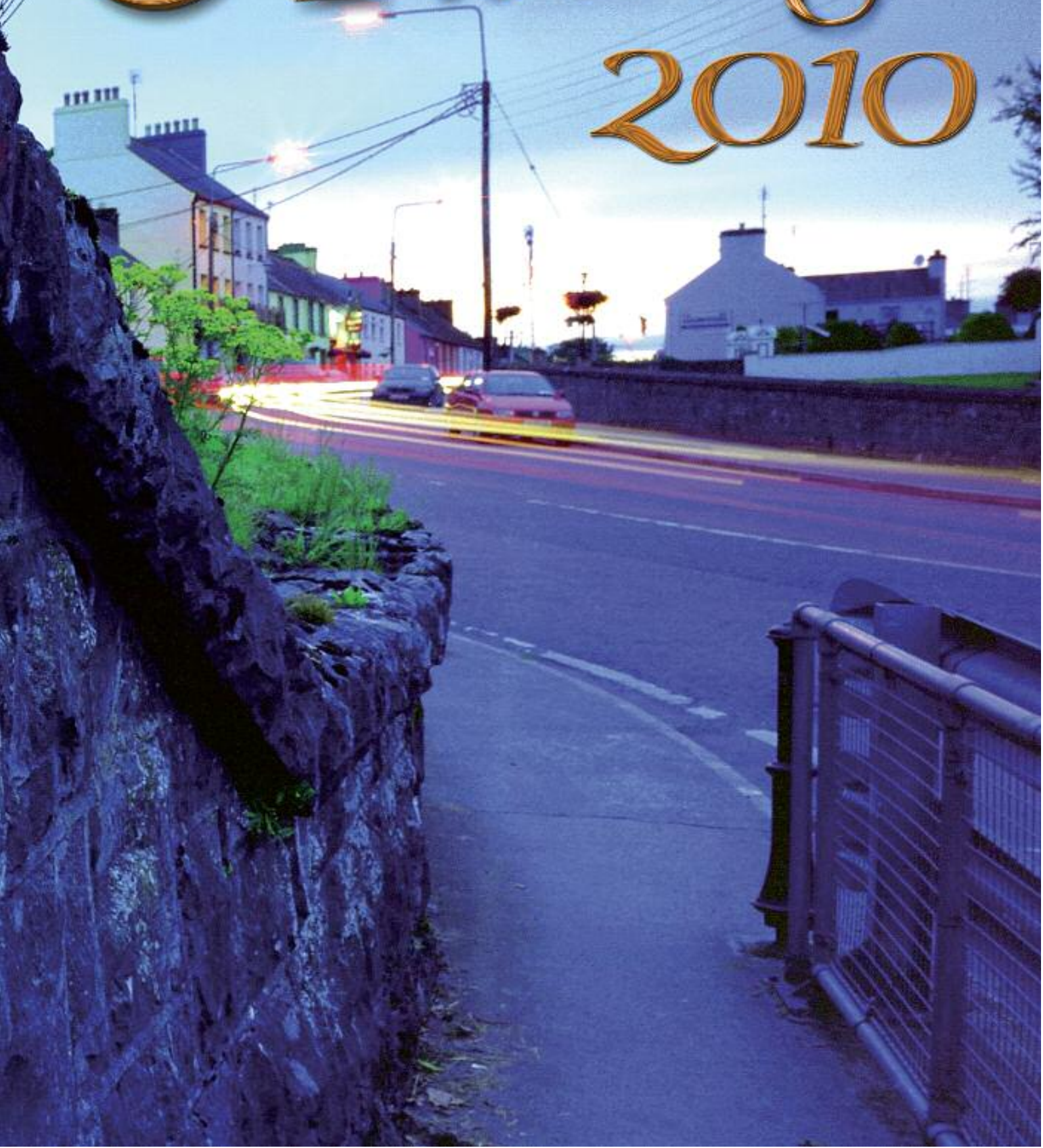


Annagh 2010



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

By Canon Joseph Cooney, P.P.

As we come to the end of another year and approach the Christmas season, I would like to wish all the people of the parish, and all Ballyhaunis people living abroad, a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing and happiness in the New Year.

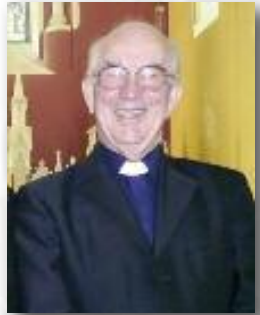
I extend a warm welcome to all who will be home for the Christmas festivities and it is my earnest prayer that nothing will happen over the Christmas or New Year to dampen the happiness of any family.

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

For most people, Christmas is a time of joy and happiness but for some it is lonely and sad. It can be lonely for people who are living alone and may not have anyone to visit them. It is sad and painful for those who have lost a loved one since last Christmas. Let us all remember them in our prayers on Christmas morning.

Christmas is a time of celebration and happiness, a time which lights up the long winter nights and it is quite right that we celebrate. However, we must never forget that we are celebrating the birth of Christ in a stable in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

On behalf of Father McHale and myself, I pray God's blessing on you and your families and wish you every blessing and every happiness this Christmas and in 2011.



Joseph Cooney

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS Greetings for 2010 to all our readers and friends of Annagh Magazine, and we hope it will be a good year for all. Just after we went to print last year, bad weather struck Ireland. Mind you, Ballyhaunis was spared in the November flooding. Very heavy rain devastated large tracts of farmland. The Shannon valley, south of Athlone, right down to Limerick, was devastated. Counties Offaly and Galway were particularly hard hit. In Ballinasloe the River Suck burst its banks and business premises and private property suffered colossal damage. In Cork the Inniscarra dam burst through and one hospital in Cork was sailing in a lake – not easy for patients or staff.

Then, during Christmas week snow came. This was followed by severe frost which continued throughout the month of January. Roads were treacherous and many couldn't get to Mass or go shopping. In upland areas elderly people had to be rescued by helicopter and taken to hospital. However, it all passed and we had a beautiful summer. The harvest was bountiful, the weather for harvesting crops was wonderful, and grain crops were the best for years.

Now maybe that's an omen for our economic woes. "The darkest hour is before the Dawn." Perhaps we are going through our dark hour and good times are on the way, Please God that is so!

Our new website, www.annaghmag.ie has been launched and includes back issues in PDF format of all Annagh magazines from the first issue in 1978, up to and including 2008.

We sincerely thank all our contributors of articles, notes and photographs. To our subscribers and readers, our special gratitude and we hope 2011 will be a good year for everybody. Go mBeirimid beo ar an am seo arís.

A Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all.

– Editorial Committee.

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2010

By Mike Byrne

JANUARY

The first weeks of 2010 will be remembered most of all for the weather. From St. Stephen's Day, '09, heavy snow, severe frost, the likes of which this generation has never seen, struck the west of Ireland. Temperatures of minus 14° Celsius in the east Mayo area, made roads treacherous and very dangerous in many areas, so much so that schools around the country remained closed for an extra week after the Christmas break, much to the delight of the school going children. The schools closure was directed by Minister for Education, Batt O'Keefe, TD... The annual Ballyhaunis Chamber Dinner was held in Knock House Hotel, and President Martin Fitzmaurice rendered a powerful speech, calling on all businesses in the town to work more closely together during these very economic times. The month of January saw many deaths in the community, and included Jimmy Finnegan from Bohogue, Pat (Catherine) Barrett and Kathleen Kavanagh of Clagnagh, Noel Dalton from Coolnafarna, Pat Gildea from Johnstown and Annie Hussey from Larganboy. Over 150,000 people are killed in Haiti following a massive earthquake in that country.

FEBRUARY

As the second month of the year comes and goes, temperatures remain at their lowest ever. Throughout the month of February, temperatures fail to get above 8° degrees Celsius. Well known former RTÉ Crime Correspondent, Tom McCaughren visits Scoil Íosa. The crime reporter, turned children author, enthralled the children with his wit and stories relating to the 15 novels which he has written. The County Antrim native worked as a broadcaster with RTÉ for 32 years, from 1968 to 2000.

MARCH

Ballyhaunis Chamber launch a new campaign to revitalise Saturday shopping in the town. The Super Saturday initiative involves the launch of a new website whereby shoppers can log on to find the best and most up-to-date bargains in the various stores around the town. The Chamber, under the presidency of Martin Fitzmaurice conduct a survey in the Ballyhaunis Community School, to examine ways to increase business in the town. Local singer, Olwyn Murray is the talk of the town during the opening months of the year when she appeared as a contestant on RTÉ's All-Ireland Talent Competition. Olwyn, who represented the West, made it all the way to the final, but was beaten on the final night of the competition by the Northern representative. Daughter of Adrian and Breda Murray, Upper Main Street, Olwyn did Ballyhaunis very proud during

the series with some outstanding performances. Ballyhaunis Under 13 footballers travel to Kerry to see Mayo defeat the Kingdom in Tralee. They are accompanied by their mentors, Vinnie Caulfield, Robbie Herr, Johnny Cribbin, Seamus Caulfield and Kevin Henry. The trip down south also included a training session for the youngsters with Kerry football star, Colin 'Gooch' Cooper.

APRIL

Ballyhaunis native, Anthony Jordan is guest speaker at the Mansion House in Dublin, where he was invited to address a gathering to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Dublin Samaritans. Anthony, author of a number of successful publications and biographies, was the guest of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Emir Costello...Fledgling local boxer, John Waldron is chosen to contest the vacant Irish Light heavyweight crown, to be held at the end of May...John is son of Tina and the late Seamus Waldron, Abbeyquarter..Ballyhaunis Town FC, the newly established soccer club play their first competitive games in Division of the FAI Welcome Inn Hotel Division Three league. The first game ends in defeat, but the second fixture, played at the club's new grounds at Station Rise sees Ballyhaunis defeat Ballina side, Parkside Celtic 6-2... Long serving shop assistant at Concannon's drapery store on Main Street, Paddy O'Connell from Drimbane is laid to rest... Geraldine Collins wins the first ever Irish Teacher of the Year award. Based in Gorthaganny primary school since 1995, Geraldine, who is a native of Cork, has been a resident of Ballyhaunis since 1991.

MAY

New multi sports facility is opened at the Friary Field by chairman of Mayo County Council, John Cribbin. Tributes galore are paid to the Ballyhaunis Councillor at the May meeting of the local authority which is held in the Parochial Hall. All elected representatives are very loud in their praise for the Ballyhaunis man on the great work which he achieved since being elected to the council chamber. Also at the meeting, Mr. Peter Hynes is officially installed as the new County Manager for Mayo. Mr. Hynes succeeds Mr. Des Mahon, who has occupied the position for the past number of years. The new manager is a native of County Galway, but has lived in Foxford for the past 23 years. May 15th, 2010 will be forever etched in the memory of Ballyhaunis man John Waldron... on this night of nights, John 'The Warrior', as he is known in boxing circles, wins the Irish Light Heavyweight title, in the University of Limerick Sports Arena. Son of Tina and the late Seamus Waldron (who

died only a couple of months before the bout), John defied the bookies odds by defeating Jamie Power on a verdict of 97 points to 91. Power, who was boxing in his native city was the overwhelming favourite to claim the title... GAA President Christy Coonan turns the sod at the Connacht Council Centre of Excellence at Cloonacurry, Began. The 65 acre site will have excellent training facilities with eight pitches, indoor training facilities and many other amenities. The project will take four years to complete. The sod turning ceremony, which was attended by sporting personalities from all over the province, was co-ordinated by Connacht Council Secretary, John Prenty. The centre is the first of its kind in Ireland.

JUNE

Mayo County Council Chairman John Cribbin officially opens the new extension and car parking facilities at Ballyhaunis Cemetery. The blessing is performed by Canon Joe Cooney, PP. The attendance also includes Deputy John O'Mahony, TD. and Councillor Richard Finn... The month of June is a super month in terms of good weather; temperatures reach into the 20's and a long spell of dry, warm weather, with showers of rain every other week, keeps everybody happy - well almost! Niamh O'Neill from Woodpark is a member the Claremorris Under 10 Girls Relay team which won gold at the All-Ireland Athletics Competition in Templemore Co. Tipperary. This was Niamh's second win in a matter of days: last week she won the gold medal in the 100 Metres Sprint in the Community Games. She is daughter of Stella (nee Morley) and George O'Neill, Woodpark.

JULY

Midwest Radio are among the top two most listened to radio stations in Ireland, according to the latest JNLR figures... Local singing star Olwyn Murray is awarded a scholarship to Liverpool's Institute for Performing Arts. Former Beatle, Paul McCartney is one of the many former graduates of the college... A Grave Survey is launched at Ballyhaunis cemetery. The survey lists every grave and its location at the burial ground going back to the late 1800's... Popular pharmacist Roisín Curley earns a scholarship to Australia with the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET).

AUGUST

The month of August ends on a very sad note when local bookie Peter Meenan is tragically killed in a motor accident on the Claremorris road. The Tory Island native came to settle in Ballyhaunis with his wife, Joan and family 28 years ago... Ballyhaunis native and Irish Runner editor Frank Greally is back on native soil when he officially starts the successful 10 K Road Race. Frank is the chief sponsor of the event... Derek Walsh wins the Captain's Prize (Emmet Keane) at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... John and Bernie Gill celebrate 10 years in business at

their popular Clare Street bar hostelry.

SEPTEMBER

On the first day of the month Micheál Murren retires from the teaching staff of Ballyhaunis Community School. Micheál is the last of the staff of 1977 which ushered in a new era in secondary education in Ballyhaunis, following the launch of the community school, 33 years ago... Over 100 years of history comes to an end when the Sisters of Mercy hand over the trusteeship of the local primary school to the Archdiocese of Tuam. The ceremony, held in St. Patrick's Church, is attended by members of the Mercy Order from many parts of the western province... Galway native Cormac Flanagan takes over the management of Londis supermarket on Abbey Street, previously operated by the Cunningham family. Cormac is nephew of Nora Cunningham, wife of former store director, Paddo... Former Ballyhaunis Community School student Siobhán Quinn from Classaroe heads off to Ghana where she will spend one year working as a lay missionary with Viatores Christi. Siobhán is daughter of Jim and Bernie Quinn, Classaroe... A new Youth Café centre is established following the inaugural meeting in the Friary House. The base for the youth centre is the site at the former DH Burke's supermarket, Upper Main St... Ruth Gill takes up a teaching appointment at Gorthaganny primary school. Ruth is daughter of John and Bernie Gill, Clare Street... Former Tooreen curate Fr. Paddy Sheridan dies following a long illness. Aged 74, the County Cavan man was well known in Ballyhaunis circles and was indeed very popular with one and all. He is laid to rest in the Oblate Orders burial grounds in Inchacore, Dublin. He ministered in Tooreen from 1998 to 2006... Ballyhaunis residents Manar Cherbatji, Clare Road and Talib Chaudhry, Clare Court, are appointed to the Government's new Ministerial Council for Integration. Over 500 non Irish nationals applied to become part of the new body and Manar and Talib will be two of 15 members representing the Connaught area on the ministerial council... Sr. Assumpta celebrates her 90th birthday at Cuan Chaitriona in Castlebar, while on the same weekend, fellow member of the Sisters of Mercy, Sr. Eithne Nolan celebrates the passing of her 80th birthday at a surprise celebration, held in the Parochial Hall.

OCTOBER

Ballyhaunis hurlers are the pride of the town when they capture the Mayo Senior Hurling title, for the third time in a row. They defeated neighbours Tooreen in a thrilling encounter... Ladies group Gracenotes release a fine new CD entitled Avé Maris Stella. The CD is recorded in the historic setting of the Augustinian Friary... Art exhibition opens at the Friary... John Aldridge retires from his position of director of music at Knock Shrine, where he has served since 1991.

A VISIT TO THE SOURCE OF THE RIVER SUCK

By Martin Meehan

At two in the afternoon, on 13th Sept. 2009, I set out on my bicycle from Moat, near Logboy, crossing through Cottage heading towards Corraun (commonly spelt with a 'G') where I turned left through Johnstown and continued on towards Ballyhaunis. At Ballyhaunis I turned right for Ballinlough passing the newly signposted townlands of Knockbrack, Kiltybo, Scregg and Leo. I had also passed this road the previous day and had spotted two gentlemen having a chat outside an old-fashioned two-storey house, about half a mile beyond the school residence.

This time I cycled in to the side door of the house as the gate was open. The dog barked at first but he was very friendly. I knocked on the opened door. A man was sitting on an armchair by the range and invited me in after I had explained who I was. His name, he told me, was Noel Dalton.

O'Donovan's Letter

I told Noel I had a letter written by a John O'Donovan of the Ordnance Survey in July 1837, that gave details of the source of the River Suck and of a conversation he had with an Edmund O'Flynn, who claimed to be a direct descendent of the O'Flynn's of the Castle in Ballinlough. I explained to him I was trying to prove for myself the validity of the contents of the letter. I read out John O'Donovan's letter dated 5th July 1837 to him as follows:

I travelled all this day thro' O'Flynn's country and traced the Suck to its very source. I had the very great luck to meet O'Flynn (Edmond son of Kellach) himself who walked with me to the source of the Suck, from the Esker over which he shewed (me) his ancient principality, of which he now holds but a few townlands in fee tail. He knows every bush in the parish of Kiltullagh, the names of which he pronounced for me sitting in Eiscir Ui Mhaonagain over Bun Suicín, in the townland of Culfearna, parish of Annagh and County of Mayo, from which we had an extensive view of O'Flynn's country, of Loch-Ui Fhloinn, Sliabh Ui Fhloinn, of the parish of Kiltullagh.

As soon as O'Flynn had learned that I was one of the oulde stock he commenced to give (me) a most curious account of his own family and of himself; the poor fellow is much embarrassed and, when I met him, was hiding from the Sheriff, who will arrest him for debt as soon as he can.

He and I sat down for five hours and a half over the source of the Suck, examining the name books of

Kiltullagh and viewing the wild scenery of O'Flynn's territory. I arrived here at 8 o'clock, having lost my dinner and my appetite. I ascertained the following facts from him which are very valuable to me:

- (1) O'Flynn's Country comprised the entire parishes of Kiltullagh (and part of Kilkeevan in Roscommon) and a considerable portion of Ballinakill near the village of Ballymoe in the County of Galway. His territory met O'Finaghty's (latterly MacDavid's) at the bridge of Glynsk. O'Finaghty south and south east and O'Flynn, west and north.*
- (2) The Mountain at this day called Sliabh Ui Fhloinn or O'Flynn's Mountain contains twenty townlands and lies partly in the parish of Kiltullagh and partly in that of Kilkeevan.*
- (3) Loch Ui Fhloinn i.e. O'Flynn's Lough most incorrectly (villainously) called Lough Glynn by Weld and others, gives name to the fair-town of Ballinlough and lies about half a mile directly to the north of it... Ballinlough is called in Irish Baile Locha Uí Fhloinn.*
- (4) O'Flynn's Castle, the foundations of which are still traceable - stood on the top of the hill between Ballinlough and the lake. The castle should be marked on the map as it gave name to a town in which there was a large fair to day.*

The patron saint of the parish is not remembered, but the old church and graveyard exist; and in the graveyard there are two round stones over the graves of two ecclesiastics, which, if they were removed a hundred times would come back uninjured, unimpaired.

Cill Tulach (Tulcha) signifies the church on the hill, which perfectly describes its situation. It is mentioned in the tract in the Book of Lecan (Folio 92) as one of the seven Coarbships of Hy-Manie. There are near 200 acres of church land in it...Whenever one of the O'Flynn's are on the point of death a banshee is heard most plaintively lamenting on the banks of the lough.

In the tract about Hy-Manie it is stated (that) the River Suck flows (issues) from a well at Slieve Formoye – 'Dealbhna ó áth liag co Suca mar a mbrúchtan as a tobar ag sliabh Formaíli' – but the river Suck does not issue from a mountain, nor properly speaking from a well! Its source (which) is called Bun Suicín, is a small pool of dirty mountain water lying (at) the west side of the Esker Ui Mhaonagain, in the townland of Culfearna, parish of Annagh, Barony of Costello, and



County Mayo, and this oozes through the esker and appears at the east side of it, not as a well (tobar) but in scattered tricklings of mountain water. From the east side of the esker onwards a small mountain stream runs eastwards into Loch Uí Fhloinn, which stream is called the Suck...

Now my opinion is that Sliabh Uí Fhloinn was anciently called Sliabh Formaili and that by ‘mar a mbrúchtan as a tobar ag Sliabh Formaili’, the Irish writer meant no more than, where the Suck rises out of the well (in or near) the mountainous district of Sliabh O’Flynn, then called Sliabh Formaili. Places have so changed their names, and lands and wells so altered their features that the topographer has no grounds left him but vague conjecture. But in the present instance, unless the source of the Suck has shifted its position, or unless the writer in the Book of Lecan has made the stream, which comes from the parish of Lough Glynn, the real source, or finally unless that writer was in error – which is not probable – the mountain now called Sliabh Uí Fhloinn must have been then called Sliabh Formaili...

John O’Donovan

After reading the letter out to Noel I asked him if I was in the right place to find the source of the River Suck. He explained to me there was a little lochán (a little lake) in one of his fields where, he said, the water soaks out through the hedge. Noel pointed out that there is another tributary that comes down across the road at the Mayo-Roscommon county mearing, on the N69, and that joins up with an other one at the back of the hills. It

Bun Suc, townland of Coolnafarna, parish of Annagh. Source of the River Suck. The back of Mears’ house on the main Dublin road is visible in the background.

then goes down through Clooncrim where Judges had a mill, and continues on back to Lough O’Flynn.

The field down by Noel’s house, below the railway, has a little lochán which is known as Bun Suc (the source of the Suck), right here in Coolnafarna. The mountain across the main road is called Doire na Buinne. The townland up there is called Laughil, it is just up past Leo. You can see five counties from it at the top of the hill. Johnny Flynn and Jimmy Flynn live up there. The other end of O’Flynn territory is in a place called Glinsk above Ballymoe on the way to Athleague. That’s the way the Suck goes. It joins the Shannon at Ballinasloe.

Source of the Suck

Noel told me that the water in the stream that comes down from Doire na Buinne joins the water in the stream that comes from the lochán on his land - and it’s the River Suck from then on. There is a lake very high up in Doire na Buinne. Locally it was called Frank’s lake: it was on Frank Mulrennan’s land. It was a good enough size and a lot of water used to come down from it. When you are up there you are looking down at the countryside all around you, and yet the lake is there and seems to remain there. Noel reckoned it was pure spring water. He said it had enough water to turn a mill and Moran’s mill used to be there over at the end of the village.

Noel said that the neighbours always reckoned that the source of the Suck was down here at the esker. He said the water comes out of the bog and goes back to the lochán in his field. He directed me down along the tarred road alongside his house. He explained it was tarred down as far as the railway line which was about a hundred yards in from the road. He said I would not have far to go to see the lochán. It was big this year because of the amount of rain. In a fine summer it reduces in size but does not disappear.

I hopped to his offer and proceeded down the little roadway to see for myself. I crossed the railway line as directed. The weather was very hot and I was glad to be able to pick the juicy blackberries as I strolled along. About a hundred yards after the railway line the roadway veered to the right. From here on the view was becoming more and more extensive every step I took. I could now clearly make out the majestic sight of Nephin in north-west Mayo. It's a mountain that reminds me of Mount Errigal in North Donegal. I cautiously proceeded to a high vantage point in a field in front of me. I was being cautious as there was a sign 'Beware of Bull'. I did not see any cattle in the field. However when I spotted the heads of cattle coming through a gateway at the bottom corner of the field I returned smartly back to the roadway. I continued along the roadway crossing over the brow of the esker. I then came to a derelict house. I knew I had gone too far as Noel had not mentioned this house. I turned back to the first side of the esker and turned left into a field which straddles the esker. I walked along the butt of the esker until I came to a wet spot of ground. I then proceeded through a fence and, sure enough, I had stumbled upon the lochán. No majestic flow of water from the esker, just a pool of water at the foot of the hill bordering a marshy piece of ground. I knew I was now in Bun Suc. I climbed half way up the esker and took a few photographs. Afterwards, Noel told me I should have gone to the summit of the Esker from where I would have a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. I retraced my journey back to the house, along the roadway, over the railway crossing and enjoying the blackberries – probably enough to make a pot of jam.

Noel explained that the water comes back from the bog, the bad land where it accumulates. You could probably say the Suck rises in the bog but there is always water there.

Noel mentioned that the land around Granlahan is very high up. He said "It is very high here in Coolnafarna and all the rivers in this area rise or have tributaries that rise right here. A tributary of the Dalgan rises over here and goes through my land up beside where the school was. There is a second tributary below in Scregg and the two meet up in Classaroe and then it turns up through

Ballyhaunis. I have two rivers rising on my land, and then there is a third river that rises below Killunagher - a tributary to the Moy. So, the sources of the three rivers are in this area – the Suck, the Moy and the Corrib. We are in a high area here. When you are going back along the road, when you come to the top of Scregg hill, keep an eye out for the spire on Ballyhaunis Church which is on a hill, and you will be the one level with the top of the spire, that's how high you are here. You are that much higher than Ballyhaunis town itself and you would not think it. You really are high up here and they reckon you can see five counties from the summit of Doire na Buinne – Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Sligo and Clare".

Protestant Families

There were seven or eight Protestant families in this townland. The old house beside Noel's belonged to a Burns family. Noel said his father's aunt was married to one of them. "She was a teacher and she married a protestant but she did not get excommunicated or anything like that", he told me with a laugh. "She would have lost her job if it was in our own time, but we were then under British rule and she was able to hold onto her job", he added. "She was a teacher in Coolnafarna school up the road. The school is gone now and a new house is built in its place." Originally it was in the Dalton land. The school closed in the early 1970s. There were three or four families of the surname Burns, sometimes spelt Bournes. There were also the Mears, Evans, Boyd and Pugh families. "They are all gone now", said Noel, "The last of them died there about twenty years ago. His name was Tom Mears. They were all nice people - as honest and straightforward as could be. They were good neighbours. We all got on well here."

Noel told me his father came from a place called Raherolus in Kilmovee - about three miles outside Ballaghaderreen. He said, "He was a blow-in up here. He came up to live with his aunt and uncle in the bad old times. He stayed here with them. My father came around 1890 and the Burns families were long established here then. They had nearly sixty acres. They had the biggest farm in the village. Morans had one hundred acres but they built it up fifty and fifty. Burns is sometimes spelt Bournes. They were buried in Ballinlough in the Protestant graveyard. There was an Alfie Burns, Michael Burns and an Andrew Burns and Robert Burns. There were five Burns in it. They had more land than the Catholics. There might be some records of the Burns coming to Coolnafarna in the Protestant Church".

The following day I check out the graveyard in Ballinlough and found the following inscribed Bournes headstones:

William Bournes (of Coolnafarna)
Died August 24 1867 Aged 31 Years
Also his wife Ann Bournes
Who died Feb 24 1905 Aged 69 Years
Their son Andrew, Died Feb 19 1939
His wife Frances Died July 12 1964
Their daughter Marjorie died Sept 9 1980
And son Richard died Jan 20 1984.
Mathew Bournes Died 27 March 1873
Aged 87 Years
Eliza wife of Mathew died 4 May 1879
Aged 80 Years
Their Daughter Eliza died 4 Jan 1860
Aged 30 Years

There was also an older flagstone to suggest they were there in the early seventeenth century.

Noel went on to tell me of his memories of old Robert Burns as he called him. He said, "In my father's time when the stations came around there was none held here until Robert Burns died. He was not anti the Catholic religion. He would always bring his wife and nephew into Mass in the horse and car."

"My father came here by himself without any of his family", Noel said. "He went to Liverpool where he

worked in a bar, but conscription was coming in - it was around 1915. He kept moving and moving to avoid it. Eventually things were getting very hot. At that time the Guinness used to be brought over in barges from Dublin. My father and a few fellows managed to get back over on the Guinness boat".

"When they landed in Dublin they did not know what to do. My father chose to come to Coolnafarna. So he came here. He joined the IRA. He slept out a lot as they were too near the road here and the cavalry used to pass quite often. My father stuck it out in the dugouts. They raided the house here a few times. On one occasion they pulled everything asunder – this was abroad in the old house. Old Robert Burns had a picture of Queen Victoria in one of the drawers. It seems his wife must have it taken out of the frame and put in one of the drawers. They came across the picture of Queen Victoria. The young fellows would not have known her but the older chap in charge recognised her and inquired 'where did you get this?' When explained he made the lads put all the stuff back again and tidy the place. It saved the day".

Sadly, Noel passed away on the 8th Jan. 2010, but hopefully this brief chance encounter will bring back happy memories to those who knew him.



OLWYN MURRAY

ALL-IRELAND TALENT SHOW FINALIST

Olwyn Murray first auditioned for the All Ireland Talent Show in Galway in September 2009 and made it through to the fifth live heat on 24th January 2010.

She came first in the heat for the West and made it through to the semi finals on 7th March. The final was held on 14th March where Olwyn came fourth overall. She trained under Vocal Coach Lavinia Slater Gilmartin in Ballina.

A past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School, Olwyn is now studying at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.

She is daughter of Adrian and Breda Murray of Upper Main Street, proprietors of the Clock Bar in Knox Street.

Olwyn would like to thank everyone for their support, and especially for voting for her in the different heats of the All Ireland Talent Show.

RAILWAY STATION 150th ANNIVERSARY

Next October, 2011, sees the 150th Anniversary of the opening of Ballyhaunis Railway Station in 1861. It is proposed to give special coverage in Annagh 2011 to the Railway and the Station, and their role in the history and development of Ballyhaunis and district. Anyone with photographs or memories to share, or any written contribution to make, would be welcome to contact any member of the editorial committee with a view to contributing towards this feature in next year's Annagh, as soon as possible.

BALLYHAUNIS SOLICITORS JOIN CAREER SUPPORT TEAM

Two solicitors, Emma Brogan and Eamonn Freyne - both of Ballyhaunis - have joined the Career Support team at the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin. The Society is the professional body for over 12,000 members and is the educational, representative and regulatory body of the solicitor's profession in Ireland. It provides services and support to its members in relation to education, enrolment, discipline and regulation of



Emma Brogan and Eamonn Freyne.

their profession. Solicitors have not been immune from redundancies in this current economic climate and the Law Society has responded by setting up the Career Support Service as a resource for solicitors faced with

career challenges. The Career Support Service provide members with wide ranging information and support including weekly updates on opportunities both nationally and abroad, a legal vacancies web-page, job seeking seminars, effective CV and Interviewing workshops, one to one consultations and general assistance via telephone/email.

Emma and Eamonn are the most recent recruits to the team in Dublin and coincidentally are both from Ballyhaunis. The following is an excerpt from a recent edition of the Law Society Gazette. "Emma (daughter of Dr. Michael and Laura Brogan of Doctor's Road) did a law degree in UCD followed by a Masters in European Law, and then trained with a firm in Galway, qualifying in 2009. She is also on the Roll of Solicitors in England and Wales. She particularly enjoys the training aspect of her career support responsibilities and delivers seminars and workshops to solicitors at locations throughout Ireland. She has a keen interest in sailing.

Eamonn (son of Sean and Ina Freyne of Clare Road) originally trained as an electronic engineer and worked in the US before returning to Ireland to work for Intel and subsequently IBM. Eamonn decided to pursue a long-term interest in the law, qualifying in 2008. He never expected to find himself advising other solicitors about career options, but views it as an interesting role! He enjoys the odd round of golf, seeing it as a great way to relax and meet other people."



**GURTEEN
EASTER
EGG HUNT,
2010.**



Dolores Byrne, Alex Byrne, Ellen Phillips, Katie Moran, Diarmuid Keane, Ailish Phillips, Cathy Fitzgerald, Aoife Mulrennan, Niall Coffey, Oisin Coffey, Cormac Phillips, Eamonn Phillips, Lucy Phillips, Orla Coffey, Erika Byrne, Maia Phillips, Aine Phillips, Clodagh Byrne, Lana Biesty, Tara Phillips, Emma Henry, Jessica Henry, Eva Henry, Conor Keane, Conor Henry, Roisin Henry.

FROM THE WHITE HORSE INN TO TOM GLYNN'S HAYSHED

By Seamus Caulfield

As a result of watching Paddy O’Gorman’s television documentary in which he visually portrayed Ballyhaunis as a rundown, dilapidated little town in the west of Ireland, I mentioned to a member of the Annagh Magazine committee that I might write an article. He suggested that I should write about the many Ballyhaunis people who had given freely of their time and travelled abroad to countries such as Haiti and South Africa, and helped with ongoing projects to build houses and shelter for the poor and homeless. However, in true Ballyhaunis form, when I approached some of these people they said that they hadn’t volunteered to be patted on the back or to get their names in the paper, and that they had gone and did what they did because they felt that it was the right thing to do. When I reported back to the committee member who had asked me initially to write a bit for the Annagh, he said - quick as lightning - “sure write a bit about growing up in Upper Main Street”, so here goes.

I was born in the Bon Secour hospital in Tuam in October 1969. My mother often says it was the only holiday she ever had as all of my siblings had been born at home in Upper Main Street. Upper Main Street, in the early ‘70s, was a hive of activity and, like every other town in the country, boasted far more small businesses and shops than are there today. We had ‘The White Horse Inn’ pub run by Mick and Mary Murray, Jordan’s, Glynn’s, Caulfield’s, Hopkins and Mulhern’s in what was, at that time, my part of Ballyhaunis - from the White Horse Inn up to Tom Glynn’s hayshed.

At that time there were three different age groups of lads on the street. At the senior level there were the Freely boys, Dermot and Davy, the Glynn’s, Tommy and Eamon, the Murrens, Michael and Eamon, and Rory O’Connor. The middle tier included the Grogans, Mike, Tommy and Seamus, the Caulfield brothers Tommy and Vinnie and John O’Connor. And at the lower level there was myself, Brian Murray and the Jordans.

Brian’s family moved to Upper Main Street in 1973 from London and, being around the same age, we became and are to this day great friends. Indeed it is Brian who is credited with giving me my nickname “Jivus”. Having spent the first five years of his life in London Brian had a strong cockney accent and when we used to play football in the Fair Green, the Lochán, Mac’s Hill, or even against Joe Conway’s stores gate at the bottom of the back-way hill, when Brian would call for a pass he would say in his strong London accent “pass the ball Seamus” and

Seamus said with a cockney accent does actually sound like ‘Jivus’. It wasn’t long before our other friends from Main Street including Paul and Pat Webb, the Keegan lads and the Phillips boys started calling me Jivus and to this day the name has stuck.

I remember on one occasion when Michael Murren was bringing us to an under-10 football blitz in Mayo Abbey we were one player short. Michael had to quickly recruit one other player before Bill Eganey’s bus departed. The only person he could find at such short notice was unfortunately a “few days” over 10, but he played as Seamus Caulfield and I was marked down as Jivus. I never did ask Hawley what he put down as the Irish for Jivus!

Our Pastimes

Different times of the year provided us with different activities. During the Summer our main pastime, apart from swimming in Annagh river or playing football in the Fair Green, was preparing for the Bonfire. Brian and I watched in awe as the older lads plotted and planned their raids on the Knox Street or Devlis gangs. I remember one year on the night before the bonfire we were recruited as part of the team to raid tyres from the Knox Street gang which were safely hidden in Morley’s shed at the back of Dolly’s. The new recruits were lifted by the older lads up onto the roof of the shed where we jumped down onto the tyres and opened the shed door from the inside. Five tractor tyres were the reward for our endeavours which were quickly rolled down to the river and out by the back of Delaney’s, in through Mac’s hill up the Backway hill and home - Brian and myself had arrived.

September for us meant just one thing... raiding apples, and there were many plentiful orchards inside and outside our domain. Within easy access was Jordan’s and O’Malley’s orchards, but for us the juiciest apples were to be found up in the convent. I think the fact that the nuns’ apples were in an orchard that was outside our comfort zone, and presented us with more of a challenge, was the main reason why we enjoyed our excursions up the avenue, and not that the nuns apples tasted any better than the apples we could easily raid without even leaving Upper Main Street.

In those days nearly all the town lads joined the Cub Scouts, later going on to become fully-fledged members of the Boy Scouts. We often went away on camps to Larch Hill, the Hell Fire Club and other exotic locations



*After a Station Mass at Culliney's,
Upper Main St., in the 1980s.
Back, L-R: Mrs. Mary Moran, Mrs. Delia Mulhearn,
Mrs. Peg Culliney.
Front, L-R: Micheál Murren, Mrs. Noreen Hopkins,
Mick O'Connell and Mrs. Kathleen Caulfield.*

around the country. During these trips the local rivalries developed through the street leagues and bonfires were all forgotten about for a few days as we all became proud Ballyhaunis boys, members of the 4th troop of the Mayo Boy Scouts.

Unfortunately, some of the many friends made during our camping trips and scout meetings in the Den are no longer with us. Brian Marrinan, Pascal Keegan and Damian Webb were just three of the many good friends I made during my few years in the scouts who are, regrettably, no longer with us, ar dheis Dé go raibh a n'anamnacha dilse.

The economic climate in Ireland in the late 70's and early 80's was far worse than it is today, however for an eight or nine year old young fellow the state of the economy was the last thing on my mind. We had far more important things to be getting on with, for example winning the Street League. Ballyhaunis in those days had many sports stadia: we played our home matches in the Fair Green; Knox Street played in a field at the back of the houses somewhere around Mrs. Moran's bookshop, Clare Street played at home in the field between Mike and John Cleary's house, the Devlis lads played in the friary field, while the Knock Road lads (the S.A.R gang) played their home games in a field behind Kieran Folliard's house. These were very serious games where pride of the parish was all important, yet in all the years playing I never remember anybody getting too badly hurt or injured or any serious rows or falling out.

We used to go everywhere on our bicycles and would think nothing of cycling out to Ballinlough Lake for a day's fishing. I remember one day when I was cycling out to Cullintra Lake I noticed a lone figure in the GAA pitch and stopped in to take a closer look. Who was it only Ted

Webb practicing his free kicks. I remember it as if it was yesterday, because Ted asked me to kick the ball back out to him each time he neatly kicked it over the black spot. At that time Ted Webb, to us, was like Georgie Best to kids in England, and I remember when I got home that evening telling my father about my afternoon with Ted and him asking me "did he put many over?" To this day that memory stays with me so vividly because shortly afterwards Ted tragically lost his life and we, as young lads in Ballyhaunis, had lost a local hero.

My father was very interested in all sports but he had a special grá for Gaelic games, greyhound racing and horseracing. During the week in our shop the sporting events of the weekend would be discussed in great detail - how did Darby, Fitz, J.J, Ted or Tony play? Was Tommy Carberry a better jockey than Lester Pigott? Would Danny Dolan be any match for Dermot Earley? Or would our own dog 'Suitcase Factory' ever win in Galway?

I remember on many occasions my father and our great friend and neighbour Johnny Murren having many heated debates on sports, politics or current affairs which would, more often than not, be sorted out later in the evening in 'The Cape' or Mick Murray's, with the assistance of Brod Moran, Eddie Fitzgerald, Pat Curran, Johnny Henry, Jack Culliney, Eamon Phillips and Bill Curran. Unfortunately all the aforementioned have passed on to the 'middle room' in the sky.

Times have changed over the last thirty years. Kids today wonder how we ever survived without a mobile phone, playstation or laptop. Ballyhaunis today is a progressive multicultural town not unlike many other small towns throughout Ireland. Recently, while bringing five young fellows to an under 12's match I smiled to myself when I observed that three of the lads were of Polish, Nigerian and Pakistanian extraction and thought about how Hawley would have dealt with the translation for the team sheets.

I am always proud to call Ballyhaunis my hometown. However, I think that it is not until you move away from home for a while that you appreciate the many qualities and intrinsic worth of the town. The town is lucky to have a number of factories and businesses employing over a thousand people from the town and its hinterland. Many of these enterprises started of as small family operations that have been built up over the years through hard work and community spirit. We should be very proud of these achievements and must support them in every way possible.

For that reason, when or where-ever the opportunity arises we must all do our best to promote and put forward the town, its locality, its highlights and its people.

Up the Haunis!

BALLYHAUNIS A.B.C. (AID FOR BELARUSSIAN CHILDREN)

By Olive Lyons

This year Ballyhaunis A.B.C. hosted eight children and their interpreter from the Mogilif region of Belarus. The children arrived on Friday, 25th of June for a month's rest and recuperation. Families from Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas hosted the children and their interpreter.

During the first two weeks of their stay the children enjoyed a day out in Westport House followed by a visit to MacDonald's on the way home. Later on during their stay they spent an evening in Graune Pet Farm. Both trips were enjoyed immensely by the children. Their stay was also made enjoyable for them by their get-togethers in the Oak Bar.

The children returned to Belarus on Sunday, 25th July after a very enjoyable and memorable holiday, thanks to all the families concerned. It is heart-warming to see all the support we get from the community even in the present recessionary times.



Members of Ballyhaunis A.B.C. with children from the Mogilif region of Belarus, and their interpreter, who spent a month in Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas this summer.



Sr. Eithne Celebrates 80th Birthday

*L-R: Pauline Curley,
Maisin Meath,
Sr. Eithne,
Martha Grogan,
Monica Egan,
Frances Maye and Anne Egan.*

JOHN CRIBBIN - BALLYHAUNIS POSTMAN

By John McNicholas

A couple of years ago I discovered the attached photograph of a Ballyhaunis Postman, John Cribbin, in the 1978 Christmas edition of "P-agus-T", the then Department of Post and Telegraphs staff magazine. It was used to illustrate a story about Post office families in Ireland and was one of three photographs of Cribbins who worked for the postal service, the others being John's son Philip (Longford, R.I.P.) and his grandson Billy.

John Cribbin was my great-grandfather and his son Tommy, who was also a Ballyhaunis Postman, was my grandfather, and as I was one of the fourth generation of the family to work for the P & T (later divided into An Post and Telecom Éireann/Eircom) I set about finding out more about the man in the photograph and the start of the family connection with the postal services. With the aid of old family documents and previous research I discovered the following information:

John Cribbin was born in Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis on either August 31st or September 1st 1866, son of Thomas Cribbin of Lecarrow and Honoria Waldron originally from the townland of Cave – both members of long established Ballyhaunis families.

His father Thomas Cribbin had emigrated to Birmingham, England in his teenage years, but returned to Ballyhaunis where he took up employment as a carter in the building of the local railway line in the early 1860's. Thomas and his wife Honoria had nine children, six of whom emigrated to America (some, it is alleged, on the run due to their Fenian activities). Three remained at home: John, whom we will discuss below; Margaret who married Pat Keane from Annagh and was mother to Michael A. Keane, founder of Keane's Kitchens on Clare Street; and Thomas who reared a family in the family home place in Lecarrow.

John Cribbin attended the local National School and was then apprenticed to a local shoemaker. After some years he set up his own shoemaking business in Ballyhaunis, where he employed several workers making shoes and boots for the local population. In 1886 he married Nora Waldron from Drimbane, a sister of Philip Waldron NT and renowned Irish scholar. They lived in Abbey Street (later Smyth's house) until 1899. Around that time the Industrial Revolution was responsible for the mass production of factory-made shoes and John's business closed down. He then took up employment in the local Post Office. I don't know if the loss of the business or a desire on Nora's part to move back nearer home was the reason, but the family moved out of town to Drimbane,



Ballyhaunis Postman - John Cribbin

where his grandson Seamus Cribbin and his wife Angela now live.

As was common in those days John and Nora had a large family of sixteen children which included a couple of sets of twins. Unfortunately, some of the children died while still very young, but those that survived went on to be successful in their own right and their descendents are now spread all around the world.

Of John's sons at least five worked as Postmen: Austin, Tommy, Jack, Michael and Philip. The first four spent their time in Ballyhaunis or Claremorris while Philip was transferred to Longford.

Grandchildren of John Cribbin who still live, or did live, in or near the Ballyhaunis area include Gerry Cribbin (RIP), Seamus O'Boyle, Noreen Horkan, Terry Cribbin, Noreen Connolly, Nan Burke, Maureen Kilkenny and Seamus Cribbin.

NELLIE LAVIN – 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

In 1910, the year that Eamon de Valera was married and the Irish Countrywomen's Association was founded, Nellie Kirrane was born.

In Tuam, on the 10th of September 2010, surrounded by family and friends, she celebrated her 100th birthday. Nellie was actually born on July 16th 1910 but, due to the fact that her birth was not registered for almost two months, she was not recognised as being officially 100 until mid-September! She has lived through World Wars and the Cold War, the nuclear age and the information age, the development of air travel and space travel, the invention of the light bulb, the car and the phone, and has seen the introduction of electrification and decimalisation – 100 years of development and change in a single lifetime.

Nellie spent her childhood in a small village called Ranahard near Brickens, between Ballyhaunis and Claremorris. At the age of nineteen she said goodbye to family and friends and left for America. She spent ten years in New York before returning home for a holiday in 1939. But during that holiday she met the love of her life and that return ticket was never used. In 1941 she married Tim Lavin from Mayo Abbey. Tim was a Ganger with Mayo County

Council. They lived in Balla for a few years before making their home in Began, where they reared their family of four children - Maureen, Michael, Catherine and Joan. Nellie was a wonderful homemaker and could turn her hand to anything. She loved knitting and sewing but her greatest pleasure was her garden from which she produced an endless supply of vegetables, potatoes and

fruit. After just twenty-five years of marriage, Tim passed away at the early age of fifty-four. Nellie continued to live in Began until moving to Tuam to live with her daughter Catherine Wynne in 1994.

To mark Nellie's 100th birthday, Mass was celebrated in the home of Noel and Catherine Wynne by Fr. Sean Cunningham. A big crowd of family, friends and relations gathered to wish Nellie all the best for reaching this wonderful milestone. Nellie's family includes her son and three daughters, 13 grand-children and 10 great-grandchildren.

Congratulations Nellie on so many happy and healthy years!



*Pictured above:
Four Generations
- Nellie with her
daughter Catherine,
grandson Derek and
her great-grandson
Adam Wynne.*



Nellie with her son Michael (Cloonfad), daughter-in-law Chris and her grandsons Timothy and Michael Lavin.



*Lavin Ladies - Nellie and her three daughters -
Joan Griffin (Dublin), Maureen Doody (Newbridge)
and Catherine Wynne (Tuam)*

RETURNING HOME TO CLARE STREET

By Charlie Glynn

The purpose of my visit to Ballyhaunis this past summer was twofold. Firstly, to visit my friends and neighbours, and secondly, to participate in St. Nathy's College Bicentenary celebration. Both, may I add, were a great success.

Meeting my friends from the past was great. I really appreciated Pauline Curley's hospitality. Visiting with Maisín Meath, John Cleary, Thomas Lyons and Sean Freyne was a treat. It was great talking about old times. Sean, John and Thomas reminisced about the girls we thought we were in love with, the ball games we won and lost, and the games we thought we should have won. We recalled playing cowboys and Indians on Mac's Hill, the ball games on Brod's Field, and the summers we spent roaming the hills without a worry in the world.

Eventually we grow older and decide what we want to do in life. I passed my leaving cert in 1963, and after a brief stay at All Hallows, I decided to join my sister Pat and my brother John in Chicago. I worked and attended evening classes at DePaul University. As I was not a full time student I was drafted. However, instead of going into the Army I decided on the Air Force. I had my basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Lackland is close to San Antonio so I did have a chance to visit that city and see The Alamo.

My first assignment after basic training was Eglin AFB, Florida. Eglin is located in northwest Florida on the Gulf of Mexico. For an Irish lad who was used to snow and cold weather this was perfect. It has beautiful beaches and very nice weather for most of the year. Life was quiet on Eglin. The usual tour on one base was two years and mine was no different. I received orders for Okinawa and arrived there in October 1968. I flew from San Francisco to Anchorage, Alaska and from there to Japan and then to Okinawa. The island of Okinawa is off the coast of Japan. The area of the island is about 450 sq. miles. The southern portion contains most of the population. The northern portion is mountains and forest.

The island's climate is hot and humid and typhoons frequently strike in summer. During World War II some of the most bitter fighting took place there. Okinawa remained under control from 1945 to 1972 when it was returned to Japan. I did have a chance to do some touring on the island. There are a lot of ruins and the graveyards are fascinating. The Okinawans love to build large and ostentatious graves. In fact, it got to the point that the government had to put a limit on the size and the amount of money that could be spent on a grave.



L-R: Charlie Glynn, Thomas Lyons and John Cleary, all of Clare Street, Ballyhaunis.

Top photograph taken in 1955 outside Alice Lyons' (Thomas' mother) Shop, Clare Street.

Bottom photograph taken in the same place, Summer 2010.

Sound familiar?

During this time the Vietnam War was in full swing and most of the efforts of the Armed Forces was to support the war. However, on January 23, 1968 the North Koreans hijacked the USS Pueblo and its crew and within twenty four hours I was in South Korea on an air base called Osan. I spent six months there. I did not get to see any of Korea as it was all work and no play. I did get rotated back to Okinawa for two months. I returned again but this time to Kwangju. This is a very large city in the most Southern part of South Korea. Kwangju was my first experience of a large city outside of Ireland and the United States. The city is sprawling and I guess they had never heard of zoning laws. I returned to Okinawa and, in May of 1969, was Honorably Discharged.

I decided to stay in San Francisco, and it was there I met my wife Vicky. When we decided to have a family we moved to Vicky's hometown of Marysville, California. Marysville is located about forty miles north of Sacramento. It is mostly an agricultural area. To condense down a bit, we are now empty nesters. Our daughter Amanda lives in Bakersfield, California with her husband Doug. They are expecting their first child early next year. Our son Josh lives with his wife Lisa in Clovis, California and my eldest son Charles lives in Detroit with his wife Paula and our two grandchildren Lys and Charles.

Like most Irishmen, I have an interest in politics and tend to lean to the right of center. I would like to discuss more but we do not have enough room.

In conclusion, I am very happy to have made the trip. If all goes well and "the Good Lord willin' and the creek don't rise", I plan to make another trip for my college 50th reunion.

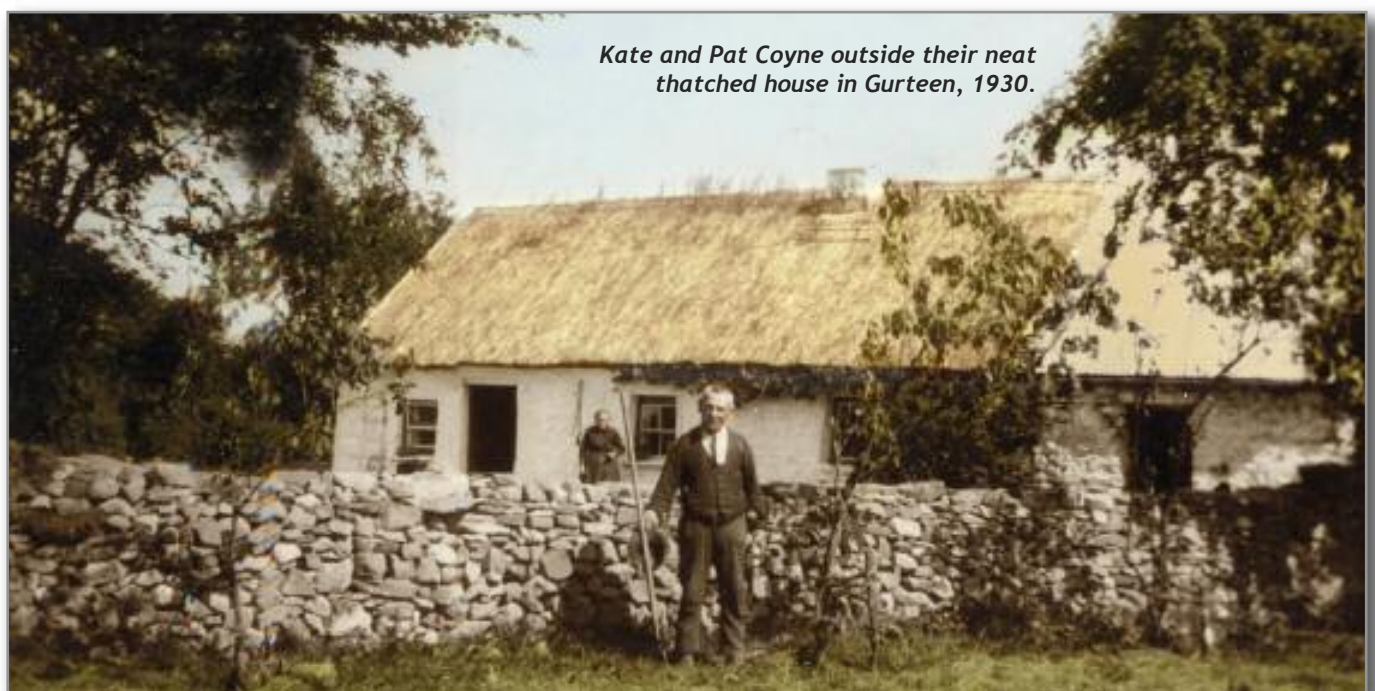
Pictured right: Pauline Curley and Charlie Glynn meet again after thirty-five years.



Clare Street Reunion, Summer 2010.

Standing, L-R: Charlie Glynn, Mary Frances Cleary, Thomas Lyons, Edward Mulhern, Grahame Cleary.

Seated, L-R: John Cleary, Maura Griffin and Sean Freyne.



Kate and Pat Coyne outside their neat thatched house in Gurteen, 1930.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

By Eamonn Murren

I was just thinking the other day that isn't it funny how we address people in these politically correct times? It seems to be Canon Joe and Father Benny and even Bishop Michael. In my younger days it was Fr. Rushe, Fr. Heraty, Fr. Diskin, etc. We would even salute a priest in those days. Of course at St. Patrick's College it was a little different. The President was known as "Paddy Cos" and another priest as "Mac". Not to their faces, I hasten to add.

Even in Upper Main Street there were some people who were addressed in a different way. It was always Tom and Noreen Hopkins, and Vinnie and Kathleen Caulfield, but it was Jim and Mrs. Mulhern, Johnny and Mrs. Henry, Tom and Mrs. Glynn. There was Mrs. Regan and Mrs. Shryane and Miss McDermott and Miss Clifford. Further down the town there was Miss O'Reilly who lived across from the church, and Miss Kilbride who worked in Gallagher's.

It was Dr. Waldron and Dr. Joyce not Eamonn or Tommy. It was Sergeant Nally and Sergeant Curran, not Pat or Bill. I recall the late John Marrinan telling a story of a man who went in to get his dole form signed and said, "How are you Guard Marrinan?" The same man met him on the street ten minutes later and said, "How are you John?" That man had his house in order.

In Clare Street we got lovely chips from Mrs. Glynn. To this day I don't know what her Christian name was. We used to buy sweets at Monica Dillon's in Abbey Street. We always called her "Mrs. Woman". Back in Clare Street it was Alice Lyons but Mrs. Byrne and Mrs Grogan.

Knox Street had Kitty Mitchell and Noreen Morley. But it was Mrs. Callaly and Mrs. Kenny, and of course we had Fred and Maura Herr.

Of course we had and still have lots of nicknames. I myself, after having been christened John Edward Blaise was then called Eamonn. This later changed to Ned, after my maternal grandfather. Then in my football days I got the name Barney. You can imagine the confusion to some strangers when I enter some place and am called all three names by three different people.

Some nicknames came about to differentiate between families of the same name in the same areas. In Ballindrehid/Annagh for example, there is Horse Lyons, Twin Lyons and Curate Lyons to name but a few. In Upper Main Street we had "Black" Mick Moran, who was a blacksmith, and "Red Mick" who had ginger hair.

The late Tom "Short" Cribben used to referee a lot of matches in his younger days. I remember him refereeing a county U-21 final between Castlebar and Hollymount that ended in a draw. The following week at a County Board meeting the game was re-fixed with Tom Cribben (Ballyhaunis) as referee. Hollymount objected because they wanted Tom Short to be the referee!

Nicknames have always been associated with Ballyhaunis. Darby, Jivus, Toto, Dolly, Baa, Kojak, Chew, Minister, Baron, Speedy are a few that come to mind. How they all got their nicknames is for another day. So from me Eamonn... Ned... Barney - have a happy Yuletide!



Pictured left: The Kelly Triplets at the Galway Races. Children of Margaret (nee Healy, Ballindrehid) and Seamus Kelly, Oranmore. Photograph by Ray Ryan, Tuam Herald.



Aoife Mulrennan, Tara Phillips and Emma Lyons, at the Gurteen Bonfire.

THE MURPHYS OF MAIN STREET

122 YEARS IN BUSINESS

By Rita Meally (nee Murphy)

In compiling and researching information for this article, I wish to thank my cousins and relatives for their support: Mary and John Glavey, Aghamore; Michael Murphy, Limerick; Fr. James Ronayne PP Clifden, Co. Galway; and Bernardine Mitchell, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon. I am also grateful for all the information and support received from Fr. Patrick Mullins PP Began, the South Mayo Family Research Centre, Ballinrobe, the National Archives and National Library, Dublin. This article will focus on the three families who were foremost in the development of the Murphy family in Main Street: Murphys, Ronaynes and Glaveys.

Murphys

Edward Murphy, my great-grandfather, a small farmer of Cussalough, parish of Began, was born in 1809. He married Bridget Rachtigan from the same village and parish in 1842. They had six children: Michael, Thomas (grandfather of Michael who has given me much worthwhile

information for this article and is now in his eighty-eighth year), Mary, Catherine, Edward (my grandfather) and James.

Edward, my grandfather, when aged thirty-four, married Winifred Ronayne, aged twenty-two, from Lurgan, parish of Began, in Ballyhaunis church on the 21st Jan. 1888.

Edward and Winifred started a merchant business in Main Street (townland of Carrownluggaun) in 1888. They had ten children: Martin (who passed away soon after birth), Winifred (Sr. Bernard, Presentation Convent, Tuam), Patrick, Margaret ('Birdie' who married Patrick Phillips, victualler, Main St., grandparents of Patrick Phillips), Kate ('Kitty'), Fr. Michael (PP Dromore West, Co.



Thomas and Lily Murphy (nee Glavey), taken in 1944.

Sligo), Edward, Thomas (my father), Annie (who married John Walsh, Ballina) and John.

Thomas, my father, was born on the 7th Aug. 1899. He married Elizabeth ('Lily') Glavey on the 20th June 1944. They continued on the business in Main Street which consisted of a licensed premises with select bar, grocery and variety goods store, with all types of grain and animal feed. They had three children: Miriam, Rita (myself) and Edward.

Edward, my brother, married Nuala Kenny and the business continued in the form of variety goods until it diversified into menswear in the early 2000s. They had two sons: Thomas and Edward Jnr. Both Edwards are in the menswear business in Main Street and have expanded the outlet over the years.

Ronaynes

My great-great-grandparents were Roger and Catherine Ronayne of Kinnakinelly, Milltown, Co. Galway. They had seven children: Fr. Thomas, Fr. James, Roger, Bartley, Peter (who died young), Mary and John. Mary married J. Cunningham and they had one son Fr. Patrick and three daughters who would go on to become nuns in Mount Sackville.

John, my great-great-grandfather, married Mary Dooley and they had ten children: Roger, Fr. Bartley, Fr. Tom, Katie, Alphonsus, Mary, James, Michael (my great-grandfather) and two children who died at birth. Michael married Winifred Ralph of Lurgan, Bricks in the mid 1800s. Winifred was niece of Fr. Owen Coyne who became parish priest of Annagh in 1836. Fr. Coyne lived in Lurgan (at that time a part of Annagh parish), where he owned a farm of land. He was transferred to Aghamore in 1851 upon which his farm was divided between his two nieces Winifred (my great-grandmother) and Honor Coyne, with Winifred getting the larger portion of the land. When Fr. Coyne died in Aghamore in 1866 his two nephews, Fr. Martin Ralph and Fr. Eugene Coyne erected a mural tablet in his memory which remains in the church in Aghamore to this day.

Michael Ronayne and Winifred Ralph had ten children in all: Michael (later Fr. Jarlath, Cistercian Abbey, Roscrea), Roderick, Fr. Thomas PP Mountbellew, Fr. James, John, Mary, Winifred (my grandmother, who married Edward Murphy of Main Street), Kate (wife of Michael Flanagan, Bricks, and mother of Tom Flanagan, County Surveyor

and of Sr. Canice, South Africa), Ellen (wife of J. Donnellan, Castlerea) and Thomas (who married Maggie Ellen Biesty and had four children: Eileen, Michael, Thomas and Winifred). It so happens that Thomas and Maggie's daughter Winifred married Thomas Murphy, who was the son of my grandfather Edward Murphy's brother Thomas and his wife Mary Egan. Michael Murphy (Limerick), who had contributed to this article, is the son of Winifred and Thomas Murphy. Consequently, Michael is related to the Murphys in Main Street on both sides of the family!

Glaveys

My great-grandfather Thomas Glavey, a merchant, was born in 1826. He lived in Scregg House and had a farm of land in Aghamore. Thomas married my great-grandmother Catherine Kneafsey (born 1830) who was from Coogue near Aghamore. They had seven children, including my grandfather John Glavey (born 1855). Some time in the late nineteenth century the family moved to Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, to continue in the merchant trade.

My grandfather John Glavey married Bridget 'Delia' O'Brien of Gurraun in the parish of Annagh on the 15th Apr. 1886. Bridget was the daughter of the miller Morgan O'Brien. They lived in Scregg House and had ten children (see family photograph, taken in 1911): Thomas 'Sonny' (who was the father of John Glavey, Scrigg, Aghamore who contributed to this article), Mary 'Baby' (who married Martin Horkan, Swinford), Michael, Agnes (Castlerea post office), Patrick, Timothy (GPO, Dublin, whose son is Dr. Tim Glavey, Swinford), Bridie (Castlerea post office), John (General Practitioner, Knockroe, Castlerea), Dermot (Chemist, Evans Drug Co.) and Elizabeth 'Lily' (my mother).



John and Bridget Glavey (nee O'Brien), taken in 1911.

John Glavey (my grandfather) died on the 4th Sept. 1942 and his wife Bridget 'Delia', my grandmother, died on the 20th Aug. 1946.



Elizabeth 'Lily' Glavey (my mother) who was born on the 1st Aug. 1911 married Thomas Murphy on the 20th June 1944. They continued on the licensed and merchant business. Thomas (my father) died on the 17th Aug. 1982 aged eighty-three years and Lily (my mother) died on the 17th Nov. 2000 aged eighty-nine years.

The Glavey family, Scregg House, Aghamore, 1911.

Back, L-R: Thomas, Agnes, Michael, Mary 'Baby', Patrick. Front, L-R: Timothy, John Snr., John Jnr., Dermot, Bridget with Elizabeth 'Lily' (six months) on her knee and Bridie.



Main St., Ballyhaunis, taken in the 1890s (courtesy of the National Library of Ireland, Dublin)

'Brief Historical Notes'

"The first National School in Ballyhaunis was opened in Knox Street, in a building called the 'Old Courthouse' on the site of the houses afterwards built by Mark Waldron. That would be before 1865. The teachers were John Grogan (who afterwards went to Frenchpark) and Andrew Forde." *As told to Dr. Michael F. Waldron by John Glavey of Knox St. (aged about 88 years) on April 23rd 1942.*

"The first house on the west side of Knox Street was built by Edward Judge about 1874. About the same year, David Morley started Bridge Street by building a hotel. Hubert Treston built the next house, and so on. John Judge next two, after J. M. Conry's. *As told to Dr. Michael F. Waldron by John Glavey of Knox St. (aged about 88 years) on May 1st 1942.*

"Pollnacraoghy farm was split up by the Congested Districts Board, and divided amongst eligible tenants in November 1920."
Dr. Michael F. Waldron.

BALLYHAUNIS**Co. Mayo**

Population—1,174.

Market Day—Tuesday.

Early Closing Day—Thursday.

Agricultural Machinery

Johnston, T., Knox St.

Auctioneers & Estate AgentsCaulfield & Halpin, Main St.
O'Brien, J., Main St.**Banks**National Bank Ltd., Knox St.
Ulster Bank Ltd., Abbey St.**Bottlers (Wholesale)**

Durkan, J. & Sons, Abbey St.

Builders & ContractorsDyer, P. & Sons, Main St.
Eagney Bros.
Moran, D., Knox St.
Moran Bros., Tooree**Car Hire**Flatley, Thomas M., Main St.
Folliard, Michael, Upper Main St.
Freeney, Patrick D., Upper Main St.
Kearns, Patrick, Upper Main St.**Carrier & Haulier**

Fitzgerald, E., Jnr.

Cattle DealersCribbin, Anthony, Main St.
Webb, James, Main St.
Webb, Joe, Devils**Chemists**Byrne, B., Bridge St.
Curley, M., M.P.S.I., Main St.
O'Connor, John, Main St.**Cinemas**Cinema, Upper Main St.
Star Cinema, Clare St.**Coach Builder**

McGuire, J., Upr. Main St.

Concrete Products

Grogan, Austin, Upper Main St.

Cycle DealersBiesty, E., Knox St.
Lynch, B. T., Main St.
Lyons, B., Bridge St.**Drapers**Army-Air Force Store, Knox St.
Concannon, T., Main St.
Fahey's, Main St.
Forde's Ltd., Knox St.
McGarry, P. J., Main St.
Moran Bros., Knox St.
Neary's, Upper Main St.
Seymour's, Upper Main St.
Tarpey's, Knox St.**Egg Exporters & Merchants**Byrne, James, Main St.
Byrne, Valentine, Main St.
Caulfield, P. J., Main St.
Halpin, J. J., Main St.
O'Brien, P. J., Clare St.**Electrical Appliances**

Hannan, D. P., Bridge St.

Fancy GoodsConway's, Bridge St.
Coyne's, Bridge St.
Flatley, M., Main St.
Gem. The, Bridge St.
Hopkins, Upper Main St.**Fishing Tackle**Hannan, D. P., Bridge St.
Lyons, James, Main St.**Footwear Retailers**Boyle, T., Main St.
Giobin, D., Abbey St.
Tighe, P., Upper Main St.**Fruit Distributor**

Curley, B., Clare St.

Funeral UndertakersDonnellan, Patrick, Clare St.
Gilmore, J. A., Knox St.**Furniture Manufacturers**Connell, James & Sons, Devils
Kenne, Michael A. & Sons Ltd.**General Merchants**Coyne's Stores, Bridge St.
DeLaney, George, Abbey St.
Dillon, J., The Square
Gallagher & Sons Ltd., 2 Main St.
Griffin, Kevin, Bridge St.
Hannon, P., Abbey St.
Jordan, A.
Waldron, James, Main St.**Grain, Seeds, Corn Merchants**Dillon's, Main St.
Gallagher & Sons, Main St.**Grocers & Provision Merchants**Boyle, T., Main St.
Byrne, B., Clare St.
Byrne, J. J., Upper Main St.
Byrne, T., Main St.
Cody's, Knox St.
Caulfield, J., Abbey St.
Caulfield, T., Main St.
Caulfield, T. M., Upper Main St.
Conway, J., Clare St.
Conway's, Bridge St.
Coyne's, Bridge St.
Cunnane, M. A., Knox St.
Cunningham's, Abbey St.
Curley, B., Clare St.
DeLaney, G., Bridge St.
Durkan's, Abbey St.
Finn, T., Upper Main St.
Fitzgerald's, Bridge St.
Fitzgerald, E., Main St.
Forde, J., Knox St.
Forkan's, Knox St.
Freely, P. D., Upper Main St.
Freely's, Main St.
Gem. The, Bridge St.
Greene, A., Upper Main St.
Griffin, M., Clare St.
Grogan, C., Clare St.
Hannon, P., Abbey St.
Herr, F., Knox St.
Hopkins, T., Upper Main St.
Jordan's, Knox St.
Jordan's, Upper Main St.
Kelly, T., Main St.

Grocers & Provision Merchants—contd.

Kenny's, Knox St.
Lyons, H., Knox St.
Lyons, J., Main St.
Lyons, M., Abbey St.
Lyons, W., Clare St.
McGreal, M., Upper Main St.
McQuincey's, Main St.
Moran, L., Upper Main St.
Morley, P., Knox St.
Mulhern, J., Upper Main St.
Mulhern, M. J., Clare St.
Murphy's, Upper Main St.
O'Brien, P. J., Clare St.
Waldron, J., Main St.
Waldron, P., Main St.
Waldron, T., Knox St.

Hairdressers & Hair Stylists (Ladies')

Cox, M., Upper Main St.
Flatley, M., Upper Main St.
Healy, K., Clare St.
Smyth's, Knox St.

Hairdressers (Men's)

Menth, P., Clare St.

Hardware Merchants

Byrne, B., Clare St.
Campbell, Abbey St.
Caulfield, J., Abbey St.
Curley's, Clare St.
Delaney, G., Bridge St.
Dillon, H., Knox St.
Dillon's, Main St.
Ferkao's, Knox St.
Freelley's, Upper Main St.
Gallagher & Sons, Main St.
Gibbin, D., Abbey St.
Grogan, C., Clare St.
Hannon, P., Abbey St.
Johnston's, Knox St.
Jordan's, Knox St.
Jordan's, Upper Main St.
Lyons, J., Main St.
O'Brien, P., Main St.

Hotel

Central Hotel, Main St.

House Furnisher

Caulfield, J., Abbey St.

Insurance Broker

Waldron, Michael A., Upper Main St.

Jewellery & Watches

Hainin's, Abbey St.
Tarpey, P., Knox St.

Leather Goods

Forde, J., Knox St.
Keane, P., Main St.

Monumental Sculptors

Gilmore, J. A., Knox St.

Motor Engineers & Garages

Coen, S., Devils
Delaney, G., Abbey St.
Fleming, J. J., Cloonfad
Freyn, J. P. & Sons Ltd., Clare St.
Griffin, K., Bridge St.
Hannon, P., Abbey St.
Lyoch, B. T., Main St.

Newsagents

Flatley, M., Main St.
Hopkins, T., Upper Main St.
Mulhern, J., Upper Main St.

Painter & Decorator

Gilmore, T., Devils

Poulterer

Lannon, Sean, Darrymore

Publicans & Vintners

Boyle, T., Main St.
Byrne, B., Clare St.
Byrne, T., Main St.
Byrne's, Bridge St.
Callaly, P., Knox St.
Campbell, W., Knox St.
Caulfield, J., Abbey St.
Caulfield, T., Main St.
Concannon, Thomas, Main St.
Cunningham's, Abbey St.
Curley's, Clare St.
Delaney, George, Ltd., Bridge St.
Dillon's, Main St.
Dillon, H., Knox St.
Dillon, P., Bridge St.
Durkan, J. & Sons, Abbey St.
Finn, T., Upper Main St.
Forde's Ltd., Knox St.
Freely's, Upper Main St.
Griffin, K., Bridge St.
Hannon, P., Abbey St.
Hurst, Philomena, Bridge St.
Keegan, M., Main St.
Moran, L., Upper Main St.
Moran's, Main St.
Morley, P., Knox St.
Motley's, Knox St.
Mulhern, M. J., Clare St.
Murphy's, Upper Main St.
Phillips, J. J., Main St.
Phillips, P. J., Main St.
Ratigan's, Knox St.
Tarpey, P., Knox St.
Waldron, J., Knox St.
Waldron, T., Knox St.

Radio & Television Dealer

Hannon, D. P., Bridge St.

Restaurants & Cafes

Abbey Cafe, Abbey St.
Flatley's Cafe, Main St.
Grosvenor Cafe, Abbey St.
Imperial Restaurant, Abbey St.
Royal Cafe, Waldron's Terrace
Savoy Cafe, Main St.
Sunshine Cafe, Abbey St.
Waldron's Tea Rooms, Waldron's Terrace

Solicitors

Cress & O'Clairigh, Bridge St.
Dillon-Leerch & Sons, Main St.
Flanagan, S., Main St.
O'Dwyer, P. M., Bridge St.

Tailor

Keane, J., Knox St.

Taxi Service

Eagney Bros.
Flatley, T. M., Upper Main St.
Smyth, Liam, Knox St.

Travel Agent

Dillon, John, The Square
Griffin, Kevin, Bridge St.
Lyons, T., Devils

Turf Accountants

Donoghue, Francis, Bridge St.
Moyle, May, Bridge St.

Undertakers

See "Funeral Undertakers"

Victuallers

Cribbin, Anthony, Main St.
Glynn, T., Upper Main St.
McHugh, T., Abbey St.
Morley's, Knox St.
Phillips, P. J., Upper Main St.
Webb, J., Main St.
Webb, Michael, Main St.
Webb, Michael, Clare St.

Wholesale Distributor

Conway, J., Clare St.

BALLYHAUNIS FAIR GREEN, 1950's



Ballyhaunis Fair Green, on a Fair Day in the early 1950s, when the Shorthorn breed of cattle was dominant.

The building on the left with the two large chimneys was Larry Moran's, Upper Main St., The White Horse Inn, and more recently D.H. Burke's Supermarket. A sign, barely visible, on the stone wall over to the right reads 'Moran's Bar'.

Closer in the background on the left are the sheds belonging to Dyer's building contractors, to the rear of two houses they built facing the church. The two houses on the right belonged to a row of six houses belonging to the Hopkins, Barrett, Lanigan, McGuire and Sharkey families.

A Patent to hold a market and two Fairs in Ballyhaunis, on 23rd April and 14th Oct., was first granted to William Knox in 1751. After the calendar change in 1751, the dates were 1st June, 2nd July, 22nd Sept. and 29th Oct.

Photograph taken by Irish Press photographer.



A view of the Parish Church and Parochial House, taken through the ancient Friary Doorway, before it was restored and reconstructed by Johnny Gilmore in 1937.



McConville's, Knox St., with Patrick Neary standing in the doorway. This house and shop belonged to Mary McConville, whose name appears on the show-board. She married Patrick Neary of Brackloon North in 1901. Mary continued to operate a grocery and provisions store here while her husband worked as an Agent for the Great Western Railway. They were parents of Mrs. Dora Forde (The Square) and Ms. Madge Neary, and grandparents of John Forde, The Square.



Maureen and John Joe Philbin.

In 1943 the premises was purchased by Tom and Sadie Rattigan who operated a grocery shop and bar here for many years and were succeeded by their son Val.



Convent of Mercy Secondary School, Leaving Cert.

Class, 1959

Back, L-R:

Ena O'Dwyer, Mary Caulfield, Mairead Madden.

Front, L-R: Noreen Culliney, Carmel Cribbin, Mary Forde, Kathleen Lyons, Maureen Nolan.

BALLYHAUNIS MAN PRESIDENT OF GAA IN GREAT BRITAIN

By Mike Byrne

At the annual convention of the GAA's Provincial Council of Great Britain, held in the Holiday Inn, Cardiff on Sunday, February 22nd 2009, Ballyhaunis native Bernard Keane was elected to serve as President for the next three years. Son of the late Michael A. and Nora Keane of Annagh, Bernard has played a central role in the development of Gaelic games in his adopted Coventry city since his arrival there back in 1964. The attendance at the Welsh capital included Nicky Brennan, Uachtarán Cumann Lúth Cleas Gael, and Seamus Howlin, Chairman of the Leinster Council and also Chairman of the GAA's overseas committee.

The packed attendance also included supporters of the in-coming President from Warwickshire GAA Board, the Roger Casements club in Coventry and a host of well-wishers from Bernard's home town of Ballyhaunis. Included among those were his brothers, Vincent from Washington, USA and Patsy and Emmett, principals of the Ballyhaunis firm Keane Kitchens Ltd. Also present on the night were Bernard's wife Margaret, his daughters Colette, and triplets Donna, Bernadette and Caroline and his two sons Michael and Vincent.

The celebration did not however grind to a halt at the end of the ceremonies in Cardiff. On his return home to Coventry later that night, Bernard received what must have been the surprise of his life when he was greeted with a hero's welcome by up to 200 people on his arrival at the Village Hotel, for what was expected to be a quiet family gathering! The surprise event was orchestrated by the Roger Casement Club.

Addressing the gathering at the Coventry hotel, former Warwickshire GAA Board secretary Joe Rourke, spoke of how Bernard worked his way up from a position as coach of Casement's in the 1980s, to Chairman of the Warwickshire Minor Board, Vice-chairman of the senior board for many years, before going on to take up the position of Treasurer of the Provincial Council of Britain back in 1987. He also spoke of Trojan work undertaken by Bernard as a member of the committee which saw the development of Páirc na hÉireann, which afforded Warwickshire GAA with an excellent games complex comprising of two pitches and clubrooms.

Roger Casements' club chairman, Kieran Boyle, spoke of how proud he was that his club should have a member and former chairman aspire to such a high office within the GAA in Great Britain. While complimenting Bernard on his achievements over the years, both as a successful



Bernard Keane, after his election as President of the GAA for Great Britain, pictured with his wife Margaret and their daughters, triplets, Donna, Bernadette and Caroline.

businessman and as a dedicated promoter of the GAA in his adopted country, he also referred to the significant role played by his wife Margaret in these successes. The Casement's Chairman spoke of how Margaret's wise counsel was always sought whenever the occasion arose. He wished him well in this three year tenure.

During the proceedings, a number of presentations were made to the new President, among which was one from Tooreen native and long time Coventry resident, Tom Glavey, who presented Bernard with a memento on behalf of the Tooreen Hurling Club of which he was a founding member prior to his departure to Coventry.

In attendance at the Coventry celebration were a number of representatives of the Ballyhaunis GAA Club. Executive officer Bernard Waldron made a presentation to his former neighbour on behalf of the local club. Well known local GAA personality Michael Waldron delivered what could be best described as a rousing and emotional speech in praise of the man with whom he grew up over forty years ago. Michael spoke of his memories of growing up in Annagh and Cave in the 1940s and early 50s: "There were no mobile phones in those days. The form of communication was a white sheet which was hung on a bush outside Keane's house, alerting everybody that the match was about to begin." He congratulated his friend and former neighbour on his election, paying tribute to him on his outstanding contribution to the association in Coventry and in Britain for the best part of the last forty years.

On behalf of the Keane family, Bernard's brother Vincent



Taken in The Village Inn, Coventry at the surprise party held for Bernard Keane on the occasion of his being made president for GAA of Great Britain.

Standing, L-R: Mick Meehan, Michael Waldron, Tom Glavey, Tom Forde, Mal Nally, Michael Grogan, Vincent Keane, Sean Waldron, Bernard Waldron, Kieran Benson, Martin Grogan. Seated: Tom Meehan, Bernard Keane, Kevin Jordan.

congratulated the new President on his election. He said: "It was a proud moment for all of our family, both in Ireland and across the sea; one which you have truly deserved for your dedication over many years." He went on to wish Bernard and his wife Margaret every success over the coming years.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Bernard thanked all those present for turning out in such great numbers for the surprise event. In what was a very emotional speech, he thanked his friends from Ballyhaunis and all his friends from across the sea for taking the trouble to make the journey for the special occasion. He thanked his wife and his children for their support over the years.

Finally, Bernard paid tribute to his colleagues from the Roger Casement GAA Club, for this fine gesture in capping off what for him was one of the most memorable days on his life in sport.



Ballyhaunis men all: Newly elected President of the GAA for Great Britain, Bernard Keane pictured with Ballyhaunis natives, Tom Meehan, Kieran Benson, Vincent Keane and Mick Meehan.



Great Britain's GAA President, Bernard Keane, pictured with his sister, Marianne and her son Michael, and his brother, Vincent, at the election celebration in Coventry.

WHITE COLLAR BOXING

By Mark Patterson

White collar boxing was initially the brain child of two high flying Wall Street Bankers from New York who became fed up with leisurely jogs on the treadmill and a couple of lengths of the pool. This, they decided, wasn't enough to satisfy their urge for a bigger, better adrenalin rush after finishing a gruelling ten hours at their desks. They set about locating the nearest boxing club and, every evening after work, threw off their suits, hung up their ties and laced up their gloves. What followed was a worldwide phenomenon which is still going strong today.

My own experience of White Collar Boxing has been very challenging yet very rewarding. Having read an advertisement in a local paper I phoned a gentleman by the name of Cathal O'Grady. Cathal, as it turned out, had fought professionally for a number of years in the light-heavyweight division, until finally having to retire on the advice of his doctors. Cathal invited me along to the National Boxing Stadium, on the North Circular Road in Dublin, where the ten week training camp would be held. Obviously, nervousness was the overriding emotion as I drove through the gates of the National Stadium.

Upon entering the gym I was amazed to see Nicolas Cruz Hernandez, the legendary Cuban boxing coach, who had stood in the corners of Wayne McCullough and Michael Carruth at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. These boxers had brought home medals on that occasion - silver and gold respectively.

Cathal wasn't there the first night, however, I was made very welcome (as were all the new entrants) by Nicolas and, after the pleasantries, it was straight to work. What followed was ten weeks of the most exhilarating, physically challenging yet enjoyable training I had ever experienced.

The class was made up of people from different walks of life and included engineers, solicitors, school teachers and a hairdresser to name a few. Everyone had their own story and their own reason for being there: some to lose a few pounds, some to get fit

and others to get a taste of Big Time Boxing. That's the idea behind White Collar Boxing. You train harder than you've ever trained and at the end of it you get to showcase your new found skills against someone of similar age, height, weight and ability in front of your family and friends with all the razzle-dazzle of a professional bout - akin to something you'd see in the MGM Grand in Vegas.

Confident

Our first bout was against a group of Galway boxers and I pitted my wits against Jamie "Jawbreaker" Feely. The Jawbreaker had one previous fight which he had won, so I was up against it. The night itself was everything it promised to be, with two spotlights following each fighter as they made their way up to the canvas from the changing rooms, while their chosen song was blaring in the background as they ducked under the ropes and into the ring.

Another Ballyhaunis man - Champion amateur boxer and good friend David Conlon - was my coach for the night and rattled out instructions to me as he shoved a gum shield into my mouth. Following the big build-up before the fight, which seemed to go on forever, the time was nigh, and all of a sudden the bell was rung. What happened for the next three rounds was a blur to say the



Mark Patterson (second from left) after winning his match in the White Collar Boxing Fight Night held in February 2010.

least. At the end I was pretty confident I had held my own and was happy with my performance regardless of the result. The referee held both our hands down by his side waiting for the MC to announce the decision - eventually the MC read the decision - A DRAW.

After that it was back to Nicolas and the National Stadium to get stuck into the remaining seven weeks of our training programme. My next fight was held in Jury's hotel in Ballsbridge and I was confident I would come out on top this time. My fight was the last bout of the evening and I didn't get into the ring until 1 am. Once in there, however, I was focused and ready for battle. My opponent this time was a guy from Rathkeale in Limerick - Thomas "Rock-hard" Rohan and he proved a much trickier customer than my previous opponent. He was a stone or so heavier than me, and his punches were much harder than the previous guy and, towards the end of the first round, I was bleeding quite profusely from both nostrils! Nicolas Cruz was in my corner this time and he instructed me to jab and move, jab and move... only problem was Thomas's trainers were telling him the same and he seemed to be better at it than I was. Obviously he targeted my weakness (my nose) and continued to work on it for the remaining two rounds. Eventually, the final bell was sounded and I was relieved to hear it. This time my hand was firmly held pointing downwards and the Limerick man was favoured.

Determined

Three years on and married life was beginning to take its toll on my waistline - so, when I heard White Collar

Boxing was coming to Galway my name was first on the list. This time we trained in Pete Foley's Gym on the Tuam road. Unfamiliar faces gathered around our trainer the first night as he explained the ins and outs of the programme. All had different expectations of what was to unfold in the coming weeks.

Ten weeks of brutal training followed and I was determined to get a result this time. The Fight Night was held in the Menlo Park Hotel in Galway, and with the venue sold out on the night everyone was taking it extremely seriously. This time I would have to fend off the challenge of a local man, ten years my junior! Thankfully, mine was the third fight on the card, and I hadn't to wait too long to make my entrance. As I expected, my opponent stormed out of his corner like a wild horse. The pace at which he started was one I wasn't going to be able to replicate, so I had to box clever! Using my jab to good effect I ducked and dodged his wild hooks and worked on his body in an attempt to quell his eagerness. Mid way through the second round my body shots were beginning to reap dividends, and toward the end of the second round he had slowed considerably. The third round was my chance to undo all his good work, and ensure I got the decision. I landed some good combinations with one left hook visibly hurting him. I knew now I was in the driving seat and kicked for home. As the bell went for the third and final time I knew I had beaten him. Thankfully, the three judges saw it that way too. Having had three bouts, drawing the first, one loss and a win, I have decided to hang up my gloves.



Sean Fitzmaurice, formerly of Abbeyquarter (second from right) who won his match against Mick Collins of Tuam (wearing blue). Sean, like Mark, trained at the Black Dragon Boxing Club in Galway under coach Pete Foley and hopes to fight again in the next few months.

White Collar Boxing challenges you to swap the safety of your office chair for the thrills of the ring. Anyone can take up the sport and it's primarily designed for people who have not boxed in years and wish to get back into it, or those who have never laced up a glove and fancy themselves as the next Floyd Mayweather. Anyone looking for ten weeks of thrills, spills and unrivalled excitement, with it culminating in you bearing your soul in front of a packed house, could do worse than "throw your hat into the ring" - so to speak!

CLASS OF 1990 REUNION

The Ballyhaunis Community School Class of '90 Reunion took place in the Hazel Bar on Saturday, 21st August 2010. Almost eighty former classmates turned up on the night for a very good humoured, nostalgic and enjoyable night. Many commented that the evening just went by too quickly! Classmates travelled from all over Ireland, as well as the UK and Pauline Garrity-O'Sullivan, formerly of Cloonacurry, travelled all the way from New York to be there.

Some friends started school together in St. Joseph's National School (Convent of Mercy) and continued right up to Leaving Cert at the BCS. Other friends came from National Schools in Ballinlough, Gorthaganny, Cloonfad, Knock, Kilkelly, Aghamore, Tooreen, Coogue and Bekan, among others.

Maggie Frayne and Joanne Madden-Byrne need to be singled out for special mention, as they set the date of the event, booked the venue and set about spreading the word and notifying us all on-line, by text and through word of mouth. Thanks to them for their hard work.



Left to right - Michael Dee, Bernard McLoughlin, Stephen Waldron, Francis Lyons, Michael Duffy, Joe McQueeney and Declan Donohoe.



Catherine Fitzgerald, Mae Cosgrove (Nee Flatley), Patricia Muldoon, Sharon Green-Redmond, Caroline Lynskey.



Keith Delaney, Andrew Smyth and Martin Walsh.



Annie Keane, Mary Keane, Pauline Garrity-O'Sullivan, Patricia Fagan (nee Moran), Fiona Raftery, Roisin Keaveney (nee Shields) and Caroline Fleming (nee Murphy).



Catherine Fitzgerald, Sinead Freyne-Meehan, Caroline Lynskey, Bronagh Doherty and Joanne Coyne-Scahill

BALLYHAUNIS NO NAME CLUB

No Name Club is a national voluntary youth organisation founded in 1978 with clubs throughout the country including twelve in county Mayo. No Name Clubs are run by and for young people aged fifteen years and upwards who come together in a safe and lively environment where there's fun, friendship and enjoyment without the pressure of alcohol or other drugs. No Name Clubs were founded to provide an alternative to pub culture for young people in Ireland. They demonstrate a lifestyle in which the use of alcohol or drugs is seen as unnecessary to the enjoyment of a happy, cheerful and fulfilling social life for young people.

Ballyhaunis No Name Club was set up in October 2009 and has successfully finished its first year. The club has twenty-two members, both boys and girls, who are called hosts and hostesses, and a voluntary adult committee comprising of seven adults who oversee events. Interviews are held in September for new hosts and hostesses and the club meets most Friday nights in the GAA club house. We are very grateful to the local GAA club for this venue and they are always willing to accommodate us. The club receives funding from the Mayo VEC and the HSE provides support for different training events and projects.

The club got off to a gentle start with a fund raising event. The hosts and hostesses arranged a Christmas disco for the first years of Ballyhaunis Community School. This was a great success and many thanks to the

Community School for all their support. Over the Christmas holidays the club went ice skating to Galway. After Christmas it was time to start practising for the No Name All-Ireland Karaoke Competition and the No Name All-Ireland Talent Show - two major events in the No Name Calendar. The club decided to enter in the musical cameo section of the Talent Show and so began many weeks of training. Thanks to Ciaran Kiely who spent many a fun-filled evening with us, the club performed There Is No Business Like Show Business - a collection of songs and dances.

A short rest was needed after this, but not for long. Next on the agenda was Kickboxing classes. Thanks to Tracey Cunnane and the Mayo VEC the hosts and hostesses enjoyed several weeks of Kickboxing and were so accomplished at the end that they gave a presentation of Kickboxing at the Mayo Intercultural day in Balla. They also participated in drumming and other workshops on the day.

The year ended with a great day on Enniscrone beach. The rain cleared and windsurfing lessons were enjoyed by all. This was followed by a barbecue on the beach and a trip to the cinema in Ballina. Thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising during the year. We look forward to a second year of Ballyhaunis No Name Club.

Adult Committee: Orla Moran, Gerry Lyons, Olive Lyons, Cathal Carroll, Mairead Reidy, Bernie Lyons, Bimbo Salami, Faoziya Yussuf.



Ballyhaunis 8k Road Race August '10

Frank Greally with Donal Moran, Johnny Cribbin (Lecarrow) and his three sons John, James and Barry Cribbin, all of whom took part in the Ballyhaunis 8K road race.

MY KOLKATA EXPERIENCE

By Eleanor Moran

It wasn't a moment of madness - I had always hoped an opportunity would arrive to allow me to do voluntary work abroad. So, in August 2009, the time was right to become a volunteer with the Hope Foundation. To volunteer was something I had always hoped to do. To be able to help people and, if possible, to pass on the knowledge I had obtained through my education. I decided on the Hope Foundation and they accepted me to work as a nurse in their hospital and health projects in Kolkata (formally Calcutta), India. I decided on this organisation as it is small, it knows exactly where its money is going, and one of its Irish directors is always in Kolkata. So, with my bag packed, off I headed to work with the slum children of Kolkata, for three months.

Kolkata

Having travelled to many different parts of the world I felt prepared, however nothing can really prepare you for the sights, sounds and smells of Kolkata. Kolkata is an ever-expanding city of at least fifteen million people of which 250,000 children live on the streets. On the drive in from the airport, cows stood in the middle of the road. An entire family travelled past me on a motorbike. My first impression of the city was the noise. Car horns continuously being beeped along the heaving roads. Traffic up so close you felt you should feel the impact of a crash at any moment. The heat, the humidity, the dust. Then you look more closely and realise people are just living everywhere.

I arrived in Kolkata on a Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning I attended Mass in Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying. I was really wondering if I would be able to settle into this city when one of the hymns sang was 'Be Not Afraid'. I felt this was my little hint to keep going. One of the reasons for my doubt was, this home is situated beside Kolkata's holiest area - the Kali Temple. With the temple come market stalls, pilgrims and goats waiting their ritual beheading. I don't have the words to describe the scene. It is difficult if not impossible to walk in Kolkata (and, I imagine, anywhere in India) without spending the entire journey saying "no". People trying to sell you something, take your photograph etc.

The first few days were spent visiting the different



Eleanor with one of the Kalkota children.

projects like the nine Protection Homes for boys and girls, the HIV/Aids Hospice, the Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre, the Education Projects. This time was also spent trying to figure out the city and its transport system to get me back to the projects I would work more closely with. Going anywhere involves heading into traffic that consisted of cars, bicycles, rickshaws, dogs, children and people's homes. Sometimes the simplest task of crossing the road would become an energy-sapping battle. Clothes shopping also had to occur. People will normally think of Indian women and the sari, however I found it easier to wear the Salwar Kameez. This is a dress like tunic and trousers accompanied with a long scarf.

Everyday Life

Every day brought its challenges from the simple things of not drinking the tap water and then realising I just rinsed my toothbrush under the tap! The heat and tiredness that came with the Monsoon season. The humidity alone was in the mid 90's. The language barrier is very difficult; however with patience at times it was overcome.

A working day always varied and my time was split between the hospital and the HIV/Aids Hospice. With the Aids patients they may be in the advanced stages of their illness, have reduced mobility and/or been abandoned by their families and neighbours. I also gave regular education sessions to the nursing staff in the hospital. In the evening, visits to children that had been taken into

the Crisis Centre would occur to give some reassurance and TLC. Then off on the ambulance for NightWatch.

There are certain children I will never forget. One such person was a three year old little girl called Slonali whom I encountered on my first day of work in the Hope hospital. She looked like she was only a few months old with a very large swollen head due to a medical condition called hydrocephalus. She had also suffered from tuberculosis and was blind. The Hope Foundation paid for her to undergo specialised surgery in another hospital. On her return back to the Hope hospital I had the joy of nursing her. This included feeding her, speech and occupational therapy, which developed into physiotherapy starting firstly with sitting, then standing and finally walking. A special moment of each day was on my arrival at the ward, she would hear my voice and chirp out "Auntie, Auntie" with hands out stretched for a hug and a tickle. As she was found abandoned on a railway station platform, the Hope Foundation found room for her in one of its protection homes. On my last correspondence with India I was told she has started

pavements or under the bridges with no possessions except the clothes on their backs. There was never a typical night. We would travel slowly through the streets. At first I thought everyone lying on the ground required help. But often the street dwellers would be waiting for us and know who needed assistance. Someone may have been starving and a food packet would be given; or ill and needed to be brought to the Hope hospital. One of the common ailments would be a wound that had become maggot infested. This was a new condition for me and I soon learned about the care of maggot wounds and the removing of them from the wound once they were admitted to the hospital.

On my return home one of the common questions people asked of me was, how can India, with its strong technology base, have so much poverty. Although India's middle class is continually growing, as a country it also has one of the world's highest concentrations of poverty. Illiteracy and poverty go hand in hand. Some of the poorest children are unable to start or stay in education due to financial pressures. People ask me is the film 'Slumdog Millionaire' over the top, but I can say the views of the slums are totally realistic: open sewers beside people's homes; the women washing clothes by a stagnant river. Child labour is very evident: young children using sharp knives to cut wood for kites to sell; out collecting plastic in rubbish dumps for an income and the list goes on.

However, with all the difficulties people face daily in Kolkata, never was I afraid or approached during my work, by people begging. People in the slums may have nothing compared to us but I was always made welcome in their homes and with smiles shown all around.

Thanks

I cannot thank everyone who contributed to my fundraising enough: the support from my family and friends before and during my time there; the good luck cards and most importantly the emails and texts with any news during my time away. I would also like to acknowledge the medical advice and vaccinations from Dr. Patrick and Moira Noone.

If you are thinking of doing voluntary work and if I can be of assistance please contact me or the Hope Foundation, 3 Clover Lawn, Skehard Road, Cork or www.hopefoundation.ie.



Eleanor on 'NightWatch' in Kolkata.

attending a school for the blind and was brought on her first holiday to the seaside.

NightWatch

Another Hope project I enjoyed being involved in was NightWatch. This service goes out nightly in an ambulance rescuing vulnerable children, helping the sick, providing food and anything else that is required. It is at this stage one really becomes aware of the vast number of homeless, vulnerable people, just lying on the

SONG-AND-DANCE MAN – JOHN KELLY OF BEKAN

By Seamus Mulrennan

Last September (2010), I enjoyed a wonderful evening of music, song and dance in Byrne's of Carrowcor, a mile west of Began school. The setting was the lovely 200-year-old cottage that Brian Byrne has painstakingly restored. Anchoring the night's entertainment was the 'Carrowcor Céilí Band' made up of local musicians Connie Murphy-Gildea and Noel Grogan (accordions), Paddy Lyons, Miko Walsh and Myra Delaney (fiddles) and Vinnie Kelly (guitar). Several other singers, musicians and dancers – too numerous to mention – contributed a variety of party pieces. The 'Lissaniska half-set' was performed. Martin Forde (Island) had everyone in stitches with his witty recitations. But perhaps the biggest ovation of the evening was reserved for veteran local performer, John Kelly, who sang a couple of old favourites: 'The Little Old Log Cabin in the Lane' and 'The Boys of Barr na Sráide'. A few months previously in the very same house, I'm told, he even danced a few steps of a reel. Not bad for a man now in his 95th year!

John Kelly has been a performer for most of his life. Best known as a singer and old-style step-dancer, he also acted in several amateur drama productions down the years. In his younger days, he could also 'knock out a few tunes' on the Clarke's tin-whistle, or the mouth-organ, for house dances, often in a duet with his late sister, Delia. John was born on the family farm in Lissaniska, in Began parish, in May 1916. It was a time of turmoil in the world. The Great War was then raging and just the previous week some of the Easter Rising leaders had been executed in Dublin. But farming life in Lissaniska went on pretty much as normal and John's birthday has always been associated with the Fair Day in Ballyhaunis (14th May) rather than with any momentous world event!

John was the eldest of five children, two boys and three girls, born to Michael Kelly and his wife Maria (formerly Fitzmaurice of Reisk). Maria, like many of her generation and most of her own siblings, had emigrated to America as a teenager to make a new life there. She was on a visit home to see her parents in Reisk in 1915 when the *Lusitania*, the ship on which she was booked to return to New York, was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the Irish coast en route to Liverpool with the loss of 1,200 lives. Maria never did return to America and instead settled down to married life on the Kelly farm in Lissaniska. When John was only three, his mother nearly

succumbed to the Spanish 'flu, which claimed more victims than the Great War itself, but made a miraculous recovery when she was 'at death's door'. Ironically, it was John's father who was to die first, at the early age of fifty-seven, so John had to take over the running of the farm before he was eighteen.



Ruins of Tighes' old house, Lissaniska (circa 1960).

Music, Song, Dance

Like most of his generation who were close to the land, John has a wealth of lore about farming and nature. When the conversation turns to the weather, he remarks that the mountains in the West appeared to be very near, suggesting rain. *'In my day, there were no weather forecasts. We had to rely on the signs of nature to guide us,'* he says. This prompts him to recite a few snatches of an old English rhyme that he learnt in Began school back in the 1920s:

*'Loud quack the ducks, the peacocks cry,
The distant hills are looking nigh,
The soot falls down, the spaniels sleep
And spiders from their cobwebs creep,
'Twill surely rain – I see with sorrow,
Our jaunt must be put off to morrow.'*

Growing up John had plenty of exposure to traditional music, song, dance and folklore. He recalls: *'My father was a good singer and step-dancer. His brother, Tom, who lived with us all his life, also had a great store of*

songs and was a nice singer. I'd have learned a lot of my songs from listening to the two of them as a young fella. Another uncle of mine, Malachy Kelly, who married into Mullaney's here in Lissaniska, was also a singer and step-dancer and he used to play the tin-whistle too. His two sons, John and Pat, kept up the singing tradition and his granddaughter, Grainne Kelly-Frayne, is now a dancing teacher in Knock, passing on the steps to a new generation'.

Apart from John's own immediate family, there was plenty of music in the neighbourhood when he was a youngster: 'Our next-door neighbours were the Tighes and the Jordans. The Tighes were an extraordinary family – great blacksmiths and joiners. They were also gifted musically. You'd hear them playing late at night – fiddle and melodeon. They were good step-dancers too. Thomas, the last of the name, died about fifty years ago. However, they passed on their music to a younger generation through our neighbours the Jordans who, in turn, brought the music with them to England and were influential in establishing the Birmingham Céilí Band.'

One event that was to have a big impact on John Kelly's social life was the arrival of a dancing master to the locality when he was only 10 years old. That was back in 1926 and the man in question was John Tuohy of Kiltimagh, a member of the famous family of dancing masters from whom Michael Coleman, the great Sligo fiddler, also learned his steps. John remembers him well: 'He was a tall, well-dressed man with a bit of a beard. He must have been around seventy, I suppose. He had light, shiny boots and used to play a small fiddle. We'd all gather into Burke's granary in Curraghlahan, just across the fields there, where he showed us the steps. After three or four weeks, we had learned the basics and could do a bit of practising on our own. Not only that, but Tuohy revived the interest of the older people, like my own father, who had given up dancing altogether. They started at it again!'

John has fond memories of the local dancehalls which sprung up from the 1930s on, such as Byrne's of Loughanboy, Rattigan's of Coogue and Bange's of Larganboy. He remembers that at Rattigan's they'd have a special spot of step-dancing: 'I remember one night to see a dozen or more men lined up down the middle of the floor, all belting out a reel'.



The cast of 'The Year of the Hiker' on stage in Began in 1965. L-R: Noreen Sloyan, Tony Carney, Eileen Kelly, John Kelly, Anne Forde, Pádraig Cunnane and Martin Dyer.

Drama

Because he was accustomed to performing in public as a singer and dancer, it was no great surprise that John was drafted as an actor when the first ever amateur drama production in Began was launched in 1936. Dalgan Lyons, who went on to become a Senator and TD, was also in that first cast. John takes up the story: 'It was in 1936 and it was decided to put on a play to raise money for Began church. The play was a comedy called 'The Lord Mayor' by Edward McNulty and the producer was P.J. McDonagh NT, father of Enda, the famous theologian. I remember that Fr. Mansfield, OSA, helped out with the finishing touches; he was an experienced producer with the Abbey Players in Ballyhaunis. Our first public performance was in Began School on St. Stephen's Night, 1936. The lighting, of course, was provided by paraffin lamps in those days. When we staged the play again, the following Easter, in Waldron's Hall, Clare St, Ballyhaunis, we had the luxury of electric lighting so there was no hiding place then!'

The plays proved to be a popular form of local entertainment with the result that John appeared in several more productions in the 1930s and '40s. After some years in the doldrums, amateur drama was revived in Began in the 1960s with the arrival of a new school principal, Tommy Higgins, who became a very successful producer. Within a few years, Began had one of the most talented amateur drama groups in the West of Ireland, venturing further afield to other venues and entering drama festivals. One of the highlights of those years was the success of their production of John B. Keane's play 'The Year of the Hiker' at the New Inn Drama Festival in 1965 when John Kelly, in the title role, won the 'Best

Actor' award. Another Began actor who made his name at that time was Tony Carney who later went on to deliver some memorable performances with St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis. John came out of retirement for one final appearance in John B. Keane's 'Moll' in 2001, some sixty-five years after his debut! The producer was Noel Grogan, now a popular presenter with Midwest Radio.



John Kelly and his brother Pat (with scythe) at harvest time, Lissaniska, 1940s.



John Kelly and Mary Murray on their Wedding Day, 1 June 1953.

While John Kelly was well-known locally as a performer for years, he came to the notice of a wider audience in 1967 when he appeared on the RTE Television series 'Bring Down the Lamp', performing his old-style steps. Two local musicians, Miko Walsh (Drumaderry) and the late Martin 'Ginger' Fergus (Cloontumper), provided the music for him – Miko, who was at the Carrowcor 'do' mentioned earlier, still plays the fiddle regularly at local sessions. John subsequently made several TV and radio appearances on programmes such as Seán Bán Breathnach's 'Eadrainn Féin', 'The Long Note' and 'Looking West'. He has also featured regularly on Midwest Radio. In the past, he has been a regular winner in talent competitions such as the GAA's Scór and the PTAA's Réadóirí.

Many of John Kelly's songs and stories have been preserved for posterity through the wonderful series of

publications issued by Dreóilín Community Arts in Aghamore such as 'Songs of Past and People' (1994 and 1995). A special booklet and CD featuring John, along with his friend Mick Hopkins of Larganboy, and entitled 'Planctaí Bhéacáin' was issued in that series in 2007. Meanwhile, the man himself is still singing. His voice can be heard ringing out every Sunday in Began church, even if he no longer manages to climb the stairs to the gallery to join the choir.

Go raibh fada buan é!



John Kelly saving the hay, 1980s.



John Kelly 'stepping it out' in Aghamore in July 1999.

MANCHESTER CALLING

By Jimmy Jordan

I was born sixty-five years ago in Knox St., Ballyhaunis. I was the youngest of six children of Thomas Jordan of Cumber, Aughamore and Delia Kedian of Moneymore. Four of my siblings, Paddy, Josephine, Tommy and Bernie have died. I attended the local National Schools. In the Boys School I skipped third class and had to do another year in seventh class as I was too young to leave school. Bill Mulligan taught the senior classes and often hassled me, insisting that I should be able to answer all questions in seventh class, seeing that I had done the same programme the previous year.

Among my boyhood friends were Tony Morley, Seamus Morley, Gabriel Rattigan, Tony Rattigan. In the Boy Scouts I remember going on camp to Enniscrone. One year we went to an International Jamboree in Maidstone in Kent. It rained for the fortnight and we re-named the place Muckmore Park instead of Buckmore Park. Paddy Dillon was there with us. Seamus Durcan was Scoutmaster.



Knox Street Pals, Jimmy Jordan and Tony Morley, 1949.

There was talk that I would join my brother Anthony who was in St. Jarlath's College or attend Patrician Brothers, Ballyfin, where some of my classmates were going. Neither materialised and I went to the local Vocational School for two years. Pat Hughes was Principal there. Tony Mulloy taught there as did Sean Cleary, who taught Woodwork. I didn't sit any examinations. I intended to become an apprentice joiner but had to wait until I was eighteen years to enter a trade. I became a helper on a Boland's Bakery delivery van for three months. I was paid forty-five shillings weekly. Paddy Ryan, who later established a major supermarket on Main St., drove the van.

I was in the FCA for two years. We had two summer training sessions at Finner Camp near Ballyshannon. We were paid £14 per session. I remember John Rattigan and Sean Cleary with me there.

An Apprenticeship

I joined M. A. Keane's joinery workshop on Knox Street as an apprentice joiner, where the pay was ten shillings weekly. It was hard going and I only stayed for three months. I transferred to Jim Connell's joinery workshop in Devlis. I like working there, as Jim was a fine gentleman, who was interested in getting to know and help each of his staff. Among those I worked with in Ballyhaunis were Noel Morley, Robert Kelly, Seamus Clarke, Gabriel Carney and Aiden Kelly. I stayed with Jim Connell for eighteen months and Jim offered me thirty shillings weekly if I stayed longer. But I knew from my two brothers in England that I could get far higher wages there and decided to travel over.

Working in England

I worked first in Birmingham with the same company as my brother Paddy - Bernard Soley & Co. I was paid £19 weekly for shuttering. This was excellent money but there was very few people there I knew. After about a year, I went for a weekend to my brother Tommy and my sister-in-law Mary, who lived in Denton, outside Manchester. I was surprised to discover that at a dance in Manchester I knew many people from the Ballyhaunis area there. I decided to transfer to Manchester and have lived there ever since. One of the friends I met was Gabriel Carney with whom I had worked at Jim Connell's. His brother Tommy owned a house in Cheetham Hill. I went into digs there at first but discovered that it was quite far out from the city centre and locations where one found work. I worked for Wimpey house builders for three months. I then got work with John Laing, a very large builder, and stayed with them for two years. I moved to Rusholme and I got a room with Eamon Finnegan. When Eamon left, John Rattigan from Polnacruaghy joined me.

At the end of 1965 the job with Laing ended. On the first Monday morning of the New Year John Rattigan got up early, amid the snow, to go to the point of pick-up for workers seeking a new start. I didn't join him, as it was a very cold morning. He returned shortly to say that John Murphy would be starting new people the next morning. John and I presented ourselves the next morning and began working for John Murphy. We were employed as assistants to a gas service layer. The large gas pipes were underground. These had to be excavated and the supply cut. The pipe was then replaced and the gas re-connected and covered over again with soil and hard cover. It was a dangerous job especially if the gas service layer did not know his job. My pay was £3.50 a day, into

the hand. Within three months the service layer I worked with left the job and I took over from him at £4.50 a day. I remained in this employment for over seventeen years travelling all around the outskirts of Manchester. One hot summer I had my brother Anthony and my brother-in-law Martin Connolly working as my assistants.

Money again intervened when a sub-contractor approached me to work for him, in a similar operation, at £40 a week. We worked mainly around Oldham and Rochdale. This operation fell apart after three months and I was unemployed for a brief period. I was then approached by an agent for John Murphy to return to work for them, at a few pounds extra to what they had previously paid me. I took up this offer and stayed with them for the next nine years, until my early retirement.

Animal Lover

In the meantime I rented a house for two years. I discovered that a mouse shared the premises with me. I could not dislodge him despite setting many traps and bait. I was advised that a cat was necessary. I got a cat who did the trick. I had not bargained for falling totally to the charms of the cat. This began a life-long love of animals, which sees me today the proud owner of two dogs and four cats. They are my happy family, my pride and my joy, and I never get fed up with watching and playing with them. They are the most fascinating of companions. I bought my own house two years later and

am lucky to live near a large park called Platt Fields, between Rusholme and Fallowfield on the airport side of Manchester.

Man City Supporter

When I first came to move in Manchester I discovered that a majority of people supported Manchester United. I naturally decided that I would support the other team in the city, Man City - the Blues. I was a season ticket holder for many years. Their training ground used to be in a corner of Platt Fields where you could watch the players at close quarters. I still support Man City but the arrival of absentee landlords and millionaire players has changed the scene totally.

Ballyhaunis

Though my home is in Manchester, I still like to visit my old home at Knox Street where I am always made very welcome. I like to visit people I have known when young, though their numbers are going down year by year. Still it is wonderful to be able to see old friends and talk about bygone days. Among the people I meet each year, as well as relations, are Joe Waldron, late of Knox St., Mrs Lyons of Clare St., Patsy Keane, Tom McCormack, John Morley, Terence McHugh, Dorothy Durkan, Michael Flynn and Tom Guilfoyle. I hope to continue my regular visits for many years to come.



The Proposal



At the very top of Croagh Patrick, about a stone's throw from the church, Mark Weissenberger dropped to one knee and proposed to his girlfriend of five years, Kat Punzi. Although breathless from the 3-hour hike, she enthusiastically said "Yes". After the hour-long downhill hike off Croagh Patrick, the couple from New York enjoyed a celebratory pint, Kat's left hand just a little bit heavier. Kat and Mark were staying over in Westport in June, celebrating the wedding of his cousin Cara Butler. Mark's mother Della Byrne was born and raised in Derrymore, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.

MONICA'S MANNIN

By Helen Thomas (nee Byrne) Email: helenjthomas@hotmail.co.uk

My eyes open slowly and in the silence and light I sense that it is very early. I look across the room and see that my sister, Hannah, is fast asleep. With a thrill of excitement I wonder if I am the first to wake in the house. Quickly I get out of bed, creep silently from the bedroom, dress and go downstairs. Hurriedly I leave the house and head up the track. I can now hear sounds from there as I rush along. Do they know I'm coming? As I get nearer my excitement is mixed with fear. I am almost there now. I brace myself and, as I open the door, they rush out past me, some flying. I am now inside and feel happy as it's warmth folds around me - at last I have reached my holy grail - the hen house. A hen still on her nest dares me with her beady eye to disturb her and take her treasure - I quickly move along. As I look around I see a vacated nest with one glorious egg. I reach out and my fingers close around its still- warm perfect form - bliss. This is what I have come for - to have the joy of collecting the eggs.

But that was a long time ago, over sixty-five years, in the early 1940s when I was a very young child on holiday on the farm in Mannin where my mother, Ellen (Nellie) Conway, grew up alongside her seven sisters and brother. I remember so vividly the happiness of my summers spent there - sustaining memories that have provided a lifetime's nourishment and treasure for my heart and imagination: the precious gift of freedom to roam, being carefree, close to the animals, nature, the earth, the rhythm and life of the farm, the smells, sights, sounds, colours, the landscape, sense of mystery, excitement, wonderment and so much more.

During the day hens would scratch and forage around the fields close to the house, but when my aunt scattered grain, calling them with her special calling voice, they would come scurrying towards her at top speed from all corners. My sisters and I tried to mimic her call outside feeding time for the joy of having the hens racing to us, but our aunt soon put a stop to that telling us that the hens must be left in peace as disturbing them might stop them laying. One time we were told not to disturb a brooding hen that was kept in a heavy, large wooden barrel; she was sitting on a nest of eggs for hatching, but we loved to peek inside when the lid was taken off. In due time adorable yellow chicks followed. Another time one particular hen began to act strangely, purposefully leaving the farm. My aunt and I followed her at a distance and the hen led us finally to a

deserted outhouse where, on the grass, lay a sea of secret eggs. One day we watched our aunt in wellington boots wade into a thicket of nettles only to see her emerge triumphantly with a beautiful, large blue egg which the duck had laid in her little nettle sanctuary.



Eddie and Nellie Byrne (nee Conway), original owners of Byrne's Pub, Bridge Street (now Nicholson's), and the author's parents. Photo taken c.1932.

There were geese with exquisite golden goslings following their mother around. I loved to watch their tiny feet as they waddled beside her. At night they would be counted and I felt reassured when they were all safely in their house for the night. My grandfather had a pet guinea hen which laid tiny speckled eggs. She would perch on his shoulder, often with an eerie shriek, lift his watch out of his waistcoat pocket and play with the chain - I kept my distance.

I would sometimes be allowed to go with my uncle to collect the cows for milking. They would be waiting by the field gate with their tails swishing to swat the flies that landed on their backs. I was told to stand way back as they pushed through the gate, and I certainly did as I was very aware of their huge size and power. I would watch as they set off down the road, their full udders swaying as they moved. The milking shed was small and warm with a comforting smell of cow. Once I was allowed to try milking with my aunt's hand on mine. I felt the velvety udders and as we tugged, the milk hit the bucket with a hiss. I fled as the cow kicked out. The farm cat and kittens squealed by the door eager to be the first to taste the warm, sweet milk. The calves were adorable and I was encouraged to give them my hand to suck.

There was always a moment of fear as their mouths closed around my hand, but then the thrill of their rough tongues working my fingers, sucking and tugging in a vain effort to get them to yield milk. Their real milk came in buckets and in their haste to drink they would be snorting and gulping, pushing the buckets around with their heads in their efforts to drink every last drop.

Butter Making

In a room just off the kitchen the milk was gathered into wide-brimmed bowls until cream formed. I can still see the sheen of the cream, but in some bowls crusty lumps were forming on parts of the surface. When visitors were expected, the bowls of cream would be removed and the room used as a parlour. Once when visitors were there, I was swinging from the mantle of the tiled fireplace when the whole thing collapsed and I was worried that I might be told off but, as ever, my mischievousness was treated with patience.

I was once there on churning day. Everyone had a turn of the handle and this seemed to go on for a long time. At first you could hear the milk sloshing around inside. We all gathered around when the sound became heavier and hit against the insides of the churn. Brass screws were loosened, the churn opened, and the golden, formed butter slipped into a basin - for my uncle and aunt - 'Mannin manna'. I have a vivid memory of the look of bewilderment and disappointment on the face of my uncle when I refused to eat the butter he loved. My mother always had to send factory creamery butter for me and my sisters. I hated the pungent smell after churning. Ever after, I could always detect the odour of buttermilk wherever it lingered. The buttermilk was of course valued for baking, feeding the pig and was prized as a beauty treatment for the skin.

The granary was over the cowshed adjacent to the house. It had open stone steps leading up to the entrance. We were not allowed up there alone as it was dangerous to climb the open steps. I recall a low-ceilinged, secret-like room with shafts of light from a small window and a golden glow of grain. There was talk of mice being there and I didn't want to stay. Years later it was rumoured to be frequented by courting couples.

Wonderful Sunday

Saturday was a time of preparation for Sunday and Mass. My aunt would appear with a dead chicken dangling by its legs, plunge it into a bucket of scalding water and deftly pluck out the feathers. This, and when the innards were removed, released terrible odours. But the chicken was always succulent when cooked. Vegetables for Sunday dinner would be gathered in from the garden and might be turnips, carrots, parsnips, onions, scallions, beetroot, potatoes, or cabbage that squeaked with freshness. Delicious tarts were made and could be apple, apple and blackberries or rhubarb. I would peel the

rhubarb and dunk it in sugar to eat. We all loved the special cake-like pastry, liberally sprinkled with sugar on top, before baking. Sometimes we would have jelly with tinned fruit and covered in luscious, thick cream.

All cooking was done in iron pots, some put directly onto the open turf fire, others suspended from a hook over the fire. Sometimes the lids on the pots would be covered with red-hot coals. Large pots of potatoes would be boiled, the skins fanning open when ready. I loved the fluffy potatoes which I would mix with scallions, milk and top with butter.

We got out our best clothes, polished our shoes, had our hair washed, then in I went into the large tin bath to be washed in front of the fire. Then as every night, we all said the rosary kneeling on the hard kitchen floor gathered around the fire. Up I went to bed by candlelight or lamplight. Being the smallest, I slept in a feather bed which I would roll into and be enfolded in feather softness, but with the odd jab of quill.

On Sunday morning I was beside myself with excitement as my uncle attached the horse to the trap, lifted me up inside and drove us to Mass in Aghamore. I loved it all; the clip clop of the horses hooves over the ground, my uncle's voice guiding the horse to slow down, go faster, stop, reverse, the smell of the horse, swish of the tail, tossing the head and mane, the horse's loud blowing of breath through his nostrils, his whinnying, and the splat and drama of his droppings as we sped along. I was aware of the huge power and size of the horse so I kept a tight hold of the sides fearing the little door of the trap would fly open and I might fall out.

Mass over, I looked forward to the special Sunday breakfast of sausages, black and white pudding, fluffy fresh eggs, rashers and mushrooms. Our grandfather would return from the fields with his hat full of mushrooms. My aunt, armed with a large knife, would leave the kitchen and return with thick rashers of bacon. Thankfully, I was too young then to know that the rashers came from the carcase of the happy pig we used to feed the previous summer. The carcase was covered thickly in salt and suspended from a hook in a very cold room outside the kitchen. The pig house was at the side of the house and I recall being lifted up so that I could see the pig being fed. With great force he would lunge at the buckets of boiled potatoes and milk and other mixtures, all the while grunting loudly, snorting and slithering in the slobber. I was ever aware of his massive size and feared that he might escape.

One of the highlights of any stay in Mannin was a visit from Mr. Caulfield (Vinnie) and his travelling shop from Ballyhaunis. We could hear the van some way off on the silent roads and rush out to meet it before it clattered into the farmyard. As its door opened we would smell the aroma of the one thing in which we children were

most interested – sweets of all kinds.

In recent years two of my nieces, daughters of my sister, Rita, married two of Mr. Caulfield's sons. Aisling Webb married Seamus Caulfield. Together they continue the family business with two grocery/provisions' shops in Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis. My other niece, Eavan Webb, married Tommy Caulfield. For me this is a very happy linking of families with the present and the past.

The orchard was just across from the house. Apples were stored in a room off the kitchen and I vividly recall the intense aroma of ripening apples and a rainbow of multicoloured apples. Some nights I would be woken by muffled voices in the orchard but my fear lessened when hearing my uncle's voice calling out of the window, telling the owners of the voices to go on home. I would hear the sound of scurrying footsteps and a flurry of bicycles rapidly leaving the yard. We were told the orchard was often visited and 'raided' by revellers returning from the town or from dances. Sometimes then I would peer out into pitch darkness, but on starry and moonlight nights I would see the washing left out on bushes for special airing – a ghostly sight. On sunny days the washing would be left on bushes for extra freshness and bleaching. So many exciting, carefree, happy memories.

The hay barn was a playground for us as we climbed the neatly stacked hay bales and then jumped down from one level of bales to another. During hay making we would help carry the bottles of milk, tea and fresh soda bread to the workers in the fields and watch them forking the hay into stacks, sometimes seeing field mice scurrying about in the stubble. Once when I saw a baby rabbit bolt into its burrow, I frantically scooped the soft sand away at the entrance hoping to find the rabbit and keep it as a pet – such innocence.

I loved watching the picking of the new potatoes and seeing their creamy gleam appear as the fork loosened them from the earth. Some potatoes were stored in a pit covered with sacks. Once I saw my uncle ploughing and remember the heaving and leaning of his body as the powerful horse pulled the heavy plough. One day we went with some adults to see a big, mysterious, large, deserted, old grey house set darkly amongst trees. It was only a short walk from the farm. I was apprehensive and feared that people or dogs might appear and chase us away. Although the house troubled me, it was so close to a lake that it seemed to have a watery lawn. I liked walking along the shoreline, my feet crunching while listening to the gentle lapping water. My sister, Noreen, remembers being told by an aunt, who was a child around 1911, that the two women who lived in the house then were very kind. They would go on shopping trips to Dublin, once returning with a doll for my aunt, and no doubt with other delights for her siblings. One

can only imagine the magic of receiving those exotic gifts so long ago, whilst remembering now the loving kindness of both women.

Changed Times

Two years ago, after living in London for fifty years, I returned with my daughter, Helen, and we went to visit Mannin. As my sister, Rita, drove us there I did not recognize any of the roads on the way, but, suddenly, I sensed that we were on the last road leading there and, yes, there it was – the farmhouse.

The present owner, who was refurbishing the house, came out and welcomed us warmly together with his builder and offered to show us around. The interior was being re-designed and I did not recognize any of it. The walled flower garden, which led to the front door of the house, had been demolished, and the granary and cow shed converted into an extension of the house.

It was wonderful to see that the present owner had very sensitively conserved the original façade, including the granary and cow shed, thereby honouring its original design. The land at the back of the house had been levelled including the hen house and hay barn – that felt very strange.

The Hunt family live nearby, and over the long years the Hunt and Conway families were valued friends. My other sisters remember their great kindness when they would visit to play with the young children there in the 1940s. I have just a vague memory of a thatched house and an elderly lady all tucked up in a settle-bed close by the fire. Years later I would come to know how great this was, to have her in the main room where she was at the heart of the family and the life of the farm.

We drove over there and Tom Hunt and his wife Monica came out giving us a great welcome. When Tom was young, my mother Ellen (Nellie) Conway went to work in New York in the 1920s and Tom told us that she would often visit them whenever she was home on holiday and tell them all about New York and her life and work there. Tom, with a big smile, said 'I remember Nellie - she was a real lady.' We stayed awhile, took some photos and left grateful for Tom's reminiscences which we will always treasure.

When my mother returned from New York, she married my father, Edward (Eddie) Byrne from Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis, where I was born.

As my children, Ronan and Helen, were growing up they couldn't get enough stories of my childhood visits to the farm in Mannin and no doubt so will my new, heavenly granddaughter, Alice. Those happy, magical memories were woven into my being so long ago and vividly remain today - just a breath away. They also loved stories of my childhood in Ballyhaunis – but they remain for another time.

LEAVING CERT CLASS OF 1970 - THEN AND NOW



Leaving Cert Class of 1970, Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Monica McNieve, Margaret Earley, Jenny Glynn, Catherine Hopkins, Monica Connolly, Mary B. McDonnell, Patricia Hopkins, Dolores Freyne, Noreen Murphy, Teresa Forde, Mary Duggan. Front, L-R: Mary Tully, Kathleen Finn, Audrey Cunnane, Margaret Morris, Teresa Cunniffe, Catherine Finn, Noreen Folliard, Heather Conway, Bridie Healy.



Leaving Cert Class of 1970, Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis, photographed at their class reunion held in The Hazel Bar and restaurant, Ballyhaunis earlier this year. Back, L-R: Kitty Cribbin, Teresa Cleary, Annette Folliard, Audrey Cunnane, Noreen Walsh, Mary Lyons, Tina McNieve, Teresa Cunniffe, Elaine Forde. Centre, L-R: Margaret Finnegan, Teresa Forde, Mary T. Nolan, Mary McDonnell, Kathleen Finn, Monnie McNieve, Heather Conway, Margaret Earley, Ann Greally, Catherine Hopkins, Monica Connolly, Mary Duggan. Front, L-R: Ann Cribbin, Ethna Curran, Jenny Fitzgerald, Rosemary Hussey, Linda McGuire, Mary Boyle, Dolores Freyne. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.

BALLYHAUNIS GOLF CLUB



*Left:
Emmett Keane
(Captain) and his
wife Aoife
presenting Norrie
Dillon with the
Captain's Prize to
the Ladies 2010.
Glynn's Photography,
Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.*



*Right:
Lady Captain
Laurena Freeley
presenting her
winning prize to
Nuala Fitzgerald.
Glynn's Photography,
Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.*



*Centre:
Prizewinners in the Lady Captain Laurena
Freeley's Day at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.
Back, L-R: Fiona Prenty, Mary Kelly,
Siobhán Herr, Mary Angela Grogan,
Marina O'Connor, Anne Freely,
Margaret Dyer, Niamh Henry, Roisín Hill,
Kathleen Fanning, Ailish O'Connor.
Front: Kung Fanning, Nuala Fitzgerald
(Winner), Laurena Freely (Lady Captain),
Joan Maguire, Patricia Fitzgerald.
Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis*



*Bottom:
Emmett Keane (Captain) and his wife
Aoife presenting Derek Walsh with the
Captain's prize 2010.
Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.*

MONEYMORE MEMORIES

By Olive Imelda Waldron

I was born into a farming family in Moneymore, a village two and a half miles from the town of Ballyhaunis, the youngest in a family of ten, four boys and six girls – Maura, Celia, Anthony, Eddie, Ellie, Anne, Austin, Jim, Vera and myself.

I went to Brackloon N.S. which was a mixed school and had four teachers in those days - Mr. Willie O'Dwyer, Mrs. Frances Morley, Mrs. Kate Flatley and Miss McDermott. My sister Vera, brother Jim and I used walk to school. No schoolchildren had bikes that time, only some big boys and girls. It was two miles to school by road, but we had a short-cut through our land and across the bog, coming out at a bridge on the main road. Cars were very scarce in those days. One local man who had a car was Patk Dyer, a building contractor, who would give us a lift, and would even wait for us at the end of our little road. We thought travelling in the car was thrilling and we loved the smell of the leather upholstery. We had to be in school at ten o'clock and, on the way, would pass the ruins of Waldron's old forge where the big boys would be catching up on homework or copying sums.

School started at ten in the morning and ended at half-past three for senior pupils, and three for the younger ones. The subjects taught to the younger children were English, Irish, 'Sums', Catechism and singing. The older pupils did these subjects, with geography and history as

well. There were three play times: 'small play' at half past eleven; lunch hour from one to two, and then small play for the small ones again later in the afternoon. We ate our lunches outside with the hedges for shelter. On wet days we were allowed to eat in the school room. Then some of us would be asked to sing or recite a poem. It was like a concert - the songs could be in English or Irish. Mrs. Morley taught singing and played the harmonium. She taught this beautiful classical song "A'down the Danube River". When my older sisters went to the Convent School and their teacher heard them singing it she was enthralled and taught it to the rest of her class. The rooms of the school were fairly big. Some of the windows were broken and let the rain in. There was a fire at one end of each room and the small ones at the other end used to be 'perished'. On very cold days the teacher would let the small ones up for a 'shin-heat' at the fire, and they were delighted with that. There is no doubt they suffered from the cold.

Games

The games we played were 'Tick', where one child tapped another one and ran away saying "You have the 'tick' now". So that child ran after the other children to give them the 'tick' back. I forget if there was any winner. Another game was "London Bridge is Falling Down", where two girls held both hands together, which was supposed to be the bridge, and tried to get as many girls to go on their side by whispering the lovely presents they would give them if they did. Then they all danced in a ring together in the end.

Another game was called "I've Come to see Miss Jenny O Jones". We would all sing "I've come to see Miss Jenny O Jones, Miss Jenny O Jones, Miss Jenny O Jones; and how is she today" (repeated twice). Then we'd sing "Miss Jenny O Jones is washing clothes, washing clothes, washing clothes, Miss Jenny O Jones is washing clothes and you can't see her today". So, on it went down through all the household chores until it came to the last verse, and it said: "Miss Jenny O Jones is dead and gone, dead and gone, dead and gone, Miss Jenny O Jones is dead and gone so you'll never see her again". A rather sad ending for a children's game, but most of us didn't understand it at the time anyway!

There was another game where the girls stood in a circle with hands joined and arms raised for two girls to run in and out, one to catch the other. Whoever was caught was the loser so she had to join the circle and let another girl take her place. So it went on until every one had a chance to chase someone else.



Brother, sisters and cousins.

L-R, Back: Maura Waldron, Anne Waldron, Winnie Fleming (Scregg); Seated: Mary Margaret Henry (Crossard), Jim Waldron, Olive Waldron; Front: Vera Waldron.

The School Inspector came occasionally and it was always a day of tension for teachers and pupils, not knowing what questions we'd be asked. The Irish grammar questions were the worst, then reading in English and Irish and spelling. Usually we got by alright. We gave a great sigh of relief when he left to go to another school.

The Religious Inspector came once a year. It was nerve-wracking and always seemed very hard as we got two questions each. If you failed, the teacher would be very disappointed. We had no other subject to do, only catechism, for weeks before the exam and we would be delighted when it was all over.

No child liked it when the Guard came to check for school attendance. If a child was not at school for any reason, a note had to be sent to their teacher. When the Guard came he would read all those notes written by the parents, but he never said anything to us. When I finished in Brackloon I went to the Convent School in town to finish my education.

Convent School

I remember many a morning in the cold weather, leaving home at about quarter past eight to get to the Convent School at nine o'clock, often in the dark or in the moonlight. It usually took us a half hour and ten minutes to walk to town - that was before we got our bikes. The roads were tarred only in 1938: before that they were just gravelled and not very comfortable to travel on. About half way on our journey we passed by a house beside the main road, belonging to Pat Lyons - 'Patk the Roads', where we could see the time on the clock through a window.

If we were late for school we got a slap on our poor, cold hands. I always thought that the nun must have been a 'towns girl', who never had far to walk to school. Then the tall girls had to stand up at the back of the classroom while the smaller ones sat on a form in front of us, as there weren't enough desks. That was hard after walking two and a half miles. If it was a wet morning we had two coats each, my sister Vera and I. We wore one coat and had the other over our heads. We would never be sent out if it was pelting rain, so we would be delighted to get a day from school with no long journey. Then, my father, who was a great weather forecaster, would come in and say, "It's lightening off now so ye can be off". Our hearts would be breaking setting off, and we would surely be very late. One such morning we went off, and when we



Austin, Ellen (nee Carney) and Olive Waldron, Moneymore.

reached the main road it was deeply flooded. There was no fence either side of the road, so we went back home again, delighted not to have to walk that long journey that day. But we always got chores to do; when we were at home, we had to be doing something. If we were sitting down we would be knitting or sewing, or doing crochet.

When I moved to the Convent School I went in to second class, and my first teacher was Sr. Peter. The next year I had Sr. Scholastica - she was very nice to us. For the next two years - fourth and fifth class - we were taught by Mother Alphonsus, another favourite teacher. Sr. de Ricci had sixth class, then Sr. Aloysius taught seventh class. The other teachers in the convent at that time were Sr. Borgia (she taught the 'Babies'), Sr. Benedict (teacher of first class), Sr. Benignus and Sr. Aquin.

I often think how advanced the Convent School was at that time, when you consider that we read some of William Shakespeare's plays - while still in primary school. I remember doing Macbeth, Henry IV, Henry V and Richard III. I still recall being terrified of the witches in Macbeth.

One distinct memory I have of my time in the Convent School was when the whole school attended a special 'Eucharistic Congress' in Tuam in 1936. It was my first time on a train, and we were all very excited to be on this adventure. I remember one girl from our class putting her head out the window, and her hat being blown away. The ceremony itself was held in the Cathedral and there were fourteen bishops in attendance. Afterwards, we were all treated to an orange apiece.

Chores

I remember, as a young girl, my first task on Saturday evenings was to polish all the Sunday shoes for the family. Four of my sisters were nurses. They studied and later worked in different hospitals in Leeds, Bradford and Manchester. When they came home they would have beautiful patent leather shoes which had to be polished with Vaseline. Another chore was cleaning the smoothing irons. They would be scoured using clay, then polished with a soft cloth, after which they would be beautiful and shiny. It meant that awful job was done in 'jig time'.

When summer came, all of us - my mother, brother and sisters (even when they were home on holiday) - came out to help foot the turf or help with the hay and

harvest. The holiday-makers loved the smell of the heather and turf smoke and fresh air. I remember well my job, as a small child, was to remove the burdock or black-heads (as they were called in our part of the country) when taking out oats, barley and wheat that my father had cut with the scythe. There was plenty of burdock, but the thistles were worse. Then mother would bring out the tea, currant cake and maybe apple pies in the evening. Everything tasted lovely in the fresh air. We all worked until the sun went down – tired but happy. All this was lovely, but when the rain came it was a different story. My father would be waiting for ‘the fine hours’. 1946 was a very bad year. It seemed to be raining every single day. I remember going out to save the hay. We went out at four o’clock in the morning hoping that it would ‘hold off’ for a few hours, which it did. We made the hay into tramp-cocks. We finished those fields in late evening. It was a great feeling to get all done as it was a fairly fine day. We said the Rosary that night in thanksgiving to God and the Blessed Virgin for keeping the rain off. Of course we said the Rosary every night and also the Litany of the Blessed Virgin and Hail Holy Queen. Also the ‘trimmings’- special requests for neighbours, cousins, aunts and uncles, if they were ill, or if there were exams to be passed, or babies to be born. Each one had a decade to say, and even when we had visitors staying they too got their decade to recite.

My father was known to everybody as ‘Jacob’ and this is how he got the name. When he was a young man he and his brothers Eddie and Jim would go to England every year to work for farmers in the Fen Country. One particular year the foreman, an English-man whose name was Jacob, left the job and my father got his place. The overseer who wasn’t used to the name Austin kept calling him Jacob instead, and the name stuck. Even in old age, he regarded anyone who called him Jacob as a friend – I suppose it reminded him of his youth. My father and his brother Eddie saved the money earned in England and built my old home in 1900. Before that, our family home was across the road beside Kedian’s old house. All our fields had different names - Cnoc Áine, Cnocán a Sceithe, Cnocán Ruadh, Eascaí. There was an ancient, tall Ash tree on our land which my father told us was a well known landmark for miles around.

Another memory I have is of a day our father was gone to town. Our huge black horse called ‘Bob’ fell into a river at the end of our land, with only his head above water, and neighing pitifully. I had to run across the fields for a neighbour John Joe Cribbin, about half a mile away, for help to get poor Bob out. At last when we came back, another neighbour – Philip Hunt – had come and helped



Our house in Moneymore.

my brother to get the horse out with the aid of a rope around his neck. Bob gave them plenty of help, glad to get out of the water. We brought him home to his own stable and my brother rubbed him down with plenty of straw and gave him plenty of oats. We loved that dear poor Bob. Bob, alas, is long since gone ‘where all good horses go’.

Grandmothers

My grandmother Carney lived in Kilbrogan, Aghamore. My mother often told us that when she was young, if they couldn’t go to Mass for any reason, they had to say the full fifteen decades of the Rosary at home. Grandmother Carney was a great woman, being married at eighteen and having had twelve children. Seven of these went to the USA - some of them were twenty-five years old before emigrating. One of the girls – Delia – was the first to leave in the early 1900s. She was very lucky to marry a good, hardworking man whose father came from the same parish at home. She sent the passage home to her brother Pat, and so on until the youngest – Stephen – went in the 1920s. I just barely remember him visiting our house before he emigrated, and being given advice by my father. Delia never came home again, nor any of her six brothers, except one – Eddie – who was in the US army and was allowed to wear his soldier’s uniform while here.

Two of my aunts lived in Crossard – two Mrs. Henrys. Maria was my father’s sister, and Mary Kate was my mother’s sister. When we went to visit them and their

families, we'd go out our own road, across the main road and turn in at Barheen. We passed by a lot of houses - many of them now empty and in ruin. I have fond memories of visiting Mark Fitzmaurice's, the first house in Barheen. He was known as 'Mark the Nailer' and lived with his daughter Delia. There was the first house in this road and it was a great visiting house, as was Hunt's a short distance away on the main Brackloon road. We went on through Barheen, Forthill and Mountain. Then we turned in at 'Burke's Hilleen' in Tavnaghmore and continued across the fields to Crossard where both aunts lived, not far from each other.

My grandmother Waldron lived with us in Moneymore. As children we called her 'Gamma'. She died when I was quite young, but I still have vivid memories of her. She was born in part of Clooncan known as Croy in 1840 and lived through the Famine. All she ever said about the Famine was that they weren't too badly off in her village as they had enough bags of meal to get them through those tough times. Her husband died at the age of thirty-three and she was left a young widow with five children. It must have been hard on her to have to rear her family alone in those years, however, she managed to get through with the help of relations and neighbours.

Grandmother Waldron was a great storyteller and could regale us with old tales heard in her youth. One story I remember was about a woman she called Peggy Gawney (Peigi Dhána?). She was also a nice singer. One of the songs from her youth was 'Caroline and her Young Sailor Bold' about this girl who eloped with a sailor and who had to remain disguised as a sailor on board ship in case she'd be found out. She spent "three years and a half on the ocean, dressed in her jacket of blue". Another favourite song of hers was 'After the Ball was over', which is still sung nowadays. Even in her advanced years she recalled the great fear there was of the British soldiers - the 'Redcoats'. She told us once that when she was a young girl (in the 1840s) she and some of her friends went around the six or seven houses in her home village of Croy after dark, knocking on the doors, pretending to be the Redcoats. Needless to say, they were punished when it was

found out!

Another story about Grandmother Waldron concerns my oldest sisters. They used to go visiting to a house far across country from our home. This was forbidden as they would have to cross a river to get there, so they pretended to be just crossing the road to the neighbours' house. For this expedition they used to borrow their grandmother's nice, warm, woollen shawl from the room upstairs (without her knowing), sneak it out a back window and let it fall down to the ground, where they picked it up on their way out. This particular night they got the shawl, put it out the window, and they heard this awful, terrified howl - it was their poor granny. She happened to be standing contemplatively underneath that upstairs window, and did not know what was happening, feeling something falling on her head and not being able to see anything. So the game was up and they did not attempt that again.

Moneymore

Moneymore was a small village, but a nice place to grow up in. Times were hard, but we were all in the same boat and we all helped our neighbours as best we could. Three other families lived there when I was going to school. Across the road from our house were Patrick

Kedian, his wife Maggie (nee Kilkenny) and their family Mary, Jim, John and Delia. In at the end of our road the Cribbin family lived: John and Mary Anne (nee Murphy) and their four sons John Joe, Luke, Willie and Pat. The Hunt family lived out on the main road. When I was going to school, Mrs. Bridget Hunt (nee Grogan) lived there with her family. Her husband Michael was working in England. There was a famous visiting house where neighbours met up every evening to catch up on all the news, and where stories and yarns were told.

Sadly, all the houses in Moneymore are empty now and life has changed a lot since those times. However, I still have a lot of good memories of life there.

God be with those happy days.



Maria Waldron (nee Greally), Moneymore, in 1930. She died the following year aged ninety-one, having been fifty-three years widowed. Photograph taken by her niece Kitty Winston on holidays from Boston, USA.

PHOTOS FROM GURTEEN



Gurteen Group. Catherine Lynskey (nee Freeley) at left, with her daughter Mary (front), and Catherine Lynskey (nee Caulfield), with her son Willie Lynskey (right). 1952.



Mrs. Margaret Freeley, Gurteen, 1940s.



Tom Freeley, Gurteen, 1940s.



*At Gurteen Stations, 1950
L-R: Michael Freeley, Martin Culliney, Margaret Freeley,,
Delia Brennan (nee Tarmey) and Kate Lynskey.*



*Above: Eddie Lynskey, Gurteen.
Below: Jim Lynskey, Gurteen.*





Top left: Kate Lynskey, Gurteen (left) with two friends.

Top right: L-R: Luke Freeley, Delia Freeley, Mike Freeley and Catherine Lynskey. Taken in Gurteen, early 1980s.

Centre left: 'Guinness is Good For You'! Catherine Lynskey (nee Caulfield), Luke Freeley and Willie Lynskey. Gurteen Stations, 1950.

Centre right: Catherine Lynskey (centre) with Mary Lynskey and Jackie Freeley. Gurteen, 1954.

Bottom: L-R: Catherine Lynskey, Liam Lynskey, Peg Murphy (Bekan), Mike Freeley, Martin Murphy (Bekan). 1977.

THE STORY OF ONE EMIGRANT FAMILY

THE HOBANS FROM LISBAUN

By James Hoban. Email: jrick40@aol.com

Growing up in America, I always knew that my grandparents, Thomas Paul Hoban and Mary Ellen (nee Waldron), came from Ballyhaunis and migrated to Seattle in the state of Washington. But my father died when I was three, my mother remarried and the family moved to California after World War II, so I rarely saw my grandfather or cousins. Within the past decade I have re-established a link with the Hobans and begun to find out about my ancestors. Here is their story.

Patrick Hoban was a farmer in Lisbaun East, five km to the northeast of Ballyhaunis. He and his wife Bridget (nee Bones) leased twelve acres of land that was part of the large estate of Lord Viscount Dillon. They raised a family of four boys and three girls in the 1840's and 50's, during the difficult years of the Famine.

The earliest emigration by the Hobans of Lisbaun that we know of occurred during the 1860's when four of Patrick and Bridget's children migrated to the United States, settled and raised their families, mostly in Minnesota. Many of their descendants still live in the Minneapolis area.

One son, Thomas Hoban stayed in Lisbaun, married Eleanor Sloyan in 1867 and raised a family of seven children. All seven tried life in the United States during the 1890's, going first to Minneapolis where their aunts and uncles were. Five moved on west, settling in the Seattle area. Two, John and Michael, returned to Ireland. Some of their descendants still live near the family farm, while others moved to other areas of Ireland such as Dublin, as well as England, New York, Chicago and Texas.

The Hobans usually took passage from Queenstown (now Cobh), on the trans-Atlantic passenger ships. They always travelled in the company of relatives and friends from Ballyhaunis - groups of young, single Irish folk seeking jobs as housekeepers, railroad men and labourers. They settled in

Irish neighbourhoods and maintained their national identity all their lives. Many returned at least once to visit their families in the Old Country.

The young Hobans headed for Minneapolis and moved in with aunts and uncles who had preceded them by a generation. Among them, in 1893, was my grandfather - Irish speaking, pipe smoking, willing to work, and headed west! Abandon the family and friends back home? Not at all! Did they have to look far for work? No! The Great Northern Railway needed hard-working hands to break through the great Rocky Mountains and then drive west to Seattle on the north-Pacific coast.

Being a railroad employee meant that travel on the rails was free, while wages from the Great Northern provided adequate money for the ship passage across "the pond". Grandfather Thomas returned home three or four times. One trip was in 1908 to wed Mary Ellen Waldron of Holywell in Began parish. Nell, a teenage sister of Mary Ellen, returned with them and also settled in the Seattle area. She was among twenty-four young folk from Ballyhaunis, in their teens and early twenties, who made the voyage on that same ship, the *Carmenia*. Their surnames - such as Lyons, Burke, Cunnane, Finn, Byrne, Fitzmaurice, Flanagan, Gallagher, Costello, Dillon, Morley



Six children of Thomas Hoban and Ellen Sloyan, taken in U.S.A., 1905: Delia, P.C., Michael, Mary, Margaret and Thomas.



The home of P. C. Hoban, near Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., about 1912.



John Hoban, Cloonroe.

and Ruane - are still prominent in the Ballyhaunis/Bekan area and in County Mayo.

Tragically, Tom's wife Mary died of "Child Bed Fever" within a month of the birth of her fourth child in 1912. The children were raised by an order of Irish Catholic Brothers in Seattle until 1920 when Tom took his four children back to Ballyhaunis for three months. He might have stayed, but the Black and Tans were active trying to suppress the Irish independence movement that exploded in 1916 with the Easter Rising in Dublin. Judging the situation as dangerous, Tom feared for his young sons and their future. Instead, he returned to Seattle with his wife's younger sister Annie Waldron. She had agreed to help raise her nephews and niece, and spent the rest of her life living only three houses away

from Tom in Seattle.

Who would have thought that 115 years after leaving for jobs in America descendants would return, on 31st May 2009, to a family reunion in Mayo? Hoban cousins in the Seattle area had reunions in 2003, 2005 and 2007. Since my wife and I have begun spending half the year in Ireland, we arranged a reunion for the local descendants of the Lisbaun "clan" which was very successful. On Saturday, the nine coming from America toured churches (including St. Patrick's), cemeteries and family homes. Sunday began with a family Mass in the Apparition Chapel at Knock and continued with a presentation and lunch at the McWilliam Park Hotel in Claremorris.

(See reunion photograph on next page)

The Patrick Hoban – Bridget Bones Family

Lived in Lisbaun, Ballyhaunis, Mayo, Ireland						
1st	Patrick Hoban			----- Married -----	Bridget Bones	
2nd	THOMAS b. 18 Jan 1836 d. 15 Feb 1921 Lisbaun Married ELEANOR SLOYAN Children	MARY b. 16 July 1837 d. Minnesota? Married HUGH FLATLEY Children	MARGARET b. 28 Jan 1842 d. 4 Apr 1894 Minneapolis Married THOMAS MORLEY Children	BRIDGET b. 1843 d. 14 Apr 1915 Minneapolis Married MICHAEL MORLEY Children	JOHN EDWARD b. 18 May 1845 d. 14 Nov 1912 Minneapolis Married HONORAH MEEHAN Children	PATRICK b. 1846 d. Kent, WA? Married MISS DOOGAN Children
3rd	7	5	4	7	8	?

Descendents of Patrick and Bridget Hoban count well over 500, most of them alive today - pretty impressive! Thomas and Eleanor (Sloyan) Hoban alone had 45 grandchildren, 81 great-grandchildren, 123 great-great-grandchildren, 90 great-great-great-grandchildren and 24 great-great-great-great-grandchildren.

Hoban Family Reunion



Hoban Family Reunion, 31st May 2009. Among them are Michael, John and Aoife McDonagh, Eddie and Frances Mulhern, Patricia and Padraic Murphy, John Joe, Susan and Joanne Hoban, Helen Hoban, Kathleen, Michelle, Daryl, Ellen, Jade and Daryl Henry, Annie, John and Brian Morley, Bernard and Noreen Ruane, Emmet and Harriet Hoban.



85th Birthday Celebration

*Kathleen McNamara, Upper Main St. and formerly Tullaghane, celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday with family this September. She is pictured here with her daughter and six sons.
Back, L-R: Michael, John, Kevin, Vincent and Eamon. Front, L-R: Kay, Kathleen and Paul.*

THE "TIPPERARY MAN" JACK JUDGE WAS REALLY A "BALLYHAUNIS MAN"

By Pat Higgins

The story of a wartime hero who inspired national pride and determination throughout wartime Britain; but who has gone largely unrecognised in the Ireland of his roots.

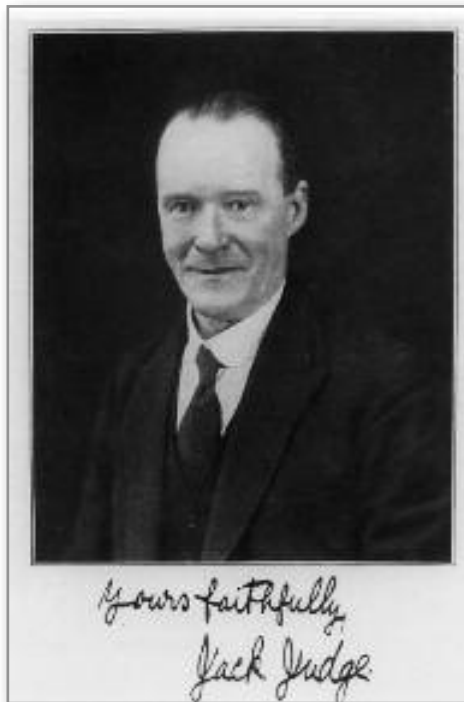
Ballyhaunis Connection

It is doubtful if many Ballyhaunis-born residents of, or visitors to, the Greater Manchester area, would be aware of the Ballyhaunis connection as they pass the fine bronze statue of the suited man, and the mouthorgan-playing British soldier, that adorns the street in front of the Stalybridge Town Hall, in Tameside, Manchester. Similarly, the celebrity-attended, colourful, civic ceremony with military honours for the installation of a commemorative brass-plated bench, in Oldbury Town centre, would probably have lacked Ballyhaunis connection awareness.

The subject of those commemorative ceremonies is Jack ('Jackie') Judge, the late 19th and early 20th century prolific songwriter, and popular concert hall performer. It was Jack who penned and first performed the song "It's a Long Way to Tipperary", one of more than a hundred of his songs. The stories told around the writing of that internationally popular song and its author's life are quite fascinating.

Ballyhaunis Ancestors

Baptised John Thomas Judge, Jack (known affectionately to his family as Jackie) was born in Oldbury on December 3rd 1872, to parents, John (Jack senior) Judge and Mary McGuire. Jack senior was born on the Breheny (Judge, as Gaeilge) family farm in Carrowbeg, Ballyhaunis, the son of James P. Breheny and Annie Judge. James P's father Gilbert Breheny, farmer and carpenter, and neighbour, Owen Doyle, were joint tenants, on 108 acres in and around Carrowbeg in 1856. Jackie's mother, Mary Maguire was Oldham born to staunchly Irish parents, Thomas and Jane Maguire. (It would be an interesting study to establish the maternal Irish roots). Jack senior emigrated in the midst of a sequence of severe, recurring



A young Mary Meehan (Kenny) with Bridget Breheny outside the Carrowbeg cottage.

famines of that time, to join his granduncle Rodger, and his uncles Rodger and John at Greets Green Road, West Bromwich. Jackie's grandfather, James P., emigrated to Chicago after the trauma of the death of Marty, his twenty-one year old son, in 1883. His subsequent story requires further research.

Jackie Judge's family story is told by his grandniece, Verna Hale Gibbons, in two well researched publications - *The Tipperary Man* and *The Judges: Carrow Beg to the Midlands of England* - the former, in a style made all the more readable by the fictionalisation of probable dialogue; the latter adding to the genealogical facts as they emerged from further research. Verna describes her task as being "to reveal the life, times, and character of the man" – Jack Judge – and she apologises to the reader for the fact that it would not be possible to mention everything of note that he and members of his family did and achieved. What she does succeed in doing, is in telling an absorbing story of a struggle to survive poverty; the story of family joy, tempered by emigration forced by famine conditions; the story of the transition from a farming life-style in rural Ireland to hard work in unhealthy industrial conditions, resulting in the sadness of early deaths, brought about by Measles and TB epidemics - the story of a journey from relative anonymity to national acclaim.



Surviving in "The Black Country"

As the Judge family grew in numbers and family finances became strained, the eleven year old Jackie, while doing well at school, dropped out, lied about his age (one had to be fourteen years) and commenced work in an iron foundry, alongside his father. Eventually, Jack Snr., under financial pressure to support his growing family (further increased by the propensity of his charity-minded wife to adopt abandoned babies – three such added to their own large family), decided to borrow money and set up a street-side fish stall, to augment his foundry wages. Being a poor man he was unable to get a loan from a bank and he turned to money lenders. Despite the demands of high interest rates, with the active support of his wife Mary and the older family members, his fishmonger's business thrived. He was now thirty-five years of age.

A Strange Visit to Ballyhaunis

An intriguing part of the Judge family story is the decision of Jack Snr. to revisit Carrowbeg, Ballyhaunis in 1885. By this time his grandfather, Gilbert Judge, had passed away. His elderly grand-aunt Mary lived on the family farm, with her daughter-in-law Annie and her grand-daughter Bridget Breheny. Jack had brought with him his four year old son Jimmy. The story goes that he arrived at the door of the Breheny cottage in Carrowbeg late one cold evening. He introduced himself and was welcomed by Mary and Bridget. He told them he had a present for them and opened his coat, inside which he had wrapped the young Jimmy. Despite urgings to come in and stay a while, he passed the sleeping child to Bridget telling her he would be good company for her and rushed away, promising to stay longer the next time. And so it was that songwriter Jack Judge's brother Jimmy Judge grew up in Carrowbeg, Ballyhaunis. Jimmy is said to have had an easy-going pampered life with Annie and

Bridget, and was given a good education at the nearby Franciscan Monastery School, in Granlahan. At sixteen years of age he returned to Oldham and is said to have found life in that industrial setting difficult. He returned to Ireland and joined the Royal Garrison Artillery based in Cork. After eight years foreign service, he went on to join the police, serving in Edinburgh.

A Large Family and Growing Business Calling

Jack rushed back to his large family and growing fishmonger's business in Oldham. His son, the six-foot tall Jackie, was now fourteen, and daughter Jane Ann was twelve. Jane Ann also dropped out of school and went to work to support the family finances. Mary was very upset about her talented children dropping out of school as she had hoped for professional careers for them. As diversion from the hum-drum existence of hard grinding work, Jackie and Jane Ann attended the local concert hall regularly. They both became intrigued by the show-business atmosphere. They were also tempted by the prize money on offer at the regular talent competitions. This motivated them to develop comedy and singing acts and to dedicate themselves to serious practice with a view to entering the competitions. Thus began their amateur stage careers. Audiences loved the poems that Jackie wrote himself, and they both chalked up many talent competition wins.

Tragedy Strikes – Family Finances Strained

However, tragedy struck. Jack Snr. was diagnosed with TB and died on 30th June 1888, aged only thirty-eight years. Now the struggle for survival began in earnest. The family business had a heavy loan burden. It was necessary for the whole family to work the business to the best of their abilities. Jack and his sister decided that it was necessary to expand their sales approach. So, in the evenings, after their own work, they began touring the bars and other places of entertainment selling

cockles, winkles and prawns. Their *modus operandi* was to sing music hall songs as they went around. Jane Ann started to sell trinkets also. Realising how popular their sales had become, she began to dress in gypsy clothes and jewellery. To increase their popularity Jack would sing and “perform at the drop of a hat” for either customers of their street-side fish stall, or for suppliers at the market. As one can imagine, at first he was mocked, but the quality of his performances soon won over his casual audiences. Their mother, Mary, was still a young woman in her late thirties. With the encouragement of her family she married Bill Withey, a friend of her late husband. She also adopted a baby boy whom she called Edward (Ted) Judge. Ted would later become an accomplished concert hall performer in his own right.

In 1894 Jane Ann, at age twenty, married her childhood sweetheart, Sam Stanley, while Jack’s relationship with neighbour Jenny Carroll began when they were challenged to sing his mother’s favourite song in duet. Jack and Jenny married the following June. Jenny too “rowed in” with the business. Jack still worked at the iron foundry, as his main job, but his reputation as an entertainer was spreading across the Black Country. He was beginning to sense the need, and indeed the desire, to turn professional. However, the arrival of their first child, John, in 1896, put an end to that dream - for the moment at least - since his stage earnings was no match for his foundry wages.

Long Hours of Hard Work

Jack was now working all sorts of hours: at the foundry, at the family fishmonger business, and on the stages of the larger pubs and clubs in the wider Black Country region. As happens to many people who stretch their endurance to the limit, Jack felt the need for “light relief”, and began to succumb to the temptations of gambling and liquor, much to the concern of his wife Jenny. This was a source of serious family tension. About this time, and much to Jenny’s delight, he was fortunate to meet the wheelchair-bound Harry Williams, brother of the new landlord of his local pub ‘The Malt Shovel’. Harry was an accomplished pianist and readily offered to write the music for Jack’s compositions. However, this turned sour for Jenny when she discovered that Jack had borrowed heavily from the Williams brothers to

finance his gambling and drinking. Jenny was further incensed to find out that Jack had promised to put Harry Williams’ name with his own on any song that was successful. Which promise he dutifully kept with the publication of ‘It’s a Long Way to Tipperary’.

Fortunes Take Another Twist

Jack’s fortune took another twist when, within a few weeks, he was approached with “an offer he could not

THE ENCORE. APRIL 1, 1915

COLLINS'S
MUSIC HALL, DUNSTON GREEN R.
TWICE NIGHTLY at 8.15 & 9.50


MONDAY, MARCH 29th
SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION!

JACK JUDGE
THE ORIGINAL SINGER
- AND COMPOSER OF -
'IT'S A LONG WAY TO TIPPERARY'

1 9d. 8d. 6d. 4d. 2d.

"HOW ARE YER?"

TIPPERARY JACK



"HOW ARE YER?"

IN THE YEARS TO COME!

The NEW GENERATION: Did you know the great War Song 'TIPPERARY', sung by our Soldiers when they entered Berlin?

The OLD GENERATION: W- all knew it and we all sang it.

The NEW GENERATION: Who Composed it?

The OLD GENERATION: JACK JUDGE.

The NEW GENERATION: Who first sang it?

The OLD GENERATION: JACK JUDGE.

The NEW GENERATION: Did you ever see him?

The OLD GENERATION: I saw him and heard him. Sing it -

refuse” by Fred Machin, manager of a major concert hall ‘The Mermaid’ in Birmingham. Fred offered “a more professional rate of bookings”. Jenny and Jack hoped that this would put the family finances on a more solid footing. The fishmonger family business was also expanding to deliveries to local shops and to surrounding towns. The new offer meant that Jack would no longer have to suffer the darkness, grime, and scars of the molten metal in the iron foundry. It was wonderful also to have time to develop new stage material and song lyrics. Within a short time he was drawing audiences of 700 plus at the ‘The Mermaid Concert Hall’. As well as his talents as a comedian, a song composer, and a singer, he was also building a reputation as a wonderfully melodious whistler, a performance talent in its own right at that time.

Another Break Offers

Jack took the brave step of entering the British National Talent Competition at “The Old Vic” in London. During this competition the audience would subject contestants to severe vocal and missile abuse. To his and his family’s delight, national newspapers carried enthusiastic reviews of Jack’s performance both as singer/songwriter and stage presence as he controlled the difficult audience. The ‘News of the World’ accompanied a full page article with a large sketch of Jack in action squashing the hecklers into silence. All serious theatrical reviews carried similar positive reviews. Waiting back stage at ‘The Vic’ was an important entertainment scout, Tom Pacey, who offered him a string of engagements across the UK.

National Acclaim Achieved

He had achieved national acclaim. This is said to have fuelled his ambition to become a published songwriter and motivated him to return home and sift through his crammed “song box” to review and improve his compositions. It was 1912 and Jack had not yet succeeded in convincing any major music company to publish any of his work. This was a matter of serious disappointment to him. He and his brother Ted were playing ‘The Grand Theatre’ in Stalybridge. After a performance he went to a club near the theatre. Here he was teased by his companions about his signature tune, a “rabble rousing ditty”, ‘How are Yer’, which he had written in 1908. His fellow performer Frank Newbury is said to have challenged him, with a bet of five shillings, to write a new song and perform it on stage the next night. Jack “took up the gauntlet” and went home considering his challenge. The result was his first performance of the song ‘It’s a Long Way to Tipperary’ to enthusiastic acclaim on the stage of ‘The Grand Theatre’, on the night of January 31st 1912. Jack won the bet.

How ‘Tipperary’ was written

How Jack succeeded in penning ‘Tipperary’ is disputed in theatrical and family folklore. One version is that he thought about the writing challenge a little before going to bed, and then “slept on the idea”. The next day, after breakfast, he paid a visit to friend George Lloyd at his pub ‘The New Market Inn’. While enjoying a drink at the pub, Jack wrote down the song in a very short time. He then went to ‘The Grand’ where his friend, the Musical Director at the Theatre, Horace Vernon wrote down the musical notation while listening to Jack singing the song. The other version of the story, and the most likely one is that Jack, realising the time constraints, decided that his best chance of winning the five shilling bet, was to re-write and improve one of his old compositions. He searched through his stack of compositions and decided to re-work his mother’s favourite, which he had titled ‘It’s a Long Way to Connemara’. He replaced ‘Connemara’ with ‘Tipperary’ and stepped up the tempo, deciding this was more “catchy”. Now he realised he needed the musical notation for it and this was completed by Horace Vernon. This version of the story has Jack practising the song at the theatre with the ancillary staff as his Chorus. This worked well; indeed so well that Jack invited audience participation that night, with great success. He had a reputation for wonderful stage presence. His technique was to involve the audience to maximum extent in the performance. Audiences loved this. His popularity grew. When Bert Feldman of London agreed to purchase the copyright and publish the song, Jack kept his promise to Harry Williams and added Harry’s name to the composition. Feldman’s encouragement of the popular music hall singer Florrie Forde in performing the song, contributed to popularising it. Florrie Forde was the leading concert hall performer of the day. ‘It’s a Long Way to Tipperary’ was first recorded by John McCormack. It has become a really international song, performed by thousands and recorded by hundreds of artists, bands and orchestras throughout the world, including such surprising recordings as that of the Red Russian Army Choir.

The Emigrant Identity Dilemma

Ironically, Jack suffered the worst experience of his stage life in the Ireland of his roots. He had played to appreciative audiences in Dublin in the winter pantomimes of 1911-12 and 1912-1913. Because of the growing popularity of ‘It’s a Long Way to Tipperary’ during the 1913-1914 panto season, he returned again in 1921. However, the Dublin and Ireland of 1921 was in the latter stages of the War of Independence. The Black and Tan terror was at its height and anti-British sentiment was running high. IRA units were targeting people and places associated, in any way, with Britain. Jack had adjourned to a pub after his performance in a

nearby theatre. As he walked to his hotel later that night, he was accosted by a group of men, seriously beaten and driven around the city while his life was threatened at gun point. Jack, despite never having joined the British army, had “committed the serious sin” shared by many thousands of members of thousands of families throughout Ireland - that of association with the British army. His was an association through army membership of members of his family, and through the themes of his songs. He was eventually released by his captors when he convinced them of his Irishness - by counting in Irish, as he had been taught by his parents.

Always the “Local Man”

National acclaim as a songwriter and on-stage performer does not totally define Jack Judge – the man, husband, father, neighbour. His biographer and grandniece, Verna Hale Gibbons tells us that, despite his national and international fame, Jack Judge maintained the friendships of the people he had been raised among; that he was a man who liked a pint in his local, “a flutter”, and was an ardent supporter of the “Baggies” - West Bromwich Albion - whom he loved to watch in action. His creative mind was never still; he is reputed to have composed a supporting poem each week – depending how Albions were doing at the time.

National Gallantry Award

A near drowning experience in the local polluted canal as a young boy in 1876, when he was saved by a neighbour as he sank for the umpteenth time, must certainly have moulded Jack Judge, the man.

Twenty-eight years later, on April 23rd 1904, as Jack was loading the family fish cart for the market, he heard screams coming from the direction of that same canal. Eleven years old James Locklan was wheeling the pram in which his two year old sister Annie was sleeping along the rough tow path at the side of the canal. The pram overbalanced and fell into the murky water dragging the young James with it. Jack was soon by the canal side and, not waiting to take off his fishmonger apron and heavy boots, jumped into the filthy water, dived to the muddy bottom, grabbed the baby from the pram and was soon handing her to her distraught mother. Diving back into the water he recovered the boy, climbed to the bank and swiftly administered recovery procedures. Despite many onlookers’ fears, the boy started to recover. Strangely, these were the children of the man who had saved Jack himself twenty-eight years before. Jack was awarded the Honorary Testimonial for Gallantry of the Royal Human Society, signed by the Prince of Wales. The presentation was made by the Chief Magistrate, in the presence of Council dignitaries and a large cheering crowd that packed the district Court House.

The Life Saver in Action Earlier

However, this was not the first time Jack had resuscitated a near drowned person. During the hot summer of 1900, Jack and three of his friends, Jack MacQueeny and brothers Tom and Mick Gallagher, were cooling off in the water of Bromford Canal locks. Suddenly they noticed that the lock gates were opening and that a torrent of water was rushing towards them. All rushed for the bank and tried to hang on to the kerb of the tow-path. As the force of the water lessened, the three noticed that Jack MacQueeny was nowhere to be seen. Jack Judge dived back in and searched around in the murky water. Not able to see anything he groped along the muddy bottom. Eventually - his lungs screaming for breath - he felt the body of his friend and succeeded in dragging it to the top. The Gallagher brothers dragged them both onto the bank, and Jack performed the resuscitation. Jack MacQueeny never ceased to express his gratitude to Jack for saving his life.

The Family Man – tragedy not always far distant

Tragedy was not always far distant. Of the four children from his first marriage to Jenny Carroll, only one daughter, Cissie, lived long enough to marry and have children. She too died at the early age of twenty-three in 1924. Her mother Jenny had predeceased her, aged forty-nine, in 1921. Son John had died in action in Mesopotamia on 15th February, 1917. Thomas, who continued the fishmonger’s business, died of TB in 1922, aged nineteen years. James contracted TB while serving with the army overseas and died of the disease in 1934, aged thirty-four years.

Jack remarried in 1922 to Maria (Ria) Oliver. Ria had outlived five of her seven children when she died on Christmas Eve 1971, aged eighty-three years. Lily, her eldest, died in 1952 aged forty-one years. Jack died in 1964 aged fifty-two years. Harvey died of TB in 1940 aged twenty-five years. Mary died of TB in 1941 aged eighteen years. Rita (Marion) died in 1943 aged twenty years. Kathleen died of TB in 1939, aged twenty years. Despite the litany of tragedy, descendants of Jack Judge and those of his siblings are still to be found in the vicinity of Oldbury and further afield.

Jack Judge’s Ballyhaunis Relations

Here in Ireland, the Breheny/Judge family farm was passed on by Bridget Breheny, to her cousin Nora Meehan, nee Judge, who, while born in Johnstown, had ‘grown up’ in Carrowbeg. Nora married John Meehan of Moate and they returned from the US to live in Carrowbeg where her daughter Mary was born. The young Mary listened with intense interest to the elderly Bridget Breheny telling stories, sometimes with approval, sometimes with disapproval, of the wider



*Group at Judge's Cottage, Carrowbeg, in the early 1920's.
Back, L-R: Bridget Breheny, Michael Waldron, Nora Doyle, Patrick Raftery, Peg Doyle.
Front, L-R: John Naughton (child standing), John Fitzmaurice, Mae Doyle, James Raftery,
Michael Naughton (child standing), with 'Shep' the dog.*

family's 'restlessness' and exploits. Mary Meehan married the late Pat Kenny and they continued to farm the Judge ancestral farm alongside Pat's painting contracts and Mary's nursing. Today, Mary and her grandson, Tomás Murphy, continue to work the land - Tomás continuing the family tradition of farming alongside his nursing career.

So, the Judge/Breheny ancestral family farm at Carrowbeg, Ballyhaunis continues to be lived in, and worked by, direct descendants of Gilbert Judge (1803-1868), who are some of the closest living Irish relatives of Jack Judge – 'The Tipperary Man'.

Time for Deserved Recognition

It is a matter of fact, though not of wonder, that Jack Judge was a war-time hero in Britain, because of how he inspired their national pride and determination to survive a war-time enemy, but was largely unrecognised in the Ireland of his family roots. This was the fate also of the 800-plus brave Irishmen who lost their lives in 1916, in the first twelve hours of the Battle of the Somme, believing, as they did, that they were fighting for the freedom of small nations. It was the fate of the many thousands of Irishmen who lost their lives in other battles of that war and the subsequent World War II, in

the services of the UK. It was the fate of Michael O'Leary, from Inchigeela, Co. Cork, the first Irish person to be awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery in battle. His feats of bravery were celebrated in a song 'Have you Heard of Michael O'Leary' / 'Michael O'Leary VC', written and popularised by Jack Judge.

In an era of the Castlebar Peace Park, the Northern Ireland Accord, the addressing of the Michael Collins commemoration at Beal na Bláth by Brian Lenehan, it is surely time for the genius of Jack Judge to be recognised and celebrated by us all.

The Death of Jack Judge

Jack Judge, internationally celebrated songwriter, actor, comedian, family man, West Bromwich Albion supporter, died at Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, on July 25th 1938. He had been ill with cancer for several years. He was not to experience the importance of his 'Tipperary' to the soldiers, not only of the British Army, but the whole Allied war effort of World War II. His family received condolences from King George VI, the Prince of Wales, and dignitaries from all over the UK, and from thousands of people for whom his songs and performances meant so much in good times and bad. Crowds lined the streets in the pouring rain as the

funeral cortege made its way to Rood End Cemetery, where Jack was laid to rest with his son James Patrick. As his headstone says - May They Rest in Peace.

Author's Note

Jack Judges' biographer Verna apologises that it was impossible for her to include in her book, 'The Tipperary Man', everything of note that Jack Judge and his family did and achieved. How much more it is impossible to do so in an article for 'Annagh'.

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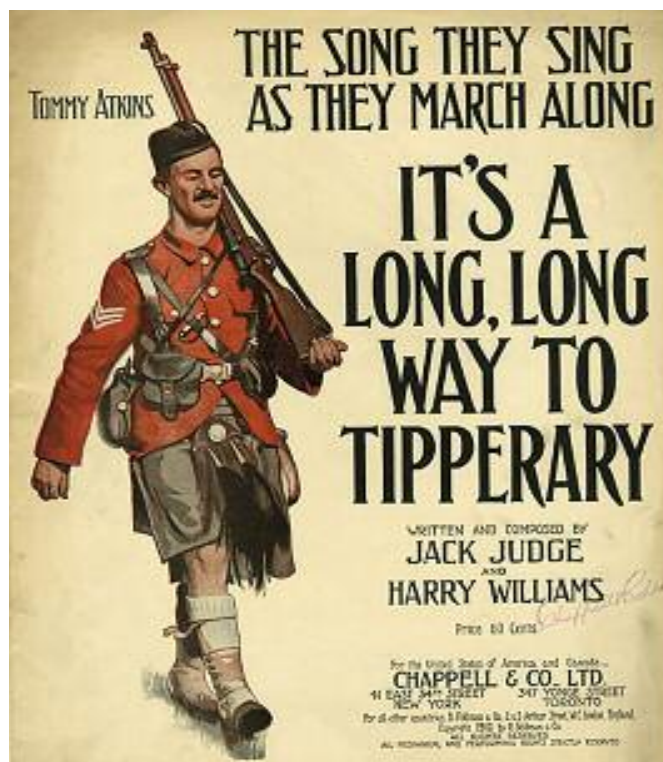
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Pat Higgins (right) with Mary Kenny and Tomás Murphy at the remaining wall of the Judge homestead in Carrowbeg, Ballyhaunis.



It's a Long Way to Tipperary!

Up to mighty London came an Irishman one day,
 As the streets are paved with gold,
 sure ev'ryone was gay;
 Singing songs of Piccadilly, Strand and
 Leicester Square,
 'Til Paddy got excited, then he shouted
 to them there

Chorus:

*It's a long way to Tipperary, it's a long way to go;
 It's a long way to Tipperary,
 to the sweetest girl I know;
 Good-bye Piccadilly, farewell Leicester Square,
 It's a long, long way to Tipperary,
 but my heart's right there.*

Paddy wrote a letter to his Irish Molly O',
 Saying, "Should you not receive it,
 write and let me know!
 If I make mistakes in spelling,
 Molly, dear," said he,
 "Remember it's the pen that's bad,
 don't lay the blame on me."

Chorus

Molly wrote a neat reply to Irish Paddy O',
 Saying, "Mike Maloney wants to marry me,
 and so Leave the Strand and Piccadilly,
 or you'll be to blame,
 For love has fairly drove me silly,
 hoping you're the same."

Chorus

PHOTO MEMORIES



Abbey Street in the 1960s. Photograph by Seamus Mallee, Knock.



Three Generations. Frank Fitzmaurice, his son John and grand-daughters Ann and Jane of Mountain, Forthill, 1955.



Mary Fitzmaurice and daughter Jane, of Mountain, Forthill, 1955.



Friary Choir 1971. Back, L-R: Liam Connell, Anthony Hegarty, Mary Griffin, Anne Regan, Gerard Cleary, Dom Byrne, Helen Fitzgerald, Noelle Sweeney, Anne O'Dwyer, Joe Grogan, Catherine O'Dwyer, Anne Connell. Front, L-R: Liz Griffin, Olive Webb, Benny Curley, Dolores Freyne (organist), Fr. John O'Sullivan OSA, Barbara Fitzgerald, Loretta Curran, Antoinette Byrne. Photograph by Seamus Mallee, Knock.



Friary Altar Servers with Fr. John O'Sullivan OSA, 1971. Back, L-R: Mike Byrne, Stephen Durkan, Sean Cribbin, John Durkan, John Griffin, Declan Murray, Dermot Murray, Brendan Morrissey, Clar Grogan, Seamus Durkan. Front, L-R: Martin Timoney, Kieran Timoney, Michael Regan, Kevin Joyce, Eamonn Murray, Brian Murray. Photograph by Seamus Mallee, Knock.

THE KEY TO FREEDOM

Peter de Loughry was one of nineteen Irishmen incarcerated in Lincoln Jail in England in December 1919. He was born in the middle of what is now a museum, Rothe House, in his native city, Kilkenny. His birth certificate states his place of address as Wolfe's Arch. Other prisoners included Eamonn de Valera, Sean Milroy and Sean McGarry who were under sentence of death. Also among the nineteen was Terence McSwiney.

In December 1919, Peter de Loughry received a letter from home telling him that he had been elected, unanimously, Mayor of Kilkenny - an office he was to hold for seventeen years. In the courtyard of Lincoln Jail he put a proposition to de Valera. "You know, Dev," he said, "I've been thinking since I came in; wouldn't it be great if we could get you out? If I had a blank I could cut a key." De Valera, Milroy and McGarry looked dubious but they eventually decided to set themselves the task of obtaining a blank. Sean Milroy was a very clever cartoonist. He sketched a Christmas card depicting Sean McGarry trying to get a large key into a small keyhole, and on the other side was an illustration showing him in a prison cell staring at a large keyhole. The front of the card had the words "Xmas 1917 - can't get in..." On the reverse side the caption read "Xmas 1918 - can't get out." Underneath, in de Valera's handwriting in Irish, was a covering message which said Field would translate into English. Field was the pseudonym of Michael Collins.

This was sent to Dublin to Mrs. McGarry who thought it was a joke and set it aside. The condemned men were getting very anxious as there was no immediate response to the card. Eventually, the meaning became clear and a beautifully iced cake - baked by an Irish schoolteacher in Lincoln named Kathleen Talty - arrived in the prison. Inside were a blank key and two small files.

Peter de Loughry had to get an impression of the lock, but how? He served morning Mass in the prison Church. De Valera was Sacristan and he collected candle grease in a tin box. With this de Loughry got a faint impression of the lock mechanism. First he had to remove the lock and then replace it. He described it as a difficult, frustrating job as he had to work in silence with the two files and a stout penknife at night time. Only the four involved knew what was happening. Alisdair McCaba, founder of the Educational Building Society, who was a fellow prisoner, said he hadn't any idea of the planned escape.

The key was completed and contact made with Michael Collins who was then in England. A system of signalling was devised and the time arranged. They asked Peter de Loughry to go with them but he declined. He did, however, ask de Valera to return the key at some future time. This was agreed.

On Monday, February 4th, 1919, the prisoners had tea at about 4.30 and, after that, Sean McGarry, Sean Milroy and de Valera vanished without trace. The master key had opened three large doors. Night fell early. At the prison wall Michael Collins, Harry Boland and Paddy Donohoe waited with a rope ladder and a motorcar. The prisoners made their escape and then split up. McGarry and Milroy got back to Dublin, probably by boat from Grimsby. It was considered that de Valera would be more recognisable so he stayed in England.

De Valera was out - the country was wild with joy - not so the prison and local authorities in Lincoln. They were mystified and thought someone outside had thrown a key over the prison wall. Houses in Lincoln were searched without success. There was disquiet in the House of Commons as there were persistent rumours that de Valera would go there and cause a scene before the election of the Speakers. De Valera and Harry Boland made their way to a Kerry born priest, Fr. Charles O'Mahony who was chaplain to the workhouse at Crumpsall in Manchester. De Valera stayed there until Cathal Brugha came over to tell him of conditions in Ireland and when it would be safe to travel. Shortly after, de Valera left Crumpsall and returned to Ireland.

Ten years later, de Valera returned the key to Peter de Loughry.

During one of his Presidential campaigns, de Valera came to Kilkenny and visited Rothe House where the key was then on display. He was almost completely blind and asked to have the key put in his hand. He took it and said - "You know, it turned like velvet in the lock."

Peter de Loughry was elected as an Independent to the Seanad in 1922 until 1925. He was elected to the Sixth Dail for the Carlow-Kilkenny Constituency for the 1927 to 1932 period, however he died in October 1931.

He was an uncle of Maura Burke, Doctor's Road.

CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF IRELAND

A COMPETITOR'S BRIEF REPORT ON THE 2010 ROUND IRELAND YACHT RACE

By Anthony Keane, Knox Street

For many years now I have been inflicted with the sailing bug and indulged myself in trying to learn all there is to know about taking to the sea and mastering the ways of the mariner. Coming late in life to this sport, I, like so many others who discover the joys of sailing in their thirties, work hard to make up for the perceived lost time by learning all they can, whenever they can. I was constantly on the water practicing and taking theory night courses in navigation knowledge.

There are many milestones for people with my obsession and one of them is to sail around Ireland. A full circumnavigation of the Island we live on is high on the agenda of any sailor though for most it is a dream to be addressed in the future but for others; it just won't go away and there is a constant gnawing in your subconscious to get on with it.

And so it was for me. I had to take the opportunity this year of entering the Round Ireland Yacht Race which started in Wicklow on 21st June 2010 (see figure 1) and proceeded south past the great light house on Tuskar Rock, along the south coast to the south-west corner of Ireland and the famous Fastnet Rock and lighthouse. From there you turn north up the Kerry coast rounding awesome headlands, crossing the mouth of the Shannon, up past the Aran Islands and eventually passing the great county of Mayo with its most exciting selection of bays and islands. A snapped spinnaker halyard forced us to head out to sea, too far as it turned out and deprived us of the lovely scenery of the west coast and about a half-day of lost race time. By the time we had completed repairs; we were now turning north-east and pointing towards Tory Island which juts out to the north-west from Donegal. This is a long passage and leaves you totally exposed to the might of the Atlantic Ocean with few and far flung places to run for cover. Once round Tory, you head to the East with Rathlin Island in your sights. This area of Ireland is most beautiful and comforting with the mountains of Scotland giving the impression of nearby

land to the north and the excellent cursing ground of Northern Ireland coast to the south of us. This is in contrast to the bleak and emptiness of the Atlantic Ocean when out of sight of land and subjected to the constant roll of the swell.

Rathlin Island must be passed outside and strong tidal streams overcome before turning south down by Belfast Lough, and round the headlands before turning south-south-west. Now we know the finish is a day away so it is all hands on deck or in our case, sitting on the rail to balance the boat as we beat into a 20 knot wind south-east and slight sea.

It is early in the morning as we approach Rockabill Lighthouse, a few miles outside Malahide. The grey morning mist is getting denser and soon we can no

longer see the outline of the shore. Visibility is poor so we tack out to sea again to avoid the chance meeting of another racing yacht or innocent cruiser, fishing boat or container ship in the heavy mist.

The area around Dublin Bay is often busy with commercial sea traffic, so after five days at sea and in our fatigued state we sought to keep clear as possible without adding extra mileage to our journey. As if to test us one more time, the wind and sea swell suddenly increased and we fought hard to keep the boat from being overpowered and running out of control. Again, we headed in towards land, in the hope the shallower water to the south of the bay would decrease the size of the waves pounding

the boat and allowing us to make better headway. As the mist lifted, we ended up sailing within a hare's breath of Bray Head before turning out to sea again, but only so far as to keep out of the reach of the nastier sea. In and out we went for the next few hours until finally the finish line outside Wicklow was in sight and soon we were over it with a great cheer from the many spectators lining the breakwater pier of Wicklow harbour. We didn't win but we weren't last either. That didn't matter, for me the gnawing has stopped for now.



BALLYHAUNIS RUGBY CLUB

By Michael Keane, Ballyhaunis R.F.C.

Ballyhaunis R.F.C. had another successful season in 2009 – 2010. The J1B League opener for Ballyhaunis took place at home on 27th September 2009. Despite scoring a penalty and a try we were narrowly beaten in a fast paced game – final score N.U.I.G. 14 Ballyhaunis 10. On 4th October we headed for Ferbane to meet West Offaly Lyons. This one turned out to be a real battle with Ballyhaunis unlucky to get only one score ending 3–28. Gort was our next destination on Sunday, 11th October and on this occasion, due to the absence of a referee, we played an enjoyable friendly. We welcomed our old rivals Dunmore to Ballyhaunis on Sunday, 18th October. This was to be our first win of the League and a very exciting game ended 3–Nil. We travelled to Monasteryfield in Clifden to face the Connemara All Blacks on a cold and wet 1st of November. In a hard fought but low scoring game the All Blacks overcame us 9–0. On the 8th November our first game under lights at home saw us overcome Carrick-on-Shannon with a scoreline of 15–3. A week later our first and only game in the Heineken Junior Cup saw a close encounter against Tuam and despite scoring three tries we failed to progress in this competition and were knocked out of the Junior Cup by Tuam. Another winning performance on the 13th December, on a bitterly cold day, saw us overcome Ballinasloe in a fantastic game of running

rugby – Ballyhaunis 15, Ballinasloe 11. After the forced lay off due to bad weather all games were re-scheduled. Training and matches were cancelled for some weeks.

Returning to the field of play on the 13th January we held a strong Portumna side to a well-earned draw of 10–10. In the 11th Round we met another of our old favourites Creggs. A hard game saw Creggs take this one 19–11. Next up was a meeting with Corrib in the Cawley Cup. Ballyhaunis scored a converted try and a penalty but exited the cup on a score line of 19–10 against. We had one of our best games of the season in Westport when we ran out 17–Nil winners after a thrilling game. The re-scheduled game against Gort was another great game albeit unsuccessful for us.

Good Season

All in all we had a good season with the usual ups and downs. We witnessed spectacular displays of skill and courage on the field of play and a big thank you must go to the panel of players who toggged out in some atrocious weather conditions. Thanks also to the people who turned out to support the team. More support would be appreciated especially at the home games, which are free and always entertaining.

To finish the season in April, we played the Eamon Healy Memorial Game after which a very enjoyable social evening was held in the Clubhouse. Presentations were made to Young Player of the Year – Ethan Toal and a well-deserved Club Person Of the Year award went to Georgina Costello. Best Wishes to all.



No.2 Gareth Delaney, Abbey Street, throws a 'perfectly straight' ball to high jumper Patrick Gallagher (Bargarrieff) who is lifted by Tony Gleeson (Swinford) and Noel Kelly, No. 1 (Bekan). Also in line-out Colm O'Hara (Kilasser) and John Costello (Cloonfad).



Fergal Kelly (Hazelhill) runs one handed with the ball while Martin Finnegan (Lavallyroe) and Seamus Horan in the red scrum cap (Brickens) chase on.



A presentation of certificates to the children who completed "The Summer Reading Challenge 2010" in Ballyhaunis Library. Included in the photograph are Councillor John Cribbin, Mary Gannon (Senior Executive Librarian), Castlebar, and Eleanor Freyne (Ballyhaunis Library). Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh and Ballyhaunis.



Kieran Folliard from Upper Main Street, greets a host of supporters outside his new pub in Minneapolis, USA - his fifth hostelry in the city, which he opened on 16th March 2010.

BALLYHAUNIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

By Martin Fitzmaurice, President.

It's just over a year since I was elected President of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce. Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organisation and is a representative body for all businesses in Ballyhaunis. I believe we have a wonderful town which provides a diverse range of services and facilities. It is unique in the level of employment created and sustained over many decades.

Presently, I believe Ballyhaunis Chamber needs to support the set up of new businesses, work with other voluntary bodies to improve the appearance of the town and attract people to do business in the town – through shopping campaigns, festivals etc. While we hold regular Chamber meetings, we also have to attend meetings and seminars with many other bodies. Hereunder is a summary of some of our most successful initiatives and events over the last year.

Loyalty Reward Scheme

This ran from the end of 2009 and aimed to reward our loyal shoppers with a chance to win many cash prizes coming up to Christmas. It was nominated for an award by Western Marketing Awards, which was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Galway – an event, which was compered by Ballyhaunis born Emma Dillon-Leetch. This scheme was also featured on RTE Radio 1, and selected by 'The Afternoon Show' for its effectiveness.

Our first Newsletter, sponsored by TC Fitness Studio in Devlis, had all the relevant news from our shops, clubs and businesses at the time.

New Christmas lights

We succeeded in acquiring assistance from Mayo County Council with the help of our local Councillor John Cribbin to the tune of €10,000. Thanks also to the business people of the town who contribute every year towards the ongoing costs of the lighting. This year the switching on of the lights was a spectacle to be proud of. We had the usual visit from Santa from the North Pole with goodies for all the children. We also held a very successful Craft Fair on the same day.

Gala Dance

In January, we held our Annual Gala Dance in Knock House Hotel. This again turned out to be a very enjoyable night. This is open to everyone in the area to enjoy good food, good conversation and lively entertainment. Last year it was a big success and provided a welcome break from the reality of the recession.

Derelict buildings

We have been very active over the last year, on an ongoing basis, in dealing with the derelict buildings in the town. An agreement was reached with Mayo County Council that there would be no rates on a window display, where no trading takes place. As a result a number of windows have some excellent displays, instead of being just empty or derelict.

New Website

In Spring we set up a new website www.ballyhaunis.info. All the work for this website was done by Paul and Alison McDermott on a voluntary basis. Over a period of a couple of months they totally revamped our original website (www.ballyhaunischamber.ie) and it is now updated regularly. The new website has links to 'What's on', 'Deals', 'Gallery', 'Facebook' and to the websites of any businesses and clubs in the Ballyhaunis area.

Super Saturday Deals

Using the new website, we launched Super Saturday deals on Easter weekend. This was a massive success at the time and was advertised extensively on regional radio and press.

Multi Purpose Sports Facility

The new Facility is the first of its kind in Ireland and was opened in June by Cllr. John Cribbin. In attendance were Mayo Sports Partnership's Charlie Lambert, acting Mayo County Manager Joe Beirne, Abbey Partnership secretary Stephen Grogan, Deputy John O'Mahony and Senator John Carty. On the open day a sports demonstration was organised by Ballyhaunis Multi Sports Network with displays of different sporting activities both in the Facility and on the surrounding Friary Field. The Multi Sports Facility is popular with the town's sporting people, and can be used for soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball and badminton. It can also be used for other functions as was shown by a team of Bocci players recently, and the Abbey Pattern held their Wheel of Fortune Stall in the facility last month.

Summer Festival

The Ninth Ballyhaunis Annual Summer Festival was held on May Bank Holiday weekend. On Saturday hundreds of parents and children converged on the Friary Grounds to enjoy a day of laughter and fun.

The exciting programme began with "Activities For All" in the Multi Purpose Sports Facility. This was followed by free pony rides, a street art competition, a treasure hunt and a Bocci demonstration in the Multi Purpose Facility.



Mike Griffin, John Gill, Tom Forde, Martin Fitzmaurice, Martin Gavin, Margaret Byrne and John Morley officially launched the Summer Festival 2010.

Ballyhaunis Soccer Club then gave a demonstration, which was followed by a cricket game. In the Multi Purpose Facility a Women's five-a-side was followed by a Scoil Íosa soccer tournament. Then came the Tag Rugby Display, which was followed by a Fun Cycle starting and ending at the Friary Field. All day three free bouncy castles, provided by Billy Nestor and manned by volunteers, thrilled the throngs of children and their parents. The sounds of summer laughter, screams of joy and loads of youthful energy filled the air in the Friary Grounds on Saturday June 5th as a good day was had by all. Great thanks goes to all who helped to make the Sports day a great success.

On the Sunday there was the Traditional Fair Day. From early morning the stalls were being set up. The wonderful crafts people got organised to show their skills. From Cork the Street Circus got into one of its many costumes. The wonderful Graune Pet Farm brought their vast array of pets into the town. The hugely talented Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancers enthralled the crowd with their skill. Ballyhaunis All Ireland Talent Finalist 2010 Olwyn Murray got a huge response. Her fellow finalists, the Tuam All Star Gymnastics Club, literally sprang to life to the amazement of the massive crowd in The Square.

A reminder of gentler days saw the Ballyhaunis Vintage Car Club parade through the streets and park in the grounds of St. Patrick's Parish Church. Nearby, the sheaf

tossing display drew huge crowds. Rambling Bob was live on stage followed by Fubar, an up-and-coming Kiltimagh based band, and they kept the crowds entertained with their excellent music.

Thanks again to all involved with the Fair Day from the organisers to the people who came along for a great day out.

In the evening Ballyhaunis came to life with the Pub Trail Quiz, discos, crazy sports night, and wild west night. Monsoon Night Club, The Lantern, Gill's, The Hazel, Fire Disco Bar, Mac's, Fitzer's, Nicholson's, Delaney's, The Clock, Phillips' Bar, Curley's Bar, The Corner Bar and the Oak Bar all provided respective venues.

Following the festival a 'Thank You' night was held in Fitzer's Bar on Knox Street. Presentations were made to Ballyhaunis Foróige Club for the work they did on the Fun Day. Ballyhaunis Chamber also made a presentation to Cllr. John Cribbin for his work done for the town and hinterland of Ballyhaunis.

Special Olympics

In June a reception to honour the Special Olympics Athletes was held at the Communal House in Clare Court.

- David Donnelly brought home a bronze medal for swimming.
- Padraic Prendergast won a silver medal for the Relay

and a bronze for the 200m run.

- Irma Folliard received a gold medal for the Softball Throw.
- Aoife Beston won two silver medals.
- Eric Kilcourse took part in the 200m run and shot putt.

Cllr. John Cribbin, Chairman of Mayo County Council, presented the athletes with certificates. The reception was organised by Anne Cunnane, CEO of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce, Elma and Liz Kilbride and Alison and Paul McDermott.

Affinity Deals

During the summer, we launched our Affinity Cards. This was another Chamber initiative. It will not suit every business so not all have taken part. This works when businesses agree a mutual deal to promote each other and offer discounts/deals to a customer in each others shop/business. Watch out for them and ask for them if they are not offered to you. But don't be disappointed if every shop is not involved.

Abbey Pattern Weekend

The Annual Simultaneous Ballyhaunis Pub Quiz was held on the Thursday night of the Abbey Pattern Weekend. Eleven pubs took part with Gills on Clare Street retaining the Perpetual Shield by the narrowest of margins. A 'Fun Envelope' draw took place in aid of Mayo Autism. It was organised by Sean Coffey and raised €1,222. Paula Donnellan of Midwest Radio read the questions for the quiz.

Once again thanks to Tom Eagney who facilitated the organisers with the use of his office at Eagney Insurance, Bridge Street. The questions were compiled by Tommy



Special Olympic Athletes receive a warm welcome from family, friends and Cllr. John Cribbin.

Caulfield and the scorekeepers were Seamus Caulfield and Jim London. We would like to thank the participating pubs, all the people that took part, the sponsors, the runners who brought the results to the central office, the organising committee and Mike Griffin. The organising Committee was made up of Katrina Legg, Alison McDermott, Anne Cunnane, Elma Kilbride, Jim London, John Gill, Mike Griffin, Martin Fitzmaurice and Mary Moylan.

Road Race

The Ballyhaunis 8K Road Race was held the next day starting at the magnificent Ballyhaunis Rugby Club facilities. The main sponsors of the race



The Perpetual Shield is presented to the winner of the Pub Quiz. L-r: Martin Fitzmaurice, Tommy Caulfield, John Gill, Paula Donnellan, Jim London and Martina Freyne.



Frank Greally presents Ballyhaunis man Derek McConn with the Pat Cribbin Memorial Trophy.

were Finn's Footwear, Main Street Ballyhaunis and Kiltimagh.

This year Ballyhaunis native Frank Greally, Editor of the Irish Runner Magazine, presented the Pat Cribbin Memorial Trophies to the leading Ballyhaunis Man and Woman in the race. One hundred and thirty runners took part in the race from all over Connacht and as far away as Meath and Kerry. The overall winner was Gerry Ryan.

Abbey Pattern

The Abbey Pattern was held the following day in the Friary Grounds. This year's Dog Show took place as well as the ever-popular races, including Mini-hurdles for the first time. This year's Pattern also featured Bouncy Castles, the Wheel of Fortune, stalls, Children's Lucky Dip and much, much more.

Summertime also brought the launch of our second Newsletter, which was sponsored by Curley's Pharmacy, Main Street and Curley's Jewellers, Bridge Street.

Traders Plans

At time of writing the traders of the town are in the process of organising this year's shopping promotions and really need your support at this time.

Information Evening

We are also in the process of organising our first 'Ballyhaunis Enterprise Information Evening'. This is being held in the Credit Union Building on Thursday 4th Nov from 6pm. The purpose of this event is to stimulate people with ideas to set up business in Ballyhaunis. The following people will be on hand to give one to one advice to any interested parties: Mayo North East Leader Partnership Company, Enterprise Ireland, Mayo County Enterprise Board, Western Development Commission, AIB, Bank of Ireland, T. Dillon-Leetch Solicitors, John Higgins Auctioneer, Kirrane Auctioneers, and Nestor & Co. Accountants. Another first for Ballyhaunis Chamber.

Thank You

So, all in all, at a time when everyone is struggling for the next crust, we are sailing strongly against the breeze in Ballyhaunis. We are thankful to all our excellent local and regional newspapers who have been most helpful and supportive. Ballyhaunis is responding well to the hard times and the traders have come together for the Shop Local Campaign and the Super Saturday Deals and, at the time of writing, are planning a pre-Christmas Campaign. Our two Newsletters sponsored by TC's Fitness Studio, Devlis and Curley's Pharmacy have helped to keep the people in touch.

MidWest Radio, with the second highest listenership in the country, has helped to promote our businesses and our town. During the year it was heartening to see new

businesses open and others modernise. It was good to see Ballyhaunis Soccer Club open their new facilities, and we will have the Centre for Excellence of Connacht GAA coming soon.

I would like to thank all the members of the Chamber and non-Chamber members who worked voluntarily with me all year to bring all those events to fruition. I want to thank our Council executives, in particular Alison and Paul McDermott for their unfailing hard work and Jim Lundon for all his PRO work. Thanks also to our local representatives and to all the businesses who contributed to many of our initiatives in difficult times. Thanks to all the staff at the Enterprise Centre, Elma Kilbride, Katrina Legg and Mary Moylan, with whom I am in daily contact, and who give fantastic support all year long to the businesses in the town. In particular, thanks to Anne Cunnane CEO who worked way beyond the call of duty.

Going forward, it is by working together that we will make this town a better place in which to live, work and do business. If any reader wishes to enquire about business opportunities in Ballyhaunis, they can contact The Enterprise Centre, Clare Road, Ballyhaunis at (094) 9630311 or log on to the Ballyhaunis Chamber website at www.ballyhaunis.info.

I would particularly like to ask any graduates from the area to consider returning to set up business here.

It only remains for me to wish the readers of 'Annagh' the very best for the Festive Season and a prosperous New Year.

– Martin Fitzmaurice



Cllr. John Cribbin receives a token of appreciation from Chamber President Martin Fitzmaurice and CEO Anne Cunnane for his services to the town.



BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL, LEAVING CERT CLASS OF 2010.

- Back row (l-r):** Brendan O'Gara, Ryan Worden, Niall Freeman, Seán O'Rourke, Seán Kearsey, Neil Murphy, David Fitzmaurice, Ihsan Almas, Diarmuid Niland, Ciaran Davy, John Finan, Joseph Flynn, Cathal Fahy, Cathal Leneghan.
- Sixth row:** Stephen Comer, Cathal McGowan, Emma Niland, Emer Walsh, Lisa Rowley, Jennifer Lyons, Avril Feeney, Rachel Byrne, Ailee Webb, Aoife McDonagh, Mairead Connolly, Michelle McDermott, Emer Flatley, Conor Kearney, Gearoid Keane.
- Fifth row:** Emma Keane, Olwyn Murray, Sinéad Korrane, Robyn Moran, Robyn Gallagher, Aysha Amin, Mat Yui Lee, Laura Regan, Ferzana Nazir, Adena Morley, Laura Waldron, Jessica Kelly, Anne-Marie Hora, Ciara Sloyan.
- Fourth row:** Hannah Donegan, Amy Brady, Lisa Finn, Lisa Walsh, Rebekka Johnston, Martha Lyons, Melanie Ronan, Katie Culliney, Aisling Horan, Sinéad Morley, Ramona Frayne, Leanne Storie, Laura Lynch, Cathryn Waldron.
- Third row:** Laura Henry, Siobhan Finn, Edel Lynch, Wenesa Staszczuk, Aisling Waldron, Lisa Cunnane, Marie Cleary, Maura Naughton, Michelle Lenehan, Lana Raftery, Eilish Egan.
- Second row:** Fatima Afzal, Laura Patterson, Victoria Tighe-Hayden, Adrienne Kenny, Audrey Costello, Edel Lyons, Ruth Judge, Sara Cherbatji, Sinéad Healy, Taran Grover, Michaela Webb.
- Front row:** Faizan Yousaf, Adrian Gavin, Declan McNamara, Niall Cherbatji, Damon Paine, Vygingtas Vezelis, Diarmuid Finnegan. **Absent from photograph:** David Grogan, David Lyons.



LEGION OF MARY

Members of the Ballyhaunis branch of the Legion of Mary pictured with Spiritual Director Fr. Benny McHale, at the Our Lady of Medugorje grotto in Murrisk, Westport celebrating the 29th anniversary of the first apparition in Medugorje, 24th June 1981.

L-R: Helen Hoban, Mary Ellen Frehill, Fr. Benny McHale, Margaret Johnston, Freddie Fahey and Mary Murray.

FROM BALLYHAUNIS TO PARNAIBA, BRAZIL

By Sarah Buckley

Volunteering abroad was something I had always wanted to do. I had already done some volunteering in Ireland but never ventured across seas to volunteer amongst other cultures. So when I heard that SERVE was coming to NUI, Galway to do an information session, I jumped at the opportunity to find out what they were about.

SERVE is a development and volunteering organisation which aims to tackle poverty in the majority world. They work in solidarity and partnership with these marginalised communities, focusing specifically on projects that help communities enhance the lives of children and young people. SERVE carry out this great work in its projects in Brazil, India, Ireland, Mozambique, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Haiti. They contribute a budget of over 1 million each year, and assign up to 90 volunteers from all over Ireland per year. What make SERVE stand out as an organisation for me was that all the money you fundraise goes directly into the project you are working on.

A few weeks later my friend, Elaine Burke (Brickens), and I were delighted when we both heard we would be going to Parnaiba, Brazil for six weeks during the summer on a construction project. The following six months entailed numerous fundraising events in Ballyhaunis and the surrounding towns, plaguing a lot of people in the process (sorry about that!), but it eventually paid off when both of us achieved enough funding to build at least one house each. A massive thank you to everyone who helped us fundraise over those few months!

As a group we raised enough money to build twenty houses and four water cisterns. On the 7th July 2009 we travelled from Dublin to Fortaleza via London and Sao Paulo. In Fortaleza we got the opportunity to visit Fr. Martin Murray, who lives and works in the favelas (the Brazilian term for a shanty town) just outside the city. He gave us a tour of the favelas and of their terrible conditions. It was an eye-opening insight into how these families live and we saw first-hand the extreme contrast between the impoverished and the wealthy as they live side by side.

After a ten hour bus journey we finally arrived in Parnaiba. The construction of the houses soon became a routine in which we were on site at 7 am every morning. The entire group was split into six separate

groups of three or four. Each group was given a house and head builder to work with for the remainder of the week. The process of constructing the houses firstly involved demolishing the present house the family were



Building a house in Parnaiba.

living in. In all cases the houses were extremely dilapidated and some consisted of just wooden frames holding up plastic sheeting. The foundations were then mapped out and we began on the trenches. This, added to the extreme dry heat, proved to be a challenge for us 'gringos' (Brazilian term for a foreigner). Following the foundations we then moved onto the brick laying. Work on site at times was very difficult with this extreme heat but the forever-smiling children in the neighbourhood proved to be a great source of entertainment and motivation. I've never seen so many little faces light up when we arrived on site with balloons, transfer tattoos and sweets for them.

Sites

We worked on many sites around Parnaiba such as Boa Vista, Alto do Moreno, and Vazantina. However the first site we worked on is the one that sticks out in my memory mostly due to the poor conditions. This was in an area called Parc Estavao, a community situated close to Parnaiba's rubbish dump. The recipients of the houses we were to build all work in the dump collecting plastics and recyclable materials, which they then sell to make a living. One of the men who works in the dump explained to us that on a normal day he would hope to fill two twenty kilo bags of recyclables, each of these are then sold for about four Reals (about €1.25). This would pay for the food for his family for the following day. Visiting



Sarah Buckley and Elaine Burke, outside one of the houses they built in Parnaíba, Brazil.

the dump is a memory indented in my mind forever. Men, women (some of whom were pregnant), and children were all sifting through the rubbish alongside vultures in a bid to make a living. Not only do the people here run the risk of serious infection and disease, but medical syringes and needles were evident amongst the rubbish making it highly dangerous. It was heartbreaking to see such poverty and struggle for survival in a country where outwardly the people seem so happy, content, generous, and life-loving.

For one week during the construction project we were paired off to live with a Brazilian family. This family became our home away from home for that one week and despite the language barriers - our family didn't speak any English, and we had very little Portuguese - saying goodbye to them was one of the hardest things we had to do. In their two bedroomed house lived the parents, their five daughters and their one niece. During our stay they were adamant we were to have our own

room, with new mosquito nets for our Irish skin! The spread they put on for us every day when we returned from site was unbelievable and the effort they went to make sure we understood them and had a good time was heart warming. Through extremely bad Portuguese and English we still keep in touch with them. This serves as an example of the Brazilian community we worked with. So generous, happy, and loving despite the little that they have.

At the end of our project we held ceremonies in which we handed over the keys to the families and they signed all the relevant legal documents to become owners of their new homes. Words can't describe the happiness of that day and the absolute joy and gratitude of the families as they received their new home. In one particular site –

Vazantina - to thank us for our work the community put on a show for us. We'll never know how they managed to get speakers and the music of Riverdance, but they choreographed a dance for us dressed in green with shamrocks painted on their face!

There are plenty of other experiences that I could go on about to describe the loving, hardworking and generous nature of the people we met during our project, but words simply would not be enough. Although we provided 20 families with houses and constructed 4 water cisterns for communities, I still feel that we (the volunteers) were the ones who benefited the most. The sheer joy and happiness we witnessed when those families received the keys to their new homes was enough to make all our efforts worthwhile.

Finally, on behalf of SERVE, Elaine Burke, and I would like to thank all of those who helped us fundraise for this project. It simply wouldn't have been possible without your generosity.



Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held in Scoil Íosa Junior School (formerly St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School): Sunday nights at 8.30pm (Winter) and 9.00pm (Summer).

Al-Anon and Al-Ateen meet in Scoil Íosa Senior School, Abbeyquarter at the same times.

Anybody who feels they may have a problem with alcohol would be most welcome.

www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie



The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2011 is Friday, October 21st, 2011.

**Email: annaghmag@gmail.com
or: info@annaghmag.ie**

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

MEMORIES OF THE BIG FREEZE-UP AND BLIZZARD OF 1947

By John Gunnigan

When I was young, whenever the Famine was mentioned somebody always said 'Black 47' as that was one of the worst years of the Great Famine (1845-9). Now, whenever a heavy fall of snow is mentioned, you will always hear someone of my age saying something about the big blizzard of 1947. I think that year could be called 'White 47'. The wheel has gone the full circle.

Everyone thinks of the last week of February as the date of the blizzard, which it was, but the big freeze-up started much earlier than that. We had two blizzards that year. The first one, a small one, was on the 11th of January. This followed the worst harvest I ever remember. That was the year that the people came out from the towns to help the farmers save the crops. I think the schools were closed for a while too. We wouldn't have got much help here in the West, as we didn't have big farms like other parts of the country. In spite of that the crops were very important to us. The war had only finished up the previous year and everything was still rationed. We depended on our barley and oats to feed our stock. It was October when we finally got the last of the harvest saved.

The bad weather continued right through November and December and we woke up on the morning of the 11th of January to a heavy fall of snow. It was a Sunday morning and we were up in good time as we had to feed the stock before we walked to mass in Woodfield church about a mile away. I remember seeing snow drifts for the first time in my life as we made our way down to Mass and my father wondering if Fr. Concannon's car would be able to make it through the snow. Aghamore was four miles away and some of the drifts were big. We all sat there in the church for how long I don't know, but I don't think anyone was in any doubt but he would come. When he arrived he apologised for being late, but he had to walk nearly all the way as the car only got as far as the village of Aghamore when he got stuck in a drift. He came in to our house on his way home and my mother gave him a pair of dry socks - as he was wearing light boots and his socks were wet - and a good breakfast. The poor man was fasting, as everyone had to do at that time. My father told me to harness the pony to the trap and he would drive him home. We had a 'back-to-back' trap and a good pony. They set off for Aghamore nice and warm with a rug round their knees to keep out the cold. About twenty minutes later my father arrived back to change out of his 'Sunday Best' as they had also gotten stuck in a drift a few hundred yards in to the

journey. He had taken the pony from the trap, put the rug on his back and got Fr. Concannon up on him and set him off for Aghamore with instructions to leave the pony in Glavey's stable. When my father got changed and put his heavy boots on - there was no such thing as wellingtons or any kind of rain wear at the time - he left for Aghamore to bring the pony home. When he got to Glavey's Jack gave him a glass of whiskey, which Fr. Concannon had paid for earlier. When he had that finished Jack said 'a bird never flew on one wing' and filled him another. How he rode the pony home after that I will never know, but he got home in great form. Some of the neighbours had turned the trap around so he was able to bring it home with him.

Hard Black Frost

That snow stayed on the ground for about a week and then the most of it thawed. When it was nearly all gone - just the remains of the drifts left - it really started to freeze. My memory of the next few weeks is that we never saw the sun, just thick cloud and hard 'black frost'. Of course at that time there was no electricity or running water. The only heat in the house was the open fire in the kitchen. That fire was also used for all cooking and baking and the big pots of potatoes that had to be boiled for the pigs and fowl. The river where the stock got water was frozen over and we had to break a hole in the ice and fill tubs and drive the cattle to get a drink. This weather lasted right through the end of January and the first three weeks of February. The wind was coming from the east all this time and on the evening of the 23rd it started blowing a gale. When we all awoke on the morning of the 24th it was still blowing hard and it was quite dark and bitter cold. Of course there was no heating of any kind in bedrooms at that time. At last my father called out to me to go to the kitchen and light a candle and see what time it was. After a bit of trouble I got the candle going by taking a coal out of the ash pit and blowing on it. To everyone's surprise it was after ten o'clock! When we got out of the house by the back door we found a howling blizzard in progress and there was about two feet of snow stuck to the front of the house: that was the reason it was so dark the daylight couldn't get in the windows. My father and I wrapped ourselves up as best we could and we fed the cattle and horses. There was no way we could bring them for a drink that day. Soon after we got the breakfast we discovered that we had run out of water in the house

too. My youngest sister and I were sent off with two buckets to the well, which wasn't far away. We couldn't find it as it was covered with snow. We were then sent to another well a bit further away with the same result. We then tried a neighbour's well and we drew a blank there too. At that stage we were exhausted and my parents decided to put a pot on the fire and fill it with snow and melt it. That is how we managed for water all that day and most of the next. Looking back now I often think that my sister and myself could have been lost in the blizzard that day. We were only kids: I was just turned fifteen and she was only twelve. We lived to tell the tale Thank God!

The blizzard was still on when we went to bed that night, but when we got up the next morning the snow had stopped falling and the sun was shining the first time for about six weeks. We never saw anything like the drifts of snow. There could be up to ten or fifteen feet of snow in places and little or none in other places. We had to dig up our drinking tubs and get the watering hole open again; I thought the poor cattle would never stop drinking. We were lucky that the way to the river was exposed and most of the snow had blown away from it. We also found one of the wells so we had water for the house too. We were also able to find our potato pit out in the field, and we also had turnips pitted that we were able to get at. Most people were nearly self sufficient at that time. We had plenty of milk, home-made butter, eggs and plenty of home-cured bacon, so we weren't going to be hungry. Of course we had to walk to Kilkelly for tea and sugar and a bit of fresh meat, if it could be got. The frost was very hard all the time; the days were sunny and bright but very cold. We were kept busy feeding and watering the stock; there was really nothing else we could do. All other farm work came to a halt.

A few nights after the blizzard began a neighbour came to our house asking for my mother's help as his wife was ill. When my mother saw the woman she decided that that she needed medical help. Two young neighbours were sent off walking the three miles to Kilkelly for Dr. Lyons. Looking back now Dr. Lyons couldn't have been a young man at the time, but that didn't stop him coming out in the snow to attend the woman. The men who went for him told later that they walked on the top of the 'eskars' all the way from Cloonturk to Doogarry as there was no snow there: it had all blown away. Some of those eskers are gone now as the County Council used them up when they were building the N17. When he got to the house Dr. Lyons asked my mother for a basin of hot water. He put his hands into it to, as he said, get some feeling back in them. He then did the same with his feet. He then attended the young woman (who made a complete recovery). When he had all done he had a cup of tea, and set off to walk the three miles back home. Of course the young men went with him carrying

his bag and lighting his way with an oil lantern. By the time those young men got back home they had walked twelve miles in the snow at night. They didn't think anything about it that was just the way people helped each other in those times.

A Difficult Journey

Fr. Concannon walked to Woodfield every Sunday to say Mass. He always called in to our house on his way and we all walked from our house to Woodfield on the river as the snow was much lighter there, and it was easier to walk on. He would have his breakfast with us on his way home. He never tried riding the pony again - once was enough. He told us that the morning after his ride home he had trouble putting on his pants he was so stiff and sore! The poor man had not been on horseback since he was a young lad, so it was no wonder if he was a bit stiff.

At one stage we ran short of flour. All the flour came in either four or eight stone bags at that time, so I was sent off to Aghamore on horseback for a four stone bag. We had two horses at the time: a big heavy mare and a lighter pony. My father thought that the mare was the best for the job, but before I went very far I knew that she wasn't going to make it as she was going right to her belly every step she tried to take. I got her turned round, which wasn't as simple as it sounds, and made my way home, and decided that I would give it a try with the pony. I got on well with him as he wasn't nearly as heavy as the mare. There was one very bad part just past Doogarry School. There are hills to the east of the road at that point and the snow blew over them and left a huge amount of snow there - in fact there was only a few feet of the phone poles sticking up over the snow. I got through it with difficulty and I got the rest of the way without too much trouble. Some parts of the roads were clear and in other places the only way you could know where the road was by the phone poles. I got my four stone bag and made for home. I was uneasy all the time about the very deep snow at Doogarry. When I reached there I got off and I tried to lead the pony through it with one hand and hold the bag on his back with the other one. About half way through the bag slipped off, but I kept him going until I got out of the worst of it. I left him there panting and walked back to retrieve my bag. Just as I was getting it up on my back I heard a noise and I looked up, and there was the pony plunging back towards me! I got him turned round and lead him out of the deep snow and this time I tied him to a pole until I got the bag as far as him. I think that he was afraid of the snow and thought he was going to left on his own. I got the rest of the way home without too much trouble.

The hard frost lasted until the 10th of March and then a very rapid thaw set in. We were very glad to see the last of it as, at that stage, we had it for about two months. It

kind of puts last winter's big freeze-up in the shade. The most of the snow thawed in a short time but the remains of the big drifts were to be seen for long enough. I remember working on the land with my farther and you could still see traces of them on the hills where the airport is now in the first days of May.

I often wonder how we would manage if we had a blizzard like that now. There is no way that the electricity wires would stand up to it. Everything we eat and drink now is bought in the supermarket. Everything in the house is run on electricity. Most open fires have a back boiler and, if the circulation pump was'n't working it may

not be safe to light a fire. Most of the wells are gone as we all have piped water now. I wonder how WestDoc would have dealt with the woman who was ill? I'm afraid things would be in a right mess. Those are some of my memories of the big freeze up of 1947.

One final memory I have of 1947 is that it was the year that I started ploughing - the start of my working life. It has been a long journey from 1947, a young lad who 'thought' he was a man, starting his working life ploughing with a team of horses, to 2010 an old man who 'thinks' he is a lad using a computer. I think that is another full circle of the wheel.

THE 'BIG FREEZE' OF 2010, ANNAGH, BALLYHAUNIS



LOCAL PHOTOS



Kiera and Bree Chambers, identical twin daughters of T.J. and Sinéad Chambers, pictured aged eight months. They were born in Chicago, 11th Apr. 2009. Sinéad is the younger daughter of Gerry and Maureen Godfrey from Tulrahan. Sinéad went to live in Chicago in December 2001. She met, and married, T.J. Chambers whose four grandparents were all born in County Mayo. His grandmother on his mother's side was Kitty Morley, a native of Redhill, Tulrahan.



Clare Street native, Mrs. Teresa Bond (nee Griffin) from Cambridge, visiting her old home in September 2010, pictured with her grandson David, her nephew John Cleary, sister-in-law Maura Griffin and nephew Mike Griffin.



Pierce and Erin Higgins, Tadhg and Jack Buckley, after the County Hurling Final, 10/10/10.



School friends meet in Castlebar after many years. Rita Byrne and Angela Brennan went to National School together in Ballyhaunis and have not met since then.

A joyful reunion took place with Angela's sister Ita from England and Kathleen from Castlebar. The Brennan family lived in Clare Street and Rita Byrne in Bridge Street.

L-R: Kathleen, Ita, Rita and Angela.



Congratulations to Mrs. Bernie Quinn, Classaroo, Ballyhaunis, who graduated from the College of Further Education, Castlebar, with a Certificate in Office Technology.

Pictured right: Carmel Waldron and Patsy Cunningham, in Knock 2009.



Dara Healy with Kerry footballer Colm Cooper in Dr. Crokes GAA Pitch, Killarney, when Ballyhaunis under age teams played Dr. Crokes in February 2010.



Michael Nolan Greeley and his wife Mary Katherine, on a visit to Ballyhaunis, 12th June 2009. Michael is the grandson of Brig. Gen. Michael Greally of Knox St., Ballyhaunis.



Cousins Martin Caulfield (Carrowkeel) and Kathleen Morley (Woodpark).

GRACENOTES

THE YEAR OF OUR CD LAUNCH, SEPT '09 – SEPT '10

By Moira Stratford (P.R.O.)

We returned to practices at the beginning of September and were all warmly welcomed back by Laura Brogan our Musical Director, to the start of what was forecast to be yet another busy year for Gracenotes. Our performing year began on the 9th Oct with a Benefit concert held in St. Coman's C of I Church in Roscommon. The concert was for Ted Mole, a local man with a serious illness (who has sadly since passed away). The Church was filled to bursting point and the evening was made all the better by Ted's attendance with his family, all of whom seemed to enjoy the evening very much. It was a great success. Two days later on the 11th we were delighted to be involved in the Centenary Mass of St. Patrick's Church here in Ballyhaunis, where we joined forces with local choirs on this joyful occasion.

Gracenotes were regularly being asked, particularly after our concerts, when we were going to bring out a CD. So, we decided to make this the year of our recording. A lot of work was put in by Laura and all the choir, perfecting the pieces that we wished to record. Then on the 22nd and 23rd October we headed up to the Friary to start recording. This was the perfect location as the acoustics there are magical and we were hopeful that this would

be captured on the final CD. Some of the choir had been involved in the recording of our first CD brought out in 2004; but that was some time ago now, so the experience of making this recording was an interesting process for all of us. When you are behind the scenes, you are suddenly made aware of the importance of the little things, like returning to stand in exactly the same place that you had previously been standing in so that the sound remains the same. Things seemed to go well and Laura was very happy with the results so we are now all looking forward to hearing the actual CD. For two reasons we were very pleased to hear that we had been awarded a small grant towards the recording costs by Mayo County Council. Firstly, because the costs are considerable and secondly, because it shows a belief in how far we have come as a choir. The official Launch took place on 2nd Oct 2010 at 7.30pm in the Friary with Guest Speaker Joe Byrne.

In November we took part in the Sligo Choral Festival where we sang in the Female and Sacred sections. Christmas then came around quickly and we heard that one of the pieces 'Fum, Fum, Fum' which is on our CD, was chosen to be played on Lyric FM for the 'Choirs for



L-R: Breege Kenny, Anna Henry, Karen Ronane, Agatha Higgins, Moira Stratford, Miriam Winston, Tina Kirrane, Martina Kelly, Olivia Regan, Anne Lyons, Margaret O'Grady, Bridie Giblin, Xanthe Pratt, Laura Brogan (Musical Director), Marayde O'Brien, Ita Fahey, Mairead Quinn, Mary Lyons, Helen White, Siobhan Coyne, Monica Murphy, Eimear Thornton, Una Shields, Mary Dawson, Marge Hierons, Mary Lanigan, Yvonne Loughran, Nuala Cahill, Maureen Thornton, Mary-Hannah O'Connor, Aoife Keane. Missing from photo - Anna Butler, Geraldine Collins, Moira Delaney, Marie Kelly, Aisling Macken, Frankie O'Malley and Mary Patterson. Photograph: Stratford Photography.

Christmas'. It was wonderful to know that we were being heard by a wider audience all across Ireland. A group of us went to Brookvale Nursing Home to do our regular slot of singing Carols there. It was lovely as always, to be singing to the elderly members of the community and we were made very welcome there. Our Christmas Recital in the Friary held in aid of St. Vincent de Paul was again very successful, raising a very helpful amount of money towards their continued good work. We were so pleased to be joined by Olwyn Murray of All Ireland Talent Show fame: she sang beautifully.

After the Christmas break we came back to start into the new year, 2010. We had been booked to sing at a private function in Roscommon, but due to the arctic freeze that we all experienced here, it was just not possible for this to go ahead. Thankfully, by the 16th of January the weather had improved enough for us to be able to have our (after) Christmas party celebrations! We then started back to our weekly practices and to the earnest work of learning and perfecting our pieces for both The Limerick Festival of Church Music and The Cork International Choral Festival. We enjoyed performing in Limerick in March and felt we had sung well. Later that month we sang for a wedding in Gortaganny. It is always nice to be involved in such a special day and we had very favourable comments from the guests. So if anyone wants to hire our services, please get in touch!

On the 24th of March RTE came to record us singing in The Friary in Ballyhaunis for the Nationwide Programme. We were told that all their filming would eventually become a seven minute slot that would show Gracenotes in our home environment and also at the Choral Festival in Cork. As we were filmed walking in to the Friary, there were mixed feelings amongst the choir of both excitement and trepidation. However it didn't take long before we found that we were quite comfortable with the camera and realised that it was actually quite fun being behind the scenes and learning how programmes are, in fact, made. Laura, as Musical Director of the choir, had to give an interview to camera which she did exceedingly professionally, explaining all about the genre of music that we sing and how often we practice and generally about how Gracenotes works together as a choir. A couple of the choir members were



Laura Brogan Musical Director of Gracenotes with Dr. Brendan O'Connor, Director of Cois Cladaigh Chamber Choir (the choir that Laura herself sings with) who also said a few words at the Launch of Gracenotes CD 'Avis Maris Stella'.

also filmed and interviewed in their places of work: Anna Henry in the Community School and Breege Kenny in Knock House Hotel. The rest of us were lucky as all we had to do was sing!

Before going to Cork for the Festival we had a weekend vocal workshop with choral expert Mark Duley. These days are always inspiring as they give us a different perspective on our abilities as singers and we are taught new ways of using our voices. We learn so much and hopefully leave the workshop feeling encouraged that we can sing the pieces well. Then on the Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of May we set off to Cork for the Choral Festival. As always it was a great International event with choirs from all over the world. We sang in competition in both the Premier Female and the Sacred

Section but on this occasion it was not our time to win prizes. However, we were now taking part in a higher standard of competition than in previous years so we were in fact very happy, as we were awarded a very high mark. You cannot win every year and really even though it is, of course, lovely to do so, we know that it is more about maintaining and improving our standard of singing rather than bringing home prizes. Singing is not all serious either, it is also about enjoyment and having fun, so whilst we were in Cork, we were invited to sing in the Atrium of the Clarion Hotel where we were staying. This was a very relaxed and informal performance with a large appreciative audience. During our Cork appearances we were again filmed for RTE and we were all very proud when the programme went out on the 5th May. The feedback from all who saw it was very positive.

On returning from Cork we sang on 8th May at the wedding of a choir member's daughter in Ballintubber Abbey. We were thrilled to be asked and we hope that we did the couple proud. The acoustics in the Abbey are always wonderful so we hope our singing contributed to their ceremony. Towards the end of May on the 22nd we were invited to sing at the Dunmore Choral Festival. This was again a great event. It was held however on one of the hottest days of the year and the evening was very warm but we managed to sing well and our performance was greeted by much applause. This year it was decided that we would continue with our practices for a few weeks into our usual summer break, to spend some time

learning non competition pieces. This was well attended by a large number of the choir members. Then our singing year ended with the choir singing at a wedding, this time in Ballintober, Roscommon. We thoroughly enjoy these events and are always pleased to feel that we have brought something special to the couples' wedding day.

So, all in all, it has been another good year for Gracenotes. Our CD has now been completed and its Launch took place on October 2nd in The Friary where it was recorded, a very exciting event for all the members of Gracenotes. If anyone would like to purchase a copy of our CD 'Ave Maris Stella' then please contact Laura Brogan or any member of the choir and we will make

sure we get it/them to you. The price is €15 for one or €20 for two.

If you are interested in booking Gracenotes for a wedding or any other event then please contact our Musical Director Laura Brogan on (086) 8213864 or our Chairperson Maureen Thornton on (094) 9630667. They would be delighted to speak with you.

Our A.G.M. was held in September '09 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 and Xanthe Pratt.



Frank Connolly (Devlis), who worked for many years in Ballyhaunis Railway Station, pictured with a steam train on a nostalgic visit in the 1980s.



First Lady meets First Citizen. Cathaoirleach John Cribbin with Mrs. Mary Dillon-Leetch during his visit to Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Summer 2010.



Carmel Waldron, Kathleen Foley (nee Campbell, Abbey St.), May Healy and Bridie Webb, August 2010.

ABBEY MALE CHOIR

Our choir sings at twelve o'clock Mass on the second Sunday of every month and at ten o'clock Mass on the fourth Sunday of the month. We also sang at a number of weddings this year. We are indebted to our musical director Moira Delaney and to our organist Paula Donnellan for their help and commitment. New members are always welcome.

THE MILK-Y WAY

by Tony Carney

The rugged beauty of the west coast of Ireland will compare with anything to be found in Europe. If you travel from Dingle to Donegal during the summer season the breath taking sights will live in your memory forever. This same journey on a cold winter day, while still beautiful is a very different setting. Wild, windswept, treacherous and also breath-taking, but for very different reasons. It is along this coastline, and for miles inland, that countless generations of small farmers survived against all the odds. When self-sufficiency was their survival kit, they were a breed apart.

Seeing off two world wars, the black forty seven, our own internal struggle for Irish Independence, the great recession of twenty nine, and more recently the white forty seven all of which was proof that Cromwell's death row tactics were a complete failure.

The decade of the fifties will long be remembered for a variety of reasons. The untimely death of Seán South and Fergal O'Hanlon at the RUC barracks in Fermanagh. In September of fifty-seven the smallest county in the country beat the largest in a tremendous battle for the Sam Maguire. Louth 1-9 Cork 1-7. Another milestone of that same year was the signing of the Treaty of Rome, better known as the Common Market by France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, West Germany, Belgium, and Italy and later on when Ireland added its name to this list. Meetings and symposiums took place all over the country with agricultural instructors explaining to the small mixed farmers that the only way forward is milk and the best way to get the most out of his holding of land is the dairy herd.

Imagine telling this man - a man who for countless generations has streamlined the art of mixed farming, his knowledge of the farm animal, with his few cows always on the front row of the grid - that his few cows, store cattle, pigs, fowl, corn and root crop is not the way forward.

My argument is, that putting all the eggs in one basket, or should I say one creamery can, could be a recipe for disaster, rather than the financial reward this man is promised by changing his system to milk only. Signing up to the Treaty of Rome is just a stroke of the pen, but the people drawing up guidelines for the small farmer wouldn't have the faintest idea how to rear a family and survive on twenty acres of land, wouldn't know the



Brothers Tony and Tom Carney enjoying the stroll 'En Route' with Aileen Lambert. Photograph by David Ruffles, 4th Sept 2010.

beam of a plough from the soleplate, or the difference between a black Polly and a Strawberry. How easy it is to work out his strategy for milk production around a table but putting potatoes, turnips, cabbage and bacon on that same table is quite something else, something the west of Ireland small farmer is a past master at, and now he is told or should I say warned that his day and his system is over.

Little those people know or care what psychological effect this change over to milk only, will have on this man. Committing the horse and plough to the knackers yard and

the scrap yard will sound the death knell of an age old tradition, a culture that this man has nurtured and mastered all his life, a way that only he knows, where the reward always outweighed the long hours of hard work.

And what about the "Bean an Tí" and the "Cailín deas crúite na mbó", her cherished flock of free range fowl and a never-ending supply of eggs and meat for the family with a substantial little earner with the surplus, not to mention the beautiful brown bread and homemade golden butter with her family of five, six, eight or maybe ten children around the table where every edible commodity on that table is the fruit of her and her husband's hard work, and now under the new proposals and guidelines nothing on that table will be their own except the knife and fork. A way of life to disappear forever.

Is it now a fact that all the small towns all over the country will also be hit hard when the new system of farming is up and running? Towns like our own beloved Ballyhaunis, which for generations has served the locality so well. A town where the farmers would congregate at the crane every Tuesday morning to sell their surplus potatoes, oats, barley and vegetables. A town where every second Tuesday of the month the town Square and all the exit streets were jammed with pigs, bonhams and suckling calves. A town which, each month from the 27th January to the 19th December, was jammed with cattle, sheep and horses, all of which provided a marvellous day out for town and country. A town where the huge fowl market on the second Tuesday before Christmas was crawling with turkeys, geese, ducks and feathers flying in all directions. A town where the farmer could afford to pay off his outstanding

bills and being assured by the shopkeeper that he will always be a welcome customer. A town where I spent many happy days with my late father with his shopping list neatly written on a piece of cardboard, and it went something like this. 'Collect two pairs of boots from Pat Tighe left in two weeks ago for re-soling. Twenty 4-4-8 fertilizer bags from James Lyons for next weeks threshing. A bill to be paid to William Neary for four pairs of sandals. A saddle to be given to the saddler Smyth for re-padding and collect the winkers if he has them ready. Four stone of Epicures for seed, early in the day before they are all gone. One hundred of early York and two of Common cabbage, and be sure to ask the seller if there are small plants in the middle of the bundle and if he says "no" he'll be for confessions Saturday night. A manure fork from George Delaney and a half stone of shallots from Peter Hannon, Abbey Street near the station. Final stop was Dillon's or Coyne's for coffee and buns before heading home. Before the mixed farmers jump headlong into this pool of milk at the deep end they would be well advised to go back twenty or thirty years ago when Tuam beet factory offered them a contract for sugar beet growing. All of them including myself and my father jumped head-long at the offer, not knowing we were creating a monster that would have to be disposed of. At 15.5% sugar content and thirty-five shillings per ton for first quality beet, it was an impossible task, not to mention the long season from March to November up to our knees in a puddle of wet soil. The hardship of beet growing would need this whole magazine to explain, suffice to say it took the word slavery to new levels.

Now that we have learned a costly lesson we must ensure that this new venture into the milk industry does not turn sour like the sugar sweetener we were promised from the beet factory. On the plus side we have in our favour the Friesian cow. We are led to believe she is the Rolls Royce of the dairy herd, capable of up to six gallons of milk per day or one thousand gallons in a milking season, but a total liability for the other five or six months. She is less than favourable for beef breeding, a glutton for food, her excess weight and tender feet unsuited to standing on concrete over a long winter.

At the present time everything about the future for milk is a bird in the bush. Who is going to take over the business after the current generation is forced to hand it over even if it is successful? Surely we can't expect Donagh O'Malley's conveyer belt of students to don a pair of wellingtons and go knee deep in slurry. Is it not fair to say that each and every one of those students, male and female, after five years at second level and a certificate of merit deserves better than the cowshed? We must remember that this generation of students will do their own growing up, and will be more than capable of shaping their own destiny, and refuse the 'Rolls Royce' out in the field. It's in the lap of the gods.

Towards the end of this century all of those questions will be answered and if I'm proved to be wrong it will help to lend credibility to the child's storybook that the cow jumped over the moon and gave the farmer the milky-way.



Pat Culliney, Tavanaughmore and Margaret O'Donnell, Charlestown, on their wedding day, 1947.



Seamus Cullinane (accordion), Knock and Paddy Lyons (fiddle), Gurrane. Photo taken at a wedding in the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis, 10th June 1963.

JOHN "THE WARRIOR" WALDRON

IRISH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

John "The Warrior" Waldron left Ballyhaunis for Limerick on the 14th of May this year on his quest to defeat Jamie Power (from Limerick) for the vacant Irish Light Heavyweight title. Leading bookmakers in the country seemed to have written the Ballyhaunis man off before



Waldron gets the better of Power.

he even got into the ring. Power was 10/1 on favourite while John was a 5/1 outsider. At the weigh-in Waldron indicated that no matter what the odds were, the title was coming back to Mayo with him - a statement that did not go down too well with the Limerick fans. "As I sat in the dressing room a lot of thoughts went through my mind foremost amongst them, the fact that I could be the first Mayo man to win a Professional Irish title. I never once doubted my own ability, but boxing can be a cruel game. You train so hard for months up to the fight and you could get caught with a lucky punch and it's all over in seconds. Another thought that went through my head was that six months previous to this, I fought in the same arena in which my late father was present. His was the voice that you could always hear above everyone elses. Then I realised he might not be there in person but I knew he would be the third man in my corner when the going got tough".

"Gloved up, waiting in the dressing room, I heard the MC welcoming me to the ring. As I walked out I could not believe all the support for me. The roar from all the people who travelled from the West drowned out the sounds of all the Limerick supporters. Then the Limerick man made his way to the ring. At this stage I was rearing to go. In my mind there was no way I was leaving the ring without the belt. Ding-Ding, round one, straight away I

got down to business, working behind a good jab and bringing big right hands into play as well - a tactic we had worked on in the gym. As the rounds went on I grew in confidence. In rounds four and five Power hit the canvas.

At this stage everything was going to plan, but still I could not afford a lack in concentration as seven of Power's previous nine wins had come by way of knock outs. Rounds eight and nine I knew I was well on top. And all I had to do was keep doing what I was doing as it was working. As the bell rang for the tenth and final round I knew as long as I did not get knocked out I had the fight won. Ding-Ding the final bell rang. I knew I was the new Champion and so did the crowd! The supporters from the west raised the roof. The feeling was unbelievable when the ref raised my hand and declared me the Champion. All the hard work paid off. Now it was celebration time. Then fans painted Limerick red. That was nothing until I arrived home the following day to Ballyhaunis, where I was shocked to see so many people

out to welcome me home, the music, the flags and the cheers at The Square made me realise that there is no place like home. Hopefully, this is the start of my quest for European glory. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife Maggie, my children, brothers and sisters, my mother and extended family and friends, for all the support down through the years. But most of all the supporters who travel the country to support me on my journey. Long may it continue".



"The Warrior" Declared Champion.

BALLYHAUNIS TOWN F.C.

by Paul Finn

Ballyhaunis town F.C. was re- formed back in early December 2009. We first needed to find a pitch to play on! Brian Kilcourse and Franco Marigliano both pursued the idea of using the patch of ground in station Rise which was being re-developed, and they approached the council with this idea. After many meeting and with the great help of Councillor John Cribbin we signed a lease. At last we had our own piece of turf!

Now we needed to form the club. We held our AGM and a committee were formed with Chris Pratt as Chairman, Brian Kilcourse as Vice-chairman, Seamus Freyne as Secretary and Paul Finn as Treasurer and Franco Marigliano as Manager. We were ready to sign players and see what kind of team we could get together.

We started training for the new season in February. The turnout was fantastic. We were getting as many as thirty players a night, training in all kinds of conditions, and the feeling was that we really could have a successful first season back in the Mayo Football league. We signed as many as 45 players before the season had started but unfortunately we could only have one team in the league with squads of sixteen. The competition for places was fierce, and training was proving to be harder than the actual games.

Our First Game!

Our first game was away to Bangor Hibs in early April. We headed to Bangor in great spirits and confidence. This was short-lived, Bangor proved to be very organised and committed and were really a stronger team on the day. Even though we played very well at times during that game, we really never looked like scoring. Maybe it was nerves or jetlag after the journey to Bangor! We lost 3-0 and the disappointment could really be felt afterwards in the dressing room.

We got back training, and Franco our Manager, decided to change a few positions and bring in some new faces to the squad, and it worked a treat. Our next game was against Parkside Celtic whom we beat up and down the pitch with a score line of 6-2. Fergus Coyne scored what can only be described as a wonder goal! This set the tone for the upcoming games and we soon were beating teams with ease and playing fantastic football. We had become a real team. We eventually clinched our first league title away to Ballina Utd, our nearest challengers. We scored over sixty goals in the season and conceded only eight. A great record!

We also won the Division Three Cup, with the final being played at Mayo FA head quarters in Mile bush Park



Ballyhaunis Town F.C. - Winners of the Division 3 Cup 2010. Back, L-R: Karl Lyons, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Declan Warde, Daniel Vegeniecht, Damien Hurley, Paul Walsh, Edward Kilcourse, Fergus Coyne, Paul Finn. Front, L-R: John Kelly, Jason Kelly, Franco Marigliano, Brian Kilcourse, Peter O'Matuska, Joe Neenan, Miro Reilly, Michael Marigliano, Michael Waldron.



Mayo League Winners 2010. Back, L-R: Franco Marigliano, Paul Nolan, Michael Waldron, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Paul Walsh, Damien Hurley, Peter O' Matuska, Miro Reilly, Daniel Tosnec, Fergus Coyne, John Kelly. Front, L-R: Daniel Vegeniecht, Edward Kilcourse, Joe Neenan, Paul Finn, Brian Kilcourse, James Mulrennan, Declan Ward, Jason Kelly, Michael Marigliano.

Castlebar. Again we played our rivals Ballina Utd. We started brightly and dominated possession but couldn't find the net. Early in the second half Ballina were awarded a penalty. Ballina scored and we were behind and needed to get stuck in. Which we did! We equalised with ten minutes remaining. Paul Walsh climbing highest to power in an unstoppable header. We now entered extra time. Again we poured forward in search of the winner with Brian Kilcourse solid at the back and Paul Finn pulling the strings in midfield, and our strike partnership of Peter O'Matuska and Miro Reilly proving a real handful for Ballina. We finally got our winner with Michael Marigliano, a nephew of current Irish coach Giovanni Trapattoni, scoring the winner.

Thanks

We have had a wonderful first season and we would like to thank our main sponsor, Iman Casing for their generous support throughout the year, and our other sponsors: Delaney's, Grogan's, Tully Forge, Finn Footwear, Gareth Delaney, John Jordan (Taxi), SuperValu and everyone who contributed to our club throughout the year. Without their help and support we wouldn't exist. We would also like to thank the Rugby club who let us use their facilities on match days. Also, a special mention to Cindy Ward who was our Physio.

Let's hope we can continue our success next season.

Panel: Daniel Vegeniecht, Brian Kilcourse (Capt.), Paul Walsh Michael Waldron Michael Kilcourse, Michael Marigliano, Damien Hurley, Daniel Tosnec, Omar

Cherbatji, Paul Nolan, Eddie Kilcourse, Paul Finn, James Mulrennan, Declan Ward, John Coyne, John Kelly, Niall Richardson, Karl Lyons, Joe Neenan, Fergal Fitzmaurice, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Peter O'Matuska, Miro Reilly, Fergus Coyne, Rahmeez Rahamani.



Brian Kilcourse being presented with the Division 3 Trophy by Mayo FA Chairman Padraic McHale.

PHOTO MEMORIES



*Pictured at a function in the 1960's:
Seated, L-R: Maria and Tony Cribbin, Aggie and Joe Gilmore.
Standing, L-R: Maura and Fred Herr, Michael Cameron, Frank Webb, Pat Joe Cribbin.
Photo Courtesy Glynn Photography.*



John Cribbin, Moneymore (seated) with his wife Mary Anne (nee Murphy) and sons Luke and Pat. Taken in Moneymore in the early 1930s.



*John Cleary (Johnstown), Tom Byrne (Johnstown), Billy Mahon, butcher.
Taken in Abbey St., 1960s.*



*Frank Healy (Ballindrehid) and
Bernie Waldron (Cave), 1960s.*



*Joe Eagney (Curries), left and Pat Hughes, Principal,
Ballyhaunis Vocational School, during the building of
Hughes' house, Upper Main St.*



*Tom Hunt, Derrynacong and Micheál Donnellan, Clare
Street, at the Carnival, 1940s.*



John Joe Philbin with his car, 1970s.



Joe Hosty pictured outside Lyons', Gurrane, early 1960s.



*Pictured top left:
Eugene Freely (Clagnagh) on his
uncle Paddy Freely's (Derrynacong)
Massey Ferguson 35 tractor with
Ferguson 732 mower.
Taken in Clagnagh in the 1960s.*

*Centre left:
Tom Quinn, Tully,
Carrowbehy,
bringing home the turf.*

*Centre right:
Coming from the Well.
Jim Fitzmaurice, Abbeyquarter,
1967. Jim was uncle of Paddy
and Mary Fitzmaurice.*



Luke Cribbin mowing oats in Moneymore, 1930s.



Damien Webb, Devlis and Maggie Lyons, Turlough. First Year, Community School, 1980.



Cathal and Bobby O'Reilly and Simon Morley, enjoying Cathal's Barn Dance in Woodpark, September 2009.



Patricia Grogan, Bertie Curley, Anna Grogan. Clare Street, 1979.



Celia Lyons, Oliver and Bridie Levins, Tommy Carroll, Paddy Lyons, Johnny McGarry and Anne Lynch. Pictured in the early 1980s.



*Then and Now. The Brennan family of Gurteen, 1960s and 2010
L-R: Padraic, Martin, John, Marian and Michael.*

MAYO AUTISM ACTION

By Sean Coffey

What is Autism? Autism is a disorder that affects the way a person communicates with and relates to other people. Most (but not all) people with autism also have learning difficulties. People with an autistic disorder usually need specialist care and education. There are many different forms and levels of autism and no two children are the same.

In September 2006 Mayo Autism Action was formed by a group of parents whose children were affected by autism. A long journey began trying to set up an education system that would suit every child's needs. We established that an ABA school was the way to go, and it was possible that we could get government funding as the government funds ABA schools in the east and midlands. To our dismay we did not receive any funding despite promises, and still do not to this day.

This didn't deter us and so we started fundraising. The generosity of individuals who have campaigned for our charity was overwhelming. From the annual Climb of Croagh Patrick organised by Johnny Oosten and Pat

Kerins, the Mystery Tour organised by MWR, vintage Tractor runs and the annual Quiz Night in Ballyhaunis whom have named Mayo Autism Action as their selected charity for the past number of years.

To individuals who have done Bungee Jumps, Carol Singing and Bag Packing, the list of what people have done for us is unreal. Every donation is much appreciated. I would especially like to thank the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas it is all thanks to you our school is still opened. It wouldn't matter how many events were organised if you didn't sponsor them.

In 2008, we opened our school in Kiltmagh. We have children from all over Mayo attending and improvements in their lives have been fantastic. Their speech, behaviour and social skills have changed beyond belief. This is all down to your generosity. You truly don't realise the gift you are giving these children and their families. Thanks again and we look forward in your continuing support.



Connacht Darts Champions 1984 - The Vintage Inn, Knox St., Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Michael Hunt, Michael Plunkett, Martin Caulfield, John Morley. Middle, L-R: Dermot Sullivan, Martin Cunnane, Sean Munroe, Gerard Doherty, Hugh Carney, Michael Morrin, Roger Kenny, Eamonn Canny, Charlie Doherty (proprietor). Front, L-R: Joe Burke, John Daly, Tom Callaghan.



BAPTISMS in the Parish of Annagh Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2010

Bethany May Ward
 Patryk Boleslaw
 Henryk Manke
 Sara Keane
 Winifred Catherine McDonagh
 Emmanuela Chioma Ngwu
 Jason Sean Powers
 Declan Dean Daly
 Lilly Iúile Thompson
 Analeese Marie McDonagh
 Pavel Cervenak
 Senan Padraic Heaney Burke

Tiarnan James McKeown
 Kyrach Kathryn Maureen Jordan
 Molly Maria Squires
 David Patrick Nally
 Akpevweoghene Henrietta Esemitodje
 Henry Esemitodje
 Milmante Maciukaite
 Terry Patrick Pio Maughan
 Sean Joseph Donnellan
 Ciara Rhianna Lilliana Morley
 Sean Paul Flanagan
 Holly Michelle Cunningham
 Eliska Marta Vichtova
 Barbara Marie Vichtova
 Jack Michael Buckley

Erin Mary Ellen Higgins
 Michelle O Ubazuonu
 Seamus James Pio Mongan
 Mariah Therese Mongan
 Daniel Frank Lupinek
 Bernard McDonagh
 Thomas McDonagh
 Maya Taylor Murphy
 Sarah Bree Byrne
 Emma Richardson
 Alice Martha Curran
 Goda Valeriza Uselyte
 Liam Michael Crowe
 Patrick Thomas Crowe
 Viktorija Monika Anisovaite

DECEASED of the Parish November 2009 - October 2010

Margaret Henry, Aisling Drive
 Mary Gallagher, Derrintogher
 Tom Murphy, Knockbrack
 Patricia Waldron, Devlis
 Tommie Leneghan, Station Rise
 John Joe Philbin, Clare Court
 Eamonn Hurley, Ballinphuill
 Kathleen Gavin, Coolloughra
 John Grady, St. Gerald's Court
 Paddy Gildea, Johnstown
 Noel Dalton, Coolnafarna
 Jimmy Finnegan, Bohogue
 Catherine Barrett, Station Rise

Catherine Kavanagh, Clagnagh
 James Michael Waldron, Abbeyquarter
 Annie Waldron, Carrowkeel
 Thomas Godfrey, Tullaghane
 Patrick O'Connell, Drimbane
 John Davitt, Brackloon North
 Christina O'Connell, Aisling Drive
 Sharon O'Dowd, Old Racecourse
 Peter O'Donnell, Manchester & Scrigg
 Tom Frain, Beech Lawn
 Tom Henry, Gurteen
 Dom Murphy, Brackloon North
 Patrick Forde, Manor Brooke
 Joseph Tighe, Aisling Drive
 Mary Lyons, Spaddagh

Margaret Healy, Station Rise
 Agnes Ryan, Ballindrehid
 Patrick Waldron, Cherryfield
 Michael Waldron, Ballindrehid
 Peter Meenan, Aisling Drive
 Tom Eagney, Coolnaha
 Mary Burke, Redford
 Mick Joe Lyons, Ballindrehid
 Edward Fitzgerald, Upr. Main St.
 Micheál Waldron, Johnstown
 Kathleen McCrudden, Aisling Dr.
 Mary Kiely, Beech Park
 Owen Healy, Station Rise
 Hugh Curley, Derrymore and
 Main St.

MARRIAGES, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2010

Catherine Kelly, Island and Sean Reynolds, Sligo
 Karen Gildea, Gurrane and Michael Kilbane, Derrynacong
 Emer Nestor, Doctor's Road and Alan Spratt, London
 Caroline Cleary, Cherryfield and Terry Collins, Naas, Co. Kildare
 Jennifer Egan, Cherryfield and Thomas Moran, Knock Road
 Annette Healy, Johnstown and Ronald Robinson, Tooreen
 Annemarie McDonagh, The Maples and Simon McDonagh, Wales
 Norah Rabbitte, Derrylea and Francis Rushe, Kilkerrin, Co. Galway
 Stephanie Tarpey, Carrowkeel and John Murphy, Corrandulla, Co. Galway
 Michelle Henry, Knock and Michael Waldron, Granlahan
 Bridann Halpin, Main St. and Brian Keane, Ballinlough
 Orlagh Nevin, Hazelwood and Robert Gildea, Gurrane
 Lorraine Barrett, Devlis and Michael Kavanagh, Mayo Abbey
 Sinéad Byrne, Johnstown and John Langan, Galway

MARRIAGES Elsewhere Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2010

Thomas Wallace, Ballinlough
 and Lisa Carty, Knock
 Owen Maughan, Cherryfield
 and Stacy Ward, Tuam
 James Ruane, Johnstown
 and Tara McNally, Newbridge
 Michael Donohue, Scrigg
 and Sinéad Flanagan, Castlereagh
 Catherine Higgins, Curries
 and Leo Forkin, Tooreen.

Wedding Photographs



Stephanie Tarpey, Carrowkeel and John Murphy, Corrandulla, Co. Galway, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Photo by Stratford Photography © 2010.



Sinéad McDonnell, Gurteen, Cloonfad and David McDonnell, Ballina, married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad. Sinéad's mother is Angela (nee Meehan) formerly of Annagh.



Michael Waldron, Granlahan and Michelle Henry, Knock, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Noelle Barrett, Devlis and Tomás Colleran, Ballaghaderreen, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Karen Staunton, Cloonfad and Barry Cobb, Arigna, Co. Roscommon, married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad. Photo by Stratford Photography © 2010.



Catherine O'Boyle, Raith, Aghamore and Frank Flynn, Kiltyhugh, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, married in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore.



Lorraine Barrett and Michael Kavanagh, Mayo Abbey, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Photograph by Tomás Coppinger.



Aine Fahey, Devlis and Vincent de Philly, France, married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Bridann Halpin, Main Street and Brian Keane, Clooncrim, Ballinlough, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.
Photograph by LisaHynesPhotography.com



Nathan Murphy, Annagh, Ballyhaunis and Debbie Mullock, Malahide, Dublin, married in St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Cong, Co. Mayo.



Claire Cunniffe, Tooreen and Paul Hickey, Greenwood, married in St. Mary's Church, Tooreen.



Keith Delaney, Doctor's Road and Inese Dreimane, Latvia, married in Latvia.



James Ruane, Johnstown and Tara McNally, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, married in St. Conleth's Church, Newbridge.



Evelene Lynskey, Tooreen, and Gerard Kirrane, Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis, married in St. Mary's Church, Tooreen.



Orla Nevin, Station Rise & Robert Gildea, Gurrane, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Annette Healy, Johnstown, Ballyhaunis and Ronnie Robinson, Tooreen, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Jenny Egan, Cherryfield and Tommy Moran, Knock Road, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Photograph by Tomás Coppinger.



Jillian McGuire, Ballykilleen and Kevin Byrne, Belmullet, married in Logboy Church.



Marty Regan, Gurteenbeg, Ballyhaunis and Cathy Gallagher, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, married in St. Coleman's Church, Corofin, Co. Galway.



Nora Rabbitte, Derrylea, Ballyhaunis and Francis Rushe, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Gerard Coen, Clagnagh and Sinead Kelleher, Castlebar, married in Tuscany, Italy.



Gareth Morrissey, Cave and Lauren Faulkner, Delaware, U.S.A., married in St. Edmund's Catholic Church, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, U.S.A.



Catherine Higgins, Curries and Leo Forkin, Cloongoonagh, Tooreen, married in The Church of St. Blaise, Dubrovnik, Croatia.



Sinead Byrne, Johnstown and John Langan, Galway, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Photo by Stratford Photography © 2010.



Caroline Burke, Cornabanny, Cloonfad and Kieran Costello, Tonragee, Ballyhaunis, married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.

SCOIL ÍOSA

By Kenneth Dennedy

As another year passes everyone at Scoil Íosa extends Season Greetings to Annagh readers and to all members of the school community past and present. The school enrolment continues to grow with the current numbers of pupils standing at 299.

Staff 2010-2011:

Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Kathleen Lyons (Deputy Principal), Jimmy Duggan (Assistant Principal), Aisling Toal, Annie Kilroy, Elaine Brady, Sheena Flanagan, Ann Durkan, Olivia Burke, Ciara Byrne, Mary Fleming, Stella McGrath, Ita Fahey, Joanne Forde, Lisa Watchorn, Dónal O'Brien, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, Kevin Henry, Seamus Caulfield (Modern Language Teacher), Carmel Cassidy and Mary Dillon (Secretaries), John Hurley (Caretaker).

Board of Management:

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

Parents Association:

Fergal O'Mahoney (Chairperson), Yvonne Walsh (Secretary), Cathal Carroll (Treasurer), Orla Moran, Tommy Caulfield, Patricia Ní Shuilleabháin, Martin Walsh, Frank Browne, Laura Burke (Committee).

Moving On

This year saw two popular members of staff moving on from Scoil Íosa. Brigid Lynskey moved to a new position in Kilmovee National School, after spending more than twelve years as a Special Needs Assistant in Scoil Íosa. A native of County Wexford, Brigid began her career in St. Joseph's National School and later with amalgamation. Always a kind companion to her charges, Brigid was a huge loss to the school. Mrs. June Duffy joined the school a number of years ago and made her name as a teacher in charge of the Special

Class. Her work with special needs children and her dedication to the provision of the best quality education available was always to the fore. Mrs. Duffy also assisted with drama and lessons and with organisation of the annual School Sports Day. Unfortunately, as the Special Class at Scoil Íosa came to an end, so too did Mrs. Duffy's tenure on the staff. She took up a new position in Tuam, Co. Galway in September 2010 end her long association with Scoil Íosa. Both ladies are wished well as they continue their careers in pastures new.

Kenny Naughton Autumn School

Once again the pupils of Scoil Íosa participated in the annual Kenny Naughton creative writing competition. Congratulations to all who took part and especially to our prizewinners: Clodagh Byrne (3rd class), Chloe Ryan (5th class), Lora Dimatrova (3rd class), Luke Walsh (3rd class), Amy Keane (3rd class), Meadhbh Caulfield (5th class), Aibhínn Herr (5th class) and James Duggan (5th class). Well done to all.

Sports News

2010 was an eventful year for the various sporting teams representing the school. This year we entered competitively in Gaelic Football (boys and girls), Hurling, Soccer (boys and girls) and Athletics with varying degrees of success. The Boys Mini Sevens team was victorious in the Local Area Final achieving victory over Claremorris Boys School in a tight and entertaining game. The boys were beaten in the County Semi-final by a strong Mulranny team.

Congratulation to James Reynolds on his selection on the Mayo Mini Sevens team which played at half time in the Mayo v Sligo Connacht Championship match.

Boys Football Panel: Eamon Phillips, James Reynolds, Michael Hill, Thomas McDonagh, Piarais Caulfield, Oisín Henry, Darren Coyne, James Cribbin, Cian Henry, John Cunnane, Robert McCormack, Radek Cervenak, Seán Carrick, Seán Herr,



James Reynolds was selected for the Mayo Mini Sevens exhibition. Pictured with team coach Kevin Henry and Kenneth Dennedy Principal.

Matthew Grogan, Gary Higgins, Cathal Carney, Asad Ali, Fraz Ahmad. Trainer: Kevin Henry.

The Girls Football team, though not taking home the silverware, acquitted themselves well in a number of closely fought encounters. Girls Football Panel: Jennifer Cleary, Aoife Mulrennan, Jessica Carroll, Roisín Ní Shuilleabháin, Saoirse Caulfield, Kaitlyn Clarke, Emma Lyons, Leanne Henry, Gemma Lilly, Caoimhe Lilly, Zozan Ali Ahmed, Michelle Lyons, Ellen Maughan, Eileen Maughan.

2010 saw Scoil Íosa participate in the Cross Country Running Championship for the first time in a number of years. Judging by the impact of the participants on this event, the future looks very bright indeed. There were outstanding individual performances from Ellen Phillips (4th class) Conal Caulfield (4th class) Patrick Caulfield (4th class) and Darren Coyne (6th class), with Darren qualifying for the Connacht finals. Well done to all involved.

Scór na bPaistí:

A number of children participated in the Scór na bPaistí Schools Talent Competition in individual singing, group singing, figure dancing and recitation. All competitors performed admirably and certainly put down a marker for the future.

Quiz Teams

Teams from Scoil Íosa took part in a number of quiz competitions over the course of the year with varying degrees of success. Notable among these was finishing as Runners-up in the Regional Sports Quiz held in Claremorris. Included on the team were: Cian Henry, James Cribbin, Cathal Carney, James Reynolds and Michael Hill.

Haiti Fundraiser

Well done to the children in fourth and sixth class who organised a cake sale in response to the Haiti Earthquake disaster. A sum of over €600 was raised as a result. The

proceeds were presented to MidWest Radio by Chloe Ryan, Helen Gallagher, Kaitlyn Clarke and Cormac Reidy, all of whom proved to be excellent ambassadors for the school.

Full Attendance Awards

The winners of the annual Scoil Íosa Betty Regan Medal for Full Attendance at School during the 2009/2010 year were Senior Infant pupils Maeve Donnellan and Dallen Walsh, and First Class pupil Joshua Webb.



Above:
Scoil Íosa Boys Football
team 2009 - 2010.

Right:
Scoil Íosa Girls football team pic-
tured with Mrs. Kathleen Lyons.



BALLYHAUNIS & DISTRICT GUN CLUB

As we approach the up-and-coming shooting season, we reflect on another successful year for the club. A number of clay shoots were held and these proved very enjoyable.

Once again Ciaran Waldron from Cave represented the club at county level, in the Inter-County All Ireland shoots in Ardee, Co. Louth earlier this year, where the county performed admirably, and Ciaran himself shot a brilliant 48 out of 50 in an individual competition.

Game

As usual a very successful game release programme was put in place. As well as releasing pheasants, a number of Partridge were reared and released. They were cared for by Damien Waldron in Holywell and the highlight of this release programme for the club was the discovery that these Partridge bred and reared their own young in the wild.

Vermin

A highly successful vermin control programme was executed in the past year. In conjunction with this there was a competition within the club for the highest amount of vermin brought in by members. This competition was won by Damien Waldron, Martin McGuire and Michael Mullarky with a total of 205 foxes, 41 mink, 30 magpies and 27 grey crows. A worrying development for the club is the increase in the amount of mink. This year we captured 61 mink in total.



*Grouse Shooting on the Moors of North Mayo
Tom Waldron, Cave, with 'Jesse' and a brace of Grouse.*

Thanks

Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club would like to thank all the farming community for their kind co-operation with the club in their endeavours. Also, the club would like to thank their kind sponsors during the year: their support is greatly appreciated.

The officers for the coming year are:

President – Jack Lannon;

Chairman – John Greally; Secretary – Packie Waldron;

Treasurer – Padraic Kiely; P.R.O. – Tom Waldron.

A Little Thought... *"The Wildlife of our country is not ours to dispose of as we wish. We are but guardians for generations to come."*



Talib Chaudhry and Manar Cherbati, newly appointed members of the Government's Ministerial Integration Council.



Grace and Niamh McQueeney, grandchildren of Mary and Mike McQueeney.

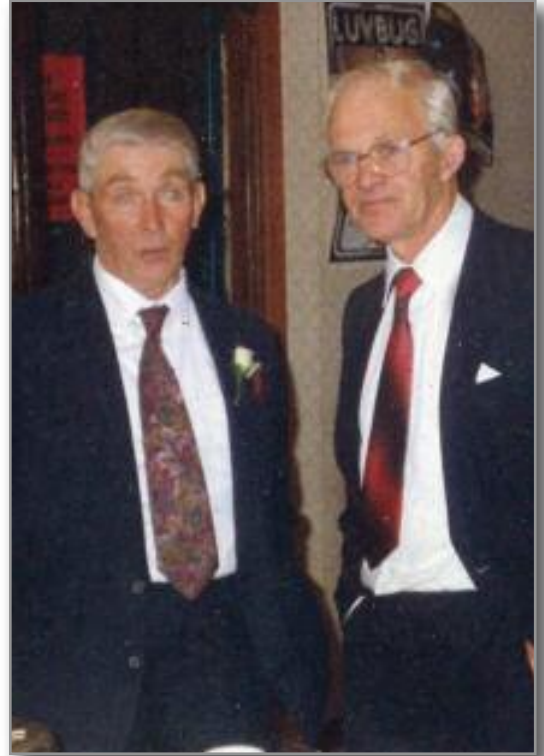
Notes on photographs for next year's magazine:

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, and scanned at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, i.e. large size. Small, low-resolution images may not be suitable for publication. Photos will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Miss Siobhán Quinn from Classaroe, Ballyhaunis, who has embarked on her missionary trip to Ghana with Viatores Christi, pictured with Canon Joe Cooney, PP and Fr. Benny McHale, CC, following the commissioning ceremony in St. Patrick's Church last September.



*Musicians meet...
Johnny McGarry, Drimbane,
and Paddy Hunt, Larganboy.*



50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrations
Ursula Jordan, Main Street and Michael (Chum) Borges, Colchester, Essex, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 6th January this year. They were married in University Church, Dublin, with reception at The Gresham Hotel. They live in Colchester, Essex, England.

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Pictured at the January Conferring Ceremony in the University of Limerick, L-R: John Sr., Sighle, Bryan (Post Grad. Dip.), John Jr. (MSc.) and Anne Marie Forde.



Congratulations to Siobhan Quinn who graduated from Mater Dei with an MA in Religion Education (Post Primary Hons.). Siobhan is daughter of Bernie and Jimmy Quinn, Classaroe, Ballyhaunis.



Three Generations: John Maloney, Beechpark (right) with his son Patrick and grandson Joseph.



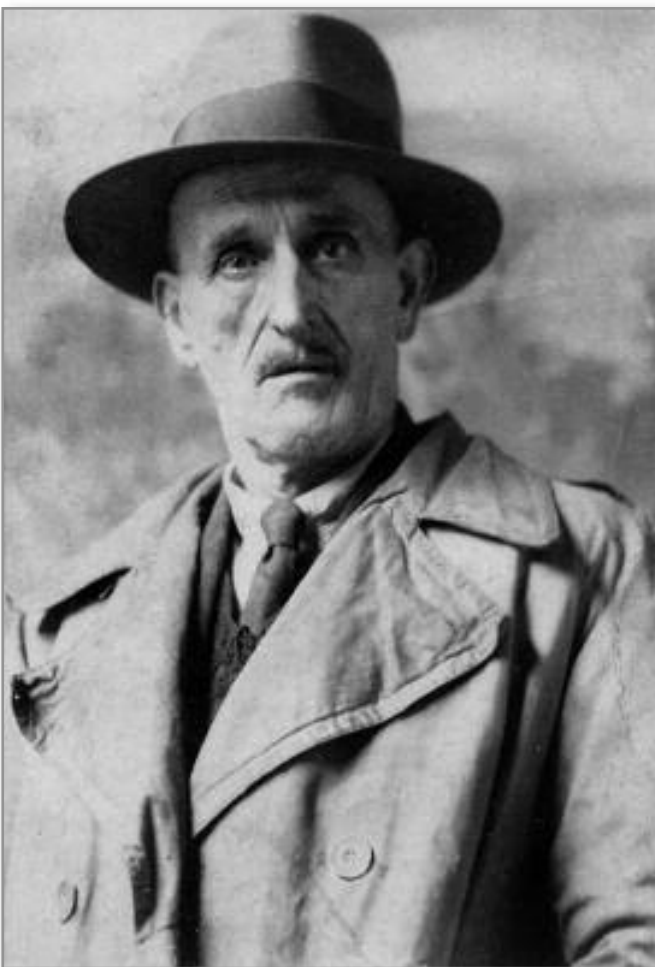
Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, John Cribbin congratulates Peter Hynes on becoming Mayo County Manager, at the monthly meeting of the local authority held in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis, May 2010.



Maura and Paddy Jordan (former proprietors of the Corner Bar) with Martin Grogan, Clare Street, in The Fastnet Tavern, New York, 1973.



Tony Morley, Bernard Gallagher and John Gallagher, taken in Dublin in the 1960s.



Michael Webb Snr., Main Street.



*Taken in Gurteen, early 1960s.
Back, L-R: Sarah Freely, Dave and Bridie Lyons,
Mike Lyons (uncle of Sarah and Dave).
Front, L-R: Angela and Maureen Lyons.*

PHOTO MEMORIES



ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, BALLYHAUNIS, 1969

- Back row:* (left to right) Michael McCormack, Michael Loftus, Michael Lyons, John Mulligan, Vivian Murphy, Sean Duffy, Eamon Smyth, Pat Kearney, Michael Carty.
- Fourth row:* John O'Brien, Brian Conway, Tim Murphy, Tommy Naughton, Tom Fitzmaurice, Tom Cunnane, John Keane, David Dwane, Kevin Tighe, Jarlath Kenny, John McDonagh, Sean Egan.
- Third row:* Tommy Jordan, Pat Morris, Vincent Kelly, Jarlath Lyons, Kieran Folliard, Bertie Cribbin, Eamon Murren, Thomas Phillips, Jarlath Ronayne, Frank Lyons.
- Second row (staff):* Fr. Francis McMyler, Jarlath Fahey, Fr. John Kennedy, Fr. Patrick Costelloe, Fr. Columba Burke, Morgan Jennings, Fr. Kieran Waldron.
- Front row:* Aiden Kneafsey, Pat Freeley, Kieran Connolly, Alex Eaton, Terry Keenan, Jimmy Hopkins, Edward Murphy, Martin Kelly, Terry Fitzmaurice.



THE CAST OF AUTUMN FIRE, 1961.

A production of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis.

Back, L-R: Joe Greene, Vincent Freyne, John Morley, Michael Waldron.

Front, L-R: Bridie Molloy, Maisín Meath, Catherine Morley, Jack Greene, Noreen Morley, Kitty Keane.

BALLYHAUNIS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Ballyhaunis Cemetery committee continues as a voluntary group, with our main focus on maintaining the grounds so as to keep it a fitting resting place for our deceased relatives and friends.

We have endeavoured to maintain the cemetery to a high standard by keeping the grass cut, painting the front wall and planting flowers, shrubs and blubs and carrying out all other general maintenance. The cemetery is now one of the best kept in the county, and each year it is commented on very favourably by parishioners and by visitors. The committee would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone at home and abroad for their generous contributions made to the annual collection. This ensures that the area is maintained to a very high standard and is visually pleasing and acceptable to all. The floral display at the entrance and throughout the cemetery is maintained and updated annually by Henry Madden and his voluntary work is very much appreciated by the committee.

Over the last few years it became evident that the cemetery was rapidly filling up, so pressure was put on Mayo County Council to provide new ground. In June 2010 a new extension to the cemetery was formally opened by Cllr. John Cribbin, Chairman of Mayo County Council. In addition land, was made available for a much needed car park. The car park can also be used as an entrance to the old cemetery. It is estimated that the new extension will provide sufficient burial places for the next twenty-five years.

Graveyard survey

Early in the year a representative from I.G.S. (Irish Graveyard Surveyors) talked to the committee with a view to carrying out a full survey of graves with headstones in the cemetery. Once the survey was completed the information was transcribed onto a map. I.G.S. were given permission and, in August, prior to the Annual Mass, the map and information was erected. We feel that this map will be very useful to visitors, who may be trying to trace their family graves, or those who may be interested in genealogy.

In order to find the information you require the easiest way to read the sign is –

1. Check each section (A.B.C.) for the relevant surname.
2. Check the plot number allocated.
3. Go to the map and the relevant section (A.B.C.).

4. Find the plot number. The map will then show you in what area you need to go to find the grave.

I.G.S. have also photographed every headstone in the cemetery and placed them on their website (www.irishgraveyards.ie). You will now be able to view your grave and the cemetery online.

Committee

John Halpin, Walter Cleary, Helen Waldron, Tom Finn, Edward Mulhern, Henry Madden, Seamus O'Boyle, Mary Donnelly, Martin Gavin.



Cathaoirleach John Cribbin officially opens the extension and new car parking facility at Ballyhaunis Cemetery, June 2010. L-R: Cllr. Richard Finn, John Halpin, Canon Joseph Cooney PP, Cllr. John Cribbin, Cathaoirleach Mayo County Council, Seamus Granahan, John O'Mahony, TD., and engineer, Tommy Freyne.



Inspecting the new survey and map of graves, launched at Ballyhaunis Cemetery July 2010, were Michael Durkan and Niall Broderick of Irish Graveyard Surveyors Ltd., John Halpin and Martin Gavin of Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee.

BALLYHAUNIS & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

Another year in the life of our credit union and again we report a successful year of trading within a most turbulent year on the financial scene. Banks, building societies, etc have donned the aura of difficulties and failure, yet the concept of the credit union has saved our society as we carefully manage our savings while we lend to our members under the credo of the world wide credit union of "save locally and lend locally". Our continued trading success is the result of our excellent professional staff under Manager Mary Henry and our many volunteers who serve on our various committees and board.

The years always bring changes to our organisation and so in 2008 and 2010 we said goodbye to two of our long serving and loyal volunteers/staff members, Cynthia Fitzgerald (2008) and Helene McCafferty (2010). Their contribution in the progress of our Credit Union will long be remembered. The changes continue and so we record a new member of staff, Linda Cox. We wish her many years of success with us.

Ballyhaunis Credit Union, as with many other organi-



*Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union staff.
Front, L-R: Helene McCafferty, Patricia O'Connor.
Back: Cynthia Fitzgerald, Linda Cox,
Katherine Kilbride, Mary Henry, Mary Rudden.*

sations, is playing its part in the wider community welfare. We sponsor the many worth while events including the Abbey Pattern, youth teams, talent competitions, school quiz, etc.

Annagh magazine affords us space to again thank our many thousands of members both young and old, savers and borrowers alike and we assure all in the community our dedicated service in all financial matters.

BALLYHAUNIS SWIMMING POOL

THE BALLYHAUNIS POOL opened its doors this year on Wednesday, 30th June. Thanks to Fr. Benny McHale for blessing the pool and all its facilities.

We were late opening this year because the floor of the pool was repainted. We would like to thank Mayo County Council for this, and for all their help with repairs. Without their input it would be impossible to upkeep the pool and grounds.

This year we thought the pool area needed a new look, so we decided to have murals painted on the walls inside. We weren't sure what theme to go with or how it would look. We spoke with Niamh Cunnane, whom we'd heard was a great artist, and asked her if she was interested in this project, and she was delighted to help us. We chose the 'Nemo' theme, and, I have to say, the pool area looked a lot brighter and was totally transformed.

This year the rules changed regarding Lifeguard's qualifications. The Lifeguards we employed needed to have a

National Lifeguard's awards. We were lucky as our two Lifeguards, Lisa Jordan and Fiona Freyne, had both qualified with these awards last year.

We finished our season with the Swimming Gala and Party. The children had a great day and, as a surprise, we organised two bouncing castle. They were all delighted (mind you I think the Lifeguards and office staff were really delighted). All the gala events were organised by the Lifeguards and office staff. They organised a variety of swimming and novelty events including 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 Cormac Phillips, for Most Improved Swimmer and Cathal Carney for Best Attendance. Congratulations to all winners.

We would like to thank our Lifeguards, Lisa Jordan and Fiona Freyne, our Office Staff, Karen Higgins and Gareth Carrick, and Niamh Cunnane for painting the murals. Looking forward to seeing you all again next year.

Agatha Higgins, Secretary

GREALLY/GREALY/GREELEY FAMILY REUNION IN USA

By Nora Perry

Descendants and family relatives of James and Bridget Grealy of Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, Ireland, are cordially invited to the first reunion of the Greally/Grealy/Greeley clan in the United States. The family gathering will be held the weekend of July 22-24, 2011, in Fairfax County, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC. Organisers of the reunion are Michael Nolan Greeley and Nora (Taylor) Perry, great-grandson and great-great-granddaughter, respectively, of James and Bridget.

This American lineage was established by James and Bridget's son, Michael Nolan, who emigrated to the U.S. in about 1886. In 1888, he graduated in the top of his class from Manhattan College, the renowned Lasallian school in New York City, New York. He is shown, as a lad of about 22, in the accompanying graduation photo.



*Michael Nolan Greally,
Manhattan College Class of 1888.*

Michael was the brother of Delia, Ellen, Elizabeth, James, Margaret (McGreal), Anne Marie (Folliard), and Nora (Caulfield).

We hope that many of our Irish cousins will join us for this grand US celebration of the Grealy clan. Several of us in the US branch of the family have established ties with the Ireland branch and would greatly enjoy participation from the "Mother Country". We are working on completing the Grealy family tree – any relatives in County Mayo willing to help with this tree? Please contact Nora Perry at nora333@yahoo.com. The reunion provides an opportunity to meet one another and rejoice in our common heritage. Who knows, we might even have a contest to see who can tell the tallest tale about a Grealy!

For further information, contact Mike Greeley, e-mail: mgreeley@cox.net, phone: 703-978-4733 or Nora Perry, e-mail: nora333@yahoo.com, phone: 202-255-3322. John Halpin (our cousin) is the local contact in County Mayo. Please send us your contact information and we will provide updates on the reunion details. Please join our interactive web site for communication and information about the reunion:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GreeleyFamily>.



A Greeley family gathering in Virginia.

BOXING COACH LEE PULLEN'S BALLYHAUNIS CONNECTIONS

Lee Pullen may not be a name on people's tongues in Ballyhaunis right now, but his people were born and bred here. To be precise, his grandparents were Frank and Delia Glynn of Clare Street. His mother Mary Dadd, nee Glynn, grew up in the family home along with her brothers John, Frank and Charlie and sister Pat. The building is now home to Tynan Dillon & Co and is a door or two up from Mrs. Bridie Levins' B&B. Mary lives in Kent. John, Charlie and Pat live in California in the U.S., while Frank is resident in Canada. Charlie has also put pen to paper in this edition of the magazine, regarding a recent visit to the town after an absence of thirty-five years!

But back to Lee Pullen, fifty-one years of age and native of Kent, who, in March of this year 2010, was appointed to the British Amateur Boxing Association as one of its podium coaches. The association is based at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. He leaves his job temporarily at the Dungeness B nuclear power station where he has been an operator technician for the past thirty-one years, to work full time with the GB Boxing Team heading up to, and for, the duration of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Olympics

Through this coaching position, Pullen will try to nurture a team who are aiming to make an impact at the 2012 games, which will take place on their home ground in London. These young hopefuls will compete in tournaments around the world to help prepare them for the games. Before taking up this new post he previously trained fighters who have gone on to become household names - including Amir Khan, who is the current WBA Champion, but was just seventeen years old when he worked with Lee and won Silver at the 2004 games in



*Paul Walmsley and Lee Pullen
- British Amateur Boxing Association.*

Athens. His previous experience of ten years coaching part time with the GB boxing team has paid off and his job now is to prepare the current crop of twenty talented boxers in the UK for a shot at the medals in 2012.

Pullen first started boxing himself at the age of eight when the family lived in London. But it was only when they moved to Romney Marsh, in Kent, three years later that he became hooked on the sport. A promising career as a Welterweight followed, winning the Kent title and representing England, before an eye injury forced him out of boxing aged just twenty-three. He has been coaching now for twenty years, beginning his career with Folkestone Boxing Club.

According to Lee the Olympic Games is "the biggest show on earth" for him and "it is an exciting time for the sport and I am relishing the opportunity to work as part of a first class team to help mould the boxers into medal winners." We wish him all the best.



*Ms. Catriona Biesty,
Pattenspark,
who graduated from
St. Angela's College,
Sligo, with a
Diploma in Applied
Theology and
Pastoral Studies.
Catriona is daughter
of Austin and Joan
Biesty, Pattens Park,
Ballyhaunis.*

Peace

There is a Friary on a hill in Ballyhaunis
Which overlooks the virgin countryside
Where the water of the Dalgan
Runs at morn' and even tide
If the peace of God you are seeking
If to Ireland you shall go
You will find it on that hill in Ballyhaunis
Ballyhaunis in the county of Mayo

By S.O.L.

OH THE VALUE OF ANNAGH!

By Mary Callaghan

Every year coming up to Christmas, our mother Bridie Callaghan would always say to us “when in Ballyhaunis, don’t forget the Annaghs!” Faithfully, for years, she sent them to her brothers overseas and the one she kept for herself was the best Christmas present she could ask for - it was read and reread over the following weeks and months. Sadly, this year will be very different, as our lovely mum passed away on the 6th July last – may she rest in peace. Even though she lived in Castlerea for many



years, Ballyhaunis was her home place and she was very proud of being a Mayo woman – one of her favourite sayings was “up Mayo wherever you go”! Through Annagh she could reminisce and she gave us a wealth of memories of many happy times in Ballyhaunis. Now we have all her Annaghs from over the years and as we read them we realise what Annagh means to everyone who has connections with Ballyhaunis and how we will continue her tradition in reading Annagh.

FIFTY YEARS DEDICATION HONoured

By Helen Meehan

Kathleen McBride Celebrated 50 years working with T. Dillon-Leetch and Sons.

I have had the pleasure of working with Kathleen McBride for a considerable number of years in the office of T. Dillon-Leetch and Sons, Solicitors. It was a privilege to work alongside Kathleen. She was, and continues to be, extremely popular, with her colleagues and clients, and is totally dedicated to her work.

Her calm, and reassuring manner has helped to diffuse any problems which arose from time to time. Even after her fifty years of service she is still as active and enthusiastic as ever, and is a very loyal friend and colleague.

It was fitting and appropriate that a surprise party was held at Renvyle House Hotel on Friday, 10th Sept. 2010, to mark Kathleen’s fifty years working with the firm. It



John Dillon-Leetch with Kathleen McBride (standing), Helen Meehan and Andy Bailey (seated), in Renvyle House Hotel.



was hosted by John Dillon-Leetch. The party was preceded by Mass celebrated by Fr. Celestine Cullen in the Library of the Hotel. It was a wonderful party attended by all the staff in the office and Kathleen’s sister Mary. Presentations were made and the celebrations went on to the early hours of the following morning.

Here’s to the next fifty, Kathleen!

John Dillon-Leetch with Kathleen (left) and Mary McBride, in Renvyle House Hotel.

'Caring for our Environment' the motto of Tidy Towns and 'Working Together – For Our Community' the motto of the National Spring Clean Campaign aptly sum up the role of Tidy Towns in Ballyhaunis. Our aim is to promote awareness of our environment in the community at large and encourage everyone to be active in protecting and enhancing it for the benefit and enjoyment of both residents and visitors alike.

During the summer months and into autumn, Ballyhaunis was adorned with approximately 150 flower containers from hanging baskets throughout the town and tiered planters in the Square, to tubs and window boxes in various locations such as the Friary house, the Parochial Hall and the Courthouse. Once a week very early in the morning T. J. Fallon, one of our Rural Social Scheme workers, was out and about watering all the flowers.

Many business owners and residents decorated their premises very beautifully this year with floral displays, fresh paint, etc. adding further colour and beauty to the townscape. They deserve our credit and appreciation.

Landscaped areas at the riverbank, Guilers Park and St. Gerald's Crescent added another dimension to the enhancement of the town.

The town well in Bridge St. got a long overdue facelift this year which involved power-washing followed by whitewashing the inner walls and painting the outer ones.

The recycle banks area also received a major facelift during the year with the arrival of brand new banks, and for this we are grateful to Mayo Co. Council's Environmental Awareness officer Sharon Cameron. Our two Rural Social Scheme workers, T. J. Fallon and Tom McLoughlin, kept the recycle banks area clean and tidy in addition to maintaining the grass margins on all approach roads, planting flowers etc.

Throughout the summer our members met twice weekly for litter picking, flower planting, weeding or whatever needed to be done. Sunday morning street cleaning continued with Mike Griffin taking to the streets very early ensuring a very clean town before most of us were up!

Wildlife Signage

Our flagship project for 2010 is the installation of wildlife information signage in the Friary Park and by the river. This project has been repeatedly suggested to us by Tidy Towns adjudicators for two reasons: the importance of

highlighting and identifying the various species of wildlife that are present in the area, and as a means of increasing our marks in the Wildlife and Natural Amenities category of the competition where they were consistently low. Funding was approved under the LEADER Programme and this, along with our prize money in the 2009 Litter League, covered the cost of the project. We are grateful for the co-operation of the Abbey Partnership and the assistance of their Rural Social Scheme workers John Joe Lyons and Sean Biesty, who teamed up with our own workers, T. J. and Tom in putting the signs in place. We are confident that this project will give an extra boost to the town as well as increasing our marks in next year's National Tidy Towns Competition.

Litter Action League and Cleaner Community Campaign

Both these competitions are run annually by Mayo County Council in an effort to encourage communities to put their shoulder to the wheel and improve their own local environment. In February Mayo County Council hosted the awards presentation in Ballyhaunis for the 2009 competitions, with local Councillor John Cribbin, then Cathaoirleach, presenting the awards. Ballyhaunis was the recipient of three prizes on the day: the Runner-up prize in the Litter Action League, 3rd prize in the Environmental Endeavour Awards, and Aisling Drive Residents Association was awarded 2nd prize in the Best Kept Housing Estate category. We participated in the Litter League again this year but, despite our best efforts, we did not qualify for the semi-final stage of the competition. The amount of cigarette butts on the streets drew constant criticism in the monthly reports and, unfortunately, resulted in our town being eliminated from the competition in the last round.

National Spring Clean Campaign

Good Friday (2nd April) was local clean-up day in Ballyhaunis, as part of this annual campaign run by An Taisce. Despite the inclement weather on the day the turn-out was impressive as many individuals and Residents' Associations joined Tidy Towns Committee members and carried out a major clean-up throughout the town, the approach roads and many local areas.

National Tidy Towns Competition

A major milestone in the year was our participation in the National Tidy Towns Competition. We received our adjudication report in September and were very pleased to learn that Ballyhaunis was awarded 239 marks out of a possible 400 – an increase of 13 marks on last year. The

extra marks were achieved broadly across the various categories: in seven of the ten categories an increase was recorded and marks in the other three remained at last year's level.

The adjudication report was generally very favourable with more emphasis on the positive aspects of the town rather than the negative.

Adjudication took place on 29th June and the following is a summary of the report.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT APPROACH 40/50

The adjudicator was complimentary of the work of the Tidy Towns Committee in enlisting support from various agencies, maintaining contact with the schools, and in keeping the locals well informed of ongoing activities. Hope was expressed that the Committee would expand to enable an improved performance in the categories where marks are low at present.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT 33/50

The variety of shops in the town – both of the great old style and the newer variety – and several landmark buildings both old and new give Ballyhaunis a very interesting built environment according to the adjudicator. Dillon's Travel, The Hazel, Paddy Phillips, Herr's, An Lochán, Moran's shop, M. J. Webb's and the medical centre got specific mention, although it was stated that many other shops were equally good.

Also particularly admired were the Catholic Church with its elegant belfry and spire, and new railings on top of a great stone wall; the Friary described as being in immaculate condition with great landscaping in the grounds; Dawn Meats factory – very tidy for such a large building; the modern Enterprise Centre and SuperValu.

LANDSCAPING 32/50

The Friary Cemetery was described as in great condition, and the park with its excellent playground was admired as a wonderful amenity area. The flower planters and trees at the Square which soften the visual impact of the surrounding buildings caught the adjudicator's eye. Attractive landscaping at the Church, Hazelhill Family Practice, the Community School, the car parks and other delights of landscaping around the town adorn their surroundings very well.

WILDLIFE & NATURAL AMENITIES 18/50

The report states that the proposal to erect wildlife information boards in the Friary Park and by the river should result in a significant increase in marks in this category, as there is an abundance of wildlife in all the mature trees and stone walls around the area. The adjudicator suggested that the assistance of local people be enlisted in identifying the various species.

LITTER CONTROL 32/50

The work of the Tidy Towns Committee in keeping litter under control was commended by the adjudicator, specifically participation in the Litter League and National Spring Clean Campaign, and involvement of school children.

WASTE MINIMISATION 9/20

The recycle banks area was spotless on the day of adjudication with all the banks presented in excellent condition. Participation in the Green Flag Programme for schools was recommended as a means of generating greater awareness in the importance of having respect for the local environment.

TIDINESS 15/30

The initial reaction of the adjudicator on entering the town was to find it clean and tidy with well swept streets and footpaths. However, some weed growth on footpaths was noted along with discarded cigarette ends and dereliction, both of which are now described as national problems.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS 25/40

The adjudicator noted a great selection of well presented town houses. The standard of housing estates was described as quite good with ongoing work in progress in some, and effective signage in place in most.

ROADS, STREETS & BACK AREAS 27/50

The roads around Ballyhaunis were described as in fairly good condition despite the very harsh weather during the winter. The number of disabled parking spaces made a good impression.

GENERAL IMPRESSION 8/10

The report concludes: "It was a pleasure to visit this well presented town. You love Ballyhaunis and I look forward to seeing you do well in this competition in the near future."

Copies of the report have been sent to the owners of all premises mentioned, as well as local representatives and County Council officials with responsibility for the Ballyhaunis area.

Officers

Our AGM took place in March 2010 and the following officers were elected: Chairperson, Mary Donnelly; Treasurer, Gabrielle Lyons; Asst. Treasurer, Moyra Patterson. Committee: Helen Biesty, Mike Griffin, Michael Heffernan, John Joe Kelly, Frances Maye, Frances Mulhern, Nell Rochford, Bimbo Salami, Kieran Timoney. Email ballyhaunistidytowns@gmail.com

Thanks

We acknowledge the assistance of many people in



Presentation of Litter League and Cleaner Community Awards in the Parochial Hall, Feb. 2010
 Back, L-R: John Joe Lyons, Michael Heffernan, Frances Mulhern, Moyra Patterson, Helen Biesty,
 John Joe Kelly, Frances Maye, Valentine Hughes, Mike Griffin, T. J. Fallon.
 Front, L-R: John Waldron, Nell Rochford, Gabrielle Lyons, John Cribbin (Cathaoirleach Mayo County Council),
 Mary Donnelly, Eric Kilcourse.

various ways throughout the year. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our church gate collection and to our mite boxes in the shops – these are our only source of income. Our thanks to all who joined us for National Spring Clean Day on Good Friday, and also to the many people who pick litter in public areas in their neighbourhood in their own time.

We thank Mayo County Council Area Engineer Tom Feerick and local overseer Tommy Freyne, also John Waldron and his colleagues who are always co-operative in disposing of the bags of litter we collect on our weekly picks. Anne Moran, supervisor of the Rural Social Scheme deserves our thanks for facilitating us in every way.

In these recessionary times when we hear so much about budgetary constraints, cutbacks, funding cuts, etc. volunteering was never as badly needed as it is now. An hour or two each week volunteered by local people would make a huge difference to the appearance of our street, our estate, our road, our townland, our

neighbourhood, and in general our town and its environs. As a community, if we are seen to take the initiative and some pride in our own environment, we are more likely to receive a favourable response when we approach the authorities and agencies that are in a position to help us.

Tidy Towns Committee meetings take place every second Wednesday in the Parochial Hall. During the summer members come together twice weekly for litter picking, planting, weeding, etc. We enjoy a bit of banter and friendly exchanges with people we might otherwise never meet when we are out and about on fine summer evenings. We even get compliments for the work we are doing! Please consider joining Tidy Towns in the New Year and help to make Ballyhaunis a better place.



THE WARM AFTERGLOW OF A NEAR PERFECT DAY

By Frank Greally, editor@irishrunner.ie

It was a lot like old times when I rolled into Ballyhaunis for the Annual 8km Road Race on Saturday evening, August 28th.

Arriving at the race start on Upper Main Street, I discovered a big group of runners already warming up in anticipation of what is always a lively downhill start. My old Ballyhaunis team-mate Padraig Keane was one of the first runners I met - the Clonliffe Harriers stalwart looking as focused and determined as he did all those years ago when we first discovered distance running.

Padraig reminded me that his life could have been a whole lot different if a few of us had not called out to his house on a winter's day in the late 1960s and invited him to make up the numbers on our fledgling Novice Cross Country team for a race in Hollymount. He told me that he felt blessed for having discovered running back then, and I fully understood his sentiment.

His parents did not exactly welcome us with open arms that day at their farmstead near Ballinlough, five miles from Ballyhaunis and most definitely in the county of Roscommon. There were chores to be done and we were spiriting Padraig away from the work. However, they relented and Padraig won the race in Hollymount. Padraig Keane found his calling in athletics and he remains steeped in the sport. He ran for Ireland many

times and was a lynchpin of Clonliffe Harriers for years after moving to Dublin.

For a while back then in the late 1960s and early '70s, Ballyhaunis Athletic Club enjoyed great success. There were three of us, Pat Cribbin, Michael Joyce and myself, who lived the athletics dream. And we had an enthusiastic mentor in our local barber, Michael Nestor. He was seen by some as a 'blow in' to the town, but he created a rich sporting legacy by forming a Boxing and Athletics Club in Ballyhaunis.

Pat Cribbin was the heart and soul of our little group. I can still see him running by my home in the early morning on his way to work, a pint bottle of milk sticking out of one pocket of his heavy work coat, and a wrapped lunch sticking out of the other. Pat was a mould-breaker and a sports fanatic. Growing up, we were as close as brothers.

That is why I had a box in the boot of my car that contained two trophies with Pat Cribbin's name inscribed on them: the Pat Cribbin Memorial Trophies for the first Ballyhaunis male and female runners to finish the Ballyhaunis 8km.

It was a wonderful surprise then when I discovered Pat Cribbin's brother John, his wife Breege and their three young sons, John, James and Barry, all decked out in



Some of the runners in the Ballyhaunis Annual 8km Road Race. Photograph by Tomás Greally.



L-R: Michael McGrath (Chairman of Mayo Athletic Club), Joseph Lyons, Jim Donnelly, Frank and Marian Greally, Una McGrath, Mary Donnelly, Evan, Martin and Patricia Fitzmaurice. Photograph by Tomás Greally.

running gear and getting ready for the off on Upper Main Street.

It felt a little strange to be acting as starter for this year's Ballyhaunis race. I felt something of an impostor as I watched the field of about 200 disappear down the town and I vowed to be part of that race in 2011. Meeting one of my former secondary schools teachers, Jarlath Fahey, who was walking the course strengthened my resolve to abandon the spectator role next year and I thought it would be a fitting way to celebrate sixty years on the planet, God willing.

Gerry Ryan cruised down the Doctor's Road to the finish line near the Rugby Club grounds. His finishing time was 25 minutes. There was touch of nostalgia too as I watched the smooth-running Galway man cross the finish line. Over four decades had slipped by since I ran against Gerry's father, Kevin Ryan, one of that amazing Derrydonnell AC squad who dominated team races in the west back then.

Arriving at a road race back in those days – it was a time when nearly every small town in the West hosted an annual road event – we would often be lulled into a false sense of confidence as we viewed the opposition. Then, with minutes to go before the start, we would see the dreaded mini-bus coming at breakneck speed through the town. From this bus would emerge the hardy men from Derrydonnell: Willie Morris, Tommy Madden, Kevin Ryan and a couple of other teak-tough long distance

men. They broke our hearts on many occasions, but we usually had the consolation of the runner-up prize.

The runners kept on filtering through along Doctor's Road that August evening and there was one final sight that will stay with me a long time – brother and sister, Ava and Matthew Webb, and their first cousin Patrick Caulfield exuding the joy of running as they approached the finish line. Ava and Matthew's dad, Joe, had finished a little earlier. Joe has made huge strides since leaving his native town. He is now MD of Independent Newspapers.

It is a long time now since Joe's mother, Rita, organised a going away party for me in the Parochial Hall in Ballyhaunis before my departure on an athletic scholarship to East Tennessee State University. The memory of that night and the kindness of the local friends and neighbours has always stayed with me. And for a while on Doctor's Road on August 28th, I felt quiet young again and light of heart and foot.

The day finished on a really high note when race organisers Martin Fitzmaurice, Jim Donnelly and Michael McGrath made a surprise presentation to me at the prize-giving ceremony. There were flowers too for my wife Marian, and our son Tomás was there to record the end of a near perfect day for all us. There was a great quality to the day and the hometown welcome for our family has left a warm afterglow that still lingers.

IRISH DRAUGHT CHAMPION

August 2010 turned out to be an unforgettable month in the life of local man Seamus Sloyan. Twenty-five year old Seamus is from Tully, Carrowbehy and is a past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School. He is also the owner of the horse Elm View, who managed to pull off two major titles in Irish Showing Class competitions in the space of four days.

The first venue was the Sixty-first Annual Bonniconlon Agricultural Show and Gymkhana which took place on bank holiday Monday, 2nd August last. Seamus, whose parents are Seamus (Sr.) and Eileen Sloyan, entered the horse in the inaugural Championship Irish Draft three year old Registered Irish Draught (RID) Mare competition at the show and ended up winning the title.

Fresh from the success of Bonniconlon on the Monday, Seamus travelled to Dublin for the RDS Dublin Horse Show the following Thursday (5th August) and entered Elm View in the Registered Irish Draft Mares Championship. This was the 137th show with 2010 seeing a 3% increase in entries of horses and ponies, with representatives from all over Ireland as well as from around the world. A total prize fund in excess of €920,000 was on offer for over fifteen international jumping competitions, thirty national jumping competitions and ninety-five showing classes.

On the day the open RID mare class completely filled Ring one at the RDS, and the judges found their top three contenders were of similar type – compact, traditional moulds with excellent movement. It was the three years old Elm View's outstanding movement that boosted her to first place. It came down to a choice

between Sloyan's traditional type in Elm View and another horse of a more modern stamp called Cogans Dawn Star, with the judges opting for Elm View.

Seamus bought the mare as a foal from his uncle Raymond Sloyan of Brackloon North, Ballyhaunis, who bred Elm View by Elm Hill out of the Diamond Lad mare Morning Glow.

Seamus, who couldn't be more delighted with the win, remembers a roar going up from all his friends and followers in the audience when the result was announced.



Elm View, with his owner Seamus Sloyan, at the RDS, August 2010

According to the Irish Field newspaper, the popular owner "couldn't believe it! All my family were here and I thought if we get anywhere near the top four, it would be a dream. This will drive me on even more".



Thomas J. Carroll of Knox Street West, Ballyhaunis, County Mayo and his admirer folk dancers in Santiago, Chile, last May 2010.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – A BRIEF HISTORY

By Sr. Rosario Waldron

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRANSFER OF THE TRUSTEESHIP OF THE SCHOOL TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TUAM ON 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2010.

The story of the Sisters of Mercy began with a woman, Catherine McCauley. Catherine was born in Dublin in 1778. Her father was a doctor and Catherine, as a child, accompanied him on his visits to the poor of Dublin where she saw at first hand great poverty and suffering. This made a deep and lasting impression on the young Catherine. After her father died Catherine, now a young woman, went as a companion to a retired couple who were quite wealthy. They grew to love Catherine and, on their death, she inherited a large fortune. Her great desire was to help the poor - particularly the poor, uneducated children of Dublin.

To realise her dream to educate poor children and young women she was obliged by the Archbishop of Dublin to become a religious. In 1831 Catherine and two companions were professed as Sisters of Mercy. Shortly afterwards her first school for the poor was opened in Dublin and many more followed. In 1836 at the request of the local P.P the Sisters of Mercy arrived in Carlow where they opened a Mercy Convent school. In 1842 the Sisters in Carlow were invited by Dean Burke of Westport to come to the town to educate the local poor children. This they did. And it was from Westport that Ballyhaunis Convent was founded at the request of Fr. John Canning P.P. of Annagh.

Ballyhaunis

I will now fill you in on the background to this foundation which I have taken from the Annals of the Sisters of Mercy, Ballyhaunis. Towards the end of 1892 the Archdiocese of Tuam lost one of its oldest priests. He was James Canon Waldron P.P of Annagh. He was a native of the parish and he was a typical "Sagart Aroon" whose jovial manner and caustic wit made him loved and feared at the same time. Among many other charitable bequests, Canon Waldron left the sum of €1,000 to aid in the foundation of a Convent in his native parish of Ballyhaunis.

Fr. John Canning, a native of Letterfrack, Connemara, was appointed P.P. in January 1893. At first he was most reluctant to accept because his appointment brief included a whole building programme – parochial house, convent, schools and a new church. It was only when he was reassured there would be no time limit that he

accepted the undertaking. Within seven years he had completed everything except the church. On the



A rare photograph of the newly built Convent in the early 1900s.

completion of the new parochial house, the national school in Derrylea was built and named St. Joseph's. The other schools in the Parish were enlarged and renovated.

Fr. Canning then conferred with the Superiors of Westport Convent of Mercy, regarding the proposed foundation of a convent in Ballyhaunis. In due course it was agreed that the time had come to embark on preparations. A large tract of fine arable land was rented from Viscount Dillon. He was an absentee landlord. About half of the land thus acquired – known as Foxhill – was sold soon after to the Congested Districts Board (CDB). This was done through Sir Henry Doran for distribution among the tenants of uneconomic holdings. With the money received for the half portion of the Dillon property, the remainder - about thirty acres - was purchased in fee-simple forever.

A hill overlooking the town was selected as the site for the convent building. The architect, Mr. W. H. Byrne Suffolk Street, Dublin, prepared the plans and recommended Messrs. Glynn Bros. as reliable contractors. Fr. Canning eventually invited Mother Bernard Davis of Westport to visit and inspect the site. Mother Bernard and Mother Paul Cullen, who had founded the convent in Westport in 1842, visited Ballyhaunis early in 1895 and later that year they were present at the laying of the foundation stone. Overall,

the total cost of building the new convent was about €7,500 – half of which was obtained by contributions and the remainder borne by the Sisters of Mercy, Westport. It took three years to complete the building owing to the great difficulty in finding water. Eventually, the beautiful new convent was completed and it was like a beacon on the hill top overlooking the town.



Interior of the Convent Chapel.

New Convent

During Easter Week 1898 Mother Bernard brought a party of six sisters to see the new convent. When they arrived at the railway station in Ballyhaunis they were met by Fr. Canning. They mounted the side-cars and were conveyed first to the convent then to the church and the parochial house. The jarveys, wishing to honour the Sisters, drove at full speed through the town, with the result that a crowd of boys rushed after the cars shouting “a weddin’, a weddin’” right up to the church door, to the intense disgust of Mother Bernard and the uncontrollable laughter of Fr. Canning!

The feast of the Assumption 1898 was the date fixed, with full knowledge and approval of Archbishop McEvilly, for the opening of St. Joseph’s Convent, Ballyhaunis. However, the Archbishop postponed the opening for ten days without any explanation. It took place on the 27th August. Four sisters were sent from Westport on the 2 pm train to Ballyhaunis. This gave colour to the supposition that the Archbishop did not wish any display to be prepared in the Sisters honour by the townspeople.

The Sisters who arrived in Ballyhaunis were - Mother Columba Carr, Sr. Joseph Duane, Sr. Vincent Gibbons and Sr. Evangelist Cronin. Their numbers were shortly

augmented by others - Sr. Baptist O’Rourke, Sr. Ignatius Cronin, Sr. Berchmans O’Donnell, Sr. Michael Flynn, and later by Sr. Scholastic O’Reilly.

The Sisters taught for the first month in a small building on the grounds. It was formerly the coach house of Dr. Davis. His ghost was said ‘to walk’ there but he was too gentlemanly to intrude on the Sisters and it is quite possible that he was very useful, as no one dared to enter the grounds at night. On the 1st October 1898 the sisters took responsibility for the girl’s education in the existing national school known as St. Mary’s, which was located near the present Scoil Íosa. This consisted of one spacious room, the other half of the building being occupied by the boys. They were taught by Mr. Martin Fahy. Up to this point the girls had been taught by a Mrs Heavey. She had now taken up her teaching post in Derrylea N.S.

After a thorough cleaning, installing a piano, pictures and pots of flowers the Sisters commenced teaching in St. Mary’s. Sr. Ignatius was surrounded all day with music pupils, in a corner which had hitherto been the “Turf Hole”. A wooden ‘lean to’ shed erected outside relieved the congestion in the school-room when pupils began to pour in as rapidly as they did.

The Sisters appointed to Ballyhaunis Convent were all young and active. This was very necessary as during the first three years they encountered much hardship going to and from the school in all kinds of weather. The fastest walker could not reach the school in less than ten minutes as the railway line cut through the convent land and the Sisters had to go down the hill to the gate at the level crossing and up the hill to the School on the other side. There was no shelter from fierce winds in winter or from the hottest sun in summer. But the sisters cherished happy memories of those three years. The old coach house near the convent gate was roofed and equipped as an Infants and First standard Department.

Convent School

The building of the Convent School commenced early in 1899. Fr. Canning P.P. Annagh acted as contractor under the Dublin Architect Mr. W.H. Byrne. He employed Mr. John Charles Fitzmaurice as Clerk of Works. As in the case of the convent, local labour was almost exclusively employed, and though the work was slower it was much

cheaper and also quite satisfactory. To help in this building the sum of €800 was applied for and obtained by Fr. Canning. It was the bequest left some years earlier by Miss Elizabeth Taaffe, Roscommon in aid of the first charitable work to be started in Ballyhaunis. The condition was fulfilled by the Poor Schools opened by the Sisters.

The school was built in the same style as the Convent, with yellow tiling around doors and windows and it would be difficult to find a more impressive school. Most Rev. Dr. Healy, when welcomed there as Archbishop, declared it to be the finest in Connacht. Dr. Douglas Hyde visited the school and he called it "not a school, but an Academy".

There was great joy among the Sisters when the school was ready. They and the pupils moved in on the Feast of St. Raphael, 24th October 1901. Fr. Canning celebrated Mass in the large infant room and every classroom was solemnly blessed by him. The little school for juniors near the gate was now vacated and was given up to technical work. The CDB opened its first class in cookery and laundry there in October 1901. A four month course was conducted there by a young organiser Miss Mary McDonnell. She taught everything from the cooking of potatoes to the icing of cakes. Its results were far reaching and effected a great improvement especially in the homes of the poorer people.

Instructions in dairy work followed and this was succeeded by a 'lace class' in which Irish crochet was brought to great perfection and awarded a handsome silver medal. Hosiery was also taught – the local traders buying up all that was produced.

Years later when a technical school was built in the town, classes were discontinued in this little school, as the subjects taught there were now being catered for in a new venue. However the Sisters continued to use this building as a Cookery Room, where the senior pupils were instructed in the art of cookery. The building was eventually demolished around 1949 when the site was being prepared for St. Joseph's Secondary School.

It would be understating the facts to say that education prospered by leaps and bounds in the new convent Primary School. A Department of Education inspector once remarked "it seems to me that Superiors spare no expense and the Sisters spare no labour".

Feis

In the spring of 1903 the use of the school was requested by the Gaelic League – a request warmly welcomed by the Sisters and Fr. Canning. The first Mayo Feis was held in the Convent school on Easter week 15th – 16th April 1903. It was a notable undertaking organised by Gaelic enthusiasts of Ballyhaunis. They succeeded in bringing



Scoil Íosa Principal Kenneth Dennedy, pictured with Sr. Assumpta and Sr. Maura, after the ceremony in September.



Jimmy Duggan, Sr. Geraldine Farrell and Kenneth Dennedy, Principal, Scoil Íosa



Pictured at the ceremony marking the end of the Mercy Sisters trusteeship in primary school education in Ballyhaunis last September were Sr. Teresa Fahy (former principal of St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School), Nora Collieran and Sr. Mary Concannon.

together one of the most notable gatherings ever held in Mayo, and perhaps the most successful. Among those present was Dr. Douglas Hyde, President of the Gaelic League. He delivered an address and announced the names of the prize winners each evening. Pádraic Pearse dealt with the subject editorially, in 'An Claidheamh Solais'. An eminent Maynooth Professor of Music was one of the adjudicators. Michael O'Doherty and his two distinguished sons – one the Provost of Salamanca and the other a Bishop in the Philippines also attended. The Convent School children in their pretty costumes of cream Foxford flannel won several prizes. They were much admired especially the juniors known as the "shamrock chain" – a group of little girls varying in age from 6-8 years.

The following year a beautiful gold medal was to be awarded to the school which presented the highest number of pupils for examination in the Irish language. It was won by St. Joseph's Convent Ballyhaunis with 75 pupils. This was a victory over all the other National schools in Mayo. At this time the teaching of the Irish language was still in its infancy.

High Standard

The school was now two years in existence and we read in the Inspectors Reports of the following years of the high standard of education being provided by the Sisters. This standard was maintained down through the years by the Sisters and dedicated staff.

Today, the torch which was lit by Catherine McCauley has been passed on to the present committed, dedicated people who are now entrusted with the education of our young people.

The following is taken from an address delivered by Canon Joseph Cooney to celebrate the Trusteeship of the Mercy School:

"I know that Sr. Rosario has very skilfully presented an inclusive picture of the history of the Mercy Congregation and the Mercy Sisters here in Ballyhaunis, so I am not going to repeat it.

Just to say that when Canon John Canning succeeded Canon Waldron as P.P. of Annagh on the 28th January 1893, he was entrusted with the mammoth task of building a convent, a school, two houses and a church. It was a daunting prospect. He had been Administrator of Westport parish and the first decision he made, and probably the best decision he ever made, was to invite the Mercy Sisters in Westport to come to Ballyhaunis and set up a convent and school here. This they did, and they arrived in Ballyhaunis on 27th August 1898 and began teaching in St. Joseph's National School.

The Mercy Sisters maintained a strong presence in the school for over a hundred years right up to 2001 when the two schools – St. Mary's and St. Joseph's – were amalgamated to form the new Scoil Íosa, and of course have had a presence in the new school right up to the present day. The Mercy Congregation were the trustees of St. Joseph's school and are still the trustees, but now are transferring that trusteeship to the diocese.

On behalf of the parish, I would like to say that Ballyhaunis owes a huge debt of gratitude to all the Mercy Sisters who have taught in the parish. In fact to translate that into monetary terms, it would be an understatement to say that the parish could never repay them for their enormous contribution to education at all levels in Ballyhaunis. And today I say to every one of them, on behalf of the parish, a sincere Thank You for all you have done down through the years for the young people of our parish.

It is not fashionable today to hear thanks for anything done by religious. Not only did the Sisters provide the very best primary education for the children, but they also opened a girls' secondary school, and it must be acknowledged that were it not for the Mercy Sisters, many young girls of our parish would never have received secondary education.

However, it didn't stop there. Going back into the middle of the last century, the department of education provided very little funding for the maintenance of schools. What is comfortably and easily forgotten is that the Sisters ploughed back whatever salaries they received, and very often what resources they had at their disposal, into the upkeep and maintenance of those schools. Not only that, but they were extremely generous with their time and energies in the schools. How many a person today will remember the times when the Sisters stayed on after school hours to give them extra grinds or teach them music?

Today we remember with pride the Mercy Sisters since 1898 who taught in Ballyhaunis. Most of them have passed away and we pray that the Lord has rewarded them for their dedication; and to those Sisters who have honoured us with their presence today we say thanks for your contribution to our parish; thanks for your dedication and work in our schools which went above and beyond the call of duty. And to the Mercy Sisters past and present we say simply thanks for the memories and may the Lord reward and bless you."

SALLY'S FIELD

By Paul Waldron

The Irish have always been very good at putting names on places. Every field, hill and turn in the road seems to have had a name at one time or other. Many are in use up to the present day while many more have been forgotten with the passage of time.

Every field on Dick Waldron's farm in Clagnagh (townland of Bunnadober) had a name - some in Irish, some in English. Some referred to hills, hollows and streams, while others recalled how different fields were used in the past. There was Sraitheanna fada, Garraí h-Ean, Lisín, the Black Hill, the Hayseed Field and Sally's Field. Sraitheanna fada was a long narrow field along the stream that flows from Scregg and eventually joins the Dalgan River behind the Friary. Far Garraí h-Ean and Near Garraí h-Ean were two small fields reclaimed from scrubland that must have been a haven for birds at one time. There was an old fort and children's burial ground at the edge of Lisín, while the Black Hill was just that - a dark, heather-covered hill just at the edge of the bog where the remains of potato ridges from the time of the Great Famine can still be seen. The name of one rather ordinary field - 'Sally's Field' or 'Sally's Fieldeen' - was never fully explained, and nobody seemed to know who or what Sally was. One possibility was that sallies (or sallows, to give them their correct title) grew there once: however, it had none of the damp, poorly drained ground that this variety of willow shrub thrives in.

Who was Sally?

Nobody could recall anyone in the family or locally ever talking about Sally or why her name was attached to this particular field. It was just accepted that Sally must have lived there one time, that this field of just over an acre was probably all the land she had, and that she was long-since dead and gone. As the story-teller said, "things rested so" and all enquiries on Sally drew a blank.

Many years later, in the Land Valuation Office in Dublin, a record came to light that brought 'Sally' to mind again. The Valuation Office holds records of every landholding in the country from the time of 'Griffith's Valuation' in the 1850s down to the present day. The published 'Griffith's Valuation' for Bunnadober townland showed Richard and James Waldron (first-cousins), joint tenants of just over fifty-five acres - most of it bogland - in 1855. The next revision of valuations in 1857 (never published and available only in the manuscript form in Dublin) showed that, in addition to their own houses, the Waldrons' holding contained the houses of two cottiers: Luke McGarry and Sarah Navin. Through the 1850s and 1860s the valuations were revised every two or three

years and it's easy to trace how families moved around when the land was 'striped' at that time. Luke McGarry died in the late 1860s at an advanced age and his land was absorbed into the farm of a relative, while Sarah Navin remained in Bunnadober until the early 1870s when she disappeared from those records. The valuation revision of 1876 shows that her name as tenant proprietor was struck off in that year. As Sally is a pet-form of Sarah, it seemed likely that our Sally of 'the field' was Sarah Navin of the valuation records. Enquiries were made locally to see if anyone had ever heard of a Navin family living in that area, but again, to no avail. It seemed that Sarah or Sally was well and truly forgotten.

Family records

Once again, 'things rested so', until a few years later when the civil records of births, deaths and marriages were checked for the Ballyhaunis area for the nineteenth century (civil registration started in 1864). These revealed further details of Sarah Navin and her family living in 'Clagnagh'. The surname was spelt many different ways in these records - Neaven, Neafen, Nevin, Navin, Naven, Navan and even Nephin - but all of them gave Clagnagh as the address. The records showed Sarah had a son Michael who married Bridget Hopkins in 1866. Their marriage record revealed that Michael's father (Sarah's husband) was Laurence Neavan (by then 'deceased'), and that both were 'labourers', as was Bridget's father Peter Hopkins of Knockbrack. Michael and Bridget had four children, all born in 'Clagnagh': Patrick 1866 (died in infancy), Michael 1868, Catherine 1870 and Bryan 1873. In the same year as the last child was born - 1873 - Sarah Navin herself died, in Clagnagh, a widow aged sixty. No further record - birth, marriage, death, land valuation - was found of the Navin family in the area after that, and so it was assumed they moved away, probably emigrating.

Once again, things rested so for another few years. In recent times many genealogical resources have become available through the internet. The U.S. was first to put census household returns on line, taken every ten years from 1810. The Navins had left Clagnagh in, or some time shortly after 1873, so if they went to the U.S. they would probably show up somewhere in the census of 1880. All that was known was that the family group consisted of Michael Navin, his wife Bridget, their surviving children Michael, Catherine and Bryan (born in Clagnagh) and possibly other children born after they left. Nothing was found, even though every imaginable spelling variation of the surname was searched for. If

they hadn't gone to America, they probably went to England. They could have moved somewhere else within Ireland, but in those years - in this part of the country at least - if you moved away from your own area you emigrated altogether. Since Michael was a labourer with no land of his own, England would have been their most likely destination.

In the last few years the censuses of England, Scotland and Wales, have come online, courtesy of the National Archives and Ancestry.co.uk. As in Ireland, they were taken every ten years from 1831. Unfortunately, all the household returns for most of Ireland (including Mayo) were destroyed in the 1922 shelling of the Four Courts. Those in Britain survive and, ironically, you can get much more information on your relatives living in England through the second half of the nineteenth century, using census records (if you can identify them definitely), than on those who remained here in Ireland. In any case, a search was undertaken of these censuses, taking into account all of the many spelling variations of the surname Navin that were already found in civil and church records here.

Found again

After much searching and several false leads, a return was found which seemed to fit the bill. Living in a place called Weathercock between the village of Heap and the town of Heywood in north Lancashire – in 1881 – was a family comprising Michael Naven (aged 45), his wife Bridget (36), both 'born in Ireland'; their children Michael (12), Kate (10), Barney (7) - all with their place of birth listed as 'Ireland' – plus two more children – Laurence (3) and Sarah (1), both born in 'Heywood, Lancashire'. Michael was an agricultural labourer by occupation and appears to have worked at nearby Darnhill Farm. The three eldest children's ages matched birth records here in Ireland. The fact that the two other children (born after they left Ireland) had the same names as the parents of Michael of Clagnagh - Laurence and Sarah –seemed to confirm that this was the right family. Also living with the family in 1881 was a boarder, Michael Carney (37), a married man and agricultural labourer, and also born in Ireland – possibly over for seasonal work. The ages and places of birth of the children suggest that the family emigrated sometime between 1873 and 1878. Records found later narrowed the time of emigration down to 1874. As Ireland was under British rule at the time, there was no need for passenger records for ships travelling back and over, so none exist that would show exactly when they left the country.

In the hundred years before the Navins came to Heywood, the industrial revolution had changed the rural, farming landscape of this part of Lancashire – the

country around Heywood, Bury and Rochdale – to an urban sprawl of factories and back-to-back red-brick housing, where most were employed in textile manufacture or coal-mining. One writer, referring to Heywood in the late 1800s, said the "extraordinary growth of the cotton-trade" in the mid-nineteenth century "led to an influx of strangers causing a very dense population". Many of these 'strangers' were Irish, and, to judge by their surnames in the censuses, a good deal of them were from Mayo. Most of them had emigrated entirely from Ireland, but some were migratory labourers. Perhaps Michael had come here as a young man for the harvest or springtime farm-work, and was drawn back to the place when the time came for he and his family to emigrate for good.

Michael Navin managed to find farm work at which he was employed for the rest of his life, but most of the children eventually found jobs in the nearby factories working at different processes in the cotton milling and spinning industry – as carders, spinners, drawers, weavers, bleachers and calico stampers. The censuses reveal that most of them started working as early as twelve years.

Into the Twentieth Century

The Navin family were still living in the same place when the next census was taken in 1891 and, though not required to give details of the county, the birthplaces of all Irish born members of the family was given in the 1891 return as 'Ireland, Mayo'. In this source, the name is spelt 'Navan'. By then the family had increased with the birth of another son Patrick in the mid-1880s. Also, Michael (60) had suffered a serious accident which left him disabled: his occupation is listed as 'farm labourer retired', while in the infirmities column is the note 'leg cut off'. Bridget's (57) occupation is listed as 'washerwoman' and all of the children except the youngest, six year old Patrick, were working: Michael (21) as a farm labourer, and the others in nearby cotton mills – Kate (20) and Sarah (12) as cotton drawers, Bernard (17) as a bleacher, and Lawrence (14) as a spinner. The family still kept a lodger, this time a John Loftus, aged 23, a farm labourer, also born in Mayo.


By 1901 a reduced Naven (as spelt in the census of that year) family was still living at Weathercock, presumably in the same labourer's cottage as twenty years earlier. Michael (age given as 60 – the same age he gave in the 1891 census) was back working, even though he'd lost a leg, and is listed as 'horse-man, domestic', while Bridget (age given as 50) had no occupation listed. Michael Jnr. (31) was a coal hewer [miner], Bernard (27) a stamper in a calico printing works and Sarah (22) a cotton card-room hand. They still kept a lodger, this time another Irishman, 25 year old Edward Burke, a carter. Notice that

Michael and Bridget's ages in 1901 were the same as those given ten years earlier in 1891, while the children's ages are correct.

Indexes to civil records of births, deaths and marriages in England are available online too, and these show that the family had settled on 'Naven' as the spelling of their surname. From these some details were found to fill in the story of the family after their emigration. Not too long after coming to England Michael and Bridget had had another daughter Bridget, born in 1875 and who died in infancy. Their son Laurence (also born in England) died in 1897 aged 19; Patrick, the youngest in the family, died three years later in 1900 aged 15, and in the same year Catherine married Edward Bones, an Irish-born lad who was working on an adjoining farm. Michael Jr. married in 1906, and Michael sr., the father, died in 1909

allegedly aged 61. Sarah died in 1913 aged 32, and her brother Bernard died the next year aged 39. Then, in 1915, their mother Bridget Naven (nee Hopkins) died aged 70 years - having already buried six of her eight children.

So, the story rests there - for the time being. What became of the two Naven children who survived their mother is not known - yet. The 1901 census shows that Catherine/Kate and her new husband Edward Bones set up home not too far from Weathercock, at 79 Bury Street, Heywood, while her brother Michael Jr. married a couple of years later. Perhaps their descendents are out there yet - unaware of the home they left behind in 1874, and the little field in Mayo that still bears the name of their ancestor, the widow Sally Naven.



Guidelines for Contributors of Articles or Photographs: If you wish to contribute an article or photograph for next year's magazine, you can contact Annagh by email at annaghmag@gmail.com, or visit our website www.annaghmag.ie. The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2011 is Friday, 21st October 2011. The eventual inclusion of any article is subject to the discretion of the editorial committee.

THE PARISH CHOIR

By Mike Byrne

The Parish Choir has to be one of the great success stories of the Ballyhaunis community. Indeed, a more apt and more appropriate name for this group could be 'The Community Choir'. As well as having a number of committed core members who perform at the 12 noon Mass on the first and third Sunday of each month, for special occasions like funeral Masses and events like the recent 100 year celebration of St. Patrick's Church, the core group is very successfully added to by members of other choirs operating in the local area.

On the occasion of funeral Masses particularly, choir leader Moira Delaney says she never ceases to be amazed at the great response there is from the people of the locality: "People just show up at a moment's notice", Moira says, "without being contacted or alerted to the fact that a choir is required, volunteers crowd into the gallery, without prior notice or fuss, to lend their vocal support to the choir and indeed, to help ease the pain of the bereaved. Marvellous community spirit altogether. In this respect, I suppose there is a great bond and a great link between all the choirs in the parish", says the choir director.

At the time of going to print, the choir is preparing for the Christmas schedule. This Christmas, as in previous years, the choir will be joined by local singing talent Joan

O'Malley. Daughter of Frankie and the late Anto O'Malley, Joan has been immersed in music from her earliest childhood. Her early years of singing in choirs led to her performing all over the country in choral festivals and to her first appearance in the National Concert Hall, at the age of twelve.

Joan graduated with a First Class Honours Bachelor of Music Degree at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. A regular on the concert platform, Joan has performed in many oratorios and recently made her debut in Vienna and Salzburg. The Ballyhaunis performer was chosen as one of only twenty singers to take part in the first Wexford Opera Artists Development Programme in August 2005. In 2009, Joan founded Bijou Opera with Cork Baritone, Brendan Collins and delighted audiences with sparkling productions since then.

Practise sessions for the Parish Choir are held every Monday night in the Parochial Hall, at 8 pm. New members will be more than welcome to join at any time; remember, you do not have to be a Pavarotti to be part of this community group. Choir Director Moira Delaney says that if the Monday evening practise slot does not suit, don't worry, you will still be very welcome to come on board for the Sunday Mass performances.



LOUGH HARPS SOCCER CLUB

Pat O'Connor, General Manager, Bridgestock, The Old Convent, Ballyhaunis, presents Micheál Murphy with a sponsorship cheque for €1,000 for Lough Harps Soccer Club. Also in the pictured are Martin Fitzmaurice, President Ballyhaunis Chamber, Ann Walsh, Anita Murphy, Agatha Higgins, Stacia Carney, Denis Wold Boru and members of the Lough Harps Under-11 and Under-12 teams.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A teacher at Gorthaganny N.S. was presented with the ABC Bookshop Teacher of the Year award in May 2010. Mrs. Geraldine Collins was taken by surprise when family, friends and the whole school community, turned out in force for the presentation of the award, which had been a well kept secret for several days.

The award was presented by Caolan Regan, a fifth class pupil, who had nominated her for the prize. One of the reasons for his nomination was to show his appreciation, for the help and support Geraldine had given him during a recent illness.

Mrs. Collins, who is originally from Clondrohid in Co. Cork, teaches 3rd and 4th classes and has been a member of staff in Gorthaganny N.S. since 1995. She lives in Island, Ballyhaunis with her husband John and their boys, Rory, Eoghan and Cyril. She was delighted to receive the award and sees it as an achievement not only for her but also for the whole school community.



BALLYHAUNIS BRIDGE CLUB



Presidents Prize 2009/2010 L-R: Kay Lyons and Marina Coyne, winners, with Maureen Hunt, President.

Bridge is played in the Hazel, Main Street, Ballyhaunis, every Tuesday and Thursday night commencing at 8 pm. There is a Prize Night every month.

The President for 2009/2010 was Maureen Hunt. The President's Prize was played for over two nights in April and the winners were Marina Coyne and Kay Lyons.

Other competitions included The Murphy Cup won by Fiona Prenty and Jean Gallagher, the AIB Cup won by Kathleen Fanning and Mary Morley, and the Credit Union Prize won by Mary Walsh and Donal Geraghty. The club are very grateful to their sponsors.

The Bridge season starts in September and ends early May. New members are always welcome.

BALLYHAUNIS ARTISTS GROUP

By Moira Stratford

On the 27th of March 2010 a Group Art Show 'Reflections' was opened in The Friary, Ballyhaunis by Pat Higgins, who spoke about the interesting mix of mediums that were used by the artists including Painting, Print and Batik.

The opening afternoon proved to be very successful with a good crowd attending. The inspiration for the exhibition was the Abbey itself and its grounds. We are a group of six Ballyhaunis artists who regularly collaborate on projects and show our work together. The artists are Ann Burke, Marliese Hertfelder, Frankie Ralph O'Malley, Xanthe Pratt and Mary Smyth, Moira Stratford. We also organised an 'Open' Art Exhibition in the Friary which took place at the end of October 2010.

Our group of Six intend to hold another exhibition in the Friary in the spring, so look out for our posters and please do come to support us and view some more interesting work.



L-R: Moira Stratford, Frankie Ralph-O'Malley, Ann Burke, Marliese Hertfelder and Xanthe Pratt. Missing from photo, Mary Smyth.



L-R: Regina Weiczorek, Mary Kelly, Frankie and Joan O'Malley.



Some of the Work from the Group Show
'Reflections' March 2010 .



'EN ROUTE' – PUBLIC ART PROJECT



EN ROUTE is a public art project by Aileen Lambert which has been commissioned by Mayo County Council. The project involves the exploration of old routes in the area. This information is being recorded in photographic and audio formats. This material will be produced in CD format, along with an accompanying booklet. This is the group that took part in a tour of historical routes and other sites around Beken, earlier this summer.

Left to right: David Lyons, Johnny, Seán, Mary and David Niland, Vincent Kelly, Patrick Flatley, Michael Sloyan, Maureen Higgins, Jenny Haughton, Patrick Freeley, Noirín Lyons, Aileen Lambert, Michael Lavin, Tom Horkan, Joe Finn, Karl Sloyan, Thomas Lyons, Jackie Lyons, Michael Kelly, Teresa Culliney, Nellie McDermott, Maureen Culliney, Seamus Morris, Catherine Lavin, Luke Murray, Seamus Mulrennan, Jillian Doody, Anne Marie Hayes, Valerie Kelly, Liam Lyons, Brian Byrne, Norah Seville, Tony Carney, Oscar and Frida Seville-Leach, Chris Leach, Gaynor Seville-Leach, Paul Morley, Eileen Morley, Alice Maher, Christina Johnston, Catherine Morris, Kay Lyons, Noreen McGarry, Dean McGarry, Geraldine Lyons, Elaine Griffin.

MANCHESTER RETIREMENTS



Mary Culliney (centre) who retired as Head Teacher of Our Lady of the Rosary, Davyhulme, Manchester, Summer 2010. Mary is daughter of the late Michael Culliney of Johnstown, Ballyhaunis, and Bridget 'Betty' O'Hara of Gurteen, Co. Sligo. Mary is a frequent visitor to the family home in Ballyhaunis. On the right is Tom O'Brien, who retired as Head Teacher of English Martyrs, Urmston. Tom's father was the blacksmith in Gurrane and is a frequent visitor to family in Ballyhaunis and Dunmore. They are pictured with Paul Tyrrell, retired Head Teacher of St. Monica's, Flixton. All three were headteachers of Catholic Schools in the Manchester borough of Trafford and had given a combined sixty-six years of head teaching experience when they stepped down.

BALLYHAUNIS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

2010 marked the sixth year for the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, which continued to build and develop 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.

This year marked the first full year of our new Community Pre-School Service which is based next to our office at St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey. The Community Pre-school caters for children aged over 3 years and 3 months providing a free Monday to Friday childcare service during school term time under the Governments National Free Preschool Year Scheme. The Community Pre-school has proven extremely popular with local parents and the quality of the service provided by it's dedicated staff which has been recognised at both County and National levels.

Some of the other activities which have taken place this year include our Computer Summer Camp for Children, a month long IT Course for Unemployed People as well as those courses which we have been successfully been running over a number of years - Digital Photography, Computers for Beginners and Improvers, which have proven popular with adults and older people and are provided free or for a small charge. Over 130 people took part in these 14 courses which were run in morning and evening times during 2010, while our Community Internet Service – which provides a free Internet Café during weekdays, was used by over 2,431 visitors during the year. Funding has been secured from Mayo North East LEADER Partnership to replace the Family Resource Centre's 10 laptop computers with brand new computers running Microsoft Windows 7 which will be installed early in 2011.

Efforts were also made during the year to start a Family Support Group for families affected by drug addiction and funding has been obtained from the Western Region Drug Task force to run a course in early 2011 to raise awareness and provide families with advice and support. 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 has enabled 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 support and help for the adults and families. 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.

It was with great sadness that the Family Resource Centre's work with the Ballyhaunis Traveller Pre-School in Tooraree, came to an end this year with the Governments decision to close all the Traveller preschools throughout the country. The preschool in Tooraree had operated for 10 years providing an excellent and affordable childcare service, complementing the work of the VEC Training Centre with the Traveller adult community. A well attended event to mark the services' 10 year anniversary and the dedicated commitment of its manager Anne Lyons and committee members Moire Noone and Sister Geraldine Farrell was held at the start of the summer.

The Family Resource Centre is controlled by a board of directors made up of people living in the Ballyhaunis community, in 2010 the officers were; Chairperson - Seamus Grogan, Secretary - Marie Jordan, Treasurer – Manar Cherbatji. The other members are Christina Concannon, Stephen Grogan, Betty Koinange, Mary Morrissey, Hina Rehman and Aliya Shakoor.

Talib Chaudhry joined the board during 2010 while Teresa Maughan, Eileen McDonagh, Stephen Ng'ang'a and Mamoon Zafar stepped down after completing their term of office. 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 Murphy, Liz Ward, Cliona Mulvaney, Helen Kiely Nicola Ryan and Maura O'Dowd.

BCS Class of 1991

**20 YEAR REUNION
PLANNED!**

Plans are currently underway for a Reunion of Past-pupils of Ballyhaunis Community School Class of '91, which is to be held on Saturday 6th of August, 2011. Venue is yet to be confirmed. We hope to have a 80's-'90's Disco and Buffet food. Anyone who attended BCS for some, or all of the years, from 1986 to 1991, are welcome to attend. Anyone who'd like to make any suggestions, or would be interested in helping out, email: sineadmallee@gmail.com (Sinead Mallee); carolodowd.keane@gmail.com (Carol O'Dowd); bernard@brltd.ie (Bernard McHugh); collins.marcel@yahoo.com (Marcella Lyons). Lookup: 'BCS Ballyhaunis Class of 91' on facebook, and see local press for further information over the coming months.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Seamus Lyons, Bekan with his six sisters in Long Island, New York, August 2007. L-R: Bridie, Teresa, Angela, Seamus, Martina, Eileen (Claremorris) and Mary. Seamus and his wife Bernie were on their first ever visit to the States and enjoyed a two week holiday with his sisters.



Wedding Day 1950



2010: 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Top right: Sean and Nancy Jordan, on their wedding day, 18th Oct. 1950.
Above: Sean and Nancy Jordan, Johnstown, celebrating their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary, with all their family. They were married on the 18th October 1950 in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

'Brief Historical Notes'

"In 1857 the local Post Office was kept by Miss Jordan who kept a hotel (with a sister and brother) where Paddy Smyth's butcher shop now is (1940s). The mails used to be sent to Dublin via Frenchpark. There is no mention of a telegraph office at that date. Probably the extension of the telegraph to Ballyhaunis came after the opening of the M.G.W. Railway station." Dr. Michael F. Waldron.

SIX MARK QUESTION

By Jimmy Cribbin

It's an age when a lot of questions are being asked. How did it happen? When will it end? What will it cost? Who is to blame? Every time a radio or TV is switched on, every time a newspaper is glanced at, the same questions, but scores of different answers. Our heads are cracked, our brains are malfunctioning, as a result of trying to make sense of all this talk about billions of Euros that we've borrowed without our knowledge, and that now has to be repaid with interest by the taxpayers. To give it its medical term, our brains are suffering from "Analysis Paralysis".

Now, I have been asked a question recently that, on the face of it, would just require a 'yes' or 'no' answer. But on 'mature reflection' (as the politician said as he was about to stand up on the Dáil and tell a pack of lies to the house) it has turned out to be a six marker. The question was "would you like to be young now?" Now, I have learned a long time ago that there are risks involved in exchanging a certainty for an uncertainty and I am tempted to let the hare rest by quoting a Chinese leader who, when asked in 1989 if he thought the French Revolution had been a good thing or a bad thing, replied "too soon to say".

Prayers Answered

In an attempt to highlight my problem with this question I have decided to retrace my steps back to where they began - in the cradle, in even more uncertain times than the ones we live in now. The year I was born European leaders met in Munich to decide the future of the continent. The British PM came home and waved a document which he and the other leaders had signed and which promised "peace in our time". It became a worthless piece of paper before the ink had time to dry. All our steps backwards eventually had us back to our schooldays. Now, I have a problem here because the last time I submitted a piece about schooldays it was censored. Since no reason has been given and no reason has been asked for, I can only surmise as to reasons for this censorship. Perhaps the grammar and punctuation were not up to scratch. Perhaps the absence of alliteration attracted attention and added additional reasons, or perhaps the editorial committee had qualms that it went too close to the bone. I can assure the editorial committee that the gentlemen I had in mind had no qualms whatsoever about how close they went to the bone.

Believe it or not my earliest memories of school are prayers being said for the conversion of Russia. I don't feel too bad about this because Chris Mannion of Drimbane, who went to a different school at the same

time, recalls prayers being said for pagan England. Both places could have done with a few prayers at the time. The red wing was making a last ditch stand at Stalingrad and England was fighting alone with her back to the wall and no help expected from across the channel, or none from this side of the Irish Sea either. Fortunately for both, prayers were offered that were eventually answered. The late John Waldron of Scrigg, who was working near Manchester at the time, told how on the Sunday after war had been declared he was at Mass and the priest in his sermon told the congregation, "In the past we prayed for peace; today we pray for victory". Countless millions are grateful that those are the prayers that were answered. I was reminded of some of the reasons for this gratitude just a few weeks ago in a conversation I had with Fergus McGuire. Back from a trip to Poland he told how he visited Auschwitz, looked into the gas chambers, climbed the watchtower and looked down on where "man's inhumanity to man" knew no bounds.

We will move forward in time. I will leave other details of my schooldays where they are for the present in the file marked 'Unpublished Works'. When my class left school the war was over but another one had just started in Korea. Europe was beginning to pick up the pieces after the war. Ireland was not involved in the war.

Hungry Fifties

Those war years were referred to here as 'The Emergency'. While, in the late 1940s and 1950s, Europe recovered from The War much faster than Ireland recovered from 'The Emergency'. Ireland's population dropped below three million. The export of rabbits exceeded in value the exports of butter in 1952 - butter was imported from New Zealand that year. A book doing the rounds at the time was entitled 'The Vanishing Irish'. An article published in papers at the time about Cloonfad was entitled 'The Dying Village'. Our biggest export was people. In fact, it was monies sent home by those emigrants that kept the country afloat. In response to a question in the Dáil the Minister for Finance at the time revealed that over £25 million emigrant remittances had been received in the form of postal orders and telegraphed money orders alone over the past four years. This did not include monies sent by registered or unregistered post or cheques, or brought home in the pocket by people returning from harvesting, potato-picking or sugar beet campaigns, or by holiday makers. Figures alone do not give us a picture of the class conscious, hat touching, boot licking society we found ourselves in when we left school. We had been

told in the schools who to salute. Fourteen was the statutory age to leave school and that was that. The ladder to second and third level education was a luxury that our parents could not afford.

Girls fared out better than the boys. For a fee of £12 a year some of them received secondary education in the convent school. There were some jobs to be had. 'Push and pull' got some into the better jobs; other jobs were casual and few and far between. For very many the choice was simple - emigrate or stagnate. All the lads in my class except one emigrated.

Vocation

As part of my research for this piece I have been reading Paddy Joe Tighe's autobiography entitled 'Music and my roots' published in Annagh magazine 2008. Not being musical I could not identify with some of it. There was one section I identified with very well. It was entitled "Potato Picking". I was greatly impressed by the recognition he gave to the late Bernie Ruane and his brother-in-law Tom Moran for help given while he was a novice potato picker in Lincolnshire. To quote his own words, "if they had not come to help me pick some baskets of potatoes out of my row I would have to leave the field". I had a go at potato picking myself. Again I will quote Paddy Joe's words because I cannot do better myself: "I won't lie to ye and say that I picked potatoes for the love of it, because I didn't". I had greater reason to dislike the job than Paddy Joe as you shall see.

I arrived in the big potato field with a school mate and others I hardly knew. It was understood that we would work in pairs, so I naturally assumed that my school mate and I would be together. The gang had dispersed and moved up the big field to take up position at various 'stints'. I looked around for my classmate. I saw him alright far up the field with a big hefty fellow whom I found out later was a veteran of many potato picking campaigns. Two of us left at the headland, Larry and myself. Larry was an old timer whose working days were coming to an end, but he liked to come out and do an odd days work now and again. To be truthful, taking into account his condition, it would be unreasonable to expect him to pick more potatoes in a day than he would eat for his dinner. Any day you learn something new is not a wasted day. I learned a lesson that day that I never forgot: it's no harm to board the wrong bus so long as you get off at the next stop. My school mate was obviously pleased with his choice of workmate. I later heard him tell him, "yaw yaw yaw you're a great man and a clever man".

When Paddy Joe found out that he had no vocation for potato picking he took to playing the accordion in a professional manner and, before long, he was a celebrity playing to large appreciative audiences with pretty girls looking up at him admiringly and sending up requests,

and loud applause at the end of each session. After some chopping and changing I too found myself in front of an audience. No pretty girls there. No rounds of applause when requests were sent up: they were often unreasonable and undeliverable. There was not much that could be described as entertaining at our sessions. This assortment of men from many countries was always serious. Indeed it would be hard to find a more wooden audience anywhere. I had gone to London and become a brother. Paddy Joe always seems to have the advantage over me - in the potato field and with his audiences - and he still has the advantage as he takes his dog for leisurely strolls around town. I too have four legged friends, but because of traffic and congestion it is not practical for me to take the pussy cat and the bull for leisurely strolls around town.

I have slid away from it and have evaded giving an answer to the question. Bet you have forgotten what it was? I have resorted to a stunt I learned by watching and listening to politicians on TV when asked questions they find difficult to answer. Distract with plenty of blarney about every other subject under the sun and the question will be forgotten about.

My time is nearly up and the bell is about to go 'ding dong'. It's a six marker. "Would I like to be young now?" Well, I would not like to be young now and go looking for a job with a fistful of certs and CVs, only to be told repeatedly your application will be carefully considered and you know in your heart and soul where it's going to end up. Bank Loan? Forget it. I would not like to be a young tax payer now and see all of it going down a bottomless pit that is unlikely to be filled before the Archangel Gabriel blows his trumpet. I would find it hard to stomach watching those who created this pit walk away with pensions, golden handshakes and bonuses "beyond the realms of avarice".

Challenge

I would not like to be young and have to go through the rigmarole involved in getting a drivers licence, especially when I reflect on how I got mine. Filled in a simple form, put it in an envelope with a postal order for £1, sent it off and back comes the driving licence by return post. Dare I even think about the web of red tape and the triplicate forms stifling your every move and hoards of inspectors looking over your shoulder 24/7? Having said all that, I still have confidence that the young people will rise to the challenge. It's not as if they have to deal with a land devastated by war, earthquake, tsunami or other disasters. It's out of our hands now. Blessed are the young for they shall inherit the National debt.

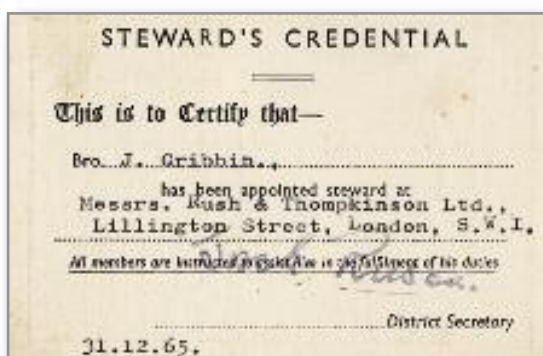
Oh, a bloody cramp. I think I'll change my mind. I wish I was young now because my leg would not be giving trouble and I would not be waiting five years to get it attended to. I would also like to be young now and in



one of those modern, centrally heated schools where the swish, swish of a plant is never heard and where, if you mentioned a plant to your classmates they would think you were talking about the produce of some illegal horticultural enterprise.

I'd like to be young now and join a group of those well educated, well dressed, high spirited youngsters for a drink, and later on go to a dance or disco and dance the night away without a care in the world. With those thoughts in mind I call on a better pen than mine to make this request:

*"O for one of those hours of gladness
Give me back my twentieth spring
I'd rather laugh a bright haired boy
Than reign a grey bearded king."*



Evidence that I was once a Brother.



Ballyhaunis Macra Na Feirme, 1971.

Back, L-R: Noel Dalton, Brendan Hopkins, Tom Henry.
Seated, L-R: Jimmy Egan, Myra Fitzgerald, Jim Cribbin.
Photo by Mallee's Photography, Knock.

Harvest time in Hazelhill, 1940's



Harvesting Oats in Hazelhill. L to r: Kathleen Finn, Unknown, Vincent Donnelan, Joe Finn and Tommy Donnellan.

PHOTOGRAPHS



James, Jack and Sinead Lynch, Chicago, USA, children of Helena Daly Lynch and grandchildren of Peggy Daly, Upper Main St.



Patricia and Jimmy Cuffe, Sydney, Australia, who celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary earlier this year. Patricia is formerly Brennan from Clare Street, Ballyhaunis. Jimmy is a native of Culleens, Co. Sligo. Patricia is an avid reader of 'Annagh' and has a complete set of the magazine since it began in 1978. She gets her copy sent to her each year by her sister Kathleen Gallagher of Castlebar.

Patricia and Jimmy were married on the 12th of March 1960 in London, and in 1961 sailed to Sydney, Australia (the sailing took six weeks) where they have lived ever since. They have children, Michelle and Steve, both of whom have made many trips back here on holidays, as did Pat when younger.

Happy Golden Anniversary from all at home in Ireland!



Four generations of Coyne. Kathleen Coyne (great-grand-mother), Tina Kirrane (grandmother), Kenneth Kirrane (father) with Josh and Noah.



Jack and Jason Coyne, with Ray Houghton at the Ireland v. Argentina game at the Aviva Stadium, July 2010.



Margaret Byrne (proprietor) and Sebastian Lankiewicz (staff member) of The Hazel Bar and Restaurant.

THE PEOPLE'S POSTMAN RETIRES

Dom Murphy was born on the 20th of December 1947 the year of the blizzard, so we were told all our lives. One night as we were preparing for his retirement speech he began to talk about his life with An Post. So Dom's story starts at the beginning as all good stories do, and these are his own words, which were jotted down:

"I have spent my entire working life delivering mail to people in the surrounding areas of Ballyhaunis. I started working for An Post, then "P&T", in 1963 as a Telegram Boy. My first postmaster was Joe Fadden. One of the first wedding telegrams I delivered was, believe it or not, to my son-in-laws parent's Tom and Mary Coffey of Tullaghaune. It's a small world. Who could ever have known?"

"I was then appointed to the Post by Sean Flanagan and Brian Forkan and started on a Monday morning at 7.45 the 1st of November 1963. The first van I ever drove was a Ford Anglia Estate PZL 441. I was sent to Dublin to collect it for John Cleary. He was my senior at the time. I remember delivering mail to his parent's house, one of the most beautiful thatched cottages I have ever seen. John and myself became very good friends over the years and it is a friendship I hold dear. Thanks for all the advice over the years John."

"Coogue/Island was where I served for the first three years. I was then transferred to Cloonfad where I spent the rest of my days with An Post. I have gained and lost villages over the years but always remember the close and dear friends I made, and always felt part of people's lives."

"The first experience I had on the post was when I was training and sent out with Matt Gilroy. There were two families in the same village with the same name. We gave the wrong letter to the wrong family and it was given back. I still remember the piece of advice he gave me on that first day... 'You don't need education, the public will do that for you', and it still stands to

this day. I learned more than any book could ever teach you about life."

"In those days we didn't just deliver letters, we passed on messages from neighbour to neighbour. We got in contact with the doctors, vets and priests alike, as there were very few cars and phones then. It's one of the things I missed in later years. We may have had more houses to deliver to, but we met with less and less people."

"We also taught people to drive, so I was often reminded. I remember meeting Mary Coffey on the road as she was leaving her house. She wasn't long driving at the time, and I made her reverse back to her door. Now, what she didn't call me isn't worth mentioning but she never feared backing the car after that."

"One of the first letters I delivered was to a lady who had won the sweepstakes, and the last letter I delivered was an ESB bill. Ironic - just like life, you have to take the good with the bad."

A wonderful night was held on the 12th of March 2010 when Dom's retirement was celebrated in the Whitehouse Hotel in Ballinlough. Many wonderful memories were created that night.

The material for this article was put together for 'Annagh' before Dom passed away on Wednesday, 16th of June 2010, surrounded by his family who miss him dearly.



Dom Murphy (seated right), with his wife Mairead and colleagues from Ballyhaunis Post Office. Standing, L-R: Frank Donohue, Gerry Plunkett, Tom Murphy, Tomás Cribbin, Willie Broderick, Alan Hunt, Helen Byrne, Michael Connolly, Liam Lyons, Alan Quinn, Geraldine Flynn, Joe Byrne.

ABBEY PATTERN 2010

Photographs by Deirdre Moran and Stephen Grogan



View from the Choir taken as the congregation gathered for the yearly Abbey Pattern Mass, 2010.



Jarlath and Marie Henry and family.



Centre:
The Friary field with the Pattern in full swing, on Sunday 29th August 2010. This was the first year the new all-weather court featured.



Bottom left:
Tug of war - Patrick Gallagher, Gabriel Gallagher, Darren Doyle and Kieran Costello, being urged on by John Nolan.



Bottom right:
Best Dressed Lady, Anne Phillips (centre), with Deirdre Moran (left) and Aisling Caulfield (right).



Men's Senior Race - Martin Walsh (Winner), Mike Henry (2nd) and Kevin Henry (3rd) with Linda Cox (left) and Mary Henry (right) of Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union.



Ladies Senior Race - Joanne Webb (winner), Katie Concannon (2nd) and Agatha Higgins (3rd) with Mary Henry (left) and Linda Cox (right) of Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union.



Paul and Paula Donnellan and their children Gillian and Meave, with Michael Egan (centre).



Maggie and John Waldron and children with James and Olive Clarke.



John Condrón, Cait Webb, Elaine Webb-Condrón and daughter.



Bet I can eat mine faster than you!

ABBEY PATTERN



Vinnie and Tom Caulfield, Upper Main St., at the Abbey Pattern circa 1970 (left) and - in the very same spot forty years later - 2010 (right).

TUAM ALL-STARS AT BALLYHAUNIS SUMMER FESTIVAL



Tuam All Stars, a gymnastics troupe, finalists in the All Ireland Talent Show earlier this year, and who performed at the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival in June 2010. Photograph by Jimmy Leonard.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BALLYHAUNIS

By Kitty Morley



Athletes and Coaches from Western Care with Packie Bonner at the Special Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Back, L-R: Eric Kilcourse, Packie Bonner, Padraic Prendergast, Theresa Ward, Kitty Morley. Front: Irma Folliard, David Donnelly, Deirdre Gannon.

The Special Olympics started off with the torch run arriving in Claremorris. The torch arrived at the Connacht Gold Store on the Ballindine Road. This torch is carried by members of the Gardai and PSNI representing the whole island of Ireland. Members of the Claremorris Special Olympic Club, with Padraig Prendergast and Eric Kilcourse, ran though the town on to Mount Saint Michael National School. All were greeted by staff and pupils. It was especially important to the school as two former pupils were taking part in the National Games in Limerick.

At 9 am on Wednesday 9th June, four athletes from Ballyhaunis Training Centre - Padraig Prendergast, Irma Folliard, Eric Kilcourse and David Donnelly - left Claremorris along with all other athletes from Mayo and with their coach Catherine (Kitty) Morley. With high hopes and the Mayo flag flying high, we arrived in Limerick at 2 pm. We quickly changed into our Connacht gear and, after lunch, headed to Thomond Park for the opening ceremony.

We took our place in the parade. Team Connacht was the first team to enter the stadium. The opening ceremony was fantastic with Des Cahill as MC for the evening. There were many acts for the evening. The best part for me personally was when the Corrs invited an athlete to come on stage and perform with them. The Air Corps did carried-out an air display and many sports people mingled with all the athletes. Thankfully, the rain held off.

On Thursday all athletes competed and all their times and distances were recorded. On Friday the competition started with great enthusiasm. It was a very busy day and family and friends, along with members of the Claremorris All Stars Special Olympic club, were on hand to help out. All the athletes are

members of this club. As David Donnelly was the sole swimmer from Western Care there was great excitement when he won a bronze medal for his swim. Meanwhile, on the track and field events were continuing. Irma Folliard won a gold medal for her Softball Throw. There was disappointment when Eric Kilcourse missed out on a medal for the Shot Putt as he had thrown his personal best on the day. Padraig Prendergast then won a Silver medal for a 200 Metre Run. On the Sunday morning Team Connacht won Silver for the 200 Metre Relay where Padraig was part of the team.

We returned to Claremorris to a great reception from family, friends and supporters.

The Ballyhaunis contingent continued on to Ballyhaunis where a Civic Reception was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce in Clare Court. Chairman of Mayo County Council, John Cribbin, was on hand to present certificates to all athletes. All at Western Care wish to thank all the people involved for all the help and support they have received.

'Brief Historical Notes'

"According to a statement made to me on April 13th 1938, by Rodger Folliard, an octogenarian, the extension of the public road from Ballyhaunis to Charlestown was made by Charles Strickland (Lord Dillon's agent) about 1855-60. He said he knew several men - Messrs. Hunt, Folliard, etc. - who had been engaged on the work at about three pence per day wages." *Dr. Michael F. Waldron.*

"A public lighting system was adopted by a town committee (about) 1888. Paraffin oil lamps were used, and Peter Burke was operator in charge. Voluntary subscriptions of the residents maintained the service. At the time of its inauguration it was considered a wonderful step in improving public amenities."

Dr. Michael F. Waldron.

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHS



*Taken on a Pioneer outing to Clifden, 1960s.
L-R: Michael Biesty, Andrew Johnston, Tom Finn, Josephine Johnston, Sean Connolly, Joe Horkan, Tommy Greally and Luke Greally.*



*Gorthaganny Hall, 1962.
L-R: Tom Finn, Rosaleen Moran, Tom Byrne, Michael Caulfield.*



Tara Finn, daughter of Rob Finn, Main St. and Sydney, Australia, pictured with her grandparents Tom and Christina Finn, Main St., on her First Communion Day, 28th Aug. 2010, in Sydney, Australia.



The Glynn sisters of Clare Street - Mary Dadd and Pat Fela - pictured in China Town, San Francisco, with 'Annagh Magazine 2009'.

NEVER NEEDED AS MUCH

By Jimmy Cribbin

I was well short of my twentieth spring when I sprang a surprise by saying “a pint for me please”. It was Christmas Eve, we were in town, all teetotallers, but with nowhere else to go we went into a pub. “Minerals all round and a pint for me please”. With the pint costing 2/6 I must have known instinctively that this was good value, and this price would not be sustained for very long. The march of time proved me right.

I am back in the same premises on the 16th October 2010. Big changes since I first crossed that threshold. For economic and legal reasons I am now sipping a glass of Guinness and reading notices that say 18 year olds and under are ‘persona non grata’ and that over 18s must produce ID.

I’m also reflecting on licensees that have come and gone - Gerry Dillon, Jim Smyth and Niall Delaney - when the present licensee Denis Hannon draws my attention to a headline in the morning paper that is removed from the usual doom and gloom, parrot like banner headlines of recent times.

It draws attention to the fact that there are vacancies abroad for experienced personnel. It reads “FCA

Veterans now fighting with the US in Afghanistan”. We discussed the positive effect on the economy it would have if more veterans exported their skills to where they were urgently needed just now. Old soldiers never die, they just fade away, and the prospect of further adventures abroad made me feel young again (or was it the drink?). Either way, in those uncertain times it seems prudent to keep all options open.

There should be a document in the shoe box on top of the dresser at home that proves I am a veteran. I hope I can find it because it’s as valuable now as a visa to the US and will also double as a CV. I am about to leave when Eamonn Murren drifts in. We talk about the prospects of me doing something for the economy by going abroad as I am helpless to do anything by remaining at home. Denis and Eamonn indicate they will arrange something when I am going away. The tone in their voice indicates that it will be more of an American wake

than a joyous farewell party. Their minds seemed to be preoccupied by the question “will Jimmy come marching home again”? Another Six Marker!



Sr. Mary Ruane, Fr. Pat Ruane and Bridie Ruane (Fr. Pat’s Sister-in-law) with whom he stayed during his visit to Ballyhaunis, Summer 2010.



Fr. Pat Ruane celebrates Mass in the ruins of Kiltullagh Church on Easter Sunday, 2010.

SCOIL ÍOSA FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS OF 2010



Scoil Íosa First Communion Class 2010. Included are Canon Joseph Cooney, PP; Fr. Benny McHale, CC; Teachers, Ita Fahey and Sheena Flanagan and Caitriona Biesty. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS OF 1971



Back, L-R: Gerry O'Connell, John John Morley, John Daly, John Biesty, Brian Loughran, John Caulfield, Tom Moran, Sean Sweeney. Third row: James Waldron, Milo Waldron, Sean Kelly, John Cox, Frankie Henry, Peter McHugh, Michael McGuire, Raymond Waldron, John O'Connor, Liam Smyth, John Fitzgerald. Second row: Noreen Keegan, Deirdre Durkan, Angela Cox, Karen Keane, Patricia Caulfield, Caroline Levins, Brigid Griffin, Monica O'Gorman (Garda family), Fiona Byrne (Pharmacy), Marie Walsh, Joanne Dillon, Pauline Morley. Front row: Kevin Webb, Clare Power (Bank of Ireland), Marie Ruane, Anne Curley, Pdraig Flatley.

NA BRÍDEOGA CAMOGIE CLUB

By Kitty Morley

A Short History

Na Brídeoga Camogie Club is based in Tooreen, County Mayo with players drawn mainly from the surrounding parishes including Aghamore and Ballyhaunis. A Camogie club was originally formed in Tooreen in 1957 and operated sporadically over the following decades, most notably in the late 1970's when we won a Mayo Senior final.

Na Brídeoga Club was formed in 2006 initially as East Mayo Camogie Club, and was officially launched and renamed in 2007 by Liz Howard (the then President of the Camogie Association). We have teams at all grades from Under-8 upwards. We play in the Galway Championships at Under-age levels and in Roscommon at Minor and Junior levels. 2010 was our fourth successive appearance at Féile Na nGael. In 2009, in Tullamore, we were crowned All Ireland Féile champions in Division 4 with victory over Seir Kieran of Offaly, and followed that with victory over Ballinasloe in the Galway Under-14 C Final. Since 2006 we have won several other titles in both Galway and Roscommon, including the Minor A title in Roscommon this year.

Ná Brídeoga stands for 'The Young Brigids', a reference to Saint Brigid who lived in the years between 451 and 525 and who is the secondary Patron Saint of Ireland, after Saint Patrick.

Club Officers, 2010

President: Margaret Tarpey; Chairperson: Bernie Cunnane; Vice-chairperson: Bernie Lilly; Secretary: Kitty Morley; Treasurer: Kay Kenny; Registrar: Sheila Joyce; PRO: John Cunnane.

Junior Campaign

In 2010, at Junior (Adult) level, we continued to make progress with our extremely young team. The majority of our girls are still eligible to play at minor (Under-18) level and even Under-16 level.

We competed in the Roscommon Spring League and qualified for the B Final where, unfortunately, we lost out to Oran by just two points (2-9 to 3-4). Knock street sporting legend Yvonne Byrne was in sparkling form and accounted for 2-4 of our total score. Niamh Cunnane added our third goal.

After the success of our Minor team we entered the Junior Championship in high hopes, and these were well founded as we went through the rounds undefeated. We recorded wins over Oran (0-3 to 0-1), against St.

Dominick's (2-4 to 1-5) - when Aine Charlton scored a late goal to clinch victory over our arch rivals - and finally drew with Pearses (2-2 each), both goals scored by Aisling Kenny. This set up a County final appearance against St. Dominick's played on September 26th. Unfortunately, for the third year running, we suffered defeat in the final to the Knockcroghery girls. It was a titanic battle. Dominick's got the ideal start with a fortuitous goal in the second minute. We recovered and were back on level terms ten minutes later as Aisling Tarpey stormed into the game and recorded two good points from play, as well as an excellent score from a long distance free. Two pointed frees gave Dominick's back the advantage and, just before half-time, they breached our defense for a second goal. Seven points down at the interval all looked lost, but these Na Brídeoga girls just never give up and gave a sterling performance in the second half. A great solo effort goal from Aine Charlton got us back in the game and, when team captain Sinead Muldoon finished off a great move in the sixteenth minute with a point, there was just a single goal between the sides. However, we could not get the second goal required, and Dominick's hung on adding two points in the final two minutes to record a 2-6 to 1-4 victory.

Junior Panel

Lisa O'Connell, Aideen Murray, Yvonne Byrne, Sonia Lenehan, Sharon Lynskey, Aoife Cassidy, Niamh Cunnane, Aoife McHugh, Aine Charlton, Lisa Walsh, Aisling Tarpey, Miriam Cuniffe, Mary Kennedy, Aisling Kenny, Sinead Muldoon, Mairead Charlton, Joanne Cregg, Rebecca McGowan, Maria Coyne, Colette Farragher, Noreen Cassidy, Emma Mohan, Aine Lilly, Maura Kelly, Caitlin O'Neill, Aoife Brennan, Ellis Harrison. Team Managers: John Cunnane and Austin Kenny.

Under-16

The Under-16 squad, under the direction of Peter Cassidy and Claire Charlton, are still in active competition at the time of writing with high hopes of qualification for the final of the North Galway competition.

Panel: Lisa O'Connell, Sharon Lynskey, Clodagh Sloyan, Rebecca McGowan, Mairead Charlton, Edel Fitzmaurice, Ashling Kenny, Noreen Cassidy, Rebecca Cleary, Aoife McHugh, Eleanor Harrison, Rona Burke, Shauna Morley, Elisha Lavelle, Ashling Tarpey, Labhaoise Cunnane, Aine Lilly, Lisa Morley, Maria Waldron, Tara Mulkeen, Aoife Lilly, Sonia Henry, Riona Joyce, Katie Gibbons, Claire Egan, Ashling Lynskey.



Na Brídeóga Minor Camogie Team

Eimear Flatley, Lisa O'Connell, Aisling Tarpey, Caitlin O'Neill, Aoife Brennan, Lisa Walsh, Rebecca McGowan, Noreen Cassidy, Aine Lilly, Sonia Leneghan, Rhona Burke, Aoife McHugh, Aine Charlton, Niamh Cunnane, Shauna Morley, Mairead Charlton, Aisling Kenny, Aoife Cassidy.

Under-10

The Under-10 team participated in the West Galway section of the championship with mixed luck. They reached the quarter-finals, only to succumb to a much stronger Shamrock team. We turned to the North Galway championship playing teams from Mountbellow, Ahascragh, Skeghana/Menlough, Ballinasloe and Pearses. We eventually qualified for the Shield Final on Saturday 18th September where we played Ahascragh, and ran out winners on a score line of 3-0 to 1-0. The management team of Fergal Delaney and Kitty Morley wish to thank all the parents for their help with travelling long distances and all the support received all year.

Panel: Jessica Klein, Amy Mulkeen, Vanessa Henry, Hannah Doyle, Grainne Chambers, Roisin Cassidy, Aoife Doherty, Molly Curran, Hannah Tenor, Grainne Delaney, Aoibhin English, Aishling English, Siobhan Mooney,

Blathnaid Cawley, Aishling Tighe, Clodagh Waldron, Anna Morley.

Did you know?

- The O'Duffy Cup, which is awarded to the All-Ireland Senior Camogie winners, is named after Mayo born Sean O'Duffy, a native of Killawalla, Westport. Sean worked tirelessly in the development of the Camogie Association and was associated with the Kilmacud Crokes Club in Dublin.
- Mayo contested the All Ireland Senior Camogie final in 1959 when they were defeated by Dublin. Dublin were the top Camogie county at the time winning 18 out of 19 titles between the years 1948 and 1966. They still hold the record for the most All Ireland Titles – 26 - two ahead of Cork.

'Brief Historical Notes'

"A loyal address to his Majesty, King George II, from the Catholics of County Mayo, dated June 7th 1792 was signed by the following from this district: Christopher Hughes, Ballyhavis; Michael Bourke, Ballyhavis; Christopher Tyrrell, Annagh; Richard Burke, Ballyhavis, Augustine Creane, Ballinvilla."

Dr. Michael F. Waldron.

BROOKVALE RESIDENTS GARDEN

2008 was the first year that the residents of Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Hazelhill, saw their work in print and were proud of their contribution to the Annagh Magazine. Many gentlemen felt they were somewhat overlooked as we had focused on what made the ladies residing in the nursing home travel abroad and bring them home again. So, not to be biased this year the gentleman of Brookvale, along with Activity Therapist Samantha Chapman, chose to enter an article on the achievements of the Resident's Garden.

The Residents Garden commenced late in the season of 2008. Some of the people within the nursing home were unable to stand for long periods of time or used assisted aids for mobility purposes, so 'raised' beds were built so that everyone would have the same advantages of being able to work the garden. Most of the men residing at Brookvale came from a farming background, unfortunately Sam didn't, and couldn't foresee looking after cattle and beasts alike, so it was decided, after debate, that we would grow our own produce and sell and recoup the monies and reinvest directly into the garden.

We didn't want to be foolish and jump in too deep so we started with three large raised beds and a smaller hexagon for alternative planting. Being of an older generation, we went back to basics with no funny chemicals. We were organic. The only thing we put into the ground was the seed, hard work, determination and a few extra prayers.

Our first year's crop was a huge success - cauliflowers as big as footballs, scallions with bite, and new potatoes and salad vegetables picked fresh daily. Of course Ireland would not be the country it is today without Cabbage. The only variety we couldn't grow was the 'Dig me Any Time' vegetables.

We also included in our garden a seated herb area where the fresh scent of brushed herbs wafted into the air. This was especially formatted for residents with any visual impairment as they could feel and smell the garden and vibrant honeysuckle was planted as a center-piece to attract butterflies.

The proprietor of the nursing home, Ms Amanda Torrens, has supported our enthusiasm 100% and we were proud to receive a large poly tunnel from her in

recognition of all our hard work.

This spring we have great plans to generate more produce and more varied specimens - Watch this space!



You're never too old to start your own business. All our produce is grown organically and the only additives are hard graft and perspiration from our brows.

THE DILLON ESTATE MAPS

– TOWNLANDS IN THE EARLY TO MID 19TH CENTURY –

Compiled By Paul Waldron. Photographed by Vincent Fahy.

Amongst the many treasures held in the National Library, Kildare St., Dublin, is a set of old maps of townlands in the Dillon Estate – in the general Ballyhaunis, Knock, Charlestown, Ballaghaderreen area – from the early to mid nineteenth century. The maps are bound into three massive volumes measuring about three feet by two and half feet, and can be seen in the Manuscripts Reading Room, just a few doors down from the National Library's main entrance beside Leinster House. The three volumes have the shelf number 16 M 3-5. A fourth volume, 16 M 6, has been undergoing conservation for some time now, and is not yet available for consulting. Indeed the other three volumes aren't in the best of shape either, with many of the maps seriously creased. The volumes contain maps of the townlands in the Dillon Estate and range in date from the 1830s up to the early 1860s. All are manuscript maps, surveyed and drawn by a number of different surveyors. They seem to have made in preparation for the 'striping' of land which took place on the Dillon estate at that time. Most of the maps are beautifully drawn and coloured with ink to show the different land qualities in each townland. On many of the maps, the lines showing the newly marked-out divisions between the 'stripes' seem to have been added somewhat later, suggesting that the different land qualities, shown by different shades of ink, determined how the townlands were striped. Plot numbers on the map refer to the tenants' names on a table showing the amount of land, of each quality, held by each. The maps show one or sometimes two townlands, though some larger townlands are shown on different sheets where they were held on more than one lease. Many of the sheets have nice decorated north-signs, scales and, tables showing tenants names, and the amount of land they held. In nearly all cases, they are dated and bear the name of the surveyor.

Missing

Unfortunately, a lot of the maps were removed from the volumes at some point in time – many of these in the Ballyhaunis area – and their current whereabouts are not known. A note scribbled in pencil on the surviving margin of one missing map for 'Cloonmullen West' (Loughglynn) gives a clue to when and why they were taken out: "Cut out for Mr. Doran 29th June 1889". Mr. Doran, was presumably Henry Doran, an Engineer who was very much involved in the work of the Congested Districts Board in the decade either side of 1900.

Townlands in the modern parish of Annagh which belonged to the Dillon Estate. Those marked with an asterisk* were transferred from Began parish in 1893. Those underlined are included in the available Dillon Estate Maps, with dates of survey.

Abbeyquarter, Aderg (1849), Arderry, Ballinphuill*, Ballybeg, Bargarriff (1852), Barheen (1848), Brackloon East* (1858), Brackloon North* (1858), Brackloon South* 1858, Bunnadober*, Carrowreagh*, Cave*, Cherryfield*, Clagnagh*, Classaghroe (1861), Colloughra*, Coolnafarna, Derrintogher (1834), Derrylahan*, Derrylea (1848), Derrynacong (1858), Drumbaun, Forthill* (1848), Friarsground, Garraun, Gorteen beg* (1833), Gorteen more*, Gortnageeragh, Grallagh (1853), Grallaghgarden*, Killunagher, Kilmannin*, Kiltybo, Knockbrack, Lisbaun East*, Lurgan, Moneymore, Mountain* (1849), Scregg, Skeaghard*, Spaddagh, Tawnaghmore*, Togher*, Tooraree*, Tullaghaun (1834).

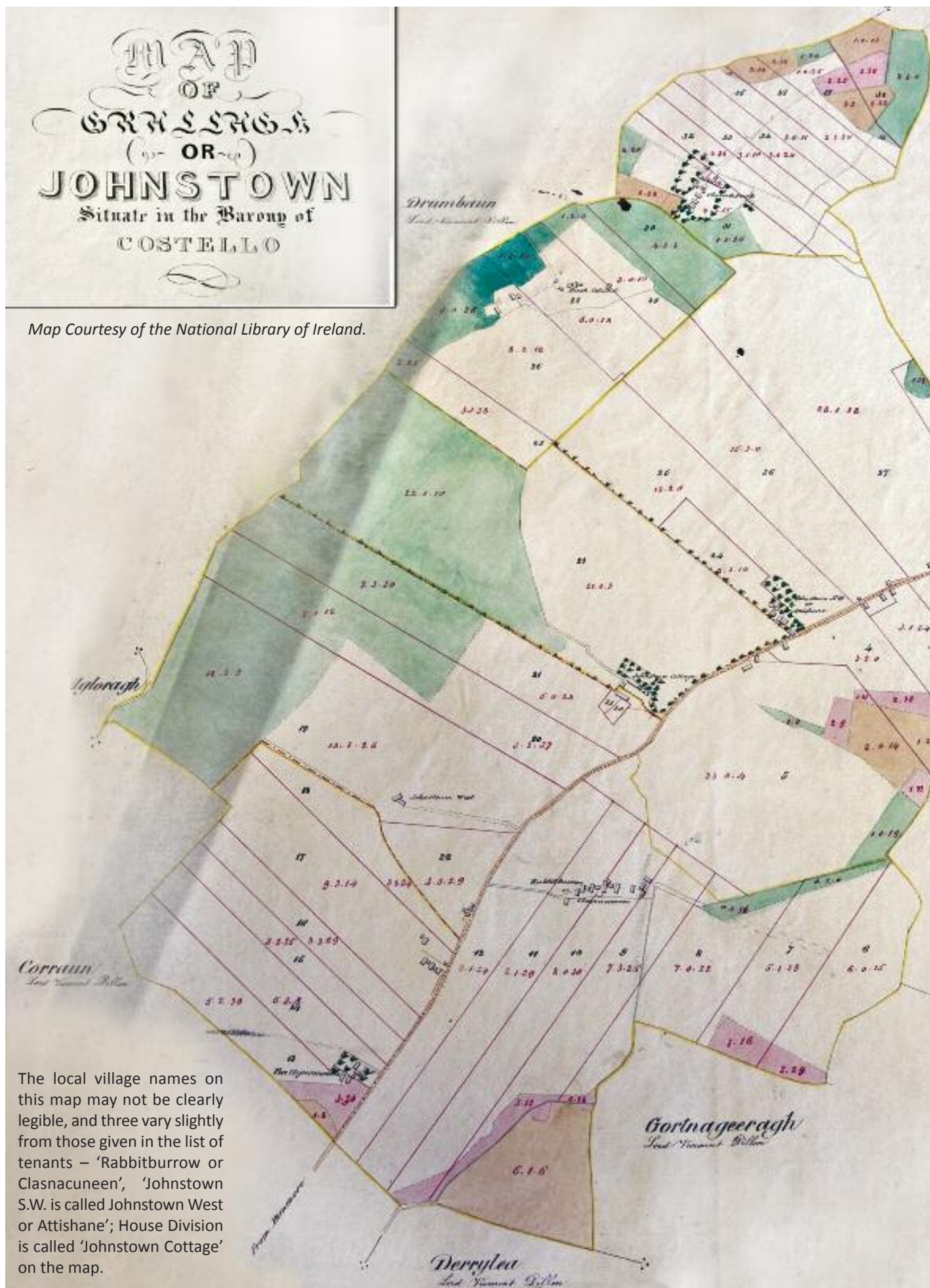
Dillon Estate townlands of the old parish of Annagh, which were moved to Began parish in 1893 – Corraun (1849 & 50), Drumaderry – and to Kiltullagh parish – Ballyglass Lower (1834), Ballyglass Middle (1834), Carrow Beg (1834), Carrow More (1834), Tonreege (1834).

There are maps of the following townlands – in the old and current Parish of Began in the three available volumes of the Dillon Estate maps - Bracklagh (1861), Cloonacurry and Loughanboy (1853), Cloonbookeigher (1859), Cloonbookougher (1859), Cullentragh (1846 and 1867), Derrymore (and Lassanny) (circa 1840), Lissaniska (1835).

Here are three of the Dillon Estate Maps, illustrated on pages 143 to 146 inclusive:

1. **Classaghroe**, surveyed by John Cunningham, 1861.
2. **Grallagh or Johnstown**, surveyed by John Cunningham, 1853.
3. **Derrymore (and Lassanny)**, surveyed circa 1840 by unknown surveyor.

Areas are given in Irish or Plantation Acres. There were 7840 square yards in an Irish Acre, and 4840 square yards in a Statute Acre. To convert from Irish to Statute Acres, multiply by 1.62. Because the images have been manipulated to fit on the page, the scales shown don't necessarily relate accurately to the maps.



Map Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

The local village names on this map may not be clearly legible, and three vary slightly from those given in the list of tenants – ‘Rabbitburrow or Clasnacuneen’, ‘Johnstown S.W. is called Johnstown West or Attishane’; House Division is called ‘Johnstown Cottage’ on the map.

REFERENCE

No.	Name	Arable	Bottoms	Reclaimed	Roads	Boat	Water	Other	Total
		A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P	A R P
1	Johnstown East	4 1 32							
2	Michael Loftus	4 1 03				0 1 07	4 1 32	4 2 38	
3	Thomas Loftus	3 1 24				0 0 02	4 1 03	4 1 05	
4	Patrick Kelly	3 2 00		0 1 00		0 2 08	3 2 24	4 0 32	
5	William Kelly	23 0 04	1 1 10	1 0 33		1 2 30	4 0 36	5 3 26	
6	John Fitzgerald	38 2 25	1 1 10	1 0 33		2 0 10	25 2 16	27 2 30	
7	Rabbit Burrows			2 0 11		4 2 21	42 0 23	47 2 34	
8	Michael McDonnell	6 0 15		0 2 20			6 3 04	6 3 04	
9	Robert Morgan	5 1 39	0 2 00	0 3 10			6 3 15	6 3 15	
10	Robert Morgan	7 0 22	0 2 34	0 0 28			8 0 4	8 0 04	
11	Laurance Murphy	7 3 20		0 3 32			8 3 18	8 3 18	
12	Patrick Ruane	8 0 20		0 1 04			8 1 34	8 1 34	
13	Michael Sullivan	8 1 20					8 1 20	8 1 20	
14	John Ruane & John Hulse	8 1 24					8 1 24	8 1 24	
15	Reservoir Boy & Road	51 2 25	1 0 34	2 3 20		6 1 00		62 5 05	
16	Ballynamona					3 3 35	55 3 08	58 6 43	
17	John Cunningham	5 2 35		0 3 30		0 1 08	6 2 26	6 3 36	
18	James Quinn	5 3 08		0 0 10			5 3 18	5 3 18	
19	Pat Quinn	3 3 35					3 3 35	3 3 35	
20	John Jennings	3 3 20					3 3 20	3 3 20	
21	Thomas Byrne	2 3 14				0 0 24	3 3 14	3 3 38	
22	Timothy Byrne	3 3 24					3 3 24	3 3 24	
23	Johnstown S.W.	33 0 23		1 0 00		0 1 32	34 0 23	35 1 35	
24	David Lyons	13 5 25	12 3 03				26 2 31	26 2 31	
25	Pat Jennings	5 3 37	7 1 12				13 1 09	13 1 09	
26	Pat Moore	5 0 28	7 3 30				13 0 18	13 0 18	
27	John Ruane	3 3 20					3 3 20	3 3 20	
28	House Division	29 0 05	25 0 05				54 0 10	54 0 10	
29	James Ekins	21 0 03	22 1 10				43 1 13	43 1 13	
30	Johnstown N.W. Bush Island	2 0 03	22 1 10				43 1 13	43 1 13	
31	Martin Doyle	2 3 00					2 3 10	2 3 10	
32	Michael Muldoon	15 3 36	0 2 25				16 2 23	16 2 23	
33	John Dillon	24 1 12	1 0 35				25 2 07	25 2 07	
34	Owen Reilly	28 1 38					28 1 38	28 1 38	
35	Thomas Murphy	2 2 27	0 1 33				3 0 20	3 0 20	
36	Thomas Glyn	6 0 16	1 2 20				7 2 36	7 2 36	
37	Bryan Lyons	3 0 10	1 3 00				4 3 10	4 3 10	
38	James Hilling	24 1 33	4 3 03				4 3 03	4 3 03	
39	Churchpark		11 1 56				25 3 29	25 3 29	
40	Widow Lyons	4 3 15	2 0 10				6 3 25	6 3 25	
41	Edward Mulloy	4 2 36				0 2 03	4 2 36	4 2 36	
42	James Lyons	3 1 10					3 1 10	3 1 10	
43	Andrew Forde	3 0 24					3 0 24	3 0 24	
44	Pat Bagin	2 0 11				0 0 10	3 0 11	3 0 21	
45	Pat Dux	2 3 30				0 2 14	2 3 30	2 3 04	
46	Michael Reilly	1 2 35	0 2 02	0 2 25		1 1 10	2 3 22	4 1 01	
47	Commons	23 3 01	5 1 12	1 1 24		1 3 35	3 1 39	6 1 34	
48	General Totals	281 2 29	69 2 36	7 2 04		17 0 35	358 3 30	378 0 12	

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 chains

Scale 20 Irish Perches to one Inch
John Cunningham R.E.
Bullins 1853

Not to scale

ABBEY PARTNERSHIP

2010 has been another productive year for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership and Abbey Trust. The Partnership aims to promote through community development methods and 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 2010 the friary grounds continued to attract people to avail of this invaluable community amenity with the Children's Playground and attractive woodland and river walkway being used on a daily basis.

Great credit is due to the staff, and 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 Abbey Partnership took part for the second year running in the National Tree Planting Week along with the Children from Scoil Iosa adding to the property's natural flora.

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee also took the initiative to construct a number of notice / display boards which have been located throughout the Abbey grounds containing information on our natural plant and wildlife.

Developments

St. Mary's Abbey continues to be used to host a number of social and cultural events throughout the year.

The Gracenotes Choir group continue to use the Abbey building for their performances and the Mayo County Council Summer Music programme also continued with the National Chamber Choir performing in the Abbey this year.

The feast of St. Augustine was celebrated with the annual Graveyard Mass and the Abbey Pattern was held.

A Maths Circus for young people organised as part of Mayo Science Week was held during November.

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.

The Abbey Partnership have continued to work with the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre who operate a Community Preschool in the friary grounds.

Multi-Purpose Sport Facility

2010 marked the completion of a significant project for the Abbey Partnership with the completion of the new Multi Sport Games Area – otherwise known as MUGA which was constructed in the front field of the Abbey Grounds. Funding had been secured from 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. Planning Permission was obtained and the construction work was completed in the spring of 2010. The project cost a total €180,000 with Mayo County Council contributing €80,000 towards the project with the balance coming from Local Contributions via the Abbey Partnership.

Abbey Pattern

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern continued in 2010. Once again full credit goes to the organisers, the Abbey Pattern Committee.

Plans for 2011

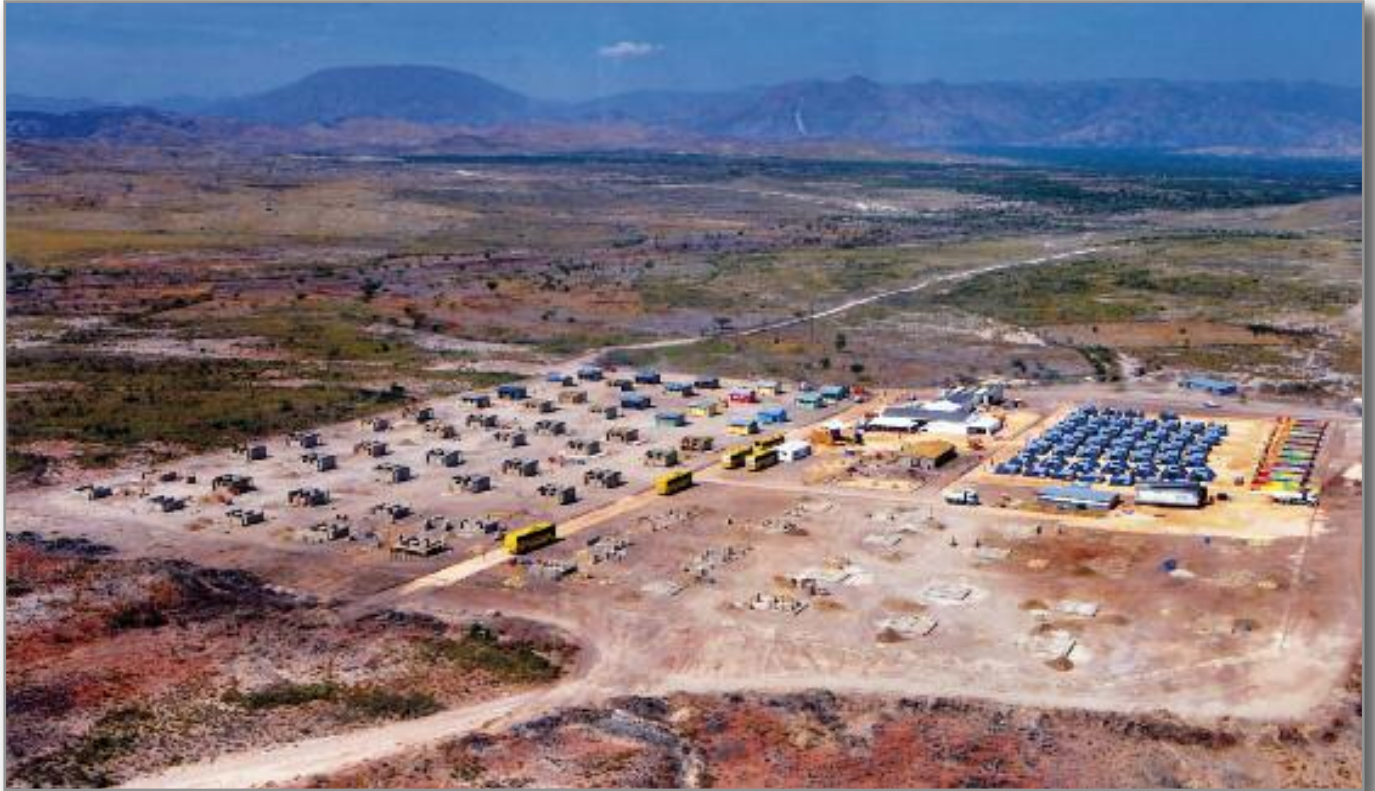
A number of positive developments are already on the horizon for 2011 with a new foot bridge linking the River walk to the new Soccer Pitch to be developed alongside the Station Rise / Cherry Vale housing estates. Plans were also developed during 2010 for a Community Garden and this project may also be revisited next year.

The Abbey Partnership is also anxious to record and highlight the local history and heritage of St. Mary's Abbey to and promote this within the local community, especially amongst young people and will try to develop some related projects in this field during 2011.

Abbey Partnership Board

Is composed of Chairperson: John Coll (Mayo County Council), Vice-Chairperson: Peter Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chambers), Treasurers: Mary Donnelly (Community Council) and Anne Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chambers), Secretary: Stephen Grogan (Family Resource Centre), Eugene Connolly (HSE West), Cllr. John Cribbin, (Mayo County Council), John Durkin (Community Council), Pádraic Flanagan (Mayo County Council), Michael Kelly (Community Council) and Fr. Michael Mernagh (OSA), Cllr. Damien Ryan (Mayo County Council).

HAVEN BUILD-IT WEEK, HAITI



Robbie Gildea and Jarlath Nevin who were volunteers in the Haven Build It Week, April 2010 in Haiti. Haven is an Irish, non-governmental, non-political, non-religious organisation working to build sustainable communities through the provision of housing aid, emergency relief and by implementing community development in Haiti. Since the earthquake hit Haiti's capital city Port au Prince on January 12th 2010, Haven has been working in affected areas providing emergency relief to those most in need.





BALLYHAUNIS GAA CLUB 2010

*By Mary Prenty,
Club Secretary*

2010 has been a very successful year for Ballyhaunis GAA Club with the Club fielding teams at all grades.

Congratulations to the following: Tommy Waldron, who was voted Club person of the year for 2010; Enda Griffin, Footballer of the year; Pierce Higgins, Hurler of the year; Senior Hurling team, who won the T. J. Tyrell Cup, The Genfit Cup; and were Runners-Up in the All Ireland Hurling Elevens Shield, and who have qualified for the Connacht Club semi final.

Teams and Panels:

U-8 FOOTBALL

Training started in March and was well attended throughout the year. Challenge games were played against Kilmovee, Swinford, Claremorris, Charlestown, Michael Glaveys and Kilmovee. Great improvement was made by all players during the season.

Panel: Cian Burke, Joshua Webb, Daniel Murray, Daniel Hill, Dallan Walsh, Dara Rattigan, Sean Caulfield, Clayton Nolan, Tyler Coyne, Padraic McHugh, Brian McHugh, Eoin Ryan, Diarmuid Phillips, Jamie Allen, Conor Keane, Kevin Durkin. **Management:** David Burke, Tony Morley, Martin Walsh, Peadar Walsh.

U-10 FOOTBALL

Football training commenced in March on Friday evenings. The programme involves coaching specific skills of the game and the opportunity for children to put into practice what they have learned through small-sided games. We took part in games and blitzes involving Aghamore, Kiltimagh, Charlestown, Ballaghaderreen, Swinford, St Gerald's, St Kevin's of Castlerea and Michael Glavey's of Co. Roscommon.

Barry Butler Memorial Blitz: This was hosted on the August bank holiday weekend and was a highly entertaining occasion for players. Aghamore, Claremorris, Eire Og, Castlerea, Charlestown, Ml. Glaveys and Kiltimagh participated and Kiltimagh beat Castlerea in the Final.

The Mick O'Connell Cup 2010: Will take place on Sunday 24th October 2010.

The Mick O'Connell Cup 2009: Took place on November

1st 2009. The O'Connell family were represented by Michael Jr., Marian and Grainne who presented the cup and medals to all players in the clubhouse. The team captains, Evan Henry and Liam Herr vied for honours with Evan's team winning out on the day. The standard of football on display was of the highest quality ever witnessed in the twenty five years of the competition as both sides exhibited skills of the highest order matched by a commitment and hunger for success usually associated with more advanced grades of footballers.

Two teams in U-8 boys group played and with referee Peadar Walsh in charge a very good day was had by both teams. Two girls teams competed with Fiona Freyne in charge and, after a spell of good football, the resulting draw was a fair result on the day. Jarlath Fahey, Bord na nÓg secretary, complimented all the players on the wonderful exhibition of football and paid tribute to all the coaches who worked very hard all year.

Evan Henry (Capt.): Gary Higgins, Cormac Phillips, Patrick Caulfield, Neil Carney, Evan Fitzmaurice, Conor Sloyan, Ciaran Guilfoyle, Dylan Gaughan, Aran Rattigan.

Liam Herr (Capt.): David Cunnane, Michael McDonagh, Jack Coyne, Dara Healy, Conal Caulfield, John Reidy, Barry Cribbin, Darren Maughan, Joshua Webb, Tristan Walsh.

Kerry Trip: In March the U-10 panel enjoyed a trip to Kerry where they saw Mayo defeat Kerry in the National Football League.

Dublin Trip: In August the lucky lads attended the All-Ireland Football Semi-Final in Croke Park when Mayo Minors were unfortunate to lose to eventual All-Ireland Champions Tyrone.

U-11 FOOTBALL

The majority of U-10 players showed great promise by also representing the club at U-11 and U-12b league competitions this year. They competed in some challenge games and in a coaching blitz in Charlestown.

U-10 and U-11 Panels: Arran Rattigan, Barry Cribbin, Ciaran Guilfoyle, Conal Caulfield, Cormac Phillips, Dara Healy, David Cunnane, Dylan Gaughan, Evan Fitzmaurice, Evan Henry, Liam Herr, Gary Higgins, Patrick Caulfield, Jack Coyne, Neil Carney, Soheab Arshad, Conor Keane, Ethan Keane, Pierce Nestor, Tristan Walsh, Darren Maughan. **Management:** Tommy Caulfield and Martin Fitzmaurice.

U-12 FOOTBALL

This team kicked off the year in Division 2 of the Spring League. Our first game was away to Knockmore and, after a hard fought game, secured a win. Crossmolina Deel Rovers ended in a draw and we won our games

against Ballaghaderreen, St. Gerard's and Ardnaree, finishing on top of our group having scored 25 goals and 54 pts. We earned a Division 1 place in the Summer League with strong opposition and high standard of football. First game away to Castlebar, game called off due to a player getting injured, followed by a win over Claremorris. We lost narrowly to Kiltimagh and Westport and followed with a great win against Ballina. The refixed game with Castlebar was the highlight of the league as we secured a victory at home to end up in second place in Division 1. **Management:** Jason Foody, Martin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Henry, Paddy Phillips.

Vincent Caulfield Cup: Go Games Blitz involving Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Swinford, and Kiltimagh. Ballyhaunis played Aghamore in the first round and secured a good win. Second round resulted in a victory over Swinford. This was enough to earn a place in the final against Kiltimagh. Despite a hard working performance we lost narrowly in a last minute goal to Kiltimagh.

Vincent Caulfield Shield: Ballyhaunis lost to Swinford in the final.

U-13 FOOTBALL

This team was propelled into Division 1 based on their achievement at U-12 in 2009. Games commenced in mid August. Our first game was against Westport at home and we ran out easy winners. Ballaghaderreen and the Neale did not prove easy opposition with only points to spare against both teams. After three wins, we faced our hardest game against Swinford. A point up at half time in bad conditions, the team showed great fighting spirit and ability to eventually win out by two points. Our final league game was away to Knockmore, and though we lost by 4 points, we had already secured our place in the County Semi-final. Breaffy were our opponents away and all our suspicions were confirmed a few minutes into the game when Breaffy proved to be bigger and physically stronger throughout the pitch.

U-12 and U-13 Panels: Azad Ali, Geger Ali, Carlton Ubaezuonia, Cathal Carney, Neil Carney, Sean Carrick, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Piarais Caulfield, Radek Cervenak, Niall Coffey, Oisin Coffey, Darren Coyne, Jack Coyne, Barry Cribbin, James Cribbin, David Cunnane, John Cunnane, Damien Egan, Evan Fitzmaurice, Liam Foody, Gbolahan Salami, Matthew Grogan, Ciaran Guilfoyle, Dara Healy, Cian Henry, Evan Henry, Oisin Henry, Liam Herr, Sean Herr, Gary Higgins, Micheal Hill, Jakub Kolodziejczyk, Joseph Kelly, Ryan Kilbane, Mac-angel Ubaezuonia, Dylan Maughan, Thomas Maughan, Michael McDonagh, Brian O'Neill, Cormac Phillips, Eamon Phillips, Aran Rattigan, Conor Sloyan, Robert McCormack, Cormac Reidy, James Reynolds.

Management: Jason Foody, Martin Fitzmaurice, Kevin Henry, Johnny Cribbin, Paddy Phillips and Vinney Caulfield.

The Joe Webb Cup: This tournament was played for players from 11 to 13, with 4 teams taking part. The tournament was divided into 2 groups with the winners getting the Webb Cup.

Julia Donohue Cup: The 2 losing teams played off and the winners were presented with the Donohue Cup. Special thanks to the Webb and Donohue families for their continued involvement in our games.

U-12 HURLING

A series of Mayo Mini blitzes were organised and this team was awarded points from Belmullet and secured victories over Ballyvary, Claremorris, and Ballina, James Stephens.

Management: Gerald Hayes, Shauna Hayes, Ray Lucey, Frank Browne, Gerry Lyons, Peter Higgins.

U-13 HURLING

Games commenced in May. Ballyhaunis drew with Caiseal Gaels and then played Tooreen who proved too strong on the day.

U-14 HURLING

Training was based on coaching skills - hook, catch, strike, and blocking - and was delivered by members of the senior hurling panel. Caiseal Gaels proved too strong for Ballyhaunis in Feile. In championship we competed with Caiseal Gaels, Castlebar, Tooreen Ballyvary, Westport and had a good win over Tooreen.

S.V.L. We were grouped with Ballinasloe, Castlebar, Ballygar, Ahascragh/Fohenagh and Padraic Pearses. While unsuccessful in this competition the experience proved beneficial.

U-12, U-13 and U-14 panels: Damien Callaghan, Cathal Carney, Neil Carney, Sean Carrick, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Niall Coffey, Oisin Coffey, Jason Coyne, Danielle Coyne, James Cribbin, Clare Fahy, Gbolahan Salami, Hamza Yousaf, Dara Healy, Liam Herr, Sean Herr, Michael Hill, Gary Higgins, Ryan Kilbane, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Joseph Kelly, Mohd Faizan, Ahmad, Brian O'Neill, Cormac Phillips, Eamon Phillips, Mark Phillips, Stephan Ryan, Waqas Rehmon. **Management:** Peter Higgins, Gerry Lyons, Ray Lucey, Gerald Hayes, Shauna Hayes.

VHI CUL CAMP: This Camp was held on 19th July – 23rd July 2010. **Gold Medal - Football:** B. O'Neill, E. Phillips. **Gold Medal - Girls:** S. Keadin, J. Carroll, D. Coyne. **Silver Medal - Football:** L. Herr. S. Herr. **Gold Medal - Hurling:**

S. Herr, L. Herr. M. Hill, B.O'Neill, C. Lenihan. S. Keadin, J. Coyne, J. Carroll. R. Bowen. **Silver Medal – Hurling:** S. Herr, B.O'Neill, S. Keadin. **Football Stars of the Future:** B. O'Neill and S. Keadin. **Hurling Star of the Future:** P. Caulfield.

U-14 FOOTBALL

Overall it was a good year for this team. We secured victories over Kiltane, Ardnaree, and Aghamore. We drew against Naomh Padraig which left Ballyhaunis and Naomh Padraig finishing 3rd with 9 points in a league. Many of our players showed a remarkable improvement in their football skills and the future looks very bright for them. Team Captain this year was Steven Nolan. In the championship we reached the final but lost out to Charlestown on the day. The team also competed in the Connacht Feile Day where they played against St Mary's Carrick on Shannon, Western Gaels and Curry.

Management: Stephen Nolan, Johnny Cribbin and James Reidy.

U-15 FOOTBALL

The U-15 league commenced in September and we secured a win against Mayo Gaels. We had further wins against Burrishoole, The Neale and Islandeady. Ballyhaunis and Kiltane were level in points so both were drawn to play in the League County Final. Even though we performed well in first half, we were unable to sustain our momentum and lost out on the day.

U-14 and U-15 Panel: Azad Ali, Damien Callaghan, Sean Carrick, David Cleary, Cyril Collins, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, Damien Egan, Joey Fahy, Matthew Grogan, Haseeb Arshad, Shane Healy, Cian Henry, Jack Hughes, Jamil Kezze, Kevin Kilbride, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Robert McCormack, Martin McDonagh, Thomas McDonagh, Jason McGoldrick, Mohd Faizan, Ahmad, Robert Morley, Rory Nestor, Steven Nolan, Ebeleghe Omoarebun, Michael O'Rourke, Mark Phillips, Waqas Rehmon, Cormac Reidy, Jim Reidy, Stephen Ryan, Gbolahan Salami, Mark Sutton, Sean Sutton, David Webb, Hamza Yousaf. **Management:** Stephen Nolan, James Reidy, Martin Finan and special thanks to Robbie Hughes for helping out.

U-16 FOOTBALL

Training started in March and our team were grouped in Division 4. We played against St. Gerards, Balla, Tourmakeady, Kilmeena and Burrishoole. We competed well in our group and were somewhat unlucky not to have got better results in some very close games, and unfortunately finished bottom of the group. The championship commenced in August against Moy Davitts and

was to be the East Mayo Final. Ballyhaunis led the game at half time but failed to capitalise on a strong first half wind and only went in two points up at the break. Moy Davitts proved too strong and were worthy winners.

U-16 Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Jarlath Carney, Cyril Collins, James Cribbin, Jason Fahy, Ultan Griffin, Iqbal Hannon, Shane Healy, Jack Hughes, Patrick Kiely, Kevin Kilbride, Zubir Koohestani, Morgan Lyons, Martin McDonagh, Thomas McDonagh, Jason McGoldrick, Robert Morley, Conor Nolan, Darren Nolan, Steven Nolan, Michael O'Rourke, Adrian Phillips, Jim Reidy, and Mark Sutton.

Management: Brian Murray and James Reidy.

MINOR FOOTBALL

Our Minor League campaign got off to a winning start against Kiltimagh, at home with a narrow one point victory 1-9 to 2-5. We played Ballaghaderreen, at home and managed a win. We faced a stern test in Crossmolina where we secured a 1 pt victory. Then we faced Shrule/Glencorrib and this game gave us the insight into what Division 2 is all about. As Louisburg could not field we secured the points. Aghamore was next and the players worked hard and were unlucky to lose this game. Our best game of the season was against Charlestown, where we won by a Cathal Fahy goal in the dying minutes. After the exam break we engineered a semi-final win against Charlestown and earned a place in the League final against Shrule-Glencorrib. Championship loomed and with Ballaghaderreen, at home we reached an East Mayo semi-final against Aghamore. Even with fine performance we came up short at the end. We rallied for the league final against Shrule- Glencorrib in Hollymount. After a slow start we gained a good lead but we failed to convert scores at crucial times in the second half and eventually Shrule- Glencorrib ran out winners. It was a long, hard campaign and with a great bunch of lads it is worth noting that they reached a County Final. Congrats to Ryan Worden on making county Minor Panel.

Minor Panel: Jason Fahy, Gerry Grogan, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, Conor Freeley, Ryan Worden, Eoghan Collins, Isaac Carroll, Cathal Fahy, Jarlath Carney, Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, Kevin Byrne, Damien Keadin, Ultan Griffin, John Flynn, James Cribbin, Eugene Durkin, Adrian Phillips, Joe Sutton, Shane Murphy and Darragh Richardson. **Management:** Paul Webb, Seamus Caulfield.

U-16 HURLING

Games in the S.V.L. commenced in March and we competed in the early stages. It was a learning experience, and stood to us when we competed in both league and county championship. While improving during the year we finished with credible performances

against Castlebar and Tooreen. **Mentors:** Paul McConn, Michael Regan, Gerald Hayes, Gerry Lyons.

U-18 HURLING

Training commenced in March in 2010 and our first game against Tooreen was a disappointment and we also suffered a defeat to Castlebar. We were successful against Tooreen in the 3rd round and afterwards secured a win against Castlebar. The teams for the final were decided on score average and Ballyhaunis missed out.

U-16 and U-18 Panel: Adrian Phillips, Conor Nolan, Damien Keadin, David Fitzmaurice, Eoghan Collins, Gearoid Keane, Hannan Iqbal, Haseeb Arshad, James Cribben, James Lyons, Jarlath Carney, Jason Coyne, John Flynn, Kieran Kiely, Kevin Kilbride, Patrick Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Marc Sutton, Mark Phillips, Mohd Ahmed, Morgan Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Sean Griffin, Shane Healy, Shane Murphy, Sheraz Ul Hassan, Waqas Rehman.
Management: Adrian Brennan, Jason Swords.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ballyhaunis Community School continues to develop and nurture Gaelic Games. Football Teams from 1st year, 2nd year, Juvenile, Junior and Senior compete in Colleges games. The Connacht League and Championship are important fixtures in the calendar as well as the Flanagan Cup, Collieran Cup and the O'Haire Cup. The Community School Senior team have won the Flanagan B Cup in 2010 and beat Kiltimagh in the final. 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, and to the teachers who involve themselves in training and coaching our games. Their time and commitment is appreciated by our club. Special thanks to Hugh Rudden who is always on call to help the club and the school. Thanks Hugh.

U-21 FOOTBALL

Our U-21 team was drawn in a group with Ballaghaderreen and Ardnaree. We commenced training and beat Swinford in a challenge game. We played Ballaghaderreen at home and secured a 7 pt victory. Next up was a dog fight against Ardnaree, away and won by 3 points. In the quarter final we were drawn against, the eventual champions, Garrymore, where we lost after extra time by a solitary point. The biggest problem with the U21 grade is that it is just stuck in as a competition to be played and got out of the way as quickly as possible by the County Board. Most of our U-21 players are regulars on the senior panel.

Management: Michael Gallagher, John Prenty.

Junior Football: Training commenced with gusto and the players thoroughly enjoyed their football this year. This team acquitted themselves extremely well, considering this was our first year involved in this league and East Mayo Championship. We won all our games except for Ballaghaderreen B and Davitts B, and beat the eventual league winners Kiltimagh, easily in our last game.

East Mayo Championship: In the East Mayo Championship we qualified for the "B" final, but this has yet to be played.

Management: Michael Gallagher and John Prenty

SENIOR FOOTBALL

This team continued the momentum they generated last season, maintaining its status in Div 1C and making steady championship progress. A nine point championship defeat to Burrishoole failed to capture a very courageous performance by this young team. The crucial follow up fixture in the group followed against Kilmeena who were put to the sword mercilessly by Ballyhaunis. The Swinford game was tough, knowing a win was not necessary, but the lads started to play some very good football and dominated the rest of the game to emerge to the quarter finals. Tourmakeady in a quarter final, without John Prenty, Keith Higgins and Brian Hunt, was a stern test. However, a lionhearted performance from these very young players kept the team in the game right to closing stages. The physicality and experience of the opposition told in the end and Tourmakeady won their way to the semi final before defeating Burrishoole in the County Final. Ballyhaunis, quite rightly, won the admiration of everyone present for their performance on the day.

League: Moving up to Div 1C football with Ardnaree was a challenge but while Ardnaree returned to Div 4 immediately, Ballyhaunis maintained Div 3 league status before the season had finished.

Centenary Cup: This team needs time and patience to develop the strength and experience that is required for Adult level and this was obvious in the Centenary Cup final where neighbours, Aghamore, won by the narrowest of margins after extra time as the lads lived on scraps throughout, but yet again played very good football to keep the game so tight. The lads displayed such growth in maturity over the latter part of the season and if they can work together as a group on key aspects of their development as players they can become a senior team.

Senior, Junior and U-21 Panel: Kevin Byrne, Hughie Carney, Isaac Carroll, Phelim Carroll, Eoghan Collins, Declan Doyle, Cathal Fahy, P.J. Fleming, Ruari Finan, Joseph Flynn, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Conor Freely, Joe Freeley, John Gallagher, Kevin Gallagher,

Ciaran Griffin, Enda Griffin, Sean Griffin, Gerard Grogan, David Hannan, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Sean Hunt, Paul Jordan, Fergal Kelly, Brian Hunt, Damien Keadin, Gearoid Keane, Patrick Keane Jnr., Keith Higgins, Kieran Kiely, Liam Lyons, Christy McCrudden, Liam McDermott, Karl McManus, David McNamara, Kevin Moran, Jason Morley, Brian Mulrennan, Conor Mulrennan, Kevin Nestor, William Nestor, Seamus O'Dwyer, Mark Patterson, John Prenty, Ian Prenty, Niall Prenty, Paul Prenty, Brendan Rudden, Michael Waldron, Ryan Worden. **Management:** Seamus Egan, John Higgins, Mike Dillon.

All -Ireland Football Sevens, Ratoath. We travelled to this tournament for the third year in a row and it proved to be a very enjoyable experience.

Panel: Brendan Rudden, Seamus O Dwyer, Enda Griffin, Ciaran Griffin, Niall Prenty, Paul Prenty, Eoghan Collins, Ian Prenty, Gerard Grogan. Kevin Nestor. **Management:** John Prenty and Kurt Reinhardt.

CLUB PLAYERS ON COUNTY PANELS

Senior Football: Keith Higgins

U-21 Football: Niall Prenty

U-18 Football: Ryan Worden

East Mayo County Cup: Isaac Carroll, Ryan Worden, Damien Keadin, Conor Freeley, Cathal Fahy, Eoghan Collins.

Senior Hurling: Derek McConn, Niall Murphy, Brian Hunt, Stephen Hoban, Keith Higgins, Liam Lyons.

U-21 Hurling: Liam McDermott, Brian Hunt, Robert Frayne.

U-18 Hurling: Shane Murphy, Kieran Kiely, Damien Keadin, Kieran McDermott, Sean Griffin.

U-16 Hurling: Hannan Iqbal, Patrick Kiely, Jarlath Carney

U-14 Hurling: Joseph Lyons, Mark Phillips, James Lyons, Jason Coyne, Mohd Ahmad.

SENIOR AND JUNIOR HURLING TEAMS

Training commenced in February and started out well with games against Castlebar, Tooreen, and Westport in the Genfit Cup. We recorded victory over Tooreen in the Final. Training for championship continued and a successful first round game against Westport was followed by games against Castlebar, Tooreen, and Ballina. In the semi final we played Castlebar and won and earned a place in the Final against Tooreen. Ballyhaunis went on to win the final in a well fought game and are now in a Connaught Intermediate semi final against Four Roads of Roscommon.

An invitation was extended to Ballyhaunis to play in Ratoath Intermediate Elevens. We played Carrick Davins, and lost by 1 point, and recorded a victory over Drumree, Patrick Sarsfields, Tullogher-Rosbercon and

Glenmore. This resulted in Ballyhaunis reaching the final against Silvermines and despite an epic battle had to be content with second place. Player of the Tournament went to Niall Murphy.

Junior and Senior Panel: Micheal Walsh, Adrian Brennan, Peter Healy, Damien Kedian, Paul McConn, Derek McConn, Hugh McKermitt, Pierce Higgins, Niall Murphy, Donal O'Brien, Christopher McCrudden, Liam McDermott, Tadgh Buckley, Brian Hunt, Stephen Hoban, Fergal Lyons, Luke Cribben, Paul Lynch, Keith Higgins, Austin Lyons, Kieran Kiely, Jason Swords, Kieran McDermott, Joseph Flynn, Thaigh Morley, Padraic Carney, Shane Murphy, Michael Regan, Liam Lyons, Sean Griffin. **Management:** P. Coen, J.J. Hoban, David McConn, Martin McDermott, Donal Moran.

CLUB REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Club Registration is mandatory and this year members were registered in the new online database in Croke Park. All players, team managers and selectors must be registered online so that they are included on team sheets for games and covered by the Players Injury Scheme. The Registrar of our Club advises that player welfare is of the utmost importance but this can only be monitored and managed if the correct procedures are put in place and upheld. This year each member was posted out a new membership card for their records.

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

A National conference for the ASAP Officers was held in Croke Park and 500 clubs were in attendance, with Máire Caulfield as our club representative. There were 10 stands showcasing the various support bodies that are more than willing to link in with GAA network to assist in implementing this programme. Joe Connolly, former Galway Hurler, in his address stated that the GAA are in a position where they can take a stand and say "no to the sea of change, which is the drug culture permeating Irish society". Each club has the power to influence change in very small ways at local level. An ASAP policy for our club is currently being discussed and when adopted will act as a guideline for use in the Club if presented with drug / alcohol related issues.

CLUB FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

A Monster Christmas Raffle was held during Christmas 2009 and the draw took place in "An Lochán" on the 2nd January 2010.

1st Prize: 1000 Litres Home Heating Oil. Sponsor, Gerry Winston.

Winner: Francis Hoban, Knock Rd, Ballyhaunis.

2nd Prize: €350 Irish Wood Briquettes. Sponsor, Michael Quinn.

Winner: John Maloney, Beech Park, Ballyhaunis.
 3rd Prize: €150 voucher. Sponsor, Dawn Meats.
 Winner: Paul Sykes, Agloragh, Ballyhaunis.
 4th Prize: €100 Shopping Voucher. Sponsor, Ballyhaunis GAA Club.
 Winner: Darren Conlon, Abbey Street.
 5th Prize: One year Club Lotto sub €90.
 Winner: William Nestor, Doctors Road.
 6th Prize: Meal for 4. Sponsor, "An Lochán".
 Winner: Oliver Jordan, Annagh.
 Thanks to our sponsors and everyone who supported this raffle. Your support is appreciated.

MAYO CLUB DEVELOPMENT DRAW

Our club quota of sales this year was set at 75 and we benefit by €90 per ticket once the quota is reached. We thank everyone who both purchased and sold tickets on behalf of the club.

CLUB LOTTO

The Lotto is the only income that the club has at present. The Lotto is led by Chairman, Tommy Waldron and he is supported by John Halpin, Tommy Glynn, Johnny Biesty and Michael Waldron each week. The weekly draw is held on Tuesday nights, and draw tickets can be purchased in various outlets in town, online at www.localotto.ie or purchased annually for a reduced fee of €90.00. Thanks to everyone who supported our Lotto this year. Thanks to all the parents and players who returned Sponsorship Cards for the C & C Cellular Road Race held on the 28th August 2010. Your support is valuable and very much appreciated.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND GROUNDS

Our grounds are one of the best appointed in Connacht. As well as hosting numerous Mayo Club Championships and League games during the year, we also hosted the Mayo Senior Hurling Final, the Connacht U-16 Ted Webb Cup and Shield finals and the Connacht Junior Football Final between Galway and Sligo. In January we will host an FBD League game between Mayo and Roscommon. All of the above games have contributed significantly to the sporting and economic welfare of Ballyhaunis. We are continually upgrading our facilities and invest large amounts of money in keeping them to the standards required.

DEFIBRILLATOR

A Defibrillator is in place outside our main gate and we wish to acknowledge the support of the Ballyhaunis and District Defibrillator Group and thank them for their ongoing training to club members.

THANKS

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, sponsors, players, team managers, selectors and referees for their time and commitment.

Thanks to the parents who support our players and provide transport when required, and to all who helped out with catering in the Club house at various events.

The voluntary nature of your involvement is the most valuable asset within our Club.



Mick O'Connell Cup 2009. The O'Connell Family, Friends and Players.

Included are Jarlath Fahy (Bord na nÓg secretary), Mary Prenty, Martin Fitzmaurice, Tommy Caulfield, Seamus Caulfield, Grainne O'Connell, Michael O'Connell Jr., Marian O'Connell and daughter. Captain Evan Henry's Team - Gary Higgins, Cormac Phillips, Patrick Caulfield, Neil Carney, Evan Fitzmaurice, Conor Sloyan, Ciaran Guilfoyle, Dylan Gaughan, Aran Rattigan. Captain Liam Herr's Team - David Cunnane, Michael McDonagh, Jack Coyne, Dara Healy, Conal Caulfield, John Reidy, Barry Cribbin, Darren Maughan, Joshua Webb, Tristan Walsh.

BALLYHAUNIS GAA CLUB PHOTOGRAPHS



Ballyhaunis Senior Football team 2010.

Back, L-R: Fergal Kelly, Kevin Nestor, Enda Griffin, Joe Freeley, John Gallagher, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Isaac Carroll, Ger Grogan, Jason Morley, Ciaran Griffin. Front: Keith Higgins, Brian Mulrennan, Brendan Rudden, Seamus O'Dwyer, Christy McCrudden, Liam McDermott, Brian Hunt, Niall Prenty, Declan Doyle, Kevin Gallagher.



Under 12 Division 2 Football League Winners 2009.

Back: Pat Phillips, Jason Foudy, Kevin Henry (management team). Centre: Conor Sloyan, Michael Hill, Liam Foudy, Oisín Henry, Cathal Carney, Mac-áine Uabaezuonia, Radek Cervenak, Garry Higgins, Sean Cunnane, Darren Coyne, Geger Ali, Sean Herr, Eamon Phillips, Martin Fitzmaurice (Mentor).

Front: Jakub Kolodziejczyk, Tommy Maughan, Piarais Caulfield, Tommy McDonagh, Carlton Uabaezuonia, James Reynolds, Brian O'Neill, Liam Herr, Evan Fitzmaurice, David Cunnane, Cormac Phillips.



Ballyhaunis Hurling Panel and Supporters 2010 - Winners of the Mayo Senior Hurling Championship 2010, T.J. Tyrrell Cup, for the third year in a row.

Back, L-R: Gerry Lyons (Chairman Hurling committee), Niall Murphy, Padraic Carney, Peter Healy, Pierce Higgins, Keith Higgins, Joe Flynn, Michael Regan, Tadhg Maloney, Stephen Hoban, Luke Cribbin, Jason Swords, Sean Griffin, Kieran Kiely, Donal O'Brien, Paul Lynch, Ray Lucey, J. P. Coen, Tadhg Buckley, Liam Lyons, John Joe Hoban, Donal Moran.

Front: David McConn, Fergal Lyons, Ryan Kilbane, Adrian Brennan, Brian Hunt, Paul McConn, Michael Walsh, Shane Murphy, Kieran McDermott, Eamon Phillips, Derek McConn (Captain), Christy McCrudden, Liam McDermott, Damien Kedian, Austin Lyons, Hugh McKermitt.



**Centre photograph:
Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Panel,
Runners up at Elevens Competition,
Ratoath, Co. Meath,
4th September 2010.**

Back, L-R: Tadhg Buckley, Christy McCrudden, J. P. Coen (Manager), Pierce Higgins, Michael Regan, Luke Cribbin, Hugh McKermitt, Niall Murphy, Paul McConn, Donal O'Brien, Jason Swords, Paul Lynch, John Joe Hoban, Martin McDermott, Gerry Lyons. Front: Damien Kedian, Brian Hunt, Stephen Hoban, Derek McConn (Capt.), Liam McDermott, Adrian Brennan, Peter Healy, David McConn.



Left:
Jackie Coyne,
Secretary Mayo Hurling
Committee, presenting
the T. J. Tyrrell Cup to
Ballyhaunis Team
Caption Derek McConn,
on the occasion of the
Ballyhaunis Hurling Team
winning the county
Final 2010.



Eoin Butler presents the Barry Butler Memorial Shield to the captain of the winning Kiltimagh team.



Under 14 Football 2010. Johnny Cribbin and Stephen Nolan with players Waquas Rehmon, Joseph Lyons, Stephen Nolan Jr., Robert McCormack, Gbolahan Salami, Mohammed Faizan, Mark Phillips, Azad Ali, James Cribbin, Thomas McDonagh, Cian Henry, Rory Nestor, David Cleary, Damian Egan, Jason Coyne.



U-16 East Mayo Championship Winners, Presentation of medals in 2009 by Keith Higgins.

Back, L-R: Conor Nolan, Jason Fahy, Eoghan Collins, Iobal Hannan, Sean Griffin, Gearoid Keane, Shane Murphy, Brian Murray (Manager).

Centre, L-R: Patrick Kiely, Ultan Griffin, Kieran McDermott, Darragh Richardson, John Flynn, Adrian Phillips, Keith Higgins.

Front, L-R: James Cribbin, Michael O'Rourke, Joe Sutton, Jack Hughes, Shane Healy, Darren Nolan.



U-10 footballers with parents, supporters and mentors at Dr. Crokes GAA Park, Killarney, Co Kerry, March 2010. Adults at back - Robbie Herr, Mary Tighe, Noreen Coyne, Brendan Kelly, Tom Carney, Helen Healy, Laura Webb, Aisling Caulfield, Alan Henry, Pat McCormack (with daughter), Mike Dillon, Stephen Nolan, Tony Glynn, Seamus Grogan, Vincent Higgins, Ciaran Cunnane, Seamus Caulfield, Paul Webb, Cathal Carroll, James Reidy and Brian Murray. Players at front with mentor Tommy Caulfield: Shane Healy, David Cunnane, Jacob Webb, Aoife Nolan, Garry Higgins, Niall Coffey, Liam Herr, Oisín Henry, Jessica Carroll and Saoirse Caulfield. Niall Carney, Ann O'Connell, Maedhbh Caulfield, Lisa Carney, John Reidy, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Evan Henry, Liam Foody, Jack Coyne and Cormac Phillips.

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Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present.
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You can contact Annagh Magazine by email at either: annaghmag@gmail.com or info@annaghmag.ie

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Deadline

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2011 is Friday, 21st October 2011. Email: annaghmag@gmail.com. Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please support local business and industry.

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@gmail.com, or visit our website www.annaghmag.ie.

The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2011 is Friday, 21st October 2011. 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. We cannot accept material in Microsoft Publisher format.

It is the policy of the magazine not to include obituaries or memoriam notices.

Due to space constraints, not all photographs or articles can be guaranteed inclusion.

The list of baptisms, marriages and deceased comes directly from the Parish 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

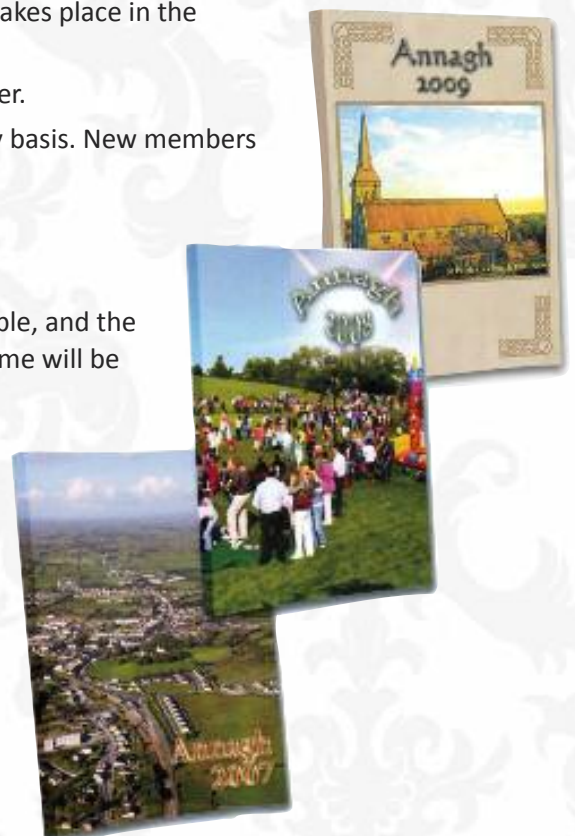
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Photographs will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.

Cover photograph 'Annagh 2010' by Jaroslav Jurak.





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