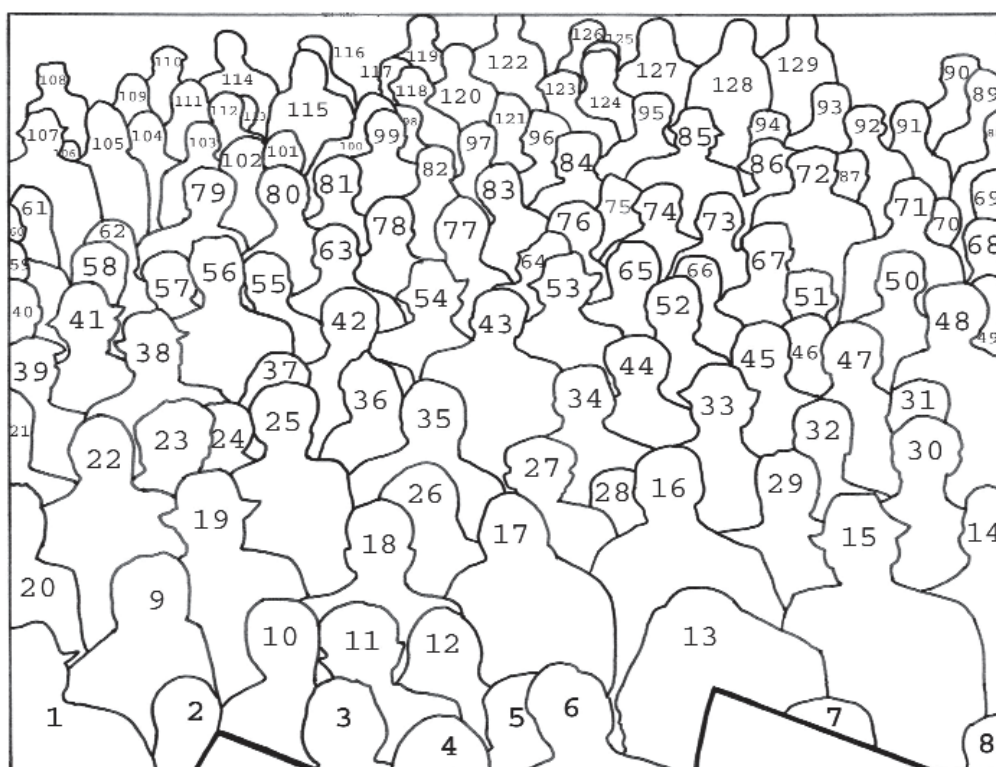


*Sinéad Nevin, Hazelwood and Aidan Bailey, Lismurtagh, Tulsk, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis*



*Donal Fahey, Devlis and Brid Collins, Cratloe, Co. Clare, who married in Cratloe Church.*

## *Waiting in Hope....*



*Use this diagram to identify the people in the photograph opposite.*



This photograph was taken in the early 1960s, during a Perk's Amusements Big Draw night, possibly in The Square. The numbers beside those who have been

identified can be related to the numbers on the outline diagram below. If you can identify any more, please contact any Annagh committee member.



6. Micheál Donnellan (Clare St.), 9. Tony Cunnane (Bridge St.), 11. Johnny Hennelly (Greenwood), 13. Liam Smyth (Knox St.), 14. Mick Keegan (Main St.), 15. John Greene (Carrowreagh), 16. Brod Moran (Main St.), 17. Annie Cassidy (Tooraree), 18. Tom Finn (Main St.), 19. Martin Grogan (Cloonbullig), 20. Tom Rattigan (Lecarrow), 22. Tom Lyons (Lecarrow), 23. Phyllis Regan (The Square), 24. Mary Conway (Bridge St.), 25. Sean Cox (Carrowbaun), 26. Angela Cassidy (Tooraree), 27. Austin Cribbin (Tooraree), 29. Martin Joe Lyons (Ballindrehid), 30. Sean Brady (Cloontumper), 32. Jimmy Hickey (Turlough), 33. Tom Carney (Classaghroe), 34. Pat Lyons (Classaghroe), 35. Sean P. Tighe (Carrowbaun), 36. Rita Lyons (Devlis), 38. Michael Lyons (Lecarrow), 39. Joe Horkan (Churchpark), 40. John Kelly (Lecarrow), 41. Mike Lyons (Ballindrehid), 42. Martin Dyer (Cloontumper), 43. Michael John McGrath (Greenwood), 44. P. Finnegan (Cloonacurry), 45. Padraic Cunnane (Bekan), 46. Bryan Kearns (Kilgarraff), 47. Jim Caulfield (Bohogue), 48. Noel Morley (Cloontumper), 52. Tom Brennan (Brickens), 53. Mick Murphy (Carrowmore, Tulrahan), 54. Pat (Tony) Lyons (Knocknafola), 55. Joe Kelly (Lecarrow), 56. John Cleary (Johnstown), 57. Murt Hunt (Lecarrow), 58. Mike Coen (Lecarrow), 59. Billy Lyons (Devlis), 63. John Hunt (Lecarrow), 66. Bridgie Tully (Tooraree), 67. Paddy Tully (Tooraree), 71. Tom McWalter, 72. Bob Kelly (Hazelhill), 73. Jim Cribbin (Lecarrow), 74. Eugene Carney (Island), 75. Mary Regan (The Square), 76. Cynthia Hannan (Bridge St.), 77. Anne Larkin (Devlis), 78. Tom Grogan (Knock), 79. Paddy Cunnane (Addergoole, Knock), 80. Jarlath Cunnane (Wingfield, Knock), 81. Tom Murphy (Shanvaghera, Knock), 82. Sonny Barrett, 85. Tom Murphy (Devlis), 86. Pat Cribbin (Moneymore), 87. Pake Dyer (Cloonbook), 89. Ned Judge (Lisduff), 92. Mick Mulhern (Clare St.), 93. Bertie Lynch (Main St.), 94. Pat Lyons (Skeaghard), 95. Austin Morley (Belesker), 97. Jim Donohue (Clare St.), 99. Paddy Noone (Chapel St.), 100. Sean Jordan (Johnstown), 102. Anna Grogan (Clare St.), 103. Muriel Forde (Upper Main St.), 104. Carmel Lyons (Lecarrow), 105. Chris Cleary (Johnstown), 107. Pat McGuire (Redford), 108. Vinnie Healy (Ballindrehid), 109. Mary McGrath, 110. Eddie Biesty (Knox St.), 114. Cyril Coyne (Bridge St.), 115. Phil Hurst McGuire (Bridge St.), 117. Gerry McGarry (Abbey St.), 118. Mick Murphy (Trearrevagh), 119. Eddie Fitzgerald (Clare St.), 120. Paddy Kelly (Island), 121. Martin Boland (Kilbeg, Brickens), 122. Micky Webb (Devlis), 124. Francis Larkin (Devlis), 126. Kathleen Murphy (Lurgan), 127. Mary Murphy (Lurgan).

## *Ted Maughan – The Last of the Travelling Tinsmiths*

*In his own words...*

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My name is Ted Maughan and I live at 22 Cherryfield, Ballyhaunis. I served my time on the road with my father and mother and I've seen the good days and the bad days. In my young days we travelled all over the country down the south and up as far as Larne – that's beyond Belfast. I was born in 1938 near Castlebar. My father's name was Tom Maughan and my mother's name was Bridget Maughan. They were living here in Ballyhaunis. They were both Maughans. The travellers, you see, don't mind marrying a first cousin or a second cousin - they don't pass heed of that.

There were six lads and seven girls in my family - in my mother's family - when I got married. There are three of them dead since that: the Bed of Heaven to all souls. Thanks be to God I have the best of health and, as the fella said, I'm not a young lad, but I have good health, thanks be to the Lord and his Blessed Mother.

When we were travelling, if we went to school - I'm not able to read or write - because, if I went to school, we'd only be a week here in this camp and we'd move onto the next camp, a week in another, the teacher or the schoolmaster would say they weren't going to pay a lot of interest in you at that time. When you weren't in a house, you weren't a regular customer of theirs. You might be a week with them and, for that week, what were you going to learn? You were going to learn nought.

### *The Tinsmith Trade*

My father, he was a great tinsmith, and he taught me the tinsmith trade. The first job he put me at was putting on hoops around tin cans and making 'ears' for buckets and the handles and putting them on them. I'll tell you, he was in the army - me father - in the Irish army, and he was a great tinsmith and he was awful strict in the family. When he'd tell you do a thing, you couldn't say "no". If you did, you'd know what you'd get. He had a big belt and, I'll tell you one thing, you'd know the sound of it!

The next job then he gave me was making a can. I spoiled a good few before I learned how to do it right and to make them properly water-tight and the same thing goes for the buckets. Well, at that particular time when I was travelling the road, it was all tin cans and buckets. Now at the moment you cannot get no tin and the tin that's coming now, if you get it itself, it's very hard to work it 'cause it's too weak. You cannot seal it right. It's too weak. You cannot tighten it. Now you cannot get no tin and, anyway I'm into a lot of copper stuff: copper coal buckets, coal scuttles, flower vases, lamps, you name it, I



*A Master Craftsman at work*

can make it. There is only one thing I cannot make though - and that's money! I cannot make money. Anything that anybody wants, I'll make it for them, any order that they give me, I'll do that. Also, I do all the shows all over Ireland and people treat me very fair. I get my grub and a couple of pound and things like that, but the people treat me very fair.

### *On The Road*

We went from door to door. We'd go out with the horse and cart, me and the wife. Me and the wife would go into the house. She would ask for the flour, ask the milk, ask the butter and fair play to them they were very good in them particular times. It was the farmers feeding us in those particular times.

At them times, you'd get the salter of flour and you got a bit of country butter from the people. In them days every farmer used to kill a pig and they'd have the meat hung up and they'd have big brown paper wrapped around the bacon and the lard. The farmers would give the wife a slice of bacon, cut a bit of bacon, and give it to my wife, and the grain of tea and sugar. I'd go in and get the bundle of hay for the horse, I'd get the bag of turf, I'd get the spuds. So, fair play to the farmers in them particular times. They were very, very good to us. The road was a lovely life alright. In them days every farmer you went to, they were no ways abusive, they wouldn't run you from the door or anything.



We'd wait maybe a week in a place – a camp. We used to call it camping in the tent or caravan. You'd move onto a different place and you'd be meeting different farmers, different people every day. We'd say Galway, Mayo and Roscommon and you had different faces to meet.

Now there was no dole when I got married, and I used to be making the cans and the saucepans and everything like that. I often put a bottom in a bucket outside a farmer's house. At that time it was all feeding calves in buckets. There's none of that now. You'd sell a lot of them in that time: buckets, big buckets and the tin cans. The farmers that time used to get a bicycle, and a big can with a lid in it and milk the cow within in the field. You'd come back then, and we had the big tent and another big one we used to cook in, they used to call it the shelter tent, made out of bags and things like that.

When me and my wife got married, we went into the chapel in the horse and cart, me and the wife, my father and mother, my wife's mother was dead, her father was alive. So into the chapel, tied the horse and cart, get a place to tie it around the church, and you'd come out from that again. There was no such thing as wedding cakes and there was no such thing as hotels in them times or no big fancy cars. And after you got married you had to do the same routine again, go to the farmer's door and knock at the door and say 'God bless ye all, God save all here' and she'd get to go to the same thing again, the milk, the butter, the bit of meat, the tea and sugar and the milk and everything. I'd get the bag of turf, the spuds and the turnips. At that particular time, the farmers used to sow a bit of Early York and then they used to have the

common cabbage: big, hardy, lovely heads of cabbage. They set the turnips, the farmer at that time, some of the farmers would pit the cabbage - in the olden times they used to pit the cabbage and leave the stalks of the cabbage out through the pit, and they used give it to the cattle in them times. We often got a head of the common cabbage, big roundy heads - hard, lovely cabbage.

At that particular time when the wife would come home, she'd go in and make me a mug of tea, the first thing after me coming back with the horse and cart, after doing the country. The wife then would get the pot, hang it on a bar on the open fire and cooked a bit of grub. The same thing – she used to bake the bread in an oven beside the fire. There was no such thing as bread vans going from shop to shop them times, selling the loaves and buns and sweet cakes and things like that. There was none of that.

So every farmer... now they might say to you alright, the farmer, "well you're never satisfied ye people, what ye get", but they were no ways abusive or anything like that. We had a milk can and you'd put the bit of butter into the milk can and you'd get the grain of tea and sugar. You'd never have to buy a grain and then there was a big, big bag of flour, a hundredweight of flour and t'would be in the corner of the house and the farmer's wife would get the dinner plate and she'd go to the bag and she'd give my wife a big plate of that.

In them times, you'd see a big bag of oaten meal as well, in houses and when the people would be going to the bog cutting turf. We used to make little bog caneens for them and some of the farmers would make a drink:



*Ted Maughan explaining his craft to onlookers, with some of his copper and tin-ware on display.*

they'd put the oaten meal and water into the can for a drink and bring that. You could not have better or healthy for a drink. They'd go up in the ass cart and they'd have the cart within in the bog. They'd tie the ass and you'd hear the ass braying like anything. Every one of them would be having an ass in the bog, maybe three or four ass carts in the bog, in these times, when I got married. They used to make the tea in the bog and cook the grub there – they'd light a fire in the bog and make the tea in the bog and boil the eggs and have their grub in the bog. I'll tell you, I seen them times but there's quare changes now.

When I got married, that time you could go into any house. Now, when you'd go into a house if the people were churning they'd say: "now before you go, lay your hand on the churn", or you'd bring the butter. See? So we used to do that, the wife would walk in and leave her hand on the churn - it was the dash churn - and she'd do it maybe once or twice and I'd walk in again and do the same thing. We'd say "God bless ye now and thanks".

### *Married*

When we were getting married, my father was a very particular man (the Bed of Heaven to every Soul that's gone). So I liked the girl myself, and she's still with me and I hope to God she'll be with me for a little longer! She liked me and I liked her so, I didn't tell my father but the two of us ran away.

So then when my father calmed down it was a different kettle of fish. He had to be happy with it anyway 'cause I liked the girl and she liked me - it was as simple as that. We got married in Tuam Church and as I said there, we drove in with the horse and cart, me and the wife, and my father and mother and her father. Now, I'll tell you one thing I had no suit on me and she had no white dress on her. She had no white wedding dress. I had a rough old trousers because, in them particular times, when we went door-to-door a farmer often gave me a good trousers and a good pair of shoes and I'd be glad to get it, and I wouldn't be one bit ashamed.

### *England*

Back then in the sixties the plastic came in and the tinsmithing work dried up. I went to England then, myself and the wife. I thought it would be a different change. I was working there for a while, on the buildings. I liked England alright but, I'll tell you about England: it was only from bed to work. At that particular time you got to watch the clock. You had to get up in the morning, I often got up in the morning at 7 o'clock and I'd stand in a place and hop up on the back of a lorry.

I was working for a crowd called Robinson Engineers.

They were like a railway company. You'd be putting down sleepers and ballast and you'd be straightening the tracks and that. And then I left that and I went with a sub-contractor putting down cabling and things like that. I'll tell you, I worked the jackhammer and I worked the jumping jenny, which was a kind of rammer. You'd want to be a strong lad to hold a rammer. The jackhammer wasn't as hard as the rammer. It was a big thing. It would jump up and pack the stuff down. If you weren't careful it'd break the head of you.

When I was in England my wife got into bad health and I had to come back, bring her back, leave her in my father's house. So then I came back and got a little house for her. I had to go back to England again.

### *Farm-work*

I worked for farmers when I came in to Ballyhaunis. I had a horse and cart and I used to put out top-dress, fork it into the cart and fork it out again, and shake the silage and I worked for that - ten pound a day when my family was coming up. And a rather particular man, a very, very good friend of mine, when I'd go out to the house, I'd go out the evening before, I'd bring my pony and cart and he'd give me a place to house the pony. That's a man by the name of Tom Heneghan abroad in Tullaghane. Now, when I was finished he'd pay me and he'd give me my grub and a mug of tea around 10 o'clock and a sandwich and a good dinner – bacon and cabbage. In the evening when I'd be finished with that man he'd fill up the cart with turf. He'd have a big cardboard box and the best of the best of clothes. Tom Heneghan, and he's living abroad in Tullaghane.

I also worked for Mick Dwyer and Mrs. Coffey, she was a widow. I worked for Seamus Lyons out the Logboy side, John Feerick and Mick Caulfield. They were very decent people. I remember horses and side-cars and the asses and traps tied along the road outside the church in Logboy. In Kilmaine they had stables near the church to put the horses and asses in.

I worked also in the meat plant in Ballyhaunis for Mr. Rafique, and fair play he was a very good man to work for. He's not like the crowd that's in it now anyway. I mean a really good man to work for. And at the Christmas time we used to go into Curley's pub, he held a big party there in Curley's pub in Ballyhaunis. And you had nothing to pay for, at that time I was young and I was fit and I used to drink. But now I don't drink or I never smoked in my life. And when I'd be going up town I often used to bring up the old Raleigh bike and many a toss I got off it coming home.

At that particular time in the factory I was doing all the slaughtering. Yes, the killing. Now, before the sheep



would come in, the creature, and at that particular time - well it's the same way still - you had to knock them out, you had to stun them. You had to knock them out, the creatures wouldn't feel a thing. It was all knife work, but now it's the gun to kill them. Same way with the cattle, the slaughtering: they do knock the cattle out before they kill them. But they have to, it's as simple as that. An animal, for instance, we'll take a little dog there, I have dogs myself and I breed dogs and a little dog, an animal has as much feeling in him as a human being. Some people mightn't realise that but there it is. I wouldn't like to see a little dog ill-treated. I'd be straight about it, I'd be honest.

### *Music and Doctors*

I used to play a bit of music on the Hohner, but I don't do much of that now. I never sung. The melodian is my thing. I'm no man for the singing pub or going up the town. I go up town of a Friday and I don't go any other time. The business I do have going up maybe up to Alan Delaney. Fair play to him. I'm in Ballyhaunis a good number of years. The first doctor of ours was Dr.

Waldron, and there was a nurse - some of the children were born at home - I think she was Mrs. Forkan. I went to Dr. Waldron's house when the wife got sick in labour with a baby and he was there and he put down a good fire the creature: he was a very good doctor as well, Dr. Waldron.

So then, when he passed away, Alan took over and I'll say one thing about Alan Delaney, I would not give him for any other doctor. I'm not the only one now but maybe people are all different, but he's our doctor since I came to Ballyhaunis, for the kids and he was very good and you'd always get him in good humour, but there was only one thing that he didn't like and that was to go up when he was doing the surgery, if you were a bit late going to him. The doctor too has to have their own time off and their own little bit of leisure. He could be within in bed and he might have to get up and do an urgent call. I'm still working at the tin trade. I do repair things, spraying machines, and put in bellows and anything that has to be soldered and things like that and bit and pieces like that. So, here I am after all that, in my own place looking out the window here, talking to Martin Forde.

## *Signage Scheme*

The Annagh Parish Townland Signage Scheme completed its task on Tuesday, 15th Sept. 2009 with the installation of the last Hazelhill sign/plaque.

Fifty-seven signs have been erected, of which fifty-

two are free-standing and five are plaques. Forty-seven have one townland names on them, while ten have two. Sixty-two official townland names are shown.

## *The Missing Postman and the Ballyhaunis connection*

Ballyhaunis man, Seamus Mulrennan, was a key figure in the RTÉ television programme, CSÍ, broadcast on Monday, 14th September last. The crime investigation documentary, entitled, The Missing Postman, centred on the case of County Waterford postman, Larry Griffin, from Stradbally, whose disappearance on Christmas Day, 1929, remains a mystery. Larry, who failed to return home after completing his delivery on that fateful day of almost 80 years ago, was grandfather of Seamus, who lives in Gurteen, Ballyhaunis, and his sister, Marie Finnerty, Ballinrobe. Mr. Griffin had served as the areas postman for almost a decade, prior to his disappearance. Little did Larry Griffin know, as he set off on his postal run on that cold and raw Christmas morning, that he would never see his wife or his three children again. An investigation into Mr. Griffin's death was personally

ordered by then Garda Commissioner, Eoin O'Duffy, who would later lead the Blueshirts and fight in General Franco's side during the Spanish Civil War.

Garda files, relating to the case were released and handed over to the National Archive, in 2007. The files reveal the force's persistent contention that foul play was at work in the postman's disappearance. To this day, the body of Laurence Griffin remains unfound.

On the morning of St. Stephen's Day, 1929, Mr. Griffin's bicycle and cape were found, two miles from Stradbally, by a local farmer, who was on his way to the creamery at the time.

### *Searching*

After a month of extensive searching, which involved civic Gardaí dispatched from Waterford, and interviews



*Larry and Mary Griffin, with their children Jack (top), Alice (left) and Bridie (centre).*

of all living in the wider area, O'Duffy arrived in Stradbally to spearhead the investigation.

Though murder charges were brought against no less than 10 people, including two civic Gardaí, all 10 walked free from Waterford District Court.

Garda memos, addressed to Commissioner Duffy, claimed that Mr. Griffin suffered injuries on that day, "which resulted in his death". The memo also revealed that there was a conspiracy of silence about the events and how the body was dispensed of. The disappearance of Larry Griffin, and the subsequent controversy caused by the case, has remained keenly felt in the Stradbally and Waterford area ever since.



*Bridie Griffin and Tom Mulrennan, on their wedding day, 1947.*

Larry Griffin's daughter, Bridie, who died in 1983, emigrated to England, where she met and married Tom Mulrennan, from Gurteen, Ballyhaunis. The couple returned to Ireland and settled on the Mulrennan farm at Gurteen, in 1950. Seamus disclosed that his mother "never spoke about the incident". "It had a devastating effect on my mother and all her family", he revealed on the TV documentary. "If we could only get hold of his body and give him a Christian burial, it would bring closure to the case", Seamus concluded.

*Mike Byrne*

## *Ballyhaunis GAA Club 2009*

2009 has been a very successful year for Ballyhaunis GAA Club with the Club fielding teams at all grades and our club having been selected for two awards: Mayo Club of the Year and Connacht Club of the Year.

Congratulations to Mr. Bernie Keane, who was elected to the office of President of Cumann Lúthcleas Gael of Great Britain. Congratulations to Brian Murray, who was voted Club Person of the Year for 2008. Congratulations to Declan Doyle, Footballer of the Year 2008, and Micheál Walsh, Hurler of the Year 2008. Congratulations to our Senior Hurling team who won the T. J. Tyrell Cup, The Genfitt Cup, and the All Ireland Hurling Sevens Shield this year and who have qualified for the Connacht Intermediate club Final. Congratulations to James Mulrennan, John Prenty and Brian Kilcourse who reached Uhuru Peak in Kilimanjaro for Bóthar in 2009.

Connacht Club of the Year and Mayo Club of the Year  
We had celebrations on the double for our club at the Connacht



*Under 12 Footballers. Back, L-R: Mikey Hill, Damien Egan, John Cunnane, Cian Henry, Dylan Maughan, Joseph Kelly, Gbolahan Salami, Sean Herr, Eamon Phillips, Cathal Carney, Sean Carrick, Oisin Henry, Ryan Kilbane. Front, L-R: James Reynolds, Carlton Ubaezuonie, James Cribbin, Brian O'Neill, Piarais Caulfield, Liam Herr, Matthew Grogan, Gary Higgins, David Cunnane.*



Council awards banquet at the T. F. Royal Hotel and Theatre, Castlebar in February 2009. We carried off two of the major awards on offer when we were voted the County Development winners for Mayo and, later in the night, beat off the challenge of the best of the province to win the Connacht Club Development Award. These awards are a just reward for our club as we reflect on the last eighteen months or so which saw the complete overhaul of our grounds, which also included the provision of state of the art dressing rooms and meeting area facilities. Outgoing president of the Connacht Council, Lauri Quinn, praised Ballyhaunis GAA Club for their outstanding achievement in the past twelve months and for dedication shown to the promotion of Gaelic Games. The county award is worth ?1500 to the club while the provincial award carried a prize fund of ?2000 to the winning club. Our chairman, Padraig Regan accepted the award on behalf of the Development Committee and the Club Officers on the night. Special thanks to the Development Committee, Project Committee, Grounds Committee and to all the members and people that supported the fund raising projects to get this development completed from start to finish.



**Under 14 Football Team - County League Winners. Back, L-R: James Lyons, Haseeb Arshad, Ryan Kilbane, Martin Finan, Jim Reidy, Jason Mc Goldrick, Martin McDonagh, Omoagebumn Ebeleleghe, Jason Coyne, Mikey O'Rourke, Morgan Lyons, Mark Phillips, Tom McDonagh, Robert Morley, James Reidy, Stephen Nolan. Front, L-R: Damien Callaghan, Cyril Collins, Tom McDonagh, Jack Hughes, Shane Healy, Joey Fahy, David Cleary, Joseph Lyons, Rory Nestor, Steven Nolan, Michael Gallagher.**

### Teams and Panels

U-8 Football: Training commenced in April and after several weeks working on the basic skills we faced our first match against Charlestown in May. Charlestown brought big support for this "Play and Stay with the GAA" coaching event and the match that followed was an exciting affair. As we were the host club, refreshments were provided for all the players and mentors in the Clubhouse. Thanks to all the parents who prepared food and helped out with refreshments on the day and everybody enjoyed the facilities of the new clubhouse. We played several other games throughout the summer and in September we held a blitz which had teams from Michael Glaveys, Charlestown and Claremorris. We travelled to Michael Glaveys to play in a blitz. The players showed great attitude throughout the year and have greatly improved their skills.

Panel: Luke Walsh, Cian Walsh, Diarmuid Phillips, Daniel Hill, Shaun Morley, James Doyle, Conor Keane, Dallon Walsh, Dara Rattigan, Dylan Gaughan, Ethan Keane, Iveta Rehman, Jack McGoldrick, Joshua Webb, Jurak Jakub, Kevin Durkin, Kevin McHugh, Padraic McHugh, Pierce Nestor, Sean Caulfield, Soheab Arshad, Stephen Maughan, Tristan Walsh. Management: Martin Keane, Emmett Keane, Martin Walsh, Tony Morley, Peadar Walsh, Billy Phillips.



**Under 16 Football Team Back, L-R: William Nestor, Eanna McNamara, Conor Nolan, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Hannan Iqbal, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Martin McDonagh, Paul Webb, Stephen Nolan. Front, L-R: Steven Nolan, Adrian Phillips, Shane Murphy, James Cribbin, Patrick Kiely, Jarlath Carney, Mike Dillon.**

U-10 Football: Training took place each and every Friday from March until the end of October. The focus of these one-hour sessions was to impart the basic skills of Gaelic football in an atmosphere of fun and friendship. During the course of the year we took part in a number of blitzes hosted by Aughamore, Kiltimagh, Charlestown and Michael Glaveys of Co. Roscommon. We would like to thank all the parents for their involvement and support and especially for their help with transport and catering during this very successful year for our U-10s.

Barry Butler Memorial Blitz: One of the highlights of the year for our U-10 players is the Annual Barry Butler Memorial Tournament which is hosted in our grounds over the August bank holiday weekend. Competing for the honours was Aghamore, Claremorris x 2, Charlestown, Michael Glaveys and Kilmovee. Ballyhaunis and Charlestown were paired in the final and Charlestown went on to victory in what was a very close entertaining final.



**Julia Donoghue Cup Winners. Back, L-R: Eamon Phillips, David Cunnane, Sean Herr, Gary Higgins, Cathal Carney, Vinnie Caulfield, J.R. Madden, John Cunnane, James Reynolds, Mickey Hill, Oisin Henry, Evan Henry. Front, L-R: Liam Foody, Darren Coyne, Evan Fitzmaurice, Patrick Caulfield, Cormac Phillips, Eddie Cleary, Jack Coyne, Liam Herr.**

The Mick O Connell Cup. A very successful year was rounded off with the now traditional Mick O'Connell Tournament being played on Nov 1st for the twenty-fifth year.

Panel: Aran Rattigan, Barry Cribbin, Ciaran Guilfoyle, Conal Caulfield, Conor Sloyan, Cormac Phillips, Dara Healy, Darren Maughan, David Cunnane, Dylan Gaughan, Evan Fitzmaurice, Evan Henry, Gary Higgins, John Reidy, Patrick Caulfield, Jack Coyne, Liam Herr, Neil Carney, Tasheen Tashir, Michael McDonagh. Management: Tommy Caulfield and Martin Fitzmaurice.



*Presentation of Connacht Club & Mayo Club of the Year 2009 to Ballyhaunis GAA Club: Back, L-R: Tommy Glynn (Assistant Treasurer), John Halpin (Vice Chairman), Liam Rochford, Brian Murray, John Higgins, John Prenty, Donal Shanaghy, Michael Webb, President, Bernie Waldron, Pat Jennings (TF Royal Hotel & Theatre, Castlebar). Front, L-R: Hugh Rudden, Marion Regan, Mary Prenty (Secretary), Pdraig Regan (Club Chairman), Anna Shanaghy (Club Treasurer), Mary Rudden, Tommy Waldron.*

### Girls Gaelic Football

Training began in April, every Friday at 6.p.m. and we had a strong turnout of girls ready to play throughout the summer. Sixty girls from all around Ballyhaunis come together, some with no previous knowledge of the sport, to learn how to play Gaelic football.

Gaelic 4 Girls National Programme: An exciting new venture, the Gaelic 4 Girls National programme, was held in Ballyhaunis for all girls aged 9 to 13 who were interested in learning and playing Gaelic football regardless of how much experience they had already. Training involved learning basic skills of football through fun games and drills organised by qualified coaches. The structure of Gaelic 4 Girls ensured each player would spend a fixed time at a circuit practising a drill before moving on to the next one. This highly enjoyable method ensured training was kept exciting and productive. With the coaches at a different circuit, the players were always faced with a new challenge.

The peak of Gaelic 4 Girls programme was the opportunity the girls got to show off their new found skills at the National Blitz held in St. Brigid's, Kiltroom and Mayo were proudly represented by Ballyhaunis. The Ballyhaunis Girls played all their games outstandingly. To top it off, each girl received a Gaelic 4 Girls kit packed with goodies to remind them of this special experience. This programme has helped the girls develop a positive outlet and a focal point to develop both as an individual and a sports person. The coaches were fully trained to deliver this programme and the course took place in the Community School.



*Shane Culliney, on behalf of the Curley family, presents the footballer of the year trophy to Declan Doyle. L-R: Shane Culliney, Seamus Egan, Declan Doyle, Elaine Doyle, Hughie Carney, Pat Doyle, and Niall Prenty.*

Training resumed as normal with the team looking ahead to The Barry Butler Memorial, held on the August Bank Holiday weekend. They played brilliantly alongside the boys and finished in second place after losing in the Final. September brought a new enthusiasm to the team with a great turnout of girls (and the occasional boy) coming to training.

Thanks to Fiona Freyne, Eunice Isaac, Robyn Moran, Claire Prenty, Maria Coyne, Emily Hickey. To Mary Beades, Connacht GAA Ladies Development Officer, for all her help in bringing this amazing experience to Ballyhaunis, and Mary Prenty for all her support and commitment. Thanks to Ann Ronayne and the Mayo Sports Partnership for their help and support.

**U-11 Football:** This year saw the introduction of East Mayo Exclusive U-11 Blitz which was hosted by Ballyhaunis GAA Club. Our group included teams from Moy Davitts, Aghamore and Kiltimagh. This competition has emphasised for us the importance of a full panel of players. All players present were given ample opportunity to prepare for and compete in U-12 championship football next year. In the first game we faced Aghamore and indeed we showed the strength of our panel by giving a player to Aghamore to make up their 15. This indeed came with a cost as the Ballyhaunis player contributed handsomely to victory for Aghamore in a close match. Next, we faced Moy Davitts and ended up with an impressive victory in a close game. We were paired with Kiltimagh, needing to win to qualify for the finals the following week, but in fact came up short. The team will be competing in the top group in the county U-12 league next year and the players and coaches realise the importance of having a very strong panel and being fully committed to their club.

Panel: Brian O'Neill, Cormac Phillips, Darren Coyne, David Cunnane, Dylan Maughan, Eamon Phillips, Eddie Cleary, Evan Henry, John Cunnane, Liam Foody, Mikey Hill, Michael McDonagh, Sean Herr, Oisín Henry, Patrick Caulfield, Piarais Caulfield, Thomas McDonagh.

**U-12 Football:** Training commenced on 7th February last. A number of challenge matches were arranged in early spring, against Knockmore, Castlebar, Corofin, Charlestown and Kiltimagh. In late spring a grading league commenced. We played against Balla, Louisburgh, Kiltane, Ballaghaderreen, and Burrishoole. We won four of our five games and this great record resulted in an upgrade to Division 2 for the County Summer League. This was a very welcome promotion and it was obvious that it had a huge impact on the players with the commitment and enthusiasm shown in training. In the Summer League we played Swinford, Ballaghaderreen, Belmullet, Westport and Crossmolina and resulted in a win over Swinford and Belmullet and losing out very narrowly to Westport and Crossmolina.

**Vincent Caulfield Cup:** In September, we competed in the Vincent Caulfield East Mayo Cup for U-12 championship. The East Mayo Board was more than happy to join with the Caulfield Family and host this U-12 Championship. It has been very well received by all the clubs and its success will ensure that it continues into the future. It was a wonderful feast of football with two semi-finals and the final being played in Ballyhaunis on 5th September 2009. Having played Division 2 football in the League and losing out narrowly to Charlestown, the eventual winners after extra time will ensure that our players will be well ready for their Division 1 status in U-13 next year.

Panel: Ubazuonie Carlton, Cathal Carney, Sean Carrick, Piarais Caulfield, Eddie Cleary, Darren Coyne, James Cribbin, David Cunnane, John Cunnane, Damien Egan, Liam Foody, Ahmad Fraz, Salami Gbolahan, Matthew Grogan, Cian Henry, Oisín Henry, Liam Herr, Sean Herr, Mikey Hill, Gary Higgins, Joseph Kelly, Ryan Kilbane, Dylan Maughan, Robert McCormack, Tom McDonagh, Brian O'Neill, Eamon Phillips, Radek Cervenak, Cormac Reidy,



James Reynolds. Management: Johnny Cribbin, Jason Foody and Paddy Phillips.



*Áras an Uachtarain, 125th GAA Celebrations. L-R: Mary Prenty, Dr Martin McAleese, President Mary McAleese and John Prenty, Connacht GAA Secretary.*

### **Scoil Iosa Gaelic Football**

Teams from Scoil Iosa competed in both the Boys and the Girls Cumann na mBunscoil competitions in 2008/2009. Boys competed in the mini-7s. The school team won through from the qualifying stages only to lose at the semi-final stage to Meelickmore. In the 15-a-side the team scored a good home win over Claremorris and looked to be on course to repeat that feat in the second game against Westport only to concede a couple of late scores and suffer a narrow defeat. In the final game, away to Ballinrobe, the team started well but conceded two crucial goals and never recovered.

**Scoil Iosa Panel:** Steven Nolan, Stephen Ryan, Waqas Rehman, Hamza Yousaf, Mohammad Ahmad, Bilal Amin, Ryan Kilbane, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Philip Fitzmaurice, Rory Nestor, Qasim Nazir, Cian Henry, Oisín Henry, Cathal Carney, James Cribbin, Fraz Ahmad, Piarais Caulfield, Sean Herr, Radek Czervenak, John Cunnane, Shane Cribbin, Cormac Reidy, Robert McCormack, David Webb, Sean Carrick, James Reynolds, Dylan Maughan, Matthew Grogan, Thomas McDonagh, Mikey Hill.

**Scoil Iosa Girls:** The girls took part in the mini-7s in Claremorris and were unlucky to lose to the eventual winners Knock in the deciding game. In the 15-a-side the only other school in the group to field a team was Westport. They were a particularly strong team and even though Scoil Iosa opened the scoring with a well-worked point by Saoirse Caulfield they just could not match the superior play of the Westport outfit. Injuries to a couple of key players did not help the cause.

**Girls Panel:** Erika Webb, Niamh Murray, Laura Carney, Marlena Stacsyk, Ailish Phillips, Leanne Henry, Kaitlyn Clarke, Saoirse Caulfield, Roisin Ni Shuilleabhain, Demi Grealley, Aoife Nolan, Jessica Carroll, Lisa Higgins, Katie Moran, Jennifer Cleary, Emma Lyons, Michelle Lyons, Caoimhe Lilly.

**Coaching:** Eugene Lavin co-ordinated internal blitzes in Scoil Iosa as well as Go Games coaching which included a programme of two blocks of eight weeks of coaching which was provided from April to June. Eugene was assisted by staff members Mr. Kevin Henry, Mr. Jim London and Mr. Seamus Caulfield.

The Julia Donohue Cup which is a highlight in school football will be played for later in the year.

**U-8 & U-10 Hurling:** Training and games took place every Saturday morning with the emphasis on skills, team participation and respect for each other and under the supervision of and complimented expertly by members of the senior hurling team panel throughout the year. Management: Pete Higgins, Ray Lucey, Michael Regan.

**U-12 Hurling:** Hurling training commenced and preparation and training as usual was excellent with a number of the Ballyhaunis senior panel of players coming on board to coach the young hurlers of the future.

**National Schools:** Scoil Iosa hurling team won their Group games to get to the Division 1 Final. In the final they came up against Scoil Raifteiri, Castlebar but lost narrowly at the end. Thanks to Jim London and his staff at Scoil Iosa for their help and cooperation during the year.

**Panel:** Rory Nestor, Ryan Kilbane, Mohammed Ahmad, Stephen Ryan, Abusafyan Ahmad, Stephen Nolan, James Cribbin, James Lyons, Cathal Carney, Waqas Rehman, Sean Herr, Hamza Yousaf, Joseph Lyons, Fraz Ahmad, Cian Henry. Management: Peter Higgins, Ray Lucey and Gerry Lyons.

**U-13 Hurling:** The Howard Morley Memorial Cup proved to be a very exciting competition, with four teams competing - Castlebar, Westport, Moytura and Ballyhaunis. The end result was a three way play off in Ballinrobe involving Ballyhaunis, Westport and Moytura. Ballyhaunis and Westport were paired in the final in Ballyvary which Westport won. The Ballyhaunis team can be very proud of their efforts and fought to the bitter end.

**Panel:** Brian O'Neill, Cathal Carney, Damien Callaghan, Fraz Ahmad, Gbolahan Salami, Hamza Yousaf, James Cribbin, James Lyons, Jason Coyne, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Lyons, Liam Herr, Mark Phillips, Mohammed Ahmad, Oisín Coffey, Ryan Kilbane, Sean Herr, Steven Ryan, Waqas Rehman. Management: Peter Higgins, Ray Lucey and Gerry Lyons



*Ballyhaunis Senior Football Team, winners of the Good Fellowship Cup on St. Stephen's Day 2009. Back, L-R: Aidan Fitzmaurice, Brian Mulrennan, Stephen Shanaghy, Ciaran Griffin, David McNamara, Andrew Shanaghy, Enda Griffin, P.J. Fleming, Seamus O'Dwyer, Padraig Regan (Chairman), Conor Mulrennan, Seamus Egan. Front, L-R: Niall Prenty, Kevin Gallagher, Declan Doyle, Hughie Carney, John Prenty, John Gallagher, Brian Hunt.*

### **VHI Cul Camp**

Forty-eight children attended the Cul Camp this year which commenced on the 20th July for five days. Activity for the week included mini-games, blitzes, fun games and skills training in Football, Hurling and Rounders. The following awards were made: Gold Medal - Football: Robert McCormack, Eamon Phillips and Morgan Lyons. Gold Medal - Football Girls: Shannon Keadin and Jessica Carroll. Silver Medal - Football: James Reynolds, James Lyons, Shane Healy, Jason Coyne, Cyril Collins, Kevin Kilbride. Silver Medal - Girls Football: Erica Webb, Danielle Coyne. Gold Medal - Hurling: Kevin Kilbride, Morgan Lyons and James Lyons. Silver Medal - Hurling: Shane Healy, Jason Coyne. Silver Medal - Hurling Skills: Girls: Shannon Keadin. Football Star of the Future: Morgan Lyons. Football Star of the Future: Shannon Keadin. Hurling Star of the



**Ballyhaunis Senior Football Panel 2009:** Back, L-R: Paul Jordan, Ciaran Griffin, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Kevin Byrne, Fergal Kelly, Phelim Carroll, Kevin Gallagher, Isaac Carroll, Cathal Fahy, Seamus O'Dwyer, Keith Higgins, Liam Lyons, Joe Freeley, Kevin Nestor, John Prenty, Declan Doyle (Capt.), John Gallagher, Brendan Rudden, Brian Mulrennan, Conor Mulrennan, Niall Prenty, Gerard Grogan, Stephen Shanaghy, David Hannan, P.J. Fleming.

Future: James Lyons.

Coaches in attendance: Ger McHugh (Supervisor), Shane Nally, Ian Costelloe, Lorraine and Michelle Heneghan and Liam Lyons. Special thanks to Billy McNicholas and Eugene Lavin for their continued help and support. Thanks to John Higgins, Camp co-ordinator.

**Joe Webb Cup:** The Joe Webb Cup for U-13 players was run as an in-club blitz. Four captains were chosen to lead there teams: Damien Callaghan, David Cleary, Rory Nestor, and Jason Coyne. Featuring the four teams of 10 aside, it was an impressive turn out. The format used was all scores count as one point, e.g. Goal = 1 point, Point = 1 point, with fly goalies. This engaged players to work on different aspects of their play, and also helped the coaches identify other skills that required improvement. Damien Callaghan's team emerged victorious and the Joe Webb Memorial Trophy was presented by Eavan Caulfield at a function in the club house afterwards. The Ballyhaunis GAA Club would like to thank the Webb Family for their keen interest in this competition and the continued support to the Club. Thanks to Seamus Caulfield, Kevin Henry and Billy Phillips for their refereeing skills and to all players for their enthusiasm and commitment to this competition.

**U-13 Football:** The U-13 league campaign started out with an impressive victory away against Davitts and was followed up with a hard fought draw at home against a tough Tourmakeady side, on what was one of the wettest nights of the year. Next, we were defeated by a physically bigger and stronger Balla side. However, we bounced back with an impressive victory away to Shrule/Glencorrib and ended the league campaign with another victory against St. Gerard's on an evening when our forwards had their shooting boots on, raking up 5 goals and 24 points.

We now faced Tourmakeady in a play for a semi final spot. Unfortunately, on the night we fielded a depleted side due to absence of players being sick and our inspirational captain, David Cleary being injured. During the match we felt we would have been well capable of winning, if all players were available, and as a result our campaign ended without success. The management team of Billy Phillips, John Cribbin, James Reidy and Vincent Caulfield, would like to thank the players for their time and commitment and look forward to working together again in 2010.

Panel: Damien Callaghan, Cathal Carney, Sean Carrick, Piarais Caulfield, David Cleary, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, Damien Egan, Joey Fahy, Gbolahan Salami, Cian Henry, Joseph Kelly, Ryan

Kilbane, Joseph Lyons, Rory Nestor, Steven Nolan, Omoagebumn Ebeleghe, Mark Phillips, Cormac Reidy, David Webb, Zaid Gulzar.

**U-14 Football:** Training commenced in March. This was a great year for this U-14 football team. We competed in the Div. 4 league with games commencing April. We played against Shrule-Glencorrib, Mayo Gaels, Islandeady, Kiltane, Achill, Cill Chomain, Ardmoy, Bonniclon and were undefeated throughout the competition. Islandeady was our toughest challenge and yet we ended up winning the County League Final against them in Garrymore and recorded an impressive score, 11-15 to 2-8. The East Mayo championship was fixed for immediately after our League Final. We recorded a win over Charlestown, but we lost to Moy Davitts in the East Mayo Final, in Kiltimagh. We competed in County Championship and we lost narrowly to Kilmeena and Castlebar. This team has many star performances, but it was the overall dedication and commitment of the whole panel of players which resulted in such success. If they show the same commitment next year they are well capable of winning an East Mayo Title and competing in Division 3 League.

Panel: Shane Healy, Stephen Nolan, Robert Morley, David Cleary, Tom McDonagh, Jack Hughes, Jim Reidy, Haseeb Ashad, Morgan Lyons, Jason Coyne, Joey Fahy, Martin McDonagh, Rory Nestor, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Damien Callaghan, Michael O'Rourke, Jason McGoldrick, Mark Phillips. T. McDonagh, Cyril Collins. Management: Stephen Nolan, Martin Finan, Michael Gallagher and James Reidy.

**U-15 Football:** Training for this age group commenced after the U-16 championship and our first game was away to Kilcommon. It was a good first day outing, with the backs giving an outstanding display and Jason Fahy and Shane Healy, showing top performance. Our next game was against St. Gerard's, at home, where we blended very well as a team and went on to win the game. Bonniclon and Lahardane conceded both their games which left us in a void and we were pitched with Balla in our last league game. The game started well but early in the game Shane Healy suffered a very nasty leg injury and this had a very obvious effect on our players. While the game was evenly contested Shane's departure left our team weakened and Balla went on to win the game. We qualified for the League Final and were once again pitted against Balla in Charlestown. Balla scored a few rapid goals early on in the game and secured a victory. This team have gained valuable experience at this age group as they faced fresh



competition and it gave them an insight into what U-16 football will be like next year. Jarlath Carney was selected to attend the Development squad trials which will stand to him in the future.

Panel: Jarlath Carney, Cyril Collins, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, Jason Fahy, Ultan Griffin, Hannon Iqbal, Haseeb Arshad, Shane Healy, Jack Hughes, Patrick Kiely, Morgan Lyons, Martin McDonagh, Thomas McDonagh, Eanna McNamara, Rory Nestor, Conor Nolan, Steven Nolan, Omoagebumn Ebeleghe, Micheal O'Rourke, Adrian Phillips, Jim Reidy, Mark Sutton, Tom McDonagh. Management: Stephen Nolan, Brian Murray, Seamus Caulfield, and James Reidy.

**U-16 Football:** This year was a very successful one for our U-16 footballers. The year started competitively in April with our lads competing in Division four of the league. We got off to a great start with three wins on the trot against Balla, Burrishoole and Ballinrobe. In our next two games we came up against stiffer opposition in the form of St. Gerard's and Mayo Gaels in which we suffered two narrow defeats. The league resumed after the summer exams and the break must have done our lads good because they recorded three more wins against Cill Chomain, Lahardane and Ardmoy to qualify for the league semi final. We got home advantage against St. Gerard's in the semis but were unlucky on the day and suffered another defeat on a scoreline of 3-9 to 1-9. We had a three week break between league and the "B" championship in which we played Kiltimagh in the East Mayo semi final. Home advantage proved beneficial on the night when, trailing by five points with less than ten minutes to go, our lads dug deep and three goals from Gearoid Keane secured a famous victory. Two weeks later it was down to Charlestown to play a much fancied Moy Davitts team in the East Mayo Final, but once again our lads showed great character and belief in securing a two point victory on a scoreline of 1-9 to 0-10. Our next outing was to Ballina and a county semi final meeting with Cill Chomain. We started well and led all the way through the game, but in the second half Cill Chomain rallied and cut our seven point lead down to two with five minutes left, but once again we raised our game and ran out five point winners on a scoreline of 2-11 to 2-6. The county final was played to a well attended crowd in Claremorris against our old nemesis St. Gerard's. In an absorbing game which went to extra time, Ballyhaunis showed how much they had improved throughout the year by going down by the narrowest of margins to a relieved St. Gerard's team on a scoreline of 0-16 to 3-6. Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, Daragh Richardson, and Eoghan Collins were selected for trials for the Ted Webb team. Congrats to Gearoid who was selected to play and did very well on his team losing out narrowly in the end.

Panel: Iqbal Hannan, Patrick Kiely, Jason Fahey, James Cribbin, Kieran McDermott, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Jarlath Carney, Martin McDonagh, Conor Nolan, Daragh Richardson, Eanna McNamara, Shane Murphy, Adrian Phillips, Michael O'Rourke, Ultan Griffin, Joseph Sutton, Eddie Cleary, Darren Nolan, Jamie Skeffington, Jamil Kezze. Management: William "the hack" Nestor, Seamus Caulfield and Brian Murray would like to take this opportunity to thank all the players and their parents for their commitment and support throughout the year.

**U-14 Hurling:** We commenced training in March and took part in the Suck Valley League. While we competed in all our games we failed to make the final stages. We got to the U-14 Feile Hurling Final and lost to Tooreen. We reached the final of the "A" competition but again lost to Tooreen.

Panel: Damien Callaghan, Hamza Yousaf, Haseeb Arshad, James Cribbin, James Lyons, Jason Coyne, Jack Hughes, Jamil Kezze, Joseph Kelly, Joseph Lyons, Kevin Kilbride, Mark Phillips, Mohammed Ahmad, Morgan Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Shane Healy,

Stephen Ryan, Waqas Rehman. Management: Peter Higgins, Ray Lucey, Ger Hayes and Gerry Lyons.

**U-16 Hurling:** The U-16 team commenced training in April and we competed in the Suck Valley league, Mayo Division 1A league and "A" championship. We got to the final and lost to a very strong Castlebar team on the day. Players out sick and away on the day did not help, but none-the-less everyone gave of their best and can be proud of their achievements.

Panel: Adrian Phillips, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Hannon Iqbal, Haseeb Arshad, Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, John Flynn, Kieran McDermott, Shane Murphy, Sheraz Ul Hassan, Mohammad Ahmad, David Fitzmaurice, Sean Griffin, Shane Healy, Morgan Lyons, Kevin Kilbride, Patrick Kiley. Management: Michael Regan and Ger Hayes.

**U-18 Hurling:** The season started with the suck valley league, and we played well with good results but failed to reach the final stages. The County championship followed and we reached the "A" Final but lost to a strong Castlebar outfit in the final.

Panel: Jarlath Carney, James Cribbin, Paul Carney, David Fitzmaurice, John Flynn, Sean Griffin, Faraz Ul Hassan, Hannon Iqbal, Gearoid Keane, Damian Keadin, Ayaz Ul Hussein, Joseph Flynn, Kieran Kiley, Patrick Kiley, Paul Freeley, Kieran McDermott,



*All Ireland Sevens Champions. Back, L-R: Pierce Higgins, Tadhg Buckley, Paul Lynch, Stephen Hoban, J.P. Coen, Keith Higgins, Niall Murphy, John A. Murphy, Hugh McKermitt. Front, L-R: Dave McConn, Micheál Walsh, Brian Hunt, Fergal Walsh, Liam McDermott, Christopher McCrudden, Derek McConn and John Joe Hoban.*

Shane Murphy, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Kevin Morley, Sean Ronayne, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Haseeb Arshad. Management: Adrian Brennan.

**Suck Valley League:** Ballyhaunis U-14, U-16 and U-18 were invited to participate in the Suck Valley League, which is made up of teams from Mayo, Roscommon, North and East Galway. Ballyhaunis pitted their skills against Ballygar, Ahascragh/Fohenagh, Ballinasloe, Padraic Pearses and Tooreen. While the results on the field of play were mixed, we took part in all our games and the experience gained is the foundation for the up and coming championship in Mayo.

**U-21 Hurling:** We reached the "A" against Tooreen, in a home game but on the day Tooreen got the goals that made the difference to win the game. Again, we could not fault the dedication and commitment of the team and with some luck on the day could have pulled of a result in our favour.

Panel: Adrian Brennan, (C) Brian Hunt, Brian Waldron, Joseph Flynn, Kamran Afzal, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Morley, Kieran Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Liam McDermott, Paul Carney,

Paul Freeley, Shane Nolan, Tadhg Morley, Stephen Hoban, Luke Cribbin, Robert Frayne, David Fitzmaurice, Damian Keadin. Management: J. P. Coen, and JJ Hoban.

**Minor Football:** We started out the year in early February knowing that we had a big task ahead of us for the year playing in Division 2 league and "A" championship. The league started at the end of March when we made the trip down to Crossmolina where we met up with a strong team only to lose narrowly by 4 points. We got into our stride then and beat Claremorris by 10 points and Ardnaree to win a great game by 6 points. We had two very hard fought home games against Bellmullet by 9 points and Westport by a goal. Following the exam break we lost to Round Towers and we still have a game on hand against Kiltane and a good result in this one we will qualify for the league semi final. In our "A" championship match we faced a very strong Kiltimagh team who have now reached the County final and we wish them well. Hopefully by the end of the year we will have won our Division 2 Title. Kevin Byrne, Isaac Carroll, Ryan Worden and David McNamara attended trials for East Mayo County Cup this year and will have certainly benefitted from the experience.

Panel: Kevin Byrne, Jarlath Carney, Isaac Carroll, Eoghan Collins, Rory Collins, Cathal Fahy, Jason Fahy, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Conor Freeley, Paul Freeley, Sean Griffin, Gerard Grogan, Damien Keadin, Gearoid Keane, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, Kieran McDermott, John F. McDonagh, David McNamara, Kevin Moran, Kevin Morley, Aidan Richardson, Pdraig Waldron, Ryan Worden. Management: Paul Webb, Mike Dillon

### **Community School**

Ballyhaunis Community School continues to develop and nurture Gaelic Games. While no Trophies are evident, we wish to acknowledge all the time and hard work that goes into the training of teams and travelling to games. We acknowledge the co-operation between the School and the Club in relation to our Grounds and the support during the year re the use of the School Gym. Thanks to Principal Pat McHugh, to the teachers involved in GAA in the school for their time and commitment. Thanks to Eugene Lavin for his continued support in coaching and games development.

### **Parish League** - sponsored by Connacht Scaffolding Services

Team A: John Prenty (C), Fergal Kelly, Brian Kilcourse, Seamus O'Dwyer, Vincent Healy, Thomas Murphy, Adrian Brennan, Kevin Henry, Niall Richardson, Dan Tarpey, Paul Biesty, Seamus Caulfield, Gerard Grogan.

Team B: Jason Morley (C), Brian Hunt, Joe Freeley, Conor Mulrennan, Niall Prenty, Stephen Hoban, William Nestor, Tadhg Morley, David Healy, J.P. Coen, Brian Murray, Ruari Caulfield, Kieran Kiely.

Team C: Christy McCrudden (C), Tony Morley, P.J. Fleming, Ciaran Griffin, John Doyle, Liam McDermott, Craig Hughes, Brian Gallagher, Stephen Carney, Paul Webb, Aidan Paul Kelly, Ryan Worden, Conor Freeley.

Team D: Paul Finn (C), Declan Doyle, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Enda Griffin, Paddy Phillips, Liam Lyons, David McNamara, Jimmy O'Boyle, Anthony Murphy, Shay Walsh, Paul Nolan, Damien Keadin, Gareth Carrick, Paul Walsh.

Team E: Derek Walsh (C), Kevin Gallagher, Hugh Carney, Paul Jordan, Pdraig Carney, Patrick Keane, Brian Mulrennan, Karl Lyons, Fergal Walsh, Donal Moran, Pdraic Cribbin, John Halpin, Cathal Fahy, Tadhg Buckley.

Team F: Brendan Rudden (C), Sean Hunt, Mark Patterson, Emmett Keane, John Gallagher, Alan Regan, Kevin Nestor, Eamon Monaghan, Tony Waldron, Amar Javid, Hugh McKermitt, Ruari Finan, Arslan Afzal, Ray Sloyan.

Rounds 1 and 2 were played on the 16th November, rounds 3 and 4 on the 30th November, and round 5 and play-offs on the 14th December 2008. The final was played on the 28th December and was a very closely contested and entertaining final with Christy McCrudden's team emerging victorious. Christy was well supported by his team mates especially Tony Morley who was playing in opposition to his brother Jason under the watchful eye of Tony Morley Snr. Tony and Jason have been highly influential players in our club and, together with Tony Snr. and Josie and David, have shown what can only be described as exceptional commitment to their Club. The presentation of medals took place afterwards in the Clock. Thanks to Brian Murray, Connacht Scaffolding Services, who sponsors this League and takes a very genuine interest in organising it as well as sponsoring the event.

**U-21 Football:** Our U-21 team was drawn in a very competitive group consisting of last year's champions Ballaghaderreen, Garrymore and Shrile-Glencorrib. In our first game we were drawn away against Garrymore and, following a very hard game, we emerged victorious by the narrowest of margins 2-10 to 2-9. This was an outstanding performance and there are not many teams that win in Garrymore against the home team. Our next game resulted in a walkover with Shrile/Glencorrib unable to field, and in our final game at home



**Cumann na mBunscoil County Final, Scoil Iosa, runners up.**  
Back, L-R: Jim Landon (Principal), James Lyons, Hamza Yousaf, Steven Nolan, Laurence McDonagh, Mohammad Ahmad, Steven Ryan, James Burke, Waqas Rehman, Michael Regan (Coach) Front, L-R: Fraz Ahmad, Joseph Lyons, Sean Herr, Ryan Kilbane, Cathal Carney, James Cribbin and Rory Nestor.

against Ballaghaderreen we had a well merited draw 0-8 each, despite having to play without the injured Niall Prenty and Kevin Nestor. This draw saw us win the group and qualify for the county quarter-final against the Neale. There was a three month wait for this game during which we played challenge games against Aghamore, Williamstown, Charlestown, Ballinrobe St. Gerard's and Tuam Stars. The quarter final was a ding-dong affair with the Neale getting a last minute goal to level the match 1-14 to 2-11. The Neale completely took over the first period of extra time and led by 5 points at half time but the heart and resilience of our team came through when we equalised and held on for a well merited draw - Ballyhaunis 2-16, The Neale 3-13. At the time of writing we await the date of the replay with the winners due to play Ballaghaderreen in the semi-final. This young team has a lot of football to play yet.

Panel: Conor Mulrennan, Niall Prenty, Seamus O'Dwyer, Kevin Gallagher, John Gallagher, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Enda Griffin, Brian Hunt, Liam McDermott, David McNamara, Isaac Carroll, Kevin Beirne, Ryan Worden, Kevin Nestor, Ger Grogan, Ruairi Finan, Adrian Brennan, David Healy, John Jordan, Pdraic Cribbin, Michael Waldron, Cathal Fahy, Arslan Afzal, Kamron Afzal, Tadhg Morley, Stephen Hoban. Management: Michael Gallagher, Johnny Cribbin,



Tommy Grogan, John Higgins, John Prenty, Fergal Kelly.

### Senior Football

The season commenced in early January with a win over Eastern Gaels in the Good Fellowship Cup on St. Stephen's Day. The Club's Senior Team continued its rebuilding task with relative success, managing league promotion and maintaining intermediate championship status.

Championship finalists and favourites at the time of writing, Westport, proved too strong for a team having to replace four of last years highest scorers. Despite this a brave effort could have been rewarded with some lucky breaks which we needed but Westport, who obviously were still mindful of their 2008 defeat, ended up as well deserved victors. A physically stronger Achill with an ace free taker meant that a defeat here left the last of the group games requiring a win against Bonniconlon which a determined and ever improving Ballyhaunis supplied. The return to form of more experienced players and the ongoing improvement made by younger lads over the course of the season provided some great performances, particularly against senior clubs in the Centenary Cup, and the Prendergast Cup in the latter half of the season. This ensured the teams objectives were met and gave room for optimism in 2010.

Facing into 2010 in League Division 4 was a thought none of the players were prepared to contemplate, and some outstanding football and the mental toughness to get scores and results when they mattered most, saw the team return to division 3. Were it not for a loss by Ballina against Ardnaree in their last game we would have won the division.

Overall the players are developing a tremendous attitude to the game and pride in their team. Facing into this season presented a stern challenge and the players met it head on showing their capacity for further potential league and championship progress. Well done to all the lads involved and good luck next year.

**Senior Panel for 2009:** Conor Mulrennan, Declan Doyle, P.J. Fleming, Brendan Rudden, Rob Grogan, Joe Freely, Keith Higgins, Fergal Kelly, John Prenty, David Hannan, Sean Hunt, Niall Prenty, Seamus O'Dwyer, Brian Mulrennan, Kevin Gallagher, Paul Finn, Liam Lyons, Kieran Griffin, Christy McCrudden, Padraic Carney, Paul Jordan, John Gallagher, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Stephen Shanaghy, Enda Griffin, Brian Hunt, Karl McManus, Neil Jordan, David McNamara, Isaac Carroll, Phelim Carroll, Kevin Byrne, Ryan Worden, Kevin Nester, Ger Grogan.

Management: Seamus Egan, Paul Webb, and Mike Dillon.

**All Ireland-Sevens, Ratoath.** The team also competed in the All Ireland Intermediate Sevens in Ratoath where a very young side - average age 19 years and 4 months - acquitted themselves very well. Panel: John Prenty; Kieran Griffin, Enda Griffin; Seamus O'Dwyer; Kevin Nestor; John Gallagher; Aidan Fitzmaurice; Isaac Carroll, Kevin Byrne, Gerard Grogan.

### Club Players on County Panels

Senior Football: Keith Higgins. U-21 Football: Niall Prenty. U-16 Football: Gearoid Keane. U-15 Football: Jarlath Carney. U-14 Football: Shane Healy, David Cleary, Jason Coyne, Morgan Lyons, Steven Nolan. East Mayo County Cup: David McNamara, Isaac Carroll, Ryan Worden. Senior Hurling: Keith Higgins, Michael Walsh, Derek Walsh, Derek McConn, Pierce Higgins, Hugh McKermitt, Peter Healy. Stephen Hoban, Liam Lyons, Paul Lynch and Niall Murphy. U-21 Hurling: Tadhg Morley, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Adrian Brennan and Liam McDermott. U-18 Team: Paul Freeley. U-16 Team: Gearoid Keane, Sean Griffin, John Flynn, Patrick Kiely. U-14 Team: Morgan Lyons, Shane Healy, Haseeb Arshad, and

Kevin Kilbride.

### Senior Hurling

Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling team have won a hat-trick of major trophies this year and include the Genfitt Cup; All Ireland 7's Shield and the T.J. Tyrell Cup, and at time of going to print has just won a Connacht Intermediate semi-final against Four Roads, Roscommon. This team have won 3 trophies against local neighbours Tooreen, and in achieving 6 county senior titles in 10 years Ballyhaunis have left their print on Mayo hurling this decade. The players deserve great credit for the commitment and dedication that they have given to their mentors, trainers, their Club and themselves.

**Genfitt Cup:** The Mayo County League Final was played in Ballyhaunis against Tooreen. The game was played with great spirit and passion. Ballyhaunis won the first half and contained Tooreen in the second half to be worthy winners of the Genfitt Cup.

Derek McConn acknowledged the work and commitment of the management team and thanked the supporters for the support given to the team on the day.

**T.J. Tyrell Cup:** The Mayo County Final was played on Saturday the 10th October against Tooreen and was a home venue for Tooreen. Credit due to the Tooreen Club as the pitch was in excellent condition on the day. The game was played as local neighbours should with fire and passion, and Ballyhaunis went on to win the game on score line of 2-9 to 1-7. The Ballyhaunis players and panel who gave great commitment throughout the year had completed the final leg of that journey when Derek McConn accepted the T.J. Tyrell Cup from the Mayo GAA Hurling Chairman John Hopkins. Winning the county championship qualified us for entry to the Connacht Intermediate Hurling championship. In the semi-final we beat Four Roads of Roscommon and will play the Galway Intermediate club



**Ballyhaunis U-21 Hurling runner-up 2009. Back, L-R: David Fitzmaurice, Paul Carney, Liam McDermott, Tadhg Morley, Stephen Hoban, Luke Cribbin, Robert Frayne, Joe Flynn, Kieran Kiely, Paul Freeley. Front, L-R: Kevin Fitzmaurice, Kamran Afzal, Kevin Morley, Brian Waldron, Adrian Brennan, Damian Keadin, Shane Nolan, Brian Hunt.**

champions in the Connacht Final in mid November.

Panel: Niall Murphy, Liam Lyons, Hugh McKermitt, Paul Lynch, Stephen Hoban, Paul McConn, Tadhg Morley, Tadhg Buckley, Stephen Carney, Liam McDermott, Robert Frayne, Micheál Walsh, Pierce Higgins, Peter Healy, Fergal Lyons, Brian Hunt, Padraic Carney, Keith Higgins, Austin Lyons, Derek McConn, Fergal Walsh, Christopher McCrudden, Adrian Brennan, Luke Cribbin, Derek Walsh, J.P. Coen, Joe Flynn.

Management: Great credit is due the management team of

Martin McDermott, Pete Higgins, John Joe Hoban and J.P. Coen, Dave McConn, Donal Moran, and Ray Lucey or their organisation, commitment and attention to detail through the year.



*Kitty Morley (on behalf of the Morley family) presents the Howard Morley Memorial Cup to Eanna Varley, captain of the successful Westport U-13 Hurling team.*

#### ***Kilmacud Crokes 7-a-side Competition:***

Ballyhaunis hurling team were crowned Shield champions after a thrilling final against their nearest neighbours and rivals Tooreen. It was amazing that two Mayo teams ended up in the prestigious decider and that only one point separated them at the end. Teams from all over Ireland and abroad took part.

Panel: Micheál Walsh, Brian Hunt, Paul Lynch, Christopher McCrudden, Fergal

Walsh, Derek McConn, Niall Murphy, Keith Higgins, Liam McDermott and Stephen Hoban.

**SCÓR:** Ballyhaunis G.A.A. again took part in the annual SCÓR talent competition with very encouraging performances, in particular at SCÓR na nÓg. SCÓR is demonstration of the very important social and community side of the G.A.A. where everybody becomes involved, all ages, all interests and all talents. The SCÓR na nÓg committee have big plans for this year's competition which will take place before Christmas. If you are interested in a new experience, maybe tell a story, sing a song, dance, team quiz, play an instrument or anything that entertains then come along to SCÓR. First, let us know of your interest by sending name and contact details to the club secretary.

**Club Registration & Membership:** Club registration commenced early February and was held on two consecutive Wednesday nights and one Saturday. Registration was open to underage and adult members. Club registration is mandatory and requires careful attention especially in relation to the Players Injury Scheme. As the Registrar of our club, player welfare is of the upmost importance but this can only be monitored and managed if the correct procedures are put in place. It is vital that all managers and trainers are reminded that Membership forms are legal documents and they should take responsibility to ensure that all players are correctly registered. For 2010 and onwards certain changes have been made regarding the registration of all members, players and non playing members alike, within G.A.A Clubs.

**Coaching Officer:** The role of the team manager and selectors is often varied and it is essential to recognise that while some managers and selectors use different techniques the qualities of a good one are always the same. This year within Ballyhaunis G.A.A Club we called a coaching meeting for early January 2009 to encourage all team managers and selectors to understand that success as a coach is not just about winning games and trophies but developing a positive environment for all our club players. There was a huge turnout on the night and I am happy to report that there was a lot of positive feedback from all concerned which also recognising the importance of completing the necessary coaching courses. Following the success of our underage and senior teams this year a big emphasis will be placed on ensuring that these courses, foundation and level 1, will be

completed by the end of 2010. With all the hard work that was put in this year by team managers and selectors alike, it is vitally important that the role of coaching officer be utilised to the maximum in order to achieve further success going forward. All club managers and selectors will be kept informed in relation to any coaching activities taking place throughout the county in the weeks and months ahead.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention, A.S.A.P. Cumann Luthcleas Gael are committed as part of their overall philosophy to "Discourage the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco on the basis that they are incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity". Our Club is in the process of putting in place an A.S.A.P. policy relevant to our club needs. This year saw Maire Caulfield, appointed as ASAP officer for the club. She is liaising with the county and regional co-ordinator, club members and relevant people, with the objective of preparing a draft ASAP policy for ratification by Club. The policy aims to set out in writing the framework the club will use to manage drug and alcohol related issues and it will apply to all our members and all users of the Club grounds and buildings. At present we have forwarded an information letter, brochure and CD to all families and invited each household to view the CD and refer back with their opinions and suggestions. When this information is compiled a meeting will be held and a draft policy will be prepared and ratified by the club.

**Blessed George Napier School Trip:** This year we were hosts to a group of 33 boys and girls, from Blessed George Napier School in Banbury. This school is in the Coventry GAA catchment area in England. The one and only Martin Grogan made direct representations to me to look after Tara and the gang. Enough said!

**Itinerary:** Day 1: The group arrived into Knock and paid a visit to Knock Church and Museum. There were refreshments organised in the Billabong and a meeting with Host Families. Day 2: A shopping trip to Castlebar was organised and they returned to Ballyhaunis where Stephen Nolan, manager, organised team training and a game with our U-14 football team and the visitors at 7 p.m. A coaching session was fitted in with Liam Óg Gormley, Connacht Coach, to help with drills and skill training for the coaches and players. In terms of football, the children don't get a great deal of exposure to football in their school, hence the trip. Only one or two have ever played for a Gaelic club and most train weekly in the school and only have two games per yearly. This was followed by refreshments in the club house and entertainment was provided by the Elwood School of Dancing. Day 3: A full day trip to Clare Island day proved exciting and everyone really enjoyed the entertainment laid on for them. Day 4: The group embarked on a trip to Croagh Patrick which was a huge success and that was followed by a brief visit to the museum. Thanks to John Maughan who went out of his way to ensure the safety of the group on the mountain. This was followed by a meal in the Billabong for the students, staff and host families. Also in attendance were Emmett and Teresa Keane and members of the Waldron Family, Cave who have strong links with Coventry GAA. Day 5: The group departed from Knock Airport. Group members: Dermot Conway, James Doran, Callum Cooper, Jonny Runaghan, Mike O'Connor, Joe McGivern, Jacob Whitlock, Ben Rhodes, Ed Monague, James Montague, Daniel Whitley, Sean Livadeas, Ed Wilson, James Wilson, Liam Higginbottom, Jacques Hewitt, Sam Leck, Caitlin Montague, Katie Budd, Becky Coles, Rebecca Coomber, Katrina Shurrock, Vicky Allman, Georgie Blacker, Fionnuala Conway, Olivia Runaghan, Isabel Kelly, Abby Kennell, Zoe Livadeas, Danielle Boddy, Charlotte Cummings, Bobo K. Banda, Nuala Carey. School Staff: Tara Boyle, Denise Durkan, Roisin Conway, Antony Coggins, Ciara O'Brien. Host Families: Stephen & Nuala Nolan, John & Geraldine Collins, Ann & Gerry Lyons, Orla & Donal Moran, Anna & Donal Shanaghy, Paul & Laura Webb, Joanna Finn & Michael Richardson, Ann & Paddy Phillips, John & Mary Prenty, Kevin & Anna Henry. Thanks to





*Mayo Senior Hurling Champions for 2009. Back, L-R: Dave McConnell (Mentor), Niall Murphy, Liam Lyons, Hugh McKermitt, Paul Lynch, Stephen Hoban, Paul McConnell, Tadhg Morley, Tadhg Buckley, Stephen Carney, Liam McDermott, Robert Frayne, Ray Lucey, Micheál Walsh, Pierce Higgins, Peter Healy, Martin McDermott (Manager). Front, L-R: Pete Higgins, Fergal Lyons, Brian Hunt, Padraic Carney, Keith Higgins, Austin Lyons, Derek McConnell (Captain), Fergal Walsh, Christopher McCrudden, Adrian Brennan, Luke Cribbin, Derek Walsh, J.J. Hoban (Mentor), Donal Moran (Mentor).*

all the families who supported the children and cared for them in their homes. Special thanks to the host families and Liam Folliard, the Billabong, who went out of his way to accommodate and facilitate all the members of this tour. For these children it was a trip to remember. Traditionally, there has been a strong link between Roger Casements, Coventry and Ballyhaunis GAA and the recent visit will strengthen and foster the strong bond that exists between the two Clubs. Committee members: William Nestor, Cathal Carroll, Anna Shanaghy, Mary Prenty and Padraig Regan,

#### ***Lá na gClub: Sunday 10th May 2009***

The Executive Committee of the club agreed that a sub committee would be set up to organise and plan this very special day. All committees were approached and eventually Tommy Waldron and John Prenty took the initiative to organise it. The guidelines for the day from Croke Park were simple. This was a national celebration for clubs to show their skills and enjoy their club history. It was designed as a family fun day. All past, present and future members were welcome to visit the grounds and clubhouse and join in the 125th Anniversary celebrations. Following the raising of the 125th Anniversary Flag, a minute's silence was observed for the late Tom Cribbin and the day's events commenced. Many novelty events were organised including Football skills, hurling skills, puc fada, cic fada and go games exhibitions. One of the highlights was a puc fada for the senior footballers and a cic fada for the senior hurlers and some of the efforts were interesting to say the least. A Photographic Exhibition was held, which included old photos and relevant club history memorabilia, old Minute books, Account Records commencing 1944. Thanks to John Forde, for the loan of picture of the 1925 senior football Team and to John Gill for his picture of the 1970 Party to America. The Hannon Family medal collection was exhibited on the day. Medals included Club, County and college Medals that were won by various members of the Hannon Family, Devlis. The following Club trophies were on display: Mick O Connell Cup: Presented to Ballyhaunis GAA Club by Mick O Connell for U-8, and U-10 competition. This is a prestigious competition and is traditionally played for on the October Bank Holiday weekend each year. It is a must for any of our young footballers to get their hands on this Cup. Barry Butler Cup: Presented to Ballyhaunis GAA Club by the Butler Family in honour of the late Barry Butler. Barry, who for years gave a huge loyal contribution to the club caring for our very young players, and this is played for each year and is the start of many a county Footballer's dream. Julia Donohue Cup: Presented to the Ballyhaunis

GAA Club by the Donohue Family, Scregg in honour of the late Julia Donohue, for a National School Competition. This Cup is played for each year in the Scoil Iosa and is one of the school football highlights of the year. Vincent Caulfield Cup: Presented to Ballyhaunis GAA Club by the Caulfield family, in honour of the late Vincent Caulfield. This competition, has been run as a National School League and keenly fought for each year. However, in 2009, the Caulfield family agreed to donate the Cup to the East Mayo Board for the U-12 football championship winners. The Board supported this initiative and organised the championship and Ballyhaunis GAA are hosts to the semi-finals and Final. This championship has two groups and the Vincent Caulfield shield is for the winners of Group B. Joe Webb Cup: Presented to Ballyhaunis GAA Club by the Webb family, in honour of the late Joe Webb. This competition is a prestigious competition run by the club each year for all our U-12 players. Our young players see this Cup as a stepping stone to the Ted Webb Cup in the future. Good Fellowship Cup: This Cup, one of the most prestigious in Mayo, was presented to Ballyhaunis GAA Club by the Good-fellowship Club in 1957. This Club was born out of the Local Security Force, which operated during the emergency, and they continued to meet socially after the emergency ended. In 1956 they donated the cup as a gesture of friendship from the older generation to the younger one. White Horse Inn Cup: This cup was initially purchased by Mick Murray, White Horse Inn, Ballyhaunis. It is now played for in the Parish League and sponsored by Brian Murray, Connacht Scaffolding Services. Padraig Prendergast Cup: Presented to Ballyhaunis GAA Club by Guinness Ireland in memory of the late Padraig Prendergast. This competition is played for annually between Ballyhaunis and Davitts.

School Competition: An Essay Competition was held in the National School and certificates were presented to all the children who submitted essays. These essays were exhibited on the day.

Irish Dancing Exhibition was provided by the Elwood School of Dancing. Thanks to the young dancers who turned up on the day and to Helen Worden for her help and support.

Irish Music and song was provided by Patricia Ni Shuilleabhain, Johnny McGarry, Pake Paddy Joe Tighe, Pake Dyer and Paul Waldron. It was most enjoyable.

The Club Person of the Year presentation was made to Brian Murray and The Good Fellowship Medals were presented by Emmett Keane.

Bothar Presentation: A cheque for a one third share of the Christmas raffle was presented to Brian Kilcourse on behalf of the

Kilimanjaro Climb for "Bothar".

Refreshments were available in the club house and many thanks to all the people who helped to make this day a tremendous success.

**Deceased Members:** A special Mass for our deceased members was celebrated by Canon Cooney in the Clubhouse. The Abbey Male choir, conducted by Mrs. Moira Delaney, was in attendance, and music was provided by Mrs. Paula Donnellan. This was a memorable night for everyone and refreshments were available afterwards.



**Ballyhaunis Under-13 Hurling team. Back, L-R: Pete Higgins, Ray Lucey, James Cribbin, Sean Herr, Fraz Ahmad, Stephen Ryan, Hamza Yousaf, Mohammad Ahmad, Damien Callaghan, Ryan Kilbane, Jason Coyne, Brian O'Neill, Gerry Lyons, Ger Hayes. Front, L-R: Abusafan Ahmad, Waqas Rehman, Oisin Coffey, James Lyons, Mark Phillips, Joe Lyons, Cathal Carney, Joseph Kelly, Liam Herr. Missing from photo: Gbolahan Salami.**

### **Club Finance & Fundraising Activity in 2009.**

For any club to survive fundraising is always top of the agenda and particularly at a time when we are economically challenged. This year our Development committee held a Christmas Raffle in conjunction with Bothar Kilimanjaro climb and the draw took place on 28th December 2008 in The Clock. The following are the list of prizes and the winners: 1st Prize - Home Heating Oil - Aidan Kavanagh, Coolock. 2nd Prize - Irish Wood Briquettes - Sinead O'Neill, Galway. 3rd Prize - Single Bed - Niall Prenty, Ballyhaunis. 4th Prize - Christmas Hamper - William Nestor, Ballyhaunis. 5th Prize - ?100 Cash Prize - Michael Webb Jnr., Ballyhaunis. Thanks to our sponsors and everyone who supported this raffle. Your support is appreciated. Mayo Club Development Draw continues to be an all important fundraising tool for the Club. Our club quota of sales this year was set at 75, an increase from 60, due mainly to the new stand development in Castlebar. Our club benefits by ?90 per ticket once the quota is reached. Congratulations to our two winners in 2009, Austin Grogan ?500 and Brian Murray, ?500. We thank everyone who purchased a

ticket and our members who sold tickets on behalf of the club.

Club Lotto continues to be the weekly income that sustains our club as it funds the day to day running costs which includes 21 teams in football and hurling, and the maintenance of our grounds. The weekly draw is held on Tuesday nights, and draw tickets can be purchased in outlets in the town, purchased online, at [www.ballyhaunisgaa.com](http://www.ballyhaunisgaa.com), or purchased annually for a reduced fee of ?90. 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 and the signs on each road approaching Ballyhaunis continue to generate an interest and awareness of the Lotto Draw. We wish to thank Tommy Waldron and his small committee who sell tickets at weekends and for their commitment every Tuesday night to hold the Draw. We welcome new volunteers to help us to promote the Lotto further and ultimately sustain it in the future.

Thanks to Ryan's, Supervalu for allowing us to use their premises to fundraise. Thanks to our club sponsors for your financial and moral support throughout the year.

**Club Development:** The Audit which took place for the Connacht Club of the Year was a detailed view of our facilities and made very interesting reading as it gives us a very good idea as to where we stand in relation to future development. It was acknowledged that it had been a very wet weekend and the condition of the goal mouth was described as poor. The stand could do with being more presentable and user friendly. Entrance needs attention and money and collection points need to be addressed. These are very realistic objectives for our club and hopefully will be addressed in the near future. Special thanks to Hugh Rudden and Brian Murray who are always available to anyone who needs the Clubhouse or dressing rooms. Hugh's work on our grounds continues to be the envy of many clubs in Mayo and beyond. We wish to acknowledge the work of the FÁS workers who assist in the grounds.

A Defibrillator will be placed outside our main gate and we wish to acknowledge the support of the Ballyhaunis & District Defibrillator Group who offered us a storage box and ongoing training to club members. Thanks to Paula Grogan and Maria Cribbin for their help with this Project.

### **Thank You**

The running of the Club takes a lot of time and effort, and a big 'Thank You' is due to all of our hard working officers, committee members, players, team managers, selectors and referees for their time and commitment to the Club. To Cathal Carroll, who has provided transport for our players and, at times, at no cost to the club. Thanks to the parents who attended our games and have helped with encouragement and transport for our players. Thanks to everyone who helped out with catering in the clubhouse and who provided refreshments for various events. This is what keeps our club going and will do so into the future.

*Mary Prenty (Club Secretary)*

## **Deadline**

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2010 is Friday, 22nd October 2010. 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.

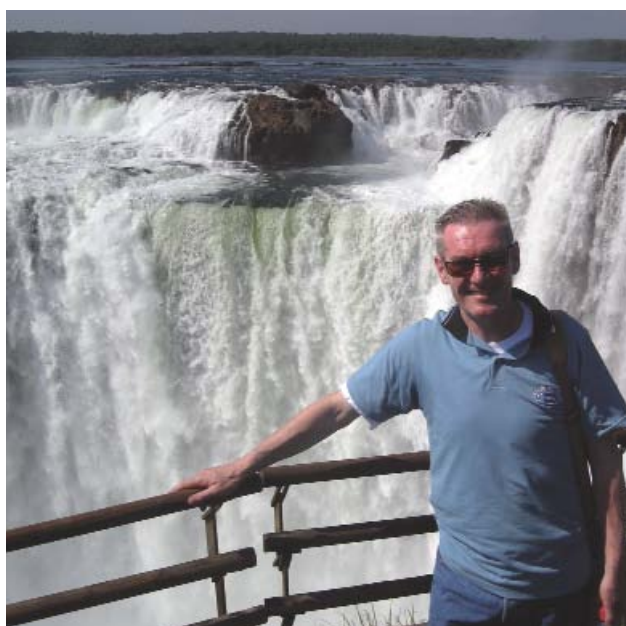
Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held in Scoil Iosa Junior (formerly St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School): Sunday nights at 8.30 (Winter) and 9.00 (Summer). Al-Anon

and Al-Ateen meet in Scoil Iosa Senior School, Abbeyquarter at the same times.





*Anniversaries, Oz and Daisy!  
Taken in Brisbane, Australia, October 2008. L-R: David Lyons, originally from Gurteen, Ballyhaunis, Maureen Lyons-Doherty, and Joe McGuire, originally from Ballindrehid.*



*Thomas J. Carroll, Knox St., in front of Waterfall in Iguazu, Argentina, May 2009.*

*Ex-Ballyhaunis Rugby Players who also played together in Bayonne New Jersey U.S.A.  
L-R: Jack O'Connor, John O'Connor, Conor Dillon-Leetch, John Dillon-Leetch, Junior Geraghty, Thomas Moran, Dylan Moran, George Delaney.*



*The 1972 winners of the Scór All Ireland Ballad Group Competition making a presentation to their mentor Fr. McMyler. L-R: Miriam Murphy, Vinnie Healy, Mairead Mulhern, Tony Flynn, Fr. Francis McMyler, Moira Delaney, Brian Byrne. Missing from photo: Seamus Forde. Image reproduced by kind permission of the Western People Newspaper.*





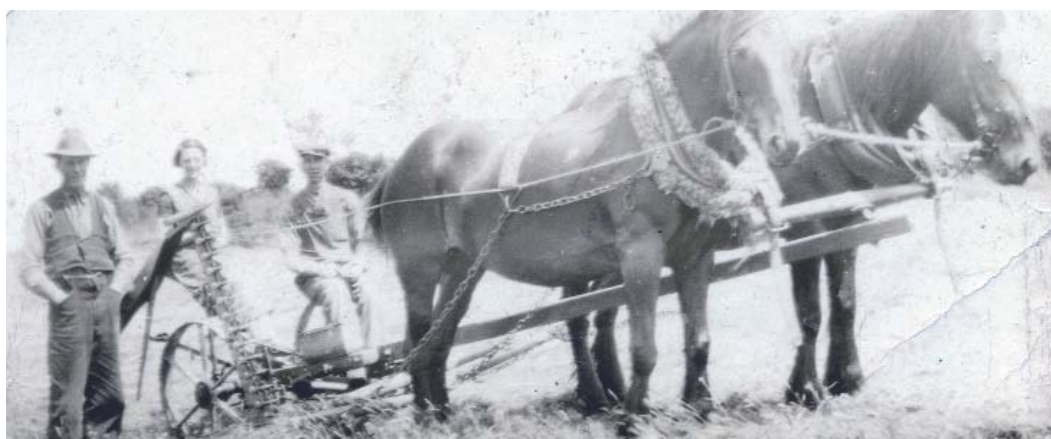
*Mike Biesty (Carrowkeel), Sonny Biesty (Pattenspark) and Willie Biesty (Carrowkeel), cutting oats in 1940.*



*Mike Biesty (Carrowkeel) cutting oats in the early 1930s.*



*Annie Dyer and Josie Waldron pictured in July 1962 with Brackloon Post Office in the background.*



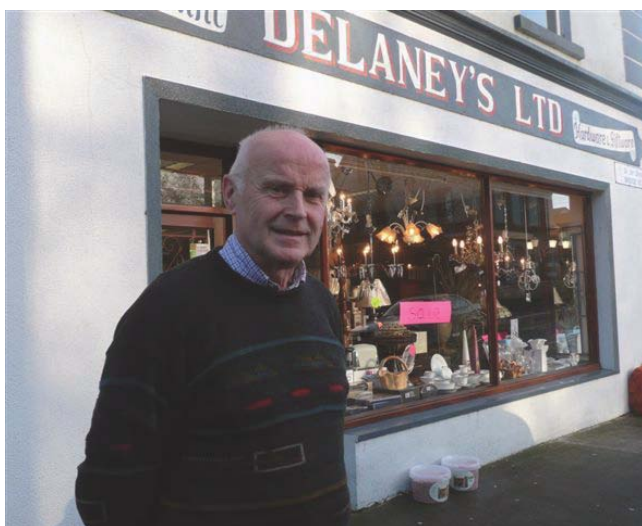
*"Man and Horsepower". L-R: Paddy Judge, Agloragh, Brigid Duffy (nee Fitzmaurice) and Tom Fitzmaurice.*





#### *Brickens Reunion*

*Pictured are the Conway family from Liscolman, Brickens, who came together - all ten family members - for the first time in twenty-seven years, at a special reunion in Ballyhaunis in August, 2009. Back, L-R: Martin Conway (Brickens), Fr. Jim Conway (Texas), Frank (Galway), Dick (and wife Veronica, England), Sr. Noreen (Texas). Front, L-R: Joan Biesty (Ballyhaunis), Josie Kreps (San Francisco), Sr. Kathleen (Texas), Margaret Hopkins (Ballyhaunis) and Delia McManus (San Francisco).*



*Davy McGuire, Drimbane, pictured outside Delaney's Hardware at Bridge Street, on his last day at work, after forty-nine years of service.*



*Cutting silage in the 1970s. Owen Judge with his Massey Ferguson 175 and Taarup Forage Harvester. L-R: Jackie Croke, Owen Judge, Cathy Judge and Barry Ryan.*



*L-R: Delia Morris (Cloonbullig), Mike Biesty (Carrowkeel), Tom Morris (Cloonbullig), Dominick Fitzmaurice (Brackloon North).*





*25th Anniversary Reunion of the Class of 1983 from Ballyhaunis Community School, photographed with Rev. Fr. Des Walsh and Rev. Fr. Francis McMyler. Back, L-R: Austin Kenny, James Clarke, Michael Lyons, P.J. Higgins, Jimmy Culliney, Paul Donnellan, Pat Healy, Sean Hunt, Seamus Connell, Gerry Flynn, James Patterson, Conor Dennedy (back), Niall Boland, Richard Phillips, Tony Waldron (back), James Hussey, Pete Forde. Centre, L-R: Stella Hurley, Pauline Sloyan, Mairead Neenan, Mary Killeen, Siobhan Greene, Mary T. Gavin, Kathleen Cregg, Deirdre Garvey, Marie Judge, Margie Phillips, Noreen Guilfoyle, Mary Angela Grogan, Pauline Hickey, Pauline Waldron, Helen McGuire, Karen Kitson, Jacqueline Lilly. Seated: Nuala Ryan, Helen Henry, Carmel Dyer, Fr. Des Walsh, Fr. Francis McMyler, Patricia Daly, Maria McWalter, Barbara Levins. Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*



*Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis. Intermediate Class 1938*  
*Back, L-R: Josie Carney (Liscat), Kathleen Sweeney (Cartron North), Kathleen Forrie (Knox St.), Rosaleen Garvey (Knox St.), Kitty Mitchell (Knox St.), Olive Waldron (Moneymore), Teresa Ronayne (Moate). Centre, L-R: Bridie Sweeney (Cartron North), Kathleen Cruise (Knockbrack), Teresa Kearney (Ballyglass), Maura Durkan (Abbey St.), Eithne Keane (Ballinlough), Josie Ruane (Moate), Mary E. Lyons (Clagnagh), Kathleen Fitzmaurice (Treanrevagh), Delia Owens (Moate), Josie Cribbin (Lecarrow). Front, L-R: Noreen Cunningham (Bridge St.), Una Walsh (Main St.), Eileen Brennan (Tulrahan), Aggie Byrne (Knox St.), Miss Maura Henry – Teacher (Bekan), Betty Flatley (Main St.), Amy Ruddy (Upper Main St.), Anne Henry (Crossard), Nellie Loftus (Knox St.).*





*Convent of Mercy, Fourth Class, 6th Dec. 1948.*

*Back, L-R: Patsy Dalton, Frances Dalton, Mary Brady, Mary Hannon, Ann Hunter, Marcella Greene, Teresa Molloy, Josie McGuire, Alice Mannion, Florence Mannion, Mary Tarpey, Josephine Lyons, Myra McGillicuddy, Angela Sloyan, Mary Eagney. Front, L-R: Angela O'Toole, Maria Byrne, Canice Flanagan, Marion Morley, Anna Leetch, Angela Hunt, Phyllis Sloyan, Anna Roche, Monica Byrne, Mary Teresa Concannon, Margaret Healy, Cait Freeley.*



*St. Mary's Boys School, 1970*

*Back, L-R: Oliver Concannon, Tommy Moran, Brendan Waldron, Austin Cribbin, John Griffin, Eamon Dwane, Gerry Joyce, Rory O'Connor. Front, L-R: Micheál Lyons, Mike Waldron, Tommy Prenty, Nicholas Kenny, Joe Grogan, Michael Brennan, Finbarr Ruane, Hugh Carney*



*Sr. Dymphna's Commercial Course, March 1960. Back, L-R: Maureen Lavan, Anastasia Walsh, Anne Kelly, Anne Moran, Mary Nally, Marie Webb, Monica Kelly, Noreen Dillon. Front, L-R: Margaret Connor, Noreen Culliney, Mary Raftery, Evelyn Sloyan, Kathleen McBride, Mary Caulfield.*





*St. Mary's N.S., Sixth Class, 1983-4*

*L-R, Back row: John Maughan (Tooraree), John Maughan (Cherryfield), Barry Hunt, Colm Flynn, Seamus Flanagan, Pdraig Jennings, Jarlath Phillips, Mr. Jim Lundon*

*Middle Row: Barry Regan, John Munroe, Aubrey Johnston, Eamonn Thornton, Eamonn Freyne, Edward Mulligan, Morgan Jennings. Front Row: Naoise Davitt, Julian Rattigan, Peadar Walsh, Jim Clarke.*



*Community Games 1980s*

*Back, L-R: Brian Freyne, Brian Byrne, Graeme Cleary, John McQueeney, Kieran Flynn, Tim Plunkett, Caroline Madden, Lorna Higgins, Muirna Walsh, John Waldron, David Burke, Irene Byrne. Centre, L-R: Imelda Flynn, Yvonne Murphy, Caitriona Curley, Maria Higgins, Clare Moore, Colette Waldron, Yvonne Flynn, Tanya Collum, Geraldine Maughan, Clare Flynn. Front, L-R: Cormac Cleary, Ian Webb, Hugh Curley, David Beirne, John Burke, Patrick Keane, Brian Flanagan, Noelle Waldron.*





*John Marrinan, Philip Morley and John 'Doc' Healy, at a match in Charlestown in the 1980s.*



*Pat Joe Lyons and Jimmy Connolly, Holywell.*



*Brackloon National School, 1975*

*Back, L-R: Caroline Dyer, Carmel Dyer, Mrs. Peg Cruise NT, Patricia Cruise, Kathleen Devaney, Mary Ryan, Helen Waldron, Martina Devaney, Barbara Dyer, Joseph Fitzharris, James Cruise, Sean McNamara, Oliver Fitzharris, Stephen Nolan. Centre, L-R: Jacinta Dyer, Naoise Davitt, Michael Ryan, John Ryan, Ultan Cruise, Vincent McNamara, James Sloyan, Anne Davitt, Judith Davitt, Pauline Sloyan, Nuala Ryan, Maura Kenny, Linda Dyer, Adrienne Dyer. Front, L-R: Seamus Ryan, John Leonard, Martin Fitzmaurice, Seamus Kenny, Frankie Leonard, John B. Davitt, Neil Cruise, Raymond Sloyan, Kevin Devaney.*



*David Moran,  
Derrymore, 1950*



*The Moran Family, Derrymore, taken early 1927.  
Standing, L-R: Patrick, Delia, Michael. Seated: Bridget, Eileen, Tom, Patrick,  
Margaret.*



*Ballyhaunis LDF taken at the Holywell Monument in the late 1940s.  
James Leo Boyle, Chris Lambert. Sean Lambert, David Moran, Tom McDonagh, James Horkan, Peter McNieve,  
Michael Dalgan Lyons, Oliver Foudy, Peter Regan, Capt. Jimmy O'Dwyer.*

## *Deadline*

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2010 is Friday, 22nd October 2010. 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.





*PC Martina English (centre) with her sisters Michelle Walsh (left) and Marcella Campbell (right).*



*Rayanna and Patrick Dockery with their cousin Michelle Brennan, Gurteen. Rayanna and Patrick are grandchildren of the former Marian Brennan, Gurteen.*



*Derrymore native, Eleanor Moran, who embarked on a two month tour of duty with the Hope Foundation, to Calcutta, on 22nd August 2009.*



*Maeve and Cillian Caulfield with their great-grandmother Krystyna in Poland, Oct. 2009. Maeve and Cillian are children of Enda and Sylwia Caulfield, Knock Road.*



*Under-9 Match, Ballyhaunis v. Charlestown, 6th June 2009. L-R: Pierce Nestor, Tristan Walsh, Conor Keane and Ethan Keane.*



*National School Football, 1982  
Back, L-R: Colm Flynn, Michael McNamara, Eamon Thornton, Andrew Smyth, Martin Walsh. Front, L-R: Timothy Plunkett, Peadar Walsh, Oliver Davitt, Eamon Lyons, Michael McNamara.*





*John Davitt with Fr. Bart Delaney OSA.*

*Garry Davitt receiving his Bachelors Degree with Honours in Engineering and Management from Jordanstown, University of Ulster. Garry is son of John and Patricia Davitt, Brackloon North.*



*John Davitt receiving his BA in Management Information Systems from Dublin Business School in March 2009.*



*Back, L-R: Kathleen Flanagan, John and Patricia Davitt with baby Oliver Davitt, Fr. Des Walsh, Raphaella Cuffe. Front, L-R: Anne, Judy, John Davitt and Naoise Davitt (front).*

*Davitt Family  
John and Patricia Davitt, and family, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrated earlier this year, 2009.  
Standing, L-R: Tony, Naoise, Oliver, John jnr., Gary. Seated, L-R: Judy, Elizabeth, John and Patricia, Anne.*







*Michael Morley Jnr., Island, with his prizewinning cow being presented with the Ballyhaunis Development Cup by Mr. Tom Malynn at a Ballyhaunis Agricultural Show in the 1960s.*



*Mike Morley on horseback in the 1970s..*



*Michael Morley, Island, holding his trophies having won the Heavy Farm Horse classes at the Ballyhaunis Agricultural Show.*



*Mick Morris (right) presenting Sean Tighe (left) with his prize following a Livestock Show in Ballyhaunis Mart in the early 1980s. At the extreme right is Tommy Duffin, cattle dealer and stock judge.*



*Circus elephants taking a stroll up Main Street in the early thirties.*



*Taken at a Fancy Dress Parade in Ballyhaunis in 1956. L-R: Dick Lyons, Teresa Biesty, Teresa Conway, Kit Keane, Josephine Levins, Margaret Cassidy, Mrs. Tom Lyons, Broddie Conway. Children in front: Heather Conway, Mary Conway, Anne Connell, Phil Biesty, Mary Herr.*





*Arthur Foudy (seated), formerly of Clare St., with his sons Stephen (left) and Michael (right) and Maisin Meath. The Foudy family emigrated to England in the 1950s. Arthur now resides in France. Taken Oct. 2009.*



*John Joe Philbin (left), Clare Court, with Mick Kelly, Island, pictured at Mary Ellen Frehill's 80th birthday.*



*Michael & Anne Dee pictured at the official opening of Harvest Fresh Fruit & Veg with their children Aaron, Nathan, Sarah & Michael Joseph*



*Members of Ballyhaunis ICA meeting with An Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald at the Ballyhaunis Trade Show 1985. Clockwise, L-R: Margaret O'Connor, Mary Morris, Cathy Denneny, Margaret Byrne with daughter Colette, Helene McCafferty, Anne Hunt with son Murty, Phyllis Flanagan with daughter Tracy, Angela Cribbin, Delia Coen, An Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald.*





### *The Graduation Class of 2009 at Ballyhaunis Community School*

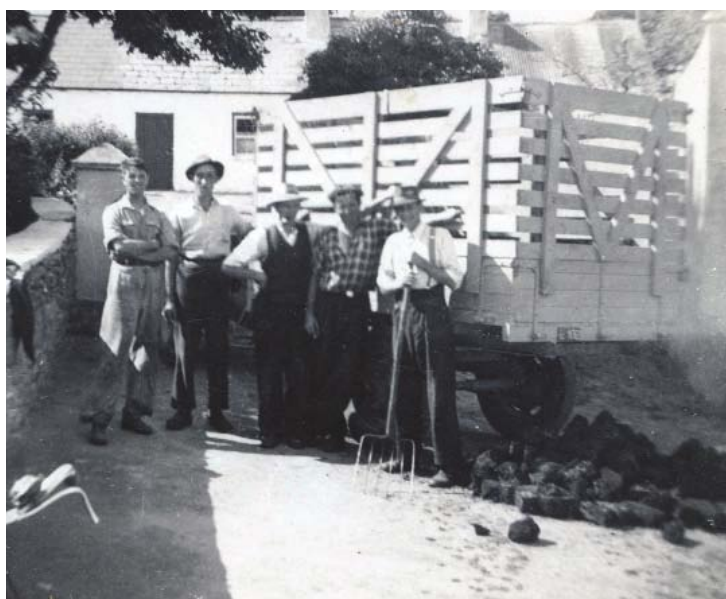
Back, L-R: Krzysztof Redzik, Brendan Waldron, Faisal Saleh, Edgar Liscin, Liam McDermott, Thomas Geraghty, Patrick Morris, Paul Freeley, Mark Potgieter, Sean Brennan, Ethan Toal, Sean Ronayne, Stephen Keane, Gerard Finn. Sixth Row: John Duffy, Richie Crinnigan, Neil Kearney, Eamon Fitzmaurice, Stephen Cregg, Niall Cribbin, John McDonagh, Christopher Flanagan, Barry Deegan, Damien Moloney, Paul Carney, Gerard Grogan, Kevin Fitzmaurice, Rory Collins, Faraz Ul Hassan. Fifth Row: Mateusz Maliszewski, Sean Durkan, David McNamara, Adrian Melvin, Aurimas Brazatiskas, Mark Forde, Pdraig Waldron, Kevin Morley, Jake Walsh, Brian Waldron, Aiden Richardson, Stephen Waldron, Daniel Mangan, Mohanad Cherbatji. Fourth Row: Leonora Folliard, Shirley McGowey, Louise Joyce, Marion Glavey, Grace Cribbin, Michelle Keane, Elaine Lilly, Aishling Caulfield, Aideen Murray, Lorraine Hickey, Riona Murray, Orla Lyons, Aishling Forde, Sinead Higgins. Third Row: Michelle Connell, Orla Shannon, Eimear Hill, Emma Forde, Corrina Byrne, Margaret Egan, Alma Mannion, Sinead Grennan, Roisin Fitzmaurice, Fiona Freyne, Loreta Grybaite, Sinead Fahy, Nicola Kilkenny, Emma Loftus, Sara Lenaghan. Second Row: Sharon Nolan, Roisin Murphy, Stacey Moloney, Justina Katkukaite, Nessa Doherty, Charlotte Donne, Millie Dempsey, Lisa Folan, Paula Kenny, Maura Kelly, Kaitlynn Brady, Emma Barr. Front Row, L-R: Michelle O'Connor, Denise McCormack, Aishling Robinson, Louise Culliney, Evelyn Kearns, Caroline Leonard, Mairead Griffin, Naureen Iqbal, Leanne Lynch, Emma Brereton, Mahrukh Azhar, Rebecca Creighton. Absent from photo: Shane Cleary, Elaine Mulkeen, Christina Niland, Nicole Niland, Derwyn Waldron, Kamran Afzal, Patrick Freeley and Sharon Neary. Photo courtesy of Paul Blake Photography.

Priests from Annagh (Ballyhaunis) parish and other parishes in the Deanery of Claremorris with Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. Thomas P. McEvelly pictured at the front of the Parochial House, Ballyhaunis, on Confirmation Day, 1926.

L-R: Fr. Michael McEvelly CC Ballyhaunis; Fr. Patrick J. Moane CC Ballyhaunis, Fr. John O'Malley PP Beken, Fr. John Tuffy PP Knock, Dean Thomas F. Macken PP Claremorris, Archbishop Thomas P. Gilmartin, Fr. John O'Malley PP Crossboyne, Canon Michael J. McHugh PP Ballyhaunis, Fr. Patrick Molloy PP Aghamore, Fr. Patrick Ruane CC Logboy; Fr. John Myles O'Reilly, CC Beken, Fr. Joseph Walsh, Diocesan Secretary.







*Bringing Home the Turf. L-R: Jim Hopkins, Martin Grady, Tom Tighe, unknown tractor driver, Peter Hopkins – all of Larganboy. Taken October, 1955*



*Margaret Hopkins with daughter Kay Paton, granddaughter Margaret Paton and grandson Brendan Hopkins. Taken in Tooraree.*



*Peter Hopkins with grandchildren (L-R) Jimmy, Margaret and Brendan Hopkins, and with 'Polly'. Taken in Tooraree.*



*Robbie Herr & Kevin Diskin*



*L-R: Sr. Assumpta, Marian Prendergast, John Brennan, Una Phillips.*



*St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, Intermediate Cert Class, 1972*

*Back, L-R: Brenda Fitzmaurice, Kitty Lyons, Maura Flatley, Helen Costello, Teresa Wallace, Ann Forde, Margaret McManus. Centre, L-R: Imelda Robinson, Joan Eagney, Kathleen McGrath, Maureen Conroy, Pauline Lynskey, Kathleen Griffin, Frances Duffy, Ann Carroll. Front, L-R: Mary Loftus, Kathleen Finnegan, Rita Hopkins, Bernadette Curran, Dorothy Lyons.*



*St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, Leaving Cert Class, 1972*

*Back, L-R: Bernadette Kelly, Marian Ganley, Mary Griffin, Helen Freeley, Kathleen Kearns, Helen Tully, Kay Greene, Marian Lyons, Rosaleen Keane, Marian McHugh, Marian Cunnane. Centre, L-R: Dymphna Cunnane, Marian Meehan, Ann Halpin, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Marian Freyne, Colette Hopkins, Eileen Commings, Josie Ganley. Front, L-R: Margaret Ronayne, Tina Coyne, Eileen Waldron, Sheila Waldron, Joan Kenny, Mary Kilduff, Ann Nolan, Christina Finn.*





*Bea and Bob Kelly with Anne O'Loughlin and Brendan O'Loughlin in the 1960s in the garden of their home, Upper Main St.*



*Taken outside Freely's house, Upper Main St., in the 1950s. Robert Kelly with Mrs. Freeley and her daughter Annie.*



*Gerry Cribbin and Margaret Kelly outside McGuire's workshop, Knock Road, in the 1960s.*



*Aidan and Mary Kelly on the occasions of Aidan's Retirement from Ballyhaunis Community School.*

## Patrons

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Please Support Local Business and Industry*

*All numbers are 094 code unless otherwise stated.*

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| <b>Curley, Pat &amp; Kathleen, Hazelhill</b> .....                                                                                            | 9631827                                       |
| <b>Curley's Bar, Clare St</b> .....                                                                                                           | 9630077                                       |
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| <b>Curley's Jewellers, Bridge St</b> .....                                                                                                    | Fax 9631191; Tel 9630110                      |
| <b>Dawn Ballyhaunis, Clare Rd</b> .....                                                                                                       | Fax 9630561; Tel 9630555                      |
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| <b>MacSiurtain's, Publicans, Main St. (Live Music)(prop. Stephen &amp; Nuala Nolan)</b> ..... | 9630854                                                               |

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| <i>Madden, Gerald, Snooker Tables, Gurteen</i> .....                                                                | <a href="http://www.maddensleisure.com">www.maddensleisure.com</a> .....             | 9630228              |
| <i>McCann Tyres, Clare Road, Tyres, batteries, 24hr breakdown service</i> .....                                     | Mob (086) 8614341; Tel                                                               | 9630573              |
| <i>McGarry Development Consultants, Engineers, Architects, Clare St.</i> .....                                      |                                                                                      | 9630170              |
| <i>McGarry's Ladies Wear, Main St.</i> .....                                                                        |                                                                                      | 9630084              |
| <i>McHale, Fr. Benny C.C., Hazelhill Downs</i> .....                                                                |                                                                                      | 9630095              |
| <i>McNamara Car Dismantlers, Dublin Rd.</i> .....                                                                   |                                                                                      | 9630439              |
| <i>McNamara, Eamon, Car/Tractor Repairs (24-Hour Service)</i> .....                                                 | Mob (086) 6061739; Tel                                                               | 9630386              |
| <i>Mercy Sisters, Hazelhill</i> .....                                                                               |                                                                                      | 9630108              |
| <i>Moran Coaches &amp; Minibus Hire, Knock Rd.</i> .....                                                            | Fax/Tel                                                                              | 9630346              |
| <i>Moran, Kieran, Building Services, Knox St.</i> .....                                                             |                                                                                      | 9630079              |
| <i>Moran, Donal, T.V. Systems, Knox St.</i> .....                                                                   |                                                                                      | 9630569              |
| <i>Moran, Tommy, Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St</i> .....                                       |                                                                                      | 9630493              |
| <i>Morley, M.J. &amp; Sons, Electrical &amp; Plumbing Cont. Boiler &amp; Pump Repairs, Lissaniskea, Bekan</i> ..... | (087) 6116372; 9380315                                                               |                      |
| <i>Morley, Tony &amp; Sons, Exterior and Interior Decorators, Knox St.</i> .....                                    |                                                                                      | 9630944              |
| <i>Mulhern, Edward, Taxi Service, Knock Rd.</i> .....                                                               | Mob (087) 6961579; Tel                                                               | 9630249              |
| <i>Mulrennan, James &amp; Sons, Ltd., Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens)</i> .....                           |                                                                                      | 9630038              |
| <i>Murphy, Eddie, &amp; Sons, Menswear Specialists, Main St.</i> .....                                              |                                                                                      | 9630651              |
| <i>Murphy &amp; Sons Autosales Ltd., Service Station &amp; Shop, Dublin Rd.</i> .....                               | (087) 2490634; Fax 9631440; Tel                                                      | 9630307              |
| <i>Nestor &amp; Co., Accountants, Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.</i> .....                                             | Fax 9631936; Tel                                                                     | 9632000              |
| <i>Nestor's Corner Bar, The Square</i> .....                                                                        |                                                                                      | 9631011              |
| <i>Newsround (Prop. Mohammed Jamil Ahmad), Newsagents/Toys/Gifts, Main St.</i> .....                                |                                                                                      | 9630897              |
| <i>Nicholson's Bar, Bridge St.</i> .....                                                                            |                                                                                      | 9630357              |
| <i>Noone, Dr. Patrick &amp; Moira, Ardpatrik</i> .....                                                              |                                                                                      |                      |
| <i>O'Boyle, Alex, Property Maintenance, Power Washing</i> .....                                                     | Mob (087) 9585992                                                                    | 9643903              |
| <i>O'Boyle, Seamus, Carrowreagh</i> .....                                                                           |                                                                                      |                      |
| <i>O'Connor, John, Ronoco Ltd., Doctor's Rd.</i> .....                                                              |                                                                                      | 9630037              |
| <i>O'Connor, Fr. John O.S.A., Duck Pool House, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford</i> .....                        |                                                                                      |                      |
| <i>O'Mahony, John, T.D. (Clinic Parochial Hall 3rd Friday of every month at 3pm)</i> .....                          |                                                                                      | 9373560              |
| <i>Occasions Royale, Weddings, Corporate Events, River Park; contact Maggie</i> .....                               | <a href="http://www.occasionsroyale.com">www.occasionsroyale.com</a> ; (086) 2624125 |                      |
| <i>P &amp; P Plastering Services and Building Contractors Ltd.</i> .....                                            |                                                                                      | 9630144; 9630715     |
| <i>Parochial Hall</i> .....                                                                                         | For bookings contact                                                                 | Mob (087) 7924439    |
| <i>Patterson, Noel, M.R.C.V.S., Main St.</i> .....                                                                  |                                                                                      | 9630113; 9630865     |
| <i>Phillips Clothes Shop, Dalton St., Claremorris</i> .....                                                         |                                                                                      | 9372020              |
| <i>Phillips Drapers, Main St.</i> .....                                                                             |                                                                                      | 9630368              |
| <i>Phillips Shoes, Main St.</i> .....                                                                               |                                                                                      | 9630368              |
| <i>Phillips, Eamon, High Class Victualler, Main St.</i> .....                                                       |                                                                                      | 9630381              |
| <i>Phillips, Paddy, Publican, Main St.</i> .....                                                                    |                                                                                      | 9630118              |
| <i>Red Square, Fast Food/Restaurant (prop. Seamus Grogan)</i> .....                                                 |                                                                                      | 9631360              |
| <i>Rochford Motors, Main Mitsubishi/Seat Dealers, Knock Rd</i> .....                                                | Fax 9630570; Tel 9630350; 9630163                                                    |                      |
| <i>Ruane, P., Radio &amp; T.V. Dealers/Repairs, Knox St.</i> .....                                                  |                                                                                      | 9630129              |
| <i>Ryan's Supervalu, Newpark</i> .....                                                                              |                                                                                      | 9630359              |
| <i>Scoil Iosa Primary School, Abbeyquarter.</i> .....                                                               | Fax/Tel 9630505; Tel                                                                 | 9630310              |
| <i>Stratford Photography</i> .....                                                                                  | (087) 2469355; Tel.                                                                  | 9630293              |
| <i>Tasty Dish, Restaurant, Knox St.</i> .....                                                                       |                                                                                      | 9632963              |
| <i>Timoney, Martin, Carrownedan, RECI, Electrical Contractor</i> .....                                              | Mob (087) 2398402                                                                    |                      |
| <i>Tynan Dillon &amp; Co, Chartered Accountants, Clare St.</i> .....                                                |                                                                                      | 9630261              |
| <i>Ulster Bank Ltd., Abbey St.</i> .....                                                                            |                                                                                      | 9630049              |
| <i>Valerie's Ladies &amp; Gents Hair Salon, Barrack St.</i> .....                                                   |                                                                                      | 9630681              |
| <i>Waldron, Anthony, Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh</i> .....                                                      | Mob (087) 4141462; Tel                                                               | 9631326              |
| <i>Waldron, Austin, Derrymore</i> .....                                                                             |                                                                                      |                      |
| <i>Waldron's Electrical Appliances, Knox St</i> .....                                                               | Mob (087) 6217839; Tel                                                               | 9631922              |
| <i>Webb, M. J., Master Butcher, Main St.</i> .....                                                                  |                                                                                      | 9630003              |
| <i>Weissenberger, Della &amp; Joe, New York</i> .....                                                               |                                                                                      |                      |
| <i>Western Bathrooms, Tooraree</i> .....                                                                            | Fax: 9630733; Tel 9630850; 9630860                                                   |                      |
| <i>Winston, Gerard (Sweeney Oil), Devlis.</i> .....                                                                 |                                                                                      | 9630395              |
| <i>Western Brand Group Ltd., Knock Rd</i> .....                                                                     | email <a href="mailto:wbrand@iol.ie">wbrand@iol.ie</a> .....                         | Fax 9630834; 9630069 |

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You can contact Annagh Magazine by email at the following address: [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net)





## ***Annagh Magazine Photo Competition For all our readers abroad!***

*Take a photo of yourself reading Annagh Magazine anywhere in the world. It can be somewhere exotic or far flung or with a famous landmark in the background. Surprise us!*

*The best 3 photo images received will win a copy of the 2010 magazine and will be posted to you anywhere in the world.*

*Entries can be sent by email to [annaghmag@eircom.net](mailto:annaghmag@eircom.net) (the image must be at least 8 megapixels) or by post to Annagh Magazine, Ballyhaunis. Closing date is October 22nd, 2010.*



## ***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 2010 is Friday, 22nd Oct. 2010.*

*The eventual inclusion of any article is subject to the discretion of the editorial committee.*

### ***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 memorial 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 Registers.*

*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***

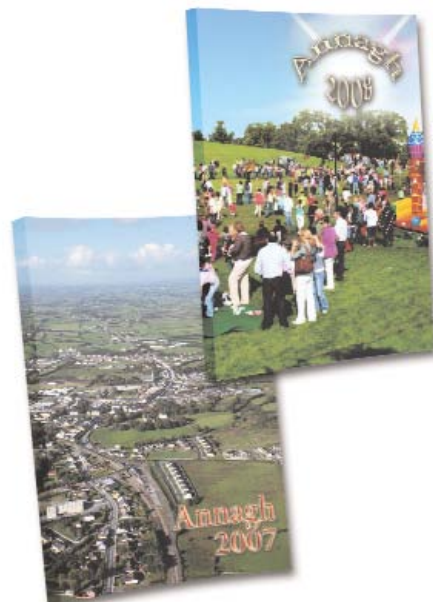
*All photographs should be fully named and dated, if possible, and the owner's name included on the back.*

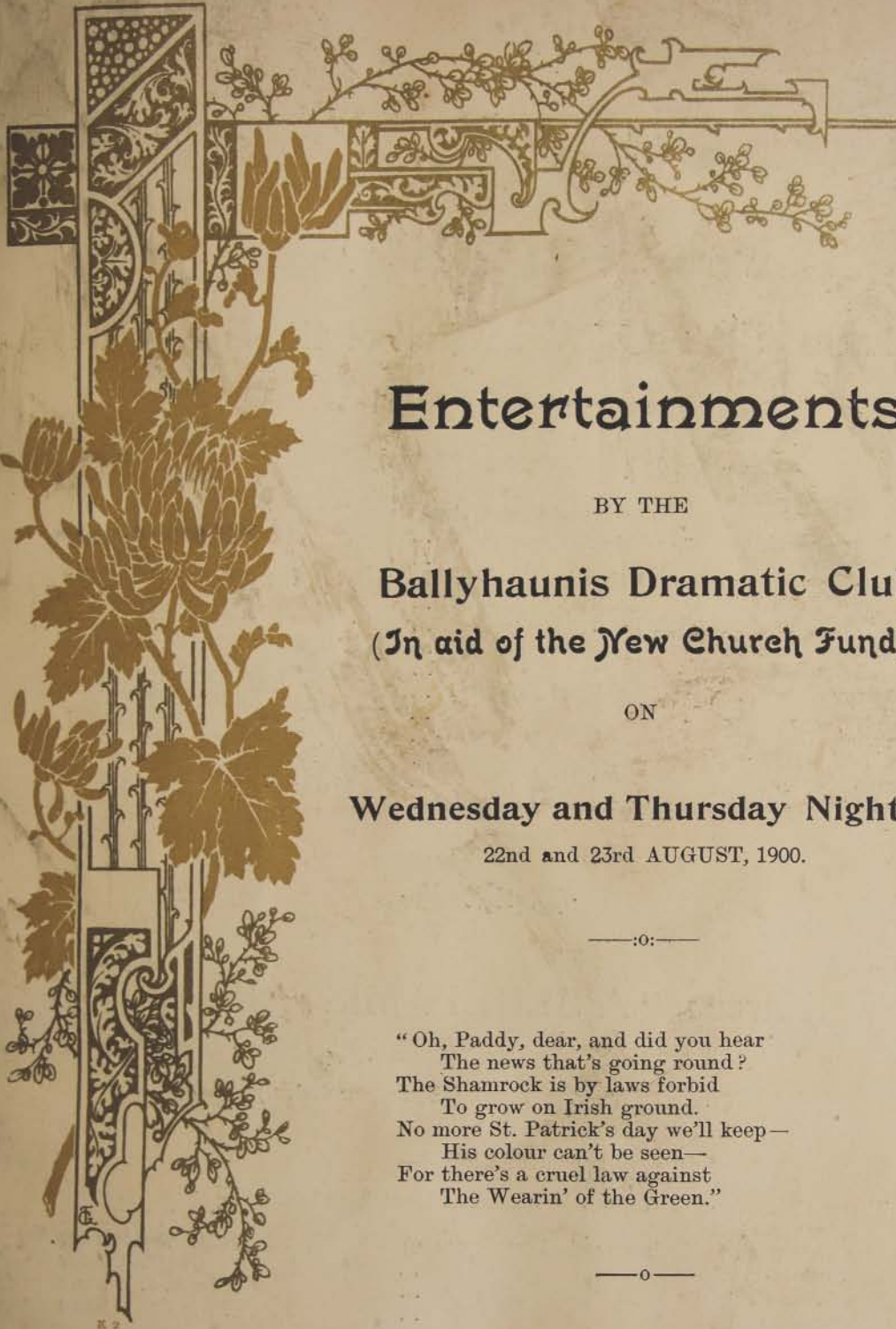
*The contributor's name will be published only if this is requested.*

*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.*





# Entertainments

BY THE

**Ballyhaunis Dramatic Club,**  
(In aid of the New Church Fund)

ON

**Wednesday and Thursday Nights,**  
22nd and 23rd AUGUST, 1900.

—:O:—

“ Oh, Paddy, dear, and did you hear  
The news that's going round?  
The Shamrock is by laws forbid  
To grow on Irish ground.  
No more St. Patrick's day we'll keep —  
His colour can't be seen —  
For there's a cruel law against  
The Wearin' of the Green.”

—O—

Doors open at 7.30 p.m.; performance at 8 p.m, sharp.

WESTERN PEOPLE,

BALLINA