

# *Annagh*

2012





# Foreword

A story that has featured in the national news recently concerns a diary kept by a Dublin woman called Mary Martin. Sometime towards the end of 1915 this ordinary Dublin woman decided to keep a diary for 1916. Instead of just jotting down events and happenings she decided to keep it in the form of a letter to her son Charlie who had gone off to fight as a soldier in World War 1. Each day, through the pages of the diary, she tells him about seemingly ordinary events in the daily lives of her family, with a view to presenting it to him when he returns from the battlefield. She mentions going into the city centre on Easter Monday 1916 to find that there is an attempted uprising and there are soldiers everywhere. Little did she think at the time that she was witnessing a defining moment in Irish history and in the fight for Irish Independence. Eventually, as the weeks and months wear on, the sad reality that her son has died in battle begins to dawn on her and she loses the motivation for keeping the diary. The reason that it has featured in the news is that the diary has now been made available online, so that almost a hundred years later people can get an insight into how local, national and international events impacted on one family.

One of the consequences of the present economic



recession is that, once again, our bright and educated young people are leaving our shores in droves in search of a living in faraway places such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Thanks to phone-calls, texting, emails, Facebook and other social media networks, the world is now a much smaller place and communication is almost instantaneous. Letter writing is almost a forgotten art and as a result so much of the communication between families is in danger of being lost in cyberspace. Even in a digital age there is no substitute for the printed or 'hard' copy and that's why publications such as Annagh are a treasure. In years to come when people want to get a glimpse of what life was like for people living in Ballyhaunis and its environs in 2012, this magazine will be an invaluable reference. The pages of this publication document significant events in the lives of families and individuals such as births, marriages and deaths. It also records the activities of sporting clubs and voluntary organisations that are the lifeblood of every community. There are also articles and photos that recall memories of people and events of bygone days.

I wish to congratulate the members of the Annagh Magazine committee for their dedication to this project year after year and all who contributed in any way to its production.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all the members of our families at home and abroad a very happy Christmas and every blessing in 2013. To our emigrants, we will be remembering you especially at our Masses on Christmas Day.

*Stephen Farragher*  
**FR. STEPHEN FARRAGER P.P.**

# Editorial

**Peace and goodwill to all readers of Annagh 2012.** From its foundation in 1978 the Annagh Magazine has aimed to be for, and by, the people of Annagh parish. During the year we had the clustering of parishes in order to cope with the reduction in the number of priests. Annagh (Ballyhaunis) parish is now grouped with Aghamore, Began, Kiltullagh (Ballinlough) and Knock, in 'St. Joseph's Cluster of Parishes'. It is hoped that this movement will lead to efficient use of existing resources. On Easter Sunday, a Dawn Mass for all four parishes was celebrated on the shores of Lake O'Flynn, Ballinlough.

The extension to Scoil Íosa at Abbeyquarter was completed during the year, so that all Primary school pupils from the parish are now attending the one campus. At the rear of the school the Sisters of Mercy very generously donated some land to provide a football pitch and other sporting facilities for the pupils. The former St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School building was closed and its pupils transferred to the new campus. The nuns and staff in St. Joseph's had given loyal service for over 100 years. *A bualadh bos* from all of us.

Work commenced last August on the total refurbishment of Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool. When complete, this coming Spring, it will continue to be a great facility for the benefit of locals for many years to come.

Ballyhaunis Senior Hurlers retained the T. J. Tyrrell Cup by winning their fifth-in-a-row Senior County Title, captained by Keith Higgins. Congratulations to all concerned. In October Keith Higgins also became the first Ballyhaunis person to win a GAA All-Star Award as corner-back for the Mayo Senior Football team during the year.

We would like to express our thanks to our patrons (see their names on the back pages) who give us the financial aid to keep afloat. Thanks to all who contributed articles and photographs – they make the magazine.

Our special gratitude to our readers who always support us, and we hope you will enjoy the 2012 edition. We hope that the Annagh Magazine will continue to record the past and present in our own parish.

A happy and joyful Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year to everyone. *Go mbeirimid Beo ag am seo arís!*

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# Review of the Year 2012

## November 2011:

Lisa Freyne formerly of Hazelhill wins €33,800 including a Toyota Avensis car on the RTE National Lottery Winning Streak TV game show.

Ballyhaunis Community School students stage songs from the hit shows – Footloose, Mamma Mia and High School Musical in the School Auditorium for three nights only.

Running Gear Ltd scooped the overall title at the 15th Annual County and City Enterprise Boards National Enterprise Award held at Dublin Castle and received national newspaper and TV coverage. The company based in Coolnaha is an agricultural machinery manufacturer set up by brothers David, Dermot and Marcus Murphy along with their father Mark.

## December 2011:

Ballyhaunis man Ned Murren retires from his teaching post at St. Gerard's College, Castlebar. Ned was part of the Castlebar academy for 33 years, and now retires to his native Upper Main Street... Former Ballyhaunis Community School teacher Mary Freeley, Derrynacong, is laid to rest. The former Mary Haughey took up a teaching post in Ballyhaunis in 1958 when she joined the staff of the Convent of Mercy Secondary School for girls on Abbey Street. She became an integral part of the teaching staff at BCS when that school was established in 1977.

## January 2012:

The year of 2012 begins on a very sad note for the Ballyhaunis community, when Jason Morley, aged 37 years, dies suddenly at his home in Larganboy. Son of Tony and Josie Morley of Knox Street, Jason donned the red and black colours of Ballyhaunis GAA Club for many years. His death, so sudden and untimely, cast a dark shadow over the east Mayo parish in the first month of the year... Saturday, January 22nd is a red letter day for the Ballyhaunis GAA Club when four of Ireland's top GAA personalities take part in a skills afternoon at the local grounds. Kerry star Colm 'Gooch' Cooper is joined by fellow All-Ireland Senior medal winners, Brendan Cummins (hurling) from Tipperary; Barry Cahill (football) from Dublin and Kilkenny's seven times All-Ireland senior medalist J.J. Delaney. A great day was had by all, with outside broadcast by 2FM. It was a memorable day for Ballyhaunis GAA Club and its supporters.

## February:

MEP Jim Higgins makes a nostalgic visit to his old stomping ground of Ballyhaunis Community School, at the invitation of the Transition Year students. Jim, who retired from teaching at BCS in 1982 to pursue a very

successful political career, spoke about the workings of the European Parliament. A presentation was made by the MEP to 4th year student Michael Waldron of a four day trip to Strasbourg, which includes a visit to the European Parliament. Son of Walter and Catherine Waldron, Holywell, Michael won the award through an internet schools quiz... On the subject of quizzes, the team of Main Street Men capture the Eamonn Healy Memorial Table Quiz at the Hazel on February 24. The team members are Fr. Stephen Farragher, PP, Paddy Phillips, Paul Webb and Val Byrne... Great sadness is occasioned around the local region when 21 years old Shane Cleary passed away at the family home in Cusslough, Brickens. Shane is a past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School.

## March:

Ballyhaunis businessman and entrepreneur Austin Grogan, founder of Grogan's Concrete, Cave, dies following a brief illness. Founder of the Ballyhaunis firm over 50 years ago, Austin was a pillar of the Ballyhaunis community, as trustee of the local GAA Club, Chamber of Commerce founding member and a valuable member of the Millennium Spire Committee... Ballyhaunis Credit Union launch Members' Car Draw... Former Bridge Street publican Paddy McKenna is laid to rest. A native of Craigavon, Co. Armagh, the late Mr. McKenna operated the former 'Paddy's Lounge' (now Colleran's Pharmacy), in the early 1980's... Sean Neary, a native of Culnacleha, Brickens, is the Grand Marshall for St. Patrick's Day parade on Broadway. Sean is son of Maureen and the late Paddy Neary from Culnacleha... Pattenspark residents Austin and Dorothy Biesty celebrate the great news of the arrival of twin girls, Alicia and Shauna, on March 24th.

## April:

Ballyhaunis Community School students raise €2,000 in support of the organisation SERVE, helping to create worthwhile projects in the developing world... The Central Statistics Office has issued the results and findings of the 2011 national census. The census revealed that Ballyhaunis was the fastest growing town in Mayo, in terms of population. The population of the east Mayo town now stands at 3,008. The report indicated that Ballyhaunis experienced a percentage growth of 35%, from 2006 to 2011... Ballyhaunis native Craig Hughes wins the inaugural Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism. A final year student of journalism at University of Limerick, Craig is son of Stella and Robbie Hughes, Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis. The award is named in memory of Vincent Doyle, Irish Independent editor from 1981 to 2005.





## May:

Good news for Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool. A total of €492,000 is allocated by the government and Mayo County Council to completely demolish and reconstruct the Clare Street facility. Work started in early summer and should be complete by spring of 2013... Former manager of Irish Ale Breweries, Joe Coonerty dies in Galway. A native of Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, Joe was manager of the Abbeyquarter depot for a number of years during the 1970's and 80's... Ballyhaunis Community School bids farewell to long time teaching staff members

Peggy Egan and Eileen Byrne, who retired from staff duty after many years of sterling service... RTÉ weather presenter Evelyn Cusack launches the 2012 Ballyhaunis Summer Festival with a talk on the weather at the community school. Sister Oliver McDonagh is laid to rest after a brief illness. A native of Cloonmoylan, Tuam, Co. Galway, Sr. Oliver taught at the Convent of Mercy primary school in Ballyhaunis for over two decades, from 1945 to 1969. She served as principal there from 1963 to 1969.

## June:

Ballyhaunis Golf Club pays tribute to club member Marge Hierons on her departure from the Club and the local area back to her home in South Africa... Pat Freeley wins the President's Prize (Stephen Ryall) at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... Chris O'Neill from Aisling Drive is the winner of the first Members' Car Draw, hosted by Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union... As Midsummer's day approaches, the month of June so far is regarded as one of the wettest for many years... June 22nd, 2012 marks the end of over 100 years of history for primary school education at St. Joseph's Primary School, when the Convent of Mercy National School children depart the Abbey Street academy for the very last time. The students now become part of the Scoil Iosa senior school at Abbeyquarter, following the completion of the building extension at the former St. Mary's National School. The first students took up residence at St. Joseph's on Abbey Street, in October, 1901... Fianna Fail leader Michael Martin pays tribute to the late Michael Waldron 'The Minister', from Cave, for a lifetime of service to the organisation in the west of Ireland. As 80 members of the local Comhairle Ceanntair group descend on Dail Eireann for a day trip, Deputy Martin presents the Waldron family with a special commemorative plaque, in gratitude and in memory of their brothers' service to the party... Ballyhaunis native Evelyn



**2012 All-Star Keith Higgins and Mayo Captain Andy Moran, with Keith's niece Erin Higgins. Photograph taken after Mayo beat Sligo in the Connaught Final this July.**

O'Connor wins the Secondary School Teacher of the Year Award. Daughter of Pat and Patricia O'Connor, Hazelhill, Evelyn is attached to the teaching staff of Mount St. Michael Secondary School in Claremorris.

## July:

The main talking point of the summer so far is the weather; as the month of June was one of the wettest on record, July continues with the same pattern, rain and damp conditions affecting all parts of the country and in many parts of England as well... Allied Irish Bank has announced that the organisation is to close 67 of their

branches in Ireland. Among them is the Ballyhaunis branch on Bridge St., which is set to close on October 1st ... Ballyhaunis native Fr. Kieran Waldron gives a wonderful interview on Midwest Radio, talking about Ballyhaunis, its people and the place of times gone by. The three hour interview was hosted by Joe Byrne.

## August:

Ballyhaunis native Mary Flatley dies in Sydney, Australia. Mary was a member of a well known family on Main Street, proprietors of 'The Café'. She had been predeceased by her brothers Seamus and Bill, and sisters Mercy and Betty... Shopfronts Exhibition in the Friary is a great success. The project, co-ordinated by Joan Flanagan from Spaddagh, was held to mark National Heritage Week, and included some rare photos of shop fronts from the town... Former Scoil Iosa teacher June Duffy launches her first book for children, entitled. 'I've Seen Grandad'. London native June, resides in Cartron North with husband Tony... Eight years old John Joe Finn puts on a magical display of football talent for soccer fans at the local pitch on Station Rise. John Joe, whose parents live in Spain, has recently been signed by Spanish club Real Madrid for the Youths Academy. He is grandson of Michael Finn, Devlis... Roscommon native Gerry Croghan takes over as Manager at Ballyhaunis Post Office. Gerry is indeed no stranger to the local P.O. as he worked here for a number of years before taking up a post at Claremorris Post Office in 1996... Having beaten Down in the Quarter final on the bank holiday weekend, Mayo defeat Dublin in a thrilling All-Ireland semi-final... Work begins on the reconstruction of the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool. Costing in the region of €400,000, the project is expected to be completed by Spring, 2013. Work on the building programme is being carried out by Michael Duane Contractors, Castlebar.





**Another first for Ballyhaunis Community School.** *Ballyhaunis Community School has seen many 'firsts' at the Knock Road academy since its inception in 1977. This September (2012), at the beginning of another school term, BCS established another first when three sets of twins began school together in first year: Pictured are the three sets of twins, from left: Liam and Aibhinn Herr, Ciara and Niamh Flanagan, and Maja and Piotr Cieslikowski, with Principal Pat McHugh and First Year Head, Ms. Geraldine O'Loughlin.*

### September:

Another first for Ballyhaunis Community School when three sets of twins began school together in first year: Liam and Aibhinn Herr, Ciara and Niamh Flanagan, and Maja and Piotr Cieslikowski... There was great excitement and colour in the build up to the All-Ireland Senior Football Final on the 23rd Sept. In a thrilling display of top class football Donegal came out victorious over a gallant Mayo side which featured local man Keith Higgins at Corner Back... The second annual Martin

Connery Day of Cycling is held in Ballyhaunis. A large number of participants turn out for the 150 mile cycle, which honours the late Martin from Bohogue, who helped initiate the Annagh Wheelers Club in Ballyhaunis over 20 years ago... Ballyhaunis graduate Lydia Concannon begins a six month stint at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. Lydia was chosen from several contestants from IT Sligo to take part in the first ever Yeats Design Residency at the famous Dublin theatre. A graduate of IT Sligo, where she undertook a four year B.A. Honors Degree in Performing Arts, Lydia is daughter of Christina (nee Nolan) and Peter Concannon, Ballyhaunis... The last day of the month, September 30th, ends on a sad note when former Mayo Dáil deputy P.J. Morley dies, at the age of 81. P.J., from Cloonfaughna, Knock, represented the area in Dáil Eireann from 1977 to 1997.

### October:

Ballyhaunis Hurlers win their fifth Senior County Hurling title in a row, defeating Tooreen by 1-14 to 0-16... The Ballyhaunis branch of Allied Irish Bank, on Bridge St., closed for the last time on 26th Oct... Tragedy hits the neighbouring village of Gorthaganny when well known proprietor of the Coney Island Bar, Liam Elwood (38), dies following an accident in Ballaghaderreen... Keith Higgins of Ballinphuill becomes the first Ballyhaunis recipient of an All-Star Award for his displays at corner-back on the Mayo Senior Football team... Donal O'Brien, a member of staff at Scoil Iosa, was selected on the Christy Ring All-Star Hurling team 2012 as goalkeeper. Donal is the Ballyhaunis and Mayo Senior Hurling goalkeeper.

**Mike Byrne**

## Evelyn Cusack Opens Summer Festival

On Wednesday 30th May Evelyn Cusack of Met Eireann (the Irish Weather Forecasting service) attended the Ballyhaunis Community School to give a talk on the weather. She named the talk "Ireland's Weather - A Journey Through Time" and talked about how weather affects the world now, how weather affected us in the

past and how to predict the weather in the future.

Alison McDermott, Chamber President officially opened the Summer Festival and introduced Evelyn by welcoming her to the town.

Evelyn spoke at length in a way that everyone could understand, from the young to the old and even had audience participation. She showed many pictures to help people understand what was being said and a short video about the evolution of weather which everyone enjoyed. She then opened the floor to questions from the audience and answered each thoroughly.

Ballyhaunis Chamber would also like to express our thanks to Principal Pat McHugh for the use of the Community School, Mike Griffin for making initial contact with Evelyn Cusack and bringing her to Ballyhaunis.

**Pictured left: Evelyn Cusack (Met Eireann), Mary Theresa and Mike Griffin.**





# Manchester to Gurrane

**My father, Martin McGuire, a native of Gurrane (Corraun), walked out of the village in 1927 and together with Pat Cruise and Paddy Gannon headed for the Ballyhaunis railway station.** Like so many others around that time he was off to Bolton, England looking for work. At five foot ten inches my father was the smallest of the trio so he was given the nickname, "The Mouse."

With minimal skills and only three years of schooling at Derrylea School, the jobs open to young men like my father mostly involved manual labour. These men would head out to a crossroads north of Bolton where English farmers would pick up day labourers for haymaking, picking spuds and other farming jobs. They would earn a few shillings for the rent, a few bob for the pub and the dance at the end of the week and, hopefully, some money to send back home. Rooming houses were where they stayed and the rooms were sixpence a week.

My mother, Mary McGuire nee Cannon, was a Bolton native and her father, Thomas had emigrated to Bolton from Knock about 1905. My parents moved from Bolton to Matlock Place in the Greenheys neighborhood of Manchester and were married in July 1937 in the Holy Name Church in Manchester.

## War

I came along in April 1938 with war looming on the horizon. When the war began in September 1939, the British government ordered the evacuation of almost one million children from the cities due to the potential bombing. Like many other children of Irish parents, I was fortunate to end up on the family farm in Gurrane with my grandmother, Honnie, and my uncle Luke as my surrogate parents. Pat Finn, the only other refugee from Manchester, was living next door with her mother Mary and her grandparents, Celia and Mike Finn.

Some of my compatriots were less fortunate and ended up in poorly run rooming houses in English country towns, living with strangers on very meagre rations. Others were sent to the US and Canada never to return as some foster parents refused to send them back, and many of the children, like me, were too young to remember their parents anyway. An older friend of mine refused to return to England from Mayo with his mother because he was so used to living with his two aunts.

Although I have no recollection of this time, I must

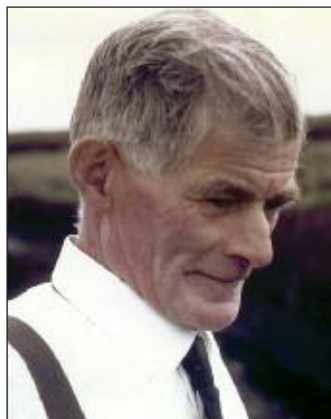
have settled in well to the pace of country life. I attended Derrylea School for a while which was then under the direction of Joe Cooney. After the War, I attended the school during our summer holidays when John and Mary Higgins were the teachers. All of my father's family had attended Derrylea School and my great-aunt, Bridget McGuire, was one of its first pupils in 1895.



**The Lads of Gurrane, Circa 1940. L-R: Jim Connell, Dave Freeley, Bernie Freeley, Joe Byrne, Jimmy Gannon, Luke McGuire, Tom Moore. Taken outside Luke McGuire's house, circa 1940 by Mary McGuire, the author's mother.**

After returning to Manchester in 1944 to live with my father and mother, I settled into a new life in Moss Side with my new brother, Terence, and a very different society and culture. In 1949 we visited Gurrane for the first time after the war. It was a great experience especially for my younger brother Terence and I as it seemed so new and different to our eyes. We travelled over from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire on the Hibernia and then by train to Westland Row (now Pearse Station). Our first stop was to head across the street to eat a breakfast which we could only dream of in Manchester - eggs, rashers, bacon, good bread and plenty of it - no coupons needed. The boat ride over was always a joyous occasion as many people had not travelled during the war and money was tight. The piano accordions and fiddles were going all night, the dancing was in full swing, the Guinness was flowing and it was just one big spontaneous party with everyone excitedly looking forward to going home. Needless to say, the return journey had a bit of a dour mood about it. Dublin at that time was like the biking capital of the world. Once a traffic light turned green, about ten thousand bikes all started moving at once. The train from Dublin was





**Luke McGuire**



**Dominic Byrne**



**Paddy Kearns**



**Jimmy Flatley**

#### **Men of Gurrane.**

*All photos were taken by John P. McGuire between 1980 and 2001.*

destined for Galway so we had to change trains in Athlone to get the Westport train. As we got closer to Ballyhaunis, the smell of turf fires permeated the air and replaced the sulphur and soot of Dublin and Manchester.

As food was rationed in England, we felt very fortunate to be able to spend several summers eating fresh vegetables, the home made churned butter, soda bread baked over the turf fire and collecting eggs directly from the hens' nests and getting the salted bacon from the tea chest. The English rations were one egg a week, two ounces of butter, two ounces of margarine (which tasted awful) and four ounces of meat a week. Everyone we knew was as skinny as a rail, except for one of my English classmates whose parents owned a grocery store. Frequently we would carry a dozen eggs and some homemade butter back with us but sometimes it would be taken off us by the customs officers in Holyhead as I am sure they thought it would be better served on their plates than ours.

Although the German-built Ardnacrusha hydroelectric power station in County Clare was commissioned in 1929, it was not until 1953 that an electric line ran into Gurrane. Not everyone wanted the electricity due to the cost of wiring up some of the houses which were some distance from the main line. Therefore, they continued

to use paraffin oil lamps and candles and the radios with the wet cell batteries. We were fortunate to have Dominic Byrne as a close neighbour because he used to charge the wet cell battery for our radio and also sell us paraffin oil for our lamps too. As an avid reader, Dominic's house was always an interesting place to visit. His two sisters in Boston were always sending over parcels of magazines and books, and I always enjoyed the Readers Digest and discussing stories with him.

The bedroom my brother Terence and I shared was small by any standard; it was called a Hag, a lean-to cement structure just a bit larger than the bed itself. It was built by John Lyons before the war and had a small window which opened onto my grandmother's flower garden of roses, hollyhocks, and tiger lilies. To complete the bucolic picture, hanging just below the thatched roof was a birdcage with a yellow finch inside. However, the five foot high mound of cow dung and straw on the other side of the wall was somewhat of a distraction. My uncle Luke would send me out into the yard looking for old nails that could be straightened and reused. My Grandmother would wash the Odlums flour bags, open them and stitch them together and stuff them with straw to make a comfortable albeit noisy mattress. With no guaranteed income, everything was recycled. We were green long before it was popular.

#### **Rambling House**

For a long time our house had been the rambling house for the village, and the neighbours would drop in any time of day. The door was always open, and the women came during the day to learn the latest news - especially if Austin Cribbin, our mailman, was around as he was always a great source of news and stories. In the evening, the men came and talked about cattle prices, the war and the weather. Then they would play cards and finish with a game of Twenty-five, listen to the news on the wet cell radio for ten minutes and, after they left, we would all kneel down and recite the Rosary. One night Matt Griffin came in with a \$20 note sent by his brother in New York and it was dutifully passed around and inspected with everyone commenting on what a great man his brother was and how well he must be doing. The \$20 note was probably worth two weeks wages at that time if you could find work. Listening to the stories around the kitchen table there was no doubt that some lacked a little credibility, and I have not been able to decide whether or not a neighbour really did see the Devil when he left our house one night and whether or not a farmer ploughing near Eaton's Lake really drowned in the lake when his horse got spooked and dragged him into the lake because he had the reins wrapped around his wrists. However, I must say that there was many an enlightened discussion on those nights and good old fashioned common sense was never in short supply.





In 1949 the pace of life in Gurrane and the farming methods used were pretty much the same as they were in the previous hundred years. It was all manual labour except for the thrashing machine and a horse drawn mowing machine which Paddy Kearns owned. We owned a French-made copper spraying machine; it was used to spray the potato stalks to prevent the blight. When filled with water, bluestone and lime in the right proportions you hoisted it on your back using the two straps, and with the attached pump handle in your left hand and the spraying wand in your right, you moved the wand left and right across the stalks and hoped for a good harvest. Although unspoken, people seemed to be fearful of a return of the blight and with good reason as the Famine decimated the population of Mayo.

All the houses in the village were thatched except for Mike Finn's and Dominic Byrne's which had slate roofs. We carried two buckets of water twice a day from Tobar Tomás, the well of Thomas, a well on Paddy Kearns' land. With the exception of one or two families with an outhouse there were no toilet facilities, no tractors at all, and everyone either had a horse or a donkey and cart. There was no end of work from milking cows to dipping sheep, ploughing, sowing, harrowing, scuttling, weeding, saving hay, making hay ropes, thatching, cutting oats and cutting, spreading, stacking and bringing home the turf with the horse and cart and making sure the belly band was tight.

Sundays were of course days of rest with everyone off to Mass at Logboy Church. Most people walked the two miles, some bicycled and Paddy Kearns would occasionally drive the horse and trap and give people a ride. Both the priest and the teacher came in their cars. Many of the men stood outside the church until the bell rang, and then everyone filed in with the women seated on the left hand side and the men on the right. Gender segregation was strictly enforced by the parish priest of the time. Sunday afternoon the men and boys would gather outside Pat (Bun) Finn's house to play pitch and toss using a comb for the toss and to discuss the previous night's movie at the Star Cinema in Ballyhaunis and any other news they had. In an earlier time they had used the gable wall of our house as a ball alley and according to Mick Lyons there were as many as forty men and lads there.

If anyone needed a haircut, they would wander down to our house and ask my uncle Luke if he would give them a clip as he was handy with the clippers. He would take a chair from the house, move it to the middle of the road and start clipping. If the occasional car came by, he and the customer would move to the side of the road. Luke was often asked to kill pigs for neighbours and my first experience of this task was at Av Griffin's farm where my uncle proceeded to hang the pig by his two hind legs from the cow shed doorway and then slit him



**Wedding of Martin McGuire and Mary Teresa Cannon, 7th August 1937, Holy Name Church, Manchester.**  
**Back, L-R: Edward Doyle, Martin McGuire, Fr. James Cosgrove, S.J. Front: Eva Wood, Mary T. McGuire.**  
 Photo taken by The Oxford Studio.



**The author (right) with his brother Terence and grandmother Honnie McGuire.**

down the middle. I can still hear that pig squealing. The women of the house cleaned the pig and made blood puddings, some of which were given to Luke as a form of payment and thanks.

As poor as everyone in the West was at that time, they were always willing to share and help out a neighbour in trouble. One summer Matt Griffin, our neighbour, was



sick and could not bring home his hay from Trishnan's (Treston's). So on a Sunday, about a dozen farmers and helpers from Gurrane and Johnstown yoked up their horses and carts and brought his hay home in the one day. It was a great demonstration of the spirit of co-operation among poor farmers who never knew when they themselves might be in need of help. Without relatives in America and England sending over money and clothing it would have been very tough indeed for many people.

After fifteen years in Manchester, I decided that it was time for another move. My ultimate destination was to be to Boston in 1959 as I followed a chain of migration started by my grandmother's uncle from Reisk, Martin Waldron. He was a pioneer, a veteran of the American Civil War and a Private in Company B, Hibernian Guards, 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Of the original 339 Officers and men only 168 were present for mustering out three years and three months later. He was wounded at the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia - a great Irishman and a great American.

**John P. McGuire**

*The author is a semi-retired engineer, a former President of the Eire Society and the County Mayo Association of Boston.*

**Pictured right: Luke McGuire and his mother Honnie McGuire with their godson Paddy Lyons, taken outside McGuire's house, Gurrane, 1950s.**



**The author and his grandmother Honnie McGuire, circa 1939. Photograph taken by Mary McGuire.**



**L-R: Pat Finn, Frank Lyons, John McGuire, all of Gurrane, 1941. Photograph taken by Mary McGuire.**



**Pictured at a Carnival in the 1940s:**

**L-R: Frank Lyons (Gurrane), Willie Connell (Devlis) and Tom Hunt (Derrynacong).**

*Photograph courtesy of The Lyons family, Gurrane.*





# Gurrane Photographs

*Courtesy of The Lyons family, Gurrane.*



Taken in Johnstown in the 1950s. L-R: Babe Coen (Redford), Noreen Lyons (Johnstown), Bridie Lyons (Johnstown), Mary Costello (Gurrane).



Tom Coen (Redford), Pake Molloy (Gurrane), Joe Rattigan (Lecarrow) and Tom Rattigan (Lecarrow). Photograph taken on Clare Road in the 1950s.



Taken in Gurrane, 1940. L-R: John Lyons (Snr.), Frank Lyons, Martin Griffin, Pake Molloy, Pat Griffin, Noreen Molloy, Jimmy Flatley, all of Gurrane.



John Connell (Redford), Pat Molloy (Gurrane) and Paddy Kearns (Gurrane), taken during the Big Snow, 1947.



Left: Tom Moylett (Curries) with Greyhounds. Tom was a noted Boxer.



Celia Lyons and grandson Jason Lyons with the Morris Minor truck customised in the Mayo colours by her son John.







Transition Year students 2011-12 from Ballyhaunis Community School, pictured with MEP Jim Higgins, during his visit to the school last February. Sen. Higgins, who retired from the staff of Ballyhaunis Community School in 1982, was invited by transition year pupils to give a talk on the working of the European Parliament and a typical day in the life of an elected member of the parliament. Back, L-R: Daniel McDermott, Martin O'Gara, Cian Cunningham, Michael Waldron, Kevin Kilbride, Michael O'Rourke, Darren Moloney, Mark Ruane, Sean McDermott. Centre: Michaela Durkin, Ronan Murphy, Caoimhe Henry, Morgan Lyons, Jason Coyne, Sarah Mitrovic, Tommy Kearns, Andrew Manning. Front: Eric Fitzgerald, Cyril Collins, Jim Higgins MEP, David Frayne, Ronan Forde.



Brothers Brendan, Donal and James Toolan of Knockanarra pictured on their way to this year's All-Ireland Football Final, Mayo v Donegal.



Donna, Caroline and Bernadette Keane, triplet daughters of Bernard and Margaret Keane, Coventry and Annagh, on the occasion of their First Holy Communion at St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, pictured with Gretta Jordan (Annagh) and Mrs. Sarah A. Waldron (Cave).



Pictured are the Lynch family of New Hyde Park, New York. Two sisters, Ciara and Deirdre 'Champions of Irish Dancing' participate in Oireachtas and Irish Feis competitions in many major U.S. cities. Their brother Austin Sean (middle) plays the bagpipes in the Tyrone Pipers Band at the various St. Patrick's Day parades and numerous Irish functions. Their proud grandmother Mary Grogan Austin hails from Holywell, Ballyhaunis and her sister Anne Grogan Lynch still resides in Holywell. Their parents are Elizabeth Lynch and P. J. Lynch natives of Ardlach, Virginia, Co. Cavan.



John Hurley and Joe Hosty taken outside St. Mary's Church, Dingle.





# Planning for a Better World

Last year I wrote an article about how I ended up living in Denmark, so this year I thought it would be a good idea to explain what I actually do in Denmark.

I am currently based in Aalborg University Copenhagen, which is located approximately 2 km from Copenhagen city centre. My official title is 'Assistant Professor in Energy Planning', which doesn't give away much, so in this article I hope to explain four key things: what I do, why I do it, how I do it, and why is it relevant to Ballyhaunis?



## What I do...

Like any academic, my professional life is a mixed bag which contains teaching, research, writing, presenting, and travelling. However, the core part of my job is research, since this is the foundation for all of the others.

My area of research is energy planning, with a specific focus on renewable energy. Take a look around you and you will soon realise that energy is everywhere and the source of almost everything we do in modern society. Electricity may be providing light for you to read this article or powering a radio/TV in the background, oil is probably being burned to heat the house you are sitting in, gas could have been used to cook the food you have eaten, and the car in the driveway probably contains a tank full of very expensive petrol/diesel. In other words, even while you are sitting still reading a magazine, energy is still contributing enormously to the comfort of your life.

Now that you can see that energy is everywhere, you will also start to appreciate that supplying this energy is very complicated. For example, the electricity in your light is supplied in a very different way to the oil contained in your car. In my research, we usually talk about three types of energy which must be supplied: electricity, heat, and transport. What I do is try to identify how each of these types of energy can be supplied in the future using renewable energy only.

## Why renewable energy is the future...

I am trying to identify how we can supply our energy needs using renewable energy for four key reasons:

- Cost
- Job creation
- Security of supply
- Environment

I've noticed in the Irish news over the last few months that energy is becoming a popular news story for one key reason... cost. For example, on the 18th August 2012 I noticed that the price of petrol and diesel is reaching record prices and on the 5th September 2012 Bord Gais was granted permission to increase its gas prices by 22%. This is happening for one, and only one fundamental reason: oil, gas, and coal (commonly referred to as fossil fuels) are running out and at the same time the demand for these resources is increasing, since countries such as China, Russia, India, and Brazil continue to develop. Of course, it is possible that the price of fossil fuels is only increasing because the people who own them know they can charge more for them. However, it is easy to see that this argument has been eliminated in recent years based on another basic business principal: competition. In recent years, the price of fossil fuels has increased so much that electricity can now be produced from wind turbines at a cheaper price than fossil fuels. In fact, electricity from those wind turbines that you often see on the hills around Mayo are now producing electricity at approximately two-thirds of the price of a new fossil fuel power plant. This has been both an encouraging and a frightening revelation in recent years: encouraging since it suggests that the age of renewable energy is now just around the corner, but frightening since it also suggests that the fossil fuels we built our modern society around are now really struggling to keep up with our growing needs. So in relation to costs, fossil fuels prices will continue to rise in the future and since renewable energy is already a cheaper alternative today, it will be more economical to use renewable energy to meet our energy needs.

The next important point to discuss is job creation. I am sure that everyone is well aware of the wealth that fossil fuels have created in countries outside of Ireland. All you need to do is look at the cities of Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the Middle East or if you are a soccer fan, look at the incredible sums of money being spent by oil tycoons at Chelsea and Manchester City football clubs. The reason that this wealth is being created is due to the obvious flow of money out of countries that do not have fossil fuels (such as Ireland) into countries that do have fossil fuels (such as Saudi Arabia). However, in contrast, renewable energy is obtained from local resources such as the wind above our heads, the waves along our coast, the sun from the sky, and the bioenergy growing in our fields. This means that when we buy renewable energy we are in fact buying local energy. This is the same principal that is often related to the food industry: I know that I always like to buy Irish beef or milk in the supermarket since I know it is supporting our local economy. In the same way, people need to start buying



local renewable energy instead of imported fossil fuels. In a recent study I completed for Limerick and Clare county councils ([www.lcea.ie](http://www.lcea.ie)), I calculated that by 2020, approximately 2,000 extra jobs could be created in Limerick and Clare based by implementing more renewable energy and more energy efficiency. In fact, when any local region in Ireland converts from imported fossil fuels to local renewable energy, it is very likely that there will be corresponding increase in local jobs.

Another reason I believe that renewable energy should be utilised in Ireland is security of supply. This is a very simple one to explain. At present Ireland imports approximately 90% of its energy, which means that if there is a global energy shortage, we will suffer from a shortage of energy. As I have already pointed out, energy is all around you, so I think everyone can appreciate the impact that an energy shortage would have on our everyday lives. In contrast, there is enough renewable energy available in Ireland to meet all of energy needs. For example, there is enough economically-viable wind energy available in Ireland to meet double our electricity needs. So a renewable energy future also means a secure energy future.

The final reason I promote renewable energy is for the future of our environment. I am not going to dwell on this too much, since it has been well-documented over the last 30 years that global warming is already occurring. In recent years, we have all heard the news bulletins relating to the 'coldest winter', the 'wettest summer', and the 'worst flooding' since records began. We have also seen images of more and more snow melting across the Arctic. These are events we have been warned about since the early 1990s and by now, almost the entire scientific world agrees that burning fossil fuels is the largest contributor to it. In fact, the world's leading energy advisor to national governments, the International Energy Agency, warned last year that if we do not change our global energy strategy by 2015, it will be too late to avoid dangerous climate change effects. Therefore, converting to renewable energy will avoid environmental damage, natural disasters, and the loss of human life in the future.

So now you know why I believe we should provide all of our energy from renewable resources in the future: it will cost less, create more local jobs, provide us with secure energy, and improve the environment. However, I still need to explain exactly what I am doing to promote this.

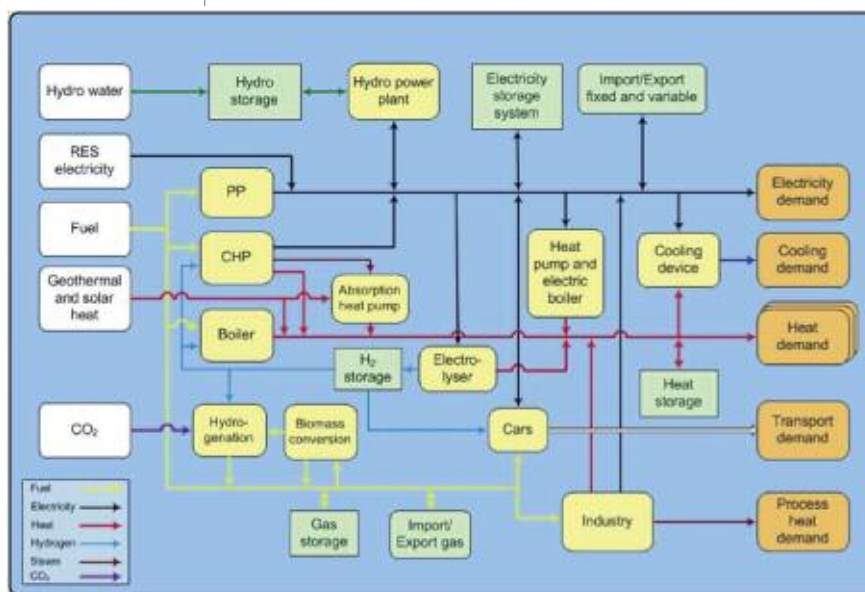
#### What 'energy planning' involves...

Now that you understand the benefits of renewable energy and why it

is good for our future, I want to focus on what exactly my role is as an energy planner. You can imagine that an energy system is a very complex network between supply and demand, which you can see from the picture below. On the supply side you have different types of fuels, technologies, and renewable energy resources. Each one has its own way of operating, produces different types of energy, and has different costs. On the demand side, you have different types of energy that people need (primarily electricity, heat, and transport) and different ways that they consume these types of energy. When you put all of these characteristics together, you get a complex energy system. As we begin to use more renewable energy, it becomes even more complex because we start to introduce new technologies that we are not familiar with. It is my job to research how these new technologies will interact with one another. For the most part, I use a computer model to complete these analyses. The primary objective is to quantify the impact of using more renewable energy in different energy systems in terms of costs, jobs, and energy demands. The size of the energy systems I investigate can vary considerably from one study to the next. For example, I am currently working on a project which is focused on the EU energy system. In the past, I have carried out studies on the Irish energy system and even completed a local study for Limerick and Clare counties. Even though the challenges are different for each of these, the overall principal is always the same: we need to convert an existing system based on fossil fuels to a new system based on renewable energy.

#### Why is this relevant to Ballyhaunis?

Ballyhaunis could even be considered an energy system. In the future, small local areas will play a crucial role in the transition to renewable energy. This has already been demonstrated in Denmark over the last 30



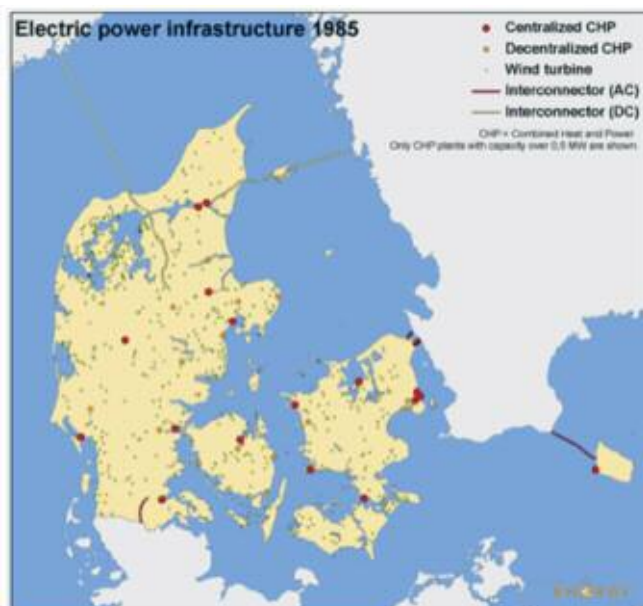
The different technologies, conversion processes, and demands that need to be considered in our future energy system.





years. In fact, as you can see in the picture below, power plants in Denmark are no longer located in the big cities like in 1985, but instead are scattered all around the countryside. This refers back to the issues I outlined earlier: that a renewable energy system is based on local resources. In Ballyhaunis, local resources could be utilised to produce local energy needs. For example, here are some ideas:

- Wind turbines could be installed in the rural areas around the town: local jobs are created for the installation and annual maintenance of the turbines.
- Biogas could be produced in the town by collecting the waste from local farmers, chicken houses, and the meat factory. Local people will be employed to collect the waste, build the biogas plant, and operate the biogas plant.
- District heating could be installed in the town to reduce the costs of heat and improve the quality of living. Local construction workers will be needed to install the pipes, while local plumbers and electricians will need to convert the houses from boilers to district heating.
- The biogas created could be burned in a combined heat and power (CHP) plant in the town so the heat could be sent to the district heating network and the electricity could be sold to the national grid. You now have a very local energy supply chain: local biogas being used to create local electricity and heat. If any local Irish town gets this far, it will then be time to consider new education and training facilities, as I would expect many more towns to replicate it.

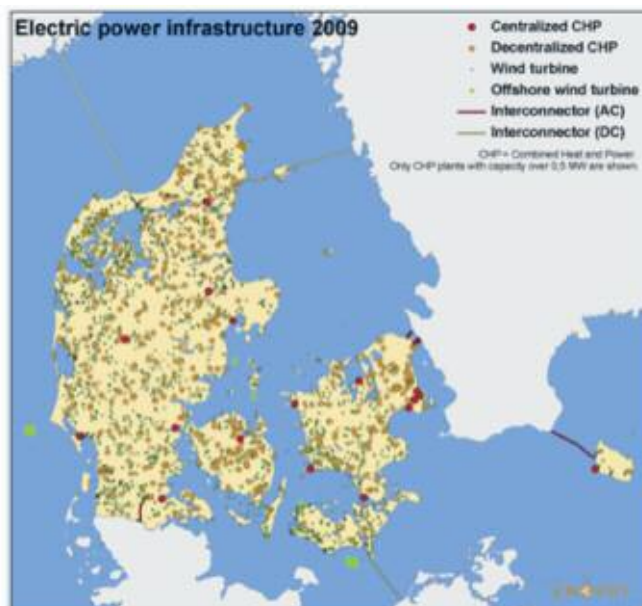


- Ground source heat pumps could replace oil boilers in the rural houses, so the heat required could be produced from the local wind turbines instead of using oil.
- It would also be nice to have more bike lanes around

town (which could extend as far as Lecarrow!). Since moving to Copenhagen (where 30% of people bike to work), I have not only survived, but thoroughly enjoy life without a car. My 6 km cycle to and from work is a welcome 20 minute start and end to the day, and much more enjoyable than traffic.

- Finally, and most importantly, these initiatives should be developed and owned by the local people that use them. For example, a co-operative ownership structure is very popular in Denmark for this local energy infrastructure. In this way, the people who use the energy infrastructure are those who benefit economically from it. I know that there are many people who cannot imagine this type of organisation, but in many ways it is very similar to the co-operatives previously set up in the agricultural sector and the local water schemes developed all around rural Ireland.

There are many other actions, opportunities, and complications involved with the transition to renewable energy. However, if a rural area like Mayo wants to create a new industry and reverse the declining trend in its population, then this challenge is something that should be embraced. If you would like to know more about this topic or my research, please feel free to contact me ([www.dconnolly.net](http://www.dconnolly.net)). I would also like to mention that we run a number of Master and PhD programmes on Sustainable Energy at Aalborg University, which Irish students can complete without any tuition fees (<http://www.sustainablecities.aau.dk/>). So if you are interested in learning more about the courses available, feel free to contact me.



**The transition from large-scale centralised power plants in Denmark in 1985, to decentralised small-scale combined heat and power plants in 2009.**

**David Connolly**  
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[www.dconnolly.net](http://www.dconnolly.net)



## Treasure in the Attic

My father Patsy Glynn started taking photographs back in 1951. He was one of the first of his generation to embrace the new technology of printing and developing photographs. Before the age of digital photographs every photograph had a negative and he put each negative into a box to save it. When the box was full it went into a bigger box. I started taking pictures when I was fifteen. All of my negatives went into similar boxes alongside my dad's. Over the years rooms were filled with boxes of negatives... eventually the boxes were moved into an attic to make room for more boxes!



**Pictured at function in the 1960s. Padraic and Agnes Heaney, Paddy Delaney, Maria and Tony Cribbin.**

About three years ago we re-roofed the house (due to leaks) and all the boxes of negatives were taken down from the attic. There were hundreds of boxes and thousands of negatives (120mm, 35mm black and white as well as colour). While many boxes were damaged they had protected the majority of the negatives inside. The boxes could easily have been dumped, but out of curiosity I stated looking through one of them and found negatives of photos my dad had taken in the early sixties of a school friend of mine. I scanned the negatives and emailed them to

him and within minutes he e-mailed me back thanking me for the photographs. He said that when the photographs were taken his father hadn't enough money to put bread on the table never mind pay for photographs and his family had no photographs of when they were growing up. He was delighted to get them.

Since then with a 'little help' from some friends we have set up a website ([www.glynnsphotography.com](http://www.glynnsphotography.com)) and managed to archive over 50,000 images to date. Each print or negative takes about three or four minutes to scan, file and save and we have about another 150,000 images still to scan (and counting)!

We have had some amazing reactions from people at home and abroad who have found photos on the website of themselves and loved ones taken over the last sixty years. Photos long since forgotten are providing a great source of memories and laughter for on average 1000 people every day! Images from the fifties, sixties and seventies are looked at with curiosity, and in some cases great happiness and indeed sadness. Images from the eighties fill people with embarrassment (some very bad hair days) and laughter.

My father would be so proud of what technology has allowed us to do. By embracing online technology we can ensure the images of Roscommon and Mayo taken over the last sixty years and counting can be kept safe and enjoyed for many, many years to come.

To have a look at some images, go to the website [www.glynnsphotography.com](http://www.glynnsphotography.com), click on the historical site and search by town, name or year. Enjoy!

**Patsy Glynn**



**Ballyhaunis Soccer team, at the Clare Road Pitch, 1977.**

**Back, L-R: Alf Hudson, Michael Herr, Tom Fitzgerald, Adrian Moran, Tommy Moran, Tom Moran, Ivan Freeley. Front: Tom Cribbin, Philip McGoldrick, Liam Connell, Mike Webb, Eamonn Murren, Tommy Caulfield, Frankie Dillon.**





# Eucharistic Congress 2012 – A Parishioner's Perspective

“Peace I give you, my peace I leave you” - what a wonderful gift given to all humanity from Jesus Christ.

To remind us, to strengthen us and to renew our faith in the Eucharist, every four years the Catholic Church holds a Eucharistic Congress in some part of the World. In June 2012 the Eucharistic Congress was held in Dublin. Over a period of seven days we celebrated the gift of Eucharist – we reflected on its origin and meaning, we heard testimonies of its healing and transformative power, we witnessed the wonderful work being done by those who receive the Eucharist, we were administered to by men and women who have dedicated their whole life to following the teachings of Jesus and we walked, talked and listened to the Catholic faithful from Ireland and from Catholic countries from all over the world.

It was a week of inspiration, healing, learning and celebration. It was a time when I was thankful to be Catholic and to be part of a faith rooted in rich teachings that guide me on the path of life. Every day I met familiar faces as I moved among the thousands of people who gathered to attend lectures, view exhibitions, visit prayer space and most of all to celebrate Holy mass.

Each day the Holy Mass took on a specific theme – baptism, marriage and family, priesthood, reconciliation, suffering and healing and Mary Mother of God. We reflected on related scripture, listened to amazing homilies from the Bishops of Ireland and beyond, we then brought all the intentions of renewal before the Lord at the consecration.

The central theme of Eucharistic Congress (E.C.) 2012 was “Communion with Christ and with one another”. Calling us the Catholic faithful to a deeper union with Christ in the Eucharist, it then calls us to go beyond our comfort zone in seeking to be one with each other, through forgiveness, acceptance, inclusion and welcome. We were reminded that our communion is expressed in the life-style of our parishes, our schools



Some members of the Ballyhaunis, Tuam Diocese at Statio Orbis, Croke Park, 17th June 2012. L-R: Mary Donnelly, John A. Murphy, Eleanor Murphy, Geraldine O'Dwyer, Ita Fahey. Also Michael Dee, Helen Hurley and Helen Hoban.

and all the relationship and structures which make up what we call church.

## Final Day

The final day of E.C. 2012 saw thousands of people from every county in Ireland and beyond, gather in Croke Park for “Statio Orbis”. The final mass of the E.C. was celebrated by Papal Legate Cardinal Ouellet. Some of Ireland's most talented musicians and choirs helped to raise the celebration and make it a memorable gathering of the Catholic faithful. Many parishioners from Ballyhaunis and the Tuam diocese travelled to Dublin for the congress and for Statio Orbis. It was a memorable week and a memorable Statio Orbis, after which we were addressed via satellite by Pope Benedict XIV.

A final rendition of “Glory Glory Alleluia” saw the end of E.C. 2012. Ireland can be proud of its role as host country and we wish every blessing and success to the Philippines which is the host country to E.C. 2016.

**Christina Concannon**



**Far left:**  
Dave (Snr.)  
and Kitty  
Jordan,  
Lecarrow,  
going to  
Dublin,  
June 1984.



**Left:**  
Dave Jordan  
and Breege  
Cribbin,  
Lecarrow,  
1958.



# A Tribute to Our Retired Fire-fighters

I joined Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade at the beginning of January 2005. In the seven years since there have been a lot of changes in our own station and in the Mayo Fire Service. Sean Freyne had just retired as Station officer when I joined. Though I never served under Sean, I have been told many a tale by himself and many a tale about him, all good and in the line of duty. Eddie Mulhern or Ted as he is called in the Station was Station Officer; Gerry O'Connell, Sub-Officer; Michael J. Lyons and John Kilduff drivers; John Finnegan, Timmy Plunkett, Mike Griffin, M. J. Walshe, all fire-fighters. I was warmly welcomed and over the following weeks and months gradually began to learn a lot about fire-fighting. Pages could be filled with stories, the occasional 'set-up', tales of the slipping clutch and broken ladder will be told for many years to come - some however will have to remain in the station.

Training is constantly on-going with Mayo Fire Service, our county having one of the best training programmes in the country. Recruit, Breathing Apparatus, Road Traffic Collision, Hazardous Material, Advanced Driving, Water Rescue, Manual Handling, are just some of the courses a fire-fighter will be qualified in.

As in most professions experience plays a huge role. Our crew, apart from me (being the 'rookie') had, between them accumulated a vast amount of experience and knowledge. Apart from the official training I received, I gratefully acknowledge the invaluable training I received from all of them.

fire-men I met on training courses would recount particular incidents significant to them.

Our work can be intense and the crew depends on one another, much like any team, however in a fire we put our trust completely in each other, thus a close relationship and bond is formed between a fire-crew.

## Retirements

Eddie Mulhern retired two years after I joined. Gerry O'Connell took up position as Station Officer and I took Gerry's role as Sub-Officer. In the last few years John Kilduff, Michael J. Lyons, Mike Griffin and M. J. Walshe have retired from the fire service. When a member of the crew leaves, the station seems a very different place. The entertaining drill nights, the banter and set-ups I enjoyed with these five has now changed with the introduction of our five new recruits: Colin Jordan, Mark Connery, Hughie McKermitt, Noel Maguire and Padraic Murphy. I welcome all five and hope the future years will be as good as the past, somehow I suspect they will.

I would like to pay tribute to the following:

- Sean Freyne, Station Officer, who served a long and distinguished career.
- Eddie Mulhern, Station Officer, who is extremely cool and level headed under any demands or situation, a natural leader.
- Michael J. Lyons, Driver/Mechanic, got us there quickly and safely, an all round fire-fighter with abounding moral support.
  - John Kilduff, Driver/Mechanic, conscientiously looked after appliance and welfare of crew.
  - M. J. Walshe, Fire-fighter, a tireless, steadfast worker and one of the best fire-fighters I have ever worked alongside.
  - Mike Griffin, Fire-fighter, with excellent head for heights, one of the first Breathing Apparatus wearers in Mayo.

All men regardless of rank were all excellent, dependable fire-fighters. Each gave of their time to serve the community.

To Sean, Eddie, Michael J., John, M. J. and Mike, I would like to thank you on behalf of the present crew for the many years of dedicated and professional fire service to Ballyhaunis and its surrounding area, and ensure you all the current fire crew will endeavour to carry on your legacy proudly.

To the readers - as one lady kindly told Sean Freyne after putting out her chimney fire "Thank you Sir, but I hope I never need you again!" – hopefully, you will not need us, but be assured we are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year with a guaranteed response time. Check your smoke alarms and, on behalf of Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade, have a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year

Enda Caulfield



**Retired Members of Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade.**  
Back, L-R: Eddie Mulhern, Michael Joe Lyons.  
Front, L-R: Mike Griffin, John Kilduff,  
M. J. Walshe, Sean Freyne.

Fire personnel's work can be intense and hazardous and as we live in the area we cover we often know the individuals involved in the incidents we respond to. We carry out our work both in a professional and supportive manner, with our priority to protect lives and property. Sadly, in the last several years we responded to incidents involving fatalities: our sympathies again to their families. When I joined, both my own crew and other





# Darragh Brogan Performs at the Boyle Arts Festival

Coming from an initial career in architecture, Doctor's Road native Darragh Brogan began his Bachelor of Music (Performance) in 2009 at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. Since then, under the tuition of Dr. Mary Lennon, he has availed of numerous performance opportunities and enjoyed many successes as a soloist and accompanist in both the Feis Ceoil and the internal competitions at the DIT, including the Lorcan Sherlock Gold Medal for Advanced Piano Performance and the Heneghan Trophy for concerto playing. To date he has participated in master classes with Barry Douglas, Mabel Swainson, Jonathan Plowright and Graham Johnson. Completing his Licentiate Diploma in piano performance from Trinity College London in the summer of 2012, Darragh will resume his studies at the DIT in September for his final year.

Darragh is the son of Dr. Michael and Laura Brogan of Doctors Road. The accompanying photograph shows Darragh with his mother Laura and friends, following his



**L-R: Laura Brogan, Moyra Delaney, Maura Patterson, Mary Patterson, Darragh Brogan, Miriam Winston.**

performance at the Boyle Arts Festival on Friday, 3rd August last, in the beautiful surroundings of King House in Boyle, Co Roscommon. Darragh performed pieces on the piano from Prokofiev, Chopin and Debussy.

## Taxing the Pensioners

We little knew in our small days what Income Tax was for  
We hadn't time to think such things; the Wolf would cross the door  
If ever we would waste our time on thinking such daft thoughts  
We knew those things were out of reach – we'd soon be left with Nought.  
Our heads of cabbage were then where we each had tilled our plot  
And Supermarkets never sold the 'greens' cooked in our pots...  
We clothed our kids from home-made knits and darned and patched the holes  
And baked our bread and kept them fed and healthy – free from colds  
Our men were busy cutting turf and later saving hay  
We'd help them in the afternoons of lovely outdoor days  
There was no need to jog on roads the exercise was made  
From footing, cocking, raking up, then tea, at six, was laid.  
We could go on for ever a-telling tales of yore  
Of hatching chicks and selling eggs in baskets by the score  
Of churning golden butter, of days when corn was threshed  
And feeding cheerful hungry men when tales and news were hashed  
And now... what...?

Oh Grandma come! It's on TV! There talking of it now!  
They are going to tax the pensioners!

They are going to WHAT! ... And how?  
Get me my Glasses and my Stick!

THEY WILL NOT WIN THIS FIGHT!  
We'll stand together and we'll strike  
With all our Main and Might!

By Mary Gunnigan



**James Quinn Jnr. who graduated from C.I.T. Cork with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree (with Honours).**

**James is son of Bernie and Jimmy Quinn, Classaroe, Ballyhaunis.**



# Glory and Grief

As a young boy growing up in Ballyhaunis in the 1980s it was easy to see how the town worked. You had Eamonn Meath as your compass, his arm behind the back as he strolled up to Joe Regan's of an evening. An assortment of regulars would stop by for a chat. James Lyons might pop his head out from his pub to take in the evening air and catch the pace of the street. A mix of young and old would climb the stairs of the Parochial Hall for a game of snooker. Further up Tom Hopkins would be putting a forecast of weather to a farmer as he closed up the shop.

This sleepy, country town was built in our parents' time, a time when you knew which side your bread was buttered, simpler times by far. Some shops closed on Mondays, half-day Thursday; fish on a Friday, Mass on a Sunday. Tick tock. The only real question for young boys our age was which church to be an Altar Boy in. Well it was simple really, the more liberal Friary got all the lads from The Square up and beyond the railway bridge, and the Parish got the rest. Stations was where it was at, sandwiches, tea, buns and if you played your cards right there might even be a few pound in it.

Tuesday nights were for the Cubs and Scouts. An hour or so of knot making followed by energy busting games of Snatch the Bacon, burnt a hole in winter nights.

The town had a pecking order for young fellas which only really came to play when it approached Bonfire Night. That's when streets aligned and fought hard and fast to become leaders of men. Early Summer night raids on Austin Grogan's yard for tyres were performed with stealth like endeavour. Brave, blackened faces smiled as we rolled tyres twice our size down the road. Doctor's Road, Devlis and Main Street are the main rivalries I remember vying for the longest burning fire with the highest blaze.

Town was town; country was Tuesday, Mart day. We met country lads in school and some of the closer lads eventually grew into the town landscape, but they were always smart enough just to observe things from afar when it suited. There was Mass on a Sunday to watch girls go by and The Cinema on Friday to chase a little closer. September saw the big move to secondary school and with it a new batch of youth to the two screen Star Cinema on Clare Street.

Eddie Murphy ran the shop at the cinema which had the rhythm of Times Square on a Friday night. Brigades from Began would try and regain control of the pool table from us townies, as busloads of outta towners leapt onto Clare Road, yelping and screeching about gunáí nua agus buachailí dána. A cultural feast of hormones gathered from Aghamore, Granlahan, Gorthaganny, Ballinlough and Knock all with only one

thing on their minds... the summer blockbuster - Back to the Future!

Politically the town was a good barometer for the country in general. Almost fifty-fifty Fine Gael Fianna Fail, the town lucky enough to have a TD from each party in the parish. East Mayo had bigger plans up the road at the new airport so all efforts went that way. Durkan's lorry was a regular altar at The Square during the 80s. One side of heavy canvass would be pulled open and a microphone placed on a stand in the centre when hosting a passing Taoiseach or jubilant TD.

## All Ireland Champions

One particular night in late September the same Durkan's truck was parked up outside Joe Regan's Corner Bar, facing Knox Street, awaiting the homecoming of the victorious Mayo Minor All Ireland Champions. Our very own David Fitzgerald held forth at centre half back and the town and its surroundings were to turn out in numbers to welcome him and his team-mates home. The last of the summer sun snuck away above Main Street, the orange light kissing the walls as its slanted shadows lingered like the scent of a visiting cousin who had stolen the hearts of all the boys on a two week summer visit. We'd stake a claim on her return. The Square became an impromptu stadium that evening; the street lamps its flood lights. A slow whisper of excited anticipation gripped the gathering audience. Men bent one leg against the wall, hands in pockets, and passed easy chat from the side of the mouth. A collection of young fellas ran from each corner of the square to kick ball, and sons ran from their fathers to join in.

The four adjoining streets had length, breadth and height for the long ball and cries rang out for a "high wan". Morleys, Keanes, Finns and Phillips' were amongst them. This widespread kick-about was only interrupted by approaching cattle lorries heaving around Bridge Street onto Clare Street and down to the Halal meat factory. Some of the cooler lads huddled around the computer gamed corner of Eugene's Chip Shop which afforded them more mystique when they finally emerged onto the ever increasing crowd and plucked the ball from the sky. Dillon's gable wall had its very own painted sign, advertising the Travel Agency with a plane heading skywards. The shed stuck onto the side of it was where a bunch of us climbed upon to get a better view over the crowd as the car horns could be heard approaching.

To the best of my memory this would have been one of the first times I met Jason Morley. Our excitement at the arrival of the All Ireland winners was to live with us for years to come as we acknowledged the significance





of the evening. We all sat like reporters from the Western People taking in the atmosphere and recognising local football legends arriving to see the Cup. Young Val Byrne had good reason to be there with his mates Jivas Caulfield and Brian Murray. His dad Val was a selector on the minor team and Dave Fitz was their buddy as well as playmate on the town team.

The Square had reached fever pitch. The crowd swayed like an early day flashmob, all stretching their necks to the right to sneak a peek around the Convent Hill corner as the car horns rose in volume. And cascading down the hill was a beaming David Fitzgerald sitting out the back door of the car with the Tom Markham Cup in hand.

Over the following years Jason and I would get a kick-about going in the Library car park for an hour or so on a school night. We would be joined by a variety of young fellas from around the town on any particular night or day, John and Joe Joe McQueeney, Barry McCrudden, David Nestor, Vincent and Glen Freyne, Enda Murphy and Vincent Levins amongst many others. It was a mix of schoolboy banter and an opportunity to replicate the latest goals scored in Anfield. The level of skill did not really matter. Once you didn't smash the ball off old Mrs. Murray's gapping shopfront window you were OK. The more or less we saw of her of an evening set the standard of football. A wild volley would fly over the bar high across the road and seem to enter a new dimension as it wobbled off the large pane of glass. Mrs. Murray who had a sweet shop for many years would slowly manage her way to the front door to look out at who was threatening her window. The street stood as quiet as a mouse with only Darby Lyons looking out from his door down the street, a knowing smile on his face. Muffled giggles from ducked down positions were too low for her to hear and with a deep sigh she would return back inside and the game would recommence.

It wasn't just at football that Jason showed his skill; he could throw his hand at any game. He had the

beating of anyone on the pool-table in his mother's games room, simply known as Josie's. It was a place of legend, a pool table, a jukebox, and a simulated racing car game amongst other computer games. It rocked. As most of us forgot about our homework and raced down to spend our few pence on pool, Jason and his two brothers David and Tony took turns to oversee proceedings. He could mix the assuredness of David's game and suave calmness of Tony's to produce his own perfect blend of concentrated subtle brilliance. Mind you it was only a game of pool but it could still feel like the Crucible in Josie's on a Sunday night.

We played football together for the GAA club at Under 16 and Minor level. Even though Jason was a year or two younger he was always a step ahead when it came to football. He had inherited a graceful talent from a family rich in GAA history and matched it with his own hunger for the daring score and will to win. My legs kicked to a different rhythm after school and even though we didn't get to play football again we would always stop for a chat. His youthful happy head hadn't change much over the years.

On hearing of Jason's sudden death in January I sat and thought about him and his family and the memories came flooding back.

His untimely death made me realise how cruel this life can be and reminded me how precious these memories are and how we've got to make the most of everyday.

As I walked with the Guard of Honour through the town on that wet January night, I took a moment on Clare Street to look into the Library Car Park to warmly remember our times together. In The Square where, in 1985 the townsfolk raised a young footballing hero over their shoulders in glory they now carried a true local GAA star onto their shoulders and slowly marched in quiet grief.

**Andrew Smyth**



**All-Ireland Final Mayo v Donegal  
– 23rd September 2012:**

Fergal and Austin Lyons,  
Brian Cunniffe and Rob Grogan,  
(who travelled from Brisbane,  
Australia), on route  
to Croke Park.





# St. Patrick's Dramatic Society

2012 was a great year for St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis. With experienced Director Pat Doyle at the helm of this production, "Cupid Wore Skirts", a great comedy by Sam Cree, the audience was assured of a great night's entertainment.

Tom Colleran played the part of widower Andrew Coulter, who sets out to find a new wife and brings forth a range of potential suitors in true Sam Cree fashion. Old friends of the Society, Michael Kelly, Angela Heaney, Jackie Caulfield, Tom Colleran, Austin Finn and Katrina Sweeney were in sterling form, and newcomers Margaret O'Connor, Norma Jean Folliard and Conor Freeman were brilliant additions to this year's production. New members are always welcome. A DVD of the Production (by Castle Studios, Castlerea) is available on request from Jenny Glynn (PRO).

A big 'Thank You' is extended to the backstage crew: Jim Donnelly, Anne Greally, Lydia Biesty, Ann Hosty, Stella O'Neill, Seamus Boyle and Moira Noone. Stage Manager John Caulfield, Mike Griffin (Sound) and Frank Heraghty (Lighting).

Jenny Glynn (PRO)

## 'CUPID WORE SKIRTS'

*Photographs by Fr. Stephen Farragher*



The Cast and some of the crew of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society who staged "Cupid Wore Skirts" in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis, in March 2012.

Back, L-R: Mike Griffin, Norma Jean Folliard, Conor Freeman, Katrina Sweeney, John Caulfield, Michael Kelly, Lydia Biesty, Margaret O'Connor, Pat Doyle.  
Seated: Tom Colleran, Jackie Caulfield, Angela Heaney.  
Front: Austin Finn.

*Glynn's Photography, Castlerea / Ballyhaunis.*





# Fulbright Award Recipient

Nóirín Ní Laighin from Began was one of thirty-seven recipients honoured with a Fulbright Award on Friday, 15th June 2012, at an event at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. Nóirín is currently teaching Irish in the University of Notre Dame, Indiana.

The Fulbright Awards are presented on an annual



Nóirín Ní Laighin receiving award from Ms. Una Halligan, Chair of the Fulbright Commission.

basis to Irish students, scholars and professionals to undertake postgraduate study and research at higher education, cultural and related institutions in the United States.

The awards are jointly funded by the Irish and US governments under the Ireland-United States (Fulbright) Commission for Educational Exchange. Fulbright scholarships have provided Irish students, scholars and professionals with the opportunity to study, lecture and research at top universities and institutions in the U.S. since 1957.

This year's recipients are attending leading institutions across the US including NASA, Harvard, Columbia, Notre Dame, MIT, NYU, Berkeley, Fordham, Northeastern, Villanova and UCLA.

Speaking about this year's Fulbright Awards, Ms Una Halligan, Chair of the Fulbright Commission said: "The breadth of each recipient's field of expertise highlights the innovative nature of Fulbright which values all disciplines equally. Although their subjects are varied, each of these recipients has one very important trait in common - outstanding leadership ability. This is the true essence and purpose of Fulbright".

*Nóirín is daughter of Kathleen and Liam Lyons, Began.*

## Camogie Player of the Year Award



**Western People Sports Awards 2012.**  
**Yvonne Byrne, Camogie Player of the Year, with her parents and supporters.**

Left to right:  
Jackie Coyne,  
Kitty Morley,  
Maria Coyne,  
Siobhan Coyne,  
Margaret Byrne,  
Geraldine Delaney,  
Yvonne Byrne,  
Pat Byrne,  
Fergal Delaney,  
Bernie and John Cunnane,  
and Marianne Knight.

Photo:  
David Farrell  
Photography.



# Two Legs Good, One Leg Back

I saw Charlie Glynn's article in the 2010 Annagh Magazine and I had intended to write an article for Annagh 2011, but I suffered some ill-health that made it impossible.

The last time I saw Charlie was almost 50 years ago in 1963. Five years previously, in 1958, Ballyhaunis National School had entered a team for the Connaught Relay Race. It was the first time we had done so and, as far as I can ascertain, it was the only time. It was to be held in Moylough, Galway on a Sunday.

The Friday before the race we had a half day and we gathered in Dillon's field, opposite the school, to pick the team. Micky Curley aka 'Ronnie' and Bertie Dillon were former pupils and were asked to select the three members of the team and also to show us how to pass the baton.

Mickey used to do athletics but it was only on meeting him years later that he disclosed he knew little of Relay Racing let alone the art of baton changing. Bertie was in the same position as he had only taken up the sport when he went to Garbally College in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

I remember both were late for practice and Bill Mulligan, the school Principal, was panicking and giving out. Patience was not his strongest suit. Micky told me years later that he got a great laugh out of that one, keeping his former Principal waiting for him. Both eventually arrived and we got down to the business of picking the best three boys. Brendan Moran of Tooraree was an absolute flyer and was picked first, second was myself, and then Charlie Glynn. It was then left to the two lads to impart their limited knowledge on Relay Racing in the half hour before we had to go home for our dinners. That was our sum total of training.

Sunday came and it was a very wet day; actually the whole Summer of 1958 was very wet. We had a hard job just to save the turf and our Dad wasn't there to guide us, having been laid up with a leg injury from a car accident the previous year... more of which later.

Brendan and I waited for our lift outside my house in Upper Main Street, then it was off to collect Charlie in Clare Street. We also collected a team from Tulrahan School and a team from Knock. By journey's start we had a full load crammed into the Hiace van. Aside from the three teams from Ballyhaunis, Tulrahan and Knock, upfront sat the driver along with Mr. Morley who was the organiser and also Mr. Morley's son. I got to know him as John Morley and years later I played football alongside him for the Civil Service Club in Dublin. Of course John went on to be a famous Mayo and Connacht footballer and tragically, as a Garda, he was shot dead in

the line of duty during a Roscommon bank robbery. He had known my older brother John from St. Jarlath's in Tuam.

So with this full contingent we set off on the slow journey to Moylough. When we arrived there it was a hive of activity. I was somewhat intimidated by the other schools who seemed almost professional compared to ourselves. They had all the right gear, fancy matching running tops and shorts and more extravagant running spikes. We just wore our vests and togs and more crucially we were barefoot. We were anxious about getting stabbed with those spikes and the slippery, wet conditions made running barefoot most difficult but what other choice was there.

We finished a commendable third in our heat but as only two teams got through that was it - we were out. We had as good runners as the others had and with 30 minutes baton change practice under our belts from those who were unsure themselves, we could hold our heads up high. We enjoyed the day and Ballyhaunis made history, for the first time and, as far as I know, the last time we entered a team into that prestigious race.

Thank you Charlie for jogging my memory and bringing me back all those 54 years ago.

## Handbrake

As I mentioned 1957, the year before our Galway adventure, was a fractured year in my father's life, if you'll allow me the pun. He had been knocked down by a car, breaking a bone in his ankle, which gave him trouble for the rest of his life. He was returning to the barracks one evening after dinner and stopped to say hello to a man he knew from visiting Tom Hannon's house in Upper Main Street, where Fitzgerald's now sits.

This man had a familiar routine each evening when he got into his car. He used to release his handbrake and allow his car roll backwards down the hill past Michael Smyth's house which was a vacant lot then. He would then swing the car into the road where Mayo Homes now are and once he was facing the right way he would freewheel all the way down the town. I suppose it was a handy manoeuvre and a way of saving a bit of petrol. Of course this particular evening he had forgotten about his earlier encounter with my poor unfortunate father and as the motor wasn't on and silent, my father never heard him and he was knocked down.

This would prove to be consistent with important events happening to my father in the years ending in 7. In 1907 he broke his arm. In 1917 his brother James died. James had received a kick during a football match and neglected to visit the doctor, later dying from his injury.





In 1927 Dad's luck changed and he met my mother. In 1937 his luck held and he was transferred to Ballyhaunis. In 1947 we had the Big Snow and he spent days digging people out. In 1957 was the aforementioned car accident. In 1967 he developed prostate cancer, a battle he won.

### Tale of a Dressing Gown

It was during this time that my father would need regular stays in the hospital. Knowing this my mother bought him a Foxford wool dressing gown. It was tremendously warm and luxurious. My father had an operation and the following morning a nurse instructed my father to leave his bed and go for a walk to get some exercise. She said you can wear this for the cold and offered him a regulation hospital dressing gown. My father didn't need it, sure didn't he have his own lovely warm one. At least, he thought he had, a search for the Foxford wool dressing gown proved fruitless and once again the thin alternative was offered. My father, ahem, politely declined saying that he may as well wear a sheet of the Western People for all the warmth it would give. As the nurse resumed her search on the ward, a fellow patient walked past in a not dissimilar robe to my father's. He thought to himself "That's a lovely dressing gown, it's a bit like mine and it's doesn't ride up your backside like the hospital's one. You know it's not like my dressing gown, it actually is my dressing gown!" When the nurse

returned empty handed my father told her of the man in his robe and asked if she could fetch it from him.

After some time a nun arrived in the nurse's stead and she too was without his gown. She informed my father that the man in question was Fr. (name withheld to protect the deceased) who had come in a hurry and forgot to pack his own gown and as it was cold she had given him my father's. My father hit the roof complaining they had no business giving away his personal property and he wanted it back. She replied "But Mr. Kelly, you don't understand, he is a Canon" to which my father retorted "I don't care if he is machine gun, I want my gown back".

"Well Mr. Kelly, you are such an unkind man for asking this". My father steadied himself and said, "I reared ten children, he reared no-one, he had a lot more money than I ever had and the shops in Castlebar sell plenty of dressing gowns, I want my dressing gown back". He got his dressing gown back.



Robert Kelly, Senior.

On New Year's Day 1977, he wondered out loud to my eldest sister Maura what this particular year ending in 7 might have in store for him. In January my mother passed away and my father followed six weeks later.

I still have that dressing gown and unfortunately, as our family has gotten older, it has seen many wards and sat on many shoulders. Thanks Dad for getting it back.

Robert Kelly

## Annual Summer Festival Fun Cycle

The third Annual Fun Cycle took place on Saturday, June 2nd 2012 as part of the annual Ballyhaunis Summer Festival.

Eager cyclists appeared at the meeting point at the back of Phillip's Butcher Shop, all geared and ready for the road. After a quick check and adjustment of bikes and helmets, a short route of 3km was cycled to facilitate younger cyclists. Seven and nine year olds were exhibiting the new bikes they had just got for their First Holy Communion and Confirmation! The more advanced

cyclists took the traditional route from Ballyhaunis to Knock. The wet weather didn't deter us in any way. After a quick stop in Knock for refreshments, kindly sponsored by Ryan's Supervalu, we all made our way back to Ballyhaunis for the post-cycle analysis in Margie's!

A fun time was had by all and we hope that next year's cycle will be as popular. Thanks to all who helped out on the day in any way.

Oisín Coffey



# Royal Irish Constabulary in Ballyhaunis

There was a time in Ireland when there were no policemen. We as a society are so accustomed to being looked after by the men and women in uniform that we can scarcely visualise such a state of things and we wonder how people got along in those 'good old days' when 'night watchmen' of towns and cities were the principal preservers of the peace. In Ireland it was not until the 14th century that the watchmen became night guardians of towns and cities. Prior to that, in the larger Irish towns at least, the soldiery had maintained order and kept the watch.

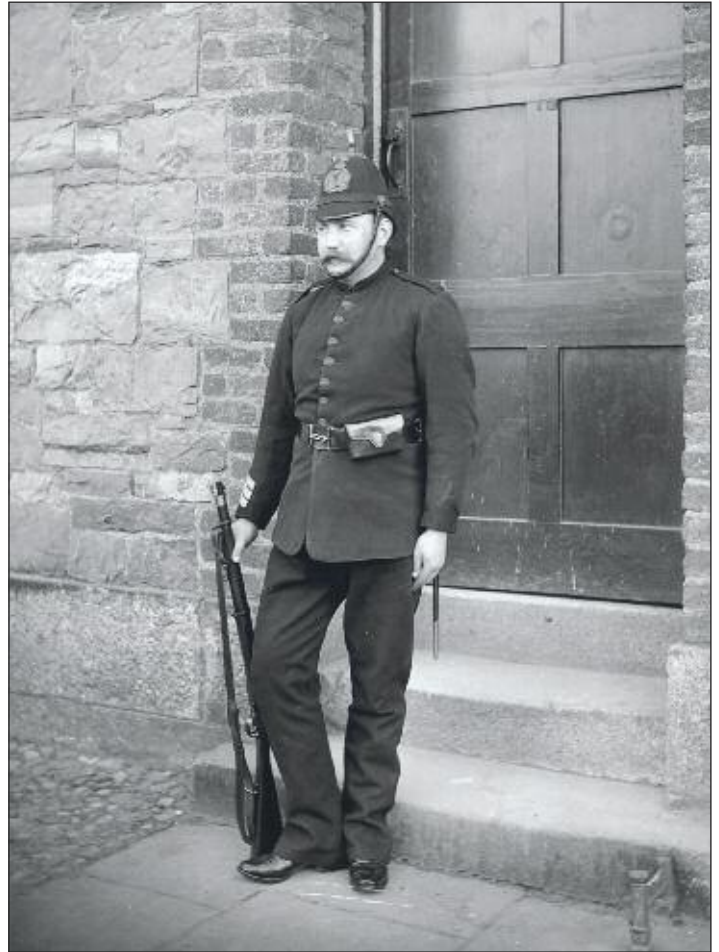
Between the 16th and 18th centuries records show that watchmen or bellmen were still guardians of towns and cities; the watchman 'could apprehend anybody out in the streets at night after the ringing of the curfew bell.' The Watchman of Kinsale was allowed two pounds a year for keeping strange beggars out of the town, swine off the streets and for keeping the gutters open.

## The origins of the Royal Irish Constabulary

Despite a series of acts of parliament passed during the 18th century, the Irish police force at the time of the Act of Union of 1800 was still composed only of small groups of sub-constables. These part-time policemen, appointed by grand juries (local authorities) were few in number and poorly paid out of the county funds. This body of police was appointed for the city of Dublin (from 1786) and a system of baronial police, nicknamed 'Old Barney's', was appointed in the rest of Ireland (from 1787).

The baronial constables wore no uniform, were under the loose supervision of the magistracy and were subject to little discipline or control. They concerned themselves with minor policing duties such as searching for stolen goods, and relied on the military to enforce law and order in the event of serious disturbances.

During his term as Chief Secretary of Ireland (1812-18), Robert (later Sir Robert) Peel was responsible for a major modernisation of the police system in this country. This change in policing was badly needed due to the general unrest and agrarian violence taking place in Ireland at the time. Peel masterminded an Act, 54 which was passed on the 25th July 1814 'To provide for the better execution of the Laws in Ireland by appointing Superintending Magistrates and additional Constables in Counties in certain cases.' The drain on military resources caused by the Napoleonic wars meant that the army could not cope with police demands in Ireland. In Westminster, Peel objected in principle to the use of soldiers to enforce public peace. The Peace Preservation Force was at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant of



**Photograph of an RIC Constable – circa 1890**  
*Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*

Ireland for use in any district that had been proclaimed as a disturbed area.

On the 5th August 1822, the Constabulary Act was passed and a new force called the Constabulary Police was formed. This Act for the first time allowed for the systematic establishment of an organised police force on a national basis. The most definitive restructuring of the Irish police system took place under the aegis of Thomas Drummond, who was Under Secretary for Ireland from 1835 up to his death in 1840. The Irish Constabulary thus created was responsible for the peace of the whole country with the exception of Dublin, which retained its own police, the Dublin Metropolitan Police in 1786.

## Ballyhaunis

By 1836, this force had grown to around 5,000 men and by 1841, this had risen to a total of over 8,600 and from its inception the Irish Constabulary was a barracked force. It was spread thinly throughout the country in villages and towns, with four or five policemen in each barrack being the norm. The Constabulary barracks in Ballyhaunis was situated in the Fairgreen and it could house up to six policemen. In the early years of its





development, the Irish Constabulary comprised only of Protestants, but as disputes and agrarian conflicts increased, the authorities in Westminster perceived that by increasing the numbers of constabulary police and allowing in to the force young, upstanding Irish Catholic men of good moral character and from a farming background this would serve as a model for the establishment of a policing system in the rest of the British Isles and would help to diminish the agrarian conflict which was present in Ireland throughout this time. By the end of the 19th century, the majority of policemen were Catholics, with 12,000 constables and officers stationed in 1,600 barracks throughout the country. The officers were Protestants. The names of some of the policemen who were stationed in Ballyhaunis during the latter half of the 19th century were – Michael Golden, Robert Mullen, John Cassidy, Patrick Lyons, Patrick Kiernan, William Mooney, Richard Kelly, James Searson, Michael Dwyer, Stephen McDonagh. Training for the constabulary took three months and took place in the Phoenix Park Depot in Dublin.

From 1836, each county was supervised by a County Inspector, with the counties sub-divided into a number of districts, each commanded by a district-inspector. A head constable was based at a district headquarters. There were 14,000 police posts, always known as 'barracks' in the centre of each sub-district occupied usually by a constable and four sub-constables.

On the 6th September 1867, in recognition of its loyal and faithful service and for its role in suppressing the rising of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Fenian Rising of 1867, Queen Victoria honoured the Irish Constabulary with the title 'Royal Irish Constabulary' and decreed that the Force was to wear the Harp and Crown. The R.I.C. wore a distinctive dark green uniform with black buttons and insignia derived in style from the Rifle Brigade of the Armed Forces.

### **Life in the Barracks**

Members of the force, who were mainly Catholic, were recruited from tenant farmer class and were removed to distant stations. These men wore dark green uniforms and carried carbines as arms and were a disciplined force. The barracks resembled a military garrison. The barracks usually contained the main office quarters with the bedrooms which were generally white-washed. The men slept on iron bedsteads and the palliasses (mattress consisting of a thin pad filled with straw), blankets, pillows, etc. were neatly rolled up and placed at the end of each bed. The sub-inspector visited the station once a month and the inspector visited once a quarter.

Members of the constabulary were forbidden to marry until after seven years of service to allow them to

accumulate sufficient worldly wealth to maintain a high standard of living after marriage, and the bride was vetted. They were stationed in a town or village where they did not have relatives. They and their spouses were prevented from engaging in many forms of trade; wives could be dressmakers but could not employ apprentices. They were allowed to keep animals at home but were prevented from selling produce or to take lodgers.

The duties of the average R.I.C. was characterised by a strict code of discipline. There was no official system of duty, rest days or annual leave and in the interests of political impartiality, members were even banned from voting at parliamentary elections. There were strict instructions laid down in police regulations concerning standards of conduct and appearance and in the early years police were absolutely prohibited from entering a public house socially.

### **The R.I.C. and the People of Ballyhaunis and District**

During the 19th century and up to the early years of the 20th century and 1916, the R.I.C. had evolved into a thoroughly domesticated civil police force, reflecting in its operations the needs of the community. There was relative calm with the majority of the force being Catholics. In this period the R.I.C. was not seriously challenged by major unrest or controversy. The Constabulary had settled down to low-key routine policing, with the members of the force enjoying a position of high regard in the local area of Ballyhaunis and district. These extensive civil and local government duties as well as routine patrolling in the district ensured that the police constable was a very familiar part of daily life, someone with whom people would expect to have regular contact. It was the constable's job to acquire a thorough knowledge of the district and good relations with the local community made this easier.

In the latter half of the 19th century there was on occasion, particularly in the rural areas of Ballyhaunis and district, periodic agrarian unrest and constant simmering discontent in relation to the land question. For many people the dominant image of the R.I.C. stems from its responsibility to give protection to bailiffs executing distress warrants and evicting tenants, of which there were a number in the rural areas of Ballyhaunis. This discontent and distrust escalated in the early 20th century.

### **The War of Independence and the Black and Tans**

After the Fenian Rising of 1867 discontent and low morale started to creep into all ranks of the R.I.C. due to the poor conditions and pay and because agrarian violence was increasing in Ireland. Many policemen left the force and joined the British Army regiments or the Irish Guards Reservists around the time of the First World War (1914-1918).

Following the Easter Rising of 1916 when armed Irish





**Murphy's Shop Main Street, on the day of a Pig Fair, circa 1900. The proprietor, Edward J. Murphy, was grandfather of the author, her sister Miriam Winston and brother Eddie Murphy.**

*Photo: Courtesy of Sergeant Lyons Collection.*

Nationalists staged a rebellion against British Rule in Ireland, Irish nationalism became greatly radicalised and public outrage occurred due to the show trials and executions of the Rising's leaders and the threatened imposition of conscription on Ireland for the First World War; this was channelled into the revolutionary Sinn Féin movement. Sinn Féin won 73 seats out of 105 in Ireland at the 1918 General Election.

By 1918, the R.I.C. was the primary target of the Irish Republican Army and the police barracks were the most convenient symbol of British imperialism in Ireland. The Force was not equipped to fight a guerrilla war. In January 1919, the First Dáil declared an independent Irish Republic. In the same month, the Irish Volunteers (Irish Republican Army) began the guerrilla campaign or the Anglo Irish War (War of Independence). The attacks escalated during 1919 when R.I.C. policemen were attacked or murdered and barracks destroyed. In September 1919, the British administration outlawed the Dáil and commenced work on its next Home Rule Act. This involved putting a plan in place for a growing loss of morale in the R.I.C. and an interim solution until the Act was ready.

In January 1920, the British government started advertising in British cities for men willing to 'face a rough and dangerous task', helping to boost the ranks of the Royal Irish Constabulary in policing an increasingly anti-British Ireland. Thousands of British ex-soldiers and sailors were recruited and by July 1920 the Auxiliary

cadets and Black and Tans arrived in Ireland. There were given carte blanche to wipe out the Irish Republican Army. The Black and Tans were the first to arrive in Ireland and there were not enough uniforms available. Accordingly, the new force was dressed in khaki with black belts and caps and so were given the name 'Black and Tans'. They were paid 'ten shillings a day all found'. The Auxiliaries (Auxies) wore dark blue uniforms and black Glenageary caps with a crowned harp, the emblem of the R.I.C., as a badge. There were mainly ex-army officers and were armed with a rifle, a revolver and fifty rounds of ammunition and a bayonet. The Auxiliaries were paid £1 per day all found. The new recruits received six weeks hurried training and were rapidly posted to R.I.C. barracks situated in the more troublesome areas of Dublin, Munster and eastern Connacht. When the new crown forces arrived in Ballyhaunis, they were housed in the Fairgreen. As they were ex-soldiers who had served in Gallipoli, Dardanelles,

Flanders and other parts of Europe during the First World War, the area in Ballyhaunis was subsequently referred to as the 'Dardanelles.' The Auxiliaries and Black and Tans soon gained a reputation of brutality with the Auxiliaries being the fiercest. They inflicted on the general population a reign of terror, torture, rampage, mayhem and murder. No one escaped their brutality. Lightning raids were carried out at any hour of the day or night. Houses and shops in the town and district were ransacked. They drunkenly travelled around the countryside in lorries, often firing indiscriminately at innocent bystanders or even at cattle grazing in the fields.

In August 1920, an attempted ambush by the local Volunteers of the Irish Republic Army on a party guarding a broken down military supplies lorry at Holywell on the Ballyhaunis-Claremorris Road misfired but the Volunteers got away safely. Around this period an R.I.C. hut at Redpark, Cloontumper was burned down.

In December 1920, the Government of Ireland Act was proclaimed amid the fighting. The Parliament of Northern Ireland convened and soon after decided to opt out of the new Irish state.

In the early hours of April 1st, 1921, a young Volunteer named Michael Coen from Lecarrow was brutally killed by crown forces on a hillside near his home. Later that day, Seán Corcoran from Kiltimagh, Commandant of the East Mayo Brigade and his Vice-Commandant Maurice Mullins were cycling into Crossard when they were surprised by a raiding party of British soldiers. After a brief exchange of fire, Corcoran was shot dead and Mullins arrested and brought to Ballyhaunis R.I.C. barracks. There he was very badly kicked and beaten by the Black and Tans commanded by a notorious Sergeant





Hanlon who was killed two months later at an ambush at Carrowkennedy in West Mayo.

At around the time that the fatal attack in Crossard was taking place, the Black and Tans surrounded the old school in Carrownedan, overlooking Mannin Lake, where another local Volunteer, John P. Jordan was teaching; he was taken prisoner and brought to Claremorris where he was handed over to the military. John P. Jordan was subsequently interned in the Curragh Camp until December 1921 along with men such as Desmond Fitzgerald (father of Garret Fitzgerald) and Phil Cosgrove, brother of W.T. Cosgrove. On the 27th May 1921 Volunteer Paddy Boland of Cloongawnagh, near Crossard, was shot dead in Cummer bog by the Black and Tans.

### **The Anglo-Irish Treaty**

The war ended with a truce which came into operation on the 11th July 1921. The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed about five months later on the 6th December 1921 which was ratified by Dáil Eireann by 64 votes to 57 on the 7th January 1922. Under the Treaty, the Irish Free State was formed in the south of the partitioned country of Ireland. Northern Ireland remained in the United Kingdom. The Irish Free State became an independent dominion of the Empire.

On the 24th January 1922, Michael Collins, unofficial leader of the Irish delegation at the Treaty negotiations in London (October-December 1921), and appointed as Minister of Finance in the newly formed Provisional Government, won agreement in negotiation with the British Government for the dissolution of the Royal Irish Constabulary. On Thursday 9th February 1922, a meeting

was held at the Gresham Hotel, Dublin to establish a police force to replace the R.I.C. The Civic Guard was so formed on 22nd February 1922. The Pro-Treaty Irish Republican Army became part of a fully re-organised new National Army and a new police force, the Civil Guard which replaced one of Ireland's two police forces, the Royal Irish Constabulary. Phased disbandment of the R.I.C. police began within a few weeks with personnel, both regular and auxiliary being withdrawn to six centres in southern Ireland. On the 2nd April 1922, the R.I.C. force formally ceased to exist, although the actual process was not completed until August 1922.

### **The Civil War**

The details of the Anglo-Irish Treaty and its ratifications were followed with a bitter division of opinion which culminated in the outbreak of a civil war between the Pro-Treaty and Anti-Treaty Forces which lasted from the 30th June 1922 to May 1923.

An unsuccessful attempt was made by Anti-Treaty Forces in Mayo to take Ballyhaunis in a night attack in October 1922.

The Civic Guard was renamed An Garda Síochána on the 8th August 1923. It absorbed a number of ex-RIC members. A large number either retired, joined the royal Ulster constabulary or emigrated with their families to Britain or other parts of the Empire, most often to police forces in Canada, Australia or New Zealand as they were still threats of violent reprisals. A number of these men joined the Palestine Gendarmerie which was recruiting forces in the United Kingdom at the time.

**Rita Murphy-Meally**



## **Class Re-Union after nearly 70 years .....!**

Bridie Campbell (nee Waldron, Clooncrim, Ballinlough) and sister to the late Mary Cunningham, Abbey St. with Ita McDonnell (nee Lyons), Carrowkeel, and sister to the late Maura Herr, Knox St.

Both ladies were students in the late 1930's, early 40's at the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis.

Bridie lives in Yardville, New Jersey, USA.



# My Writing Career

I spent five years as a boarder at St. Jarlath's College in Tuam. The other Ballyhaunis boys in my year were Edward Moran from Abbey St., Padraig and Seamus Forde from Upper Main St. and Tommy Greally from Devlis. We did not get home except at the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. Among the many deprivations we endured was the lack of access to daily newspapers. I was very interested in following national and international affairs. When I arrived back at Knox Street for each holiday my mother had preserved piles of the Irish Press or Irish Independent for me. At St. Jarlath's I began keeping a daily diary, as Gaeilge, something I still maintain.

Michael F. Waldron of Knox Street, a noted antiquarian and literary scholar, about whose papers in the National Library I have written about for Annagh, always encouraged me in the study of history by lending me volumes from his vast collection. The first long article I ever wrote was on the split in Irish athletics for a magazine in St. Patrick's College Maynooth. The written word became my metier later too, after I became a teacher.

After brief stints teaching in Dangan, Bray and Glendalough, I joined the Central Remedial Clinic School in Clontarf. I began to write novels as a pastime. An English publisher, Michael Joseph, convinced that my first attempt had to be written by a woman, was interested in publishing it. But the recent history of what happened to John McGahern in the same parish of Clontarf, made me, the holder of a large mortgage repayable @ 18%, demur. My heroine was an amoral female whose activities would not impress a clerical School Manager! I still think of her as a real person and wonder what really happened to her in the end. Did she act as I had predicted and jump from the pier at Dun Laoghaire?

Appointment as Principal of Cerebral Palsy Ireland's Sandymount School gave me little opportunity to continue writing. However, the death of a past pupil, Christy Brown, was to lead me back to writing. I organised a commemorative day at the school, attended by Daniel Day Lewis, Noel Pearson and Jim Sheridan, who were then using our facilities for the making of "My

Left Foot". As a result of that day I received many letters Brown had written throughout his life to some of the women attending. I tried to use the letters for a biography but soon discovered that such a venture was a very major exercise, quite different from writing fiction.

In fact the first biography I wrote was that of Major John MacBride, a fellow Mayo man from Westport. Our inspirational English teacher at St. Jarlath's, Rev. P.V. O'Brien, often read Easter 1916 but never elaborated on Yeats' condemnatory words on John MacBride. A biography on his wife, Maud Gonne, led me to inquire whether he had been treated fairly. My biography on

MacBride was launched by Paul O'Dwyer in Westport. I then followed with a first biography of his son, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Sean MacBride, launched by his son Tiernan MacBride. My publisher gave me a contract for another first biography on Conor Cruise O'Brien, with the proviso that I "bring O'Brien on board". My book with a controversial title, 'Churchill – A Founder of Modern Ireland', was launched by Ruairi Quinn, then Minister of Finance.



**Tim Pat Coogan and Anthony Jordan at launch of 'Eamon de Valera, Irish, Catholic, Visionary'.**

The publication of the Gonne-Yeats Letters in 1992 brought important material on Major John MacBride to light, leading to my book titled, 'Willie Yeats & The Gonne-MacBrides' in 1997. The following year finally saw my original attempt at biography published, 'Christy Brown's Women'. Peter Sheridan launched that one. It was back again to John MacBride when in 2000 my book, 'The Yeats-Gonne-MacBride Triangle', based on the papers of John MacBride I discovered in the National Library under another title, challenged the received literary-academic wisdom on MacBride. I could not resist the temptation of doing a biography on Yeats himself which came out in 2004 under the controversial title, 'W.B. Yeats, Vain, Glorious, Lout – A Maker of Modern Ireland. This was launched by Eamon Ó Cuiv T.D. in Westport. The reviewer in the Irish Times was not impressed that I referred to the great poet by his name 'Willie'. I had long been preparing an edition of the writings and speeches of John MacBride, which came out in 2005, titled 'Boer War to Easter Rising'.

At a 30th Anniversary Conference at UCD marking the





death of Eamon de Valera, I discovered that no biography had been written on W. T. Cosgrave or John A. Costello. As is said, history is written by the victors for the victors. I produced both these biographies. The one on Cosgrave was launched by Enda Kenny T.D. It created some controversy when Mary Hanifin, as Minister of Education, having circulated copies of a book on de Valera to all post primary schools, declined to do so with my book, though offered on a no-fee basis.

I had long been working on an autobiography constantly referring to my diaries. It came out in 2008, titled 'The Good Samaritans – Memoir of a Biographer'. It was co-launched by the Directors of the Dublin Samaritans and ISANDS. It was launched in my old school

in Sandymount, from which I had taken early retirement in 2002. It contained much material on life in Ballyhaunis.

My last book, though I am at work on another, came out in 2010, titled, 'Eamon de Valera, 1882-1975 - Irish; Catholic; Visionary'. It was launched by Tim Pat Coogan. It is interesting to look at the same events from the different protagonists' point of view. Biography is a fascinating exercise as the character often takes you to areas and subjects you never envisaged as you endeavour to complete the jigsaw.

**Anthony J. Jordan**

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## Ballyhaunis Meet and Train

I always had a thing in the back of my head about jogging. It was one of a number of things I had planned to do before I die. Not meaning to sound morbid, but life was just so busy that I never got around to it. I had also worked as a volunteer for a number of years with Mayo Athletic Club arranging Ballyhaunis 8K Road Race. But I still never had an idea of what was involved in the running aspect of it.

A couple of years ago we were been doing some work with Ann Ronayne from Mayo Sports Partnership. During one of our meetings last year, Ann informed us about a new group which was taking root around Ireland called Fit4life. The idea was for ordinary people to meet on a regular basis and keep fit by walking or jogging. While we did not know much about it, we decided to try to set one up. Anne Cunnane and myself enlisted the help of her sister Tracy to get us started. Tracy Cunnane runs a Personal Trainer business and volunteered to help us with warm ups and cool downs etc. and from there we decided on a date to start and put the word around. We agreed to meet at the Multi Purpose Ball Court in the Friary field as this was a fine sports facility and an area which was available to the general public.

As part of Ballyhaunis Meet and Train, you will learn how to warm up, cool down. You will also discover that the easiest way of eating an elephant is in little bites. We also did some time trials to see at what speed we could run 1K and then check it again to see if we could improve. We did a little hill work in the Friary field.

We have a small regular crew who turn up religiously every Tuesday and Saturday. In each session we have two groups - basically a walking group and a jogging

group. We would love to have a few more people, so we could have at least one more running group. Some of our runners, including myself are content to be able to run a few K twice a week. But if we had numbers for another group, we could look at starting a progressive group. This group could look at training for longer distances: half marathons, marathons, better finishing times etc.

We would like to develop the group as much as possible by inviting professionals in to give us some practical sessions with instruction on good habits in running and diets/ nutrition etc. We would also keep an open mind on any members' ideas on what we should or could be doing.

Christmas brings many excesses, similarly New Year brings many resolutions, so if you would like to give it a try, why not come to one of our sessions. Just come along to the Ball Court in the Friary Field any Tuesday evening at 7pm or on Saturday morning at 9 am and join us for a trial. If you decide to join, there is an annual fee of €40. This fee goes to cover insurance and affiliation to Mayo Athletic Club and Athletics Ireland.

A big 'thank you' to Anne Cunnane, Jim Donnelly and Tracy Cunnane who have helped guide us all, in different ways. As a result of their work, many of our members are completing road races on a regular basis, including our own Ballyhaunis 8k "Run West".

If you wish to enquire about any aspect of our group, give me a ring at (087) 2455989 and I will be glad to clarify anything for you.

**Martin Fitzmaurice**



# The Events of September 22nd 1962

It's a widely held belief that we are only ever a few seconds from disaster. Some seismic event that sends you into a tailspin that changes the course of your life forever. I am reminded of this when thinking of the events that led to a tragic accident on a fair day in Ballyhaunis fifty years ago.

Mary Teresa Morley died on Saturday the 22nd of September 1962 at Hazelhill on the edge of Ballyhaunis. She had left her home at Treenreavough, Began that day to cycle the six miles in to town. She was thirty-two years old. As she was nearing Ballyhaunis her bicycle collided with a van driven by her neighbour Tommy Tarpey. She was thrown from the bicycle and sustained serious head injuries. When Dr. Eamon Waldron arrived on the scene at 3.30pm, he pronounced her dead. (Tommy Tarpey, R.I.P., would die later of his injuries in Castlebar hospital). An inquest held that evening in Ballyhaunis Court House concluded that Mrs. Morley, a mother of three young children, died of an extensive depressed fracture of the right temple. Her husband Thomas Morley was described as a tragic figure at the proceedings. The coroner and the foreman of the jury, Jack Halpin, expressed their sympathy and hoped God would comfort him and his family. Mrs. Morley was buried on Monday 24th after High Mass in Began Church

These are the bare, hard facts of how our mother Mary Teresa died. They are taken from a small newspaper cutting that recorded the painful events of that day which was kept by our father. He kept it along

with a few small mementos recovered from the scene of the accident - a lipstick, her watch, and the rings which

she wore. Over the years we, her children, met people who spoke fondly of Mary Teresa, of her courage and strength of character, but we had little reliable memory of our mother - we were too young when she was lost to us. The little white cross placed on a tree to mark the scene of the accident was lost over time, and we were busy growing and raising children of our own to really stop and think how little we knew of our mother. We missed out knowing the little things: What did her voice sound like? Did she like to sing? What was her favourite song? Did she like to dance? Simple things, but the kind of stuff most people would know about their mother. Our father Tom died in 2002, forty years after our mother, and while he often spoke fondly of her there are still so many things we wished we had asked. This

year marks the 50th anniversary of that tragic day and we felt we needed to remember our mother to know what we could about her and to celebrate her short life.

Mary Teresa Cribbin was born in Ballyglass, several miles out of Ballyhaunis, off the Cloonfad road. She was the eldest daughter of Jack (a farmer and cattle dealer) and his wife Mary. Mary Teresa had three brothers: Paddy Joe, John and Tommy, and three sisters: Delia and the twins, Kay and Freddie. We know that our parents met at a dance in Byrne's Hall. Our father told us that soon after that meeting in 1954 his father Dominic died, and the custom of that time was that a period of mourning must be observed and all socialising would have to stop for twelve months. He worried that Mary Teresa would not wait for him as he said he felt there were others who had their eye on her. But Tom, having five sisters, was able to arrange a few meetings out of the public eye and romance blossomed. They married in 1956 and settled in Treenreavough in a new house that Tom had built. Margaret Mary, their first child arrived in 1957, Dom two years later, and John in 1961. Like everybody else they had their little setbacks but they were happy and well regarded in their community and, by September 1962,



Mary Theresa Morley  
(nee Cribbin)

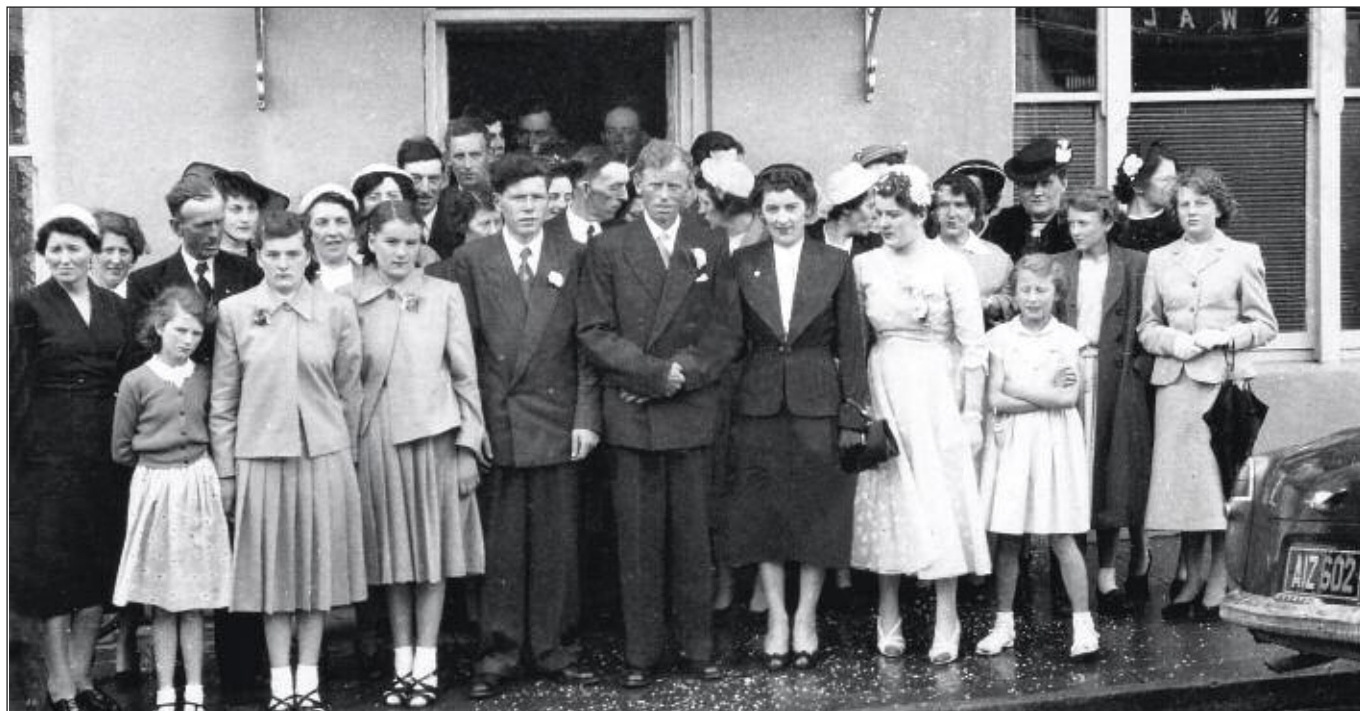
DIED AS DOCTOR ARRIVED AT SCENE  
OF CRASH

MOTHER OF THREE KILLED  
NEAR BALLYHAUNIS

A 32 years old married woman, the mother of three children, was fatally injured at Hazelhill, near Ballyhaunis, on Saturday evening after being struck by a small truck, which was driven by Mr. Thomas Tarpey, Began. The dead woman is MRS. MARY T. MORLEY, of Treenreavagh, Began, and she was cycling at the time of the accident.







their eldest child Margaret had just started school.

Like every other farmer Tom had livestock to sell in the September fair so he left home at first light. Mary Teresa probably saw him off that morning saying a prayer for his safe return and that he would sell his animals for a good price. As the fair day fell on a Saturday Mary Teresa would be going to town anyway but her journey that fateful day had an extra purpose. Tom's niece May Byrne from Clare Road was marrying Fintan Lynch on the following Wednesday. The reception, like her own less than six years earlier, would be held in the Central Hotel. When she got to town there would have been lots to talk about with Peg Byrne and Delia Grogan, her sisters-in-law who had business on Clare Street. Her father and brothers would be in town attending the fair. Her sister Kay was coming from Ballymahon that day where she worked in the bank to mind us kids on the day of the wedding. There was probably a new hat or coat to get for the wedding or an appointment with a hairdresser to be made. Whatever her plans for that day Mary Teresa must have been looking forward to the week ahead as she waved goodbye to the children promising to bring them something nice from town. Alas, she was never to complete her journey.

It is so hard fifty years later to understand how our father coped with the loss of his wife. We know he needed some medical attention when the dreadful news was broken to him, but like most people then he simply had to get on with life. His wife of six short years was gone and he was left with three small children to rear. With the help of his mother and sisters and the Cribbin family he coped. For the next forty years he would often comment, as grandchildren came along or when we were all gathered together, "What a pity Mary Teresa

**Mary Theresa Cribbin and Tom Morley, after their Wedding in 1956, with family and friends outside the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis.**

**Front, L-R: Dympna Byrne, Kathleen Cribbin, Freddie Cribbin, Miko Reddington (Bestman), Tom Morley (Groom), Mary Teresa Cribbin (Bride), Delia Cribbin (Bridesmaid), Breege Byrne, Ann Byrne, Mae Byrne. Back: Delia Grogan, Peg Byrne, John Fleming, Mary Duffy, Winnie Tighe, Delia Cribbin, Tom Cribbin, Gerry Duffy, Nell Byrne, Monica Duffy, Johnny Cribbin, Mae Cribbin, Kathleen Fleming, Ita McDonnell, Maria Cribbin. In Doorway: John Cribbin, Paddy Joe Cribbin, Tom Cribbin.**

isn't here to see this."

Recently we have been given two letters our mother wrote - one to her sister-in-law Kathleen Cribbin in about 1960 and one, written a few days before the accident, to her sister Kay. It is in reading these letters that we have found something of her personality. Her letters are chatty and sociable: she talks of who she met and enquires after others recovering from illness. she uses terms like 'God willing' and 'All in good time'. We read of growing children and a sister's new romance. She is thankful for small favours and hopeful for a letter by return. It is perhaps because of our desire to know her that we read so much into what was never meant to be more than a letter, but it is wonderful to see her written word if we cannot hear her speak them herself.

At an annual mass for both our parents in August their two week old great grand-daughter, Aoibhinn, reminded us all that life continues and that the spirit of Mary Teresa lives on in those of us she left behind on September 22nd 1962.

Solas na bhFlaithis dóibh go léir

**John Morley**





# BALLYHAUNIS 31st Annual Show

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the grant of £60 from Mayo Co. Committee of Agriculture and the prizes kindly presented to the Show as shown in the section "Special Prizes," also the materials (gates, planking, stakes, etc.) loaned for use at Show.

## RULES OF SHOW

- 1—All entries are accepted subject to the Rules of the Show.
- 2—Objections to judges' decisions will only be entertained if lodged with secretary before 4 p.m. on Show day, accompanied by fee of £2.
- 3—No first prize will be awarded in any classes unless there are two entries; no second prize will be awarded in any class unless there are three entries; no third prize will be awarded unless there are four entries.
- 4—The Adjudicators may withhold any or all of the prizes in any class in which they think sufficient merit has not been shown.
- 5—All the exhibits must be the bona fide property of the exhibitors for three months.
- 6—The Committee will not be responsible for accidents.
- 7—All livestock must be shown in headstalls (Rule strictly enforced).
- 8—All judging commences at 11 a.m. and all exhibits should be in the Show Grounds before 10.30 a.m.
- 9—Exhibits may not be removed from Show Grounds before 4.30 p.m.
- 10—No general entry in any section accepted after 6 p.m. on 22nd August.
- 11—A general entry in any section allows only one entry in each class.
- 12—The Show Committee will have full power to disqualify from exhibition any sheep which is considered to be coloured other than by the use of ordinary non-bloom dips free of added colouring matter.
- 13—All cattle must be fully attested and Cards must be produced on the day of Show.
- 14—In the event of a tie between exhibitors for special prizes the prizes will be awarded by lot.
- 15—Rules will be strictly adhered to.

## HORSES

Prizes in each Class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, £4; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Entry fee, 25p.

### CLASS

- 1—Heavy Farm Horse or Mare, shown with or without saddle.
- 2—Farm Horse or Mare (Irish draught type), shown with or without saddle.
- 3—Best yearling Filly or Colt.
- 4—Pony, not more than 14½ hands.
- 5—Pony, not more than 13 hands.
- 6—Best Foal.
- 7—Best Pony Foal.
- 8—Best Donkey, shown in halter.

### SPECIAL PRIZES FOR HORSES

- (i) £2.50 presented by Austin Grogan for the individual gaining 1st prize in Class 1.
- (ii) £2.50, presented by Austin Grogan, for the individual gaining 1st prize in Class 3.
- (iii) Bottle of whiskey, presented by Val Byrne, for 1st prize in Class 4.
- (iv) Bottle of whiskey, presented by "White Horse Bar," for 1st prize in Class 6.
- (v) Bottle of whiskey, presented by William Campbell, for 1st prize in Class 8.

## CATTLE

Prizes in each Class unless otherwise stated:

1st prize, £4; 2nd prize, £2; 3rd prize, £1. Entry fee, 20p.

£10 presented by Gurteen Co-Op. (Claremorris Branch) towards prizes in the Cattle Section.

### CLASS

- 9—Non-pedigree Cow (milk).
- 10—Non-pedigree Cow (springer).
- 11—In-calf Heifer, any dairy breed, with not more than 5 permanent teeth.
- 12—Heifer, any dairy breed, not visibly in calf, with not more than 2 permanent teeth.
- 13—Heifer, any dairy breed, with no permanent teeth.
- 14—Heifer Calf, any dairy breed, born in 1973.
- 15—Bullock or non-pedigree Bull, any breed or cross, having no permanent teeth.
- 16—Heifer or Bull Calf, beef type, born in 1973.
- 17—Best Bullock with not more than two permanent teeth.
- 18—Best Heifer with not more than two permanent teeth.

### SPECIAL PRIZES

- (i) ½ gallon of Mintie, presented by Curley's, Chemist, for 1st prize in Class 9.
- (ii) 2½ litres Nilverm, presented by Jack O'Connor, M.P.S.I., for 1st prize in Class 10.
- (iii) £2.50, presented by Tommy Johnston, for 1st prize in Class 11.
- (iv) £2.50, presented by Tommy Johnston, for 1st prize in Class 12.
- (v) £3, presented by Dr. Eamon Waldron, for 1st prize in Class 13.
- (vi) £3, presented by Terence McHugh, for 1st prize in Class 14.
- (vii) £2, presented by anon., for 1st prize in Class 15.
- (viii) £3, presented by Tommy Donnellan, for 1st prize in Class 16.

## SHEEP

Prizes in each class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, £2;

2nd prize, £1; 3rd prize, 50p. Entry fee, 20p.

### CLASS

- 19—Best pair of Ewes suitable for breeding Down breed.
- 20—Best pair of Ewes suitable for breeding Galway breed.
- 21—Best pair Ewe Lambs, Galway breed.
- 22—Best pair Cross-bred Lambs.
- 23—Best Ram Lamb, Galway breed.
- 24—Best Ram Lamb, Down breed.

### SPECIAL PRIZES FOR SHEEP

- (i) Leg of lamb, presented by Byrne Bros., for 1st prize in Class 19.
- (ii) £3 worth of groceries, presented by Tom Hopkins, for 1st prize in Class 20.
- (iii) Bottle of whiskey, presented by "The Silver Dollar," for 1st prize in Class 21.
- (iv) Bicycle tyre and tube, presented by Lynch's Garage, for 1st prize in Class 22.
- (v) Pint of Mintie, presented by Brendan Byrne, M.P.S.I., for 1st prize in Class 23.
- (vi) £2 worth of groceries, presented by Noel Waldron, for 1st prize in Class 24.

## FARM PRODUCE

Prizes in each class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, £1.25;

2nd prize, 75p; 3rd prize, 50p. Entry fee, 10p.

(15p. general entry for students attending post-primary schools in Ballyhaunis).

### CLASS

- 25—3 Swedes.
- 26—3 Yellow Globe Mangolds.
- 27—5 Fodder Beet.
- 28—5 Kerr's Pink.
- 29—5 Arran Banner.
- 30—5 Ambassadors.
- 31—5 Old Champions.
- 32—5 May Queens.
- 33—5 Epicures.
- 34—5 Records.
- 35—5 Ulster Commerce.
- 36—5 Golden Wonders.
- 37—4 dish Potatoes, distinct varieties, 5 in each dish.
- 38—2 Field Cabbages.
- 39—Sheaf of two-row Barley.
- 40—Sheaf of Oats.
- 41—Six sods Black Turf, hand-won.
- 42—Six sods Brown Turf, hand-won.
- 43—Best sample of first or second-crop Hay.
- 44—Best sample of old Meadow Hay.

(General Entry, 25p. See Rules 10 and 11).

We wish to acknowledge the following cash presented for prizes in the Farm Produce Section:

- £10—Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis.
- £5—Mick Mulhern, Clare Street.
- £5—James Duggan, Knock.
- £3—King's Garage, Knock Road.
- £2—Concannon's, Main Street.

**SPECIAL PRIZE**—George Delaney, Jr., will present the individual who wins the highest number of 1st prizes in the above section with a valuable prize.

## HORTICULTURAL SECTION

### CLASS

- 45—Vase of Gladioli.
- 46—Vase of Dahlias.
- 47—Best vase of half-dozen Cactus Dahlias.
- 48—Vase of Sweet Pea.
- 49—Most tastefully arranged vase of Garden Flowers.
- 50—Best Floral Arrangement of shallow dish, not more than 2 inches high.
- 51—Most tastefully arranged vase of Wild Flowers (schoolchildren).
- 52—3 Carrots.
- 53—3 Parsnips.
- 54—3 Garden Beet.
- 55—1 dozen pods of Peas.
- 56—1 dozen pods of Beans.
- 57—5 Shallots.
- 58—5 Onions grown from Sets.
- 59—12 sticks of Rhubarb.
- 60—3 Garden Cabbage (York type).
- 61—Collection of Vegetables.
- 62—Dish of 5 Cooking Apples.
- 63—Dish of 5 Dessert Apples.
- 64—3 Dishes of Apples, distinct varieties (5 in each dish).
- 65—Heads of Lettuce.

Prizes in each Class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, £1.25; 2nd prize, 75p; 3rd prize, 50p. Entry fee, 10p.

(General entry, 25p. See Rules 10 and 11.)

15p. general entry for students attending post-primary schools in Ballyhaunis.

We wish to acknowledge the following cash presented for prizes in the Horticultural Section:

- £10—Ulster Bank, Ballyhaunis.
- £5—Eddie Webb.
- £5—Seamus Coen, Garage.
- £2—Paddy Delaney.
- £2—Terence McHugh.





# HOW, Thursday, 23rd August, 1973

£1—James Connell.  
£1—James Smith, Bridge Bar—Special Prizes.

## SPECIAL PRIZES

- (i) Bottle of Whiskey, presented by John Morley, for 1st prize in Class 45.
- (ii) Bottle of whiskey, presented by Paddy Phillips, for 1st prize in Class 48.
- (iii) Box of chocolates, presented by Padraic Waldron, for 1st prize in Class 51.
- (iv) Pair of wellingtons, presented by Fordes Ltd., for 1st prize in Class 61.
- (v) 2 bags of 10.10.20, presented by Dillons, for 1st prize in Class 64.

## HOME PRODUCE SECTION

Prizes in each class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, £1.25; 2nd prize, 75p; 3rd prize, 50p. Entry fee, 10p.  
(General entry, 25p. See Rules 10 and 11)

### CLASS

- 66—Half-dozen Hen Eggs (White).
- 67—Half-dozen Hen Eggs (Brown or Tinted).
- 68—Half-dozen Duck Eggs.
- 69—I Chicken, trussed.
- 70—1 lb. roll Unsalted Butter (home-made).
- 71—1 lb. roll Salted Butter (home-made).
- 72—Home-made Soda Bread (White).
- 73—Home-made Soda Bread (Brown).
- 74—Sponge Cake.
- 75—Apple Tart.
- 76—Sandwich.
- 77—Plate of Pastries.
- 78—Madeira Cake.
- 79—Fruit Cake (not iced).
- 80—Swiss Roll.
- 81—Jar of home-made Berry Jam.
- 82—Jar of home-made Jam, any other variety.
- 83—Jar of home-made Fresh Fruit Jelly.
- 84—Best Cherry Cake.

We wish to acknowledge the following cash presented for prizes in the Home Produce Section:

- £3—Tommie Donnellan.
- £5—Charlie Phillips.
- £5—Gallagher's, The Square.
- (i) 4 stone of flour, presented by Winstons, Devils, for 1st prize in Class 73.

## KNITTING & NEEDLEWORK SECTION

Prizes in each Class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, £1; 2nd prize, 50p; 3rd prize, 25p.  
(General entry, 25p. See Rules 10 and 11.)

### CLASS

- 85—Hand-knitted Jumper (wool).
- 86—Gent's hand-knitted Jumper.
- 87—Hand-knitted Cardigan.
- 88—Hand-knitted Child's Garment.
- 89—Hand-knitted Socks.
- 90—Any other hand-knitted article not named in preceding classes.
- 91—Embroidered Tea Cloth (coloured embroidery).
- 92—Embroidered Tea Cloth (white embroidery).
- 93—Any other piece of Coloured Embroidery.
- 94—Any other piece of White Embroidery.
- 95—Hand-embroidered Cushion Cover.
- 96—Home-made Tea Cosy.
- 97—Any other piece of Fancy Needlework not named in preceding classes.
- 98—Best Article in Craftwork (Lamp Shade, Tray or Stool).
- 99—Best hand-knitted Article shown by day students attending Vocational School, Ballyhaunis.
- 100—Best Crocheted Article in Wool.
- 101—Best Crocheted Article in Cotton or Silk.

We wish to acknowledge the following cash presented towards prizes in Knitting and Needlework Section.

- £3 presented by Ryan's Supermarket (VG).
- £3 presented by Donal K. Moran.

### SPECIAL PRIZES:

- (i) Pair of wall brackets, presented by Paddy Ruane, for 1st prize in Class 85.
- (ii) Bag of flour, presented by Paddo Cunningham, for 1st prize in Class 90.
- (iii) 30 ozs. wool, presented by P. J. McGarry, for 1st prize in Class 98.
- (iv) Large box of chocolates, presented by Mrs. Lyons, Clare Street, for 1st prize in Class 101.
- (v) Leg of lamb, presented by Seamus Webb, for 1st prize in Class 95.

## HOME CRAFTS SECTION

Prizes in each class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, £1; 2nd prize, 50p; 3rd prize, 25p. Entry fee, 20p.

### CLASS

- 102—An Apron, Workbag or Garment, entirely hand-sewn or embroidered, made by girls under 16.
- 103—Best home-made Irish Souvenir.
- 104—Best Doll, complete with trousseau, made by child from 5 to 8 years.
- 105—Best Article in Wool Crochet by children from 8 to 12 years.
- 106—Home-made Toy, Model or Puppet, or Doll's Furniture by child under 12 years.

- 107—Best Tufted Wool Rug.
- 108—Best article of Craftwork, using any material.

### SPECIAL PRIZES:

- (i) Bottle of sherry, presented by Joe Regan, for 1st prize in Class 102.
- (ii) Parcel of groceries, presented by Jordans, Knox St., for 1st prize in Class 104.
- (iii) Bottle of sherry, presented by the Central Hotel, for 1st prize in Class 106.
- (iv) Lady's and gent's wallet, presented by Paddy Freeley, for 1st prize in Class 108.
- (v) Bedside lamp, presented by D. P. Hannon, for the highest number of 1st prizes in the Home Craft Section.
- (vi) Prize presented by Cyril Coyne for 1st prize in Class 103.
- (vii) Prize presented by Cyril Coyne for 1st prize in Class 105.

## KNITTERS SECTION (Open)

Prizes in each Class, except where otherwise stated—1st prize, 21; 2nd prize, 50p; 3rd prize, 25p. Entry fee, 10p.

### CLASS

- 109—Best Aran Cardigan or Dress.
- 110—Best article in Traditional Crochet with rose and shamrock motif, double picot.
- 111—Best collection of Knitted Articles (Handbags, Gloves, etc.)

All intending exhibitors are advised to note Rules of Show.

### SPECIAL PRIZES:

We acknowledge £3 presented by Bernie Byrne towards prizes in Knitters' Section.

- (i) Bottle of whiskey presented by Jack Halpin for 1st prize in
- (ii) Bottle of whiskey presented by Keane's factory for 1st prize in Class 110.
- (iii) Leg of lamb presented by Cribbins for 1st prize in Class 111.

## ARTS SECTION

Entry fee, 10p.

### CLASS

- 112—Any Scene of historical importance. 1st prize, statue; 2nd prize, £1.50; 3rd prize, £1.
- 113—Any Subject (for children under 12 years). 1st prize, £1.50; 2nd prize, 75p; 3rd prize, 25p.

All the prizes in the Arts Section kindly presented by Sean Mac Giolla Mhuiré.

## DOGS SECTION

Entry fee, 20p.

### CLASS

- 114—Best Sheepdog. 1st prize, £2.
- 115—Best Gun Dog. 1st prize, £2.
- 116—Best Toy Dog (any breed). 1st prize, £2.

NOTE—The Committee would like to thank the sponsors, who have helped to make this year's prizes outstanding.

### CUPS.

- 1—Hughes Memorial Cup. A perpetual challenge cup to be presented to the individual who secures the highest number of 1st prizes in all classes.
- 2—Perpetual challenge Cup (presented by the Ballyhaunis Development Association) for the most outstanding exhibit in the dairy cow and heifer section, Classes 9—14, inclusive.
- 3—Macra na Feirme Perpetual Challenge Cup, to be presented to the individual gaining the highest number of 1st prizes in the farm produce and horticultural sections, Class 25—65 inclusive.
- 4—Cup, kindly presented by Mr. Mulligan, for best shorthorn exhibit at the Show.
- 5—Cup presented by Messrs. John Durkan & Sons, Ltd., for the lady securing the highest number of 1st prizes in the home produce section, Classes 66—84.
- 6—Cup presented by Frank Loughran, M.R.C.V.S., for the most outstanding exhibit in the horse section.

## NOVELTY EVENTS:

- 1—DONKEY DERBY (£10 in Prizes).

## II—TRACTOR-BACKING COMPETITION.

STARTS 2 P.M.

SPECIAL PRIZE PRESENTED BY FREYNE'S GARAGE AND £10 PRESENTED BY NOEL PATTERSON, M.R.C.V.S.

- III—WEIGHT JUDGING. Set of delph presented by Austin Jordan, Upper Main Street.

- IV—SACK RACE for under Twelves.

- V—EGG & SPOON RACE for children under Six.

## VI—WEIGHT-THROWING COMPETITION.

QUART OF WHISKEY presented by "HORSE SHOE INN" to the winner.

- VII—THREE-LEGGED RACE for under Twelves.

- VIII—OBSTACLE RACE for under Twelves.

Entry Forms available from the Secretary. For further information ring 177.

**Don't forget SHOW DANCE**  
**Music by JOHNNY FLYNN.**

Dancing, 9—2.





# Current Affairs - And Not So Current, Perhaps

Today - Monday 16th July - Raining cats and dogs. Yesterday - Saint Swithin's Day - also wet, and the forerunner to forty wet days if you believe in pisreógs, which I don't.

Far too wet for outside work so I'll throw a few lines together for Annagh Magazine. I always try to complete my contribution and have it forwarded to the committee before the end of August in case I have any predictions to make. I always try my best to get into the mind of the reader, and I am well aware that much of my stuff is dated back in time to the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's. So I will try to focus on current affairs. Yet, I'm sure to fall into the trap again and bring you back in time before I'm finished.

## Favourite Paper

At the moment I'm having a peek at The Daily Mirror, my favourite paper. I used to buy The Sun but page three became too hot to handle, and if I was caught gawking into that page a divorce would be imminent. If The Mirror fails to hold onto its modesty I'll be relegated to The Mayo Post, but at least it's free, I think.

On page two the lovely Rosanna Purcell looks stunning in her Mexican outfit and hat, and a fistful of maracas that will no doubt catch the eye of the male viewer. On the left hand side of the same page is a horror story with the heading, "Rich get Richer as Poor get Poorer". You may remember I talked about this in the 2011 edition of Annagh Magazine. New Social Justice Report reveals the least well off saw their income plummet by a staggering 18.2% while the richest households are 4% better off, and worse still that unemployment is rising and 700,000 of us are at risk of poverty. Before the last election the government promised an upturn in one hundred days. My prediction is one hundred years. The hundred days are several times round the block and my prediction is going well.

## Toxic Banks

In between this horror story and the lovely Rosanna Purcell is a full length column headed "NAMA Hundred Thousand Euro Defended". A Junior Minister spoke out after it was revealed that The Toxic Bank paid three people €200,000 – the same as Enda Kenny. The very good news that there will be six fewer TDs in Leinster House is wonderful music to our ears. Please make it sixty rather than six and scrap the Seanad too when the axe comes down. This house contains a lot of rejects who failed in their quest for the Dáil.

## My Own View

The way I see it we will need several extra ministers for the huge work load and many new portfolios. I can

see every TD being promoted to Minister. Take for instance the environment will need at least three ministers. Top job will be the Household Tax Minister. His biggest headache will be to draw a line between refusing to pay and unable to pay.

Next up will be that smelly portfolio known as the Septic Minister. Hundreds of jobs will be created investigating where upgrading will be required. These guys will be confronted with some tough questions. My own question will be something like this – if the Septic Minister is so concerned about these tanks what is he prepared to do about billions and billions of gallons of animal slurry being spewed on to the whole country, such offensive material having nowhere to go except into the ground and connect with water tables supplying lakes, rivers and domestic wells, most of which are already polluted to an irreversible degree? The easy way out of this is to blame the farmer. Why not? But it wasn't the farmers that designed slatted houses and slurry tankers, many of which lose some of their contents along the main roads. The locking systems in all of those machines need to be improved to ensure that no slurry can escape while travelling on the roads.

Next up for promotion will be, wait for it – you're not going to believe this, and it's coming down the track, if you have not heard of this please fasten your seat belts – Chewing Gum Minister. As John B. would say, "Isn't that the last of all". What on God's earth spurs people to think of such rubbish. Answer, "money". Well it's in the pipe line. I heard it for myself. But perhaps I'm missing something here. What about all the people that will be employed ripping up the footpaths in O'Connell Street to try and unfasten the chewing gum from the concrete. My own favourite gum chewer is Sir Alex Ferguson. See how he can speed up as the game intensifies. But he has never been known to spit it out. Takes it home for next match. Re-cycling they call it.

## Holidays, Holidays, Holidays

But come here a minute, isn't it time to give those poor unfortunates a holiday. Off ye go boys. We'll call it the Summer Recess. But be back let ye in September. We have to think up another budget from hell. Ye dropped a few hints already about what the makeup may be. Ye were ordered to button it and not give any information to the poor voter, but nothing could be further from the truth. Small doses of budget medicines from time to time will help soften the blow, as long as you don't overdo it like the last budget when the Euro people were the first to tell us about the VAT increase. My prediction for last year's budget was more of the same. This year there is a slight alteration. More of more of the same, if you get my drift.





## Bailout

All this pile of money generated from the aforesaid projects could stave off a second bailout. However, it's better to keep that German woman and the Frenchman on side in case we won't have enough. It's costing a mint to run this government. My favourite picture of the year is the one where Enda is seen puckering up to Fräulein 'Moneybags' Merkel. Dressed to kill, he wasn't one bit excited. He seems to be able to charm his way into the Euro crock of gold, and not one bit worried about the Troika people coming here every three months to correct our home exercise. Then of course there is the other side of the coin which needs looking at. When the poor taxpayer is finally squeezed like an orange and there is no money forthcoming, puckering up to Fräulein Merkel won't work anymore. Unless of course they can squeeze more off the fat cats, and that would implicate themselves, so one does not see that working.

## Referendum

Notice how they managed to pull off the referendum thing, when we didn't know from Adam down what we were voting for. Feel the fall and feel the gale pressed the 'Yes' issue by telling us if we don't say yes then no more money for guards, hospitals, teachers, or social welfare. Notice, if you're not blind, that they never mentioned themselves. Too embarrassing my boys but don't worry, we sat through it. I'll never stand in a polling station again. I'll have nothing to do with this or any government that turns its back on the poor. But isn't it time for the Christmas holidays. Off ye go again lads and when ye come back it will be time to go again. More holidays. Easter this time, and for God's sake, try and get the bowl of shamrock to Barack Obama in time. No excuse with a Government jet. The rest of ye, off anywhere ye like. Sorry we won't have enough shamrock to go round. Clover will do fine – like yourselves they won't know the difference.

## Maths Breakthrough

Do you know what I just figured out? Why didn't I think of it before now. When you add up all the holidays – all the Saturdays, all the Sundays, and they don't attend the Dáil on Mondays – there is very little time left for work, and when you add in all time spent arguing, you can well understand how these guys earn their money. I do not wish to infiltrate your wonderful magazine with political rubbish but we are led to believe it's all nice and democratic. Brilliant.

## My Kind of People

Ever since I was a gasúr I always had a great affection for Ballyhaunis town and its people. I dare to say, if I press the issue, I can stake my claim to being a blood citizen of Annagh and Ballyhaunis. My late father was born around the turn of the twentieth century in the

sprawling village of Carrowkeel. He lived with his family for the first twenty eight years of his life, until his marriage, just across the road that divides Ballyhaunis and Bekan. Would that be enough to claim Ballyhaunis blood? I think so and I hope so.

My parents sent me to a dancing class in Ballyhaunis in the early thirties. The late Seamus Forde, the Irish dance teacher, was my partner. Our teacher was the late great Michael Touhey, a giant of a man about five foot sixteen inches or more with a pair of shoes that seemed to go on forever, but he sure could heel-and-toe. I can still recall some of that class: Leonie Webb, Mary Donnellan, Mary Hanna Jordan (O'Connor) and the O'Boyle sisters, just to mention a few. All pretty good at the 1234567 but the Queen of the Boards was the late Helen O'Boyle. Nothing in Connaught came anywhere near her style on the dance floor. I'm lost for words to describe what Helen could do with her feet while her upper body never seemed to move. I myself had a good right foot but I never could get my left to do the same routine. So I jacked it in! Waste of good money at fourpence a session.

## The Gallagher Outfit

In 1951 I joined the outdoor staff of Gallagher & Sons. All my old workmates have gone to their 'building site in the sky'. Men like Jack Kilduff, Clarence Grogan, Paddy Niland, and the late Tom Fleming – a giant of a man who could throw seventeen foot railway metals onto the lorry as if they were match sticks. I called him 'The Pine Tree'. The only one left now is our foreman Milo Henry, a good friend and a true gentleman. We meet up now and then, and boy do we relive the old times at Gallagher's. Perhaps by the law of averages we should have joined our mates but we'll let the Man Above decide our fate.

## Breaking a Leg

My next innings with Ballyhaunis came around the late sixties when I joined the Good Council Players drama group, and sometime later joined St. Patrick's on a regular basis until the turn of the century. My sincere thanks to Pat Doyle for adding me to the group: you kept that Society together through good times and bad.

In between times I joined Frank Herrity's Whitethorn Group and we had great success with many of the one act categories, including an All Ireland First for a play called 'Jack Fury'. A magnificent script by Brendan McMahon: the story of a stupid, easy going farmer, his domineering bitch of a wife from hell and her mother-in-law who couldn't tell Christmas Day from the first of August, the late stages of dementia I would imagine. The cast for all our one act plays never changed: Frankie Ralph O'Malley, Margaret Niland, Finola Morley (Mellott), and myself. The dramatic bond between us was unbreakable. Many thanks to Frank and the girls for giving me the chance join their wonderful group.



### Working in the Underground Dept.

In 1981 the late Tommy Donnellan asked me to prepare a grave for the popular Peter Regan R.I.P. I agreed, but never intended to do such work on a long term basis, but that is exactly what happened. Grave digging was always looked on as low class work but nothing could be further from the truth. It's an honour to be asked to prepare a lasting place for a soul departed. I've been doing this job for sixty-five years and in that time I have dug one thousand graves. I'm not too worried if that is not good enough for the Guinness Book of Records but I can only hope that I match up to the faith people placed in me whether young or old, rich or poor, priest or nun, or a stillborn infant: each one of them got the same dignified burial that every soul deserves.

One particular custom that was introduced in the 1960's was the use of carpet, or some such material, to cover up the soil and the four sides of the grave. This to me is utter nonsense and covers up the true meaning of interment. It was that same soil that nourished our bodies during our lifetime, producing all our edible goods, and now when we are being laid to rest, only to become part of that soil, it is obscured from our sight by unsightly carpet. Does not each member of the bereaved family take a fistful of soil, scattering it on top of their beloved? Does not the priest take a shovel of soil for a similar purpose? He won't be heard saying: 'Remember man thou art but carpet and into carpet thou shall return'. That nonsense custom should be abolished forthwith.

While I'm on the subject of graves here is another true story. In fact everything I write is true and that may well be my downfall because a lot of people don't believe the truth. Watch my fan mail dwindle after this contribution to Annagh Magazine. But where was I? Ah yes, it was about Fr. Delaney's grave. In hindsight there was no room for his coffin unless you left it on the floor and even at that part of the coffin would be resting on the stairs of the vault. The original coffins were stacked three high but to me this option with Fr. Delaney's coffin would be in danger of collapsing and falling to the ground. There was no time to do the job of propping it up on the day of the funeral. Coming up the stairs that day I promised Fr. Delaney that I'd come back and some weeks afterwards I approached Joe Hosty, a staunch supporter of the Friary, and we arranged to do the job early the next morning. When the work was complete I felt quite happy to leave the remains of this hugely popular man in a safe and dignified manner. Thanks Joe, it's easy to see you cared. Thanks also to Pat Donnellan and my workmate Dermot O'Sullivan.

### Breaking the Rules

I'm fast approaching the four thousand word limit

allowed for Annagh Magazine but I'll be back next year, God willing. Before I go I've thrown together a little ditty about the wonderful shopkeepers and businessmen that made up Ballyhaunis all those years ago. Most of you will know none of these and some of you will know some of them but just a handful will know all of them. It was my pleasure to know them all...

### My Kind of People, My Kind of Town

From Sarah Brennan to Peter Hannon  
At Paddy Jordan's you're half way down  
D. P. Hannan, Tom Concannon  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Guard McNaught and Sergeant Nally  
No finer lawmen did the rounds  
With Guards Kelly, Connell, Melly  
My kind of people, my kind of town

O'Malley Brothers, Ned Fitzgerald  
Walking out his prize greyhound  
At Bernie Byrne's or Mick Mulhern's  
You could wet your whistle for half a crown

Paddy Macken if you're fond of backing  
Each-way at Aintree or Sandown  
Philip Morley, Michael Curley  
My kind of people, my kind of town

A suit of clothes at Michael Fahey  
A one course meal at Flatley's Café  
Eat your fill for just a crown  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Clarence Grogan, three foot rule  
Children traipsing off to school  
Some wore sandals, some wore none  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Tuesday morning, wind or rain  
Scores of farmers at the Crane  
A glut of food keeps prices down  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Joe McQueeney, Michael Kenny  
Last man on earth to let you down  
At Austin Jordan's, can't get a word in  
My kind of people, my kind of town





Webb's and Cribbin's, Eamon Phillips  
A half a sheep for just a pound  
Frank Glynn, Clare Street  
Tom, Upper Main Street  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Forde's, McGarry's, Toss O'Boyle  
Mickey Curley, castor oil  
Try and keep a spoonful down  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Larry Moran, a roaring fire  
Paddy Kearns, car for hire  
P.D. Freeley, further down  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Sunday morning crowds of people  
At the church without the steeple  
Some preferred the Friary ground  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Three steps up to Shugeen Byrne's  
Bridget Devaney, selling herrings  
Pat O'Brien, great friend of mine  
Eddie Biesty, Knox's Line

Annie Greally, Michael Freeley  
Two sisters at the chapel ground  
The Leech Brothers, John and William  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Mick O'Connell, weekly news  
Sunday next the Harvest Dues  
Pay up or you are heading down  
My kind of people, my kind of town

William Neary, no better shoe  
Jimmy Gilmore, rates are due  
Every morning Finn's milk round  
My kind of people, my kind of town

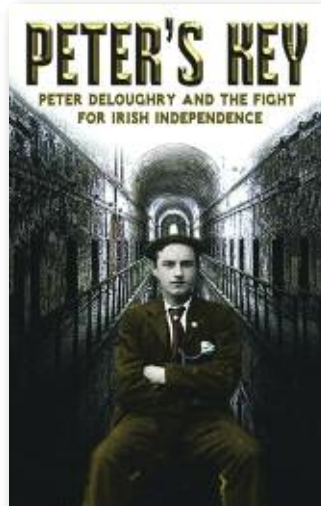
Tighe Brothers, best of leather  
Pat Meath, a haircut and the weather  
Delaney's Bakery, white or brown  
My kind of people, my kind of town

Mollie Murray, Raleigh bike  
Tyres, valve rubber and the like  
Husband Jack at Station Rise  
The Bekan woman, Alice Lyons

Dedicated to the memory of a wonderful people in  
much, much poorer but much, much happier times.

**Tony Carney**

## Peter's Key: Peter DeLoughry and the Fight for Irish Independence.



This book tells the story of the Irish patriot and politician who helped to mastermind the daring escape that sprang Eamon de Valera from Lincoln Jail in 1919.

It was the most creative jail escape of all time, reports of which knocked stories off the front pages of newspapers throughout the world. Peter DeLoughry was an uncle of Maura Burke,

Doctor's Road, Ballyhaunis, and his story featured in Annagh 2010.

The author of 'Peter's Key', Declan Dunne – Peter DeLoughry's grandson – is a native of Wexford and works as a journalist with RTÉ. He has produced television documentaries for the BBC and RTÉ covering issues such as emigration, finance and crime. He has written for The Guardian and for Irish national newspapers on topics ranging across media coverage, economics and politics. 'Peter's Key: Peter DeLoughry and the Fight for Irish Independence' is published in paperback by Mercier Press, at €19.99.



**Peter  
DeLoughry,  
in mayoral  
robes with  
sceptre and  
mace, as Mayor  
of Kilkenny.**



# My Olympic Games

**August 5th 2012.** I'm sitting in the front row of the Olympic Stadium in London. It's the Men's 100 metres Final. I've been fortunate enough to cover some big events in my six years with Today FM but this on a whole different level. I have somehow managed to nab the best seat in the house. I say "somehow" but I have actually been sitting in this seat for five hours to make sure I have a prime view of the race that stops the world. What happens next would be unforgettable if it didn't happen so damn quickly. 9.63 seconds is all it takes for Usain Bolt to win the gold medal. Without realizing it I'm off my feet roaring on the fastest man we have ever seen. This is very much against press box etiquette. In the press box we are professionals, we don't get caught up in the emotion. Yet when I turn around, everyone in the press box is standing, taking photos and generally acting like twelve year olds who have just won a competition. This is what the Olympic Games does to you. This is why it's the greatest show on earth.

## Atmosphere

When I landed in London the day before the Olympics started, it was hard to know what to expect. There had been plenty of talk in the build up to the Games that London wouldn't be able to cope with hosting such a huge event. There were concerns over security and predictions of transport chaos but in the end there was never anything to worry about. It was clear from the moment I landed at Heathrow, and was greeted by several good-humoured volunteers in their unmistakable purple and red outfits, that this was going to be a special couple of weeks. I met several volunteers who travelled over from Ireland and were staying in hostels for the duration of the Olympics, all at their own expense, just to savour the atmosphere and be a part of the Games.

From a media point of view, the set-up was unlike anything I had ever experienced before. I was based out of a studio in Westminster but spent most of my time at the Media Centre in the Olympic Park. Over 20,000 media covered the games and the media centre was bigger than any building in Ireland. I learned quickly just how vast the Olympic Park was, when I received a call ninety minutes before the start of the opening ceremony to say a ticket had become available at the Media Centre.

Nobody had told me it was two miles from the park entrance to the Media Centre! Somehow I managed to reach the Stadium just as Bradley Wiggins rang the bell to start the ceremony but I pity the Japanese journalist who had to sit beside a sweaty Mayo man for the next three hours! The Opening Ceremony was a magical experience, one of many once in a lifetime experiences I was to enjoy over the next two weeks.

While I had to keep an eye on all the stories going on around the Olympics, my focus was on our chief medal hopes, the boxers, and in particular Katie Taylor. I knew that covering Katie's fights would be my main role for the second week of the games but with Katie not involved for the first week, it gave a chance for some of Ireland's lesser known athletes to take some of the limelight.

One of the great things about the Olympics is that for two weeks every four years we all become experts on sports we usually pay little or no attention to! I won't lie, sailing is a sport I held zero interest in pre-Olympics; however I'd heard that the Irish Sailing Association held high hopes of claiming a medal so I figured I had better do some research. Luckily, I was given a chance to spend an evening sailing with former Olympian Cathy MacAleavey, who also happened to be the mother of current sailor Annalise Murphy. Annalise turned out to be the star Irish performer of the first week, she led the Lazar Radial Sailing for the first six days, and every single ounce of sailing knowledge I'd picked up from Cathy turned out to be priceless as I spent almost every evening talking sailing with Matt Cooper on the Last Word. In the end, Annalise was incredibly unlucky not to win a medal; she had been in the top three throughout the ten races but in the final medal race dropped out of the medals and finished fourth.

The Olympics really came alive on the opening day of the Athletics. At most Olympic Games the stadium would be only half full for the morning sessions but when I arrived in to stadium at 10am on that Friday morning, the stadium was already packed with 80,000 patriotic Brits ready to cheer on the games poster girl Jessica Ennis. Ennis's face was on every billboard leading up to the games but the pressure clearly didn't affect her as in her first event she ran the fastest time ever in the 100 metre Hurdles. That sparked the loudest cheer I have ever heard in a stadium, well until the following night at least! Super Saturday as it has become known will go down as the greatest night in British sports history as Ennis, Mo Farah and Greg Rutherford all won gold medals in a forty-five minute spell. As Farah ran down the closing stretch of his 10,000 metres it was as if the entire crowd had been turned into fourteen-year-old girls at a One Direction concert, my ears were ringing for days after it! The press box that weekend was like a who's who of Olympic greats. I ran into a personal hero of mine, the former Olympic 100 metres Champion Maurice Green in the toilets and like any true professional completely forgot where I was, shook his hand asked for a photo! Bolt's win in the 100 metres on the Sunday night capped an incredible few days but from a work point of view, the Games were only really starting for me.





## Katie Taylor

Katie Taylor's first fight on the Monday was the start of a hectic week. I had to be at our Westminster studio for 6.30am each morning for the Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show. I'd speak with Ray D'Arcy at 11.00 before heading out to the Excel Arena in the London Docklands for the day's boxing. I didn't know what to expect from Katie's first fight against Liverpool's Natasha Jonas. Katie had been kept away from the media for several months before the Olympics and there was a worry that the judges had been siding with British fighters in the opening week. We needn't have worried. The Irish had taken over the Excel Arena and the hairs were standing on the back of my neck before the fight had even started, such was the ovation Katie received on her way into the ring. Katie produced her best performance of the Olympics in that fight and she was the talk of the media centre that evening. Her semi final victory over Mavzuna Chorieva was straightforward, but my day ended up being anything but. Shortly after Katie's fight I got a call telling me that show jumper Cian O'Connor was on the verge of winning a medal. This was going to be the big story of the day so I hopped in a taxi and sped across London to the show-jumping arena at Greenwich Park. Unfortunately, by the time I got there the Irish flag was being hoisted after O'Connor won a bronze medal. I was stood at the entrance to the arena as the Swiss anthem played for the gold medal winner when I noticed a bit of a commotion going on behind me. I had somehow failed to notice that I had been standing directly in front of Prince William, his wife Kate and Prince Harry. I was tempted to ask for an interview but the look their security guard gave me persuaded me to leave it. I did take a sly photo, which Prince William didn't look too happy about!

From the day I found out I would be covering the Olympics; Thursday August 9th was the date I was most looking forward to. This was the day Katie Taylor was going to win gold. I must have been on Today FM every hour that day, it was the top story on the news and all anyone was talking about. The Irish had again taken over the Excel Arena and the atmosphere in the Arena was probably the best of the Olympics. I was sitting directly behind Kate Middleton and Princess Anne and they spent most of the fight covering their ears such was the noise! As we know, Katie did win but not without giving us a few nervous moments first. If anything the nerves added to the occasion and when Amhrán Na bhFiann played, there weren't too many dry eyes! I made a quick stop off at the Olympic Stadium that evening to see Usain Bolt win the 200 metres before heading to an Irish bar in Kings Cross where Katie was due to make an appearance late that night. However, due to the crowd at the bar, Katie could barely get in the door and she had to turn around and head home again! I did eventually get to interview Katie the next morning and she seemed completely unaffected



**Nathan Murphy with Olympic Champion Katie Taylor**

by her win, she was still as humble and gracious as ever. I fulfilled a lifetime ambition that morning when Katie let me hold the gold medal.

From start to finish working at London 2012 was just one high after another. That isn't always the case as a sports journalist. While the perks of the jobs are obvious: free tickets and getting paid to talk about something you love! There is also the endless hours of hanging around in the cold waiting to talk to a player or manager who would rather be doing anything else and sometimes it would be nice to just sit back, relax and enjoy a match. This was definitely the case at the European Championship, when I must have met half of Ballyhaunis in the square in Poznan and while they were getting into the spirit of the occasion, I was usually heading home for an early night to make sure I was up for the Breakfast Show the next morning.

In London, it was different, because there were so many sports on at the same time, I was able to go and watch some sport on my off time. I'd made a bucket-list of events I wanted to see and thankfully I managed to get to most of them. Wimbledon was top of my list and though I was only at the All England Club for a couple of hours, I still managed to see eventual gold medalists Andy Murray and Serena Williams in action. A trip to SW19 is something I would definitely recommend for any sports fan. The Velodrome was the most impressive venue in the Olympic Park and it had an atmosphere to match, especially when Chris Hoy won his sixth gold medal while witnessing the American Basketball team in full flight was another highlight. The only sport I missed from my list was the Beach Volleyball! The Beach Volleyball court was no more than a two minute walk from my studio at Westminster and I did actually go in one day but the men's Beach Volleyball was on and I'm not even sure that's a real sport!

**Nathan Murphy, TODAY FM Journalist**



# My Grandmother

My grandmother Nora Drudy was born in 1856 in the townland of Mannin in the parish of Aghamore. She was the eldest of six children born to James Drudy and his wife Mary Morley. Mary was a native of Ballyhaunis. The other children were Mary, Hanna, and three boys Matthew, James and Thomas. Thomas died as an infant and his mother Mary died shortly after. Nora would have been ten or eleven years old at the time. Her father kept her home from school most of the time from then on. She had to help with the younger children and all the general housework.

The Drudy family were tenants of the local landlord, the Beytagh estate. Those years were very hard on the poor tenant farmers. The Famine wasn't long over and they were struggling very hard to survive. The landlords had very little pity for their plight. Things came to a head in Mannin in 1887. The weather that year was very bad. The harvest was very poor and the potato crop wasn't great. The outlook was very bleak and gloomy indeed. The tenants were finding it almost impossible to survive.

Something had to be done to stave off the threatened hunger and disaster. Supported by the local curate Fr. McAlpine they demanded a reduction of five shillings in the pound in their rent. The demand was indignantly refused. When the tenants realised that there was no hope of any kind of a settlement with the landlords they collected the rent among themselves and lodged it in a local bank. This was to provide against any back-sliding among the tenants. Those were the days of rampant landlord tyranny, backed up by Dublin Castle.

Legal proceedings were brought against the tenants to force them to pay up. Decrees were obtained for the amounts claimed. The two largest tenants were Thomas Hunt and James Drudy. It was thought that if these were 'brought to heel' the rest would follow suit and the fight would then collapse and the landlord would win. But the struggle went on: James Drudy held fast, and twice the sheriff and his men arrived to levy the amount of the decree by seizing his cattle, and twice these officers of the law were foiled and beaten off the grounds. The cattle remained where they were.

The attack was next directed towards Thomas Hunt. In October 1887 the sheriff accompanied by two hundred armed police attempted to seize his flock of sheep. Once again they failed in their attempt. The tenants had previously arranged with the entire countryside around that when the sheriff and police were seen leaving Ballyhaunis a bugle call from the hills would announce the danger and all would come to the assistance of Hunt. The bugle call was taken up from one



**John and Nora Waldron (nee Drudy) pictured with two of their daughters: Jane (holding the hat) and Nora (seated in front). The photograph was taken in their garden in Aghamore, probably in the late 1920s. Nora (one of the daughters) still lives in Dublin and is now in her 105th year.**

hill to the next and the whole area was alerted to the danger. Every man, woman and child in the area rushed to Mannin to the rescue. The crowd was held back by two hundred armed police. Every time the sheriff's men had the sheep rounded up the crowd started roaring, shouting and making as much noise as they could and scattered them again. Any man brave enough to try and get near the sheriff's men got short shrift from the police, many getting a blow on the side of the head with the stock of a musket.

## Sheep Cornered

Eventually they got the sheep cornered and surrounded by the police. Then two girls came to the rescue. Nora Drudy and Brigid Hunt made their way through the crowd. They both wore long skirts and petticoats and unknown to the police they carried two





dogs in those skirts. When they got up to the police, they didn't see any danger from the two girls so, some way or other, they got right up to where the sheep were cornered. They took the two dogs by the scruff of the neck and the tails and threw them on top of the sheep. Of course that spooked the sheep and the police couldn't keep them from escaping again. When the crowd got the sheep scattered, they moved in and made sure that they couldn't be rounded up again. By this time it was getting dark and the sheriff and his men departed empty-handed once more.

The police moved in then and arrested the two girls and several more whose names are forgotten, but were prominent in foiling the sheriff and his men. The trial lasted several days at the Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions. The two girls were sentenced to a month in jail, not to be enforced if they entered a bond to be of good behaviour for a year. They refused and cheerfully accepted the alternative of imprisonment in Castlebar jail. The day they were due to be released word got out that they were coming into Ballyhaunis by train. Crowds converged on the town to greet their 'two heroes' home. The police blocked off the road up to the railway station to prevent a big crush of people on the platform. When the crowd saw this they made their way out the Claremorris road. They went in across the fields, somewhere round where the meat factory is now I

suppose. They blocked the railway line with anything they could leave their hands on, branches of trees, rocks, in fact anything they could get. They stopped the train, took the two lassies off and carried them shoulder high into Ballyhaunis. I think they had some kind of a band. Of course they loved to rub the noses of the police in it.

The upshot of it all was that the tenants triumphed and their demands were granted by the landlord. There are countless stories of thrilling and sensational incidents like those referred to above which helped to smash the shackles of the landlords in the history of the land war here in the West of Ireland in the 1880s. The moral of these stories is that force is no remedy where widespread grievances cry out to Heaven for redress.

I don't know what Brigid Hunt did after that, or where she spent the rest of her life. Nora Drudy married my grandfather John Waldron the following year. John from Mountain, Aghamore, was a school teacher. At the time of their marriage John taught in a school at the far end of the parish. Some years later he got back to Aghamore school, and he was principal there until he retired until he retired sometime in the 1920s. They had a long and happy marriage. They reared a family of fourteen, eight sons, and six daughters. John died in 1933, and Nora died in August 1952, at the ripe old age of eighty seven.

**John Gunnigan**

## My Experience at the International Eucharistic Congress 2012

Glancing through the Irish Catholic newspaper around March 2011, I noticed an advertisement for volunteers for the International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) to be held in Dublin in June 2012. I rang the Archbishops' House in Dublin to enquire.

They gave me a number for the I.E.C. at the RDS in Ballsbridge. When I rang the RDS they were interested in my application. They sent me an application form plus a Garda vetting form, which I posted back.

About mid October I was contacted and told to be in the RDS for the first training session on the 29th November. There were approximately 500 volunteers of all ages there on that day. There were prayer sessions and lecture sessions. It finished around 5pm and then home.

I was again contacted in April and asked to go to Croke Park for a training session for the big Mass on the 17th June. We were then given uniforms to wear for the Mass in the Park, and identity cards and I then returned home.

I returned to Croke Park on Saturday 16th June for a



**Mike Griffin in the seating area before the crowds arrived in Croke Park.**

training session and stayed overnight. We went into Croke Park on Sunday morning and began our work getting people to their seats. I also acted as a Eucharistic Minister. It was a wonderful experience.

**Mike Griffin**



# “I’ve Seen Granddad”

Having recently retired from teaching, I often get asked, “What are you going to do now?” I guess that the answer would be as different as there are people, but for me it is especially exciting. “I am going to realize my dream of a lifetime and write a series of children’s stories about a young boy and his family living in a small village in the West of Ireland.” To me it seems a natural progression. Since first coming to Ireland with my husband Tony in January 1998, I felt that I had “come home”. The locals welcomed us both into a family community, and as we settled into Annagh village the beauty of the place seemed to infuse like osmosis into the web of our lives. Couple that with my passion for writing story poems and EUREKA!

Since 1998, I have had many enjoyable times, none more so than when I have visited newfound friends. Listening to their family stories, songs and music, I have been bowled over by the importance of the family story telling tradition. Every family I know of has at least one member who takes on the mantle of Storyteller and in my family it was my grandmother who told and re-told the family stories, and my father who told me my bedtime stories. In many respects I now wish that I had listened more to my own grandmother when she was talking about our family history. But, more importantly, I wish that I had written the stories down. It did however instill in me a love of reading stories that stays with me to this day.

Ever since my childhood I have been writing stories and poems, and creating story lines. But it was in coming to Ireland that I was able to combine my love of the countryside and its people with my passion for writing story poems. I believe that every family in the world has a store of these stories, but that these very rarely get recorded. They are usually passed on from generation to generation orally. It was this that inspired me to take the opportunity to write my own stories down, and to provide space at the end of each book for children to also record their family moments and memories.

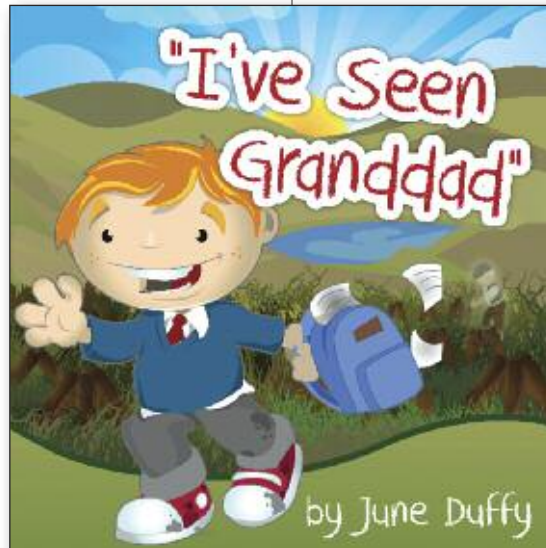
My first book, “I’ve Seen Granddad” is about a young boy called Seán who lives with his family in a small village in the West of Ireland. One afternoon, as he comes home from school, he sees his Granddad stacking the turf on the bog and the story tells what happens from the moment Seán

bursts through his front door. The graphics are by Designwest in Kiltimagh and the illustrations are by the award winning Ollie Sweetman, who has agreed to illustrate all my books. The book is stitch bound and printed in Kiltimagh to the highest standards.

Although it is quintessentially a local Irish story, I have received positive feedback on my website ([www.storieswithjune.com](http://www.storieswithjune.com)), and in general comment, that shows it is being enjoyed by a wider diaspora. Having initially written the story for 4 – 7 year olds, I am pleasantly surprised that it appeals to adults too. That they have stories they wish to share with me as a direct result of reading my book makes me feel part of a world family... and so very humble. That in some way my story has touched a personal memory for them, and that they cannot wait for the next book to come out, has also helped to reaffirm my self-belief as a story writer and teller. And for that I shall always be thankful.

As a self-publisher this has been, and continues to be, a learning curve for me. But, I could not have got this far without the help and support from so many people. To those people I also say a huge thank you. As a former teacher I have learned that Education takes you from here to there. But as a writer I have also learned that imagination takes you everywhere. So, from now on, it’s to “infinity and beyond”, and I look forward to your company for what I hope will be a new series of discovery and adventure.

**June Duffy, Author**



Local fans in Ryan's SuperValu Ballyhaunis at June's book signing in August 2012.





# In Hot Pursuit

In the 1950s there were quite a few hackney drivers in Ballyhaunis. Starting at the top of the town there was Mick Folliard who lived beside Pat and Dill (nee Eaton) Hughes opposite the Technical School. Moving into town, in Upper Main Street there was Paddy Kearns and right opposite him Jack Culliney. Just down a bit opposite the curate's house lived P.D. Freeley, then near the church was Tommy Flatley (he lived beside Dr. Waldron) who later moved to the Doctor's Road. In Barrack Street there was George O'Malley, in Knox Street Liam Smith, in Clare Street Mick Mulhern, and across the road Billy Eagney who had two cars. Billy and I were very good friends going back to my childhood. There were possibly more hackney drivers in the town but I cannot recall them at this time.

In the summer of 1953 I was home from radio school in Dublin for the holidays and Billy called to the shop one evening and asked me if I would drive his big car to Dublin early the next morning. I said I'd check with my mother: in those days even at nineteen, we checked with the parents! "I've already done that", said Billy, and I eagerly accepted the invitation. Billy kept his cars in top class condition, beautifully polished, and he was very particular about who drove them. I was delighted to be asked. Jimmy O'Malley was his usual standby driver and must have been otherwise engaged for that day. The car was filled with petrol, left outside our shop that night and, to be truthful, I hardly slept a wink with the excitement of the prospect of driving Billy's big, powerful car. I was up at 6.30 am and greeted my five passengers outside the shop at 7.30. They were Sergeant Nally, Guard McNought and three other men dressed in dark suits. I presumed they were relatives of the deceased as they were all going to Dublin to attend an inquest. All piled in, three in the back and three including myself in the front.

## On The Road

We were on the road at 7.35, and there was very little talk until we arrived at Mullingar when Sergeant Nally suggested we stop for a bite to eat. That consisted of ham sandwiches and drinks. I, being the only teetotaling Pioneer, was happy with my bottle of Cantrell and Cochrane's MiWadi Orange, while the others had pints of beer, Guinness and half ones of Paddy. Back on the road again the tongues were loosened and the passengers chatted among themselves. I being shy, and a raw youth, did not dare to join in the conversation until the topic of Mayo football came up and then I was as vociferous as the rest. Mayo's two All-Irelands of '50 and '51 were recounted and the skills of Carney, Mongey, Flanagan and Langan were drooled over ad infinitum -

and we wondered what went wrong in '52 when Roscommon beat Mayo by eight points in the Connaught Final!

In no time at all we were passing the Phoenix Park and easing up as we approached the Four Courts. There on the left, facing home, Tommy Donnellan had parked his hearse and we got a spot facing the same direction just a few cars back. In those days there was no problem parking on the street, no parking charges, or one way streets. Sergeant Nally told me they would be a few hours and to take my time. I had already planned what I was going to do. I headed along the quays towards the centre of town, and when I came to the Halfpenny Bridge turned left, my destination being Walker's in Upper Liffey Street. My brother Bertie had an account there for Enfield bicycles and bicycle parts. But I wasn't interested in bicycles at that time as I made my way to the piano accordion department. The staff already knew me as it wasn't my first visit and Pat, one of the lads, nodded his head in the direction of a red pearlised accordion at the end of the counter, straps already fitted where someone else had been trying it out. Walker's were the sole importers of Hohner Accordions from Germany. I had my mother pestered to buy me an accordion and her reply was always, "I bought you an expensive racing bicycle last year and no way can I afford to buy you an accordion!" I was allowed to play the accordion in Walker's as long as I went into the far corner and played quietly. They also sold harmonicas and mouth organs, and were quite busy. So for an hour I played quicksteps, old time waltzes, tangos, rhumbas, sambas and, hopefully, entertained the staff and customers alike. A quick look at my watch and I knew I had to be off. I reluctantly unstrapped the accordion, thanked the lads and headed back into the street.

I had been warned by brothers Bertie and Joe, "Don't come home from Dublin without a pound of Hafner's sausages!" I walked towards Henry Street passing Hector Grey's on the way. A quick look in Hector's windows, but resisted the urge to go in. Turned right into Henry Street, passed Roche's Stores and Arnott's finally arriving at Hafner's. As usual it was packed and I had to wait my turn before having the pinky, shiny sausages deftly cut, by a very attractive girl, wrapped in grease-proof paper followed by brown paper and tied with twine. It was a beautiful, warm sunny day and as I made my way back to the car I bought the Evening Herald to wrap around the sausages to keep them cool when I deposited them in the corner of the boot. Little did I know that I would be cursing that same sun a few hours later.





**Fintan Lynch and Billy Flatley of Main Street,  
at Loughlynn sports in the summer of 1953.**

### **Journey Home**

I didn't have long to wait as shortly afterwards the coffin was taken out and placed in the hearse. The men arrived back and, as Tommy pulled away from the kerb I slotted in behind him. We drove at a respectfully slow pace down along the quays, past the Phoenix Park and by the time we reached Palmerstown the pace had quickened. By Lucan we were travelling at a nice 50 mph and we quickly passed through Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock and Enfield. On the outskirts of Kinnegad Sergeant Nally said we'll stop here for a quick drink and I pulled in beside a well known 'watering hole'. There had been no prearrangement with Tommy, so the hearse continued on. We had our few drinks, a chat with the barman, a visit to the 'Johns' and made our way back to the car again.

As we pulled away from the kerb, Guard McNaught said "Fintan, I think you should put the boot to the boards", and I didn't need any second bidding as I eased the car through the gears and we were soon hitting the sixties and seventies. Now the car was really over loaded with three burly men in the back and three of us in the front, so it was inclined to sway a bit on the corners. As well as that the sun was getting low in the West, the windscreen was well peppered with dead flies and midges with the odd wasp thrown in. I dare not turn on the wipers as this would only spread the scum across the

screen - windscreen washers were still to be invented. Add to that, there were four smokers, including myself, in the car with Sergeant Nally emitting the densest cloud of smoke as he puffed on his pipe: whatever exotic mixture he was using, it certainly smelled nice. We sped through Mullingar and even though I had the sun visor down it was hard going squinting through the few clear spots left on the windscreen.

Coming up to Ballymahon someone suggested we stop for a quick couple of drinks. I couldn't believe it and said, "Tommy is a fast driver and if we stop here we haven't a hope in hell of catching him before Ballyhaunis". "G'wan Fintan", said Guard McNaught, "It will be no bother to you, pull over there, we'll only be a minute or two". I reluctantly pulled in and said "I won't join ye", as I just couldn't stomach another bottle of orange. While the men were having their drinks I took the opportunity to clean the windscreen. Detached a few pages of the Evening Herald from around the sausages, popped into the bar and got a large jug of water from the barman and was able to get rid of a good bit of the mess on the screen. Went back into the bar to return the jug and said to the boys, "Come on lads, come on, come on". It was another five minutes before they tumbled out of the pub in jovial mood.

### **Catching Up**

Back on the road we chased in hot pursuit of Tommy knowing we had to move fast. Sixty, seventy, eighty and eighty-five on the straight stretches. If Billy Eagney knew I was driving his beautiful car at such speeds he would surely join the man in the coffin. We didn't slow down until we were crossing the wooden bridge at Lanesborough. I always felt uneasy crossing that bridge as the timber planks rocked, swayed and rattled under the car. Roscommon, Ballymoe, and not a sign of Tommy or the hearse. The mood had changed in the back and there were dark mutterings about "that young Donnellan... he always drives too fast, has he no respect for the poor man in the coffin!" Passed through Castlerea and as we approached Ballinlough the car was silent, all eyes peering ahead to catch sight of the fast moving Tommy. Up the hill out of Ballinlough and a deafening roar went up that reverberated around the car, "THERE HE IS"! Sure enough, at the end of the long straight stretch, I could see the funeral. "Good man Fintan", said Guard McNaught who was behind me, and he gave me a thump on the back that nearly sent me through the windscreen. There were no restraining seat belts in those days! The man didn't know his own strength. We caught up fast as now Tommy was only doing about 20 mph. Three or four other cars had already joined the funeral and more were parked along the side of the road ready to pull in behind us. We went through Coolnafarna passing the school and Bill Mulligan's house on the left and as we approached the





town the voice of authority, Sergeant Nally, said, "Now lads, not a word about this to anybody", and he leaned over to me, being the youngest and more likely to blab, "Isn't that right Fintan", to which I replied "Of course Sergeant, not a word".

Under the railway bridge and up Abbey Street. By this time the hearse had slowed to facilitate people walking on the footpath. The knell of the funeral bell could be heard, and in my mind's eye I could see Jim Clarke, the sacristan, in his long, black, sleeveless soutane pulling the rope up there in the choir loft. Shop doors were closed, blinds quickly drawn and customers made prisoners until the funeral passed. Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters were pushed out of doors into the street to join the walkers and 'be seen'. Through Bridge Street, the Square, solemnly and slowly the cortege wound its way up Main Street and turned left into the Church yard. Everyone gathered around in silence as the remains were removed from the hearse and carried

shoulder high by six pallbearers into the church, assisted and attended by Tommy, whispering instructions.

Later that evening Hafner's sausages were as delicious as ever and, when accompanied by Barcastle back rashers, Mrs. Boyle's fresh country eggs and Aunt Cissie's brown bread, went down a treat. Then a relaxing smoke. A cigarette always tasted great after a fry. We each had our own favourite brand - Bertie and Joe liked Sweet Afton; I liked Players. None of us liked Woodbines or Players Weights and 'experienced' smokers like us regarded them as 'coffin nails!' Another popular brand was Gold Flake. The more affluent smoker bought Afton Major.

Sergeant Nally, Guard McNaught, Tommy Donnellan and Billy Eagney have gone to their eternal reward, may God be good to them. I never breathed a word to a soul about that journey, but I did not promise the Sergeant that I would not write about it!

**Fintan Lynch**



**Bernard T. Lynch, Main Street, Ballyhaunis.**

An Advertisement for B.T. Lynch's Garage, Main Street, from the 1920s. Lynch's were main Ford dealers for many years and this ad features a Ford Model 'T' in the background.



# Mag's Story

For many people a trip down memory lane will always bring up many interesting facts and stories. Well, for this former resident of Ballyhaunis, the journey has taken one hundred years and still continues. Margaret McNaught (Upper Main Street) celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends in Dublin this year. Mag, as she is more popularly known, was born on the 26th of November 1912. Her parents Michael and Anne Cannon lived in a townland called Derryea near Kiltimagh. Mag was one of three children. Her parents ran a shop and to this day my grandmother often recounts the hardship of life in the West of Ireland during those times. When we look back on her life it's remarkable that she has witnessed pretty much everything from the Civil War to Space Exploration. Although 100 years old she still reads the Irish Independent from cover to cover and watches Sky News to keep in tune with what is going on in the world. We often sit and laugh when she updates us with what is happening in the most bizarre places around the world.

Mag married in 1936 and, in 1938, she moved to Ballyhaunis with her husband Neil McNaught. A native of Donegal, he was a member of An Garda Síochána, a tradition that still to this day runs in the family: both her sons Paddy and Michael and her nephew Joseph served in the force, and to this day her grandson Niall (Paddy's Son) is a serving member of the force in Dublin. Neil was a well known and respected member of the Ballyhaunis community right up until his death in 1971. He was involved in a number of community organisations including the Ballyhaunis Boxing Club. A very tall man - well over six foot tall - he was often photographed by American tourists as they passed through the town. This big man standing tall in his uniform could always draw a crowd of interested spectators. I never met my grandfather as he died the year I was born, however, I quickly ascertained that he

was well liked, as any time I was introduced as 'Mac's grandson', I would always receive a hardy handshake and a pat on the head followed by chuckle.

During their years in Ballyhaunis, Mag and Neil had five children: Anna, Paddy, Mairead, Michael and Ita. Sadly, in 2010, Michael passed away and this was a very dark time for Mag, as it is difficult to lose any child even when they have lived a full life. She was always fond of travelling and every opportunity that arose she would jump into the car and travel to Kiltimagh to visit her sister May or drive to visit her other sister Áine who lived in Dublin. During the All Ireland final this year she

reminded us that in 1936 she drove to Croke Park to watch Mayo in that Football Final. Sadly, they didn't win this time around. Following the death of her husband in 1971 Margaret moved to Dublin to live with her eldest daughter Anna (my mother) where she still lives today.

Personally for me I am no stranger to Ballyhaunis, because from 1978 up to around 1987, I would spend my entire school holidays with my grandmother in Upper Main Street. This was truly a wonderful time for both of us as back then we had limited TV and very little to do, so we would spend the evening times chatting about years gone past. I fondly remember going on walks with her and Mrs.

Madden who lived across the road. We would walk around Hazelhill after our tea, where I would fill myself with all kinds of wild berries. I also carried out my daily chores which included being sent down the town, to Tom Hopkins' and then on to Jordan's to do the grocery shopping; then down as far as Cribbin's for the meat feast. Coming back up the road laden with groceries and meat wrapped in paper bags, I would always be stopped at the door to Paddy Phillips. Paddy himself would be standing in the doorway passing the time, chatting to anyone that would pass. Given that I was only ten years



**Mag and Neil's Wedding Day, 1936.**





old I kept going, however, I am sure if that was today, I would have voluntarily stopped there for more than a chat.

For me The West was certainly the best, and to this day I have very fond memories spending my summers in Mayo. Today Margaret's family has grown from her five Children to eight Grandchildren and ten great-

grandchildren, all of which celebrated her birthday on the 25th of November. Her life has been an extraordinary journey and even to this day she enjoys her annual trip to the west of Ireland to visit family and friends.

Happy Birthday Grandma!

**Paul O'Donovan**



**Mag with eldest daughter Anna and son Paddy, circa 1945.**



**Garda Neil McNaught, circa 1932. Taken outside Lough Key, Boyle.**



**Garda Neil McNaught, circa 1960, outside Dillon's, The Square.**



**Margaret McNaught and her children.**

**L-R:  
Ita, Anna,  
Mag, Michael,  
Mairead and  
Paddy.**

**This is the last time they were all photographed together.**



# Ballyhaunis Chamber

Ballyhaunis Chamber has been in existence since 1980. The Chamber's primary function is to support and represent businesses. Ballyhaunis Chamber is affiliated to Chambers Ireland which is Ireland's largest business network. The Chamber is headed up by an executive council which has ten members who are elected by members at



the annual AGM and work for the Chamber on a completely voluntary basis. The current Executive Council (at time of writing) consists of Alison McDermott (President), Michael Dee (Vice President), Sue McMillan (Hon. Secretary), Martin Gavin (Hon. Treasurer), Martin Fitzmaurice (P.R.O.), Tom Forde, Paul McDermott, Lisa Finn and Mike Griffin and John Dillon Leetch. The Chamber also has a Chief Executive Officer, Anne Cunnane, who does a fantastic job of pulling everything together from the Chamber's base at the Enterprise Centre. The Executive Council meets on a regular basis and full members' meetings are also held throughout the year.

Chambers Ireland's motto is "In Business for Business" and Ballyhaunis Chamber continues to uphold that motto by constantly lobbying for improvements to the town we all live, work and do business in. We also organise community events in order to encourage people to come to Ballyhaunis which is beneficial for the community and businesses alike.

## Issues

Some of the issues we have been lobbying for in the last year are on-going and it seems that we have been lobbying for them forever, but we are persistent and continue to do so as we feel they are important issues. We are currently seeking improvements to the N83, in particular the treacherous stretch of road between the Dublin Road junction (N60) and Cloonfad. Headway is being made, with some widening of the road being carried out but we continue to lobby for improvements to the whole stretch. We have lobbied for improvements to Hazelhill for some time now which include lengthening the footpath and resurfacing of the road: these works are now almost completed. Our Swimming Pool is currently being upgraded and promises to be a fine facility when completed. We are also lobbying to get an upgrade to our Library and Fire Station. Other issues

the Ballyhaunis Chamber are constantly lobbying on are cleaning of the streets, proper maintenance of the trees, extra lighting for The Square, resurfacing and lining of Barrack Street. Derelict buildings is another important issue and we are still actively trying to avoid empty windows on the main streets. Mayo County Council agreed that there would be no rates on a window display where no trading takes place, which is an ideal way for existing businesses in and around Ballyhaunis to advertise their wares.

This time last year we were developing our dedicated website [www.ballyhaunislife.com](http://www.ballyhaunislife.com) which is a community website for and by the people of Ballyhaunis. All you need to know about what goes on in Ballyhaunis is on the website and it is now well established and getting thousands of hits every week. A vital community tool! Please send us in any information of events/news on Ballyhaunis and we will gladly include it on the website.

Talking of community, last year saw our first ever Christmas Festival and a committee of eager volunteers is currently making plans for a bigger and better one this year. Some of the ideas mooted are, again, for Christmas themed stalls in The Square, Santa's Grotto, Blessing of the Crib, Carol singing in The Square and Children's Fancy Dress Disco. Our Gala Dinner Dance was held in January which is a great social event enjoyed by people from all walks of life – not just business people! Our Summer Festival this year was also bigger and better than ever, with thousands of people enjoying the Festival which was held over six days this year. We had a guest visit from meteorologist Evelyn Cusack of Met Eireann who fascinated us all with a talk on the history of Irish weather.

## The Gathering 2013

Plans are afoot for more improvements for next year which will be based around the theme of "The Gathering Ireland 2013". The Gathering is a year long event taking place throughout Ireland, when communities across Ireland will host events to welcome people from all over the world home to Ireland to celebrate all things Irish – including Irish culture, tradition, business, sport, fighting spirit and the Irish sense of fun. Ballyhaunis Chamber will be working with the people of Ballyhaunis to arrange our event which will be tied in with the Summer Festival. Volunteers from the community as well as business people are always needed for these events and all are welcome. Please contact us at the Chamber Office if you can help. For those of you who live abroad this would be an excellent time to come home for a long weekend break or indeed your holidays as there will be plenty of exciting events taking place. Ballyhaunis Chamber also





ensures that Ballyhaunis is lit up for the Festive Season with a wonderful display of Christmas Lights over the festive period and that we have the Man himself Santa to do the official turning on of the lights.

Another event which we help organise is the annual Ballyhaunis 8k Road Race which is run by Mayo AC with help from the people of Ballyhaunis. The businesses really got behind the event this year with lots of sponsorship in the form of treats for the runners for their goody bags. This is a great event in the town and adds colour to the darkening days at the end of September. It was also great to see, earlier in September, how the whole town got behind the Mayo Team for the All Ireland Final. The whole town was awash with Mayo flags, bunting and good luck signs wishing local lads, Keith Higgins and Alan Freeman and all the team good luck in the final. Unfortunately Mayo was beaten by Donegal after putting up a good fight but we now look forward to the chance to bring Sam home to Mayo next year.

#### Dedication

All the things the Ballyhaunis Chamber do, whether it is lobbying or organising community events take time, lots of effort and dedication to a cause. That cause is promoting Ballyhaunis as a town worth living and working in. Many small towns, in these hard times, are suffering and Ballyhaunis is among them, but we can work together to make improvements and encourage people to set up business here and keep Ballyhaunis alive. None of these things would be possible without our hardworking CEO, Anne Cunnane and her team of staff at the Chamber Office, Katrina Legg, Áine Cribbin and Teresa Grogan who all do a sterling job of supporting Anne. Volunteers are also a very valuable asset to the Chamber, whether it is sitting on the Executive Council,



**Evelyn Cusack (Met Eireann) speaking in Ballyhaunis Community School.**

heading up a committee, organising an event, assisting with an event - every bit of help is appreciated. Also much appreciated and very valuable is the sponsorship and support provided by the businesses in the town, without whom most of these events would not be possible as there is, unfortunately, no longer any funding available for events and ALL money for events has to be raised. Thank you all for your help and support over the last year. Hopefully the Chamber and Ballyhaunis will go from strength to strength in the coming year. Ballyhaunis Chamber is a not for profit organisation and all monies raised goes towards events that are being organised. Some fundraising ideas have been the Ballyhaunis Postcards, clothing collection and Calendars.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and hope that the New Year of 2013 brings you all the happiness you wish for.

**Alison McDermott (President)**

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## St. Vincent De Paul Society

The purpose of our Society is to give help to people who find themselves in financial difficulty.

Due to unemployment, sickness, etc, people may not be able to pay their bills or repay their loans. We can help them to make arrangements for long term payment of bills. We can also give them some temporary financial help to put food on the table when things are bad. Please ring our **Confidential Helpline on (086) 2640969**, or call to the Friary House and fill in an application form.

Also donations can be received at the Friary House.

We thank all our generous donors and wish them and the people we help a very Happy Christmas.

**Matt O'Dwyer, (Secretary)**



# Ballyhaunis 8k – “Run West”

This is our fifth successive year with this very successful event. The event is organised by Mayo Athletic Club as part of their annual Road League. Their main sponsor for the League is C & C Cellular. While the overall league is operated by Mayo Athletic Club, we put a big effort into making the Ballyhaunis round as enjoyable as possible. This approach has been very successful in attracting people from all over the country to Ballyhaunis for the event.



**Ballyhaunis 8k Road Race, 2012.**

In the past we offered medals, medallions and t-shirts to finishers. The feedback we received was that one shirt or medal etc. was enough, so, this year we decided to change the rewards and replace them with Goodie Bags. The actual bag was supplied by Mayo County Council – a lovely shoulder hung, reflective bag. Then we added the following: reflective armbands supplied by RSA; health bar supplied by Caulfield's Shop; a key ring (trolley coin) supplied by Tracy Cunnane of T.C.'s Fitness; fruit (easy peeler) supplied by Londis; bottle of coke (kid's bag) supplied by Londis; packet of sweets; shopping discount vouchers supplied by Eddie Murphy, Dee's Newsround, Supermac's and Finn's Footwear. Also, the voucher prizes supplied were by Eddie Murphy Menswear, Finn's Footwear and TC's Fitness Ballyhaunis.

Goodie bags were handed out at registration. Then on completion of the race, each finisher was handed a bottle of water supplied by Supervalu and a banana. As soon as participants got their breath, showered, changed, there were further refreshments served in the Rugby Club house.

Ninety-nine people registered on the day and a further twenty-four registered in advance on-line with Run Ireland. €1,010 in cash was paid out on the day to the winners, including different age categories. In all thirty-nine prizes were given out, between cash and some very attractive spot prizes. As a result one in every three participants received something, as well as their Goodie Bag.

Last year we set up a designated website for the race [www.ballyhaunis8k.com](http://www.ballyhaunis8k.com) and all the information is there on participants, results etc. But you will see that people came from all over Mayo, Galway, Sligo, Dublin, Kerry, Meath, and we also had winners from all these areas.

The first man over the line on the day was Constantine Doherty, a young triathlete from Westport. In second

place was Matt Bidwell from Galway, and third place was Martin Conroy of Ballina AC. The first lady in was Mary Gleeson, who is no stranger to winning road races. In second was Catherine Conway of Mayo AC, and in third place was Dervilla Holmes of Donore Harriers.

## Thanks

The Ballyhaunis Leg of the Mayo Athletic Club League would not be as successful without the help of the many volunteers who give of their time in arranging, stewarding, catering etc. on the day. Volunteers are very important for the success of any event. Over nearly two decades I have been involved in events in the town and the success of each one depends totally on the generosity of people to assist to make things happen.

Many other people helped to make the event so successful, including Gardaí, Order of Malta and MidWest Radio who are always generous with coverage of traffic arrangements etc. The final contributors are our sponsors who give generously to make the event attractive. A few that are not mentioned above are: Ballyhaunis Credit Union, Flogas, Mayo County Council, J.G.'s Barbers, The Ribbon Gift Shop, Araby Coffee House. It is a very difficult time to look for sponsorship as everyone is struggling to survive. We should try to support those businesses by shopping local to reward them for their support – It is a two way thing.

Finally, I hope everyone who took part, enjoyed the experience and will come back to improve their times next year. Thank you to all and have a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

**Martin Fitzmaurice**  
**(Ballyhaunis 8k Road Race Committee)**







## RESULTS

### MEN:

**Senior Men:** 1st Con Doherty (Westport AC) 26:11  
 2nd Matt Bidwell (GCH) 26:22,  
 3rd Martin Conroy (Ballina AC) 26:53.  
**Over 40:** 1st Dave Morley 30:30,  
 2nd Sean Murphy (Mayo AC), 30:31.  
**Over 50:** 1st Hugh Duffy (Mayo AC) 30:10,  
 2nd Sean Webb 35:30.  
**Over 60:** Michael O'Connor (Farranfore AC) 34:31,  
 2nd Pdraig Keane (Clonliffe Harriers) 40:26.  
**Junior Under 19:** 1st Tadhg McGinty (Swinford AC) 30:16

### WOMEN:

#### Senior Women:

1st Mary Gleeson (Mayo AC) 29:22,  
 2nd Catherine Conway (Mayo AC) 30:20,  
 3rd Dervilla Holmes (Donore Harriers) 30:26.  
**Over 40:** 1st Colette Tuohy (Mayo AC) 31:46,  
 2nd Monica Henry (S/Sligo AC) 34:30.  
**Over 45:** 1st Angela O'Connor (Mayo AC) 32:07,  
 2nd Ann Phillips 42:45.  
**Over 50:** 1st Una McGrath (Mayo AC) 43:51,  
 2nd Laura Bourke 44:29.  
**Over 55:** 1st Andrea Ridge (Tuam AC) 45:54,  
 2nd Mary Keane 48:31.  
**Junior Under 19:** 1st Dawn Regan (Mayo AC) 40:09.

## Croí Ballyhaunis

Croí would like to say a heartfelt 'Thank You' to the 'Croí Friends Ballyhaunis & District' group for their tremendous support through their fundraising activities this year.

The committee group, with the support of the local community, raised just over €8,500 in aid of Croí. Their 'Coney Island Walk' (which took place in April) and Church gate collection were great successes. They also received support from the Ballyhaunis Golf Club and Creaton's Pub in Loughglynn who organised fundraisers on their behalf. Croí funds a range of pioneering initiatives in the areas of prevention, screening, patient and family support, research and education and recovery.

As an organisation, Croí relies entirely on this kind of support and fundraising to keep their life-saving programmes running.



Members of Croí Friends Ballyhaunis, presenting a cheque for €8,533 to Karen Maloney from the Croí office in Galway, the proceeds from fundraising activities during the year. Back, L-R: Bridget Mulrennan, Helen Meehan, Carmel Elwood, Mary Sykes, Catherine Sloyan, Alta Regan. Front: Frances Mulhern, Marian Feeney, Noel Sloyan (Chairman), Karen Maloney (Croí), Catherine Waldron.  
 Photograph: Frank Dolan.



# Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union

Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union have just completed another successful year in business. We are now in our 30th year as we started out in May 1983.

It is thanks to the many volunteers who gave their time and experience selflessly throughout their years as directors, supervisors and committee members that Ballyhaunis Credit Union has thrived. We are always looking for new volunteers and we would be delighted to hear from any member who would like to join us particularly if they have any experience in marketing and promotion, use of internet media or accounting / book keeping skills.

We are currently looking at introducing a number of new services to our members, the first of which we introduced in September last when we started offering Electronic Fund Transfers, or EFTs as they are known. This is where, instead of giving the member a cheque we transfer the monies directly into their bank account. The big advantage is that the funds will be



**Christopher O'Neill was the winner of the Seat Ibiza in the Confined Members' Car Draw earlier this year. He is pictured with Maura Murphy (Credit Union), Liam Rochford (Rochford Motors), Mary Henry (Credit Union Manager).**

available to them within 24-48 hours instead of waiting for cheques to clear which can be anything from five days.

We launched our Confined Members' Car Draw this year, the first draw took place in June and Christopher O'Neill was the winner of a Seat Ibiza. Our next draw takes place this December and we intend to have two draws per year along with consolation cash prizes.

For those who are not aware we have a conference centre and meeting room facilities upstairs in our building which are available to clubs, societies and businesses to book at reasonable rates.



**Board Room and Conference Centre at Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union.**

## Coach Pullen Central to GB's Olympic Boxing Success

Lee Pullen (son of Mary Dadd, nee Glynn, formerly of Clare Street), who used to fight for Folkestone ABC, has done his bit to inspire a generation. Pullen coached Anthony Joshua, Luke Campbell and Nicola Adams to gold medals at London 2012, while two other of his pupils, Fred Evans and Anthony Agogo, took silver and bronze respectively. It helped Team GB top the boxing medal table and exceed all expectations on the biggest stage in world sport. The boxing bouts were held at the ExCel Centre in London, where around 10,000 fans crammed in for every session.

The fifty-three year old said: "When Natasha Jonas boxed Katie Taylor the noise was incredible. The actual decibel level in the place was louder than a jumbo jet. I'm told it broke all noise levels at an event. It was a great experience."

Later, Pullen and his medal winning boxers were in London to soak up the applause from over a million people lining the streets.

*Taken from a report by Jack Wilson of Kent Regional News and Media.*





# Secondary School Teacher of the Year

When I got the call to say I'd won the accolade of "Secondary School Teacher of the Year 2012" I laughed down the phone. I'm sure the lovely lady who rang with this news thought my reaction was odd, to say the least, but to understand my reaction you'd need to understand my situation.

I've pretty much always wanted to be a teacher. Of course I had those phases where I wanted to be a firefighter or a pop star; when I was ten and in the Legion of Mary I even briefly considered becoming a nun! But the urge to teach was always strong in me, amplified by my admiration for two teachers in particular, my second class teacher Mrs. Betty Regan and the incomparable Mrs. Mary Freeley who taught so many of us English in Ballyhaunis Community School with wit, humour and passion.

So I followed my passion. After studying English and French in college I signed up for the H.Dip and did my twelve weeks teaching practice in the Community School. It was an unwritten rule that 'dippers' were only let near the first years but Anna Henry kindly trusted me enough to let me teach one of her senior English classes. Through this experience I gained valuable familiarity with the Leaving Cert course and I was exposed from the get-go to no-holds-barred criticism if I didn't get it right courtesy of my little sister Sarah who was in the class! Anna's kindness is one I've never forgotten as I'm certain it helped me to secure a teaching job straight out of my H.Dip, something which was rare enough back then and is almost unheard of now. I learned my trade over the next seven years, teaching English in St. Aloysius' College Athlone and, after a year out to complete my Masters in UCD, I secured a job in St. Flannan's College, Ennis.

But in 2008 everything changed when our beautiful daughter Hazel was born. We decided against all the odds, against the fledgling recession and the mortgage on our house in Ennis, that more than anything we wanted our daughter to grow up near her grandparents, near home. So I bought a map of Connacht, highlighted every school within a 50km radius of Ballyhaunis, sat down with another inspiring teacher, Anna Butler (now former Principal of Tooreen National School) and picked her brains on how best to impress prospective employers. Then, for the last few weeks of my maternity leave I drove the highways and byways of Connacht,

dropping off my CV, trying to get a sniff of a job near home. Nothing doing. It was months later that an advertisement for an English teacher in an unnamed school in the West of Ireland caught my eye and I replied to the P.O.Box number full of apprehension and hope. A few weeks later I found myself in Claremorris and after a gruelling interview and an agonising 24 hour wait, I was offered the position! So my husband John and I quit our permanent jobs, packed up our belongings and moved home to Mayo.

Fast forward to Summer 2012. I'd just spent several weeks becoming an unwilling expert on employment law, trying to figure out if there was any future for me in teaching. I had already completed three years in Claremorris but the impact of cuts, quotas and redeployment was biting deep. Despite the dire need for English teachers in our school and my ten years teaching experience, my year four contract would be cobbled together from scraps of concessionary hours, the type of hours which the Department claim have no future when you apply for job security (a 'contract of indefinite duration' which has more or less replaced permanency). In teaching with each new school you go to you start your career all over again and it takes five years in that school before you

qualify for any kind of job security. The Croke Park deal made my position and the position of thousands of non-permanent teachers up and down the country very precarious due to the introduction of redeployment which basically means that until I secure my job, I'm a sitting duck; at any moment a teacher who is excess to requirements elsewhere can be redeployed into our school and if I'm unlucky enough that they teach English, I lose my job. If I get a new job somewhere else I need to be in that new school for five years before I can attempt to secure my position. At any time in those five years I can again be replaced by a teacher being redeployed in and once again, through no fault of my own, I would lose my job. It seems like under our new system, all teachers are equal but some teachers are more equal than others.

So when I got that phone call it suddenly hit me like a sharp slap on the face that in teaching it doesn't matter how good you are. Being good at your job of course matters to you, it matters to your students and to their parents and it matters to your school but it doesn't



**Evelyn O'Connor with husband John Nolan and daughter Hazel.**



matter to those in power. If you belong to the 27% of teachers on non-permanent contracts this government's only priority is to reduce you to a statistic; to transform you into one of the 25,000 public sector jobs they have promised to cut. I laughed on the phone that day because the irony of winning the award at the moment when my entire teaching career was in jeopardy wasn't lost on me.

### Something worthwhile

After that phone-call I decided to turn my rage and despair into something worthwhile. The day I was presented with the title "*Teacher of the Year*", I delivered a no-holds barred critique of the system and mostly thanks to *thejournal.ie*, within 24 hours my speech had gone viral on youtube. I did interviews with *Midwest Radio*, *The Mayo News*, *The Western People*, *The Roscommon Herald*, *The Clare Champion* and *The Clare People*; I was discussed on *politics.ie* and on *The Galway Advertiser's* facebook page; I received countless emails and tweets of support via my website ; extracts from my speech were published in *The Star* and I spoke to Fergus Finlay on *Newstalk*. The editor of the '*Education Matters*' yearbook in NUIG asked for permission to publish my speech. Teachers from America, the UK, Australia and New Zealand got in touch to empathise with my plight and several international bloggers picked up on my speech because it turns out attacks on the teaching profession are actually a global epidemic (just google GERM and read all about it!).

A week later I was interviewed by Nora Owen on TV3's *Midweek* programme and eventually I ended up in the RTE studios discussing my situation with Myles Dungan on *Radio 1*. Gene Kerrigan, who is writing a book on austerity policies, asked via email if he could publish my speech in his appendix as an example of grassroots resistance to cutbacks. I've even become a sparring partner for George Hook on *Newstalk* whenever he needs an opinion on the latest education story to make the papers! In September, after numerous false starts, I secured a meeting with Minister Ruairi Quinn's political advisor, John Walshe and presented to him my concerns about the casualisation of the teaching profession. One in three secondary teachers survive from year to year on temporary contracts, many for part-time hours spread over five days and many, many more teachers are unemployed or have been forced to emigrate to do the job that they love. Yet education remains our greatest natural resource in this country and is surely one of our greatest hopes for attracting inward investment, generating employment and lifting ourselves out of this recession. As the *Annagh* magazine goes to print, I am still a non-permanent teacher. We'll be in the throes of Budget 2013 and I fear schools will be facing even deeper cuts next year, the kind of cuts that already have our schools on their knees. In a few months' time I'll be waiting on tender hooks yet again wondering if a teacher will be redeployed in who teaches the same subjects as

me, wondering if I'll still have a job next year.

I cannot honestly say if I achieved anything but it felt good to publicly denounce the cutbacks. It's hard to stay angry when you don't know who to be angry with. Part of me is angry with myself for naively believing that if I was just good enough at my job that would be enough. Part of me is angry with the unions for allowing non-permanent and newly qualified teachers to become the sacrificial lambs in this whole sorry mess. Part of me is angry with the government who are determined one way or another to dramatically reduce the number of teachers in our schools. As for the politicians, ask them about cutbacks and they will point the finger firmly at previous governments and the Troika. But getting trapped in this spiralling loop of recrimination and blame achieves nothing.

So instead let's ask how all of this affects our students? Ultimately they must always be our first priority or we are in the wrong profession. Is redeployment, and a profound lack of job security among teachers, actually good for our students? The resounding answer is NO.

A revolving door of ever-changing faces at the front of the class aggravates problems with classroom management – in simple English, students won't take the teacher seriously if they think he or she is only there temporarily. Constantly having to readjust to a different teacher for the same subject year on year has a profoundly negative impact on student achievement. Good teachers make a real and lasting difference to their students; but a chronic lack of job security in any profession leads to diminished productivity and increased rates of depression. The three tier system whereby teachers are treated differently despite doing the same job poisons staff morale yet all of the international research supports the fact that "*when teachers have positive perceptions about their work environment this translates to better outcomes for students*". The key factors in creating a happy and healthy school community are "*collaboration, shared responsibility, mutual trust and support*" (Sahlberg 2011) but none of these conditions come about when teachers are competing with each other for concessionary hours and subbing work, eying each other with suspicion, wondering who will be nominated for redeployment if the school goes over quota.

But for all of that it's good to be home. It's a privilege to be entrusted to educate the next generation as I was so brilliantly educated by Betty Regan and Mary Freeley. I only hope that we can stay in Ballyhaunis; that our daughter can grow up in Ireland near her doting grandparents and that I can continue to do the job that I love. I recognise that for many Irish people these aspirations have become nothing more than pipe dreams thanks to this recession and my heart goes out to them. For now, I have a job. Next year, who knows?

**Evelyn O'Connor**





# Duck Rearing Initiative

About twenty-five years ago I started rearing ducks and hens, hatching all my own just like when I was young. My parents did the same thing. I started off with two of each and now I have over two-hundred on our farm in Classaroe. I started off by hatching and selling those ducks and hens, and selling the eggs to the local shops.

It was on a small basis then but there was no hassle. I used to sell them in Ryan's Supervalu, Cunningham's Londis and Webb's butcher shop on Main Street. I used to bring them in buckets – one bucket for the hens eggs and the other for the ducks eggs – but you can't do that now as regulations have become very strict. The eggs have to be boxed, labelled and dated, and the Department Staff have to come and inspect the place and register you to sell eggs. The Department Inspectors call once a year for inspection. When I had to do that I decided to 'spread my wings'. I go to as many towns as possible.

In June 2011, twenty-nine ducks disappeared out of the garden: it was over night and no trace has been found of them since. The other major problem in the



**Bernie Quinn's Ducks in their natural environment.**

poultry and egg producing business is the fox. He can come in very fast, grab a duck and run. When that happens the other birds get upset and sometimes they stop laying for a few days. This means I have to do a lot of fencing because it's not fair to keep them locked inside. Duck eggs are very popular and when I am in any town I have people coming up to me in the street and in the shops telling me that my eggs are lovely and that they have a lovely flavour.

I enjoy rearing poultry: I meet lots of different people and it is a nice hobby.

**Bernie Quinn**



**Top: Alice and Joseph Mannion, Drimbane, at Ballyhaunis Railway Station en route to the Dublin Horse Show, 6th August, 1936.**

**Left: Alice and Florence Mannion, Drimbane, in 1953.**

**Right: Joseph T. Mannion, Drimbane.**

## Mannion Family Photos



# Ballyhaunis District Community Council

Ballyhaunis District Community Council is a combination of various voluntary groups which include Tidy Towns, Neighbourhood Watch/Community Alert, Defibrillator Project, Historical Features/Walks, all of which provide a wide range of community services and activities. It is a legal entity managed by a management board elected each year at the AGM.

At the AGM of November 2011 the current management board was elected as follows: **Chairman:** Jarlath Fahey; **Hon. Secretary:** Mary Donnelly; **Treasurer:** Marie Cribbin; **Asst. Treasurer:** Jarlath Fahey, **P.R.O.** Gabrielle Lyons. **Committee:** Manar Cherbatji, Patrick Crosby, Anne Cunnane, Mike Griffin, Paula Grogan, Pat Higgins, Michael Kelly, Julie Lawrence. The Management Board meets on a monthly basis to review ongoing projects and consider and implement where possible, any new initiatives or ideas that would be beneficial to the community. The various sub-committees and working groups submit reports on their activities at each meeting, keeping the management board up-to-date on their activities.

The Community Council works closely with Ballyhaunis Chamber and discussions are taking place on how both organisations can work together to promote a more positive profile of the town.

## The Gathering 2013

2013 is designated as 'The Year of the Gathering' when communities are invited to host events which hopefully will encourage a homecoming of people from far and near. The Community Council and Ballyhaunis Chamber are anxious that Ballyhaunis will play its part. This could give a badly needed economic boost to the community; more important is the feel-good factor it would engender. With this in mind, representatives from all organisations and clubs, and all interested parties were invited to a meeting in early November to discuss the possibilities and exchange ideas. The following were some ideas that were considered, and there are many more: Clan / School / Class re-unions, Tracing your ancestry, Drama / Choral events, Sports events, e.g. GAA, Rugby, Soccer, Golf, Cycling, Athletics, etc. Town twinning, Special Mass to commemorate significant sacramental anniversaries, e.g. Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Weddings, etc. Exhibition of traditional artefacts / heritage, Collection and presentation of historical data, memorabilia, etc. Cultural events, e.g. Feis / Féile, Traditional Music weekend / workshop, etc. Annual Summer Festival, Trade Show.

This is an exciting project and we are confident that the community will respond enthusiastically. By the time this magazine appears in print our hope is that work will be under way in compiling a calendar of events to commemorate this national celebration in Ballyhaunis.

## Abbey Trust & Abbey Partnership

The Community Council plays a key role in the

management of the Augustinian Friary and grounds, having four representatives on both the Abbey Trust which holds the property under a 999 year lease, and the Abbey Partnership which manages and maintains the property on a day to day basis. These representatives attend all meetings and have a major role in the decision-making process relating to the Abbey property. During the year efforts were made to form a working group to locate, compile and present all historical and cultural material, data and memorabilia relating to the Friary. Progress to date has been slow but it is hoped to stage a presentation and display as part of The Gathering 2013 celebrations next year.

## Neighbourhood Watch/Community Alert

This project is now under the stewardship of the Family Resource Centre, and we are grateful to Tracey McDermott, Administrator, for undertaking this responsibility. Sincere thanks are extended to Patricia Plunkett who has done trojan work over several years in providing socially monitored alarms and security devices to vulnerable members of our community.

## Tidy Towns

This group is concerned with care of the environment, ensuring that the town is enhanced every year with floral displays of various kinds, fighting the battle against litter, and participating in the National Tidy Towns Competition, the Litter Action League and other environmental initiatives.

## Defibrillator Project

This group continues to maintain the twelve defibrillators located throughout the parish, along with organising ongoing training in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and defibrillator use. Training for beginners as well as revalidation training for those already trained is vital to ensure that people have up-to-date skills that may be required in case of an emergency.

## Historical Features/Walks

Maps showing a number of local walking/cycling routes on minor roads have been prepared; a large one is on display in the Square and smaller A4 size copies are available at the Family Resource Centre in the Friary House.

The above is a mere snapshot of the level and variety of activity that is taking place in Ballyhaunis under the auspices of the Community Council. More detailed and informative articles from each group are published elsewhere in this magazine.

If you would like to become involved in any of the above projects or indeed have a new idea you would like to put forward, the Community Council welcomes you to join. Membership is a nominal €5 each year. Visit our web page on Ballyhaunis Life website to keep up-to-date with news and events.

Mary Donnelly





# Sky's the Limit

In April 2012, the two of us - Carol Quinn and Martina Cunnane - decided it was time to take the plunge and do something adventurous, but most importantly, for a good cause. We decided to do a skydive for the 'Make a Wish Foundation' – a very well known charity. All money raised for the skydive would go to the Foundation. We chose this charity because we both felt it was one close to our hearts and so many others. Also, the money raised would make children's dreams come true.

We contacted Skydive Ireland in Birr, Co. Offaly to get things on their way. On receiving our sponsorship cards we had six weeks to raise €600 each and, as you can imagine, we were delighted when the final amount raised was €1,521. Everyone was more than willing to sponsor us and we really couldn't have done it without all the support and well wishes.

Once the money was raised we contacted Skydive Ireland to arrange a date. The date was set for 4th July 2012, but depended on the weather and, what with Irish weather, we had our fingers crossed. From there we contacted the 'Make a Wish Foundations', which we found were very helpful and kind enough to send us T-shirts to wear on the day.

'D day' finally came. We were lucky with the weather and had a very sunny day. We received the phone call that the skydive was going ahead. So the excitement kicked in quick. We collected the cheque and were on our way to Birr. We had mixed feelings - between excitement and nervousness. We were tuned in to MidWest radio on the way and it was great to hear all the well wishes that were played for us.

On our arrival we were met by the Skydive Ireland

team. After registering we underwent an intensive training session. Once it was done it was just a matter of last minute checks and advice. They explained all about what to expect. We would be free falling at 140 mph for thirty seconds until the parachute opened and, they explained, we would be in total control of our landing... And then the time came!

On board the plane the Skydive Ireland staff made us feel very relaxed and in safe hands. On reaching 10,000

feet into the air it was time to fly, as they say. Carol was the first to go. The fall was unbelievable - out of this world - it was like you were just going to fall straight down to earth, you are going at 140mph, heart pounding in your chest, but at the same time very excited. Once the parachutes opened it was almost like someone was pulling you back up, and then you were in control of the landing and hoping you were going to land safely. The view was beautiful, you could see for miles. I loved every minute of it. It was an amazing experience and I will definitely be doing another one in the future.



**Carol Quinn and Martina Cunnane.**

Martina was next to take the plunge. "The feeling was overwhelming - such an amazing experience. I would definitely do it again, although at the time I have to say I was terrified, but was in safe hands", she said.

It was an amazing experience, one we will never forget and couldn't have done without the amazing support from everyone. We are very grateful. Also, to know that all money raised went to a very worthy cause. Thanks again to everyone.

Videos of both skydives can be seen on YouTube 'Carol Quinn Skydive Ireland' and 'Martina Cunnane Skydive Ireland'.

**Carol Quinn and Martina Cunnane.**

## *Annagh 2013*

**The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2013 is Friday, October 18th, 2013.**

**Email: [info@annaghmag.ie](mailto:info@annaghmag.ie)**

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

### **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. Due to the large volume of material submitted, regrettably, it may not be possible to include all photographs supplied.

Photos will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.







An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Sr. Assumpta. Taken in the Cúan Catriona Nursing Home on the evening of his return to Castlebar following his appointment as Taoiseach.



Cian Murphy, son of Patricia and Padraic Murphy, and Naomi Cleary, daughter of Mia and Cormac Cleary.

Colm, Siobhan and Lorcan Ronan, Began, with their champion pedigree Belgian Blue calf 'Gaelstar', overall winner at Enniscrone Show, 2012.



Staff and residents of Ave Maria Nursing Home presenting a cheque of €1,300 to Pieta House, Tuam, Co. Galway. Back, L-R: Margaret Disken, Sallyanne Donne, Mairead Waldron and Irene Gasper. Front: Jim Connell, Kitty Corless, Peter Burke.



Prizewinners in the Aghamore 5 km Fun Run, 2012. L-R: Sean Burke, Pauline Martyn, Paul Burke, Irene Sharkey. Paul's great-grandmother, Anna Hamrogue, came from Annagh parish.







Our trip to meet the Kilkenny Hurling team at training in Nolan Park, August 2012. Shane Healy, Henry Shefflin, Dara Healy, Helen Healy.



Kathleen Coyne pictured celebrating her 90th Birthday on 2nd April 2012.



Neighbours from Gurteen and Carrowkeel meet in Dublin.  
L-R: Pat Biesty, Mick Biesty, Sean Biesty, Helen Biesty, Pat Freeley, Margaret Tarpey, Anne Biesty. Photograph taken outside Dáil Eireann.



Catherine Quinn who graduated from GMIT Galway with a Bachelor of Business in Culinary Arts degree (with Honours). Catherine is daughter of Bernie and Jimmy Quinn, Classaroe, Ballyhaunis.



Neighbours meet. John Cruise, Knockbrack and Fr. Johnny Lyons, formerly of Skeaghard.





# A Day in the Bog

At 8.40 am, I hear the cattle grid rattle. Michael Gallagher's van is outside. He said he'd collect me at a quarter to nine. But I've known him long enough to know he'd be early. "Have you wellies?" he shouts, when I appear at the door. I don't.

It's been a miserable year in Mayo. Michael's turf was cut in early May. He footed it – that is, he stacked it in small piles for drying – a month later. Then the rain came. The grassy roadway between Michael's parents' farmhouse in Aghadeffin and the bog behind became waterlogged and impassable. Beyond that, his neatly stacked reeks stood marinating in the Irish summer. "It's been one of the worst years I can remember," he laments. "Even when the turf dried out a bit on top, the bog was so wet that the damp would still soak up from the ground below."

It is only now, in late September, that an opportunity has presented itself to extract the load. So it's all hands to the pump. Michael is a builder by trade and my late father's first cousin. As a teenager, I lugged blocks, tiled roofs and plastered walls for him – work for which, in retrospect, I was probably woefully unsuited.

Michael's ordeal, of having me as his assistant, began when he called to our house for a drink on Christmas Eve in 1994. Without even running the idea by me in advance, my father casually inquired if he would "have any work for this fella?" Michael told me to be ready in a good pair of boots at 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning.

He arrived at 7.55am. It was the day after St. Stephen's Day. I was fifteen years old. I'd spent the previous forty-eight hours sprawled out on the couch, watching *Back to the Future* and *Indiana Jones*, and consuming industrial quantities of Cadbury's Roses. Now I was working outdoors, in the pitch dark, digging endless trenches in the frozen ground.

Now I don't know if Michael and my father conspired

to engineer this brutal baptism of fire into the world of manual labour for me. But if they did, it sort of worked. Over the next few years, I began to enjoy those days with Michael. The work was never easy. But it was often fun.

Footing turf in the summertime was by far the most physically demanding work. But it was also the most convivial. As an effete townie, I always felt I had something to prove on the farm. So as we footed our respective sections of the bog, I was determined not to let either Michael, or his gregarious father Seamus (my great-uncle) pull too far ahead of me.

I thought I was doing rather well, that first day, when we reached the end of the first stretch, and I realised that they had each footed two rows of turf, to my own meagre one. It was back-breaking work. I played minor football for Ballyhaunis. So I was fit. But it made no odds. Seven or eight hours of heavy physical labour, bent over at the waist, in the hot sun, will take its toll on anyone.

"It was a different type of effort from what you were used to," Michael recalls. "But I'd say it toughened you up. I bet you didn't pull your hamstring that year, did you?" He's right, I didn't. Today we have returned to find out if, after half a decade interviewing minor celebrities for the *Irish Times*, I have another honest day's labour left in me.

We're joined by Michael's son John and his brother

Shane. Michael's father Seamus is attending now in a supervisory capacity. Seamus greets me warmly. The All-Ireland final is just days away. He asks if I've had any luck with tickets? I've been slapping backs, buying pints and kissing babies, I tell him. But none yet.

"It's terrible", he says. "The worst yet".

Shane starts up the tractor engine and we're away. Michael hitches a ride on the tow-bar. John and I sit in the trailer behind. When the tractor gets bogged down in a particularly messy stretch of track, we drop concrete



**John Gallagher, Eoin Butler and Shane Gallagher bringing in turf in Aghadiffin bog, Kilmovee, Co. Mayo.**

Photo : Keith Heneghan / Phocus





patio slabs into the muck behind us, to lend a little extra traction for the return journey.

The bog is exactly as I remember it. All that's missing is the old Austin Maxi, to which Seamus and I would repair for a flask of tea on the odd occasions when it rained. (Alas for us, that first summer of 1995 was one of the driest on record.) Michael isn't sure what happened to the car. Most likely it sank into the bog.

The turf is already in bags. So all we have to do now is to take them out of the bog. We quickly set to work, loading the bags onto the trailer. Some of them are light; meaning the turf inside is dry. But most are soggy and very heavy. Michael will have to stack this wet turf up in large round piles, or 'clamps', when he gets it home.

When each trailer load is full, Shane navigates the delicate journey back. The concrete patio slabs do their job and we make it back to the farmhouse. We stack some of the turf in the hayshed. The rest goes in the back of Michael's van. It's heavy going, but I'm holding up okay. At 11 am, we're invited inside for our tea. But Michael says no. He'd rather work straight through until dinnertime.

I'm momentarily alarmed. Then I recall that, around here, dinner is eaten in the middle of the day. In fact, that's probably the best thing about working on the bog: the food. You get a proper spread – meat, potatoes, vegetables, gravy. The first time I was here, I now recall, I mistook a jug of non-pasteurised milk (which I had

never seen before) for custard.

My cousins laughed at me at the time. But they were kind enough to inform me that, when my father had visited in similar circumstances many years earlier, he had accomplished his own disgrace in a much more dramatic fashion. His error was to mistake a dung hill, crusted over in the sun, for a raised stretch of yard. When he attempted to walk across it, found himself up to his waste in slurry. They still laugh about that around here to this day. My faux pas with the milk, it seems, is long since forgotten. Inside, Seamus and my great-aunt Bernadette are listening to MidWest. We talk about the turf cutting ban which has recently come into effect. The Gallaghers' isn't a raised bog, so the ban doesn't affect them for now.

But there are fears it may be extended. I ask them if the traditional day on the bog might soon be a thing of the past? "No way," says Michael. "If anything, it's coming back. Coal and briquettes are gone awful expensive. All the farmers who still have a bit of bog will still cut their own."

So he doesn't anticipate Department of Agriculture surveillance drones flying over Aughadeffin anytime soon? "Not at all. If a man can't cut a small bit of turf, for his own use, then things are gone awful bad."

Eoin Butler

*This article was originally published in 'The Irish Times'.*

## Ballyhaunis Cemetery

The Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee continues as a voluntary group whose main ethos is to maintain the grounds of our cemetery and keep it as a fitting resting place for our deceased families, relatives and friends. We have always endeavoured to maintain the cemetery to as high a standard as possible by keeping the grass cut, painting the front wall, planting flowers and bulbs in suitable locations and other general maintenance.

Last year the rockery was removed as it had become a haven for refuse and rubbish. The cross, which had been kindly donated by the late Jimmy O'Brien was repositioned on top of a concrete plinth and can now be seen more clearly.

The committee would like to thank all those people, both at home and abroad, who generously subscribe to the annual collection and who maintain their graves to such a high standard. If there is anyone with ideas of improvements or enhancements to your

cemetery, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee.

**Committee:** John Halpin, Walter Cleary, Helen Waldron, Tom Finn, Edward Mulhern, Seamus O'Boyle, Martin Gavin and Mary Donnelly.



## Ballindrehid to Achill

When, in March 2012, I received an advance copy of my book 'The Veiled Woman of Achill' from The Collins Press, Cork, and held it in my hands, it was a very special moment and the culmination of almost five years of research and writing. It was a journey that had brought me to Ballindrehid, Granlahan, Errew,



Castlebar, Westport and, of course, to the island of Achill and the townlands of Valley, Dugort and Bunnacurry. It was also a journey that involved many hours sitting in libraries in Castlebar, at NUI Galway, in the National Library of Ireland and the Church of Ireland Library, Rathgar, Dublin, as well as travelling to the magnificent New York Public Library in the Schwarzman Building at 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, New York.

What kept me going through all the hours and years of work on the book was the utterly compelling story of what happened at the Valley House, north Achill, on the night of 6th October 1894 when the landlord – an English woman Agnes MacDonnell – was attacked and severely disfigured, and her Valley House home burned. The story of those events and of their aftermath, when local man James Lynchehaun was convicted of the crime and made two dramatic escapes from custody, became a sensation at the turn of the nineteenth century, and James Lynchehaun became a folklore figure in Ireland and abroad. Such was the notoriety of the villain that he was mentioned by James Joyce in his novel *Ulysses* ('He's a cross between Lobengula and Lynchehaun.'), and was one of the influences on John Millington Synge in constructing the character of Christy Mahon for his most famous drama *The Playboy of the Western World*.

For me there was also a very personal connection with the Achill story. My great grandmother - Bridget Murphy, Greenwood – was born in Ballindrehid, and her brother who trained as a baker in Ballyhaunis, joined the Franciscan order which had a base in the nearby Granlahan Monastery. Brother Paul was assigned to Bunnacurry Monastery, Achill, in 1869, at the age of twenty four, and he would spend almost a quarter of a

century on the island. He developed the habit of writing his thoughts and reminiscences in journals throughout his life. He befriended James Lynchehaun and wrote up an account of the Valley House atrocity and of the escapades of Lynchehaun in the decades after the Valley House outrage. In the early twentieth century, Brother Paul was involved in a number of lengthy fundraising trips to the United States, including a journey to raise funds for the construction of the Church of the Holy Rosary, Castlebar. His travel journals ('Notes on his Life and Travels') provide graphic and sometimes hilarious accounts of these fundraising efforts. (The book, *Through Fagan's Gate: The Parish and People of Castlebar Down Through The Ages*, by Tom Higgins – formerly of Began – includes an account of Brother Paul Carney's role in raising money for Castlebar Church.)

I was only vaguely aware of my relative's association with Achill, and knew little about the Valley House / Lynchehaun story until 2006. A cousin, Michael McDonnell from Currisloustia, had visited my late father, Pake Murphy, on a number of occasions prior to his death in 2003, to talk about family history. On meeting Michael I found that he had an incredible collection of archive material and knowledge about Brother Paul and the Achill events which he generously shared with me. I was immediately fascinated by the Valley House story, its dramatic quality, and the way in which it encapsulated much of the history of the late nineteenth, early twentieth century period. I was aware that, in 1986, James Carney had brought out a book *The Playboy & the Yellow Lady*, based largely on Brother Paul Carney's diaries, and that this book was the basis of the fictionalised account of the Valley House events in the film *Love & Rage* starring Greta Scacchi and Daniel Craig. However, I felt that there was a book to be written which would provide a comprehensive factual account of the Achill Island events, and set these against the background of the tumultuous political happenings of the times.

It was fascinating for me to become immersed in the history of County Mayo in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. My book opens in the summer of 1894 with the tragic drowning of 34 Achill islanders as they made their way in an overcrowded sailing boat to Westport to catch the steamer that would take them to Scotland to work as harvesters on farms for the summer. The drowning drew attention to the desperate economic plight on the island, and to the bitterness in relations between the tenants and the Achill landlords, who included Agnes MacDonnell of the Valley House. Michael Davitt – a frequent visitor to Achill – arrived on the island soon after the drowning and was heavily involved in the





fundraising efforts to assist the survivors and the families of the dead. The tension in Achill was palpable in the summer of 1894, just months before the horror of the Valley House attack.

One of the recurring images in my book is that of the Midland Western Great Railway line which was extended to Achill in 1894; the first train to the island conveyed the bodies of the victims of the Clew Bay drowning. The railway line opened up Achill for tourism, with newspapers hailing the island as the 'Madeira of the West', and visitors to the island collected by long car at Achill Sound and brought to hotels at Dugort. The railway line closed in 1937, the year in which another train transported home the bodies of ten young Achill boys, also working as tatie-hokers in Scotland, who had died in a fire at Kirkintilloch. The bodies of those who died in the Clew Bay drowning and the Kirkintilloch fire tragedies are buried in communal graves at Kildownet, in the south of Achill Island. In recent years, the path of the disused railway from Westport, through Newport and Mulranny to Achill, has been marvellously restored into The Great Western Greenway, where visitors can cycle or walk and on the railway route taken by Agnes MacDonnell as she travelled over and back between Achill and her London home after the 1894 attack when she refused to be driven from her estate.

Doing the research for my book over many days, hours, and years was one thing, structuring all of this material into a readable story that would attract a publisher was another. In 2007 I was accepted into the MA in Writing programme at NUI Galway, which included a module on narrative nonfiction, or writing a nonfiction story in a way that reads like a novel. This gave me the tools to take all the research material and structure it into a readable narrative. Then, in 2011, when I submitted an outline of my book to The Collins Press, Cork, I was lucky that they accepted it for publication.

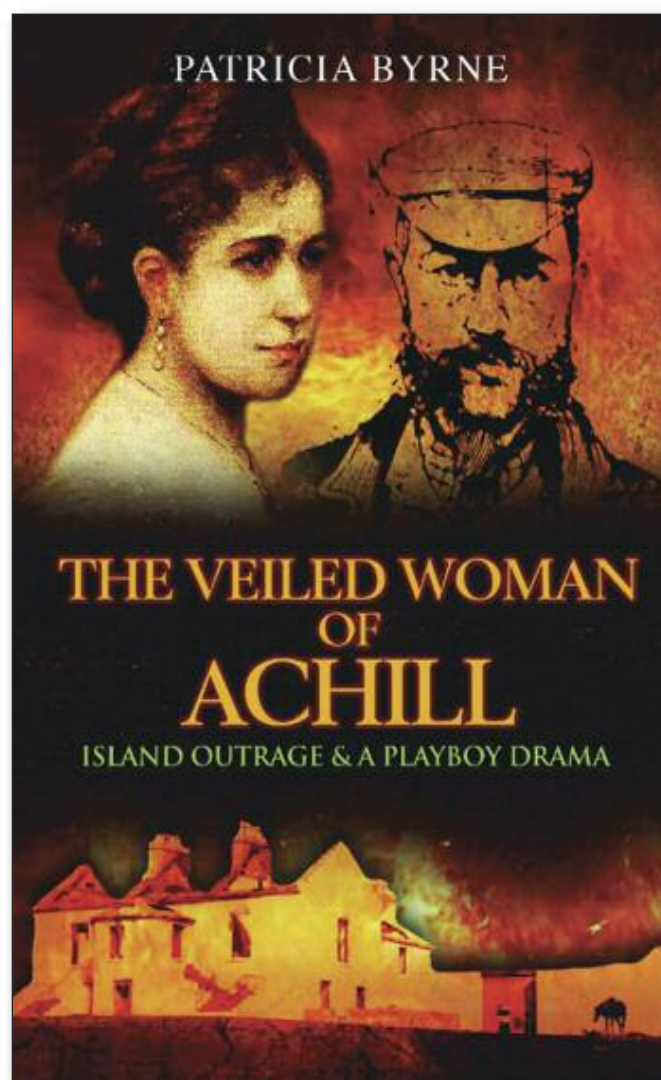
In April 2012 my book was launched at the Valley House, Achill, as part of the Heinrich Böll Weekend, in the very location where the startling events of the 6th October 1894, took place. It was interesting to meet so many local island people at the launch who had their own individual stories, passed down the generations, about the events of October 1894. The Valley House today comprises a hostel and bar run by the Gallagher family, who acquired the house in 1942 from Leslie Elliott, Agnes MacDonnell's son. One can travel a very scenic route from the Valley House along the north Achill coast to Dugort where St. Thomas' Church – at which Agnes MacDonnell attended Sunday church services – is open to the public. Gray's Guest House still provides visitor accommodation at the site which was once the location of the nineteenth-century Achill Mission

settlement in what was known as The Colony. A couple of miles further south from Dugort, on the main road between Achill Sound and Keel, are the ruins of Bunnacurry Franciscan monastery where Brother Paul Carney lived for a quarter of a century.

Writing this book has brought me on an amazing journey through a slice of County Mayo history over a century ago. If you get to read the book, I hope you will also enjoy and experience some of what I did on that journey. If you get a chance to visit the Achill areas that feature in the book, you will also enjoy some of the most spectacular physical landscape in the country.

**Patricia Byrne**

Note: Patricia Byrne (née Murphy) was born in Greenwood, Ballyhaunis, in 1950. She and her family have lived in Limerick for the past 32 years. Her poetry collection *Unstable Time* was published by Lapwing Press in 2009. Her nonfiction book *The Veiled Woman of Achill – Island Outrage & A Playboy Drama* was published by The Collins Press in April 2012 and can be purchased at The Gem, Ballyhaunis.



# Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns continues to meet on a monthly basis while outdoor activities take place more frequently during the summer months, and especially in preparation for the visit of the National Tidy Towns adjudicators in June.

At our AGM on 14th March 2012 the following officers were elected for the current year:

**Chairperson:** Nell Rochford, **Hon. Secretary:** Mary Donnelly, **Hon. Treasurers:** Moyra Patterson and Frances Mulhern. **Committee:** Helen Biesty, Michael Drudy, Mary T. Griffin, Mike Griffin, Michael Heffernan, Frances Maye, Kieran Timoney.

Last Christmas we bade farewell to two dedicated volunteers, mother and daughter Jeet and Taran Grover, as they moved to Dublin with the rest of their family.

## The Big Clean-Up

National Spring Clean Day on Good Friday drew a fantastic response with more volunteers than ever taking part. This year the members and leaders of the local Foróige Youth Club turned out in numbers to help with the task and we extend sincere thanks to all of them. Happily a greater number of volunteers continue to pick up litter and keep an environmental watch on their own neighbourhoods; hopefully this will lead to greater awareness and a cleaner community.

Throughout the summer members continued with litter picking, planting and weeding while Mike Griffin maintained his customary Sunday morning street cleaning at a very early hour.

Our Rural Social workers, T. J. Fallon, P. J. Higgins and Jimmy O'Boyle carried out their tasks which included preparing and maintaining the hanging baskets and floral displays, mowing, strimming and litter picking on approach roads, power washing, planting flowers and shrubs, and tidying up at the recycle banks area and the riverbank area. We extend best wishes to Tom McLoughlin who retired from the Scheme in March. T. J. Fallon moved to the Golf Club during the summer.

Mayo County Council's Litter Action League ran throughout the summer. The performance of the town in this competition was disappointing to say the least and we failed to reach the semi-final stages. Despite our best efforts litter, especially cigarette butts, continue to be a major problem in the town. Month after month the reports highlighted the litter black spots and the cigarette butt count increased in certain streets.

## Wildlife Information Project

This project is now complete and we are grateful to Margie Phillips for her invaluable assistance in providing the professionally produced posters that are now on

display. Anyone taking a walk around the Friary grounds can pause and view the colourful posters depicting the various species of flora and fauna that abound there.



## National Tidy Towns Competition 2012

Adjudicators visited the town on 28th June, and awarded 253 marks out of a possible 400 – an increase of five on last year. The following is a summary of the report:

### Overall Development Approach 40/50

Features favourably noted included the townland name stones, the Railway Station, the Library, Credit Union, Enterprise Centre, MidWest Radio and a number of examples of wrought iron gates, railings, etc. Also noted was the number of housing estates with unfinished or vacant houses, in common with many other towns.

### The Built Environment 35/50

In this category buildings which caught the adjudicators' eye included Brookvale Manor Nursing Home with its name depicted in the privet hedge along the roadside, St. Patrick's Church and the statues in the grounds, Dillon Travel, The Hazel Bar, the Garda Station, The Clock Bar, Caulfield's shop, MacSiurtáin's and Ballyhaunis Community School.

### Landscaping 34/50

The Fair Day sculpture in the Square, along with the tiered planters and extensive hanging baskets were much admired. The Town Park with its colourful playground and covered playing area were very well presented, as also were many incidental landscaped areas. The grotto at Gurteen road was also admired.

### Wildlife and Natural Amenities 26/50

Friarsground Nature Walk with its wildlife information panels was described as delightful and a wonderful asset in the centre of the town, while the Dalgan river contributed greatly to the overall vista. It was advised that sections of the walk should be allowed to become wildflower centres to enhance the food chain on which additional birdlife and wildlife depends.

### Litter Control 31/50





It was noted in this category that despite our involvement in National Spring Clean Campaign and frequent litter pick-ups, litter continues to be a problem. (This is the only category in the competition where our marks dropped from last year.)

### **Tidiness 15/30**

A couple of incidences of untidiness were observed by the adjudicators but it was noted that the town has, comparatively speaking, a minor number of derelict building sites. Super Valu supermarket and car park were found to be neat and orderly.

### **Waste Minimisation 11/20**

The recycling banks in the car park and the clothes bank at West Halal were both noted as being respected and used. However, the report states that waste minimisation is more about waste prevention and the proper use of scarce resources such as water, power and energy. It recommends that Mayo County Council be asked to stage an information evening to create awareness of the necessity for waste minimisation.

### **Residential Areas 26/40**

The establishment of resident groups and associations is advised as the most effective way to achieve improvements in residential areas. Individual houses on the Knock Road

were admired, along with Manor Brook and Beech Park estates. Station Rise was described as excellent; "the communal grassed areas were well presented and the planting was of a high order".

### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas 28/50**

All approach roads to the town were very favourably noted, with the absence of litter, good planting, maturing trees and fine pavements admired.

### **General Impression 7/10**

Ballyhaunis is described as a town with many attributes and advantages, which are being examined and explored to very good effect. The adjudicators extended best thanks and compliments to all who were involved in this year's fine presentation.

### **Thank You**

A big collective 'Thank You' to everyone who supports, acknowledges and contributes to the work of Tidy Towns. Committee meetings take place in the Parochial Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. New volunteers with new ideas would give all of us a fresh boost of energy as we face into 2013 – 'The Year of The Gathering'. If you have a little spare time and an interest in the local environment, please consider joining Tidy Towns. Visit our web page on Ballyhaunis Life website.

**Mary Donnelly**



**Members and leaders of Foróige Youth Club taking part in National Spring Clean Campaign, Good Friday - 6th April 2012.**

Back, L-R: Michelle Lyons, Darren Coyne, Aisling Caulfield, Gary Higgins, Chris Henry, Karen Coyne, Leanne Henry, Tina McGoldrick, Finola Nolan, Isobel Morrissey, Ann Lenihan, Sarah Skeffington, Danielle Coyne, Nadine Mangan, Aoife Mulrennan, Shauna Murray, Claire Fahy, Mike Griffin. Front: Sean Herr, Eamon Phillips, Conor Lenihan, Saoirse Caulfield, Aoife Nolan, Tommy Folliard, Lisa McGuire, Roisín Fitzmaurice, Rebecca Walsh, Catherine Quinn, Emma Lyons.



# Listening to the Match

The Green and Red is still flying defiantly in the October breeze across the road at J.J. Lilly's and next door at Kieran Connolly's, even though the final whistle has gone and, as the man said, "the hurley burley is done, the battle lost and won". Flying alongside the Mayo colours at Connolly's is the maroon and white of Galway. Flying side-by-side as much as to say, 'beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach'. Flying victoriously not far away there should be another flag, but sadly Betty Regan is not with us this time to show that flag and show pride in her native Donegal. A lot of water has flown under the bridge since we saw the Sam Maguire in the window of Mrs. Waldron's book shop in Abbey Street. As well as the water that has flown, a lot of changes have come on stream as well. On reflection the biggest changes have come in the field of communication. The last time I heard Michael O'Hehir declare over the radio that Mayo were All-Ireland Champions, I was able to hear him with the help of a bicycle lamp battery. At that time there were, as far as I can recall, just three battery operated radios in Johnstown. I had 'a ticket' to listen to the match at Walsh's. The radio at Walsh's had not been in use for some months because of a sad bereavement in the family. The oldest son in the family had passed away in his early twenties. As was the custom of the time, the radio was not in use since the bereavement but an exception was made for the big match.

The wet battery was brought to town to the charged for the occasion. With just three radios in the village it goes without saying that each one had an extensive audience, especially on the occasion of big football matches. With the kitchen fully 'booked out' the window was opened to provide a 'foreign service' to those outside in the lawn. Expectations were high as the battery was connected to the set, but when switched on there was silence and disappointment. Paddy Kearns from Gurrane, who had an interest in radio, suggested that the problem probably lay with the dry battery and as it supplied very little current, a bicycle lamp battery would supply enough current at least for the duration of the match. A lamp battery was quickly procured and Michael O'Hehir's voice silenced the noisy audience both in the kitchen and outside the window. As the commentary progressed, we sensed victory and by the time Michael made his usual "time is ticking away" remark, all our worries faded away and the rest is history.

The team had done its job and so had the lamp battery. Six decades have slipped away and no satellite dish had the opportunity to convey the same exciting

news that came through Walsh's kitchen window on that September evening long ago. Some of us may remember Michael O'Hehir welcoming listeners to Radio Brazzaville at the commencement of his broadcast, but he was unable to welcome listeners much nearer home across the water in the UK. Up until the 1960s it was very difficult to receive Radio Eireann in most parts of Britain. It is incomprehensible why Radio Eireann was able to relay a broadcast to Central Africa and unable to do so a short distance across the water where there were thousands of Irish exiles. Many different methods were devised by those exiles to harvest the airwaves, especially on big occasions like All-Irelands.

## Airwaves

One method as related by Michael Henry in an article in Glór Achadh Mór '91, was to climb to the top of a telegraph pole and hold a radio close to the wires. Mr. Henry gives an account on how an attempt was made to employ this technology by a group comprising mostly of Connemara men to listen to the All-Ireland Final of 1964 between Galway and Kerry. A few days before the match a pole suitable for the purpose had been selected in the village green of a quiet rural place, a good bit out of London. In the article which was entitled 'Up the Pole', Mr. Henry relates how on the day of the big occasion, a strong contingent boarded a lorry which also carried a ladder and a fair cargo of refreshments and headed out of town to the designated pole. The arrival of so many 'tribesmen' in the village, then occupation of the village green and the sight of a man with a radio tied to his head climbing a ladder to the top of a telegraph pole attracted the attention of the locals and the local constabulary, two of whom arrived and asked football fans to move, but to no avail. The boys with the helmets left, but not for long. They were back, but not alone. By half-time the Galway supporters were not in the dressing room but in a cop shop where they got a dressing down. They thought they would be red carded and booked when the sergeant in charge told them that his wife's mother came from Kerry. They got off with a yellow card, and told they were free to go. Terms and conditions were applied and they were told to gather up all the empty Guinness bottles from around the telegraph pole.

That article was very good and it stuck in my mind because I could identify with a lot of it and, while I cannot tell a story as well as it, I can tell a similar story about how other exiles used the airwaves on that particular day. I was working in London on the third Sunday of September 1964. Yes, it was Sunday and we





were working near the top of one of those tower blocks in the centre of the city. We had a panoramic view of London. We could take the time from Big Ben and were able to 'lamp' what was going on around the Palace down below. We knew when foreign heads of state were dropping in by the different National flags being flown.

We knew there had been a bereavement in the family if the flag was flying at half-mast. If the Royal standard was flying, we knew she was at home and if not we knew she was out of town. Now, when work was available on Sunday not everybody turned out. There were men from Connemara working on the job and they all turned out on that particular Sunday. A bit unusual but the reason became obvious as the day went by. It had recently been discovered that broadcasts from Ireland could be picked up with a good transistor from the top of those tower blocks, especially on a Sunday when things were reasonably quiet around town.

Well before kick-off time one of the Galway fans went to the top of the building with a transistor and checked that it was "all systems go". As the match was about to start, the 'sound engineer' equipped with a top-of-the-range transistor went up to the 'crow's nest' and

commenced to relay, in verbatim and in Irish, Michael O'Hehir's commentary to a 'midshipman' on the deck beneath him who, in turn, re-relayed it down to the floor below by word of mouth, and so on the relay went in descending order from floor to floor all through the medium of Irish. This was a disadvantage to many of us non-Irish speakers. But it was easy to understand when Galway scored - not by the spoken language but by the jubilant body language. No need to mention what the spoken language and the body language was like when the final whistle went. Those concerned with safely feared that one or more of those jubilant fans might for an instant forget where they were - it was a long way down. All in all it was safer and more discrete way of listening to matches than climbing a telegraph pole and disturbing the peace and quiet of a sleepy English village. It was also more cost effective as we were all getting paid double time for supposedly working on a Sunday. There you have it - accounts by two Mayo men living in London attempting to listen to an All-Ireland final playing on the third Sunday of September 1964. If you don't want to know the result, don't look now. Galway 15 points - Kerry 10 points.

**Jimmy Cribbin**



Photograph taken in Johnstown early 1960's.

Back: Jim Griffin. Middle (left to right): Teresa Fitzgerald, Eileen Cleary, Michael Waldron, Imelda Walshe, John Cleary, Ella Waldron, Helen Waldron, Mary Cleary, Sean Walsh and Myra Fitzgerald. Front (left to right): Marian Jordan, Teresa Cleary, Liam Gildea and Tom Cleary.



## Dawn Mass at Lake O'Flynn



### Birthday Celebrations

Three generations of Patrick Lyons' of Holywell at Pat Joe's 97th Birthday on the 8th of Feb 2012.

John McGarry (93), pictured right, Drimbane, and Mary Prendergast, Irishtown, at Pat Joe Lyons' 97th Birthday.



### Dawn Mass

Easter Sunday morning, April 8th, 2012, Mass was celebrated at Dawn on the shores of Lake O'Flynn, Ballinlough, County Roscommon. The congregation was drawn from the newly-formed St. Joseph's Cluster of Parishes:- Annagh, Aghamore, Began, Kiltullagh and Knock. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Joe Feeney (Ballinlough), Fr. Stephen Farragher (Ballyhaunis), Fr. Richard Gibbons (Knock), Fr. John Walsh (Aghamore) and Fr. Brendan McGuinness (Began).








☛ Dawn Mass at Lake O'Flynn, Ballinlough. Easter Sunday, 2012. Photograph by Jaroslav Jurak.

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**Ballyhaunis Historical Pageant**

**St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey, Ballyhaunis**

**Sunday 25th August 2013**

As part of 'Gathering Ireland 2013', you and your family are very kindly invited to join us in celebrating the town's rich history and heritage by visiting us on the last Sunday in August to mark this event, and take part in the Ballyhaunis Historical Pageant.

Further Information available from the Ballyhaunis Gathering Committee, c/o St. Mary's Abbey, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. Tel. (094) 9630031 or by email at [ballyhaunisfrc@eircom.net](mailto:ballyhaunisfrc@eircom.net)





# From Brickens To Banjul – Bishop Michael Cleary

Bishop Michael Cleary, now retired and a native of Brickens, has worked for the past sixty years in the Diocese of Banjul, Gambia, Africa.

Gambia is one of the smallest countries in Africa and also one of the poorest. It is sit the west coast, south-west of the Sahara Desert. It is bordered on three sides by Senegal and its fourth side looks out onto the Atlantic Ocean. The weather is always hot but almost unbearably humid from July to October during the rainy season.

Bishop Cleary was born in Cussolough near Brickens on the 1st of September 1925. His mother died eight days later on the 8th of September and his father four years later, also on the 8th of September. His family was subsequently broken up. The brothers went to live with an uncle and his sisters with an aunt. Bishop Cleary went to live with his uncle in Castlebar, who was the County Engineer at that time. He attended the De La Salle Brothers Primary School and later boarded in St. Jarlath's in Tuam where he sat the Leaving Certificate. By this time he had decided to become a priest so he went to the Holy Ghost Novitiate in Co. Tipperary for one year. The next three years he spent in the Holy Ghost House in Kimmage in Dublin from where he cycled to U.C.D. each day. At that time U.C.D. was located in Earlsfort Terrace. Here he studied Arts and later the H. Dip in Education, qualifying him to teach.

He then spent three years studying theology before being ordained in Kimmage on the 29th of June 1952. He spent the first year ministering as a priest in Dublin, and then, having volunteered with some classmates for missionary work, he alone was sent to Banjul in The Gambia in 1953.

## Banjul

There was limited air travel at that time so Bishop Cleary had to go by boat from Dublin to Liverpool and then on by steamer to Banjul. This journey took eight days. He didn't return to Ireland for four and a half years and this time he made the same difficult journey. On his third visit in 1961 he flew from Banjul to the Canaries with British Caledonia and then on to Dublin via London.

A few months after arrival in Banjul the then Bishop sent him to a village up country called Basset, which was located out in the bush, about 240 miles from the city of Banjul. Here for the first time he heard African drumming and, having no previous knowledge of this music, he felt a little scared. His nearest white neighbours were the St. Joseph of Cluny nuns who lived a mile away. However, he was soon accepted and welcomed as a priest. He only spent a few months in

Basset before returning to teach in St. Augustine Secondary School in Banjul. Bishop Cleary spent all his teaching career here and was Principal for twenty years – many of the pupils he taught later became government ministers.

Bishop Cleary has seen many changes in The Gambia since he first arrived. As a young priest in 1953 the country was still under British rule. The Gambia got its independence in 1965. He witnessed two coups, the latest in 1994, lead by the now President Jammeh, who is currently in his third term. Jammet set about building roads and built a new airport. Bishop Cleary says that whereas he has seen many changes, The Gambia still remains very poor. It has no natural resources except peanuts. However, the Gambians are a happy tolerant people and even though the population is mainly

Muslim, there is a mutual respect between the Bishop and the locals.

Since Bishop Cleary was consecrated Bishop on 24th of March 1981 and appointed to the Diocese of Banjul, he has met many dignitaries including Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. He retired as Bishop of Banjul in February 2006. At present he resides in Banjul and returns to Ireland annually. While home, he always visits his nephews Sean and Micheál Cleary in Brickens.

While in Banjul recently I had the pleasure of meeting this lovely unassuming man and I thank him for his hospitality and kindness, and for granting me this interview, which spans eighty-six years, sixty of which he has spent in The Gambia.

**Nell Rochford**



**Bishop Michael Cleary**





# Northabout Sails North Again

On a bright, early morning last August, I found myself wandering around a beautiful birch forest in Karelia in North Western Russia. The place was called Sandermark. It was here that a man we were to meet later, Yuri Alexi Dmitriev, recently discovered the mass graves of 9,000 people. They came mostly from the states of Eastern Europe, but also included men and women from many other European countries including Sweden, Turkey and Germany. After many years of working in the labour camps of the Gulag, they were taken

to this remote forest where they were shot by a single bullet to the head - Stalin's preferred method of assassination. The depressions on the forest floor where the earth had caved in after eighty years, were adorned with plastic flowers placed there by the relatives of the dead.

I was in the company of Jarlath Cunnane from Knock, Paddy Barry, my brother Colm (Russian speaker) and cameraman Gary Finnegan. We had travelled ten kilometres to this forest graveyard from the White Sea/Baltic Canal where Northabout, our sturdy ice-strengthened yacht, had taken us. Between 2001 and 2005 we had sailed together from Westport to the ice of the North West and North East Passages, to arrive in Murmansk in September 2005. In order to avoid sailing over the stormy coast of Norway so late in the year back to Mayo, we tried to get a permit from the Russians to sail through the Canal, and into the more sheltered waters of the Baltic. However, bureaucracy prevailed and we were disappointed not to be given the permit.

We had seen evidence of the Gulag camps in 2004 and 2005 while we were sailing through the icy waters of Siberia. For us the White Sea/Baltic Canal remained "unfinished business". Earlier in 2012 it was announced that Russia was opening up the interior waterways to foreign yachts. We saw our opportunity to sail into the Arctic once more and fulfil our ambition, and sail home via the Canal. Northabout left Westport on the 21st June, and in late July, Colm, Gary, Matt Molloy and myself joined up in Norway to sail into Archangel, where we cleared Russian customs. Archangel was in festive mood for 'Navy Weekend', with bands and outdoor concerts, in celebration of the Northern Naval Fleet. We secured a berth right in the middle of the city and the



**Northabout group. L-R: Yuri Alexei Dmitriev, Jarlath Cunnane, Michael Brogan, Colm Brogan, Natalia (Yuri's wife), Paddy Barry.**

action. With Matt Molloy on flute, Paddy on bodhrán, Gary on guitar and yours truly on fiddle, we played our part for Ireland.

## Solovetsky

Matt left us to join the Chieftains on a Concert Tour as we departed for our next destination, the Solovetsky Islands. The Solovetsky Prison Camp is in the middle of the main island. It was described by a former Gulag prisoner and writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who was incarnated there in the thirties, as 'the Mother of the Gulag'. The huge monastery ('Kremlin') on the island was turned into a prison. Here prisoners were, as described by the Administration, 'reforged through work'. This was not unlike the description over the entrance gates to Auschwitz Concentration Camp, "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Sets You Free), over ten years later! During the 1930s, many prisoners from the Solovetsky Camp worked as slave labour on the notorious White Sea/Baltic Canal. Most of them ended up in the forest graveyard of Sandermark.

In Solovetsky the evidence of the past is all around with watch towers, barbed wire, decaying buildings and Russian Orthodox crosses marking the graves and the sites of significant events. The people we met on the island would not speak about the past. When we asked where the main burial site was, one man replied, "this whole island is a graveyard". The monastery is now being rebuilt by religious volunteers from all over Russia.







**Solovetsky Kremlin and former Gulag Prison.**

The Baltic/White Sea Canal was built in 1932/1933 on the instructions of Stalin. Men and women worked in atrocious conditions, half starved, and treated with dreadful brutality. Tens of thousands died of injury, cold, malnutrition, infectious diseases and execution. The canal banks are their grave yards, unmarked. We later learned that those who lost perhaps, a left arm, would be put to work with one who had lost a right arm, thereby making a single labour unit. Such was an example of the brutality of the regime.

The canal itself is 141 miles long and comprises nineteen locks and fifteen dams. The massive locks were originally built in wood and are now lined with concrete. Armed guards patrol them, and they let us know in no uncertain terms that no filming or photographs were allowed. However, Gary our cameraman had a few tricks up his sleeve, as will be seen in the film of the voyage due for release next year. The Karelian landscape of woods and lakes was wonderful, but one just could not get away from its torrid history.

Having sailed through the Canal, we arrived at the city of Petrozavodsk on Lake Onega.



**Sandermark Forest mass grave.**

It was in this fine city, largely unknown in the west, that we chanced on a café bar to see Katie Taylor winning the Gold Medal for Ireland, fighting a Russian. Our Irish flag and musical instruments were out once again in celebration of Katie's great achievement. While there, I learned that it was to this city that the father of a good friend of mine from Oranmore was taken as a German prisoner of war, at the age of sixteen years. He spent the next five years of his young life working in different Camps, unsure of his destiny. Fortunately, he was one of the few who survived.







Most recent route taken by 'Northabout'.

The next day we tracked down Yuri Alexi Dmitriev in a café in the middle of the city. His lifetime as historian/archeologist has been dedicated to researching and exposing the atrocities of the Gulag. He has documented and published the names of thousands of previously anonymous victims of that era, in order to give them some dignity, and so that their relatives can have some kind of closure. Alexi is regarded with suspicion by the present administration, and shortly after we met him, he informed us that we were being followed by the F.S.B. (KGB). Yuri Alexi agreed to talk to us, and over the next couple of days our film maker and cameraman Gary, with Colm translating, got hours of unique filmed interview with him.

### St. Petersburg

From Lake Onega we sailed with a two knot current for 200 miles down the Svir River into Lake Ladoga, passing increasing numbers of cargo and cruise ships. We got loads of toots and waves from those on board. Yachts of any nationality in these waters are a rarity. While sailing towards St. Petersburg on the River Neva, I got a text from a friend in Ballyhaunis to say that his parents were on board one of the cruise ships and had spotted the Irish Flag and Northabout sailing in the opposite direction. What a small world!

Along the banks of the Neva River, as we got closer to St. Petersburg, we observed the oversized and over-the-

top houses of the new Russians, displaying their recently acquired wealth. Later we joined a convoy of seven ships sailing downstream through St. Petersburg where the illuminated bridges were opened above us. It is truly one of the magnificent cities of the world. We sailed onwards, through the narrow and very busy shipping lanes out of St. Petersburg towards Estonia. Dodging the huge ships in the dark windy night, with poor visibility, was a daunting task, especially when we knew they couldn't see our small yacht.

On 23rd August Northabout sailed into the heart of the old city of Tallin. Here we were greeted by an old friend Tonu Kaljuste, whom I had last met when he was conducting the Estonian Chamber Choir in a concert in Ballintubber Abbey. That night the crew of Northabout were treated to a stunning private concert conducted by Tonu, with full orchestra and choir. The next day, with the music still ringing in our heads, Gary, Colm and I flew back to Ireland.

With new crew, Northabout continued her journey home through the Gota Canal in Sweden, across the North Sea, the Caledonian Canal in Scotland and four and a half thousand miles later, arrived back in Westport on the 27th September 2012 - mission accomplished!

Dr. Michael Brogan



# The Light of Other Days – Clare Street 1935-1945

In the year 1946 I emigrated to England to work as an au-pair. I grew up in Clare Street, the eldest girl in our family of ten – four boys and six girls. My parents were Michael John and Mary. I was twenty-one when I left home to go to London. My father had already gone to England a short time before me. World War II had just ended in 1945 and one-by-one in the years that followed we left for England, nine of us to London and one (my sister Chris) to Manchester. When my brother Michael (the youngest of our family) was leaving for London, my mother came with him. The year was 1953 when we said good-bye to our home in Ballyhaunis. In 1961 my sister Patricia (we call her Pat) and her husband Timmy Cuffe from Sligo, left London to go to Australia. After a six week journey by sea they arrived in Sydney where they have since lived.

## Memories

We all have lovely memories of our native town and its people and have made many return visits that revive the memories of the old days. I remember as a child in the 1930's and early '40's, the many business premises in Clare Street at that time. Starting at the corner on the east side, there was Paul Waldron's chemist shop (now Curley's jewellers); next, Kenny's ladies and children's wear (later Joe Conway's); Curley's bar and grocery (bicycles and radios too); Paddy Waldron's forge, in a recess between Curley's and Foudy's - passing by, you would hear the pleasant sound of the hammer on the anvil; next to Foudy's, Pat Meath's barber shop; a few steps more, Ann Hopkins' dressmaking establishment (now Alma's hairdressing salon); Durkan's bar (later Mulhern's and now J.P. Bookmakers); and Frank Glynn's butcher shop (now Tynan Dillon accountants). We then passed several private houses with Mac's Hill in between, before reaching Donnellan's joinery and undertakers. At the end of the street on that side was the Esso Oil depot. Mac's Hill is long gone and is now the site of the swimming pool, library and fire station.

Crossing over to the west side of the street, and starting at the corner of Main Street and Clare Street, was Higgins' Corner Bar (now Nestor's Bar). Before reaching Mrs. McGreal's grocery and sweet shop you would find the entrance to McGarry's Hall where Stephen Garvey and his Orchestra, and other popular bands of that time, came to provide the music and dances ended at 4 a.m. In later years Mr. McGarry had built a new modern dance hall and a cinema further up Clare Street.

Next to Mrs. McGreal's shop (now McGarry's Architects) was McGreal's shoemakers (now Grogan's



Kathleen Brennan of Clare St.  
in 1946, aged 21.

private house). Then Griffin's grocery and provisions shop where they stocked the big items such as bags of flour and wholemeal, etc. A few steps further, Foudy's bar (later Byrne's and now Gill's bar); Austin O'Malley's saddlers (later Fitzgerald's) and Freyne's garage (Freyne's later moved to a new premises further up Clare Street).

Waldron's Hall was next, the venue for films and concerts (in later years Dillon's hardware and builders providers). This building was demolished in later years and became the site for an impressive modern building for Midwest Radio broadcasting centre. Byrne's sweets and ice cream shop was there too in the 1940's; and Mrs. Murray's shop was next. Mrs. Murray sold grocery, sweets and bicycles. She had the Raleigh agency and stocked the popular models of the time and you could buy a second-hand 'High Nellie' for thirty shillings. There was no house then between Murray's and Lyons's. Willie and Alice Lyons' shop was a new premises in the early 40's. The ever popular Alice passed away earlier this year, just a few months after celebrating her centenary birthday. Next door to Lyons' was Willie Murphy's army and navy store (now the Mayflower Chinese restaurant and takeaway) and Brod Byrne's. There were no other buildings then between Byrne's yard and Robinson's house (now Paul and Paula Donnellan's private house). Jimmy McGreal had a shoemaker's workshop beside Robinson's. That was Clare Street before I left home, and after all these years and the many changes that have been, it is so nice to see that Donnellan's and Curley's are still there in the same spot continuing on in the capable hands of third generation family members.

Looking back again on those years and on the various types of shops that were there, all our requirements from week to week could be bought without leaving the street, apart from the daily paper and, of course, to go to the Churches. As I mention the Church, I recall the lovely sound of the three angelus bells, all ringing together from the Parish, the Friary and the Convent





Churches every day at 12 noon and 6 p.m., except Good Friday.

In 1948 I married Charles Gallagher from Balla. We came back to Balla for our wedding and in 1950 we returned to stay. We went to live in Castlebar where we raised our family, two boys and four girls. My husband Charlie sadly passed away in 1996. Four of my family live not far from me and my son Kevin as near as next door, which makes my home a lively one with the comings and goings of our family, plus our seventeen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. It is every bit as lively and sometimes even more lively than our home in Clare Street all those years ago. I still enjoy my visits to my native town but I miss those friends who are no longer there and, in particular, Mrs. Regan who passed away in recent years. The Regan family were our next door neighbours in those years.

My next visit to Ballyhaunis will be in a few short weeks when I hope to catch up again with Pauline and Ann Curley and Máisín Meath for another chat and to



**Kathleen Brennan-Gallagher (Clare St.), Jack Halpin (Main St.), Christina Brennan-Murphy (Clare St.) and Mercy Flatley (Main St.), photographed in Sydney, Australia, 1998.**

collect a few copies of Annagh 2012 which I and my siblings overseas are eagerly looking forward to. We wish continued success to Annagh and all involved in its production.

**Kathleen Brennan-Gallagher**



**Above: Clare Street Boys, 1948. L-R: Micheál Smyth, Tom Foudy, Frank Glynn, Sean Glynn, Sean Tynan.**

## Clare Street Snaps



**Right: Rosaleen Eagney with, L-R: Bernard Freyne, Dermot Eagney and Brian Byrne  
Men in background: Frankie McCormack and Oliver Jordan.**



# Investigative Journalism Award Winner

*Craig Hughes of Hazelhill, Ballyhaunis, won the inaugural 'Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism' earlier this year for his research and reporting on the difficult subject of suicide. A past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School, he is son of Stella (nee Hurley) and Robbie Hughes.*

Writing about suicide isn't easy, but it is necessary and the awards that have come with it are just an added bonus, writes Craig Hughes.

In November last year, I visited a family in the South of Ireland affected by suicide. At my request, they invited me into their home to talk about their son Patrick who died by suicide in September 2004. He was 23 years old.

Nothing could have prepared me for the overwhelming emotion that overcame me during the course of the interview. I asked very few questions, but I didn't have to. I sat around the dinner table with Patrick's parents, Rose and Michael, who interchanged as narrators of Patrick's life while his brother, sister and cousin sat behind us on the couch.

The emotion in the room was, at times, unbearable. I sat across the table as two parents poured their hearts out to me about their deceased son. Occasionally, mid-sentence the emotion would become too much for one of them and they would begin to break down and cry, but without hesitation the other would continue the story.

I could hear the other family members in the room fighting back tears from time to time. Reliving such a traumatic event is never easy.

Yet, Michael continues to speak publicly about his son's death in an attempt to create awareness and prevent more young people taking their own lives. Rose works with Living Links, a voluntary group established to help families cope with suicide bereavement.

That evening had a profound effect on me personally. As I made my way back to Limerick, carrying a picture of Patrick going to his debts to use in the paper, I began to shut down. I didn't want to talk to anyone for days, I was engulfed with a myriad of emotions; empathy, sorrow and anguish. I found it hard to rationalise to myself as to how spending two hours with complete strangers could have such an effect on me.

Even reflecting on it now brings back some of these emotions, and even though I have written extensively on the subject I still haven't become desensitised to it.

Following my interview with the family my attention was drawn to coroners, those responsible with delivering suicide verdicts (and indeed all verdicts following an inquest into a violent or unnatural death) and initially



**Craig Hughes with Gertie Doyle, wife of the late editor of the Irish Independent Vincent Doyle, following the presentation ceremony at the University of Limerick last April.**

the pressure some were coming under not to record suicide verdicts. I decided to conduct a full investigation, which would also serve as the main body of my Final Year Project at the University of Limerick.

My findings were baffling, with some coroner's admitting that they rarely recorded suicide verdicts. One coroner even said he rarely records suicide verdicts because he "would not want to leave a stain on a family."

I also compiled figures from coroner's courts nationwide regarding the total number of inquests and the number of suicide verdicts. These figures provided further insight into the variance among coroners with dramatic differences in the percentages of suicides being recorded in jurisdictions throughout the country. And while the figures alone aren't concrete enough to insist verdicts are not being recorded properly when viewed in conjunction with my other research it became apparent that this was the case.

The main article was subsequently published in the Sunday Independent and I was awarded the inaugural Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism for the entire project which also included an article on the family and their trauma.

I see newspapers (and indeed all forms of the media) as a medium that can be used to bring about social change, and I hope to an extent I am already doing that. I don't particularly like writing about suicide, but I see it as necessary and now somewhat as a responsibility. Just as some coroners are failing to record some suicides as suicides, and thus masking the problem, if no one wrote about suicide there would be no awareness surrounding what has unfortunately become a serious epidemic in this country.

**Craig Hughes**





# Ballyhaunis Shopfronts Photography Exhibition

In August 2012 I organised a small Photography Exhibition in the Friary on the theme '*Ballyhaunis Shopfronts*'. Inspired by a visit to a similar exhibition in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford in April, I decided to organise the event as part of National Heritage Week.

Several of the photos used in the exhibition have featured in Annagh Magazine previously and I'm very grateful to the Annagh magazine committee who were very helpful in providing photos from back issues. Many photos were also contributed in response to letters, and ads in the Western People and the Parish Newsletter. Special thanks to all those who contributed photographs and who provided information on names, dates and locations.

The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness of Ballyhaunis' architectural heritage and commemorate the town's commercial history. In the era of low-cost multinationals and retail parks, it's interesting to see the many finely crafted plaster and timber shopfronts which existed in Ballyhaunis in years gone by. These traditional shopfronts are part of the unique character of Irish towns.

Cllr. John Cribbin officially launched the exhibition on Sunday 19th August. As well as photographs, the exhibition also included a short documentary film, *Myths of Time: History of Knock, Ballyhaunis and Aughamore*, made and narrated by Seamus Healy (now deceased). Much has changed in Ballyhaunis since the film was made in 1991.

The exhibition was organised with the support of Mayo County Council Heritage Office and was part funded by the Heritage Week Community Event Support Fund. Mayo County Council has produced a booklet, *Mayo Shopfronts*, which sets out some principles and guidelines of shopfront design and craftsmanship. The booklet also includes examples of shopfronts which are considered to be socially and culturally important (including James Lyons', Main Street).

I'm planning to display the Ballyhaunis Shopfronts exhibition again in the second half of 2013 so if you have a photograph you would like to see included, please let me know.

Now that I have acquired a taste for local history, I'm also hoping to organise a new exhibition for National Heritage Week 2013 which will take place from 17th to 25th August. The theme will be the Convent of Mercy



**Concannon's drapery shop on Main Street (now Phillips' Shoe Shop). Molly and Tom Concannon in centre of photograph. Others unidentified. Photo provided by John Mooney.**



**Part of the 'Shopfronts Exhibition' 2012 held in the Friary, Ballyhaunis.**

Primary School. The plan is to collect as many class photographs as possible from the 100+ years of the school's existence. If you have a class photograph (or any historical photograph of the Convent school), please don't hesitate to contact me:

shopfrontsballyhaunis@gmail.com

**Joan Flanagan**



# Reflections on the Prodigal Son

*Luke 15: 11-31*

One thing that the two sons in the story, had in common was that neither of them had a close relationship with their father. They only knew his name. The elder was wise and stayed at home. He was very honest and worked hard.

His younger brother was not as wise. He was bored working and not thinking much of his father. He asked his father in advance for his share of the property which would be his, only when his father died. He couldn't wait for the father to die. The latter was still young and had many years before him. In this way he treated the father as if he were dead. How many people today treat God, their father, as dead?

The father would have reluctantly given over the property to his son, not saying anything, but showing his sorrow in his body language. The son had to learn the hard way, the father must have thought. So God allows us to stray that we may learn to return by experience. After some time the father went out every day hoping his son would return. God equally goes out to us that we may learn from our sins. He is God with us in every circumstance of our lives.

The son would have sold the property and with the money he got for it, gone away to have a good time, as he thought. He got involved in loose living which probably provides the greatest physical pleasure, but it would lead to misery, since with practice, he became all the more addicted to it. He was reduced to eating pigs food, which was very unpleasant, but in his great misery, next to despair, he did not take his life. There is always hope. He then thought of his father as the last resort.

Never having known his father except in name, he would be completely ignorant of how kind and generous his father was, which he was to find out soon. If only, he thought, I promise to work hard with the hired servants and live like them, and then my father might receive me. With such thoughts he set off home, not knowing how the father would receive him. When he saw the father running with outstretched arms towards him he felt reassured that his father was not angry with him. In fact, at that time, it was undignified of adults to run, especially an old man. Likewise God makes it easy for us to repent or to come back to him through the kindly intermediary of the priest representing him. It is good for us to remember this story when we go to confession.

The father embraced him though smelly and ragged as his son was. The son said, shaking and nervous in today's language, "I have sinned against you and my neighbour. I am unworthy to be your son." It's against our neighbour we sin most of the time.

How astounded the son and servants must be when the latter were told to give him new clothes and to put a ring on his finger to restore his dignity. There was no mention of a wash but that would be taken for granted. The wash and new clothes made him worthy to enter the feast, so must we, to enter the feast of heaven, be clean and clothed in virtue. I call this purgatory. It is not a punishment but 'nothing defiled can enter heaven'. Imagine if the son had gone into the feast in his ragged smelly state!

The son has only to say 'I've sinned against God and my neighbour. How difficult we made confession in the past, worried if we told all our sins. He had corrupted his neighbour and in that way he was offending God, represented by the father. Our love of our neighbour is a good barometer of our love of God, by wishing them well and not speaking badly about them.

Now the reaction of his elder brother. He began to think that whether you are good or bad you get the same reward! If this happened in real life we would be all like the elder brother – some of us would not go into the feast in protest. But this is where God's ways differ from ours.

From the gospel of St. Matthew we read the story of the workers in the vineyard coming at different times of the day to work – some early morning, some at midday and some in the evening. Yet they all got the same wage. If this happened in real life, there would be consternation. In real life everyone is paid according to the amount of work they do. The unions would make sure of that. This again is an example of how God's ways are not our ways.

The principle behind these two stories is that everything is a gift from God. Even in nature fresh air, sun, rain, frost, snow etc. are gifts and are free. In strict justice, we are not entitled to gifts either in nature or supernaturally. They are at God's discretion to give them to whomsoever he wills to give them.

The elder brother grumbled to his father that he had a feast for a waster of a son. In the second story the workers who came early complained that they deserved more because of the full day's work. So since everything is gift we must not be jealous or think our neighbour is worse than ourselves. Because everything is a gift which we must be thankful for, Jesus says, "When you have done everything good you are supposed to do, call yourselves unprofitable servants and say we've only done our duty."

**Br. Augustine Freeley**





# Class of 1982 Reunion

The Class of '82 School Reunion was held in MacSiúrtáin's on Saturday, 14th July 2012. Nearly forty people attended on the night with some travelling from as far as Singapore, as well as the UK and all over Ireland, to join us for the evening.



Some of the Class of '82 during their Reunion this Summer. L-R: Liam Smith, Noreen Keegan Kavanagh, Mary Feeney (Flanagan), Liz Cox (O'Reilly), Elizabeth Fair (Cuddy), Nuala Nolan (Lyons), Jeannette Neary.

This is the third school reunion for this group with the first being held in the Manor House Hotel in 1992 and the second which was held in the Belmont Hotel in Knock. All the reunions have been very well attended.

The next one is scheduled to take place in 2022! Thanks to Liam Smith, Elizabeth Fair (Cuddy), Liz Cox (O'Reilly), Geraldine Toughy, Nuala Nolan (Lyons), Jackie Caulfield (Lyons), Mary Feeney (Flanagan) and Deirdre Dennedy (Durkin) for helping to pull it all together. Social media was a great help in contacting the majority of people and it was great to connect with everyone even though they were not to make it on the night.

Noreen Keegan Kavanagh



Class of '82 Reunion. Front, L-R: Nuala Lyons, Anne Curley, Nora Glynn. Second row: Milo Waldron, Delia Waldron, Kevin Webb, Karen Keane, Deirdre Durkan, Caroline Levins, Betty O'Reilly, Elizabeth Cuddy, Noreen Keegan. Third row: Bernie Mulkeen, Trena Flatley, Mary Jo Higgins, Jackie Lyons, Brendan Kelly, Jeanette Neary, Joanna Webb, Anne Carney, Stephen Nolan, Liam Smith, Sean Sweeney. Back row: Dominick Stanley, Therese Forkan, John Caulfield, Tony Keane, John Fitzgerald, Seamus Grogan, Kenneth Dennedy, Padraig Cunnane, Gerry O'Connell, John Dillon-Leetch, Seamus Dolan.





# The Parish Choir

The end of the Irish Summer is heralded by a number of different things: the weather changes, evenings get darker, the children are back at school and the Parish Choir resume their practices.

We practice on Monday nights in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis commencing at 7pm. The choir sings at Mass on the first and third Sundays of every month and on other special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and Confirmation. The choir participates in the broadcast of the Mass on MidWest Radio. When requested to do so, available choir members sing at Funeral Masses. To achieve the standard we have attained requires a lot of hard work and dedication by all members.

Our Musical Director is Moira Delaney, who devotes a great amount of time and effort to the choir. She is constantly on the look-out for new material to add variety to our existing repertoire.

2012 has been a very rewarding year for the choir. The Parish Choir were privileged to form part of the Cluster Choir, made up of choirs from neighbouring parishes, who sang for the Dawn Mass on Easter Sunday, 8th April, at Lake O'Flynn in Ballinlough. This was a wonderful occasion and greatly embraced by the large crowd in attendance.

The Cluster Choir were invited to sing at the opening night of the Annual Knock Novena. The preparation entailed many hours of practice, and sincere thanks to all members and musicians for their participation in making the occasion a worthwhile experience. Our organist on the night was Mary Burke from the Cloonfad choir. Many thanks to Mary for her trojan work, and making sure we all had our words and music for the night. It was a great occasion and will be remembered for a long time.

The Liturgy of the Mass is greatly enhanced by the choir and we receive lots of compliments from the congregation. We take pride in affording this worthwhile service to the Ballyhaunis Community, and if I may quote from St. Aquinas, "He who sings, Prays twice".

**Kay Healy**

**Chairperson:** Michael Kelly;

**Secretary:** Kay Healy;

**Treasurers:** Frances Mulhern, Maui

**PROs:** Mary Dillon, Ita Fahey;

**Musical Director:** Moira Delaney;

**Organist:** Ludmelia Burcovski



**St. Joseph's Cluster Choir**

**Back, L-R:** Miriam Winston, Josie Costello, Marian Lowry, Michael Sloyan, Matt O'Dwyer, Hubert Gormley, John Halpin, Gerry O'Gara, Sean Walsh, Michael Kelly, Anne T. Cosgrove, Anne Glavey, Teresa Bermingham.

**Centre:** Yvonne Duffy, Siobhan Coyne, Mary Dillon, Monica Morley, Yvonne Loughran, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Anna Henry, Maura Burke, Bernie McNulty, Geraldine Duffy, Joan Harris, Bridget Finnegan, Kay Healy, Maeve Regan, Aisling Kirrane, Laura Raftery, Karen Ronayne, Mary Patterson.

**Front:** Musicians – Vinnie Kelly, Mary Burke, Kate Warde, Siobhan Maloney, Jennifer Waldron, Edel Walsh, Grace Lavin, Aoife Rattigan, Grainne Glavey, Ita Fahey, Ellen Hynes. Musical Director, Moira Delaney.





# London 2012 – Our Olympics Experience

If anyone told us that we would be in the ExCeL Centre in London on 9th August 2012 watching Katie Taylor winning her Olympic gold medal, we would have told them that pigs were more likely to fly, or some such cliché! Well, due to fortunate and happy family circumstances, Jim and I enjoyed the privilege of being there and witnessing such an historic event!

For a year or more beforehand, our daughter Orla and her husband Fiachra were very enthusiastic about the London Olympics, and they pulled out all the stops in their determination to acquire tickets for various events. On our visits to their home earlier this year and on the occasion of the birth of their baby son James in May, it was obvious that preparations for the Olympics were rapidly gathering greater momentum; the Equestrian Arena in Greenwich Park was taking shape, the Olympic Village in Stratford was feverishly nearing completion, there was an almost palpable feeling that the greatest event ever was happening here in August and London was giving it everything!

Fast track to Wednesday 8th August we arrived in London to begin our 'Olympics experience'! And what an experience it was! The coach from Stansted took us to Stratford – home of the Olympic village with its many stadia festooned with flags and bunting; banners and hoardings emblazoned with the distinctive Olympics logo, crowds of people but no chaos, friendly and helpful stewards everywhere; a carnival atmosphere prevailed!

We arrived at Orla and Fiachra's home to find 'Olympics fever' in full swing; two of their friends from Ireland had arrived before us, and two more were on their way. Shortly afterwards the four ticket holders in the house – Orla, Fiachra, Una and John, along with eleven-week-old baby James – got toggged out in their Team Ireland t-shirts, and tickets in hand, headed off to the athletics stadium to watch the legendary Usain Bolt win the 200m semi-final, while we relaxed at home and watched it on TV.

## Katie Taylor's Gold

Next day, August 9th was Ireland's big day at the Olympics; Katie Taylor had already beaten Natasha Jones of Great Britain in the quarter-finals, and Mavzuna Chorieva of Tajikistan in the semi-finals, and the gold medal was now within her grasp!

Six tickets were up for grabs so it was agreed that Fiachra and his friend Ian would watch the fight on TV while the rest of us – including baby James – donned our Team Ireland t-shirts, packed our tri-colours and headed for the train station. It seemed as if everyone in London was Irish and they were all going to the boxing, as the number of Irish flag-waving fans increased along the

journey to the ExCeL Centre in the Docklands area of London.

The ExCeL Centre was the largest competition venue for the London Games; it comprised five different arenas, each of which hosted a different sport for the Olympics. The boxing arena, with a seating capacity of 10,000, was one such arena. The atmosphere in the arena was electric, the Irish supporters dominated both numerically and at a later stage vocally, and the whole place was awash with Irish flags!



L-R: Mary Donnelly, Orla (Donnelly) McLoughlin holding James McLoughlin, Jim Donnelly.

First out was the British boxer Nicola Adams and Cancan Ren of China in the flyweight final. The Irish supporters joined the English in cheering loudly for Nicola who went on to win by 16 – 7. Next up was our own Katie Taylor and the Russian Sofya Ochigava. As Katie, her father and the rest of the team entered the arena and made their way to the red corner, the whole place seemed to erupt; everyone was on their feet and applause and chants of 'Katie! Katie!' resonated around the arena. The fight got under way and the English supporters now joined with the cheering and chanting Irish, especially during the few scary moments of the fight! The first round was declared a draw, Sofya won the second, Katie won the third and the fourth round was declared another draw. In the overall result Katie was declared the winner by 10 – 8.

The atmosphere was indescribable when the result was finally declared. It was said that the noise levels in the arena broke all records as the 10,000 people present celebrated and acknowledged Ireland's golden girl of



boxing; Katie Taylor had won Ireland's first gold medal of the London Olympics, and also Ireland's first gold medal for women's boxing as this was the first occasion that women's boxing was recognised as an Olympic sport.

The day concluded with the presentation ceremony and it was only when the Irish flag was elevated at the opposite end of the arena, and the gold medal was formally presented to Katie, that the full significance of the occasion really impacted. One felt an enormous sense of pride, awe and wonder that one of our own – an unassuming young girl from Bray – had achieved such an extraordinary victory. This was history in the making, and we were there being part of and witnessing these historic moments. We also attended the final three events of the Men's Modern Pentathlon which took place in the equestrian arena in Greenwich Park on the following Saturday afternoon.

#### Success

The Olympic Games were an outstanding success for London, and it must be said that the organising authorities did a superb job. Over a period of two weeks, thousands of people circulated around the numerous venues, arriving and leaving in droves, and everything

ran smoothly with no chaos or confusion. People who had no tickets or were unable to attend the venues were also very well catered for. In the Greenwich area, a gigantic screen was erected outdoors in the grounds of the Royal Naval College, and every event was relayed every day. There were stalls offering food of every ethnic origin and a bar; there was also a performance area where music and entertainment was provided after the games. Luckily the weather was beautiful and families came with their fold-up tables and chairs and picnic baskets to spend the entire evening there in a very convivial atmosphere.

For us, our trip to the Olympics was the experience of a lifetime, and it is thanks to the perseverance, enthusiasm, generosity and hospitality of Orla and Fiachra, our wonderful daughter and son-in-law, that we had the opportunity to enjoy such a momentous occasion. Incidentally, most of their family and friends took up their offer of 'board and lodgings' - they had six guests including Fiachra's parents, Mary and Mick McLoughlin from Athlone, for the first week, and seven for the second!

Mary and Jim Donnelly

## Games We Love To Play

Hide and Seek, Monopoly, Tag.  
We think we've got it in the bag.  
Football, Hop-scotch, Draughts.  
They all give us laughs.  
Bulldog, Chess, Snakes and Ladders.  
Win or lose it doesn't matter.  
We can all have fun.  
If we include everyone.  
Solitaire, Tennis, Twister.  
You can play with your friends,  
brother or sister.  
Skipping, Stop the Bus, Basketball.  
Its good if your very tall!  
Eye-spy, Hangman, Snatch the Bacon.  
You have to get it before it's taken!  
For Snap you need to have a quick say.  
These are all games we love to play.

Clodagh Byrne  
Aged eleven

## A Grand Day in Ballyhaunis

I parked the bike behind Johnnie McGuire's workshop at the top of the town.  
Got the Irish Press in Mulhearn's.  
Tom and Noreen Hopkins' for ten No. 6; Oliver Jordan for a bag of calf nuts.  
Will Columba drop them off Oliver, do you think?  
A bottle of stout in Anna and Trisha Freeley's, it being a Fair Day  
To seal the bargain, don't you know.  
Paddy Freeley for a pound of staples, and a small one while I'm there.  
Ninety-nines from Waldron's; tea and a 'sangwidge' with Mide in the Central.  
Joe Regan in the Corner Bar: why not? Sure it's on the way to Molly Murray  
For a patch and solution for the bike at the top of the town.  
Bernie Byrne's and Frank Glynn's - a glasheen in one and chips in the other.  
Pat Meath for a trim; Curley's to show it off on the way to Dennis Hannan  
For 13 amp fuses for the 'lectric.  
The Western in the Gem, Oxtail soup in George Delaney's  
And a Double Diamond in Conway's to wash it down.  
Fred Herr does a nice bit of Ham; Tommie Johnson for a scythe stone  
And a Sacred Heart bulb from Paddy Ruane.  
Dinjo for a nice chop, Captain Lyon's for...  
Well you couldn't pass the door now could you?  
Cross the street for one in Keegan's - sure didn't I miss it on the way down?  
Hughie Curley has Rennies and I could do with one now.  
A last one in the Cape Bar before Brose Walsh in the Parochial Hall.  
Now where did I leave the bike?

By 'The Visitor John'





# Will The Real Murtagh Hunt Stand Up

In the late 1890s my grandfather John Murtagh Hunt, Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis - after spending some years working there - came home from America, which was unusual at the time, as most emigrants did not return and said 'Goodbye' for the last time to their families at home or on the quayside at Cobh. Evidently he had done well in the U.S.A. and was a successful gardener in Brockton, Massachusetts, not far from Boston. He was taken on as a tradesman and farm worker for the local nuns on his return in the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis. He was popularly known as 'The Yank' and married Margaret Judge, a neighbour's child but much younger than him.

In the 1901 census there were four or five families of Hunts with five John Hunts in Lecarrow, each having a nickname to distinguish them from each other; that's how my dad got the nickname 'Plum'. However, our household in 1901 consisted of Bridget Hunt (widow), head of household aged 65, John Murtagh Hunt, son aged 45, his wife Margaret aged 31, his brother James aged 35, and family of Bridget aged 2 and Mollie aged 1. In the 1911 census Bridget had died and Margaret seemingly had died after the birth of her youngest daughter Anne. In that census of 1911 there was John Murtagh Hunt, my grandfather head of household, his brother James, and family of Bridget aged 12, Molly aged 11, Murtagh aged 10, my dad John aged 5, and Anne

aged 3. I believe my granduncle James was a great help in rearing the young children, but it was an awesome task for the two men after the death at a young age of my grandmother Margaret. It seems lightning does strike twice, and it is peculiar that my grandmother Margaret, my sister Margaret and my own wife Anne died aged 43 - all leaving young families. So both the John Murtagh Hunts (my grandfather and myself) were widowers at a young age.

My dad and all of his siblings emigrated to America at various stages. My uncle Murtagh, as the eldest son, was



**Murtagh Hunt Snr. and his son Murtagh Hunt Jr., pictured outside Plum's Stores, Cape Cod, MA, last year.**



**Back, L-R: Michael Melia, Molly Melia (nee Hunt), John Hunt ('Plum'). Front, Bridget Burke (nee Hunt) and Anne Sullivan (nee Hunt). Pictured just prior to the departure of John Hunt home to Ireland from Brockton, MA, in the early 1930s.**

due to come home to inherit the family farm and look after my grandfather John Murtagh. He was engaged to Agnes Duffy from Kilsallagh, Westport; they later married and had two in family, Murtagh and Margaret. Before getting the chance to come home my uncle died a young man leaving those two young children for his wife Agnes to rear. The family in America all came together and sent my dad John home instead to care for the old man. My dad had a good job in the Hood Rubber factory in Brighton and often, after a few jars, he would regret ever leaving America. My dad married my mother Mary Carroll from Erritt, Carrowbehy. She inherited a farm of land from her aunt Onnie in Knockbrack and my dad and her met at a spree (house dance) in Hubert Jordan's, Lecarrow. She was, according to reports, a fine looking, sensible girl and my dad was supposedly a handsome and witty man, and he was also a wonderful hard-working man. They had five in family: Margaret (R.I.P.), Kathleen, Carmel, Geraldine (R.I.P.), and myself John Murtagh. My sisters Margaret, Kathleen and Carmel all did their stints in America also. Margaret (R.I.P.) came home to marry her childhood sweetheart





(above) Murtagh Hunt, Lecarrow and Agnes Duffy, Kilsallagh, Westport, on their wedding day in Brighton, MA, USA, in the early 1930s.



(top) Murtagh Michael Hunt, USA.  
(right) Murtagh Samuel Hunt, USA.

mother Mary (R.I.P.) looked after both my sister Margaret's children and my wife Anne's and my children after both women's deaths; and my sister Kathleen also was a big help. My family consisted of four girls and two boys. I called one of my two sons Murtagh as well and he is based – yes, you guessed it - in Boston, U.S.A. for the last eight years. My other son is Sean, so another John Hunt also. The name Murtagh Hunt and also John Hunt has been handed down for generations and my uncle Murtagh (1), in America, called one of his sons Murtagh (2), and he in turn also called one of his sons Murtagh (3). So we have two American Murtagh Hunts, and one Irish Murtagh Hunt (my son) based in Boston/Brighton, and one John Murtagh Hunt (me) in the home place in Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis where it all began so many years ago. However, the name Murtagh may disappear from the Hunt lineage if none of my grandchildren are given the name. But you never know, in the future there may be a little American kid in Brighton/Boston named Murtagh Hunt, and so proud that his ancestors came from Ireland and that they were good people. P.S. My first cousin Murtagh Hunt (2) in America has sadly passed away since this article was put together, RIP.

#### Murt Hunt

P.S. I am often (usually locally) called Murt which is short for Murtagh, but many people call me Martin, which is a wrong name in my case. I also, on signing my name John Murtagh Hunt to letters, often get a reply addressed to John Murtagh-Hunt as they presume I have a double barrelled surname, and I get a laugh out of that.

Joe Fahey (R.I.P.); Kathleen, to join the Sisters of Mercy; while Carmel married Pat McDermott and is still based in Brighton, U.S.A.

As I said before my sister Margaret died a young woman and left a young family, and my sister Geraldine also has passed away. Whereas my grandfather had only his brother to help him care for five young children my



Paddy Comber, Ballybeg.



Teresa Healy, Mary Cunnane and Tim Byrne who celebrated fifty years as members of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, March 2012.





# Local Student Awarded Yeats Design Residency

June 1st 2012 was a special day in the life of Ballyhaunis student Lydia Concannon when she received notification that she was the first recipient of the 'Yeats Design Residency' in the Abbey Theatre Dublin – Ireland's National Theatre.

The Yeats Design Residency is a scholarship from I.T. Sligo awarded to a student from the final year of the Performing Arts programme who, in the estimation of the panel of judges, reaches the highest standard of design management and presentation skills. The recipient of the award receives a bursary from I.T. Sligo and the opportunity to work for six months in the Abbey Theatre Dublin.

As part of the competition for the residency, the final year students were asked to design a set for Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. They then presented their designs to a team of creatives in the Abbey Theatre. Lydia had used the concept of 'ghost estates' as the inspiration for her set design. The design and her presentation skills proved to be a winning combination and much to her delight, Lydia was awarded the first 'Yeats Design Residency'.

Lydia took up the residency in September 2012 and will now have the opportunity to develop her skills in set design, directing and other aspects of theatre. Throughout the six month's residency Lydia will meet and work with Irish and International actors, directors and designers and is looking forward to learning from the professionals. They will be working on productions such as 'The Picture of Dorian Gray', 'King Lear', 'Shibari', 'Quietly' and 'The Dead'. Lydia will see first-hand how the process of set design moves from concept to reality.

Lydia Concannon is a past pupil of Scoil Iosa primary school and Ballyhaunis Community School. She acknowledges the vital role all of her teachers played in the formation of her creative skills and personal development. In particular her art teacher, Chris Pratt, who helped develop her inner expression and natural talent through his openness and patience. Pat McHugh, Principal of the Community School, also saw Lydia's

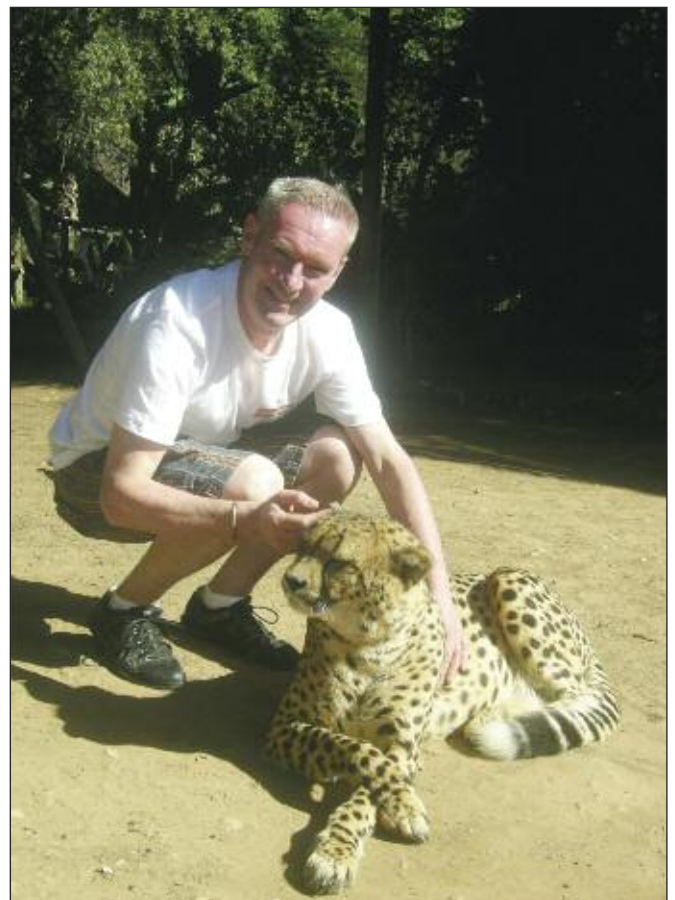


**Gavin Harding (Technical Manager, Abbey Theatre), Lydia Concannon, Perri Share (Head of Humanities IT Sligo) and Frank Conway (Lecturer IT Sligo and Set Director Abbey Theatre).**

potential as a designer during her transition year and encouraged her to follow a career path in some aspect of design.

Lydia spent the last four years as a student in I.T. Sligo studying an Hons. BA in Performing Arts, specialising in Theatre Design and Directing. Lydia is wished every success and blessing in the Abbey Theatre and in her future career from all her many friends

and family in Ballyhaunis and from her parents, Peter and Christina Concannon and her brother Tomás.



**Thomas J. Carroll of Knox St. meets a Cheetah called 'Sian' at Cango Wildlife Ranch, Oudtshoorn, South Africa (about 255 miles from Cape Town), May 2012.**



# Local Firm Wins Australian Contract

The recent influx of Irish emigrants to Australia has done no harm at all for the economy of that country. With hundreds of young Irish men and women arriving each week, to a country where work and job opportunities are plenty, retail business is thriving in the major cities way down under.

Good business in far off Australia is now proving to be good business for Ballyhaunis and Mayo as well. Kelly's Bar Manufacturers in Ballyhaunis have recently completed wooden interior for a pub in Sydney. Complete with full length Irish oak bar counter, backing canopies etc., the fully finished bar interior was prepared and dispatched with the best of care by Pdraig Kelly and his loyal band of workers, ready for loading and shipping from the Abbeyquarter work place last July. The bar stools and upholstery for the Sydney operation were provided by another Mayo firm, Monaghan Brothers, Balla.

The destination for the Mayo constructed bar interior is P.J. Gallagher's Irish Pub, in Moore Park, Sydney. With a name like P.J. Gallagher, one would assume there must be a strong Irish connection in the pipeline somewhere. And indeed there is. This particular Gallagher clan left the Emerald Isle way back in 1851, when the Potato Famine brought death and disease throughout the island. Having set sail from County Limerick, Lawrence Gallagher, his wife Hanorah and his brother John set off for a new land. As their family history recalls, the family brought nought with them but their bare belongings. Soon after their arrival in New South Wales, the Gallaghers soon found employment. After almost two decades in Australia, the family opened the first post office in the district; the Gallagher's opened their first

hotel. One hundred and sixty years later, and four generations on, the Gallagher flag is flying high way down under. With a chain of hotels, pubs and restaurants throughout New South Wales, the name of P.J. Gallagher is now more famous and more popular than ever. Kelly's Bar Manufacturing website offered everything and more that the Australians were looking for. Over the past twenty years, Kelly's have been supplying fully fitted bars across the country, and even to London on one occasion. The company website, which displays a sample of some of the fine bar interiors fitted in the recent past, certainly caught the attention of the Australian visitors.

Proprietor Pdraig Kelly is delighted with this opportunity to display his company's work in Australia, but the humble businessman was quick to remark that while it is good news indeed, "it could all be history in a few weeks time"! However, this reservation doesn't seem too likely at present; as the second order is already well under construction at the Abbeyquarter firm, for another and more substantial bar interior for the Australian company!

Established in 1975, Kelly's Manufacturing started out as a provider of cabinets, tables and household furniture, but twenty years ago Pdraig saw an opening in the bar interior manufacturing end of the business, and since then it's been a great success story for the Ballyhaunis family. And indeed, a family affair this thriving business is, Pdraig's two sons, Alan and Paul form part of the successful operation, along with a handful of loyal and trusted employees.

**Mike Byrne**



**Mrs. Margaret McNaught,** formerly of Upper Main St. who celebrated her 100th Birthday, earlier this year.

Also pictured are Teresa O'Donnell and Dolores Carney, daughters of Garda Tom Melly, a colleague of Mrs. McNaught's late husband Garda Neil McNaught.

*(see article on page 46)*





# 'Goal to Work' Makes a Difference

Twelve Jobseekers from the Ballyhaunis area are currently undertaking a sports coach training programme for two days a week, over fourteen weeks which, it is hoped, will provide them with the tools to obtain some part time employment. The 'Goal to Work' training programme will allow trainee coaches to become fully qualified G.A.A., Rugby and Soccer coaches gaining practical experience in settings such as local primary schools and the wider Ballyhaunis community. In addition, training will be provided on how to explore setting up a business, enterprise and further educational opportunities. Other modules will include IT, communication skills, progression routes and CV preparation, all of which would help participants to identify possible employment after the 14 week programme.

Goal to Work Ballyhaunis is an exciting initiative originally piloted in Mayo in 2010 by Mayo County Development Board. The first training programme trained 12 jobseekers to become fully qualified Soccer Coaches with many of those gaining some part time employment as a result. Goal to Work Ballina which was completed in December 2011 built on the pilot initiative and was multi sport and specifically targeted jobseekers from the Ballina urban area

Mayo Sports Partnership Co-ordinator Charlie Lambert said, "This unique programme has been made possible through agencies working together. The partnership with the Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Company, Mayo Sports Partnership, Mayo County Development Board, Connacht Rugby, the FAI, Mayo GAA, HSE West, Mayo Mental Health Association, Department of Social Protection and the Social Inclusion Measures Group of CDB has been the key to the success of this programme". Another added benefit, according to Charlie, will be the availability of an increased database of coaches to work with schools, clubs and youth groups across a number of sports.

According to Siobhán Carroll-Webb of Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Company the focus of 'Goal to Work' will be to tutor people as coaches with the aim of providing them with an option of setting up a business on a self-employed basis at the end of the coaching period, gaining employment or progressing onto further education or training. It is hoped that the initiative will benefit the Ballyhaunis area with many of the coaches linking in with local community organisations providing increased physical activity opportunities for all. "This is a fine example of effective and efficient inter-agency work", states Siobhán as she stresses the importance of and value in collaborative inter-agency working in the current economic climate.

This year the programme will have a community element co-ordinated by Anne Ronayne, Community Sports Development Project Worker Mayo Sports Partnership, encouraging people living in the Ballyhaunis area to take up some physical activity. Anne explained that she hopes that the Ballyhaunis community will get involved in the activities she is organising: "Recreational GAA both football and hurling, late night soccer for men, inclusive activity day and an over 55s day are just some of the programmes which we hope the trainees will deliver through the course."

For further information on Goal to Work contact Charlie Lambert, Co-coordinator Mayo Sports Partnership [clambert@MayoCoCo.ie](mailto:clambert@MayoCoCo.ie) or Siobhán Carroll-Webb, Mayo North East LEADER Partnership Co. [siobhancarrollwebb@mayonortheast.com](mailto:siobhancarrollwebb@mayonortheast.com)

To get involved in Ballyhaunis community activities contact Anne Ronayne, Mayo Sports Partnership [aronayne@MayoCoCo.ie](mailto:aronayne@MayoCoCo.ie) or (094) 9047025.



From the collection of Dr. Michael F. Waldron.



# Gracenotes – What's Another Year?

Does time really fly when you're having fun? Well, it certainly doesn't seem like a year has passed since I last put pen to paper to reflect on the happenings of Gracenotes, yet here I am again!

Since the last publication of Annagh the Ballyhaunis based female choir has indeed been very busy. I say 'Ballyhaunis based' because our members are not just from the town, but are travelling from Knock, Cloonfad, Ballinlough, Claremorris, Ballina, Curry, Roscommon and Galway as well. It's a big commitment, by our members, to attend the two hour practice every week.

The commitment doesn't end there! As well as the weekly practices we also commit ourselves to a full calendar of events. First off this year was a trip to the Sligo International Choral Festival in November 2011 where we competed in two categories. We were awarded first place in the Sacred Music competition, which had eight other entries, and second place in the competition for Four Part Irish Choirs out of seven entries.

After this successful outing we began rehearsing our Christmas programme. This year we had a challenging schedule. 2011 saw us preparing for not one, but three recitals. Our "Evening of Christmas Music" took place in the Friary December 11th. This year we were joined by the talented children of the Scoil Iosa choir, and their conductor Ita Fahey. The accompanist for the evening was Ludmila Burcovski and the money raised went to the Saint Vincent de Paul. This recital was followed within the week by another in Curry, Co. Sligo. This was also a fundraiser with money raised going towards the local church Development Fund. Finally, two days later, on December 18th we performed in Ballintubber Abbey with Cór Mhaigh Eo. On this particular night we had the privilege of performing for An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, and his wife Fionnuala. Again, money raised on the night went to the Saint Vincent de Paul.

After a well deserved Christmas break we began rehearsing for upcoming Festivals and competitions. In February we competed in the inaugural Kiltimagh Choral Festival where, among other awards, we were awarded the choir of the festival. Straight away it was back to work preparing for the Cork Choral Festival, which took place on the May Bank Holiday Weekend. Unfortunately, on this occasion, we didn't achieve the results we had hoped for but we were awarded the Perpetual Trophy for the best performance of a Contemporary Irish piece of music over the festival weekend. There was no rest for the wicked as we had the Castlebar Choral festival to prepare for a mere three weeks later. Once again our hard work had paid off, and we left with another trophy for the cabinet.

After the very busy schedule of the previous nine months, which also included singing at four weddings, it was time to take a well deserved break. The cycle began again in September when our rehearsals resumed, and the first event was the Dunmore Festival. This was an enjoyable weekend of choral singing which included performances by Cois Cladaigh, The Mayo Male Voice Choir, the Marian Choral Society, Tuam and festival hosts the Dunmore Musical Society.

Being a member of Gracenotes is not all hard work and no play! We have many opportunities to socialise and have some fun. We look forward to having a night away or even a meal together on occasions throughout the year. Indeed plans are underway for a tour of the Verona region of Italy next July. Hopefully we'll see a bit of sun while we're there!

So, if you fancy trying something new, and are interested in joining our choir, you are welcome to contact us by phoning our Musical Director, Laura Brogan on (086) 8213864 or by emailing: [brogan.laura@gmail.com](mailto:brogan.laura@gmail.com)

**Martina Kelly**



Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held in the former St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School building, Abbey Street, on Sunday nights at 8.30pm (Winter) and 9.00pm (Summer). Anybody who feels they may have a problem with alcohol would be most welcome.

Al-Anon and Al-Ateen offers understanding and support for families and friends of problem drinkers in an anonymous environment, whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not. They meet in Scoil Iosa Primary School, Abbeyquarter at the same times.

[www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie](http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie) [www.al-anon-ireland.org](http://www.al-anon-ireland.org)

## Annagh 2013

**The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2013 is Friday, October 18th, 2013.**

**Email: [info@annaghmag.ie](mailto:info@annaghmag.ie)**

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





# Garrity Music School

From an early age I was inspired to learn music. Traditional Irish music was an integral part of Began National school. Music was offered during the school day and after school on Tuesdays for those eager at heart! We attended fleadhs in Spiddal and some students even got to travel to Scotland! We worked hard but it was never overpowering and music became second nature.

Then came the enlightenment of classical music! The McHugh family in Began began offering classical music lessons and my cousin Margaret O'Callaghan (Murphy) and I eagerly signed up. This opened up a whole new insight into music and, before we knew it, we were registered for exams through the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Every six months without fail we took a performance test and after a few years we had happily completed all our exams.

After finishing secondary school Margaret and I went in different directions. But we never forgot our love for music. I had always envisaged myself as a piano teacher and missed having music in my daily life. Thus, I picked up the phone and called my former Ballyhaunis Community School music teacher Siobhan Devine. Siobhan immediately encouraged me to start teaching so, with that, I began offering lessons in 2001. Shortly after this Margaret began teaching! Soon we were registering our students for exams! This was an invaluable experience and we quickly became passionate, confident music teachers.

In 2006, we emigrated to the U.S. The funny thing is we never planned it but our lives intersected in many ways. I had been travelling in Australia and Margaret had been living in Florida and somehow, we both ended up in Chicago! As time went on and we settled into the U.S. we began to reminisce and I realized the music must go on! So with that said the Garrity Music School was established. It began in 2008, largely through word of mouth. I didn't have any idea of where it would go but I

knew it was something I would not regret. Unfortunately, there is no Academy here which offers students the same opportunities to take exams, so in response to this I came up with a new incentive for students. An Annual Christmas Recital! Luckily enough it was a huge hit and this year will be the fifth Annual Christmas Recital. In 2011, Margaret and a local musician Kevin Branigan joined the school. Together we now offer lessons to over thirty students, in a variety of instruments including piano, accordion, tin whistle, flute, violin, banjo and guitar. Additionally, "The Irish Druids", a traditional Irish group was formed, as many of the students have roots from Ireland including Ballyhaunis! The Irish Druids now perform annually for St. Patrick's Day.



**Regina Garrity (left), Margaret O'Callaghan and Kevin Branigan (teachers), with 'The Garrity Druids'.**

We hope you enjoyed reading this article. We are delighted to pass on our true authentic knowledge and love of music here in the U.S. We are forever thankful to all our teachers from Began National School, especially Moira Delaney, Vinny Kelly and Marie McDonagh. In addition, our teachers from Ballyhaunis Community School, especially Siobhán Devine and Tom Lyons. And, not to forget the McHugh family - Sarah and Siobhán.

**Regina Garrity, M.A.T.**

Garrity Music School  
[www.garritymusicschool.com](http://www.garritymusicschool.com)



## .....Killarney?

On a rain sodden 8th February last Johnny Biesty drove the two of us to Rosmoney, Westport to visit our schooldays' contemporary, Pat Moran. Pat lived in the first private house in Abbey Street, in early September 1951, when the late Bill Eagney drove both of us to St. Jarlath's College, Tuam for our first night as boarders. Our two mothers accompanied us to ensure we got there and that we would be in good hands.

Brenda Fitzgerald was the oldest of the five Fitzgeralds, reared in Bridge Street, who stayed on in Ireland while her brothers and sisters emigrated and made their homes in America. One time when these three sisters were back home Eddie Biesty - Johnny's father - showed them a photograph taken when they were children outside their grandfather's house, in Main Street, now The Courthouse Accommodation and Val's Bar and Bistro.

As a child of the 1940s I recall Desmond Fitzgerald's neatest, brightest, and most welcoming grocery and confectionery store in his Bridge Street family home. Older Ballyhaunis citizens and the regular Fair Day farmers and cattle dealers, who patronised it, will remember him providing tea, sandwiches and lunches in the restaurant adjoining the shop. Thankfully, the family still run the shop.

Another brother, Eddie, continued his father's haulage/carrier business from his home in Clare Street. Regular Annagh readers might recall Mike Byrne's beautiful snippet in the 1988 edition on the 'felling' that year of five pillars in Clare Street - his own father Bernie, his Aunt Delia's husband, Clarence Grogan, Paddy McGarry, my own mother, and Eddie Fitzgerald.

Patsy, the youngest of the family, married Luke Scott, who had worked in Gallagher's and they lived in Dublin. Living there as well was another sister, Agnes, who married Niall O'Donnell. They and their children often visited their Ballyhaunis cousins in the 1950s and I became friends with two of their sons, Edward and John. I have very happy memories of visiting their Clontarf home.

### Imperial Guesthouse

Pat's mother Brenda Moran (nee Fitzgerald) was proprietress

of the Imperial Guesthouse at No.1 Abbey Street. Its regular clientele were non-natives who worked in the town. Three I remember were Peter Burke - Eamon's brother, a barman in Georgie Delaney's bar in Bridge



**The five Morans, Left to right: Margaret, Edward, Brenda, Frances and Pat.**

Street - Liam Sinnott, a civil servant, and the ever good-humoured Paddy Laffey, an agricultural officer, who married Susan Fahey and they live further up that street, in what is now one of the only occupied houses in that beautiful row of houses. Pat Moran told us that Paddy was his mother's favourite. In their early years in Ballyhaunis, Pat O'Dwyer and Denis Sweeney had boarded there. Brenda's children, Pat, Frances, Brenda, Margaret and Edward grew up in that house.

Pat Moran, Johnny Biesty, Frank Webb, John Dillon, Peter Waldron and I were all together for our first year in St. Jarlath's. During our primary school days we played Gaelic Football in fields like Jimmy O'Brien's and Brod Byrne's in Clare Street, The Lochán in Knox Street, The Fairgreen off Main Street, and The Friary Field in Abbey Street, though Pat told us he played very little if any football before he went to St. Jarlath's. He spent a lot of his time fishing on the local river; Tom Foudy from Clare Street accompanied him at times. While in Jarlath's Pat progressed from being on the Gaelic Football 'Bowger' Team as a 'Conor' to



**Brenda Moran with Pat, Edward, Margaret and Brenda.**







**Birthday party with neighbours in the house on Abbey Street. L-R: Brenda Moran, Ann Hynes, Finola Leetch, Margaret Moran (Birthday Girl), Denise Sweeney and Bernadette Gallagher.**

making the Senior Team as a fourth year – first years were nicknamed ‘Conors’ and those of us who showed little or no ability to play that game were picked on what was called the ‘Bowger’ team of our class for the Conors’ free day football matches. He represented the college in Connacht College Swimming competitions, and was chosen to represent the school in Pole Vault in the annual Inter College Sports. In London, after he completed his secondary education, he played Gaelic Football with the Garryowen team. Later, when he attended Columbia College in New York he took up American Football, a game that he found very difficult to master. He is very proud of the fact that he introduced Rugby to that University – and as a direct result a Rugby Club was formed there which still exists.

During the lovely, hazy days of secondary school summer holidays Pat’s and Frances’ home was the place their pals and friends from Tuam’s St. Jarlath’s, and Sligo’s Summerhill College and Ursuline Convent, gathered during the week to make plans for different weekend teen activities, and to report on their outcome on Sunday or Monday morning or afternoon. I can still almost smell the enticing aroma coming from scones, cakes or tarts just out of the Aga Cooker oven, and Mrs. Moran never hesitated in letting us sample them. She was young at heart and, I’d safely say, no mother, father, priest, or nun knew as much about our characters as she did. If we were to maintain visitors’ rights to her lovely home we had to stay within the unwritten boundaries she laid down and that her family maintained. As the saying goes, if those walls could talk they’d have some stories – as the promotion for the Dublin night club Zhivago’s had it, it was where love stories began – some of which had very happy endings. Somewhere, sometime there was a rendezvous for partying and socialising called ‘Hell’s Kitchen’ – I’d give Brenda Moran’s the title ‘Heaven’s Kitchen’, not that those of us who



**Brenda Moran’s grandchildren in front of the house on Abbey Street. On windowsill: Brenda Campbell, Eric Gibson and Sharon Campbell. Standing: Patrick Moran.**

were blessed to avail of it were saints and scholars, but in an environment and surroundings that to us 1950 teenagers seemed too restrictive and repressed, it was a God sent Oasis.

Earlier, I wrote about Pat’s athletic prowess... he could sing too – his party piece during the sing songs in Senior Dormitory in our last year in St. Jarlath’s was ‘How can you buy Killarney?’

**Micheál Smyth**

## **Waldron Clan Gathering 2013**

It is proposed to have a Waldron Clan Gathering in Co. Mayo over the weekend Fri. 21st to Sun. 23rd June 2013.

Three Waldron Clan Gatherings took place locally in 1997, 2000 and 2005, and were a great success with over 200 in attendance at each. Further information will be posted on the revived and updated website [www.waldronireland.com](http://www.waldronireland.com), on the Waldron Clan Facebook page, and in local media as soon as it becomes available.

The proposed 2013 Gathering, as with all previous ones, will be open to ALL with Irish Waldron ancestry.



# Memories of School Days Past

*Some months ago a notice appeared in the Parish Newsletter seeking to trace the oldest person who attended St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School. Mary McCorry (nee Glynn) read the notice in the on-line version of the newsletter and sent us the following article. Mary is now in her ninety-ninth year and first attended the school eighty-five years ago. She has lived in Birmingham, England, since 1936.*



**Mary on her 98th Birthday.**

I, Mary Glynn was born in the townland of Cuiltycrehan, Brickens on 30th July 1914, the eldest daughter in a family of nine children. I attended the local primary school until I was thirteen years old and then went to St. Joseph's Convent, Ballyhaunis, in 1927. I cycled six miles each way, to and from school, and I spent many happy years there although it was such a big change coming to this large school. The classes were so big and being taught by a nun was daunting.

The Rev. Mother was Mother Alphonsus and she always took assembly. All the classes from four to eight assembled in the upper class room every morning for prayers etc. My teacher was Sr. Aloysius. She was really nice and always tried to assist all of us with any difficult subjects. In those days calculators and other aids were unheard of. Our principal subjects were English, Irish, Maths (Algebra, Geometry), History, Geography, Biology, Rural Science, Needlework, Singing and Music. Sr. Ignatius taught needlework and Sr. Ita taught singing. Minnie O'Malley (Knox St.) was an assistant teacher and Sr. Aloysius moved up with my class each year. Other nuns in the Convent were Sr. Benedict, Sr. Vincent and Sr. Mary.

The students I remember in my class were Beatrice McDonnell (Abbey St.), Mary Tighe (Main St.), Margaret Morley (Knock), Mary Biesty (Carrowkeel), Katie Lyons (Knockbrack), Delia Devaney and Margaret Boland (Aghamore), Kitty Freeley and Ciss Brennan (Gurteen), Mary Hopkins and Nancy Smith (Knox St.), Mae Sweeney (Upper Main St.), Mary Waldron and Mary Connolly (Holywell), Mary Mulrennan and myself (Bekan)(we were cousins).

We worked hard at school. Every night our home work was set. It usually consisted of an English or Irish essay

and always Maths, with History or Geography on alternate nights. We had a test on this homework every morning from 9-10am. The copy books were collected and marked during the day. On Friday it was revision and we were tested on any subject we had learnt that week. I left St. Joseph's in 1931 after getting my Primary School Certificate and I went to the Commercial School, which was in the back room of Forde's shop at the Square. After completing two years I left with certificates in shorthand, typewriting and book-keeping.

## **Working Life**

I worked for Tom Concannon, Main Street for a few years as a book-keeper and sales assistant and then I came to England. I made my home in Birmingham and was successful in securing a position as a wages clerk in a large brass foundry which employed 2,500 employees. I was the only Irish employee but I was welcomed by the staff and very soon I felt quite at home and I stayed with the firm for seven years. I worked from 9.00 till 5.30, Monday to Friday and 9 till 12 on Saturday, with one and a half hour's lunch break. I had a cooked lunch in the canteen subsidised by the company and reasonably priced.

When war was declared many changes came during this period. At first, apart from the blackout, everything was normal, but soon we had the bombing which sometimes lasted all night with numerous casualties, food shortage, etc.

I married my husband Thomas in 1942. He came from Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, and we had a lovely family of five sons and one daughter. Sadly, my husband died of a heart attack in 1965 aged 49 years.

Eventually five of my sisters joined me here and married and raised families. My other sister Bridie, also a student of St. Joseph's Convent, entered the Dominican Order straight from school in 1934. She spent most of her life in South Africa and is now interred in Bushy Heath, Hertfordshire.

I live in the family home. We moved here in 1945. My daughter stays with me. I am still able to go to church and shopping and make myself a cup of tea.

**Mary McCorry (Glynn)**







Above: Mary Glynn, c.1937.



Top right: Mary Glynn and Thomas McCorry on their wedding day, 1942, with the Bridal Party.



Mary Glynn with her sister Bridie (later Sr. Ignatius), in c.1928 and in 1962.



Ballyhaunis Vocational School football team, late 1960s. Back, L-R: Paddy Murphy (Greenwood), Willie Forde (Cloonfaghna), John Cribbin (Knockanarra), Padraig Keane (Clooncrim), Paul Walsh (Granlahan), Jackie Coyne (Carnbeg), P. J. Morley (Cloontumper), Andy Naughton (Belisker), John Burke (Grange), Christy Ruane (coach/teacher). Front: Tom Tighe (Larganboy), John Tighe (Larganboy), Dom Byrne (Lakehill), Michael Kelly (Cloonlough), Joe Moran (Bracklaghboy), Seamus Hora (Gorthaganny), Tom Commins (Lauralea), Willie Winston (Grange), Gerry Groarke (Mannin). Spectators in background: Liam Hebron, John Morley. Submitted by Joe Moran, Brackloughboy, living in Oradell, NJ, USA.







Clare Street in the 1920s. From the collection of Dr. Michael F. Waldron.



Pictured during the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ballyhaunis, in 1987.  
 Ballyhaunis Doctors: Michael Brogan, Alan Delaney, Diarmuid Murray, Michael Cleary and Patrick Noone.  
 Onlookers include Sean Neary, Liam Waldron, Marina Levins, Robert Finn, Jarlath Phillips.





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Mrs Donohue }

R. J. Waldron  
M. Higgins  
Miss Nora Cribben

Scene—A Ward in Gort Workhouse

### PART II.

Mixed Choir—Four Voices—

"Adeste Fidelis,"

Old air, arranged by Novello

"See Amid the Winter's Snow,"

Mendelssohn

Song, "The Anchor's Weighed,"

P. Forde

Duet, "Life's Dream is o'er,"

Soprano—Miss Delia Gilmore

Baritone—E. McDonnell

Recitation—"Devil-may-care,"

M. Higgins

Song, "The Diver,"

E. McDonnell

Selections—Jazzmaniacs,

Personally conducted

Chorus, "Oft in the Stilly Night,"

Moore

"Has Sorrow thy Young Days Shaded,"

Moore

(Arranged by M. W. Balfe).

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Bring your trap to GILMORE  
And he'll put on a set.  
When you are dead and want advice  
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For habit, coffin, wreath and stone—  
Leave all to him, to him alone.

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A COMEDY, in 3 Acts.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

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Mrs. O'Brien, his wife Miss A. Gilmore  
Moira, their daughter Miss A. Carney  
Gaffney, a Solicitor R. Waldron  
Kelly, his Clerk J. Byrne  
Scanlon John Gilmore  
Doherty P. Waldron  
Mrs. Mulvanny } Creditors  
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# Five Weeks in The Gambia

The Republic of Gambia is Africa's smallest and poorest country and lies about 13 degrees north of the Equator, with a fifty mile Atlantic coastline. It is surrounded on three sides by Senegal, and whereas there is some political unrest there, Gambia's political environment is very stable. Banjul is the capital city. The Gambia has a population of 1.7 million and got its independence from Britain in 1964. English is the official language. In 1997 the Gambian government introduced free primary education for all. The introduction of this policy has resulted in an education system that is struggling, and the rapidly expanding population is stretching educational resources. Many schools have to cater for classes of 50 to 60 pupils with little or no resources. Trainee teachers get only one year in college before they take up positions in such classes.

In 2010 a retired primary teacher, Joe Griffin visited The Gambia and having met various educationists there decided to form an organisation called GIVE (Gambia Ireland Volunteers in Education), with the aim of tapping into the huge number of retired teachers who might be willing to travel and help out in the schools, sharing their expertise and experience. Last January I joined fifteen other retired teachers, as we set off on what was to prove a wonderful experience.



**In the Classroom**

Gambia!

GIVE liaises with the Catholic Secretariat, and through them we were welcomed wholeheartedly into the schools. Some of us worked in nursery education, while most of us acted as mentors for the young primary teachers who had just come out of college.

Most of the schools have thousands of pupils. The one I was in had 3725 pupils and the school catered for them by having two school sessions a day, one from 9am to 1.30pm and the second from 2 to 6 pm. Many of the teachers taught all day. The school buildings are drab and dreary, the stone floors uneven and the walls are always dusty from the playgrounds which are covered in sand. There are no windows, just huge rectangular openings which let in light and air.

Teaching there is all about talk and chalk. The children don't have text books; some don't even have a copy and pencil. Some of us had brought world maps and they were very interested in seeing where their country and Ireland are located. They don't use posters or any other educational aids and computers are a rare commodity, so we weren't short of work! Whereas we found the work challenging and sometimes tiring we were rewarded by the ever pleasant and smiling children who loved a bit of individual help and attention. I think I most enjoyed the look of intense interest on their faces as they listened to a story.

However, we had a lot of free time which we used to explore this lovely country. We went up the river Gambia by ferry, and inland to the countryside where people are living very isolated lives in what can only be described as shacks. Many of the workers we met would have come from such homes. They work on the coast for six months returning to their little farms for the rainy season. However, despite their poverty, the Gambians come across as a very happy contented people.

The trip was really a working holiday, one from which all of us got much more than we gave. We met many lovely people, one of which was Bishop Cleary, a native of Brickens. You can read his interesting life story elsewhere in this edition of Annagh.

**Nell Rochford**



**Lunchtime**

On arrival we were struck by the evident poverty of the country. While we were fortunate to be located on the coast where we could enjoy the sun and sea, we were conscious that recession was a word unknown here. The tiger, Celtic or African had never heard of The





# Football Days and Dance Hall Nights

I was born in Knockbrack, Ballyhaunis in November 1938, and can clearly recall growing up in the rural Ireland of the 1940s and 50s. We lived in a thatched house comprising a kitchen, two rooms and a 'hag'. I lived with my grandparents Jim and Mary Finnegan, my parents Michael and May, and my two sisters Teresa and Bridie. I would like to share some memories of living in the times of the Ration Book, the Big Snow; to give an idea of what life was like in rural Ireland before electricity, phones and television, when cars were few and far between.

Most people walked or cycled to Mass; some of the lucky ones came by side-car or horse and trap. Back then there would be two big Processions each year, one from the Friary and one from the Parish Church. In those Processions you would have the Garda Síochána, the Boy Scouts, the Pioneers and the Children of Mary. Also, there was the local choir that sang as they marched. There was the monthly Sodality for Men, Women and Children, where the people of each village went into their own specially assigned seats. Then there were the Missions where Fire and Brimstone was let fly, and the stalls with religious objects on sale. I think the night on the preaching on the Sixth Commandment drew the biggest crowd of young people, where the fear of God was put into them!

## School Days

My first school was the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis, after which I attended the National School in Coolnafarna. The Headmaster there was the late Jimmy O'Dwyer and the other teacher was Miss Walsh. I liked school and found learning easy. The school was heated by a big open fire and every pupil would bring a donkey-cart load of turf to the school each year, or pay ten shillings. Jimmy had been a Mayo footballer in the thirties and that's where my interest in the game started. He would play football along with us at break time. At that time very few boys went onto Second or Third Level Education.

Work and money were very scarce in the forties as, following the War there was a deep recession - yet nobody went hungry. While tea and sugar were rationed, every home had their own supply of potatoes, vegetables and fruit, as well as milk and butter. Neighbours would kill a pig a couple of times each year and the local women would come to cut up the meat and make the black puddings, and when finished went home each with their own little consignment of bacon. That night local men would card-play for the pig's head. Men would bring their grain to Jimmy O'Brien's mill on the Clare Road for grinding; at that time a large bag of

oat meal would stand by the dresser in the kitchen of every thatched house.

## The Big Snow

In January 1947 there was heavy snowfall and severe frost. As February came along people were hoping for a thaw, but the hard weather persisted. I'm not sure if people expected the blizzard that came, but I do know that on the night of February 25th people brought spades and shovels into their houses. With the heavy snow and strong wind that night the windows and doors in houses were covered to the top and people had to dig their way out the next morning. The countryside was like a white desert where fields and ditches all looked flat. I remember the local men digging a passage through the village onto the main road with shovels and spades. This



Mick and May Mulkeen, with Theresa.

took several days. There were very heavy losses in livestock at that time. When someone died during that time the coffin had to be carried on wooden planks or drawn by a horse and dray to the church and graveyard. It was difficult to find un-marked graves in the graveyard, but a neighbour of ours, Tom Plunkett, was an expert at the job. He had worked for Farragher's (undertakers) in Ballyhaunis where he looked after the horses and drove the horse-drawn hearse. He could find graves by stepping a number of steps from the road and from the wall on the right hand side. He could also find un-marked graves by stepping from the nearest headstone that he knew, to the left or right, back or forward from the headstone: that would be his second way of checking. I experienced him doing this in later years and never found him to be wrong. He could name the person that was buried in each grave, the date they were buried, and, in many cases, he knew their age. He was totally remarkable at doing this.

Work and money were hard found in those years. We only had the few acres of land, but were lucky because





**The Eclipse Ballroom, Ballyhaunis, August 1962,  
L-R: Frank Leonard, Theresa Mulkeen, John Mulkeen,  
Mary Regan, John Joe Donnellan, Bridie Mulkeen.**

my father had some building skills that he learned in England and would build the odd house. He was also popular for fixing chimneys that would be giving trouble. He decided to build a new house for ourselves and, to prepare, he put extra cattle on the land. Unfortunately, we had bad luck with the cattle and they died down to the last few. This would be about 1950. Although I was only twelve years old and had just finished National School, I was well aware what was happening so I cut turf on our own land, saved it and carted it to town on the donkey and cart. At first I was charging eight shillings per load, but could not supply the demand, so I put it up to ten shillings and later to twelve shillings. My mother said I should not do that as it was not honest.

As the house was near completion my father had to go back to work so I helped with the plastering of the chimneys and the back of the house. It was a two-storey house. I would mix the bucket of plaster on the ground, throw a rope over the roof and climb the rope, and as I was coming down, I would jump into the sand.

### **My First Job**

In the early fifties there were very few job opportunities around Ballyhaunis. The biggest employer was Michael A. Keane in Knox St. There were some jobs in the shops around the town and there were two garages, Freyne's and B. T. Lynch's. My father had asked around for a job for me, but without success. I remember the Fair Day of January 1952 my father and mother were in town and it was a bitterly cold day. Someone died that day in the Fair Green. I was plastering the back of the house when I saw Micky Kenny's car coming. I thought he was coming for help - I used to help him with odd jobs for which I would get a few bob. To my surprise he told me there was a vacancy coming up in Freyne's Garage. I jumped into his car and asked him to take me in. I can

so clearly remember meeting John Freyne. I was partly frightened because he looked as big as Fionn MacCumhaill! After answering a few questions I tried to convince him that I was a good hand at fixing bicycles, but he told me he only worked on cars and lorries. However, he gave me the job to start the following Monday morning, and I haven't stopped since.

I spent six years with John Freyne and I spent five years with Brendan Carroll in Ballinlough before I moved to Tubbercurry in 1964 where I managed a garage for fourteen years. I built my own premises in 1980. For

the first decade it was a garage and filling station but, as I had studied engineering, fitting, turning and welding, I decided to expand into manufacturing, so I added an exhaust factory to the garage which opened in 1987. In 1994 I opened a factory in Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, and in 1996 I decided to stay with the manufacturing as I needed more space and exited from the motor trade.

### **Football and other Sports**

In my teens I was very involved in football and other different sports. I travelled to most parts of Connacht on sports days. I was good at the High Jump and the Sixteen Pound Shot and was also involved in Boxing, Judo and Football. When I was nineteen I broke an ankle playing



**Pat Murtagh, John Mulkeen, 1961.**

football and was three years out of the game, but never got back to the sports field.

There may be some errors in the following, if my memories fails me, but I will say something about my early days playing football, and the players I can remember. If I am correct the Ballyhaunis colours were originally green and gold, like Kerry, later blue and white, before becoming red and black as they are up to the





present. The first playing field I remember was in Agloragh, at the back of John Waldron's house. I remember some fine footballers there, including Paddy Waldron of Abbey Street, who played in goal, Bertie Lynch, at full-back, Noel Waldron, Dave Judge from Agloragh, Paddy Jordan from Knox St., Fr. Albert Lyons, Dan Moran, and a fine mid-fielder, Paul McGarry. There would not be a single car at the games in the early years, everyone came by bicycle. Every Sunday we would set off to find where there would be a game, often cycling ten or fifteen miles. The Monastery in Granlahan was a great place for football. There were many fine players that never got the opportunity to wear a county jersey. Some names I remember were the Featherstone brothers - Frank and Mick - Barney Mullarkey, Paddy Quinn and three or four of the Franciscan brothers from the Monastery. I remember the last day that we were to be in Agloragh: it was raining and we were sheltering under trees. Everyone was wondering where the next field would be found. Prenty's field on the Knock Road was the next field to become available. There were many fine games there and it had a unique feature - a hole on the side of the field into which we would try to shoulder the opposition!

Playing football in those days was very different to today. There were no red or yellow cards, no large square, no protection for the goalie. To start the game backs would go back, while forwards and centre field players would line up for the referee to throw in the ball. There were many false starts as a few punches might be thrown and it would have to start all over again. Very few that I can remember were sent off, but you had to be careful with some referees. The next playing pitch was developed on the Claremorris road, but it was not as good as the others. There were so many great players around Ballyhaunis those years, like Doc and Paddy Healy, Mal Nally, Pado Moran, P. J. Moran and Paddy Moran, Sean Smyth, Johnny Biesty, Georgie Delaney, Padraic Hannon and Henry Forde, to name but a few.

In those years you played anywhere you could get a game. Nobody seemed to care if you were legal or not. The most difficult thing was to get fifteen players together. I played senior football with seven clubs in four counties of Connacht - never playing in Leitrim. I played senior football with Ballyhaunis. In Roscommon I played with the Western Division and later with Michael Glavey's. I played in Galway with Williamstown / Clonberne. I played junior football with Ballindine and senior with Ballindine/Claremorris. From that time I made many lifelong friends like Henry Cleary, Eddie Prendergast, Johnny Farragher, Laddie Griffith, Martin Cunniffe and many others. After I moved to Sligo I played for Tubbercurry and Mullinabreena. I managed a number of teams for Michael Glavey's and I managed Tubbercurry senior and under-21 teams.

Connacht was a strong province in Gaelic Football in the 1940s with Roscommon taking All Ireland titles in 1943 and 1944. Mayo was the dominant county in the late forties and fifties. The first county game I was ever at was the Connacht Final of 1948 in Roscommon, in St. Coman's Park - Mayo versus Leitrim. It was a modest playing field surrounded by galvanised iron sheeting. There were no stands at that time, but there were a few lines of railway sleepers to sit on. They lost to Cavan in the All Ireland final of that year after a big win over Kerry, thirteen points to three, in the semi-final. They lost to Meath in the semi-final in 1949 before winning the two All-Irelands in 1950 and 1951. I clearly remember the years leading onto the All Irelands of 1950 and '51. On the day of the All Ireland final, Mayo v. Louth, the nearest radio to us was down on the main road at Kenny's, where we all congregated to hear the match. There was such excitement when Mayo won. I remember the team arriving in Ballyhaunis with the Sam Maguire Cup, and the Main Street of Ballyhaunis was thronged as they arrived at the Central Hotel. We were trying to squeeze in to touch the Cup or get a handshake with the players, and after a few minutes they all went into the hotel - we were so disappointed. Within a few minutes, however, the late Sean Flanagan came out with the Cup and mingled through the crowd where we all got to touch the Cup and shook hands with some of the players. It was a night to remember for a lifetime.

### Boxing

As I mentioned earlier I had an interest in most sports. I was not much of a runner and another sport I had no style for was boxing. Our gym was at the back of George Delaney's shop beside the river. Some of those involved in boxing at that time were Fr. Mansfield, Sergeant Pat Nally, the Moylette brothers Tom and Jim. Tom had been a Golden Gloves champion in New York. Other names I remember from then were Padraic Hannon, Paddy Benson, Jackie Greene, the Murphy brothers and a very talented young boxer called Slevin. I only boxed in a few local tournaments. I had a couple of skills that many a good boxer would like to have: I was as tough as clog-nails and had a deadly left hand. How that came about was, when I worked in Freyne's Garage, we did a lot of work on lorries. We often spent hours on end sledging off lorry tyres with a fourteen pound sledge-hammer. In the end we were like little 'Rambos'! The training we got doing this work was also a big plus when throwing the sixteen pound shots at sports.

Judo Martial Arts was a sport I loved. There isn't much to write about as there were no clubs or tournaments in those years. My sister Teresa lived near the late Johnny Conneally of Shanvaghara, and we would visit him where we would have lots of fun with Judo. Johnny was better known as an Irish Dancer and he appeared many times on television. He had wonderful skills in self-defence: it





**Practising before the U.S.A. Championships in Chicago, 2004, John Mulkeen and Ulie Petanova.**

was lovely to watch him. Johnny was not tall – about my own height – but if an intruder came to his house they would be in for some shock!

### **Music and Dancing**

I have danced all my adult life: the first place I went dancing was to the ceilís in the Parochial Hall in Ballyhaunis where I first met the evergreen Johnny McGarry. If I remember correctly the name of his band was 'The Silver Seven'. Shortly after that I joined up with other musicians: the late Paddy Hunt, Paddy Fannon, Mick Hopkins and the late Jackie Toolan. I did not have much talent with music but rasped a bit on the violin. The reason I got in the band was that I had a car and I could fix an amplifier. They would often say to me on the



**John Mulkeen with a Presentation received from Albert Reynolds in Longford Arms Hotel for his contribution to Ballroom Dancing in Ireland for twenty-five years.**

stage, 'you should go down for a few dances'. They wanted to get rid of me... and I did have more of a talent for the dance floor. We played in places like the hall in Cloonfad, Byrne's Hall in Began, and Shanvaghara Hall, and in the school in Granlahan.

We helped introduce newcomers to the Highland Fling, the Stack of Barley, the Old Time Waltz, etc. Then there were the big halls and the big bands like Mick Delahunty's Band, Maurice Mulcahy's Band and The Clipper Carlton, that were popular before the showband days. The Reynolds brothers, Albert and Gerry, started a chain of halls through the country and their names all finished with the word 'land', like Fairyland, Cloudland,

Roseland, etc.; and, of course, there was the most famous of all, the Hall in Tooreen, and the Eclipse Ballroom in Ballyhaunis. The Tooreen Hall was run by the famous Fr. James Horan and, to draw the crowds, he decided to raffle new cars on the door ticket. The cars were bought from John Freyne, where I worked. The late Mick Flanagan and myself would put the cars up on the stage where the band played around them until it was raffled later in the night. The first car he raffled was a Morris Minor, and later a Hillman Minx. Most nights the hall would be wedged with up to two-thousand people.

I started competitive Ballroom Dancing in the sixties and competed All Ireland Dancing for many years. This October in Gort was the twenty-third of such All Ireland Dancing, and I haven't missed one yet. I retired from competitive Dancing about ten years ago, having competed in Ireland, UK and the USA. I have trained as a professional Ballroom Dance Teacher with the International Dance Teacher Association, UK. I have a dance studio in Tubbercurry where we run dance classes over the winter months, and we also do private lessons.

The football days may be over, but the dance hall nights still go on!

**Johnny Mulkeen**

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*Johnny Mulkeen is Managing Director of Mulmuf Ltd., which he founded in 1989. A leading manufacturer of exhaust systems for a wide range of machinery, the company has factories in Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo and Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.*





# Ballyhaunis Fine Gael records a successful 2012



Ballyhaunis Fine Gael is happy to record yet another successful year for the Branch. The Branch held its regular quarterly meetings at which local and national issues, as well as local community issues, were always high on the agenda and vigorously debated by the large attendances. Discussions were also held on the reform of Local Government and how it may impact on the local community. The Branch would like to thank Deputy John O'Mahony for attending many of these meetings. The Branch also recorded votes of congratulations to local Councillor John Cribbin for the sterling work he is doing on Mayo County Council in terms of delivering improvements to the area. To date in this calendar year Cllr. Cribbin has delivered approximately €1,000,000 for road projects and maintenance in Ballyhaunis and surrounding area. Cllr. Cribbin also assisted in securing a grant of €400,000 to upgrade the local Swimming Pool which will be officially open to the public in early 2013.

John O'Mahony holds a clinic on the third Friday of every month at 3pm in the Parochial Hall. Cllr. Cribbin holds a clinic every Tuesday morning at 10am in the Hazel Bar.

**Helen Lyons,**  
(Branch secretary)

*Right: Cllr. John Cribbin keeping  
an eye on road works.*



## Ballyhaunis Boxing Club

Ballyhaunis Boxing Club is quickly becoming one of the top clubs in Ireland! For the second year in a row it was crowned Best Boxing Club in Mayo. We have members boxing at nearly every competition held by the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA). Last season we came home from the National Stadium with six National Champions.

In the last two years three Ballyhaunis Boxing Club members have been selected to box in the European Championships, each of them coming home with a Bronze Medal, one of them even qualified for the world Championships, narrowly missing out on a Bronze! This year's Bronze Medallist is Aghamore man Nevan Fannon. Nevan is a two-time Irish champion and is a huge asset to the club.



**Above: Nevan Fannon, twice Irish National Champion and European Bronze Medallist, with twins Shelly and Elaine Daly. Both girls are also Irish National Champions.**

**Left: Martin Peake, President Ballyhaunis Boxing Club, with Martin and Sean Conroy, both European Bronze Medallists.**

We have recently upgraded our gym in Began Community Centre, with showers and central heating. We train on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm. New members are welcome. Also, as we are a growing club, we would appreciate if more volunteers could help to train the lads. Proper coaching training will be given.

We look forward to having more Champions in the 2012/13 season!

**Sarah Peake**



# Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

2012 marked the eighth year for the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre in operation as a community organisation, providing a range of activities and opportunities in the local community from its office at St. Mary's Abbey.

One of the major areas of the Family Resource Centre's work over the last two years has been the continuing effort to secure a building and access funding to open a Youth Café in the town for our young people. After working with Foroige and other interested people from the community, Mayo County Council was lobbied to secure the lease on the old DH Burke Supermarket site on Main Street across from the Parish Church. Also a survey of young people in the Community School was taken to ask what the Youth Café should offer and provide as well as undertaking a number of visits to other youth cafés in the western region to better understand how to organise a Youth Cafe in Ballyhaunis. Agreement on the lease with Mayo County Council was finally reached last year and a funding application to equip and furnish the Youth Café submitted to Mayo North East who administer the LEADER Rural Development Programme. However delays with both Mayo County Council's Legal Office and with LEADER have prevented the project from moving forward, but we hope these problems are almost behind us at this stage. It is now planned to begin operating the Youth Café as soon as the funding has been secured the building made ready in the spring of 2013.

## Pre-school

2012 marked the fourth year of our 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 three years and three months providing a free Monday to Friday childcare service during school term time under the Governments National Free Preschool Year Scheme. This Summer the building was opened up to make an even more attractive and spacious childcare setting and a new afternoon service initiated. There are now 31 Children enrolled and the Community Pre-school has proven extremely popular with local parents and the quality of the service provided by its dedicated staff which has been recognised at both County and National levels.

The family resource centre operates two childcare services in the town – with the other 'Greater Tomorrow' service based in the Old Convent Asylum Accommodation Centre, funded by the HSE West. Both services provide over fifty-eight childcare places each week, employ eight local childcare staff and operated the 'High Scope' system of quality childcare provision.

Courses in Parenting and Children's Development are now also being offered by the Family Resource Centre's Childcare Staff.

Some of the other activities which have taken place this year include courses in Digital Media, Art/Drama Camps for Children, the very popular Crochet Group who meet every Friday morning as well as those courses which we have been successfully running over a number of years, Computers for Beginners and Improvers, all of which have proven popular with adults and older people and are provided free, or for a small charge. Over 170 people took part in these courses which were run in morning and afternoons during the last year, while our Community Internet Service – which provides a free Internet Café during weekdays, was used by over 2,139 visitors during the year.

The Family Resource Centre continues to provide an outreach office to Mayo Citizens Information who attend once per month to answer questions and help people find out about their entitlements and rights. The FRC Office also helps individual people with their queries, filling in official forms and understanding their entitlements with over 620 people being helped in this way over the last year.

The Centre continues its work with the International community in Ballyhaunis, trying to improve contacts and working together to provide a mix of activities for children and families. A new afterschool service for Polish children to help them improve their Polish language skills was started by their parents during 2012 and takes place in the Family Resource Centre every Monday evening. The Women's Basketball activity was re-started this summer and a new set of fitness and exercise classes are planned for the New Year, organised with the help of the Mayo Sports Partnership.

## Volunteers

A great deal of the work of the Family Resource Centre depends on the participation of Volunteers in both our management committee and in the activities themselves.

The Family Resource Centre is an active member of the Abbey Partnership, Community Council, and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and taking an active part in their activities held in the town. It is also interested in working with as broad a range of community groups and organisations in the town and willing to help out in as many ways as possible.

The Family Resource Centre is controlled by a board of directors made up of people living in the Ballyhaunis





community, in 2012 the officers were: Chairperson – Seamus Grogan; Company Secretary – Tracey McDermott; Treasurer – Manar Cherbatji. The other members are Christina Concannon, Talib Chaudhry, Stephen Grogan, Mary Morrissey and Hina Rehman. Two of the board members stood down this year and our thanks go to Betty Koinange and Aliya Shakoor for their time and effort on the FRC board. The FRC would

welcome expressions of interest from people living in the town who would like to join the FRC board. 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 Staff Patricia Kelly, Barbara Murphy, Liz Ward, Cliona Mulvaney, Helen Kiely, Nicola Ryan, Edel Quinn and Maura O'Dowd.

## Melly family photos

Left: Tom Melly (right) with his daughter Dolores and Fr. John Ball, C.C., taken at a Station Mass in the 1970s.

Below left: Garda Tom Melly. Photograph taken in December 1962 on the occasion of his retirement from An Garda Síochána.

Below right: Tom Melly, Dolores and Sean Carney, on Tom's Birthday, 1980.



# Photos from Cloonfaughna and Began



*Top:* The Lyons family of Cloonfaughna, taken in 1997.  
Back, L-R: Muriel Lyons, Michael Lyons, Cecelia Sweeney, Bridie Dunne.  
Front: Phyllis Hall, Helen Lavelle, Marian Plant, Margaret Waldron.

*Below:*  
Taken in June 1968.  
L-R: Mike and Bridie McHugh, Tom Morley, Michael Lyons, Miko Lyons, Margaret Lyons, all of Began.



*Above:* Babe and John Lyons, Cloonfaughna, 1950.



*Right:* Paddy Hunt and Babe Lyons, Cloonfaughna.





Putting the foundations in for Martin Hunt's house in Cloonfaughna, 1948.

L-R: Jack Murphy, Billy Hunt, Martin Hunt, Paddy Hunt, Mr. Regan, Martin Hunt (William) and Barney Hunt.



Lyons' Stations, Cloonfaughna, 1996.

L-R: Kit Byrne, Delia McDonagh, Delia Morris, Pake Byrne.



Left: Eddie Higgins and Tom Finn, both of Treanrevagh, 1970's.



Right: Mick McDonnell, Carrowkeel, and Tom Cribbin, Knockanarra. 1970's.



# Abbey Partnership

2012 has been another active year for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership and Abbey Trust, building on the work carried out since the withdrawal of the Augustine Order in 2005 and the formal transfer of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey and Grounds to the Abbey Trust under the 999 year lease.

## Abbey Grounds and River Walk

During 2012 the friary grounds continued to attract many people of all ages and backgrounds to avail of this invaluable community amenity with the attractive woodland / river walkway along with the Children's Playground and new Multi-sports facility being used on a daily basis.

As always, credit is due to the Rural Social Scheme staff whose dedication and hard work keeps the friary grounds in their impressive state, with our appreciation going to Sean Biesty and John Joe Lyons for all their hard work in maintaining the grounds over the last year.

National Tree Planting week was once again commemorated with students from Scoil Iosa planting an Irish Oak Tree on the grounds – under the enlightened guidance of Margie Phillips.

Thanks to the efforts of the Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee who took the initiative, last year to construct a number of notice / display boards throughout the abbey grounds containing interesting information and pictures about our natural plant and wildlife. This addition to the woodland / river walkway signage has proven very popular with children and their families and the partnership hopes it will foster a better sense of appreciation for our natural environment and the importance of keeping the park clean and tidy, for all to enjoy within the local community.

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

## St. Mary's Abbey

St. Mary's Abbey continues to be use to host a number of social and cultural events throughout the year. The Ballyhaunis Artists Group continued to organise and host their exhibitions in the Abbey. An excellent exhibition of Photography showing Ballyhaunis over the last 100 years was also held in the abbey, organised by Joan Flanagan.

Unfortunately, the Mayo County Council Summer Music programme wasn't able to arrange an activity in Ballyhaunis this year, but we remain hopeful that this annual music performance will be reintroduced next

summer. On a more positive note, the Gracenotes Choir group have continued to use the Abbey for their performances, making a significant contribution to the town's cultural calendar.

The annual Graveyard Mass also continued in 2012 marking the feast of St. Augustine held in conjunction with the Abbey Pattern on the last Sunday of August.

The Abbey was also used to host a number of other musical events during the year in conjunction with the Family Resource Centre.

## Friary House

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

## Childcare

The Abbey Partnership continues to work with the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre who operate the Ballyhaunis Community Preschool in the friary grounds. A new afternoon service was started in 2012 and the preschool now caters for thirty-one children over the age of three years three months, attending each day under the government's free childcare year programme. This is one of two childcare services operated by the family resource centre, both of which are managed by Patricia Kelly. The services employ eight local Childcare Workers and are widely recognised as one of the leading high quality childcare providers within County Mayo.

## Multi-Purpose Sport Facilities

Use of the multi-sports facility has been growing over the last year, with many young and not so young people using the facility both formally and informally on almost a daily basis. The Abbey Partnership were also delighted that Scoil Iosa decided to use the facility to hold some of their own physical education classes on the grounds. The Family Resource Centre and Ballyhaunis Chamber have also organised sporting / physical activities in the facility on the grounds – with a woman's basketball group and meet and train group continuing this year.

## Abbey Pattern

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern continued in 2012 with another very successful Pattern being held. Once again full credit goes to the organisers, the Abbey Pattern Committee.

## Conclusion and Plans for 2013:

While some of our projects have temporarily slowed





to a halt, the Abbey Partnership still plans to go ahead with the construction of a new foot bridge linking the River Walk to the new Soccer Pitch near the Station Rise / Cherryvale housing estates. Some discussion and initial work has also taken place regarding the history and heritage of the Abbey as well as various ideas to develop tree planting and community gardens on the grounds.

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

**Treasurers:** Mary Donnelly (Community Council) and Anne Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chamber), **Secretary:** Stephen Grogan (Family Resource Centre). Cllr. John Cribbin (Mayo County Council), Pádraic Flanagan (Mayo County Council), Pat Higgins (Community Council), Michael Kelly (Community Council), Fr. Michael Mernagh (OSA), Cllr. Damien Ryan (Mayo County Council) and Nell Rochford (Community Council).

**Stephen Grogan**

## Eightieth Birthday Celebrations

These are some photographs from an eightieth birthday celebration for Josephine McGuire, formerly of Ballindrehid, which was held in the UK on 3rd June 2012. All surviving McGuire family members assembled: most of them are now based in the UK, but some travelled from the US and from Ireland. The family of the late Mick O'Connell, Upper Main Street, all attended as Josephine is their aunt.



*Above:* L-R: Collette McGuire (USA), Josephine McGuire (UK) and Kevin McGuire (UK).



*Right:* L-R: Grainne Kelly (nee O'Connell), Lauren and Joanne Brennan, Marion Brennan (nee O'Connell) and Josephine McGuire.



*Bottom:* L-R: Anne O'Connell (nee Tobin), Josephine McGuire, Grainne Kelly (nee O'Connell) and Michael O'Connell.



# New Businesses in Ballyhaunis

This article profiles new/developing businesses in the Ballyhaunis community. In times of economic collapse, unemployment and austerity it is encouraging to see so many local businesses taking on new challenges. Whether it is a new start-up business or an existing business taking on a new dynamic, Annagh Magazine wants to do its part and help promote our local entrepreneurial spirit.

## Araby Coffee House

Araby Coffee House on Main St. (formerly The Cosy Cup) opened its doors to the public on April 2nd, 2012. The name 'Araby' was taken from a short story by James Joyce published in 1914 in his collection Dubliners.



The new owners, Shane and Hazel, decided that this story would be their inspiration as they set about designing their menu. They wanted to offer something a little different, a little more exotic, something for people to talk about, something out of the ordinary, but more importantly, to offer value for money and lots of it.

## Hencro Games

Having watched his brother Dermot putting his chickens in for the night in case the fox would call, Kieran Henry came up with the idea of a new board game. With his two brothers, Padraic and Dermot he formed a company - Hencro Ltd - and together they developed a board game called 'Foxes and Chickens'. The game was launched in October 2012. It's a family game of a little luck and a lot of strategy.



Phone: (087) 6717332. Email: [pat@hencro.com](mailto:pat@hencro.com). Website: [www.hencro.com](http://www.hencro.com)

## Kieran Johnson Agri-Services Ltd.

Kieran Johnston Agri-Services has been providing machinery, tractors, servicing and parts to the agricultural sector for the last eleven years. In May 2010 they moved to a purpose built facility including workshop, offices, extensive parts stores/shop and

machinery display yard on the main Ballyhaunis-Knock Road. Currently there are two people employed in the business.

They stock new and second-hand machinery. They carry a very large stock of high quality replacement parts for a wide range of tractors and other farm machinery tools, welding supplies, chainsaws and gardening equipment.

Contact details for Kieran Johnston Agri-Services Ltd, Knock Road, Ballyhaunis: (094) 9633383 or mobile (087) 9175856.



## Olga Alteration Service

Olga Kobets, a native of Kursk, Russia, first came to Ballyhaunis in 2000. She got no financial aid

setting up her business in clothes alteration, and having rented a premises started with just one sewing machine and her own talent. She was later joined by her husband Nikolai and together they decided to expand. They moved to bigger premises on Main Street in September 2012 and now provide an ironing and curtain-making service also. Olga hopes to expand into dressmaking in the future. You can contact Olga on (085) 1205212 or by email at [style.olga@gmail.com](mailto:style.olga@gmail.com).



## Ribbon

Katerina Balabanova came to Ballyhaunis in 2002. She has a qualification in art from Moscow University and set about exploring the possibility of using her degree to develop a business. She had

maored in wood sculpture and had also taken courses in gift wrapping and home decoration. In December 2009 Katerina rented the old Credit Union office and set up 'Ribbon', a gift shop and gift wrapping business. She moved to new premises further down Main Street in July 2012. She supplies gifts for all occasions as well as





handmade cards and wood crafts. Katerina also provides a gift wrapping service regardless of where the gift was bought.

Ribbon can be contacted at ekaterina@yahoo.com or by telephone at (086) 8618460.

### Smyth Sign and Print

Smyth Sign and Print was established in 2007 between Dunmore and Williamstown. It started out as a small local sign shop and over the past few years it has grown into one of the biggest sign and print shops in Ireland. Now based in Tuam and Ballyhaunis they currently employ eight people, and look to expanding this in the New Year. (087) 1234580.

Email: info@smyths-signwriting.com.



### TC's Fitness

Having trained for over fifteen years Tracy Cunnane decided that she would love to do this as a career. With this in mind she started up Boxercise Fitness Classes in 2009 and it



became very popular. She also offers a one-to-one personal training course, catering for both men and women. Tracey also offers freelance classes in schools, for youth groups and for active retirement groups in various areas. Tracy can be contacted on (086) 0618126.

### The Grooming Kennel

John Burke came up with the idea for The Grooming Kennel whilst washing his dog. A plumber by trade, he designed and developed the world's first warm, hygienic kennel with built in shower.

He launched The Grooming Kennel onto the market in early March of this year. The Grooming Kennel can be used to wash dogs of all sizes.

John has a formed a partnership with an American based Irish company and hopes to launch onto the American market, as the feedback on The Grooming Kennel has been extremely positive by a number of big wholesalers in the U.S. John Burke (086) 6035126. [www.thegroomingkennel.com](http://www.thegroomingkennel.com) info@thegroomingkennel.com



We wish to thank all the businesses that participated and we wish them every success in the future.

Fergal O'Mahony



## Under-11 Ceilí Champion

Champion Dancer Karen Folan pictured with her parents Caroline Garrity-Folan (Cloonacurry, Began) and Festus Folan (Tourmakeady).

Karen, along with her seven team mates from Chicago, Illinois, USA, clinched the top spot on the podium for the Under-11 Ceilí competition at the 2012 All-Ireland Irish Dancing Competition held in Dublin's City West Conference and Events Centre last February. As the only North American team registered to compete, they outperformed sixteen teams from Ireland and one from England and Wales. This is the first time that this title has been won by a US team. Several of the other girls have Mayo connections. Their dancing teacher is Ann Lavin-Cassidy from Charlestown.

The Lavin-Cassidy school of Irish dancing is located in Worth, Illinois. They have won multiple titles and are the current Under-11 North American champions in addition to holding the All-Ireland title. Their biggest challenge to date will be the World Finals currently scheduled for Easter week in Boston – this will be the biggest stage that the team will ever perform on but with their current track record – anything is possible!



# Down Memory Lane

## GAA MEETING

A meeting of Ballyhaunis GAA was held in November 1949, presided over by the Chairman, Michael Tarmey. The following teams were chosen to take part in the local league.

**Pearses:** Noel Waldron (Capt.), Dom Moran, F. Shannon, B. Costello, J. Lynskey, John O'Brien, P. Jordan, P. Regan, Paddy O'Brien, J.J. Keane, Ned Judge, J. O'Shea, Joe Tarmey, M. Murphy and P. Cunningham.

**Davitts:** Dave Godfrey (Capt.), P. Joyce, P. Carney, M. Carney, P. Waldron, L. Ruane, C. Forkan, Tom Carney, T. Jordan, T.J. Forde, M. Kelly, T. Rattigan, C. Lambert, C. Phillips, J. Foudy and K. Greene.

**Sean McDermotts:** Bertie Lynch (Capt.), M. Woods, G. Delaney, P.J. Moran, Ray Tarpey, J. Lynch, Junior Bermingham, C. Foudy, Bert Mulligan, Paddy Foudy, J. Webb, T. Ryan, Bertie Curley, Sean Lambert and J. Morrison.

**Sarsfields:** Dave Judge (Capt.), P. McGarry, M. Carney, M. Gilmore, M. Brennan, P. Hannon, Joe Fahey, Paddy Moran, M. O'Connor, Joe Gilmore, P. Hunt, Joe Finn, P. Heneghan, Joe Keane, J. O'Brien and P. Ruane.

## BILLIARD CLUB

The officers of St. Patrick's Billiard Club in 1974 were: Chairman: Tony Cribbin; Secretary: Michael Herr; Treasurer: Kevin Barry. Captains picked for Street League were Fred Herr, Val Byrne, Tom Dillon-Leetch, Frank Webb, Cyril O'Malley and Tommy Rattigan. Entry fee - 50p.

## BOXING

Ireland boxed Germany in Ballyhaunis in 1934. The event took place at the back of Lynch's Garage. The Irish Independent reported, "Ballyhaunis last evening presented an appearance of a Klondike mushroom town during a gold rush. Cars poured in from all parts of the west, and the shops blazed with lights and the streets thronged with people. The visit of the German Boxing Team brought a huge crowd to the little Mayo town and the hall was far too small to accommodate the crowds which clamoured for admission".

Ireland also fought Italy in the Abbey grounds on June 5th, 1933. The Ballyhaunis Club forwarded the princely sum of £64 to the Central Council after the Italian match.

Fr. Mansfield OSA was the main man behind these tournaments. He was helped by Harry Dillon, Jim Caulfield, William Dillon-Leetch and the great Jim Coffey.

## SWIMMING POOL

In the summer of 1967 a group of foreign students began work on the Ballyhaunis Swimming pool. They completed the shell of the pool at a cost of £5,000 which included the cost of the site.

In the summer of 1967, Mayo County Council passed a motion approving a grant of £10,000 towards the project. The Minister at the time, Kevin Boland, refused to grant the money, so the pool was left idle. In June 1970 Minister Bobby Molloy included Ballyhaunis for a grant because of the motivation of the local committee in starting on their own.

Eamon Murren

# The Ballyhaunis Artists Group

We are a group of six women artists who have been exhibiting together now for ten years - Anne Burke, Marliese Hertfelder, Frankie Ralph O'Malley, Xanthe Pratt, Mary Smyth and Moira Stratford.

We work independently but meet regularly to discuss future projects, methods and techniques and work practises. We started out as a group of friends who wished to show our work. We exhibit together as a group every year in the Friary, Ballyhaunis during the Summer Festival in June.

The variety of artwork practised among ourselves is very wide and includes painting in oils and watercolour and acrylic; print, including etching lino and wood; work in mixed media, batik and encaustic.

During October 2012, we were asked to show our work in Charlestown Arts Centre. The opening was a very successful occasion. The exhibition was on for a month.

We have also been asked to exhibit in the Lismirrane Arts Centre Bohola, the O'Dwyer Cheshire Home in December 2012.

We also organise the Ballyhaunis Open Exhibition every Hallowe'en. This exhibition is open to artists from all over Ireland. We have seen a great increase in submissions and the number of artists wishing to show their work during the open and have had work from as far afield as Dublin, Leitrim and all over the west.

Xanthe Pratt





# Celebrating Fifty Years

The 18th August 2012 was a very memorable night for all our family as Paul and I celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Time has gone by so quickly since we were married in Knock on the 21st August 1962. Many changes, happy and sad, have taken place since but thankfully we have good health and were able to celebrate this very happy occasion

I left my native village of Redford, Ballyhaunis, in January 1957. Heartbroken and sad leaving home I arrived in a small town in the English Midlands called Newark. No mobile phones or Skype or texts at that time; only waiting for letters which at the time would take over a week.

I went teaching in a Poor Clare Convent and soon settled in with a few more Irish girls who were there. My best friend was Sr. Bernadette Freyne from Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis. Bernadette wasn't a nun at the time and we soon got to know where the nearest Irish dance hall was. Newark was a quiet town with no Irish entertainment. So we soon discovered 'The Queens Dance' in Nottingham which was twenty miles away; but we didn't grumble once we could hear Irish music and have a dance.

It was then I met my husband Paul Coggins, a native of Ballina. We settled in Newark and made many life-long friends, some of them travelling to celebrate our Wedding Anniversary. Five of our children were born in Newark.

My heart was always in Ireland so, in 1972, I got the opportunity to return home when we bought a place in Altore, Granlahan. Our youngest son Eugene was born in Ireland.

Soon again we settled into country life in Altore and our lovely neighbours made us very welcome and took us to their hearts and homes. Thank God for those happy years and our children enjoyed a very happy childhood with their many lovely friends in Granlahan and Ballinlough. They had many happy years playing Gaelic Football for Michael Glavey's Club. I am also very grateful to have been living close to my dear Mam and Dad in their later years.

Sadly some of our boys emigrated again but we are very proud of our son Paul who is Manager of the London Gaelic Football team. We are happy he is doing so much for the GAA in his adopted city.

August 18th was a very happy and unforgettable occasion as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary in the Árd Rí House Hotel in Tuam with relations, friends and family. I was particularly happy my sister Mary, who was my bridesmaid of fifty years ago could be present, and

also my other sister Bridie and brother Paddy. Paddy Lyons of Gurrane and his sister-in-law Connie made our night as he played a selection of Irish music. He played at our wedding fifty years ago so it was very special to us to hear Paddy play again.

We had a beautiful Mass in Granlahan Church celebrated by Fr. Pat McGarvey (brother-in-law of Paul Jr.) assisted by Fr. Joe Feeney, Ballinlough. Declan Lyons and Sr. Kathleen Lyons organised the beautiful hymns and offertory prayers. Our grandchildren joined in the hymns and I was very pleased Sr. Mary Ruane (my cousin) was the Eucharistic Minister. My two sisters brought up the gifts. This was truly the highlight of the occasion and the beginning of a wonderful celebration.

I am so happy and grateful for all the happy times we spent together during those fifty years. We are both very grateful to our family for organising such a wonderful occasion and to all our friends and relations who made it such an unforgettable day and night.

Go mbeirímid beo ag an am seo arís.

**Noreen Coggins (nee Lyons)**



**Celebrating their 50th Anniversary on 18th August 2012 are Paul and Noreen Coggins, Granlahan. Noreen (formerly Lyons), is from Redford, Ballyhaunis, while Paul hails from Ballina.**



# Coarse Angling in Ballyhaunis

Game Fishing is the jewel in the crown of Angling in the West of Ireland and possibly Europe, with the mighty river Moy and its tributaries, but followed closely by Coarse Fishing, where there is a huge increase in the sport in recent years on our many lakes and rivers. Many anglers that visit Ireland at some stage and pick up a rod, have a day's fishing on one of our many local bodies of waters. Ballyhaunis has a huge variety of fishing waters in close proximity to the town and can be the focus of a most memorable day out. With all the local waters in our area it really is not that hard to find a quiet spot on a river or lake to set up your rod and fish happily into the evening.



**Members of Ballyhaunis Coarse Angling Club who fished with Bob Nudd MBE, four times World Champion, in County Cavan recently. L-R: Leigh Maitland, Bob Nudd MBE, Callyn Murphy-Maitland and Chris Ganley.**

Ballyhaunis and District Coarse Angling Club was set up by a few local angling enthusiasts. We found that, even with all the lakes in our area, it was impossible to find a venue where we could fish together in any numbers as a club, without travelling long distances to places like Cavan, Leitrim, Roscommon, etc. due to lack of access and the overgrown nature of these natural waters.

I took a few club members down to a lake I used to fish as a boy called Derrykin to see were we able, in any way, to use it for a club venue. Derrykin is where I spent a lot of my time as a youngster, accompanied by my cousin Tomás O'Boyle, fishing for Perch with worms we dug from the muck-heap and tackle we got from James Lyons'. In those days we would walk down through the fields and bog and arrive at the lake minus half the tackle we started out with - hence the need to visit James Lyons's on a regular basis.

Upon arrival with the club members to the old road

that leads down to the lake, we had to fight a jungle of overgrown brambles, furze and potholes that would put the most neglected wilderness to shame. Eventually, reaching the lake side, we set up our gear - a lot different from what I used to use. These days the dedicated angler opts for what we call the pole to catch our fish. This basically is a long, lightweight, tapering pole which is normally around sixteen meters long but can be fished at any length, with an elastic band inside to which you tie your line. This is fished in the same manner as a rod but there is no need for a reel as the pole can be taken apart in sections as you retrieve your catch and the elastic keeps you in contact with your fish - a joy to use and so simple too.

## Amenity

After a few hours fishing we found great potential for the lake with the abundance of Roach which seem to have taken over from the Perch that once dominated the lake. Roach are at present classed as an invasive species but are the main quarry for any angler wishing to fill his keep net. We set out a plan to have the roadway cleared and make it possible to drive to the lake as the amount of tackle the modern angler has in his armoury is astounding. I would class myself as an average angler and would estimate my tackle to have a retail price in the region of €4,000. Some anglers have a lot more tackle than I have and could accumulate something in the region of €10,000. This is due to them refining their art of angling and being at the top of their game.

Our plan for the roadway was taken to local politicians and local landowners and with their help and our Club holding various fund-raising activities, including the Festival Duck Race held every year on the River Dalgan, we were able to raise funds to develop the roadway down to the water's edge.

We now have a local amenity that everyone can avail of, whether it be fishing, boating or walking. The Club at present are in talks with Began Walking Group with a view to extend footpaths around the lake, and have a loop walk which will be a huge asset to the whole community as well as a huge benefit to anglers wishing to fish the southern shore. Apart from Derrykin the Club has had works carried out on Eaton's Lake after talks with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Ballina, and are in the process of incorporating works on Eaton's Lake with works on Derrykin Lake.

Eaton's Lake is what I would call a specimen lake with large Tench, Bream and Roach being caught on a regular basis throughout the summer. Our Club has had a huge increase in membership since we started and we continue to grow with beginners and more experienced





members joining throughout the year. Our membership runs from January to January. It is our intention to have a junior fishing session at regular intervals as we need to teach our youth the angling techniques to be able to fish like champions and have a healthy outdoor pursuit that will stand them for years to come. When you catch your first fish it is not you hooking the fish but fishing hooking you! We fish weekly matches with all age groups from eleven to eighty, and have a very competitive league system as well. There is something for everyone

even if you never held a rod before.

Fishing is a pastime, a sport, a way of relaxation and one everybody should try at least once. On many an occasion I have had to tear myself away from a situation where all the favourable conditions combine and it's the best fishing you've had, but light is fading and tummy empty as well as your flask - and when this happens then the day is over but with just one more cast before you leave...

**Chris Ganley**

## Sketches by Diarmuid Byrne, Gurteen

*Right:*

Hollywood Actor, **Jack Nicholson**.

*Bottom left:*

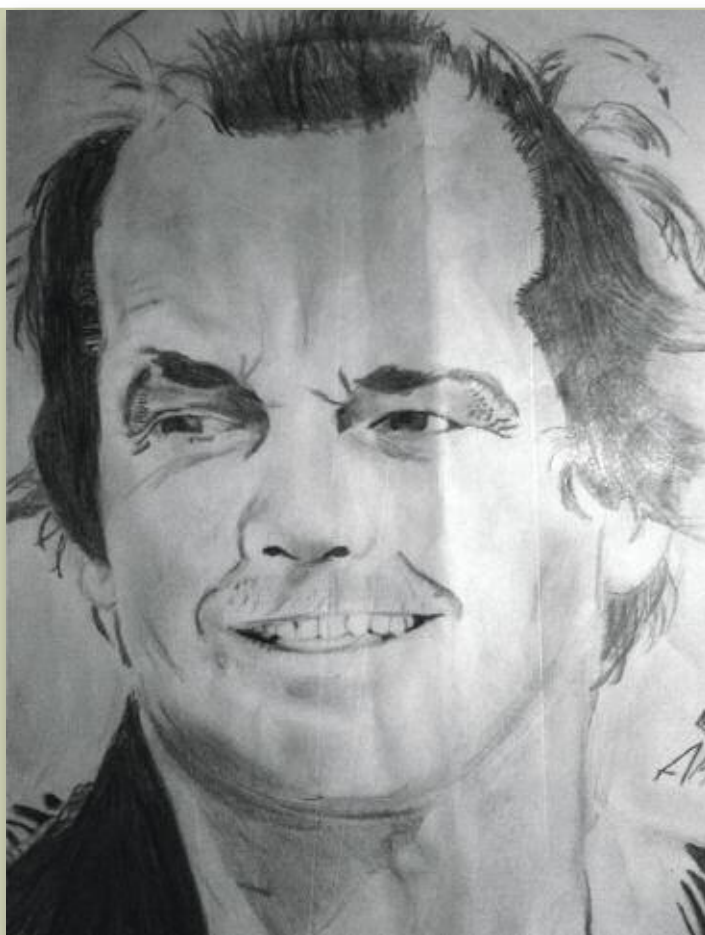
Rock star, **Bruce Springsteen 'The Boss'**.

*Centre:*

Guitarist with Guns 'n Roses, **Slash**.

*Bottom right:*

Singer, **Rihanna**.



# Ballyhaunis Population Up

According to the Central Statistics Office, Ballyhaunis is the fastest growing town in County Mayo. The CSO released this report on the 26th April this year, following the 2011 census.

Based on the last two censuses, the population of Ballyhaunis has risen from 1,708 (2006) to 2,312 (2011), which represents a 35.4% increase in the town's population. The report also showed that the split between the sexes is 51.7% male and 48.3% female.

Further drilling into the report shows the following population split between age groups below:

0 to 4 yrs	233
5 to 12 yrs	300
13 to 18 yrs	158
19 to 24 yrs	163
25 to 34 yrs	493
35 to 44 yrs	314
45 to 54 yrs	242
55 to 64 yrs	192
65 to 74 yrs	128
75 yrs +	89

So what conclusions can we draw from these numbers? The considerable population growth means that there are more consumers than before, which should be good news for local businesses. We are a youthful town: with nearly 60% of the town's population under the age of 35. The almost 50/50 split between the sexes should mean that if you are looking for love locally you are in with a good chance!

**Fergal O'Mahony**

John Healy, formerly of Drimbane, with niece and god-daughter Felicity Healy. John was a regular visitor to Ballyhaunis over the years and sadly passed away recently.



# Reminiscing

Tonight I am reminiscing  
I have turned back the years  
Removed the locks and from both the doors  
And forgot about my fears

Removed the TV from the shelf  
And put it out of sight  
Replaced it with a radio  
Commentating on a fight

Put the mobile phone on silent  
Took the handset off the wall  
Tonight the only interruption  
Neighbours' footsteps in the hall

Reached up to the fuse board  
Reversed the on-off handle  
Got an empty bottle from the press  
And placed in it a candle

Replaced the coal and briquettes  
With a seasoned wooden log  
And a couple o' sods of well dried turf  
Harvested from the local bog

The lid from off the oven  
I will heat until just right  
Wrap in a woollen sweater  
Place in the bed tonight

Stare out through the window  
Watch the snowflakes as they fall  
Pretend it's Christmas Eve again  
And Santa's sure to call

Will I read passage from the book  
Or Rosary instead  
Then go outside – melt a little snow  
Before I go to bed

**Seamus Hora**



On the way to the All Ireland Football Final, 2012.  
L-R: Lisa Henry, Laura Lyons, Mikey Walsh (Kerry),  
Bernadette Flanagan, John Flanagan, Carmel Regan.





# A Trip to the Zoo

Dublin Zoo was celebrating the fiftieth birthday of 'Betty' and 'Wendy', two of their resident chimpanzees, and advertised free entry to the over fifties to mark the occasion.

So, as the song goes, "Early one morning, as the sun was rising", two gentlemen - Matt and Brendan - along with staff members of Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Sam and Joan, caught the 8.04 train to Heuston. We took our table/window seats and headed off.

Joan and Sam, thankfully, were fairly robust creatures because when we arrived at Heuston we found out that there was no bus facility direct to the zoo. Matt and Brendan must have foreseen this happening and decided to travel by wheelchair and now, with picnic eaten and washed down by lukewarm tea, we seemed heavier than when the picnic was in the bags!

On entrance to the Zoo we had our photographs taken against a green screen which we could see the results of on our departure. The weather was mainly good and we managed to get around most of the Zoo in between the rain showers. Some of the monkeys were a little too much on show for publication in Annagh Magazine! On arrival at 'Betsy' and 'Wendy's' enclosure the rain came thick and fast, and unfortunately they must have been at the hairdressers earlier, as they were under cover trying to keep themselves sheltered for the RTE cameras. 'Kituba' a year old gorilla snuggled into its mother's



arms, whilst we presume its father lay on its back sleeping with the occasional large yawn exposing massive teeth. The rhino grazed in the African Savanna with zebra and giraffe. Young orangutans swung off the cages in their enclosure, whilst the largest sat by the window and put his hand to the glass. Grey wolves ran around in small packs in a hunting manner (you certainly wouldn't want one of them as a pet). Red pandas came out to view their audience and soon dismissed them again. Chilean flamingos stood on one leg amidst other species of smaller birds on the lake. The only one thing that saddened us all was the death of one of the lions, such a gracious creature.

By late afternoon our legs were beginning to buckle and we headed back to the train for the journey home. The day was one of laughter, one-liners and rain... A day we fondly remember.



John Morley, Island, who attended the 'Combines 4 Charity' event in Platin, Duleek, Co. Meath (near Drogheda) on 28th July 2012, where 208 combine harvesters worked side-by-side cutting a crop of winter barley. They set a new World Record and raised €150,000 for charity.





# Summer Reading Programme

Children from Ballyhaunis who completed the Summer Reading Programme at Ballyhaunis Library, photographed with Eleanor Freyne (Ballyhaunis Library), Mary Gannon (Senior Librarian), Bridie Wimsey (Kiltimagh Library) and Cllr. John Cribbin.

*Photographs: Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.*







## Sincere Thanks

On behalf of the family of the late David Fitzmaurice, we would like to thank everyone who donated to the Fundraiser which was held in Mac's Pub in Ballyhaunis on St. Patrick's weekend 2012. We would also like to thank those who donated prizes for the raffle. The night could not have happened without the support of Nuala and Stephen Nolan of Mac's and their support in helping to organise the fundraiser.



**L-R: Nuala Nolan (MacSiúrtáin's), Caroline Davy (Mayo Branch of the Diabetes Federation of Ireland), Paul Fitzmaurice (David's brother), Stephen Nolan (MacSiúrtáin's), Joe Ryan (Mayo Branch of the Diabetes Federation of Ireland).**

We organised the fundraiser in memory of the late David Fitzmaurice who passed away suddenly on December 1st, 2011, from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS).

David had been diagnosed with Diabetes in July 2007 and after his passing we wanted to give something back to the Diabetes Federation of Ireland for all their support which David had received since July 2007. The amount raised on the night was €1,415.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated to the David Fitzmaurice Memorial Fund on [www.mycharity.ie](http://www.mycharity.ie). The amount raised there is €3,737.





# Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group

Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group continues to train members of the community in CPR techniques and how to use a defibrillator.

At the start of 2012, as three of our four Instructors moved on to pastures new, they were replaced by Orla Moran (Gurteen), Edel Conway (Hazelhill) and Grainne McPolin (Logboy). Marina Coyne of Doctor's Road is our group's fourth Instructor. Each has completed an Irish Heart Foundation Heartsaver Instructor Course and they volunteer their time at the various training sessions.

A full training course lasts approximately three and a half hours and details how to do CPR techniques on adults and children and how to use a defibrillator. Certificates are issued after a number of weeks by the Irish Heart Foundation. These certificates last two years and, after they expire, the Irish Heart Foundation requires people to complete a new full training course again. They also recommend that reminder training is held every ninety days to keep people up-to-date on their new skills. We usually hold these reminder sessions in the Friary House and they last approximately twenty minutes.

The training equipment needed for the training sessions has proved to be very expensive to buy and so, earlier this year, our group held a Table Quiz in The Hazel with Tommy Caulfield as an excellent Quizmaster. A fantastic group supported us on the night and many families attended which was great to see. Much needed funds were also raised on the evening and it is hoped to make this an annual fundraiser for us. Many thanks to our main sponsors on the night - Homecare Medical Supplies; to Margaret Byrne of the Hazel, and to all the other businesses and private donors who also contributed spot-prizes.

As everyone knows, heart attacks are not just confined to a certain older age group and we have all read stories in the newspapers of young people who have collapsed and died. It is very important that wherever groups of people gather, be it at a sporting event, social evening or at school, that there is a defibrillator nearby and people who know how to use it. To this end, Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group is approaching various sporting organisations in the Parish over the coming months as well as our local schools and offering full training sessions in CPR techniques and how to use a defibrillator, for a small fee. It is hoped that within the next twelve months we will have trained groups of teachers, various trainers

of sport, as well as members of health and safety committees so that they will know what to do if an emergency should arise.

Our group is also updating our lists of trained people so that we can deliver to each household a list of people in their locality who have taken part in a full training course. If people wish their name to be removed from the list they should contact (086) 2076581. People who remain on the list and whose certificates are older than two years will be contacted to take part in another full training session.

Many thanks to our committee members for their attendance at meetings during the year and without whose help, our group could no longer continue. You can support our group through taking part in the training sessions when advertised and coming to the reminder sessions in the Friary House because you never know when you may need to help that person beside you.

**Paula Grogan, (Chairperson)**

## Locations of the twelve Defibrillators around the Parish of Annagh (Ballyhaunis):

1. The Golf Club, Coolnaha
2. Michael and Rose Nolan, Brackloon
3. Helen Hoban, Derrynacon
4. Michael and Rosaleen Kelly, Kiltybo
5. Joe and Kay Healy, Annagh
6. Shane Burke, Tullaghaune
7. James and Caitríona McGuire, Johnstown
8. Stephen and Nuala Nolan, Kilmannin
9. Scoil Iosa National School, Abbeyquarter
10. Austin and Dorothy Biesty, Pattenspark
11. St. Patrick's Church, Main Street, Ballyhaunis
12. G.A.A. Entrance Gates, Knock Road







### BAPTISMS in the Parish of Annagh Nov. 2011 – Oct. 2012

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon McDonagh</li> <li>• Aivita Kinderyte</li> <li>• Quincey Chibuike Ogbuka</li> <li>• Elizabeth Burcovski</li> <li>• Victoria Burcovski</li> <li>• Andrea Mary Ward</li> <li>• Lily Ciara Murphy</li> <li>• Michael Webb</li> <li>• Lauren Karen Finn</li> <li>• Noah John Damron</li> <li>• Kate Ann Monaghan</li> <li>• Favor Bususiwe Olamide Dube</li> <li>• Annabelle McGowan</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noah Terence Maughan</li> <li>• Shanise Eileen McCarthy</li> <li>• Jacob Mark Gossy</li> <li>• Allanah Nora O'Dwyer</li> <li>• Finn Darragh Morley</li> <li>• Alicia Alex Biesty</li> <li>• Shauna Aoibhe Biesty</li> <li>• Ryan Joseph Carrick</li> <li>• Tobiaš Jaroslav Faktor</li> <li>• James Christopher McKermitt</li> <li>• Aoife Maria Cameron Canny</li> <li>• Karin Katarina Bicánovska</li> <li>• Charlotte Vanessa Lupinkova</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michaela Helena Kavanagh</li> <li>• James Aodh McLoughlin</li> <li>• Olivia Feeney</li> <li>• Thomas Gerard McDonagh</li> <li>• Jaide Orioma Isaac</li> <li>• Milena Pietruszewska</li> <li>• Erin Lily Mahoney Rogers</li> <li>• Rose-Ellen McDonagh</li> <li>• Molly Phyllis Thompson</li> <li>• Patrick James Gallagher</li> <li>• Jamie Patrick Collins</li> <li>• Ronan McGuire</li> <li>• Santana Ryan</li> </ul> |
|---|---|--|

### DECEASED of the Parish November 2011 – October 2012

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Eagney, St. Gerald's Crescent and Churchpark</li> <li>• David Fitzmaurice, Forthill</li> <li>• Mary Donoghue, St. Gerald's Crescent</li> <li>• Mary Morley, Island</li> <li>• Andrew Comber, England and Ballybeg</li> <li>• Jason Morley, Larganboy and Knox Street.</li> <li>• Mary Freeley, Derrynacong</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwendoline Wansuh Fomjang, Old Convent and Cameroon</li> <li>• Noreen Horkan, Churchpark</li> <li>• Vera O'Connell, Drimbane</li> <li>• Nina Dyer, Lurgan and Dublin</li> <li>• Tom Cunnane, Larganboy</li> <li>• Paddy McKenna, Gurrane</li> <li>• Austin Grogan, Doctor's Road</li> <li>• Mary Kenny, Carrowbeg</li> <li>• Patrick Comber, Ballybeg</li> <li>• Nancy Neary, The Maples</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alice Lyons, Clare St.</li> <li>• Val O'Dowd, Station Rise</li> <li>• Mary Josephine Finn, Devlis</li> <li>• Aengus Finn, Devlis</li> <li>• Tom Heneghan, Tullaghane</li> <li>• John Morley, Knox St.</li> <li>• Ellen Barrett, Station Rise</li> <li>• Sheila McDonnell, Ballinphuill</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|

### MARRIAGES, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, Nov. 2011 – Oct. 2012

- Yvonne Fitzmaurice, Forthill  
Peter Finn, Tooreen
- Bridget McDonagh, The Maples  
Michael McDonagh, Wakefield, Leeds
- Claire Healy, Ballindrehid  
Seamus Kenny, Urlaur, Kilkelly
- Laura Nestor, Doctor's Road  
Kenneth Nally, Barna, Co. Galway
- Jane O'Connor, Annagh  
Tadhg Buckley, Knock Road

### MARRIAGES Elsewhere Nov. 2011 – Oct. 2012

- Pamela Heaney, Lecarrow  
Peter Oates, Dublin
- Mark Neenan, Bracklaghboy  
Colette McClearn, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- Jonathan McNamara, Devlis  
Samantha Kavanagh, Devlis
- Michael Regan, Lecarrow  
Gineta Butaite, Lecarrow
- Mark Curley, Bridge St.  
Tracey Kennedy, Dublin
- Paul Biesty, Carrowkeel  
Fiona Prendergast, Barnacarroil
- Seamas London, Knock Road  
Pamela Davoren, Loughrea, Co. Galway
- James Mulrennan, Gurteen  
Edel Kilgallon, Attymass





# Wedding Photographs



Simon McCafferty, Doctor's Road and Rebecca Carville, Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh, married in Crossmaglen in 2011.



Paul Biesty, Carrowkeel and Fiona Prendergast, Upper Mace, Claremorris, married in Church of Our Lady, Barnacarroil.



Mark Curley, Derrymore and Tracey Kennedy, Dublin, married in Dublin. *Mark Griffin Photo.*



Damian Brennan, Agloragh and Michelle Milner, Co. Laois, married in St. John's Church, Killenard, Co. Laois.





**Brian Byrne, Doctor's Road and Ina Vezyte, Lithuania, married in Kilmessan, Co. Meath.**



**Edel Cunniffe, Tooreen and John Burke, Cloonfad, married in St. Mary's Church Tooreen.**



**Keith Curley, Sligo and Rebecca Doherty, Sligo, married in Sitges, Spain. Keith is son of Eamon Curley, formerly of Main St., Ballyhaunis**



**Frank Fahey, Devlis and Nikki Thomas, Dunedin, New Zealand, married in New Zealand.**





**Yvonne Fitzmaurice, Forthill and Peter Finn, Cappagh, Tooreen, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.**



**Anna Grogan, Began and Daniel Broughton, Perth, Western Australia married in Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Began. *Dillon Photography.***



**James Forde, Knock and Elsa Papadopoulou, Greece, married in the Cathedral Church of Hagia Sofia Thessaloniki.**



**Brian Flanagan, Ballindrehid and Ruth Creavan, Currandulla, married in Ballintubber Abbey.**







**Patrick Godfrey, Moate, Logboy and Joelyn Keane, Cloonfad, married in Lanzarote.**



**Claire Healy, Ballindrehid and Seamus Kenny, Urlaur, Kilkelly, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.**  
*Photo by [www.stratfordphotography.ie](http://www.stratfordphotography.ie)*



**Felicity Healy, Llanelli, Wales and Daniel Benson, Cardiff, married in Llanelli. Felicity is daughter of Jim Healy, late of Drimbane, Ballyhaunis.**



**Pamela Heaney, Lecarrow and Peter Oates, married in St. Patrick and St. Killian's Church, Clara Vale, Co. Wicklow.**





**Robert Herr, Crossmolina and Sharon Armstrong, Cloonacool, Co. Sligo, married in Cloonacool. Robert is son of Michael and Chris Herr, Knox St., Ballyhaunis and Crossmolina.**



**David Kilcourse, Station Rise and Sherin Barsoum, Sydney, Australia, married in The Church of the Holy Apostles and Saint Abanaub, Blacktown, Sydney.**



**Denise McGuire, Ballykilleen, Cloonfad and Austin Finn, Cappagh, Tooreen, married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.**



**Seamas Lundon, Knock Road and Pamela Davoren, Loughrea, Co. Galway, married in Our Lady Star of The Sea Church, Quilty, Co. Clare.**





**Karl Lyons, Station Rise and Caroline Coyne, Carnbeg, Aghamore, married in St. Mary's Church, Tooreen.**



**Jane O'Connor, Annagh and Tadgh Buckley, Knock Road, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, with son Jack.**



**Geraldine Lyons, Tooreen and Michael Kilcourse, Station Rise, married in St. Mary's Church Tooreen.**



**Conor McManus, Churchpark and Úna Keary, Mountbellew, Co. Galway, married in St. Mary's Church, Mountbellew.**





**Lorraine Moroney, Abbeyquarter and Ciarán Jordan, Galway, married in Barna Church, Co. Galway.**



**Sean Morris, Eden, Knock and Siobhán Morley, Cloonfaughna, Knock, married in St. Anne's Church, Shanvaghera, Knock.**



**James Mulrennan, Gurteen and Edel Kilgallon, Attymass, married in Loulé Church, Algarve, Portugal.**



**Mark Neenan, Coolnafarna and Colette McClearn, Loughrea, Co. Galway, married in St. Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea**





**Ciara Nicholson, Bridge St. and Hugh McKermitt, Esker Pines, married in Athlone.**



**Sarah O'Connor, Hazelhill and Kevin Miles, married in London.**



**Thomas O'Dowd and Angela Garic who were married in Adelaide, Australia. Thomas' mother was Margaret Cribbin from Johnstown.**



**Rita Page, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon and Albert Clasby, Portumna, Co. Galway, married in Ballintubber Abbey, Co. Mayo.**







**Fiona Phillips and Joel Denning, married in Hertfordshire, England, pictured with Fiona's parents, Tom and Trisha Phillips (nee Grogan, formerly of Clare St., Ballyhaunis).**



**Declan Shields, Devlis and Louise Kelly, Cloone, Co. Leitrim, married in Westport.**



**Damien Waldron, Holywell and Janette Kilkenny, Knock. Married in the Church of St. John the Baptist, Knock.**



**Michelle Lannon, Greenwood and Richard Vahey, Cloonfad, married in Phuket, Thailand.**





# Ballyhaunis Boys' National Schools

## 1820 -1940

As Ballyhaunis this year celebrates the coming together of the Junior and Senior parts of Scoil Íosa on a single campus, perhaps readers may be interested in the tentative beginnings of primary school education in Ballyhaunis in the nineteenth century.

The record below is transcribed, and partly edited, from a note-book of the late Dr. Michael F. Waldron of Knox Street (1876 -1954). I am indebted to Joe Keane of Knox Street. for this particular notebook. Clearly the account is based on local knowledge gleaned from older people of the 1940's, as well as documentary sources. The account is just one of many from the voluminous scholarly writings of this Ballyhaunis genius of the past, locally remembered as 'Michael P.A. Waldron' because of his more extrovert and better-known brother, P.A. Waldron, who was Principal of Ballyhaunis Boys National School from 1909 to 1932. Part of Dr. Michael's archive has been conserved in the National Library in Dublin (see Anthony Jordan' article in Annagh 1996). A great portion of his archive, in the form of scrapbooks, notebooks etc, has been in the care of this writer for some years. Conservation and digitisation work has been in progress for the past year and it is hoped to have Dr. Michael's enormous archive made available electronically, through the help of Mayo County Library in 2013.

### **Dr. Michael F. Waldron's Account (c.1942)**

One of the permanent links with modern Ballyhaunis was forged in 1820 when, by public subscription, a town school was erected. Its first teacher was Patrick Crane. He left Ballyhaunis for Belmullet where he died. He was succeeded by a Mr. McGreevey. According to an octogenarian resident the school was originally in a building in Knox Street known later as the 'old courthouse', afterwards used by Mark Waldron a store for oats and potatoes.<sup>1</sup>

When application was made to the National Education authorities in 1832 the teacher's name was Laurence Groarke. The school was a one-storey thatched house with clay floor and four windows. It measured forty feet by fourteen feet and had eight benches for 140 pupils. The teacher's pay was £15 (possibly per annum).

Prior to the establishment of the National Education system in the parish, education was conducted by free-lance individuals, the pedagogical successors of the hedge-school masters. The names of some of the last members of the order are known as the older generation could speak of them from direct knowledge. Roderick Judge and Cormac Higgins had academies of their own on opposite sides of Main Street. Roddy Judge also

discharged other duties as priest's servant and sacristan. A Miss Wade used to teach girls in a little house, approached by a number of steps, just outside the boundary of St. Patrick's Church at the end of Broddy Byrne's house. Jimmy Higgins from Carrowkeel was another teacher. He used also read a chapter from the Irish Catechism in the church on Sundays between the ringing of the first and last bell for Mass. A teacher named Doyle (grandfather of Ellen Finnegan) was a native of Reisk and, according to all accounts, a man with definite views of his own importance and respectabilities.

The old National School, a thatched house opposite the Friary cemetery was officially opened on July 12th, 1865.<sup>2</sup> Charles Strickland (Lord Dillon's agent) was Manager and John Grogan was Principal. The dimensions of the school were: length thirty-two feet; breadth eleven feet six inches, external height to eaves was eight feet. There were four desks, eight feet long and four forms also eight feet long.

John Grogan, who succeeded McGreevey, left for Frenchpark in May 1871. In July 1875 the school staff consisted of: P.J. Heavey (Principal), Andrew Forde (Assistant), Michael Coen (Monitor),<sup>3</sup> Joseph M. Heavey (Monitor)(son of Principal, later ordained to priesthood). Number of pupils on rolls: 1876 – 228; 1878 – 242; 1879 – 310; 1888 - 228; Average attendance about 60%.

### **New School**

On Monday 12th April 1880 the newly built school in Abbeyquarter was opened. It had been built during the preceding year by one Pat Feeney of Ballagherareen. Patrick J. Heavey had already been appointed Principal on January 1st, 1871. He was first trained in 1859. Canon James Waldron P.P. was appointed Manager on July 7th, 1882.<sup>4</sup> In 1887 the teacher's residence opposite the school was built by Pat English from Swinford.

Canon Waldron was an earnest educationalist with a special leaning towards Greek and Latin. Teachers qualified to give instruction in these languages always got preference when appointments were to be made. He used to go about personally interviewing parents of promising pupils and encouraging them to have their boys taught the Classics. Mr. Costello (1879-80) established classes for the senior pupils and presented them at the annual results examinations. Martin Fahy was appointed Principal in 1883, one of his chief recommendations being that he would give instruction in elementary Greek and Latin as well as Irish. Canon Waldron was a native Irish speaker himself. He was



Manager from 1882 to 1892 the year of his death.

Canon Canning, P.P. from 1893-1921, was also a native Irish speaker and a zealous educationalist. He took a very keen interest in the educational progress of the parish both religious and secular. He regularly visited all the schools under his control and made enquiries concerning the attendance and progress of almost every individual pupil. He constantly attended the Gaelic League classes on Sunday afternoons and took an active part in teaching and examining.

Patrick J. Heavey, who was appointed Principal in 1871 lived until 1878. He was father of the late Fr. Joseph Heavey and Most Rev Dr. John Heavey OSA, Bishop of Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Mr. Costello succeeded Mr. Heavey but left in 1879 or 1880. Mr. O'Gara replaced him and taught until 1883. Martin Fahy, who came from Hollywood, Co. Down, took up the work. Mr. Fahy taught from 1883 to 1909 the year of his death. Mr. Fahy was

succeeded in 1909 by P.A. Waldron who retired in 1932 and was succeeded by William Mulligan.

**Fr. Kieran Waldron**

#### Notes

1. *The premises were at the end of Knox St. (at that time), approximately the site of the present Lantern Bar.*
2. *The thatched school was replaced some time after 1900 by the double two-storey house built by Mr. Ruane, and still in existence directly across from the main Friary gates.*
3. *Monitors were untrained assistants, many of them in their late teens, who subsequently went for training.*
4. *During the lifetime of Archbishop John McHale, who died in 1881, parish priests were not generally School Managers because of the Archbishop's opposition to the National School system.*

## Grand Marshal of Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade

It was a very proud day for Sean Neary when he was chosen to lead the Bayonne, New Jersey, St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18th 2012.

A native of Culnacleha, Tulrahan, Sean was the unanimous choice of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Day committee to be their Grand Marshal for the 32nd Annual Parade.

It is no surprise that Sean was chosen for the honour for this year's spectacle. He has been quietly working behind the scenes in several Irish organisations, promoting Irish Heritage since his arrival in the States back in April 1987.

Son of Maureen (nee Walsh), a native of Drimaderra, and the late Paddy Neary, Culnacleha, Sean has been a great ambassador for his native country in his adopted United States for more than twenty years. He has been



**Grand Marshall 2012 Sean Neary with his Deputy Grand Marshall and old school friend Sean Hession, Brickens. Sean is the owner of Willie McBride's in Hoboken.**



**St. Patrick's Day Parade, Bayonne, New Jersey, 2012. L-R: Karen Neary-McDonnell, Sean Neary, Grand Marshall, Maureen Neary and Jeanette Neary.**

a prominent member of the parade committee during those two decades, and recently he was a founding member of the Bayonne Shamrocks Society.

A former pupil of Tulrahan National School and later of Ballyhaunis Community School, Sean married New Yorker Suzanne Brunner in 1999, and the couple have one daughter, Shannon, who is a student at All Saints Academy.

Sean's mother, Maureen, and sisters Jeanette and Karen flew in from Mayo to be with their brother on his very important day.





# Reunion of Brackloon School and District

In conjunction with 'The Gathering' initiatives for 2013, the people of Brackloon wish to organise a reunion of the people of the Brackloon area.

While Brackloon National School is a natural focus for the project, it is not defined as the only reason to commemorate the area. In relation to people going to school in Brackloon, it was noted that many people in Brackloon environs and particularly the old Brackloon Postal Area also went to other national schools such as Coolnafarna, Gorthaganny, Ballyhaunis, Clooncan and Crossard. With this in mind we invite anyone with an interest in the area, memories of school days, knowledge

of historical events etc., to contribute to the occasion. The organising committee is just being formed at time of completion of Annagh Magazine, but we plan to run an event over the Christmas period. Keep an eye out on local press for details of forthcoming associated events.

In the meantime, articles for a proposed commemorative publication can be forwarded by email to: Seamus Kenny [seamusjkenny@hotmail.com](mailto:seamusjkenny@hotmail.com) or Mary Finan [maryfinan2@hotmail.com](mailto:maryfinan2@hotmail.com). We have also arranged with John Forde, The Square, if anyone wants to drop off articles or photos related to the event.

## Brackloon Spaddagh Group Water Scheme Open Day

A very successful Open Day was held recently at the Brackloon Spaddagh Group Water Scheme treatment plant at Togher, Ballyhaunis. The state-of-the-art Nano filtration plant was commissioned in September 2006 as part of the D.B.O. contract covering thirteen schemes in Mayo, part funded by the EU and the Irish government's National Development Plan. All members of the Group were invited to see the plant in operation. On hand to explain in detail how the plant works were Sandra Keane, Operations Manager Aecom, who operate the plant on a twenty year contract, and Michael Conroy, Plant Operator. We also had Paul Connolly, Development Officer, National Federation of Group Water Schemes,



**Kevin Devaney of Brackloon Spaddagh Group Water Scheme in the Group's storage facilities.**

who has been very helpful down through the years.

It was gratifying to see such a good turnout by so many of our members, and we wish to thank them for their co-operation down through the years.

Refreshments were provided on the day by Marie Cribbin and Kevin Durkan, who carried out the catering. On behalf of all our members, I wish to thank Kevin Devaney and Anthony Plunkett who organised the day.

**Chairman:** Kevin Durkan;  
**Treasurer:** Anthony Plunkett;  
**Secretary:** Joe Fitzmaurice;

**Committee:** Kevin Devaney, Pat Duffy, Paul McGuire, Denis Sloyan, Ray Sloyan.

**Joe Fitzmaurice**  
**Secretary**

## *Annagh 2013*

**The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2013 is Friday, October 18th, 2013.**

**Email: [info@annaghmag.ie](mailto:info@annaghmag.ie)**

### **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. Due to the large volume of material submitted, regrettably, it may not be possible to include all photographs supplied.

Photos will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.



# A Wonderful Experience

When I initially heard about the trip to the Holy Land in early 2012, I was not certain it was the right trip for me. I thought pilgrimages were only for elderly people as I never heard of anyone my age travelling to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage. My mam had wanted to visit the Holy Land for a long time and she told me she wouldn't go if I didn't. So, I decided I would go.

Arriving at the airport, meeting Fr. Benny McHale, our group leader and the forty-eight other people whom were all set for the trip, made it all feel so real. After landing in Israel my feelings towards the whole trip changed. I was full of excitement and wonder.

Everyone got to know each other during the two weeks and we became one big family. From the first day of our pilgrimage to the last day when we all landed safely back in Ireland, it was the most wonderful experience of my life.

During the readings at Mass and in the Gospels you hear all about these different places where Jesus performed miracles, where he lived his life and the wonderful places he had been. You don't take much notice or don't respect it fully until you yourself walk the streets and visit all the different places where our Lord did so many wonderful things. Throughout our pilgrimage we visited many different places such as Jesus' Tomb, which was one of the most beautiful and magnificent experiences. We visited the old city of Jerusalem, the Milk Grotto, Mary's Well, Capernaum, Mount Tabor, Mount of Temptation, the Shepherd's Field and many, many more places including the beautiful Church of the Nativity, which marks the site where Jesus was born.

Another activity that made the trip so wonderful was sailing across the Sea of Galilee, remembering the outstanding events that took place in that very spot. Another fun experience was floating on the Dead Sea. YES! You really do float. It was very exciting and everyone in the group had so much fun. Renewing our baptismal vows in the River Jordan was one of the most remarkable events throughout the pilgrimage. We all dressed in long white gowns, walked into the river and renewed our baptismal vows in the very water Jesus was baptised in.

My favourite part of the whole trip was the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This is where Jesus' Tomb is to be found. Entering Jesus' Tomb was a great feeling. This is also where Calvary is to be found, where Jesus was crucified. I felt a strong presence of Jesus on my

pilgrimage, especially in the church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Then it all came to an end. The getting up at six o'clock every morning, the excitement of it all was over and it was time to go home. Everyone was feeling down having to say goodbye to the Holy Land after having such a wonderful time. On our way to the airport we passed a Shepherd sitting on a rock in a field praying and looking after his sheep. It was only five o'clock in the morning and it was so beautiful to see.



**L-R: Adrienne Walsh, Laura Carney, ASLFL, Matt McCoy, Paul Hyland, Justin Kelly, Eoin Mulkerrin.**

Arriving in Dublin Airport was the saddest part of the trip. Having to say goodbye to so many wonderful people of all ages - friends made that will never be forgotten. I have to say it was the most extraordinary experience of my life. I would recommend everyone, no matter what age, to take a trip to the Holy Land. I am so happy that I went and I will definitely go again!

## ASLFL Programme

After my trip to the Holy Land I took part in the Albert Schweitzer Leadership For Life (ASLFL) programme in Maynooth from the 30th July to the 3rd August. The ASLFL programme recognises the innate leadership capabilities and potential in young people and gives them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and abilities in a fun and encouraging environment. The programme is for fifteen to eighteen year olds who have demonstrated good leadership abilities and aspire to being leaders in the future.

In order to participate in the programme I had to apply. I feel that I was very lucky to be picked as there were only 280 places to be filled by people from Ireland, UK, USA, Nigeria, Korea, Palestine, Canada, India and Russia. The programme consists of three modules. I





completed Module 1 this year.

On the 30th of July it was time to depart for Maynooth. The week consisted of talks given by guest speakers, activities, workshops, sports, relaxing and having fun developing leadership skills. Guest speakers such as Liam McKenna - Jedward's manager; Sean Gallagher of 'Dragon's Den'; Joanne O'Riordan - an inspiring teenage from Cork; Cecilia Retelle - Senior Director of Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce, Washington D.C.; and of course our Ambassador - famous American actor, Matt McCoy. All of these inspirational guest speakers had outstanding backgrounds and appealed to the 280 young people who were present in Maynooth that week.

Throughout the week everyone took part in workshops which helped us develop more confidence in

ourselves, helping us achieve our goals. Each night there were different activities for everyone to get involved in, such as scavenger hunt, culture night, quiz night, karaoke night, sports evening and a 'meet your neighbour' hour which gave us the opportunity to get to know the people we were staying with for the week. On the last night we graduated receiving certificates and badges from the ASLFL programme.

I can safely say that everyone was sad leaving. I would really encourage anyone who is involved in Foróige and who is between the ages of fifteen and eighteen to get involved in the ASLFL programme, as it is an experience of a lifetime. I would like to thank all the leaders for making it happen. I cannot wait to complete Module 2 next year!

**Laura Carney**

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## CD Launch

Maria McGarry launched her first solo piano CD, 20th Century Piano Masterworks, at a recital at the Hugh Lane Dublin City Gallery last January. The concert, which received a standing ovation, was followed by the official launch of the CD by Clíodhna Ní Anluain, presenter of the popular RTE 1 radio programme, 'Sunday Miscellany'. The CD was released on the London-based Seven Cedars Music label and features a selection of European piano works from the twentieth century by composers such as Berg, Messiaen and Schoenberg, as well as the much loved classic, the 'Maiden and the Nightingale' by Enrique Granados.

It's been a busy year for Maria McGarry with a tour of Ireland including venues such as Kilkenny, Sligo, Castlebar, Ballina, Clifden and Boyle as well as a performance at the National Concert Hall, Dublin with the Amsterdam-based saxophone quartet, the 'Amstel Quartet' in March. She also recorded new works by Irish composers, Eilís Farrell, Breffni O'Byrne and Martin O'Leary for Lyric FM which was broadcast during the finals of the Dublin International Piano Competition in May. She appeared as a guest artist on RTE's Sunday Miscellany's broadcast from the Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire as part of the 'Mountains to Sea Book Festival'.

One of the highlights of the year was the concert in St. Mary's Church, Tuam, as part of the Galway Arts Festival, in celebration of the work of local playwright, Tom Murphy. The concert showcased musical works which influenced Murphy's writing such as Mozart's Sonata for Piano and Violin (performed with violinist Catherine Leonard) and the famous 'Trout Quintet' by Schubert (with Catherine Leonard, Becky Jones, Sarah MacMahon and Sarah Halpin).



Since winning the 'Ulster Bank Music Foundation Bursary' on the 'Late Late Show' several years ago, Maria McGarry has enjoyed an illustrious career which has seen her perform across Europe, USA and Canada, including such prestigious venues as Wigmore Hall, the Aspen Music Festival, and the 'Palais de Nations', Geneva. She studied at the famous Juilliard School, New York, gaining their highest performance qualification, the 'Artist Diploma in Performance'. She is now a member of faculty at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin.

Maria's new CD is available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and from [www.mariamcgarry.net](http://www.mariamcgarry.net).



# Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

This year was unlike any other year for Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool - It's the year we thought would never come.

We heard that Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Michael Ring, was allocating grants to improve outdoor swimming pools. We contacted his office to get further information. A meeting was arranged with Mayo County Council and the Swimming Pool Committee (Marie Jordan, Agatha Higgins and Edward Mulhern), Tadhg Buckley (EPS), Padraic Flanagan (Senior Executive Officer, MCC), Tom Feerick (Local Engineer MCC), Engineers and Architects from Mayo County Council. At this meeting architects from Mayo County Council presented plans outlining the refurbishment of the pool. They looked very impressive.

In May Minister Ring approved funding of €352,800 for refurbishment works at the Swimming Pool, under the Green Swimming Pool Initiative. Mayo County Council also provided €40,000 towards the upgrading of the pool.

Over the years that we've been involved with the pool many friendships were formed, and we have many happy memories of great fun from June to August in the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool. We hope there will be many more of these days in the newly refurbished Pool.

When we joined the Committee of the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool we thought, "we'll give it a go and maybe after four or five years the committee will change hands", but here we are sixteen years later, still members of the Committee. We (Marie Jordan, Agatha Higgins and Edward Mulhern) would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to all who used the Swimming Pool over the summer season. Because of your dedication the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool was still open and ready for this well needed refurbishment. We would also like to thank Irish Water Safety Instructors - Siobhan Byrne, Deirdre Donnelly and James McLoughlin (Examiner) for their support in all weathers to train and examine our future Lifeguards.

Work is well advanced and the improvement looks very impressive. By Summer 2013 we should have a new pool which everyone can be proud of.

**Agatha Higgins**



...Before



...During



...After





# Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

The Ballyhaunis Bridge Club season for 2012/2013 commenced in September and runs until May. Sessions are played on Tuesday and Thursday nights in the Hazel Bar starting at 8pm. Competitions are held monthly and are sponsored by local businesses and banks, for which the Club is very grateful.

## **Prize winners for 2011/2012 season were:**

Murphy Cup - Kathleen Lyons and Marina Coyne

Credit Union - Kathleen Lyons and Marina Coyne

AIB - Leona Connery and Justina Lyons

Ulster Bank - Leona Connery and Justina Lyons

Last Year's President, Eileen Carney, presented her prize to the winners Jean Gallagher and Michael Mahoney at her prize night held in April.

The AGM was held in May and that marked the end of the bridge season for 2011/2012.

In November 2011, the club lost a valuable member with the sudden passing of Mary Coyne, may she rest in peace.

Our President for this year, Breege Halpin, will hold her competition over two nights in April and her prize will be presented at the annual dinner.

To those interested in taking up Bridge for the first



**Jean Gallagher and Michael Mahoney, President's Prize winners for 2012 with the President, Eileen Carney.**

time or those who are thinking of returning to Bridge, who gave it up for whatever reason, maybe now is the time to make that move to join the Club. You are very welcome to join us at Ballyhaunis Bridge Club where a good night is guaranteed for all. Go on, take that step to join us, you won't regret it! For any queries please contact Breege Halpin at (087) 6883383.

## Brave Garda Rescues Child

Devlis native Brian Freyne made national headlines last year when he was involved in the rescue of a toddler from a burning house in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. The little girl, Maddie Maloney, who was two years of age at the time of the fire, suffered internal bleeding from severe smoke inhalation and spent a long time recuperating in Crumlin Children's Hospital as a result of her injuries. She had previously survived heart surgery in 2010.



**Sharon Gahan, Mullingar with her daughter Maddie (2) and the Gardaí, from Left, Brian Freyne, Brian Craven and Vincent Reynolds.**

The accompanying picture, taken last November, shows Maddie with her mother Sharon Gahan, being reunited with the three Gardaí who saved her life after discovering her hiding underneath her cot while the family home burned around her at around 2am on the 22nd August 2011.

A neighbour from the Grange Crescent Estate, Bertie Crichton, said he heard a loud bang and went to the house and saw the whole front door and front stairs on fire. He heard screaming from the back of the house. He then climbed up to the top window ledge where he

helped Maddie's three sisters – Kelly (13), Molly (7) and Sophie (6) to jump from the upstairs window. In turn their parents Anthony Maloney and Sharon also managed to escape the blazing house.

Maddie remained trapped in a dark smoke-filled room when Garda Vincent Reynolds and Garda Brian Craven arrived at the scene ahead of the fire brigade and made several attempts to rescue her. Garda Reynolds said, "The smoke was overwhelming, the torches

weren't able to penetrate the smoke very well so we just had to do our best." Brian Freyne, a member of the Regional Support Unit, arrived a short time later and found Maddie under the cot. "It was like a miracle," he said. "I took a torch in the front door and went upstairs and it was like seeing a doll under the bed."

Sharon Gahan thanked neighbours and the three Gardaí for rescuing Maddie and said, "If it wasn't for the Guards we would never have gotten Maddie out. Everyone had tried, we are just very lucky that they went in."



## End of an Era; Beginning of Another

It was the end of an era indeed. On Friday, June 22nd, children of Scoil Íosa Junior School departed from the former Convent of Mercy Primary School building in Abbey Street for the very last time, over 100 years after the first children entered the building for what was an exciting new era in primary school education in Ballyhaunis and indeed in the West of Ireland.

In 2001, the two primary schools in the town, St. Joseph's Convent and St. Mary's Boys Primary School, came together in what was a very successful amalgamation between the two schools – Scoil Íosa. However, due to lack of space at the former St. Mary's Primary School in Abbeyquarter, some children remained on at the old convent building on Abbey Street, and following the completion of the state-of-the-art new school building at Abbeyquarter, accommodation is now ample for all students to work and learn together under one roof.

As the school bell rang out at the old Convent for the very last time, pupils, accompanied by their teachers, departed the building and paraded up the hill to enter the new academy, where they were greeted and welcomed by School Principal Kenneth Dennedy.

It was a day of nostalgia and mixed emotions as many

former pupils of the old Convent came along to watch the drama unfold. Cherished memories of days of the old school desk, the old school yard, the ink wells, pens and a warm turf fire, were rekindled and recounted as parents and grandparents who attended the school in bygone years, turned out to watch the children make their final exit from the building. Memories too of the many, many Sisters of Mercy who nurtured, encouraged and embraced generations of children from the town and surrounding areas, setting them on a firm and solid footing as they were prepared for their journey through life.

The first children took up residence here in October, 1903. Most Rev. Dr. Healy, when welcomed there as Archbishop declared it to be 'the finest in Connaught', while Dr. Douglas Hyde referred to it on his visit as, 'not a school, but an academy'!

In the early 1960's, the condition of St. Joseph's Primary School was a cause of great concern, and after consultations with the Department of Education, it was agreed to completely renovate and refurbish the sixty year old school. The sisters, in consultation with Fr. Thomas Rushe, Adm., re-designed the Convent Primary



Sixth Class, St. Joseph's National School, 1962. Back, L-R: Evelyn Caulfield, Dolores Melly, Anne Freeley, Marie Mulrennan, Nellie Barrett, Ursula Lawless. Centre: Lilly Geraghty, Anne Rush, Mary Knight, Mary Caulfield, Phyllis Regan, Bernadette McGuire, Mary Keadin, Rita Barry, Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart (teacher). Front: Mary Herr, Eva Concannon, Mary Regan (The Square), Mary Regan (Carrowkeel), Joan Coyne, Rita Forde, Rita Lyons. Missing from Photo: Anna Grogan, Elizabeth Moran, Cynthia Hannan.





School. Alternative accommodation was acquired in the town to continue on with the education of the pupils. Sr. Magdalen Quinn and her sixth class were in the old library in the Parochial Hall, while other sisters and their classes were accommodated in rented houses on Clare Street. The renovation process took about two years, under the direction of the late Don Moran of Knox Street.

When the new building was open to the children of the town in the mid 1960's, what a transformation had taken place! Indoor toilets, the rooms were brightly painted, newly furnished and electric lights had been installed. This was a school where learning became fun and enjoyable. And through the encouragement, love and patience of the teaching Sisters, this was for all of us who came through this academy, a kind of a 'home from home'.

In Summer of 1996, Sr. Teresa Fahy, who had been Principal of the Convent School since 1985, was transferred to Sligo. Former Principal Sr. Rosario Waldron,

went to Cork for further pastoral studies. In 1996, Miss Maria Campbell, a native of Knox Street and a former student, was appointed Principal of the school, becoming the first lay Principal appointed to the staff at St. Joseph's. In 2000, the idea of amalgamating the two Ballyhaunis Primary Schools began to surface, and following many meetings between the two boards of management, in September, 2001, Scoil Íosa primary school became a reality.

Friday, June 22nd, saw the final piece of the jigsaw come together, when, after 109 years, the boys and girls from Ballyhaunis town and surrounding hinterland, will now come together to receive their formal education under one roof, at the completed state of the art Scoil Íosa NS building, Abbeyquarter, in what is surely an academy worthy of accommodating the children of the local district for generations to come.

**Mike Byrne**



**Mrs. Patricia Mahon's Drill Class – Early 1950's**

I have fond memories of our drill class in the Parochial Hall Ballyhaunis in the early 1950's. The classes were given by Mrs. Patricia O'Mahony from Castlebar. We trained like troopers on skipping ropes and played 'Rounders' and lots of other games. Teams were picked each week and the class above us were always a challenge to us. The highlight was performing on stage in Castlebar at the end of the year - the Olympics of our time! Noreen Culliney.

Back, L-R: Mairéad Madden, Cora McGarry, Susan Fahey, Ann Hynes, Pat Waldron, Marie Webb and Celine Webb. Second row: Norrie Dillon, Mary Frances Fitzgerald, Corinne Lyons, Noreen Culliney and Frances Moran.

Third row: Margaret Leetch, Margaret Moran, Bernadette Gallagher, Finola Leetch, Denise Sweeney, Joan Dillon and Anne Curley. Front row: Brenda Moran, Mary Webb and Hilary Dillon. Kneeling on either side: Attracta Jordan and Mary Kearns.



# Scoil Íosa News 2011-2012

Ag deireadh na bliana, is mian liom Beannachtaí na Féile a glacadh roimh chuile duine i bpobal Scoil Íosa agus roimh gach éinne i gceantair Beal Átha hAmhnais. Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a gabháil ar son an méid tacaíochta a bhfuaireamar í rith na bliana atá thart ó chách.

2012 proved to be a landmark year for all in Scoil Íosa on so many levels. Chief among these was the closure of St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy and the opening of the new campus at Abbeyquarter. This has brought finality to the 2001 amalgamation of St Joseph's Convent with St Mary's Boys National School. It has also brought to fruition the hard work of successive Boards of Managements under the stewardship of former Chairperson John Griffin, present Chairperson James Reidy and Principals Jim Landon and Kenneth Dennedy. We look forward to continued success in the coming year and thank the Sisters of Mercy for their generosity over a long association with education in Ballyhaunis.

## School Staff 2012/13

Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), James Duggan (Deputy Principal), Aisling Toal, Stella McGrath, Marian Kilkenny, Sharlene Ruane, Elaine Brady, Annie Kilroy, Ann Durkan, Olivia Burke, Sheena Flanagan, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Lisa Watchorn, Michelle Flatley, Joanne Forde, Iona Cunnane, Kevin Henry, Dónal O'Brien, Ciara Byrne; Carmel Cassidy, Mary Dillon (Secretaries) and John Hurley (Caretaker).

## Board of Management

James Reidy (Chairperson/Patrons' Nominee), Fr. Stephen Farragher (Patrons Nominee), Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Sheena Flanagan (Teachers Nominee), Alan Henry (Parents' Nominee), Anne Phillips (Parents' Nominee), Tommy Caulfield (Community Nominee), Paula Grogan (Community Nominee).

## Parents Fundraising Committee

Carol Keane, Mary Kay Phillips, Aoife Keane, Martin Walsh, Ann Lyons, Liam Lyons, Paula Donnellan, Dolores Byrne, Helena Byrne, John Durkan, Lorraine Waldron, Ann Phillips, Frank Browne.

## Pastures New

February 2012 saw the retirement of Ita Fahey after ten years of distinguished service at both St Joseph's Convent School and Scoil Íosa. During her time in the school Ita had responsibility for the school choirs and oversaw their participation in many choral events and Scór na bPaistí. Her

finest work was undoubtedly with the Scoil Íosa children's Church Choir which sings monthly in St. Patrick's Church.

Later in the year Mary Fleming – having given wonderful service as a Resource Teacher to Scoil Íosa and to other local primary Schools for over twelve years – took up a new position in Cloonfad.

Their contribution to the school was immeasurable in terms of their professionalism, dedication and their genuine concern and affection for the pupils in their



**Staff members of Scoil Íosa making a presentation to Mary Fleming, to mark her departure from the school to Cloonfad, after twelve years of service. Back, L-R: Carmel Cassidy (Secretary), Ciara Byrne, Mary Fleming, Kenneth Dennedy (Principal). Front: Sheena Flanagan, Aisling Toal, Ciara Fitzmaurice and Sharlene Ruane.**

*Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.*



**Mrs. Ita Fahey, who retired from the teaching staff of Scoil Íosa, with presentations made by the pupils of the school.**







**First Holy Communion Class 2012, Scoil Íosa, with Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. (right), Fr. J. J. Cribbin (P.P. Milltown) and Ciara Fitzmaurice (Teacher).**

care. All associated with Scoil Íosa wish Ita and Mary well in the future.

### **First Communion**

The following pupils received their First Communion on Saturday 12th May in St. Patrick's Church: Lana Biesty, Gustavo Borges, Séan Caulfield, Hannah Clarke, Rachel Cleary, Lorna Davis, Maeve Donnellan, Julia Grabiasz, Chantelle Maughan, Thomas Maughan, Chloe McDonagh, Padraig McHugh, Karen Morgan, Shaun Morley, Erin Murray, Nathan Noone, Ronan Byrne, Auredas Armonivicius. Thanks to teacher Ciara Fitzmaurice and to Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. and Fr. J. J. Cribbin (P.P. Milltown).

### **Sports News**

2012 proved to be another noteworthy year for Scoil Íosa pupils in terms of Sporting pursuits. School teams completed in Gaelic Football, Hurling, Soccer and Athletics.

**Gaelic Football:** The boys' football team proved to be a highly competitive unit in a keenly contested qualification group. After a good win against Ballinrobe National School the boys travelled to Claremorris where they were beaten controversially by the narrowest of margins. The final game against St. Patrick's National School, Westport was once again a close affair with Westport proving victorious in the end.

**Girls Football** in Scoil Íosa continues to thrive with 2012 being our most successful to date. The team reached the regional final of the mini-sevens competition where they succumbed to a very strong

combination team from Roundfort National School / Gortskehy National School. In the main championship the girls played Ballinrobe National School and Claremorris Convent National School emerging victorious from both games after excellent performances. The final game was against Westport National School who have a very strong tradition in girls' football. After a very competitive game the girls missed out on a County Semi-final place losing by a point. Sincere thanks to Kevin Henry for his hard work in preparing both teams.

**Football Panels:** Girls - Maedhbh Caulfield, Marina Carney, Olivia Cleary, Helen Gallagher, Megan Gaughan, Aibhinn Herr, Roisín Lyons, Aoife Nolan, Laura O'Connell, Chloe Ryan, Kasey Clarke, Aoife Conway, Aoife Davis, Derbhile Finn-Richardson, Michelle Grogan, Shauna Lyons, Siofra Murray, Anna Naszkierska, Alannah Nolan, Emma Nolan, Holly Browne.

Boys - Eddie Cleary, David Cunnane, Zohaib Gulzar, Brendonas Graf, Evan Henry, Liam Herr, Thomas Maughan, Uneeb Naseer, Zou Zou Rahmani, Cormac Phillips, Zouhair Rahmani, Neil Carney, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Barry Cribbin, Dara Healy, Zineddin Rahmani, Aran Rattigan, Deividas Rutkauskas, Conor Keane, Ethan Keane, Darren Maughan, Pierce Nestor, Luke Walsh.

**Hurling 2011/2012:** The 2011/2012 school year brought much promise for the hurlers of Scoil Íosa. This was a team who had lost only three hurlers from the previous year's beaten finalists. Added to this was the addition of many new hurlers and a talented camogie



player and hopes were high. The year started with the annual 7-a-side blitz held in Tooreen. The school was fortunate enough to be in a position to field two teams. Both teams played well on the day encountering teams of the calibre of Knock, Kilmovee and Logboy. However the day ultimately ended in defeat after a traditional ding-dong tussle with Tooreen. All children acquitted themselves very well on the day with outstanding performances coming from Cormac Phillips (captain), The Caulfield cousins (Conal and Patrick) and John Reidy who was exceptional throughout in the goals. Later in the year, the 15 a side commenced. Having reached the final the previous year the team was automatically promoted to the top grade. Captain for this was Liam Herr and they initially encountered Claremorris. They had a comprehensive victory in this game with goals a-plenty from Liam Herr and Cormac Phillips, the Caulfield cousins, Dara Healy and Neil Carney. These were ably assisted by a solid defence where Barry Cribbin, Dylan and Megan Gaughan and Uneeb Nasser excelled. A very successful day was wrapped up with a goal by new-comer Ausrius Armonavictus. Next up was Westport in the semi-final. This was a very close-fought affair thanks largely to heroics by newly unearthed goalkeeper John Reidy. In a tit-for-tat game a late goal by Cormac Phillips left Scoil Íosa on the losing side by a solitary point. The panel for the year was: Cormac Phillips, Liam Herr, Uneeb Nasser, David Cunnane, Evan Henry, Megan Gaughan, John Reidy, Neil Carney, Barry Cribbin, Patrick Caulfield, Conal Caulfield, Dylan Gaughan, Dara Healy, Ausrius Armonavictus, Saim Asif and Conor Keane.



**Scoil Íosa, Cumann na mBunscoil Sports Quiz County Champions 2012.**

**Quiz News:** Scoil Íosa had a very fruitful year in 2012. Both Senior and Junior teams performed exceptionally well in the local Credit Union School Quiz competition. It was, however, in the Cumann na mBunscoil Sports Quiz that the pupils really came into their own. After a



**Aerial photograph of Scoil Íosa in 2012.**  
*Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*

comprehensive win in the local area competition held in Claremorris, the team of Neil Carney, Liam Herr, Conal Caulfield and Barry Cribbin progressed to the County Final where they emerged as winners by some distance. Thanks to team mentor Kevin Henry for preparing the teams. We look forward to continued success in the coming year.

**Athletics:** As well as competing successfully in 2012 Schools Cross Country Championships, the pupils also participated in the athletics open days held in conjunction with Claremorris Athletics Club. It was in the Cross Country Competition that our representatives enjoyed the greater success with our Senior Boys team qualifying for the County finals. The highlight of the season was the great individual performances of Patrick Caulfield, Ellen Phillips, Joshua Webb and Tommy Cleary all of whom qualified for the individual competition at the Mayo Finals in Ballina. At this competition Ellen Phillips and Patrick Caulfield qualified for the Connaught final after superb individual performances. As athletics has been a relatively new departure for Scoil Íosa, we look forward to further success in the coming year.

**Soccer: 2012** saw Scoil Íosa having a very successful year in this area. Boys and Girls teams competed in the National Schools Five-a-side Competition held in Castlebar. Unfortunately some confusion with the fixtures militated against the teams and despite some very good performances, our teams returned empty handed. The school team also participated in the Regional Futsal Competition held in Barnacarrool where our teams emerged victorious after some very keenly contested games. Soccer Panel: Neil Carney, Helen Gallagher, Chloe Ryan, Eddie Cleary, Evan Henry, Aibhinn Herr, Patrick Caulfield, Marina Carney, Liam Herr, Olivia Cleary.

**Kenneth Dennedy (Principal)**







**Taken in O'Reilly's Garden, Woodpark, in the late 1940s.** Standing, L-R: Michael Brady (Mace, Claremorris), Sonny Horkan (Lassiney), Tommy O'Reilly (Woodpark), Margaret Horkan (nee O'Reilly)(Woodpark), Bridie O'Reilly (nee Johnston), Pat Brady (Mace), Pa McNicholas (Ballybrehony, Claremorris). Seated: Anne O'Reilly (Woodpark), Mrs. Carney, Margaret Johnston (Ballyhaunis), Bridget McNicholas (Ballybrehony). Front: Lil Horkan, Annie McNicholas.



**Tom O'Reilly (Woodpark) and Sonny Horkan (Lassiney), with Paddy McNicholas in doorway.**  
**Taken in Ballybrehony, Claremorris.**



**Above:**  
**Bridie McNicholas (Mrs. Hughes) and Sonny Horkan (Lassiney), with Tom Reilly and Paddy McNicholas in doorway.**

**Left:**  
**Lil Horkan, Mike Owens, Rita Horkan, Tommy Horkan (child).**



**Mary Coyne of Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis, aged 106 years in 1930.**

This photograph was taken by Johnny Gilmore, Knox St., and appeared in one of the national newspapers in 1930. In the 1911 census Mary Coyne is listed as a 75 year old widow living alone in the townland of Carrowkeel East. Ten years earlier, however, in the 1901 census, her age was given as 50, she was stated to be unmarried, and lived with her brothers John (aged 80) and James Coyne (aged 70). Only a few stones now remain to show the site of the Coyne house, part of the mearing fence between Tarpey's and Cunnane's land.





# Molaim An Chumann Lúthchleas Gaedheal

Bunaíodh An Chumann Lúthchleas Gaedheal san Óstán Uí hAodha, I nDúrlas Eile, Contae Tiobraid Árann sa míle ocht gcéad ochtó ceathair. Gluaiseacht áitiúil, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta is ea é mar seachas Éireann, tá tionchar aige i Sasana, Alban, sna Stáit Aontaithe agus san Astráil. Thosaigh asítear éachtach agus iontach ar an lá dar gcionn. Eagraíocht speisialta, forásach agus deonach a sholáithríonn ceannasaíocht do mhuintir na hÉireann. Tá tionchar suntasach ar dhearcadh an phobail ar fud na tire agus ar fud an domhan, freisin.

Breathnaíonn sé ar an obair a dheantar oibriú deonacha agus oifigí na gclub ó bhliain go bhliain. Tá ról níos tábhachtaí ann mar timire ár gcluichí: peil, iomáint, camógaíocht agus liathróid láimhe. Tugann sé deis mhór do na h-imreoirí a bheith páirteach san iomaíocht éagsula. Féach ar na tionsaimh críochnaithe agus na háiseanna sár-mhaith a sholáithrítear ar fud na tire. Is fíor go bhfuil fíis mhór ag an gCumann Lúthchleas Gaedheal. Ná dean dearmad ar an tosaíocht a thugann na coiste feidhmiúcháin ar ár gcultúr i bhfoirm comórtais Scór, ach oiread. Tugann sé aitheantas don ár gcultúr sa Chluiche Cheannais Peile agus iomána na hÉireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i Mean Fómhair, gach bhliain. Tá ár bhféiniúlacht an tréithe níos tábhachtaí san eagraíocht speisialta agus tá meas mór air, mar tugann sé sástacht áirithe don phobal agus do mhuintir na hÉireann, freisin. Sháraigh sé dúshláin éagsula thar na blianta agus comhdhlúthaigh sé a stáid gan dabht. Táim cinnte go bhfuil and todhchaí níos geallta and creidim, go bhfuil dearcadh dearfach ag an ngluaiseacht ceannródaíoch.

Tá an tséasúr críochnaithe arís, agus tá muinín agam go bhfuil an lucht leanúna ag fanacht go díograiseach leis an tSamhraidh, do na Cluichí Cheannais agus na coimhlintí níos déine atá ag teacht. Beidh sceitimíní áthais ann. Molaim iarratais na ballraíochta agus na h-imreoirí ar fud na tire agus deirim, “An Chumann Lúthchleas Gaedheal go deor na ndeor.”

Liam Ó Riain, Beál Átha hAmhnais

## In Praise of the GAA

This passage, which I have titled: “In praise of the GAA” and which I have written in the Irish language, in my humble opinion encapsulates what the Gaelic Athletic Association is all about. In it, I refer to the Association’s local, national and international significance while still remaining very community focused. In addition, I highlight its very influential role as a sporting organisation and emphasise the high level of participation of its membership and officer board in the promotion of Gaelic Games, Culture and the Irish language and maintenance of its unique identity. The GAA also fosters and encourages a strong spirit of voluntarism throughout every club in the country. We must not forget that the “Club” is the bedrock of the Gaelic Athletic Association. It’s widespread and diverse membership strives unceasingly, in a voluntary capacity, to consolidate and further enhance its prominent position, not only in Ireland, but throughout the globe.

Willie Ryan



The only day's snow in Winter 2011-12.  
Taken in Delaney's Garden Centre, 16th Dec. 2011  
by Seamus Hora.



Right: ‘Elm Beauty’ with owner Ray Sloyan, Brackloon. This is a yearling filly that won the All-Ireland in Roscommon on 19th August 2012. The yearling was shown by his nephew Seamie (pictured above) and also included in the photo are Conor and Aidan Sloyan. This yearling is by ‘Elm Hill’ out of a ‘Diamond Lad’ mare owned by Ray Sloyan.







**The Greene Clan, Knox St.  
L-R: Nora, Marcella, Bridie, Tony and  
Margaret Greene.**



**Pictured at a Carnival in Ballyhaunis in the early sixties with  
one of the Carnival Staff, L-R: Martin Hannon, Jarlath Moran,  
Mick Meehan, Michael Waldron, Bernard Keane.**



**St. Joseph's Convent Primary School, Baby Class and High Infants Class, July 1960.**

- Back, L-R: Mike Griffin, Martin Joyce, Joseph Byrne, Marian Brennan, John Fox, John O'Brien, Theresa Comer, Yvonne McGuire.
- Fourth Row: Joseph Linnane, Carmel Murphy, Dolores Nolan, Kieran Healy, Uinseann Regan, Liam Lynskey, Tom Fox, Colm Sherry.
- Third Row: Margaret Linnane, Sheila Waldron, Marian Keane, Ann Halpin, Marie Byrne, Mary Kilduff, Una Lyons, Marie Moran.
- Second Row: Mary Keegan, Tommy Webb, Eamon Smyth, Oliver Hannon, Tommy Barrett, Francis Byrne, Marian Donoghue.
- Front Row: Margaret Carney, Noelle Sweeney, Eddie Murphy, Jarlath Kenny, Tina Coyne, Dermot Freeley, Dominic Byrne, Niall Eagney.





# The Dillon Estate Maps of Corraun

Compiled By Paul Waldron. Photographed by Vincent Fahy ([www.whitethornphoto.ie](http://www.whitethornphoto.ie))

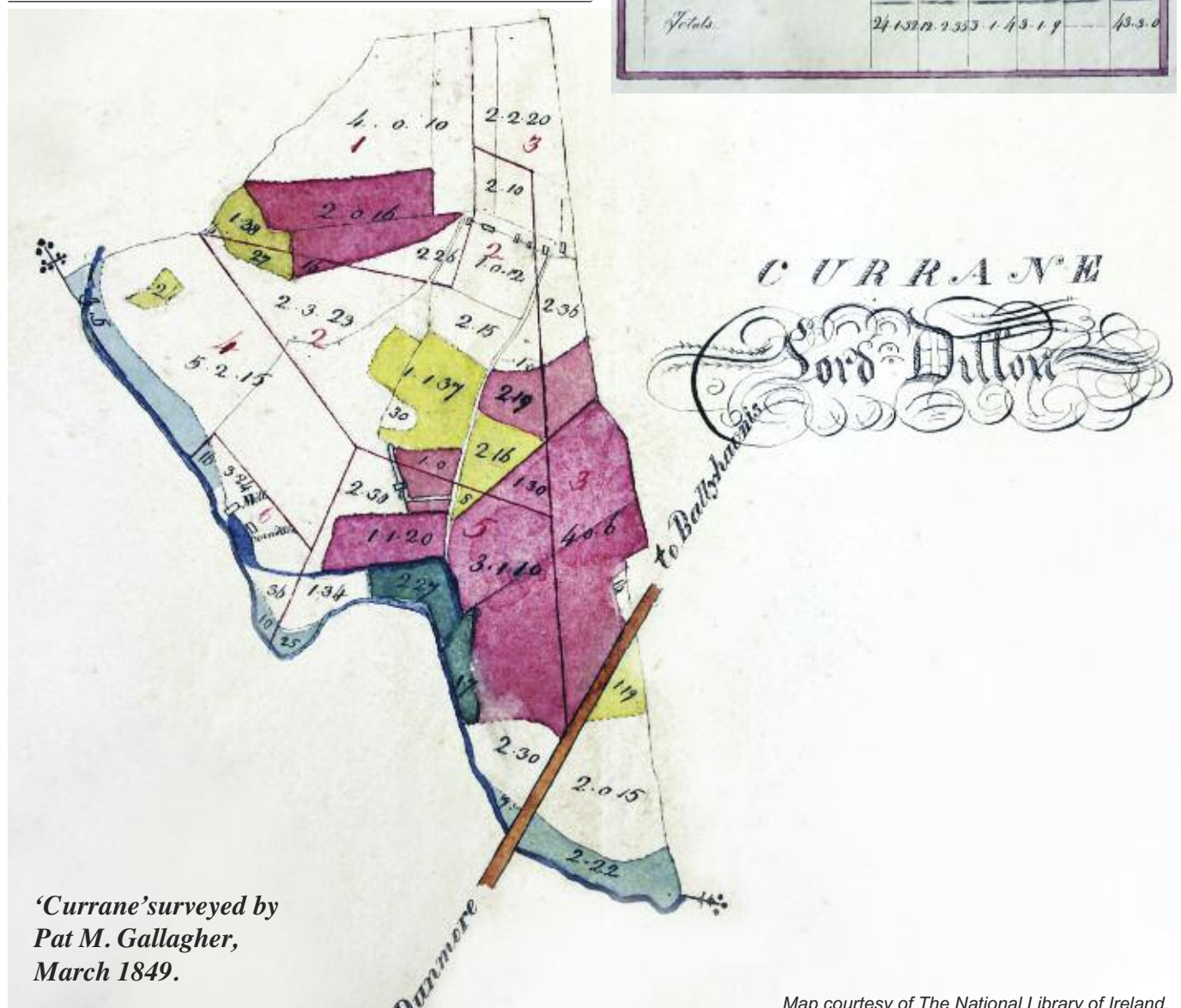
In the Dillon collection of manuscript maps there are three maps for different parts of the townland of Gurrane (official spelling 'Corraun'). One is called simply 'Currane' and was surveyed by Patrick M. Gallagher in March 1849. Another is designated 'Currane, Clifford & Kelly' (probably referring to the two main tenants or original lease-holders) and was surveyed by John Neilan in March 1850. Another, similarly, is called 'Currane, Mulloy & Finn', and was surveyed in March 1852, again by John Neilan. Another map, showing Derrylea, and surveyed by Patrick M. Gallagher in February 1848, is titled 'Currane called Derrylea', implying that the townland of Derrylea was at one time regarded as part of Gurrane.

The map of 'Currane Clifford & Kelly' references other adjoining divisions of Gurrane, including Currane Dwyer & Co., no map of which survives in the Dillon collection.

**CURRANE**  
March 1849  
Pat M. Gallagher

**REFERENCE**

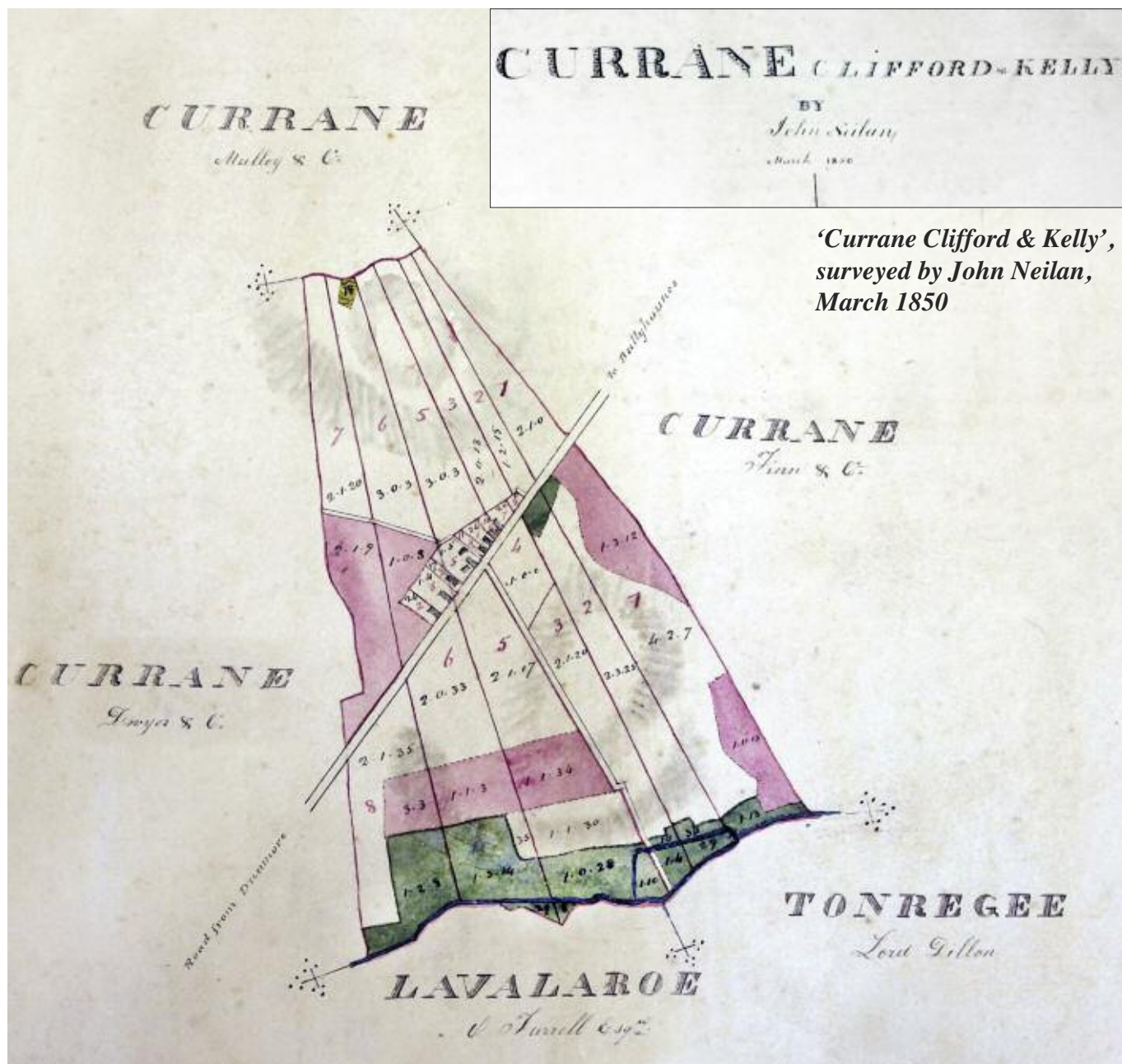
Names	Acres	Arable	Pasture	Woods	Water	Buildings	Other
1 John Griffin	4.3.0	2.0.0	1.3.0				7.1.14
2 Widow McManus	5.2.10	1.1.25	2.1.0				9.0.35
3 David Linn	3.1.30	4.0.6					7.1.36
4 Richard Bailey	3.2.15		3.5	2.4			6.2.4
5 Pat. Eganey	1.3.22	4.2.30	1.0.25				7.5.6
6 Pat. Gully	1.0.20		2.6				1.1.6
Sch. Dwyer	2.0.15		2.22	1.19			3.0.10
Road		1.38					1.38
River			2.5				2.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24.1.32</b>	<b>12.2.35</b>	<b>1.4.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>			<b>43.3.0</b>



Map courtesy of The National Library of Ireland.







'Currane Clifford & Kelly',  
surveyed by John Neilan,  
March 1850

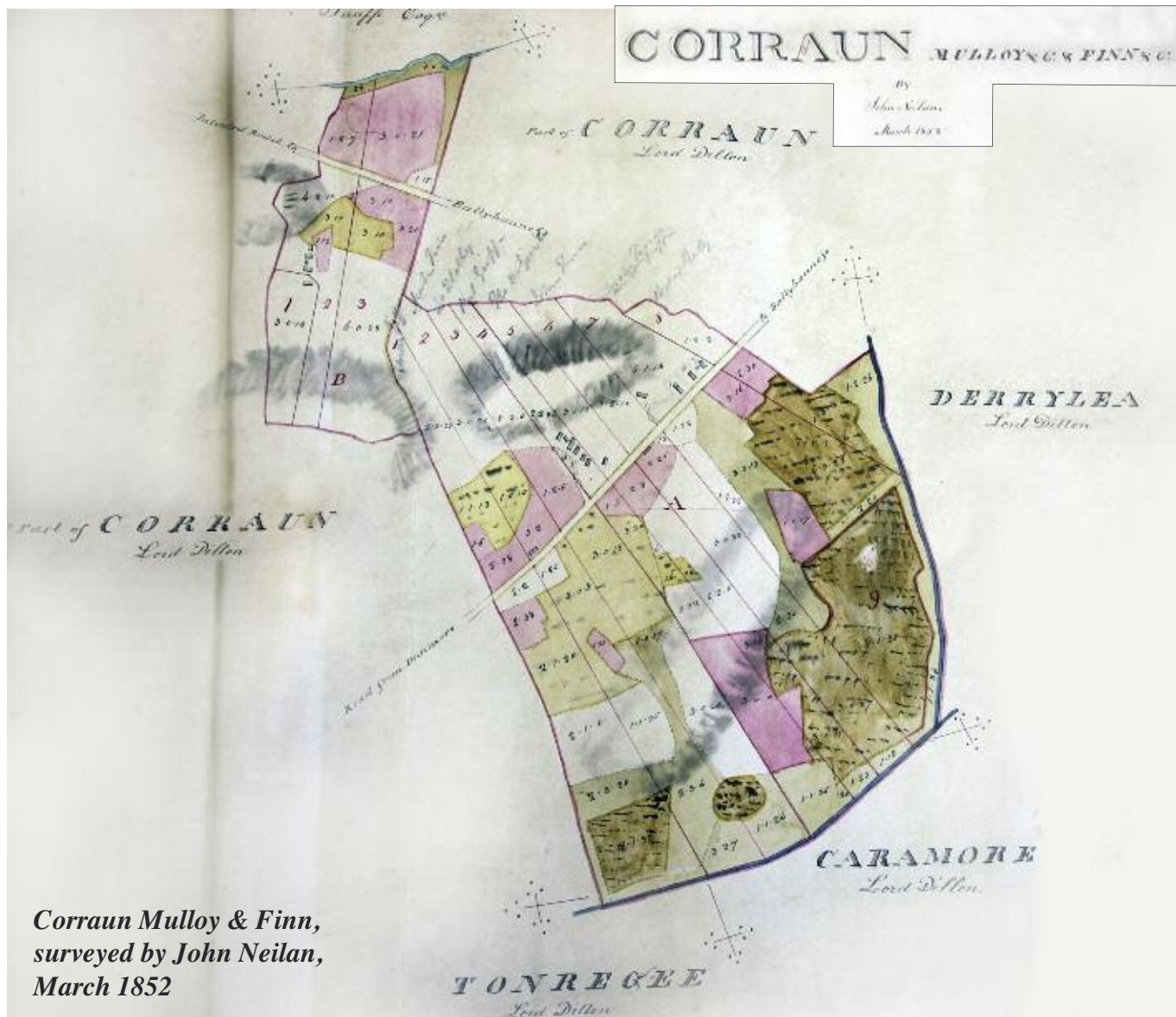
## REFERENCE

N <sup>o</sup>	Names	Arable	Richard	Bottom	Reclaimable	Reg.	Total
1	Thomas Lyons	6 - 3 - 31	2 - 27	1 - 32			10 - 1 - 10
2	Widow Mary Meehan	4 - 2 - 24		2 - 15			5 - 0 - 39
3	Widow C. Smyth	4 - 2 - 10		1 - 14			4 - 3 - 24
4	Thomas Grearhe	1 - 0 - 11					1 - 0 - 11
5	Michl. Connell	7 - 0 - 15	1 - 34	1 - 2 - 6			10 - 0 - 15
6	Pat Connell	5 - 2 - 35	2 - 11	2 - 0 - 3	18		10 - 0 - 27
7	William Meehan	2 - 2 - 20	2 - 9				4 - 3 - 9
8	Pat Meehan	2 - 2 - 11	3 - 3	1 - 2 - 8			4 - 3 - 22
-	Roads & Rivers					1 - 2 - 12	1 - 2 - 12
	Total	35 - 0 - 17	3 - 3 - 4	6 - 1 - 38	18	1 - 2 - 12	53 - 0 - 9

Map courtesy of The National Library of Ireland.







Corraun Mulloy & Finn,  
surveyed by John Neilan,  
March 1852

## REFERENCE

Lot	No	Name	Gravel	Acclimated	Bottom	Artificial	Mo	Lot
1	1	Martin Griffin	5 2 10	1 3 1	2 3 20	3 3 3	2 1 30	16 1 27
2	2	Martin Finn	5 0 16	1 0 23	3 3 3	4 0 18	1 4	14 1 24
3	3	Thos. Macguire	6 0 5	1 2 5	2 2 13	3 0 18	2 13	13 3 4
A	4	James Flaherty	3 1 29	3 1 15	1 2 15	1 0 36	10	9 2 25
4	5	Pat Griffin	5 3 15	1 1 22	1 27	2 4	2 0 15	9 3 23
5	6	John Finn	7 0 0	2 25	1 0 8	3 0 27	11 3 20	
6	7	Michl. Finn	6 0 38	2 0 33	5 3 27	4 3 28	19 1 6	
7	8	Widow Bailey	1 2 17	2 30	1 2 26	1 3 2	5 3 5	
8	9	Reserved Bog				7 1 20	9 1 20	
		Total	40 3 10	12 2 34	19 3 19	12 1 19	24 2 32	110 1 34
1	1	Pat Griffin	3 0 14					3 0 14
2	2	Thos. Mulloy	4 2 3	1 3 25	23	3 10		7 1 21
3	3	Pat Mulloy	6 2 3	4 3 11	1 0 12	3 10		13 0 36
		Road & Papasquin A & B				2 0 30		2 0 30
		Total	14 0 20	6 2 36	1 0 35	1 2 20	2 0 30	25 3 21
		General Total						136 1 15

Map courtesy of The National Library of Ireland.







Reference						
No.	Name	Acres	Roods	Poles	Perches	Totals
1	Thomas Sullivan	14.4	4.3	16.8	3.23	2.0.33
2	Mich <sup>d</sup> Tully	4.3	2.0	3.1	1.2	13.8.1.35
3	Pat <sup>r</sup> Kuran	6.2	1.2	36.2	2.2	25.1.27
4	Widow Cunnally	2.0	1.1	30.1	2.0	3.2.14
5	Parly Sullivan	2.1	1.0	18.1	1.0	6.4.2.8
6	Walter Jennings	2.3	2.2	1.1	1.1	4.4.1.21
7	Pat <sup>r</sup> Coyne	1.0	1.2	0.25	12.1	16.7.1
	Road	1.0	1.2	0.25	12.1	16.7.1
	River	1.0	1.2	0.25	12.1	16.7.1
	Grand Tot	34.1	12.0	25.12	1.16	7.1.23.40

# Carrane called DERRYLEA

BY  
Pat. M. Gallagher February 1848

Carrane called Derrylea  
surveyed by Pat M. Gallagher  
February 1848.

Map courtesy of The National Library  
of Ireland.



## Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair

Following on from the near meltdown of the party in the 2011 general election, the focus of the local organisation during the past year has been one of rejuvenation and restoration. Indications are that this work has been most successful with the local Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair leading the way in Mayo in terms of increasing membership and activity. There is general acceptance that the journey will not be an easy one and that chief among our objectives must be the restoration of confidence in the local organisation among those who in the past have been the backbone of the party. At the time of writing Fianna Fáil has regained considerable ground in the local area through the hard work of the membership and the unified sense of purpose inherent in the local party.

The Ballyhaunis organisation has been very active on a county wide basis with members Kenneth Dennedy, Margaret Tarpey and Leonard Ryan elected to the Mayo Renewal Committee. Leonard Ryan has also been elected as Constituency Delegate to the Fianna Fáil Ard Comhairle replacing fellow local activist and local solicitor, John O'Dwyer. The area party members have also been at the forefront in reigniting Ógra Fianna Fáil in Mayo, making that organisation the fastest growing political organisation in the country. However, there was one standout moment for our organisation in 2012, that being the hugely successful and enjoyable visit to Dáil Éireann as guests of Deputy Dara Calleary during which the dedication of Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil organisation and it's renaming as the Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair Ballyhaunis was performed by party leader Micheál Martin T.D.

The contribution to the Fianna Fáil party of the late Michael Waldron was recalled on Wednesday June 27th as over 80 members of the local Ballyhaunis organisation visited Dáil Éireann as guests of Deputy Dara Calleary. During the visit the visitors were treated to a guided tour of the houses of the Oireachtas and were given the opportunity to experience the unique atmosphere of the Dáil and Seanad as part of the proceedings. The highlight of the day was the presentation of a posthumous award to the Waldron family by Fianna Fáil party leader Micheál Martin TD, to mark the service and support given to the party by Michael Waldron, the man affectionately known as 'The Minister'. Mr. Martin paid tribute to Michael for his unwavering support, not just for the Fianna Fáil party but for the Ballyhaunis community at large. "Michael Waldron was the epitome of what a Fianna Fáil member should be, that is a person who gives

selflessly to his community be it through support for sporting organisations or through parochial activities. I didn't have the pleasure of meeting the man but I feel that I knew him from the way my colleagues in Fianna Fáil speak so highly of him, Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a hAnam Dílis". Speaking on behalf of the Waldron family, Tom Waldron thanked Deputy Calleary for his kind invitation and Deputy Martin for his thoughtful words. It would, he said, have made The Minister proud to have witnessed such an occasion and to have received such accolades from the leader of the party he loved.

The gathering was joined by Deputy Eamon O Cúiv, Deputy Michael McGrath and Deputy Timmy Dooley. Deputy O Cúiv was presented with a framed photograph of his grandfather Eamon De Valera speaking at an election rally in Ballyhaunis during the 1927 general election campaign, by Tom Waldron on behalf of the Waldron Family.

Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil Chairperson, Kenneth Dennedy thanked Deputy Calleary for his kind invitation to party members to attend Dáil Éireann and said that it was a great honour to be in the historic building. It was, he said, a great tribute to the local Fianna Fáil organisation that so many were eager to partake in the outing. It sends a signal to all that the process of rebuilding the party is progressing successfully, something which is obvious from the large number of younger members present. Mr. Dennedy also paid tribute to Deputy Martin and thanked him for giving of his time so generously to pay tribute to Michael Waldron, the spiritual leader of Fianna Fáil in the Ballyhaunis region.

The year ended with the passing of two stalwarts of the party, namely Margaret Owens of Cloonbook, Brickens and of our former T.D. and party mentor, P. J. Morley of Cloonfaughna, Bekan.

Margaret Owens' contribution to Fianna Fáil throughout her lifetime cannot be understated. She was described by Deputy Dara Calleary as being ahead of her time in her vision for the party and the direction which she wished Fianna Fáil to take. Margaret served as Secretary of the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair for a number of years and also served on the Fianna Fáil Árd Comhairle where she was noted as a dedicated, hard working and highly efficient officer. Her untimely passing has robbed those in the local organisation of a loyal and trusted colleague.

The passing of P. J. Morley heralded the end of an era within the party in County Mayo. P. J. served as public representative from his election to Mayo County Council







**Members of the Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair Fianna Fáil, Ballyhaunis pictured on the steps of Dáil Éireann, with Deputy Micheál Martin, Leader of Fianna Fáil and Mayo Deputy Dara Calleary.**

Back, L-R: Joe Hosty, Murt McHale, Peter Flatley, Shay Walsh, Gabriel Kilkenny, Paddy Freeley, Joanne Delaney, Michael Dee, Niamh Delaney, Shiofra Flatley, Padraic Brennan, Breda Delaney, Willie Brady, Marian Prendergast, Bert Dennedy, Paul Waldron, Theresa Mueller, Tommy Ronayne, Brian Hunt, Eric Mueller, John Nolan, Seán Waldron, Bernie Nolan, Dan Regan, Margaret Fitzgerald, Stephen Nolan, Liam Waldron, James Hunt, Rita Mooney, Michael Nally, Martin Brennan, Mary Mulrennan, Seamus Mulrennan.

Front: Niamh Dennedy, John Caulfield, Aoife Dennedy, Deirdre Dennedy, Aisling Tarpey, Margaret Tarpey, Jim Waldron, John Carty, Pío Flatley, Jimmy Walsh, Michael Carty, Kenneth Dennedy, Micheál Martin TD, Bernie Ryan, Seamus O'Boyle, Leonard Ryan, Dara Calleary TD, Joseph Grogan, Mike Griffin, Helen Biesty, Mary T. Griffin, Sean Biesty, Sinéad McLoughlin, Bridget McLoughlin, Deirdre Byrne, Clara Byrne, Tom Waldron, Rita Morris, Breda Waldron, Ann Biesty, Bernard Waldron, Pat Biesty, Áine Waldron.

in 1967 until his retirement from that body in 1999. During that time he served as County Council Chairman on at least three occasions and also served as Chairman of the Western Health Board. P. J. was elected to Dáil Éireann in the Lynch landslide of 1977 and was re elected in every subsequent election until the revision of the constituency in 1997 and the reduction of the seats in Mayo from six to five. The development of Knock Airport remains as his finest achievement. His work in supporting the late Mons. James Horan in his pursuit of building the Airport underlines his value to the people of East Mayo. His death certainly marks the passing of an era but his memory will continue to serve as a motivational force in the local Fianna Fáil party.

**Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair Ballyhaunis officer board:** *Chairperson:* Kenneth

Dennedy; *Vice Chairperson:* Séan Cleary; *Hon Secretary:* Tom Ronayne; *Asst. Secretary:* Lorainne Lowry; *Treasurers:* Moira Noone, Michael Dee; *Ógra Delegate:* Joanne Delaney; *Ógra Organiser:* Leonard Ryan;



**Deputy Micheál Martin, Leader of Fianna Fáil, making a presentation to members of the Waldron family in recognition of the huge contribution to the Fianna Fáil Party made by the late Michael Waldron, Cave, Ballyhaunis.**

**L-R: Bernard Waldron, Sean Waldron, Breda Waldron, Tom Waldron, Deputy Dara Calleary, Deputy Micheál Martin, Rita Morris, Kenneth Dennedy, Bridget McLoughlin.**

**Delegates to CDC:** Kenneth Dennedy, Margaret Tarpey, Leonard Ryan. **Hon. Presidents:** Tom Waldron, Bernard Waldron.

**Kenneth Dennedy**





# Stations in the Parish of Annagh



**Stations held in Sean and Ina Freyne's home, Clare Road, March 2012**

**Back, L-R:** Tracey Kennedy-Curley (seated), Mark Curley (standing), Eamonn Freyne, Grahame Cleary, Sean Freyne, Samantha Cleary, John Gill (seated).

**Front (all seated):** Martha Grogan, Pauline Curley, Maura Griffin, Máisín Meath, Ger Donnellan, Rosaleen Curley, Gillian Donnellan, Ina Freyne, Sinead Freyne, John Cleary, Maeve Donnellan, Bernie Gill, Paula Donnellan, Corrine Flatley and Mary Frances Cleary. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



**Stations held in Mary Waldron's home, Devlis**

L-R: Sr. Pius Dyer, Mary Waldron, Una Shields, Ita Fahey, Jarlath Fahey, Mary Elwood and Breege Moran. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*







### **Stations held in John Stephen and Dympna Greally's home, Drimbane**

Back, L-R: Noel McGuire, Colm Gallagher, Pdraig Phillips, Patsy Greally, Barbara Murphy, David McGuire, Maureen Godfrey, Pat Culliney, Ann Kelly, Laura Connell, Angela Cribben, Ann Connell, Margaret Hannan, Maura Fitzmaurice, Mary Cleary, Katrina Sweeney, Irene Healy, Maisie Sweeney, Kathleen Kelly, Breda Waldron, Seamus McGuire, Martha Gallagher, Tom Waldron, Eileen Culliney, Lil McGuire, Seamus Kelly, Gerard McGuire, Frank Greally, Joe Glynn. Seated: James Clarke, Kaityln Clarke, Demi Greally, John Greally, Helen Greally, Sinead Culliney, John S. Greally, Dympna Greally, Olive Clarke, Ann Greally, Mark Culliney, Ger Murphy, Gabriel Smith, Gerry Godfrey. Front: Kasey Clarke, Hannah Clarke, P.J. Greally, Patrick Murphy and Ellen Murphy. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



### **Michael and Rosaleen Kelly's Spring Stations 2012, Coolnafarna**

Back (standing), L-R: Marguerite Byrne, John Ryan, Siobhan Donoghue, Maureen Donoghue, Eugene Carney, Deirdre Donnellan, Seamus Sloyan, Breda Grogan, Joe Grogan, Brendan Sloyan, Ann Sloyan, Rita Mooney, Caroline Fleming, Sandra Murphy, Lorraine Mulligan, Noreen Gallagher, Mary Ryan, Mary Finnegan, Ann Plunkett, Margaret Lyons, Maureen Cunnane, Eddie Mooney, Teresa Murphy, Mary Larkin and Marie Cregg. Seated: Mary Elwood, Rosaleen Kelly, Mark Kelly, Sarah Kelly, Fr. Stephen Farragher, Michael Kelly, Mary Browne, Vera Waldron, Nellie Mulkeen and Jenny Culliney. Front: Niamh Donnellan, Jack Mulligan, Lorna Donnellan, Rebecca Mulligan, Clare Fleming and Edel Fleming. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*







### Knockbrack Station Mass in the home of Gerry and Ann Lyons, 30th March 2012

**Standing, L-R:** Eric Fitzgerald, Morgan Lyons, Kevin Higgins, Michelle Lyons, Grace Lyons, Shauna Lyons, Roísín Lyons, Pat Gaffney, Gabrielle Lyons, Frances Gaffney, Anne Lyons, Mary Walsh, Mary Finnegan, Gerry Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Agatha Higgins, Kevin McNamara, Kay Higgins, Liam Lyons, Joan McNamara, Pete Higgins, James Lyons, Eadaoin Lyons, Vincent Higgins, Bernadette Lyons, Elaine Donnelly, John Joe Lyons, Jimmy Walsh, Bernie Boyle and Austin Boyle. **Kneeling and Seated:** Kevin Kilbride, Eoin Daly, Mary Higgins, Kathleen Cribbin, Mary Donnelly, Michael Egan, Kathleen Egan, Tina Kirrane, Mary T. Lyons. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



### Holywell/Woodpark Stations in the home of Tommy and Eileen Lynch, Autumn 2012

**Standing, L-R:** Michael Nally, Tommy Lynch, Noel Sykes, Paul Lynch, Martin Brennan, Mary Delaney, Michael Brennan, Patrick Nally, Marie Brennan, Pauline Campbell, James Campbell, Máire Ní Bhroin, David Lynch, Margaret Delaney, Gabriel Morley, Ann Delaney, Seamus Waldron, Ann Lynch, Ann Ivers, Joan Biesty, Rosaleen O'Hora, Noreen Fahy, John Fahy, Walter Waldron, Alocoque McManus.

**Seated:** Eileen Lynch, Paula Campbell, Leanne Lynch, Edel Lynch, Vincent Biesty, Lana Biesty, Louise Biesty, Stella O'Neill, Elaine Doyle, Doris Carney, Catherine Waldron, Bridie Morley, Mary Waldron.

*Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*







**Old Racecourse Stations in the home of Janusz and Gosia Cieslikowski**

**L-R:** Piotr Cieslikowski, Gosia Cieslikowski, Janusz Cieslikowski, Jacob Grabiasz, Maya Cieslikowski, Agnieszka Grabiasz, Bianca Zota, Marlena Staszczuk, Justyna Staszczuk, Piotr Staszczuk, Frances Mulhern, Jeremy Henry, Martina Henry, Olivia Zota, Aisling Toal, Daria Zota, Carolann Cameron.

*Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



**Lisbane/Gurteenmore Stations, in the home of John Joe and Susan Hoban, Lisbane.**

**Standing, L-R:** Kathleen Henry, Marie Cribbin, Patricia Waldron, Mary Morrissey, Frances Mulhern, Eddie Mulhern, Gretta Henry, Martina Squires, Michael Nolan, Emma Dardis, Stephen Hoban, Michael Moffatt, Rose Nolan, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Mary Waldron, Edel Fitzmaurice, Paul Maguire, Patricia Plunkett, Mary Maguire, Mary Mulkerrin, Sarah Mulkerrin, Patricia Murphy, Kieran Fitzmaurice, Paul Moffatt, Linda Moffatt, Brian Hunt, Sheila Dillon, Bernie Dunbar, Marian Moffatt, Fergal Fitzmaurice. **Seated, L-R:** Jim Fitzmaurice, John J. Hoban, Susan Hoban, May Fitzmaurice, Mary Plunkett, Helen Hoban, Joanne Hoban, John Fitzmaurice, Margaret Kenny.

**Front:** Kevin Moffatt, Ellie Moffatt, Áine Moffatt.

*Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*







**Bracklaghboy/Knock Rd. Stations in the home of Paddy and Mary Murphy, Bracklaghboy.**

**Standing, L-R:** Brian Phillips, Tony Nestor, Marie Leneghan, P.J. Smyth, P.J. McGreal, Joe Costello, John Gallagher, Mary McGreal, Teresa McGreal, Olive Lyons, Ann Nestor, Eddie Mulhern, Colette Neenan.

**Seated, L-R:** Frances Mulhern, Pierce Nestor, Paddy Murphy, Sean Cunnane, David Murphy, Karen Cunnane, Mary Murphy, Cian Murphy, Tara Murphy, Patricia Murphy, Padraic Murphy.

*Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



**Main St. Stations in the home of John and Breege Halpin**

**Back row, L-R:** Frances Maye, Noreen Culliney, Justina Lyons, Una Phillips, Bridann Keane, Siobhán Halpin, Damien Connors, Seamus Fleming, Mary Coyne, Tom Phillips, Michael Phillips, Teresa Connors, Phyllis Phillips, Irene Healy, Annette Fleming, Margaret Johnston, Carmel Johnston, Peter McCafferty.

**Front, L-R:** Breege Halpin, Mary Halpin-O'Brien, Helene McCafferty, Brian Keane, John C. Halpin, John Halpin, Maureen Hunt, Betty Coen. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*







Keith Higgins signs a Mayo Jersey for a young customer.  
L-R: Anne Cosgrove (staff member), Regina Kelly with jersey, Grainne Kelly and Connie Gannon (staff member), Keith Higgins, photographed in the Bank of Ireland, Castlereagh.



Nellie Byrne (nee Conway), Bridge Street, in the 1920s.

Pictured are all native Clare Street people who attended the 100th birthday celebration for Alice Lyons at Brookvale Manor Nursing Home on November 24th, 2011.

Back, L-R: Thomas Lyons, Edward Mulhern, Martha Grogan, Brian Byrne, John Cleary, Mike Byrne, Mike Cleary, Sean Freyne.  
Front: Alacoque (Lyons) Grey, Una (Donnellan) Phillips, Máisín Meath, Bernard Freyne.

*Photo courtesy of Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



Tea-time in the Priory, during haymaking in the Friary Field, 1970's.

L-R: Frank Connolly (Devlis), Kitty Corless (Abbey St.), Miko Mannion (Drimbane), Joe Horkan (Churchpark), Seamus Kelly (Drimbane), Dave Jordan Snr. (Lecarrow), Terence Sweeney (Drimbane).



# Abbey Pattern – The Tradition Continues

Another successful Abbey Pattern was held on the last Sunday of August continuing the Pattern tradition into 2012. A great family day out was once again enjoyed by the hundreds of people who attended, with over 160 medals and trophies awarded to children and adults in almost fifty separate races and activities sponsored by Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union to whom we are very grateful.

The Wheel of Fortune was spun once again distributing a wide range of prizes and gifts. With the help of Scoil Íosa a series of new, exciting activities were introduced this year – ‘Splash the Teacher’ being the most popular!

The Dog Show once again attracted lots of interest and, with the help and involvement of Mayo ISPCA, promoted positive messages about caring for our animals and those who have been abandoned or mistreated. A few of the town’s younger and not-so-young men tried their skills with the Sheaf Tossing, while most of the children had a great time trying out the many bouncy castles and fun activities available on the day.

Many thanks also to Fr. Stephen Farragher for celebrating the Annual Mass in St. Mary’s Abbey and to Joan Flanagan for arranging the exhibition of photographs of Ballyhaunis shop-fronts, also held in the Abbey.

Finally, the Abbey Pattern Committee would like, once again, to express its sincere thanks to all those local businesses who kindly donated sponsorship for the Pattern and to all the local people who help out on the day itself. The Pattern tradition relies on local people being willing to both help out on the day itself and in the Pattern Committee which prepares the event.

The AGM of the Pattern Committee will be held in the Spring and it will be vital that people interested in helping to arrange next year’s Pattern will step forward and be encouraged to attend.

Finally, all the photos from this year’s Pattern are viewable on the Abbey Pattern Facebook page thanks to Deirdre Moran efforts.

## Results

### Racing

- U-4 Boys: 1 Adam Kelly, 2 John Jennings,  
3 Cillian McGee.
- U-4 Girls: 1 Amanda Cleary, 2 Aisling Walsh,  
3 Roisín Henry.

- U-6 Boys: 1 Conor Henry, 2 Adam Walsh,  
3 Dara Caulfield.
- U-6 Girls: 1 Nikita Cleary, 2 Chloe Collins,  
3 Rachel Fallon.
- U-8 Boys: 1 John McDonagh, 2 Jason Hession,  
3 Tyler Coyne.
- U-8 Girls: 1 Erin Murray, 2 Teresa Cleary,  
3 Rebecca Lyons.
- U-10 Boys: 1 Stephen Maughan, 2 Owen McDonagh,  
3 Tommy Cleary.
- U-10 Girls: 1 Emma Fallon, 2 Kerry Sommerville,  
3 Leah Murphy.
- U-12 Boys: 1 Patrick Caulfield, 2 Tommy Cleary,  
3 Pierce Nestor.
- U-12 Girls: 1 Niamh O’Neill, 2 Shauna Lyons,  
3 Laura Walsh.
- U-14 Boys: 1 Piaras Caulfield, 2 Patrick Caulfield,  
3 Colin Byrne.
- U-14 Girls: 1 Niamh O’Neill, 2 Gemma Foody,  
3 Laura Walsh.
- U-18 Boys: 1 Brian O’Neill, 2 Sean Carrick,  
3 Piaras Caulfield.
- U-18 Girls: 1 Niamh Murray, 2 Leanne Henry,  
3 Katie McKay.

Frank Connolly Memorial Shield Men’s Race:  
1 Paul Webb, 2 Martin Walsh,  
3 John Waldron.

Ladies’ Race: 1 Joanna Webb-Hunt, 2 Michelle Mulrennan,  
3 Claire Moran-Kelly

### Long Jump

- Boys: 1 Sean Carrick, 2 Patrick Caulfield,  
3 Radik.
- Girls: 1 Niamh O’Neill, 2 Laura Walsh,  
3 Alannah Nolan.

### Penalty Shoot-out

- 1 Josh Webb, 2 Daniel McCormack,  
3 Liam Foody.

### Novelty Events

- U-8 Boys Sack Race: 1 Jason Hession,  
2 James Curry,  
3 Brian Murphy.
- U-8 Girls Sack Race: 1 Chloe Collins,  
2 Alannah Hession,  
3 Rebecca Lyons.





**U-12 Boys Sack Race:**

- 1 Dean Lyons,
- 2 Josh Webb,
- 3 Jason Reinhardt.

**U-12 Girls Sack Race:**

- 1 Alannah Waldron,
- 2 Gemma Foody,
- 3 Niamh Foody.



**The Frank Connolly Memorial Shield Men's Race in full flight.**

**U-10 Boys 3-Legged Race:**

- 1 Callum Murphy and Jason Reinhardt,
- 2 Josh Webb and Cian Walsh,
- 3 Safi and Ibrahim.

**U-12 Girls 3-Legged Race:**

- 1 Niamh Foody and Shauna Lyons,
- 2 Gemma Foody and Alannah Dennehy,
- 3 Niamh O'Neill and Laura Walsh.

**U-12 Boys 3-Legged:**

- 1 Darren Maughan and Owen McDonagh,
- 2 Josh Webb and Cian Walsh,
- 3 Amir and Abdullah.

- Girls' Egg and Spoon:** 1 Alannah Dennehy,  
2 Laura Walsh,  
3 Alannah Nolan.



**Scene after the Penalty Shoot-out contest.**

**Boys' Egg and Spoon:**

- 1 Darren T. Maughan,
- 2 Darren L. Maughan,
- 3 Cian Walsh.

- Wheelbarrow Race:** 1 Brian O'Neill and Daniel McCormack,  
2 Jason Hession and Nathan Hession,  
3 Aiden Byrne and Colin Byrne.

- Skipping U-10:** 1 Leah Murphy,  
2 Niamh Donnellan,  
3 Teresa Cleary.

- Skipping 11+:** 1 Clodagh Byrne,  
2 Jenita McCormack,  
3 Amy Keane.



**Girls Under-12 Three-legged race winners with members of Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union (sponsors), Rita London, Helene McCafferty, Edward Mulhern and Katherine Kilbride.**





# Ballyhaunis Golf Club

Ballyhaunis Golf Club has had a very good year. We have experienced the difficulties many sports clubs have faced, however we are a tight-knit organisation and through the dedication and hard work of our members, we are continuing to run a successful and well-respected golf club.

At the beginning of the year, Stephen Ryall was chosen as our Club President. Stephen always carried out his duties in a professional manner. He was actively involved in lending his support and vast knowledge of the game to the Club Committee. Pat Freeley won Stephen's President's Prize. Stephen's successor as President next year will be Kay Curley.



One of the new innovations developed by the Club Committee was our partnership with Cystic Fibrosis West. The Club committed 10% of any money raised through fundraising events throughout the year to the worthy organisation. The highlight of this initiative was the presentation of a cheque for €650 from our Club Am-Am held in May.

On the course, the year kicked off with the re-established Fr. Rafferty Cup, an annual competition played against Dunmore Golf Club. It is played to honour a former member of our Club who was based in Dunmore. This year it was held in Dunmore where we defended our title. We would like to express our thanks to Dunmore for a fantastic day and for their hospitality.

The Club is very proud of the achievements of our member Kung Fanning who was selected for the Ladies Connacht Team and represented them in competitive action in Cork earlier this year.

## Connacht Shield

Our Men's Connacht Shield team had a fantastic run this year under the inspiring Captaincy of Alan Henry. They racked up wins against Portumna, Ballinasloe, Athlone, Loughrea and Swinford only to be narrowly defeated in the final against Co. Sligo. It was a fantastic achievement and the club is very proud of the panel involved.

There is always a massive effort made to encourage more people to play golf in Ballyhaunis. The Junior Golf committee in particular have put in a huge effort over the last number of years. The fruits of their efforts were noticeable this year with golfers who have come through the junior programme, being selected for Men's senior teams. The numbers attending junior golf this summer were very impressive with an average of 75 youngsters taking to the fairways each Wednesday morning.

Wednesday evenings saw the turn of beginners of all ages gain the knowledge of volunteers from the Club. It is a fun, social and healthy activity that can be enjoyed by everyone. If you are interested in joining Ballyhaunis Golf Club, now is a very good time to do so. We have a variety of great value packages available. For more information, contact Club Registrar Kay Buckley on 086 8534752.

On behalf of the Club Committee, we would like to



After a very successful Am-Am competition at Ballyhaunis Golf Club, a cheque for €650 was presented to Alan Biesty for the new Cystic Fibrosis Unit at Castlebar General Hospital. L-R: Stephen Ryall (President), Tomás Murphy, Alan Biesty, Margaret Dyer (Lady Captain) and Pat Feeney (Captain). *Glynn's Photography, Ballyhaunis/Castlerear.*

Our Club Captain this year was Pat Feeney. Pat showed exceptional commitment to the Club throughout the year and was accommodating and encouraging of any new activities or developments within the Club. Pat was particularly active in developments and progressive alterations made to the course itself. Pat's Captain's prize was won by Paul Hickey. His successor as Captain will be Michael Lyons.

Margaret Dyer took to her role as Lady Captain admirably. She made huge efforts to encourage ladies to take up the sport and join the Club. Margaret could be seen on the Club's practice grounds most Wednesday evenings encouraging the beginners and making them feel welcome to the Club. Margaret's Lady Captain's prize was won by Kung Fanning. Margaret will be succeeded next year by Joan McGuire.







**Prizewinners in the Captain's Prize Day at Ballyhaunis Golf Club, 2012.**

Standing, L-R: Ivan Freeley, Tom Halliwell, David Murphy, Tom McGuire, Conor Lyons, Anthony McNicholas. Seated: Shane Freeman, Kung Fanning (Lady Winner), Pat Feeney (Captain), Paul Hickey, (Winner) and Martin McDermott.

*Glynn's Photography, Ballyhaunis/Castlerea.*



**Photographed at the Presentation of the Timmy Lavin Memorial Shield.**

L-R: Margaret Dyer (Lady Captain), John Doyle (HomeCare Medical - Sponsor of the Winter League Competition), Chris Lavin, Paul Hickey (Captain of the winning Winter League team), Michael Lavin, Bernie Flaherty, Michael Lavin and Pat Feeney (Captain).

*Glynn's Photography, Castlerea/Ballyhaunis.*

express our gratitude to all our sponsors throughout the year. Without your continued support, we would struggle. We also thank anyone who helped out in anyway throughout the year. Your help is very much appreciated.

Finally, if you would like to take up golf, we would love to see you. The course is a great amenity to the town and is there for everyone to enjoy. Hopefully we will see you in 2013!

**Seamas Lundon (P.R.O.)**



**Margaret Dyer, Lady Captain. Ballyhaunis Golf Club, presenting her Prize to Kung Fanning.**



**Stephen Ryall (President, Ballyhaunis Golf Club) presenting his winning prize to Pat Freeley (right).**

*Glynn's Photography, Ballyhaunis/Castlerea.*







**A Ballyhaunis Reunion in New Jersey, USA, Summer 2012. L-R: Thomas Moran, John O'Connor, Mary Geraghty, Siobhán O'Connor, Junior Geraghty.**



**Dee Moran and Anne O'Sullivan with Donncha O'Callaghan taken after the Ireland v. Italy Rugby International, Feb. 2012.**



**Laura Dillon, Ballindrehid, Under-6 Bun Grád and Erica Byrne, Gurteen, Under-6 Tús Grád, who both came in First place in their particular grades at the Mini Connachts held at Breafoy Complex, Castlebar on the 28th of April 2012. Both girls are with the Elwood School of Dancing.**



**Sean and Ina Freyne, Clare Road posing in front of an Israeli tank at the Golan Heights near the borders of Lebanon and Syria, during their visit to the Holy Land, July 2012.**



**Jimmy Hunt, Dave Freeley and 'Eli' - a sixteen month old Dutch Purebred Friesian Colt Foal.**





# Ballyhaunis Town FC

## 2012 Season Review

2012 has been another busy season for Ballyhaunis Town FC both on and off the pitch. Before a ball was kicked a large improvement project was undertaken on the pitch in Station Rise. This work resulted in the team having to play some early season home fixtures in Urlaur. While this work proved disruptive it has left the club with a pristine playing surface which the team will reap the benefits of for many years to come.

Ballyhaunis competed in Division 1 of the Mayo Football League this season following their promotion from Division 2 last year. The season kicked off in April and the step up in quality of opposition was apparent with every game being a highly competitive, keenly contested affair. As the season unfolded it became apparent that the League title would be a three horse race between Partry Athletic, Ballyhaunis and near neighbours Urlaur United.

In the matches against these teams Ballyhaunis drew three games and lost one. This inability to secure victory over either side during the league campaign undermined the many other hard fought wins and ultimately resulted

with Ballyhaunis finishing in third place behind Partry and League winners Urlaur.

### Highlight

The highlight of the season was the team's Divisional Cup campaign where wins over Crossmolina and Partry Athletic culminated in a memorable 4 – 0 victory over Urlaur United in the Cup Final. This win secured the club's third trophy in three years since the Club reformed. The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank main club sponsors Imam Casings for their continued support and all the local businesses who purchased pitch side advertising signs. It is very much appreciated. A special word of thanks to all those individuals who volunteered their time to help the Club out both on and off the pitch. It is through your efforts that the club has been so successful to date.

From all at Ballyhaunis Town FC have a happy and enjoyable Christmas and we look forward to bringing you more football excitement in 2013.

**James Mulrennan**



**Ballyhaunis Town FC, 2012.**

**Back, L-R:** Danny Vagenknecht, Paul Nolan, Paul Walsh, Miro Ryiak, Peter Matuska, Paul Finn, Aidan Paul Kelly, Fergal Fitzmaurice, John Coyne, Declan Ward, Niall Richardson, James Mulrennan, John Kelly.  
**Front L-R:** Hanna Sab, Damien Hurley, Brian Kilcourse, Ronnie Robinson, Conor Freeley, Fergus Coyne, Michael Waldron, Michael John Kilcourse, Joe Neenan, Michael O'Rourke. Missing from photo: Craig Hughes, Mik Kundis, Conor Mulrennan.





# A Year of Mayo Senior Ladies Football

*Aisling Tarpey, of Carrowkeel looks back on her first season on the Mayo Senior Ladies Panel. Aisling plays in goal.*

The Mayo Senior Ladies Gaelic Football team enjoyed a successful year, regaining National League Division 1 status for 2013 by overcoming Galway in the Division 2 final of the campaign. Owing to the finely blended mixture of youthful and mature players, it looked as if Mayo were in strong contention to have the first taste of All-Ireland victory for nine years. After the class-act displayed in Parnell Park in the League Final in May, Mayo went in as hot favourites to collect the CBE Cup in the Connacht Final against Galway on July 8th. This was proven to be inaccurate as a last push over the line meant that Galway was victorious on this occasion. The pain of this defeat was still evident in Mayo's clash with Tyrone in the qualifying rounds of the competition, where Mayo adopted the 'all or nothing' strategy which was proven to be beneficial as they overcame Tyrone on a tasty score line of 3-12 to 1-4.

Mayo were to meet their counterparts Monaghan in the All-Ireland Quarter Final decider which would see yet another team crash out of this year's Championship. A culmination of muscle strains, viruses and, not to mention a thriving Monaghan team, proved too much for Mayo on the day, and that fateful encounter ended the Mayo



**Aisling Tarpey in action against Louise Ni Mhuircheartaigh, Kerry in the Bord Gáis Energy Ladies National Football League, Division 2 Semi-Final, 29th April, 2012. Photograph: David Maher, Sportsfile.**

Ladies' hopes of All-Ireland success for 2012. However, all was not lost as the main aim of the season – to be promoted to National League Division 1 Football was achieved and after this brilliant display, who knows what is in store for Mayo Ladies Football in 2012!

**Aisling Tarpey**



**Above: Michael Dougherty, his wife and son Tanner, in Florida, July 2012. Right: David Dougherty, his wife and children Aiden and Maile, California, at Olympic Trials. Michael and David are sons of Marian Dougherty, nee Jordan, formerly of Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis.**



Sean Carrick of Gurrane represented Ballyhaunis Community School in the Pentathlon, which includes 800m, 200m, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Putt and Hurdles. He travelled to Galway's Dangan Stadium on the 18th September for the Connaught Finals in which he finished third over all. He was invited to Dublin to compete at the Morton stadium in Santry on 27th September, in the All Ireland track and field event - where he finished tenth overall. This is a great achievement for Seán as the only coaching he receives is from his P.E. teacher at Ballyhaunis Community School, Mr. Woolley. Who knows what the future holds for Sean? Rio 2016!!







# Ballyhaunis GAA Club 2012

When I was reminded that it was time to start composing our report for the 2012 Annagh Magazine, I thought, "this shouldn't be too hard". After all, I had last year's report to reference for headings, amount of words, who to call on for help. If all else failed, I had 34 editions of Annagh magazine to refer to and maybe lift something out of the reports by previous Club secretaries. Stick in a few photos from the last twelve-months and end up with an article that does justice to the magazine and gives a factual account of events in Ballyhaunis GAA Club in 2012. When I did sit down to begin putting this article together, gathered minutes, match reports, photos from games and trophies being presented, trips away etc., I quickly realised that 2012 was no ordinary year in the history of the Club. In 2012, the Club lost two of our members, Jason Morley and Austin Grogan.

**Jason Morley** passed away suddenly at his home in January 2012. Jason, who only months before had toggled out in the County Semi-final, was gone. Jason, who was born in 1974, showed from an early age that he was destined to wear the Red and Black of Ballyhaunis. Following in the footsteps of generations of the Morley family, he played the game of Gaelic Football in a style and with the honour of a person who knew it was 'more than a game'. Lifelong friendships were made and these friends knew that 'Jay' was a team mate that could be relied on to turn the game with one leap, a quick flick, or one of his trademark surging runs, usually ending with a score for his team. When the going got tough, you were happy that Jay was on your side, not the oppositions!

To his loving wife Becky, son Conor, parents Tony and Josie, brothers Tony and David and to members of the Morley and Ganly families, we offer our sincere condolences and hope that we can provide help and comfort to them in the days ahead. Jay, "you'll never walk alone".

**Austin Grogan**, who passed away in March 2012, held a number of positions in Ballyhaunis and in Mayo GAA. At the time of his death Austin was a Trustee of the Club. His involvement with Ballyhaunis GAA Club began in the 1960's and he served the Club over a span of six decades, in a lifetime of dedication and service.

Austin was instrumental in the purchase and development of the grounds in the 1960's. Without his foresight and generosity in those days when finance and resources were tight, the Club would not now be able to boast of the grounds and facilities, which are there for

future generations of Ballyhaunis people.

The young players of the seventies and eighties fondly remember Austin. His reading of games, ability to spot the potential in young players, offer words of encouragement when a game mightn't have gone as well as we had hoped, and indeed, provide transport to matches in Mayo and beyond, are memories of Austin which will live long in Ballyhaunis whenever 'glory days' are recalled.

We offer our sympathy to his wife Patricia, sons Mike, Tommy and Seamus, daughters Mary Angela and Fiona and extended family and friends.

## Girls Football Arrives in Ballyhaunis

"If we don't do it now, we'll never do it." The now immortal words of Robbie Herr uttered in August 2011 after a girls team from Ballyhaunis had taken part in a nationwide competition in Croke Park and lost only one game.

For the previous two summers girls from the Ballyhaunis area under the guidance of Kevin Henry, Aideen Murray, Liam Lyons, Fiona Freyne, Robyn Moran and Lisa Cafferky, a coach from the Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA), had taken part in weekly training sessions. As many as seventy girls attended.

A ladies section would be founded and they would play in the red and black of Ballyhaunis. For the first year it was decided to enter teams in the U-12, U-13 and U-14 divisions. The U-10 girls, under the guidance of Ann Phillips and Justin McDonagh and thanks to David Delaney for his help too, played in county-wide blitzes, culminating with an U-11 team displaying their skills on the Mick O'Connell day in October. When training began, quite a number of dedicated U-8 girls attended training each Friday evening and in 2013 we hope to facilitate this age group.

**U-12 Girls.** Under the management of Gary Conway and Paul Smith the girls played some great football. In the League they played seven games, winning five, drawing one and losing only one game by a very small margin. They finished second in the League and won promotion. In the cup semi-final they were unlucky with injuries, losing two key players, and they lost to the eventual winners Westport. The U-12 team also took part in the Community Games competition. They won their way through to the Mayo Final. Parke were waiting in the final and proved too strong.

**The U-14 team**, with Michael Gallagher as Manager, assisted by Gerry O'Connell and Liam Lyons as Selectors, played five games in the League. They won four and only lost to the League winners Hollymount. They did enough to ensure promotion for next year. In the 'B'





Ballyhaunis U-12 Girls Football. Runners-up in the Mayo Community Games County Final, to Parke.

Championship, consisting of sixteen teams from division 2 and 3, the girls exceeded all expectations. They won three games and progressed to the semi-final, where they were eventually beaten by a strong Claremorris team, which included three county players. Their achievement was made all the more remarkable when you consider all the girls were U-13 and are eligible for next year's U-14 competitions!

**The U-13 League** began in August and, by this time, the girls had been together for six months. The girls were fortunate to have one of our senior footballers, Kevin Gallagher, share some of his experience in relation to hydration/nutrition etc. They played five games winning them all, taking the League title and gaining promotion. In the Cup they played Parke in the semi-final. With five minutes remaining it was a one point game. Sadly for our girls, Parke scored a goal and we were to lose by four points to the eventual champions.

Our first year has been a great success. We believe there are many more girls around the Ballyhaunis area who could benefit from playing football for the Club and help us improve. Registration for next season will commence in early 2013.

**U-10, U-11 Panel:** Amy Nevin, Olivia Klimczyk, Ruth Henry, Aine Phillips, Anna Cunnane, Laura Godfrey, Kate Delaney, Erin Murray, Kate Mannion, Maeve Donnellan, Roisin Murphy, Tamzin Whelan, Julia Grabiasz, Kyah Legg, Hannah Clarke, Rachel Cleary, Chanel Jacques. Orla Coffey, Leah Johnston, Megan Morley, Ciara O'Grady, Holly Browne, Sheena Roddy, Niamh Smith, Deirbhile Finn, Niamh O'Neill, Siofra Murray, Julianne Gardiner. Trainers: Nicola Nolan, Ann Phillips, Paul Smith, Justin Mc Donagh, David Delaney.

**U-12 Panel:** Alannah Dennehey, Maedhbh Caulfield, Cait Phillips, Kasey Clarke, Aoife Conway, Jade Cunnane, Gemma Foody, Niamh Foody, Michelle Grogan, Shauna Lyons, Anna Naszkierska, Emma Nolan, Laura Regan, Niamh Smith, Sheena Roddy, Rebecca Reynolds, Niamh O'Neill, Ciara O'Grady, Siofra Murray, Megan Morley, Julianne Gardiner, Deirbhile Finn, Holly Browne, Amy Nevin, Erin Murray. Trainers: Jason Foody, Gary Conway, Paul Smith, Máire Caulfield, Nicola Nolan, Aideen Murray.

**U-13 Panel:** Chloe Ryan, Megan Regan, Georgia Peake, Laura O'Connell, Aoife Nolan, Roisin Lyons, Aibhinn Herr, Veronica Grabiasz, Helen Gallagher, Aoiheann Gallagher, Rebecca Finn, Katelyn Concannon, Olivia Cleary, Marina Carney, Alannah Dennehey, Maedhbh Caulfield, Marina Carney, Cait Phillips, Kasey Clarke, Aoife Conway, Jade Cunnane, Gemma Foody, Niamh Foody, Michelle Grogan, Shauna Lyons, Anna Naszkierska, Emma Nolan, Laura Regan, Niamh Smith, Sheena Roddy, Rebecca Reynolds, Niamh O'Neill, Ciara O'Grady, Siofra Murray, Megan Morley, Julianne Gardiner, Deirbhile Finn, Holly Browne, Amy Nevin, Erin Murray. Trainers: Michael Gallagher, Gerry O'Connell, Martina Gallagher, Máire Caulfield, Liam Lyons.

**U-14 Panel:** Dearbhla Phillips, Michelle Lyons, Chloe Ryan, Megan Regan, Laura O'Connell, Aoife Nolan, Roisin Lyons, Aibhinn Herr, Megan Gaughan, Helen Gallagher, Aoiheann Gallagher, Rebecca Finn, Katelyn Concannon, Olivia Cleary, Marina Carney, Maedhbh Caulfield, Jade Cunnane, Megan Morley, Siofra Murray, Laura Regan, Amy Nevin, Anna Naszkierska, Shauna Lyons, Michelle Grogan, Niamh Foody, Gemma Foody, Aoife Conway, Cait Phillips, Alannah Dennehey, Emma Nolan. Trainers:







Ballyhaunis U-12 Boys Football.

Michael Gallagher, Gerry O'Connell, Liam Lyons, Martina Gallagher, Máire Caulfield.

### U-8 Boys Football

Training started in March and following a number of skills based sessions, a number of Go-Games blitzes were played against Hollymount, Davitts, Shrule, Mayo Gaels and Ballinrobe. Great progress was shown during the year and we finished the season in the traditional Mick O'Connell day 'Ballyhaunis' v 'Mayo' game in which great promise for the future was on display.

Panel: P. J. Greally, Darius Simkevicius, Cian Burke, Adam Walsh, Yordan Kirchev, Mahmoon Ahmad, Adam Noone, Kyle Burke, Conor Henry, Tyler Coyne, Clayton Nolan, Colm Rattigan, Justin Svec, Patrick McDonagh, Padriag Murphy, Nathan Noone, Matthew Stevko, Aiden Sloyan, Nathan Noone, Matthew Stevko, Brian McHugh, Eoin Ryan, Bader Kezee, Daire Caulfield, Jason Lyons, Micheal Richardson, Andre Carvalho, Yazan Rahmani, Cian Morley, Walaad Fakkar, Michael McDonagh, Fadel Shimaou. Trainers: David Burke, Vinnie Caulfield, Pat Ryan and Pat Murphy.

### U-10 Boys Football

Despite a small number of players on the panel, quality more than makes up for quantity. Skills and an understanding of how to play the game are imparted to these players by trainers Brian Murray and Paul Webb. A series of Go-Games were played and following on from this, we competed in a number of inter-club blitzes. The climax of the year was the Mick O'Connell Cup. Diarmuid Phillips' team defeated Daniel Murray's team.

Panel: Kevin Durkan, Jamie Allen, Daniel Hill, Daniel Murray, Cian Walsh, Aiden Sloyan, Cian Burke, Haroon

Shabbir, Dara Rattigan, Shaun Morley, Diarmuid Phillips, Joshua Webb, Eoin Ryan, Tommy Cleary, Sean Caulfield, Padraig McHugh. Trainers: Brian Murray, Paul Webb.

### U-12 Boys Football

Training was held every Friday evening from March until the end of September. The skills learned at U-8 and U-10 levels were put to good use in the Summer and Mini leagues. The year concluded with the traditional Joe Webb Cup.

Panel: Aiden Byrne, Conal Caulfield, Barry Cribbin, Luke Walsh, Dara Healy, Kevin McHugh, Pierce Nestor, Cormac Phillips, Darren Maughan, Jack Coyne, Patrick Caulfield, Neil Carney, Soheab Arshad, Dylan Gaughan, Jack McGoldrick, Aaron Rattigan, Ethan Keane, John Reidy, Zineddin Rahmani, David Finn. Trainers: Seamus Caulfield and Tommy Caulfield.

### U-13 Boys Football

We competed in Division 2 of the County League, winning three games, drawing one and suffering just one loss. The panel have demonstrated that they will be well able to compete with the top teams in the county in the 2013 leagues and championship.

Panel: Aiden Byrne, Conal Caulfield, Barry Cribbin, Ifoe Ebelgehe, Evan Fitzmaurice, Dara Healy, Liam Herr, Thomas Maughan, Kevin McHugh, Pierce Nestor, Ibrihin Rahmani, Zouhir Rahmani, Conor Sloyan, Mac-Angel Ubazeuonu, Zouzou Rahmani, Zineddin Rahmani, Cormac Phillips, Darren Maughan, Gary Higgins, Evan Henry, David Cunnane, Jack Coyne, Patrick Caulfield, Neil Carney, Soheab Arshad. Trainers: Seamus Caulfield, Tommy Caulfield.







Ballyhaunis U-13 Boys Football with mentors Seamus and Tommy Caulfield.



Ballyhaunis U-14 Boys Football. East Mayo Champions & County Final A Ch'ship runners-up to Castlebar Mitchells.



Ballyhaunis U-14 Girls Football. County Semi-finalists.







**Ballyhaunis Senior Football Panel**

**Back, L-R:** Liam Lyons, Fergal Kelly, Aiden Fitzmaurice, John Jordan, Ciaran Griffin, Joe Sutton, Kevin Gallagher, Jarlath Carney, Paul Jordan, Christy McCrudden, Kevin Moran, David McNamara, Phelim Carroll, Kevin Nestor, Sean Hunt.

**Front:** Conor Mulrennan, Brendan Rudden, Eoghan Collins, Declan Doyle, John Prenty, Keith Higgins, John Gallagher, Seamus O'Dwyer, Enda Griffin, Brian Hunt, Niall Prenty.

### U-14 Boys Football

This team of players delivered on what promised to be a very exciting season for the panel. Competing in Division 1 of the County League, we reached the semi-finals before losing out to Westport in a very entertaining game. In the Championship we reached the County Final and we came within a kick of the ball of capturing the County 'A' Championship. An injury sustained by centre back Darren Coyne in July put an end to his season and he is wished a speedy recovery.

Panel: Geger Ali, Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield, Darren Coyne, David Cunnane, John Cunnane, Evan Fitzmaurice, Liam Foody, Calum Gardiner, Evan Henry, Oisín Henry, Liam Herr, Sean Herr, Gary Higgins, Michael Hill, Thomas Maughan, Uneeb Naseer, Brian O'Neill, Eamon Phillips, Zouhir Rahmani, Sousou Rahmani, James Reynolds, Conor Sloyan, Carlton Ubazuonu,

Mac-Angel Ubazuonu. Trainers: Paddy Phillips, Jason Foody, Martin Fitzmaurice and Kevin Henry.

### U-15 Boys Football

Competing in Divisions 1A of the league, we won one game and lost four. The margin of defeat was never more than a few points in any of the games so this team, with a full panel available, are up there with the best of the county.

Panel: Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield, Sean Carrick, Azad Ali, Darren Coyne, James Cribbin, John Cunnane, Damien Egan, Calum Gardiner, Cian Henry, Oisín Henry, Sean Herr, Joseph Kelly, Ryan Kilbane, Robert McCormack, Brian O'Neill, Eamon Phillips, Cormac Reidy, James Reynolds, Sean Sutton, Carlton Ubazuonu. Trainers: Johnny Cribbin, Kevin Henry, Paddy Phillips.

### U-16 Boys Football

We competed in Division 3 of the League and found it tough to get a settled team due to injuries and fixture pile-ups. Despite this, we competed well at our one victory was against eventual League winners, our local rivals, Aghamore. In the Championship we improved and reached a County Final, unlucky though, going down to Islandeady.

Panel: Sean Carrick, Damien Callaghan, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, Damien Egan, Neil Folliard, Ryan Kilbane, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Robert McCormack, Rory Nestor, Stephen Nolan, Omoarebun Ebeleghe, Mark Phillips, Waqas Rehmon, Stephen Ryan, Sean Sutton. Trainers: Seamus Egan, Johnny Cribbin.

### Minor Football

In the League we won seven out of our eight games, just losing our last game and reaching a League final in which we lost out to Naomh Padraig. In the Championship we lost the East Mayo Final to Moy Davitts.

Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Jarlath Carney, Cyril Collins, James Cribbin, Sean Gildea, Shane Healy, Patrick Kiely, Jamil Kezze, Morgan Lyons, Tom McDonagh, Conor Nolan, Michael O'Rourke, Stephen Nolan, Adrian Phillips, James Reidy, Mark Sutton. Trainers: Stephen Nolan and James Reidy.

### U-21 Football

In the Under-21 we were paired with Castlebar Mitchels and Swinford in the 'A' Championship. In the first game versus Castlebar, we led from long periods before finally going down by four points. Trainers: Tony Waldron, Michael Dillon, Paul Webb.





**Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Panel – County Champions 2012**

**Back, L-R:** Mark Deely, Dave McConn, J.P. Coen, Peter Healy, Niall Murphy, Joe Kelly, Paul Lynch, Fergal Lyons, Eoghan Collins, Adrian Phillips, Kieran Kiely, Luke Cribbin, Tadgh Buckley holding Jack Buckley, Stephen Hoban, Liam McDermott, Liam Lyons, Brian Hunt, John Joe Hoban, Pierce Higgins.

**Front:** Oisín Coffey, Ryan Keadin, Cormac Phillips, Hugh McKermitt, Saoirse McKermitt, James McKermitt, Erin Higgins, Kieran McDermott, Donal O'Brien, Patrick Kiely, James Cribbin, Damien Keadin, Sean Griffin, Kevin Morley, Gearóid Keane, Keith Higgins (Capt.), Christy McCrudden, Micheál Walsh, Adrian Brennan, Hannan Iqbal, Eamon Phillips, Conor Keane.

### Senior Football

At present we are in the mid-table in Division 1B and are odds-on to maintain our place in this League. Indeed a few more victories could put us in with a chance of promotion to Division 1A. In the championship, we failed to make the knock-out stages, despite only losing one game. The team showed great maturity this year and are benefitting from the hard work put in on the training ground. Management: Frank Browne, Padraig Regan, John Prenty, Mike Dillon.

### Senior and U-21 Panel

Adrian Brennan, Hughie Carney, Jarlath Carney, Isaac Carroll, Phelim Carroll, Eoghan Collins, James Cribbin, Declan Doyle, Ruari Finan, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Joseph Flynn, Conor Freeley, John Gallagher, Kevin Gallagher, Ciaran Griffin, Enda Griffin, Sean Griffin, Sean Gildea, Gerard Grogan, Keith Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Sean Hunt, John Jordan, Paul Jordan, Gearoid Keane, Fergal Kelly, Liam Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Christy McCrudden, Liam McDermott, David McNamara, Kevin Moran, Conor Mulrennnan, Kevin Nestor, Conor Nolan, Seamus O'Dwyer, Adrian Phillips, John Prenty, Niall Prenty, Paul Prenty, Brendan Rudden, Joe Sutton.

### U-12 Hurling

The U-12 Hurlers played a number of Blitz games in McHale Park and reached the Blitz Final against Westport. The management of Peter Higgins and Marty Keane would like to thank parents and Club officers for their help during the year.

Panel: Cormac Phillips, Jack Coyne, Patrick Caulfield, Conal Caulfield, Conor Keane, Diarmuid Phillips, Dara

Healy, Danny Hill, Barry Cribbin, Neil Carney. Trainers: Pete Higgins, Marty Keane.

### U-13 Hurling

We reached the U-13 'B' Final and recorded a walk over from Belmullet.

Panel: Niall Coffey, Gary Higgins, Conal Caulfield, Cormac Phillips, John Reidy, Neil Carney, Dara Healy, Liam Herr, Barry Cribbin, Soheab Arshad, David Cunnane, Patrick Caulfield, Uneeb Naseer. Trainers: Pete Higgins, Gerry Hayes.

### U-14 Hurling

In the 'B' Championship we won two games and reached the final in which we were defeated by Westport.

Panel: Cathal Carney, Neil Carney, Oisín Coffey, Jack Coyne, Callum Gardiner, Dara Healy, Sean Herr, Liam Herr, Gary Higgins, Michael Hill, Brian O'Neill, Eamon Phillips, Cormac Phillips. Trainers: Pete Higgins, Gerry Lyons.

### U-16 Hurling

The U-16 hurlers played their League games early in 2012 but failed to reach the Final. In the Championship we reached the B final but were defeated by Westport.

Panel: Damien Callaghan, Cathal Carney, Sean Carrick, Oisín Coffey, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, Joey Fahy, Calum Gardiner, Sean Herr, Garry Higgins, Joseph Kelly, Ryan Kilbane, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Rory Nestor, Brian O'Neill, Ebeleghe Omoarebun, Eamon Phillips, Mark Phillips, Waqas Rehmon, Stephen Ryan, Hamzha Yousaf. Trainer: Adrian Brennan, Jason Swords.







Pierce Higgins receives the Man of the Match Award following the Mayo Senior Hurling Final from Jim Hogan (Sponsor).

## Minor Hurling

The new League format meant that more games were played this year. We accounted for ourselves very well and reached the final, only to be beaten by a better Tooreen side. In the Championship, we played Castlebar but failed to make the final. I would like to thank everyone for their help during my tenure as Minor Team Manager and am now stepping down after five years in charge.

Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Jarlath Carney, Cyril Collins, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, John Flynn, Sean Gildea, Shane Healy, Patrick Kiely, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Darren Nolan, Adrian Phillips, Mark Phillips. Trainer: Adrian Brennan.

## U-21 Hurling

In our first game we had a comprehensive win over Westport. We then drew with Tooreen. In our final game we lost to Castlebar, which meant we qualified for the 'B' final in which we defeated Westport by three points.

Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Cyril Collins, James Cribbin, Joe Flynn, Sean Griffin, Damien Kedian, Kevin Kilbride, Kieran McDermott, Shane Murphy, Darren Nolan, Jarlath Carney, Eoghan Collins, John Flynn, Sean Gildea, Shane Healy, Gearoid Keane, Patrick Kiely, Morgan Lyons, Kevin Morley, Conor Nolan, Adrian Phillips. Trainer: Adrian Brennan, J.P. Coen.

## Senior Hurling

We started the Genfitt League in March and, following a series of good wins, we reached the final in which we lost to our neighbours Tooreen. When Championships came around our team qualified for the final. Once again, our opponents were Tooreen and this time we got revenge for our League final defeat and ran out winners by a single point, with a score of 1-14 to 0-16. Captained by Keith Higgins we won our fifth Senior Hurling Championship in a row, and our ninth Senior County title over all.

Panel: Adrian Brennan, Tadhg Buckley, James Cribbin, Luke Cribbin, John Flynn, Joseph Flynn, Sean Griffin, Peter Healy, Shane Healy, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Damien Keadin, Gearoid Keane, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, Paul Lynch, Fergal Lyons, Liam Lyons, Derek McConn, Paul McConn, Christy McCrudden, Kieran McDermott, Liam McDermott, Hugh McKermitt, Kevin Morley, Tadhg Morley, Niall Murphy, Donal O'Brien, Adrian Phillips, Michael Walsh. Trainers: J.P. Coen, Dave McConn.

## AIB GAA 'Skills Challenge' Day

AIB, proud sponsors of the AIB GAA Club Championships, linked up with Ballyhaunis GAA Club to celebrate the Club's recent county success and acknowledge the role which the Club plays in the community, by supporting them in hosting the first ever AIB GAA Skills Challenge Day.

The AIB GAA Skills Challenge Day took place on Saturday 21st January at Ballyhaunis GAA Club Grounds, and was hosted by GAA stars Colm 'Gooch' Cooper, Brendan Cummins, Barry Cahill and J.J. Delaney. Each of the four GAA stars led teams made up from the Club's underage panels, in two competitive sessions (1.00pm and 14.45pm) involving a series of interactive and challenging hurling and football skills.

Club members and those in the local community were encouraged to come along on the day, which got underway at 12.15pm to show their support for the Club and join in the celebration of Ballyhaunis GAA Club and its achievements. 2FM broadcast live from the Club Grounds and there was plenty of activity happening off pitch with interactive hurling and football games, face painting, spot prizes and entertainment to engage family members of all ages.

Supporting clubs and communities has been at the heart of AIB's sponsorship strategy for years and AIB wants to acknowledge the huge achievement and honour it is for a club to win its County Final.



## Grounds

We continue to maintain and improve our grounds and Club House. This year the Club is very proud to have provided a fully equipped gym and weights room for our members. Thanks is due to Gary Conway for his help in the upkeep of the gym and equipment. Our pitch continues to boast one of the finest playing surfaces in the country. This is in no small way due to the efforts of Hugh Rudden and the Grounds Committee. The Club is also indebted to Enda Lyons, Eugene Freeley and Pat Regan for all their work during the year. Pitches have been sanded and spiked and new drainage systems have been installed demonstrating the commitment of the Club to continue to improve on our grounds. Next year we hope to continue with this good work to start developing a new training area and to continue to refurbish the gym meeting rooms.

## Lotto/Finance

The weekly Club Lotto continues to be the main source of finance for the day to day running of the Club. For this we are very thankful to the supporters who contribute to the weekly and annual lotto. You can also purchase your tickets online at [www.lotto.ie/ballyhaunis](http://www.lotto.ie/ballyhaunis)

The Club owes a deep debt of gratitude to our sellers who, fifty-two weeks of the year, hail, rain or snow, head out to sell the weekly lotto. Thanks also to the local businesses who allow us the use of their premises to sell our tickets and to host our weekly draws. Congratulations to John Joe Kelly Knox St. who won the Jackpot of €14,600 last February.

## 2012 Football All-Star Award

Congratulations to Keith Higgins on being the recipient of a 2012 Football All-Star Award. Keith has been a regular on the County Senior Football team since 2005 and has nailed down the number 4 jersey for himself.

Keith showed signs of huge potential and ability at an early age in both football and hurling. A natural athlete, Keith has dedicated himself to the GAA for the majority of his life for both club and county. Currently, he is an established player on both Mayo Senior Hurling and Football teams. His commitment to Ballyhaunis GAA is unwavering, right through his underage years to the present day. Keith captained Mayo to All Ireland Under 21 Football success in 2006. That year he received the Cadbury 'Young Player of the Year' award. In 2005 he



Cúl Camp Awards 2012.



All-Ireland inter-county stars decked out in Ballyhaunis GAA colours for the AIB Skills Challenge Day at the local grounds on Saturday, 21st January 2012.

L-R: J.J. Delaney (Kilkenny), Colm 'The Gooch' Cooper (Kerry), Ballyhaunis GAA Club Chairman, Mike Webb, Brendan Cummins (Tipperary) and Barry Cahill (Dublin).

helped Sligo IT to capture the Sigerson Cup. He has also represented his county in both the 2006 and 2012 All Ireland Senior Football Finals. A bank official, Keith has also represented Connacht in both football and hurling and has donned the national jersey when he played Shinty for Ireland against Scotland.

Ballyhaunis are justly proud of Keith and it was a great honour for Keith's family, his Club and his county when Des Cahill of RTE announced in October 2012, "The 2012 Football All Star left corner back from Ballyhaunis, is Keith Higgins".

## 2012 Christy Ring Cup Team

The Christy Ring Team of the Year is made up of players who represent hurling counties that do not compete in the Liam McCarthy Cup. This year the position of goalkeeper went to Donal O'Brien. Donal, a native of Silvermines, Co. Tipperary teaches in Scoil Iosa Primary School and plays hurling for the Ballyhaunis





Senior Hurling team. Donal has put in many sterling performances, both in goal and outfield for Ballyhaunis.

### Club Members on County Squads in 2012

U-14 Girls: Chloe Ryan, Katlyn Concannon. U-14 Hurling: Eamon Phillips, Sean Herr. U-14 Football: Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield, John Cunnane, Calum Gardiner, Brian O'Neill, Carlton Ubazeuono. U-15 Football: James Cribbin; U-15 Hurling: Ryan Kilbane. U-16 Football (Ted Webb Cup): Stephen Nolan. U-16 Hurling: Jason Coyne, James Lyons, Mark Phillips. Minor County Cup Football: Jarlath Carney. Minor Hurling: Hanan Iqbal, Adrian Phillips, Patrick Kiely, Haseeb Arshad. U-21 Football: Eoghan Collins. U-21 Hurling: Damien Kedian, Patrick Kiely, Kieran Kiely. Senior Football: Keith Higgins. Senior Hurling: Donal O'Brien, Adrian Brennan, Brian Hunt, Keith Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Fergal Lyons, Luke Cribbin, Christy McCrudden, Derek McConn.

### The Ballyhaunis Community and "The Gathering"

The Ballyhaunis GAA Club appreciates the wide support for the Club among the local community. The Club has, in turn, always supported community effort and invited participation in Club activity. This broad and inclusive Club-community co-operation can be traced back to the foundation of Ballyhaunis GAA Club over 110 years ago and to an event remembered as the Mayo County Feis of 1903. The present Club continue with the objectives of that Feis and with their community activity.

### The 1903 Mayo Feis.

In 1903 Ballyhaunis GAA were among the main sponsors and activists for an event which put Ballyhaunis prominently on the national scene i.e. the County Mayo Feis of 1903 which was attended by many wellknown national figures including Padraic Pearse and Dr. Douglas Hyde. That 1903 Feis was much more than series of competitions: it was a celebration of Irish and of local culture, talent and industry at a time when the national confidence was low. Adult participants from throughout Mayo took part. Events which attracted large crowds included: drama with original productions, exhibitions and competitions, a spectacular concert, music and entertainment.

While the 'Feis Committee' was representative of all the County success was due to the tremendous effort by Ballyhaunis based committees including Conradh na Gaeilge. The drive and energy of Feis directors Dr. Michael F. Waldron and Pilib de Bhaldrathe inspired teams of voluntary workers.

Ballyhaunis and Mayo are now fortunate that a written record of the 1903 celebration and of the spirit of the national Revival or 'Athbheochan' has been located. An archive compiled by Dr. Michael F. Waldron, now being researched, provides a fascinating account of

ordinary life in Ballyhaunis 110 years ago.

Ballyhaunis and the GAA Club will commemorate the astounding success of the 1903 events exactly 110 years later, during the early part of 2013. The proposed Feis celebration is in memory of the late Austin Grogan and Michael (Minister) Waldron who initiated this proposal.

### Ballyhaunis Community Socials

The GAA National Programme to combat rural isolation, which follows from an initiative by former President McAleese, is being implemented by Clubs throughout Ireland. Ballyhaunis GAA Club has come up with a unique and very successful community based response: All of the community is invited to come together for a night out, a 'Community Celebration', that takes place every month. Entertainment is top class with up to fifteen musicians and a queue of entertainers to sing a song or a recitation. It's all voluntary community based talent and it creates a tremendous atmosphere.

Well known musician Johnny McGarry and family are central to the regular line-up of talent which includes: Moira Delaney, Ann-Marie Foody, Fiona Lavin, Paddy Joe Tighe, Paddy Lyons, Michael Walsh, Richard Waldron, Paul Waldron, Tom Jennings, Michael Nolan, Michael Walsh, Tom Kelly and Anthony Jordan. The June event was a particularly memorable occasion, celebrating the 93rd birthday of the popular and charismatic Johnny McGarry.

### International GAA Game

The Ballyhaunis Club intends to invite the Coventry based 'Roger Casement GAA Club' to visit Ballyhaunis during 2013 for a series of games and socials.

### The Opportunity – The Gathering

The National Gathering of the Irish Diaspora during 2013 is an opportunity to invite Ballyhaunis people worldwide to come and contribute to the renewal. Ballyhaunis GAA Club will play their part in a Ballyhaunis Gathering by building on the 'up and running' Club-Community activities such as: The monthly community socials; the celebration in 2013 of the Mayo County Féis of 1903; International GAA competition; 25th Anniversary Celebration for Intermediate winning team of 1988 (for further details contact Seamus Caulfield on 086-8749785).

### Thanks

Ballyhaunis GAA Club owes a debt of gratitude to the many people and businesses who in the past twelve months have contributed to the running of the Club. I would like to thank the people who sponsored and trained teams. To the members who go out at weekends to sell our lotto tickets, to the people on the finance and grounds committees, to parents who provided transport to matches, to Enda Lyons, Eugene Freeley and Pat



Regan, thank you for all the co-operation and help. Thanks to Gary Conway for his help in setting up and maintaining the gym.

I wish to thank Kenneth Dennedy and the staff of Scoil Iosa for their help in promoting Gaelic games during the year and to Pat McHugh and the staff of Ballyhaunis Community School for their continued support and for making their facilities available to the Club.

A very special word of thanks goes to our official Club photographers and videographers: Fr. Stephen Farragher and Vinny Freyne for their help during the year.

This year, like many others, as we reflect on our activities one more time, we ask, why are we doing what we do, whether or not it is appropriate and whether we have had the impact we had hoped for or not? 2012 has taught us to appreciate life more and not to sweat over the small stuff and not take anything for granted and put things into perspective. The trials and tribulations people go through on a daily basis are mostly inconsequential. While not meaning to make light of anyone's personal situation, times are tough for a lot of people at the moment, but maybe we should step back and put things into perspective and re-assess priorities and appreciate the goodness out there.

While it is good to be emotional and be passionate about something, the world would be a boring place if we all agreed with each other and no one voiced their opinion, but we must remember that time and health are two precious assets that we don't recognise or appreciate until they have been depleted.

The fruits of the efforts of the many volunteers and members cannot be measured, but the positive impact of our games on our young players and the community at large makes the work of your GAA Club all the more worthwhile. Finally, a word of thanks goes to Annagh Magazine for affording us the unique opportunity of recording and sharing the activities of Ballyhaunis GAA Club with the community.

**Vinny Caulfield (Secretary)**



**Keith Higgins being presented with the T.J. Tyrrell Cup by John Hopkins, Mayo County Board Hurling Chairman.**



**2011 Hurler of the Year. Donal Moran presents Christy McCrudden with the Hurler of the Year Award at the Ballyhaunis GAA Dinner in the Park Hotel, Kiltimagh.**

**Left: 2011 Footballer of the Year. Anne Curley presents the Bertie Curley Memorial Trophy to John Prenty at the Ballyhaunis GAA Dinner in the Park Hotel, Kiltimagh.**







# Ballyhaunis Rugby Club

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club enjoyed its most succesful season in 2011-2012, since its inception. The Club won the Connaught Division 1C League, and got to the quarter finals of both the Heineken Junior Cup and the Cawley Cup, where the team was narrowly defeated by Monivea and Loughrea respectively.

To celebrate winning the League, a very successful Dinner and Presentation was held in the Clubhouse. Our guests on the night were Billy Glynn, the President of the I.R.F.U. and John Carr, President of the Connaught Branch. The Club was chosen in Connaught to be the recipient of the prestigious Rugby Force Award, sponsored by the Ulster Bank to support and develop under age participation in the game.

This section of the Club was re-structured. New coaches came on board and teams are being fielded at U13, U15 and U17 age groups. The club, with the help of the Connaught Branch, are currently encouraging students in the various schools to particapate and enjoy the game. These young players are the future of the club and hopefully will continue to enjoy the game. For more information go to Facebook.com/ballyhaunisrhc.

**Seamie Horan, Captain, receiving the Junior 1C League Cup from Paul Gibbons, Connaught Branch, at Ballyhaunis Rugby Club.**



**Ballyhaunis Rugby Panel 2011-2012. Winners of the Connaught Junior 1C League.**

Back row L-R: Tony Henry, Eugene Durkan, Rob Morley, Sean McKay, Aiden Healy, Fintan Crawley, Kieran McDermott, Ian Cunnane, Gabriel Gallagher, Tony Gleeson, Rory Caulfield, Fergal Kelly, Mark Waldron, Willie Lyons, Anthony Murphy, Joe Lyons, John Pierre Potgeiter, Shane Ganley, Stephen Devaney, Paul Gibbons, Ned Curley.  
Front row L-R: John Costelloe, David Morley, Gareth Delaney, David Lilly, Rob Duffy, Paddy Gallagher, Seamie Horan, Shane McDonagh, Kenneth Carrick, Colm Gallagher, Leo Convey, John Pa Burke.



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<b>O'Mahony, John, T.D.</b> (Clinic: The Hazel, 3rd Friday of every month at 3pm)	Tel: 9373560
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## Disclaimer

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Annagh Magazine Society. While every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this magazine is up-to-date and correct, no responsibility will be taken by the Annagh Magazine Society for any errors which might occur.

Some photographs have had to be reproduced smaller than hoped for, due to poor quality of original image supplied. Regrettably we could not include all photographs submitted due to large volume received.

## 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 [info@annaghmag.ie](mailto:info@annaghmag.ie), or visit our website [www.annaghmag.ie](http://www.annaghmag.ie).

The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2013 is Friday, 18th October 2013. 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

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. **If they are any smaller, it may not be possible to publish them at an appropriate size.**

Photographs should not be imbedded in WORD documents: they can be sent separately as jpegs. Captions should be typed at the end of the article, with clear reference(s) to the relevant photo(s).

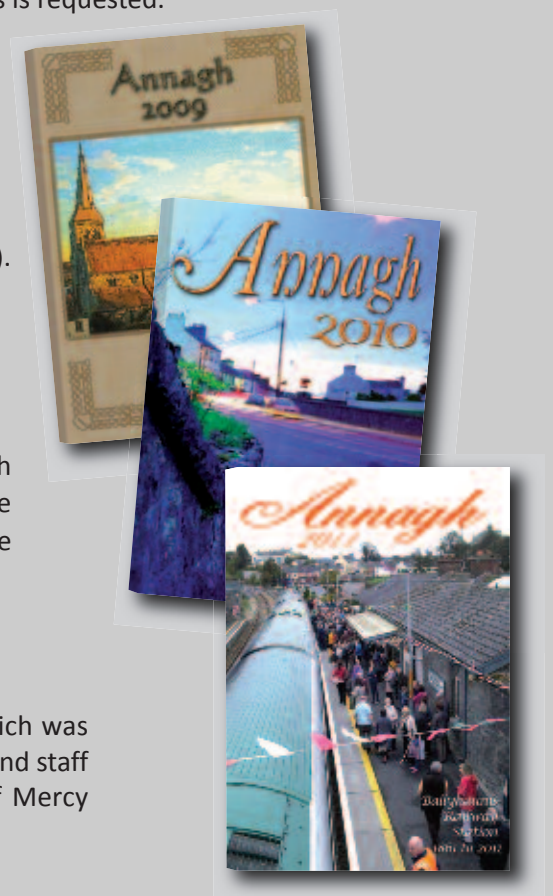
Photographs will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.

## Deadline

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2013 is **Friday, 18th October 2013**. Email: [info@annaghmag.ie](mailto:info@annaghmag.ie)  
Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please support local business and industry.

### Annagh 2012 – Cover by Fergal O'Mahony.

Front cover: The newly extended Scoil Íosa, Abbeyquarter, which was completed in 2012. Back cover: Scoil Íosa Junior School pupils and staff members pictured on their last day in the former Convent of Mercy Primary School building (June 2012).







*[www.annaghmag.ie](http://www.annaghmag.ie)  
Ballyhaunis Parish Magazine*

