



Anragh
2013



FOREWORD

When 2013 was announced as the year of “The Gathering”, it was initially greeted with a mixture of apathy and scepticism. However, as the weeks and months progressed it began to gather momentum as parishes and communities put their heads together to plan various events. For Catholics ‘The Gathering’ coincided with the ‘Year of Faith’, inaugurated by Pope Benedict XVI, in October last, shortly before he created history by being the first pontiff to retire while still in office. Since then his successor Pope Francis has been touching the hearts of believers and non-believers by his warmth and simplicity.

Here in our parish, we decided to plan an event that would celebrate our Christian heritage and the ethnic diversity that exists within our community today. The inspiration for our pageant came from an article written by Michael F. Waldron (1876-1954) in the Connacht Telegraph on 24th November 1934, when he wrote of the significance of St. Patrick’s Well in Holywell to the people of this locality going back to the time that St. Patrick baptised the first Christians there. So it was that we staged our Pageant at Holywell on 24th August last. Sincere thanks to the many people and voluntary organisations that helped make it such a success. That same weekend the Brackloon

N.S. and District reunion took place and many emigrants returned to celebrate both events. The following weekend the residents of Upper Main St. celebrated their ‘Gathering’ with many migrants and emigrants returning to celebrate together. Many of these events are captured within the pages of this publication. Once again I wish to congratulate the dedicated and hardworking committee on producing this lovely publication, which is a snapshot of all that has happened within our parish during the past year. To the Ballyhaunis diaspora and to our emigrants all over the world, I send Christmas greetings to you and your families. I’d like to avail of this opportunity to bring to your attention the new Live-streaming System we’ve introduced in our Parish Church in the past few weeks. Thanks to the wonders of modern communications technology, it is now possible to view all Masses and ceremonies in St. Patrick’s Church online. This is already proving to be an invaluable link to our emigrants all over the world who may wish to link in to Sunday and weekday Masses as well as Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, etc. The link is as follows: <http://www.mcnmedia.tv/livecamdisplay.asp?CamID=131>. Many of you are already friends of Ballyhaunis Parish Facebook page.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families at home and abroad a Happy and Holy Christmas and every blessing in 2014.

Stephen Farragher

FR. STEPHEN FARRAGHER P.P.

EDITORIAL

As 2013 draws to a close it has been associated both nationally and locally as the year of “The Gathering”. In this, our 36th Edition of Annagh Magazine, we have recorded some of the Ballyhaunis Gathering occasions. We had clan, family, street, village, and school class reunions; sporting and parish Gatherings of family, neighbours, classmates and friends. The people involved in the organisation of these occasions are to be congratulated.

Once again we in Annagh Magazine wish to thank our readers, patrons, contributors of articles, poems, and photographs. Our sales outlets ensure the magazine reaches far and wide and once again Annagh 2012 was completely sold out. We would like to especially thank Fr. Stephen Farragher for photographing Station Masses throughout the parish and making them available here.

Sadly, since Annagh 2012 was published we lost two outstanding members - Agnes Heaney and Maura Griffin. Agnes was a former committee member and contributed beautifully lyrical articles for many years.

She died on the day that Annagh 2012 went on sale. Maura was active on our committee until her death earlier this year in February. She was our Treasurer and a member of the editorial committee, and the Magazine greatly benefitted from her careful proof-reading over many years. She wrote the editorial last year, organised her patrons, and launched the magazine with us. We would like to dedicate Annagh 2013 to their memory.

The practical reality of reducing priest numbers means that parish ‘clusters’ will become increasingly relevant into the future. Our own parish of Annagh (Ballyhaunis) and the neighbouring parishes of Began, Aghamore, Kiltullagh (Ballinlough) and Knock, make up St. Joseph’s Cluster. The Annagh Magazine committee continues to be focussed on our own parish, but would like to acknowledge the many written contributions and photographs that come in from adjoining parishes – from people who regard Ballyhaunis as their local town. We try to include as many items as we can, but inevitably some have to be left out for want of space.

Wherever you are reading Annagh 2013 we hope that you enjoy it, and that it will connect you with Ballyhaunis.

Annagh Magazine Society Officers and Committee:

Joe Keane (President), **Máísín Meath** (Asst. Sec.), **Jim Lundo**n (Chairman & Editorial Committee), **Sinéad Freyne** (Secretary & Editorial Committee), **John Halpin** (Treasurer), **Seamus Mulrennan** (Sales & Marketing), **Paul Waldron** (Editorial Committee), **Fergal O’Mahony** (Web Administrator), **Nell Rochford**, **Martin Forde**, **Mike Griffin**.

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REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2013

November 2012

After many decades in the town, the AIB branch on Bridge Street closes its doors, with customers' accounts now being dealt with in the Claremorris branch. Great sadness throughout the district as news of the tragic death of Began native Jeremy Dee filters through. A regular contributor as soccer correspondent to Midwest Radio, Jeremy has been a centrally involved with football in the region for over 30 years... Drimaderra native Tom Walsh and his wife Sarah, a native of Inis Mór in the Aran Islands, celebrate the great occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Tom and Sarah are parents of Midwest Radio presenters Paula and Padraic Walsh.

December 2012

Ballyhaunis man Kieran Folliard makes the news in Minneapolis in a big way this December: his very successful whiskey producing company '2 Gingers' is sold to the Beam company, the second largest producer of whiskey in the United States. It's a win-win situation for the Upper Main Street native: Kieran has also been taken on board the Beam company. He has been appointed the 'Irish Whiskey Ambassador for the United States'... The Connacht GAA's Centre of Excellence is officially opened on the Knock Road. The €8 million development at Cloonacurry, Began, consists of six full size pitches, and an astro-turf pitch. Plans are also announced for the development of a full size indoor playing pitch. Work on this part of the plan will commence in early 2014. It also includes an indoor administrative centre, which has relocated from their Clare Street base... Mary-Frances Cleary retires from her clerical position at Ballyhaunis Community School where she has served for the past 23 years. The Kilkelly native is husband of former BCS teacher John Cleary, Clare Street, a former editor of Annagh magazine. Early on 27th Dec. popular public house 'The Clock', Knox St., was badly damaged by fire. Thankfully, nobody was injured, but damage to the interior was considerable.

January 2013

The new year kicks off on a very positive and historical note when parish priests from Knock, Aghamore, Began and Ballinlough join with Fr. Stephen Farragher for a special celebration of Mass at St. Patrick's Church. The idea is to bring all parish priests from the St. Joseph's Cluster of Parishes together, to begin the Year of Faith, as established in October by Pope Benedict XVI... The oldest citizen residing in Ballyhaunis, Mary Dillon-Leetch, dies at

Brookvale Manor Nursing Home on 10th January, in her 102nd year... Ballyhaunis Community School Leaving Cert student Aisling Tarpey is awarded a Connacht GAA Ladies Post Primary Schools Elite Star Award... On the last day of the month, 31st January, retired Archbishop of Tuam, Joseph Cassidy passes to his eternal reward... Fr. Kieran Waldron launches his new book on the life and writings of Knox Street native Dr. Michael F. Waldron (1876-1954).



Pictured at the launch of 'Collect the Fragments', the biography of Dr. Michael F. Waldron, are L-R: Kieran Moran, Cecily Garvey-Moran, Fr. Kieran Waldron (Author) and Joe Keane. Cecily, Fr. Kieran and Joe were neighbours, friends and students of the noted scholar, historian and author who died in 1954.

February

Long-time member of the Annagh Magazine Society Maura Griffin from Clare Street is laid to rest following a brief illness. The former Maura O'Reilly from County Longford, came to Ballyhaunis in 1951 when she took up a teaching post at the Convent of Mercy secondary school. Following the amalgamation of the three secondary schools in town, Maura became part of the newly established Ballyhaunis Community School in 1977, from where she retired in 1991... Meanwhile, the month also robbed the community of Knox Street of one of its finest citizens when Josie Morley passed away following an illness. Wife of former Ballyhaunis senior footballer, Tony, Josie suffered the great loss of the death of her son Jason, just over one year earlier, in January, 2012... A three person team from St. Patrick's Community, Co. Leitrim, hosted a Parish Mission from 18th to 22nd February. Led by well known former drug dealer turned evangelist John Pridmore, the team attracted huge crowds to the parish church during the week, marking the Year of Faith in a very significant manner.

March

On 13th March 2013 white smoke emerged from the Vatican as the conclave of cardinals elected a new pope to succeed Benedict XVI. Argentinian native Pope Francis I



Pictured at the planting of an Irish Oak Tree on the grounds of St. Mary's Abbey are students from Scoil Íosa with their teacher Ms. Ciara Byrne along with Mary Donnelly from the Abbey Partnership Committee, Sean Biesty and Ann Moran from the East Mayo Rural Social Scheme, alongside Seamus O'Boyle and Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. The event was organised as part of the National Tree Planting Week and special thanks goes to Margie Phillips who gave an educational talk to the students about trees in Ireland and their importance to our environment and heritage. The tree planting ceremony was also held to mark the occasion of the election of the new Pontiff, Pope Francis I, on 13th March 2013.

takes the media by surprise when he is selected to take over the role as leader of the Catholic Church. Once again a large crowd turns out to The Hazel for the annual Eamon Healy Memorial Table Quiz. All proceeds from the event go towards the Scoil Íosa building fund. The victorious team, very much a family affair, was comprised of brothers Kevin and Ja Henry and Tommy and John Leonard... The end of March and early April sees some of the coldest weather conditions witnessed here for many years: sub-zero conditions with a biting polar wind is the topic of conversation around the country for many days... Mayo County Council agree to contribute €30,000 for the resurfacing and improvements at Barrack Street. A replica of a 19th century emigrants' tin teapot was presented by Taoiseach Enda Kenny to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg on St. Patrick's Day. The new tea pot had been made in the traditional way with a soldered spout, handle and lid by local tinsmith Ted Maughan. Ted's uncle also made a tin teapot many years ago (itself a replica of the 19th Century version) and is on display in the National Museum of Ireland at Turlough Park. This tea pot in turn was included in the Irish Times series 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects'.

April

The McWilliam Park Hotel in Claremorris was packed to the rafters this month for the long and eagerly awaited Strictly Come Dancing competition held in support of the Scoil Íosa primary school building fund. Twelve dancing couples took part, and from Waltz, Jive, Tango, Cha Cha, and Salsa, the viewing public certainly got their monies worth. It was a great night of entertainment with top class dancing, and raising over €10,000 for the school building

fund into the process. The winners of the contest were Maire Caulfield and Stephen Finn.

May

Ballindine native David McDonagh has been appointed Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School. He has been attached to the teaching staff at BCS since 2001. He succeeds Pat McHugh, who retires from the post on 31st Aug., having held the position since 2004... The school has also secured planning permission from Mayo County Council for a multi-million euro facelift to the school, but funding is awaited from the Department of Education. Former Ballyhaunis senior footballer Pado Moran from Ballindrehid dies. Pado was a member of the Ballyhaunis senior football side which captured the Mayo Senior Football Championship in 1958 with a famous victory over Ballina... Knox Street native Neil McGillicuddy dies following a brief illness at Massachusetts, USA.



David Kenny (right), All-Ireland winning Mayo Minor footballer, with the Tom Markham Cup, pictured with Ballyhaunis Community School Principal, David McDonagh, on his return visit to the School last October. Son of Austin and Kay Kenny, Cartron North, Aghamore, David was awarded the Man of the Match award by TV3, following his magnificent performance in the All-Ireland Final.

June

Sunday, 2nd June was a black day for the village of Knockbrack and the community of Ballyhaunis when Clare Street native Joe Grogan dies... The age old tradition of the Eucharistic Procession takes place on Sunday, 9th June, on one of the hottest days of the year so far. The procession ends with Benediction at the Clare Street Car Park beside the swimming pool grounds... Anne Keane-Grogan from Cloonlough, Ballinlough, wins the car in the Credit Union members draw. The draw took place on the open day organised by the Board of Directors to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the setting up of the Credit Union in

Ballyhaunis. The open day held on 1st June saw a photographic exhibition and memorabilia on display throughout the day... Long time popular shopkeeper from Bridge Street, Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald, dies on 13th June, just six months after celebrating her 85th birthday... Ulster Bank staff at Bridge Street undertake a marathon cycle to Galway and back, in aid of the Irish Cancer Society... Minister of State Michael Ring, T.D., officially opens the newly refurbished swimming pool facility at Clare Street which cost in excess of €400,000. The pool had been closed for the 2012 season and this new state of the art outdoor pool was proudly put on display to the public by committee members Agatha Higgins, Edward Mulhern and Marie Jordan... A lease for a Youth Cafe was signed between the Family Resource Centre and Mayo County Council's community office, for the old D.H. Burke Supermarket site on Upper Main Street. It is hoped to open shortly... Bohogue resident Margaret Finnegan celebrated her 100th birthday with her family and friends on 6th June. Mass was celebrated at her home by Canon Cooney and Fr. McGuinness (P.P. Began) before they presented her with her cheque from President Higgins.

July

The country and the West of Ireland are basking in what is the hottest and driest spell of weather for many years. Temperatures hitting over 33 degrees brings good cheer to the town and farming community, and helps to lift the economic gloom... Good news for local radio station Midwest Radio in the results of the recent JNLR figures: the Clare Street operation is now the second most listened to radio station in the country, with listening figures higher than RTÉ Radio 1 and 2FM... Efforts are being made to re-launch the Scouting Movement in Ballyhaunis. A representative from Scouting Ireland visits the local community to see if the project can be started locally... Eugene and Josie Heneghan from Knockatubber, Claremorris open for business at the Thunder Road Café, formerly Jack Halpin's Bar on Main Street... The historic Friary banner, which was made in 1879 by the then newly appointed Prior of the Abbey and Fenian priest, Fr. James Anderson O.S.A., has been sent on loan to the Drogheda Museum, Millmount for their John Boyle O'Reilly exhibition. The Abbey Partnership was approached and asked to lend out the historic banner because of the close friendship of Fr. Anderson and Boyle O'Reilly. The banner which has been at the Friary for all those years was used to lead the Ballyhaunis Abbey choir on their March to Irishtown for the Land League rally of 1879...

August

Football fever grips the town and county once again as the Mayo Senior team beats last years All-Ireland champions Donegal, and then Tyrone, to reach their second All-Ireland Final on the trot... Record crowds attend the 15th August Devotions at Knock Shrine on a day when

Ireland is formally consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by the Irish Bishops... In the Year of Faith and the Year of Gathering, hundreds take part in the Pageant at Holywell where the first Christians were baptised by St. Patrick on his travels through Mayo. The Brackloon Gathering, taking place on the same weekend, also attracts huge numbers to their native home... Live streaming is introduced to St. Patrick's Church for the first time. This new initiative, introduced by Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher, allows internet viewers in all parts of the world to watch all ceremonies now taking place in the parish church... Ballyhaunis golfer Andrew Hickey wins the Connaught Under 14 Golf Championship at Castlebar. In what was a great day for the Ballyhaunis club, Evan Henry picks up the second prize in the prestigious Connaught event... On the last day of the month, 31st August, present and past members of Ballyhaunis GAA Club gather in large numbers at the club grounds on Knock Road to celebrate the day of Gathering. The day of celebration included a photographic and memorabilia exhibition in the clubhouse as well as a novelty game between the 1988 Intermediate Championship winning team and the current East Mayo Under 14 winning side. All a bit of fun, but a great day of reminiscing for the loyal followers of the local organisation.

September

Ballyhaunis Boxing Club member Sean Conroy wins the bronze medal at the World Junior Boxing Championships in Kiev, Ukraine. A native of Claremorris, Sean has been a member of the Ballyhaunis club for the past three years... 19th September 2013 marked a major milestone in the life of Ballyhaunis man Joe Keane when he celebrated the great occasion of his 90th birthday. A man with a great store of knowledge on the history of his native town, Joe has been a long time member of the Annagh Magazine editorial committee... Another disappointment for Mayo Senior footballers in Croke Park on All-Ireland Final day, 22nd September, losing out to Dublin by a single point. On a brighter note however, Ballyhaunis GAA club man Keith Higgins plays his heart out in a what for him was a great performance both as an attacker and later on in the game when drafted to defence. The Minor team, with Ballyhaunis Community School representative, David Kenny, win the All-Ireland Minor title with a great win over Tyrone. Kenny is named TV3's 'Man of the Match'... Five Ballyhaunis lads are members of the Mayo team who won the All Ireland Hurling Minor C Final beating Monaghan on 7th September. They are brothers James and Morgan Lyons, Shane Healy, Mark Phillips and Jason Coyne. Adrian Brennan of Gurteen is one of the selectors for the team... Ballyhaunis native Joe Webb, Head of Independent News and Media's Irish operations, departed the company after a very positive 20 years. He has been chief executive of INM (Ireland) since 2009 and with the company's restructuring nearing completion and given the now reduced scale of the business the time was right he said for his departure...



Five Ballyhaunis hurlers from the Mayo Minor C All-Ireland winning panel, 2013. L-R: Mark Phillips, Morgan Lyons, Jason Coyne, Shane Healy, James Lyons.

Ballindrehid native Brian Flanagan, now living in Cork, reached the top of the Irish album charts with a delightful collection of songs he wrote entitled 'Laurie Blue'. He also appeared on RTE 2fm with Colm Hayes. While at the same time 'All Ireland Talent show' finalist Olwyn Murray has released her debut single again written by her, called, 'Falling in Love Again'. Both are now available to order on iTunes.

October

The first day of the month begins on a sad note when Sr. Assumpta Flannery dies at the Cuan Chaitriona Nursing Home in Castlebar. A native of Kilkelly, Sr. Assumpta came to Ballyhaunis in the early 1950's to take up a teaching appointment at the newly established Convent of Mercy secondary school for girls, she later became part of the team at Ballyhaunis Community School in 1977, where she taught until her retirement.

Upper Main Street businessman Seamus Caulfield gets nomination to contest the 2014 local elections for the Fianna Fáil party in the Claremorris electoral constituency... Denis Hannan retires from his position as manager of Delaney's Oak Bar, Bridge Street and it is now operated by Fergal and Geraldine Delaney... Keith Higgins has been included for a second year in the nominations for the 2013 GAA GPA Football All-Stars awards, in the full back line category. The final selection will be announced live on Friday, November 8th at the All Star Banquet at Croke Park. Best of luck Keith!

Mike Byrne



ALL-STAR AWARD 2013

There was great excitement in Ballyhaunis when Yvonne Byrne won her first TG4 Ladies Football All Star award.

Yvonne, who has played both in goal and outfield for Club and County, has won four All-Ireland Senior Football Championship medals. The talented all-rounder, who also plays soccer, camogie and rugby at a very high level, lines out with both the Hollymount Ladies Senior team and the Mayo County side.

She is daughter of Pat and Margaret Byrne, Knox St. She is pictured receiving her award from Pól Ó Gallchóir, Ceannasai, TG4 (left) and Pat Quill, President, Cumann Peil Gael na mBan.



Members of Ballyhaunis GAA greet the arrival of train carrying the Mayo Senior team and victorious Minor team at the Railway Station:
Tommy Waldron, Martin Fitzmaurice, Tommy Caulfield, Martin Grogan, Tom Glynn, Robbie Herr, Seamus Caulfield and Bernard Waldron.

AMERICAN WAKES AND WEDDINGS

A Photographic 'Gathering' of the Murphys of Began and Chicago.

Emigration has long been part of the Irish experience. The latest upsurge in emigration in post-Celtic Tiger Ireland has brought anguish to many families. The difference now is that our young emigrants can at least keep in audio-visual contact with home by means of Skype. Moreover, in today's world of easy travel and communication they are more likely to return to avail of any employment opportunities that may arise. Emigration in earlier decades was often permanent, hence the so-called 'American wakes' held on the eve of departure. Some families were very severely affected, none more so than our neighbours the Murphys of Lissaniska, Began.



Martin Murphy, c.1930

Martin and Peg Murphy and family

The Murphy story begins over seven decades ago, on the eve of the Second World War. On Thursday, 23 November 1939, 30-year-old Martin Murphy married Margaret (Peg) Freeley of Gurteen in Ballyhaunis Church. They set up home in

the village of Tully, townland of Lissaniska, parish of Began, five miles west of Ballyhaunis, where the Murphys had been farming for several generations. Martin, the youngest of ten children, was the only one still at home in 1939. His eldest brother had died five years earlier and the other eight siblings had all emigrated to America or England, following in the footsteps of earlier generations of Murphys. It was a pattern of chain migration that Mayo families had been experiencing since the Great Famine. Unfortunately, emigration would be a recurring experience for the Murphys in decades to come.

Martin and Peg went on to raise a family of fourteen in Lissaniska. The children attended Began National School, walking or cycling the one-mile journey. It may have been a large family, even by the standards of the time, but it was also a happy one. There was never any shortage of banter and fun in that house! Yet it cannot have been easy to make ends meet during the 1950s when Ireland was in the economic doldrums. Around half a million Irish emigrated during that decade, an astonishing 16% of the country's population. By 1959, it was clear that the Murphys too would soon have to join the exodus.

Leaving Lissaniska

Mary Jo was the first member of the family to emigrate. She departed on 19 June 1959, two months before her youngest sibling, Jerome, was born. In the past it was not uncommon for the eldest sibling in a family to have emigrated before the youngest was born. Sometimes the two might never meet. Mary Jo's destination was Chicago where earlier generations of Murphys had settled. She was followed two years later by Raymond and Evelyn who travelled together on 10 March 1961.

Over the next 15 years, there would be frequent recurrences of the 'American wake' in the Murphy home as nine more members of the family took the emigrant path to Chicago. Joan went on 1 October 1963, Paddy on 28 April 1965, Michael on 6 April 1969, Martin and Vincent on 29 September 1970, Concepta (Connie) on 18 May 1972, Noreen on 25 February 1974, Brendan on 23 June 1976 and finally John on 4 April 1977.

It must have been a traumatic experience for Martin and Peg to watch twelve of their 14 children leave Ireland for America at intervals over the years, but their good humour and positive outlook on life never faltered. Their loss was undoubtedly tempered by the fact that all members of the family kept in touch with home and returned regularly to Ireland for visits. Three of them, Evelyn, Paddy and Brendan, actually came back with their families to live in Began for different spells. Evelyn's husband, Vince Garrity, operated a construction company, Began Construction, here in the late 70s and early 80s. All of their seven children were educated in Began national school, as were Paddy's eldest two, Brendan and Linda.

Ultimately, however, the Murphys all returned to the US where they and their families have carved out successful careers for themselves in 'the land of opportunity'; to give just one example: George Garrity, a son of Vince and Evelyn (who now resides in Pearl River, New York) is the proprietor of the plush Pour George pub/restaurant in Greenwich Village.

Twelve Murphy Weddings in the U.S., 1963-83

Over the years Martin and Peg Murphy watched from afar as their children began to raise their families in Chicago, all part of a close-knit Irish-American community. Twelve Murphy weddings took place in the US over a period of three decades: four in the 1960s, five in the 1970s and three in the 1980s. It is interesting to note that no less than half of these weddings were all-Mayo affairs. There will be some celebrations amongst the extended Murphy clan in Chicago when the Sam Maguire Cup returns to Mayo!

Mary Jo was the first to marry on 19 October 1963. Her husband was Joe Garrity, a native of Newport. The Murphy-Garrity ties were strengthened two years later when Evelyn Murphy married Vince Garrity, a brother of Joe. The following year, 1966, there were two more Murphy weddings. On 10 September, Joan married Hugh Heneghan, a native of Shanvallyard, Tourmakeady. He was co-founder of the Heneghan Wrecking Company of Chicago. Hugh, who died suddenly in 2011 at the age of 70, was a regular visitor to his native Tourmakeady over the years. The next Murphy to take the plunge was Raymond, who got married the month after Joan, on 29 October 1966. His bride was also a Mayo woman - Judy Mortimer, a native of Lecanvey, Westport. Raymond's big day was made all the more special by the fact that his parents Martin and Peg made their first trip to America to attend his wedding. Sadly both Raymond and Judy have since passed away, Raymond at the beginning of 2013.

There were five more Murphy weddings between 1970 and 1975. First up was Paddy who married Florrie Naughton, a native of Tourmakeady, on 3 October 1970. He was followed by Michael who married Colleen, an Irish-American girl, on 16 April 1971. Vincent married Noreen, another Irish-American, on 8 July 1973. Next was Concepta (Connie) who married Martin Lally, another Mayo man, on 1 March 1974 and the following year Noreen married Jimmy Duggan, a native of Claregalway; their wedding took place on 28 September 1975.

Finally we come to the three Murphy lads who all celebrated their 30th wedding anniversaries in 2013. Their brides were Irish-American girls. Brendan married Maureen on 19 February 1983, Martin married Eileen a month later on 19 March 1983 and John married Christine on 20 August 1983. They were delighted that their parents Martin and Peg were once again able to travel from Ireland to attend all three weddings.

Photos of all these American weddings had pride of place in the Murphy home in Lissaniska. A selection of

Murphy Family Weddings



Mary Jo Murphy & Joe Garrity,
19 October 1963.



Evelyn Murphy & Vince Garrity,
1 May 1965.



Hugh Heneghan & Joan Murphy,
10 September 1966.



Raymond Murphy & Judy
Mortimer, 29 October 1966.



Paddy Murphy & Florrie Naughton,
3 October 1970.



Michael & Colleen Murphy,
16 April 1971.



Vincent & Noreen Murphy,
8 July 1973.



Concepta Murphy & Martin Lally,
1 March 1974.



Noreen Murphy & Jimmy
Duggan, 28 September 1975.



Brendan & Maureen Murphy,
19 February 1983.



Martin & Eileen Murphy,
19 March 1983.



John & Christine Murphy,
20 August 1983.

the photographs is reproduced here. For Peg and Martin, the photographs helped dispel their feelings of loss; they were pleased to see their children doing well in their adopted homeland.

The only Murphy Family Reunion, 1984

The only time the Murphy family was reunited was at Christmas 1984 when they all came home to celebrate their parents' 45th wedding anniversary.



Murphy Family Reunion, 1984.

Back row, L-R: Brendan, Raymond, Martin, John
Third row, L-R: Jerome, Michael, Vincent, Paddy
Second row, L-R: Pauline, Connie, Noreen, Joan
Front row, L-R: Mary Jo, Martin, Peg, Evelyn.

End of an Era

Martin Murphy died on 1 December 1985 aged 76 and his wife Peg died over a decade later on 30 August 1996. They were laid to rest in Began cemetery. Sadly two of their emigrant family in the US have also passed on – Vincent a few years ago and Raymond earlier this year. Pauline now lives in London while Jerome, the youngest, is the sole family member still living in Ireland.

The old Murphy household in Lissaniska that was once a hive of activity is now empty and silent. However, the Murphy links with their native place have not been completely severed. They still return here regularly from America. Michael and Colleen, for example, frequently visit Donegal and their daughter Sheila was a student at Trinity College, Dublin. People from the Began/Ballyhaunis area who have encountered any of the Murphys in Chicago or elsewhere in the US will tell you that they received a right royal welcome. Whenever the Murphys meet up with their former neighbours, it's like old times. The memories linger on ... and invariably they are happy ones.

Michael Kelly & Seamus Morris

MEMORIES OF MY YOUTH IN MAIN STREET

Market Days

Being one of the oldest residents in Ballyhaunis I think I am in the happy position to relate to the young people of today as to the changes that I have witnessed in the town of Ballyhaunis. Tuesday was usually market day and there were huge crowds in the town, each person selling produce of every description. One side of Main Street was filled with carts and bonhams, and on the other side there were side-shows and amusements including roulette, shooting and ring-boards. On very busy occasions, especially Races Day or St. Patrick's Day, there would be extra police drafted in to guard the peace. On Fair Days, which were held six times yearly, there was the sale of cattle, calves and horses. There was a black doctor selling ointments and medicines in The Square and there were all kinds of vegetables for sale in stalls and stands adjacent to The Square. There was also what was called 'Cheap Jacks' selling second-hand clothes of every description, each of them undercutting the other. People from outside districts flocked to the town for the day and especially the young ladies who lived for Tuesday and Fair Days. In those days there were no platform boots or the sort, but the plain laced boots were the fashion.

Method of Trading in Shops and Shop Provisions

Every trader big and small had their own regular weekly customers. Rarely did a publican or shop-keeper sell his business; he always held on to it for his son. Every farmer and his wife would meet their friends in the grocery shop/select bar. The man would enjoy himself over a few drinks in the bar while the womenfolk would have a few light refreshments and a chat in the snug. The shop stocked a wide range of provisions such as Indian Meal 7s and 6d per 1cwt, Pollard 7s and 6d per 1cwt, Flour 8s per 1 cwt, Bran 7s and 9d per 1cwt, Calf Nuts, Clarendo 10s per 1cwt, Tea 2s and 6d per lb, Sugar 1d per lb or 2d per 2 lbs, Best American Bacon 8d per lb, Large Soap 3d per lb, Whiskey 9d per nag, 2d per glass, Guinness 2d per pint, Best Port 2s and 9d per bottle, Brandy 6d per glass, and also other goods and utensils for the house.

Farming, Cutting and Saving of Hay and Turf

In those days the horse and plough were the means of turning the soil. It would take a man two days with a plough to turn one acre of soil and for which he would be paid £3 for the man and two horses. To cut an acre of meadow with a scythe it would take him three days to finish it and the wages were 6s per day plus lunch and tea. If you

got a man to help you, it would cost 3s to save it. Turf cutting was done by slane. It would take a man and helper 6 to 8 days to cut his supply of turf.

Match Making and Marriages

I remember on fair days and in the course of a drinking session at the bar or tap room, a man might mention that he had a son ready for marriage. Then another man would say he had a daughter that would suit and if they agreed, a day would be arranged for the meeting. This would be the first time for them to meet each other. They were accompanied by the future bride's father and mother and groom's father and mother. The father of the groom would relate how much land he owned, stock, down to the total number of cattle, including calves, donkeys and horse carts. Then the bride's father would say what he would give his daughter as a fortune on marriage. It might be £200 - £300. There was also some of the fortune to be distributed among the single members of the family who might be living on the farm. Then when all was settled, the day was arranged for the second meeting. This was the day when the bride's father and some of the neighbours would go and inspect the land and be satisfied as to the place his daughter was going into. All the party was entertained in the best room and there was eating and drinking. Now all happy and the date for the marriage was set which might be two weeks hence. The following week the couple might meet on their own and he would leave her home that evening on his bicycle. I would be one of the few to know when the marriage would be taking place as my father was the person who supplied all the refreshments for the event as he did several times previously. The happy day would arrive for the bridal couple. There were no motor cars, just side cars. There may be twenty side cars in all and it was a lovely sight to see the bridal party leave the church and the groom helping the bride up to her seat on the side car with a horseshoe or two swinging from behind their car which would lead the way. The bridal car might take a detour of a few miles before they would finish in the happy couple's home. A big meal was prepared; there was chat and then dancing to the tune of a fiddle and melodeon. It was not unusual for whalpers to come in and dance and then they would get a drink or two. Then they all retired, including the bride and groom. There was no such thing as a honeymoon. They would settle in to married life and a month later the couple would be invited back to the bride's old home for what was titled the month's visit. A few of the neighbours would be invited also.

Funeral, Corpse House and Burial Charge

When a person died a member of the family would come in for the burial charge and bring a neighbour with him on the cart. In the corpse house there were clay pipes and tobacco handed round to all the men and sometimes there would be a plate of snuff left on top of the corpse. The

women were usually brought to the best room for tea. The following evening the remains were brought in for burial. The chief mourners wore an armband of black crepe. The side car was the mode of convenience for the coffin to be carried on. On the night after the burial some of the immediate neighbours would be invited to the deceased person's house for a celebration.

Thomas Murphy (1899–1982)

This article was written by my father Thomas Murphy, Main Street, a number of years before his death in 1982. R.I.P.

Rita Meally (née Murphy)



Main Street, circa 1910.



GREETINGS FROM CALIFORNIA

Tommy Caulfield (Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis) who now lives in Dan Diego, California with his copy of Annagh Magazine which he receives from his cousin and namesake Tommy Caulfield (Annagh, Ballyhaunis) every year. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.

Tommy Caulfield was born in Waldron's Terrace, Upper Main St. in 1930. He was the eldest of six children born to egg exporter Michael Caulfield and his wife Alice (nee McWalter). A few years later the family moved further up the street to a premises now still under the Caulfield name and trading as Gud2Go. Tommy emigrated to the US at the tender age of 18 and has lived most of the 65 years since in the sunny state of California.

Tommy has made a number of trips home over the years. A visit to the Galway Races in 1960 in the company of his uncle Vinnie inevitably ended up in Bernie Byrne's on Clare Street where a memorable singsong was recorded on a new-fangled machine by the vacationing Yank. Among those taped that night were the late Jimmy Leo, Garda Neil McNaught, Sean Cleary, and Eddie Fitzgerald. Tommy presented a copy of this rare recording to his namesake and cousin who made

the trip to the west coast as a student back in the 1980s.

Tommy was visited earlier this year by his first cousin Jenny Glynn (nee Fitzgerald) and her husband Patsy whose son Steven works in San Diego. Copies of Annagh Magazine also find their way to Tommy's brother Maurice in Co. Cork and to his sisters Rosaleen (Long Island), Josie (England) and Philomena in Dublin. Tommy's late brother, Michael who ran the family business in Upper Main St., passed away in 1998. Tommy is now retired and lives near San Diego in southern California where he continues to enjoy good health and looks forward each Christmas to his copy of Annagh Magazine.

L-R: Steven Glynn, Tommy Caulfield and Jenny Glynn. Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh / Ballyhaunis.



BRACKLOON SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REUNION

Brackloon – The Centre of the Known World... What a time we had..!

The concept of The Gathering was the stimulus required for people of the Brackloon area to reflect on the richness of our heritage. We realised we had much to celebrate and, even more importantly, we felt it was our duty to record local history for future generations. The experience was an enriching one for all concerned. We have been taken on a fascinating journey into the past that will remain with us always. Memories rekindled, old friendships renewed and families reunited are some of the positive things which emanated from our re-union.

People travelled from all over the globe to be with us for the Brackloon School & District Re-union. We were delighted to welcome members of the Brackloon diaspora from many states in the USA, England, Germany, Luxembourg and Scotland. There were many highlights during the Festival weekend and it was an enjoyable and emotional occasion for everyone who was there.

Historic Occasion

The week-end kicked off with the “Cúpla Focal agus Cupán Tae” event held at Thunder Road Café on Main Street, Ballyhaunis on Friday 23rd August. It was a historic occasion in Ballyhaunis as all proceedings were conducted “as gaeilge”. It was heart-warming to see how enthusiastically patrons joined in the spirit of the event and immersed themselves in the Irish language. The guest on the day was Oonagh Kellegher from Gnó Mhaigh Eó. This was to celebrate the fact that the Brackloon area was historically recognised as a Breac Ghaeltacht at the turn of the century. We are grateful to Gnó Mhaigh Eó for their support. Then we headed to the former Augustinian Friary, where an exhibition of historic artefacts and pictures were on display. The Abbey graveyard was the ancestral burial ground for many Brackloon people in the past. During the tour people were made aware of the vibrant role the Abbey played in the lives of our ancestors over the centuries. The tour then proceeded to the Museum in Knock and Began Church and Graveyard. Historically a large portion of the Brackloon area and the first Brackloon School was in the parish of Began. Friday’s events culminated with a musical Seisiún at The Coney Island Bar in Gorthaganny. There was a full house with musicians, singers, sean nós dancers and céilí dancers. It was indeed, a night of “ceol, craic agus spraoi”. Visitors had an opportunity to revel in the richness

of their Irish heritage.

The highlight of the week-end was the Caldragh Mass on the land of Patricia and the late John Davitt in Brackloon North. A commemorative stone was erected in memory of all the un-baptised infants and others who were buried there. It was a poignant and moving experience which will live long in all our memories. Afterwards, Patricia invited everyone for refreshments and this provided a lovely opportunity to mingle and chat. Then people went to visit the old school and admire the striking murals which so enhanced the building and the locality. People reminisced about old times and renewed old friendships. The recently restored Ball Alley was also viewed and the great community effort which led to this restoration was acknowledged. After a little rest, we all headed for Kiltimagh for the launch of our book ‘Brackloon School and District – Tóstal Bhreac-Chluana’. The book was launched at 6.30 in The Park Hotel by three of the oldest surviving pupils who had attended Brackloon School. This was followed by our Gala Dinner and Dance. Riona Burke, our guest speaker, gave a discourse on the Irish language and the Breac Ghaelteacht.

Nobody got up too early on Sunday morning, but the “après soiree event” took place at The Credit Union building. Many people turned up for some light refreshments and some final nostalgic reminiscences. After every gathering there has to be a scattering and people took their leave, grateful and happy to have taken part in such a joyous event. The week-end is now just a memory, but our book will live on.

Dynamic Community

The book ‘Brackloon School and District – Tóstal Bhreac-Chluana’ was produced with a number of objectives. Firstly, the aim was to preserve the rich folklore, the history and old photographs for future generations. The book also contains a profile of every village and family in the area. The story of Brackloon is a universal one. It is the story of any rural community in the West of Ireland. For those who are interested in history and folklore, it will provide an invaluable insight into a way of life that has disappeared and still resonates for so many. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Brackloon was a dynamic, thriving community – with its own Post Office, School, Weaver, Tailor, Forges, Shops, Cart maker, Shoemaker. The demise of this small community mirrors the demise of so many similar communities in rural Ireland. If you lived in Brackloon during this period, you would have thought you were at the centre of the known world. Similarly if you were present during our reunion and met the people who travelled from all corners of the globe, you would feel the same. Many things have changed over the years, but the bonds that unite us are still strong – “home is where the heart is”.

The book is still available and can be purchased at the following locations: The Gem, Newsround, Supervalu,

Ballyhaunis Post Office, Murphy's, Forde's & Herr's shop in Ballyhaunis. It can also be acquired at The Coney Island Bar in Gorthaganny. The retail price is €16 locally. It is also available online at:

www.mayobooks.ie/Ballyhaunis_Brackloon_History.

It will provide an effective antidote to the long dreary winter's evenings and bring you on a fascinating journey into the past. It will make you laugh and it will make you cry.

We really appreciate all the support we received along the way, as this whole Gathering event would not have been possible without the good will of so many people. We leave you with this thought from "*The Parting Glass*":

*Of all the good times, that e'er we shared,
I leave to you fond memory;
And for all the friendship, that e'er we had
I ask you to remember me;
And when you sit and stories tell
I'll be with you and help recall;
So fill to me the parting glass,
Good night and joy be with you all.*

Note: If purchasing the book ONLINE at www.mayobooks.ie from any destination in the world, the cost of book inclusive of postage may vary. The following purchase costs are reasonable estimates of price of book and postage in local currency – USA: \$35.00 (Dollar), Great Britain: £20.00 (Sterling), Australia: \$37.00 (Australian Dollar). Actual postage costs for respective order will be confirmed before payment of book ONLINE.

Mary Finan



Taken in Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union, Clare St., on the final day of the Brackloon School and District Gathering Reunion (The Scattering). Standing, L-R: Teresa McMenamin, Frances Mulhern, Judith Davitt, Jane Carr, Gretta Henry, Mary Finan, Mary Waldron, Kathleen Casserly, Elizabeth Sheridan, Mary Leonard, Seamus Kenny, Eileen Harrison and Ann Considine. Front, L-R: Kathleen Henry, Teresa Leonard, Mary Teresa Naughton, Florence Bance.



Three of the oldest surviving pupils of Brackloon National School being presented with a complimentary copy of the book 'Brackloon School and District - Tóstal Bhreac-Chluana'. L-R: Jimmy Joe Sloyan, Margaret Kenny, Stephanie Coffey and Mary Regan.



Members of the Brackloon School and District Reunion Committee. L-R: Michael Sloyan, Mary Waldron, Stephanie Coffey, Gretta Henry, Martin Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Henry, Seamus Kenny, Mary Finan, Judy Davitt, Lorcan Finan and Elizabeth Sheridan.



Members of the Brackloon School and District Reunion committee presenting a donation to Scoil Íosa, Ballyhaunis, Principal Kenneth Dennedy. L-R: Martin Fitzmaurice, Kenneth Dennedy, Mary Waldron, Elizabeth Sheridan.

THE CALDRAGH MASS

On Saturday, 24th August 2013, a Memorial Mass was held at the Caldragh on the land of Patricia and the late John Davitt in Brackloon North. This was one of a number of the events organized to celebrate the Brackloon School and District Gathering Reunion. The family was assisted in the preparation for the event by the Brackloon committee and many neighbours and friends. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. Annagh (Ballyhaunis) and Fr. Brendan McGuinness P.P. of Began. It was an unique occasion in so many ways, not least that it brought together friends and families to share in the blessing of the Caldragh and the unveiling of a commemorative stone in



The Choir that sang at the Brackloon Caldragh Mass. Back, L-R: Patricia Fitzmaurice, Frances Mulhern, Roisín Fitzmaurice, Eimear Finan, Gretta Fitzmaurice, Elizabeth Sheridan. Front: Stephanie Coffey, Mary Waldron, Judy Davitt, Bill Geoghegan, Evan Fitzmaurice, Martin Fitzmaurice.



Brackloon Caldragh memorial stone.

memory of unbaptised infants and others laid to rest there. The Brackloon committee organised the placing of a commemorative stone at the Caldragh site. The stone was donated by Tommy Fitzmaurice and the wording was scripted by Patricia Davitt and Mary Finan.

Neighbours, friends and visitors were invited to partake in the celebration and they very kindly obliged. A small choir was formed. Although many of us had never sung in a choir before we really enjoyed getting together for our practices and learned as we went along. Many thanks to Martin and Patricia Fitzmaurice for providing the venue and for all the lovely refreshments in preparations for our first performance! Martin was a great choir master and lifted

our spirits with his impromptu bursts into rock and pop!

Patricia Davitt opened the ceremony by warmly welcoming everybody and reciting a decade of the Rosary 'as gaeilge'. A candle in memory of the late John Ryan and all the deceased pupils of Brackloon school was lit by Jonathan and Michelle Ryan. A number of symbolic gifts were then offered: Patricia Davitt presented a crochet Christening gown, Maureen Devaney presented a holy water font, Tommy Fitzmaurice presented the recently published Brackloon commemorative book, Mary Teresa Naughton presented the Brackloon School roll book, and Margaret Kenny presented a Shoe Last. The Bread and Wine were brought up by Mary and Teresa Leonard.

Fr. Farragher was instrumental in helping us to choose the readings, one of which was 'as gaeilge'. They were read by Mary Finan and Harold Hoban. The psalm was sung by Stephanie Coffey. The prayers were read by Patsy Flanagan, Fiona McNamara, Michael Nolan, Michael Sloyan, and Nuala Ryan. The reflection was written and recited by Gretta Henry with music in the background played on the flute by Terry McGowan.

After the Mass, the congregation was entertained by lively tunes played by Terry McGowan and other musicians until the inclement weather conditions sent us fleeing to the welcome shelter of the marquee. To mark the occasion a commemorative Mass Booklet was prepared which many people took away as a memento of the day.

The Caldragh Mass gave us an opportunity to reflect on

the important things in our lives - family, friends and the importance of community spirit and goodwill. It was a spiritual, memorable and enjoyable occasion that we were honoured to be part of and will always treasure.

This day would not have been possible without the support and assistance of so many people. Sincere thanks to Michael McDonagh, Michael Sloyan, Martin Finan, Michael Nolan, Kevin Devaney and Pat Sheridan for all their work in erecting the commemorative stone and preparing the Caldragh site. Special thanks to Fr. Farragher and Fr. McGuinness for celebrating the Mass, and to Fr. Farragher for his very moving sermon. Sincere thanks to Joe Hosty for all his support and kindness during the celebration of the Mass; to each member of the Brackloon committee for all their assistance; to all those who participated in the Mass and who travelled long distances to be there; to our neighbours for all their help; to the Gorthaganny community committee for assisting us with the seating and setting up the altar, and finally special thanks to our mum Patricia, for all her work and dedication towards making this day a success.

We also wish to acknowledge those who were unable to attend and those who are no longer with us.

Judith Davitt



Calum Waldron sitting at the altar at the Brackloon Caldragh Mass.



Teresa McMenamon, Patricia Davitt, Michael McDonagh.



At the Brackloon Caldragh Mass. L-R: Roisin Fitzmaurice, Sorcha McNamara, Melissa McNamara. John Walsh (back).



At the Brackloon Caldragh Mass. Included are, front to back: Sally Lee, John Walsh, Catherine Walsh, Marion Regan, Michael Nolan, Mary Nolan, Patricia Brophy, Mary O'Hora, William Mallow, John Martin McNamara, John Joe Hoban, Pdraig Regan, John Davitt, Jimmy Joe Sloyan, Tommy Fitzmaurice, James Hoban, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Patricia Plunkett, Christina Concannon.

SCOIL ÍOSA NEWS

2012-2013

Le teacht deireadh na bliana seo, tá sé de dhúlgas orm Beannachtaí na Féile a sheoladh roimh chách ar son gach de phobail Scoil Íosa. Chomh maith le sin ba mhaith liom míle buíochas a ghlacadh roimh chuile duine ar son an méid tacaíochta a bhroinneadar ar ár scoil ó cheanntair Béal Átha hAmhnais i mbliana. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Once again, the past school year has been a very busy and a very fruitful one for all at Scoil Íosa on so many levels. The move to the unified campus at Abbeyquarter has been a seamless one and one which has ultimately proved to be a worthwhile and beneficial one for all involved. The staff, pupils and Board of Management are very proud of our new circumstances and this is reflected in the very relaxed, friendly and pleasant atmosphere inherent in the school.

Sports News

Over the course of the 2012/2013 school year, teams and individuals from our school have competed in a variety of sports including Football, Hurling, Soccer and Athletics. The school participated in the 'Goal to Work' programme under the auspices of the Mayo Local Sports Partnership during which the children were fortunate enough to receive coaching sessions in Gaelic Football, Soccer and Rugby.

Gaelic Football

Teams from Scoil Íosa competed in a number of competitions organised by Cumann na mBunscol including Boys and Girls Mini Sevens, Boys 15-a-side and Girls 11-a-side competitions. In all contests our teams acquitted themselves very well given the highly competitive nature of the competitions. In the Mini Sevens competition, our Boys team emerged victorious from their qualification group and qualified for the area semi finals where they were narrowly defeated by a very strong team from Balla N.S. Our Girls team competed in a tough group which included Muire Gan Smál, Claremorris and Barnacarrol N.S. The team acquitted themselves very well with some excellent individual performances while finishing as runners up in the qualifying group and narrowly missing out on a place in the Semi final.

In the Cumann na mBunscol league, the Boys team secured good wins over Claremorris Boys N.S. and Ballinrobe N.S. before losing out narrowly to St. Patrick's N.S. Westport thus narrowly failing to reach the County Semi finals. Similarly, the Girls team performed well in a very difficult group losing narrowly to Ballinrobe and Westport.

Football Panels

Girls: Aoife Conway, Siofra Murray, Shauna Lyons, Holly Browne, Megan Morley, Kasey Clarke, Emma Nolan, Áine Phillips, Sheena Roddy, Anna Naszkierska, Michelle Grogan, Allanah Nolan, Deirbhle Finn-Richardson,

Boys: Neil Carney, Dara Healy, Joshua Webb, Barry Cribbin, Ausrius Armonavicius, Darren Maughan (Snr.), Patrick Caulfield, Conal Caulfield, Darren Maughan (Jnr.), Ethan Keane, Pierce Nestor, Luke Walsh, Aran Rattigan, Kyle Cooke, Conor Keane, Ibrahim Rahmani, Soheab Arshad, Aidan Byrne, Saim Gulzar, Daniel Hill.



Scoil Íosa Girls Football team.



Scoil Íosa Boys Football team.

Hurling

The Scoil Íosa Boys hurlers showed some great promise again this year considering the number of players who moved on from the school from the previous year. Training, under the tutelage of Dónal O'Brien, started early in the year for the boys of 4th, 5th and 6th class on a weekly basis.

Numbers were good at training and they had reason to be hopeful going into the 7-a-side competition in Tooreen. Backboned by the children in 6th class, John Reidy, Barry Cribbin, Patrick Caulfield, Dara Healy and Neil Carney, the team had reason to be optimistic after three wins from the first three games. The final game was against the hosts, Tooreen, and although the 'Haunis boys seemed to do most of the attacking in the game they were pipped at the post in the end by a solitary point. This, in turn finished the 7-a-side for the school with Tooreen progressing to win out in the county.

Next up was a trip to Claremorris for the team in the 13-a-side. Scoil Íosa battled well to win the first group game against Claremorris in a very tight affair. However, the energy exerted in winning this game proved costly in the deciding fixture against the old rivals Tooreen again. This ended the hurling for a year that promised much but delivered little. A consolation for the team was the selection of two of the boys, John Reidy and Patrick Caulfield, on the County Cumann na mBunscoil team that participated in an inter-county Cumann na mBunscol Go-Games Blitz in Pearse Stadium Galway.

Quiz

2012-2013 was an exceptional year for the various quiz teams in Scoil Íosa starting in January with the local chapter Credit Union Quiz. The Scoil Íosa team of Conal Caulfield, Barry Cribbin, Alannah Nolan and Neil Carney emerged victorious and qualified for the area finals held in Ballina where they finished in a very creditable fifth position.

Our Cumann na mBunscol Sports Quiz team entered the fray as reigning county champions and lived up to

expectations by easily retaining their title. The team of Neil Carney, Barry Cribbin, Conal Caulfield and Dara Healy did the school proud with comprehensive wins in both the local area final and in the County Final held in The Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar. Thanks to team mentors Kevin Henry and Stella McGrath for their hard work in preparing the various teams.

Athletics

The pupils from Scoil Íosa have once again participated in both Track and Field and in the Mayo Schools Cross Country competition. Our Senior Boys and Senior Girls teams performed very well to qualify for the County Final of the Cross Country Competition as runners up in the East Mayo section. In the individual competition fourth class pupil, Erin Murray, qualified for the County Finals with a second place finish in the East Mayo competition and for the Connacht Final in Longford with an excellent fourth place finish at County level.

Parents Fundraising Committee

Scoil Íosa has been very fortunate to have an excellent Parents Group which for more than two years has worked tirelessly to provide financial support for the school through a variety of fund raising activities. The focus of their work has been to assist the school in developing sports facilities and in providing resources for the pupils. Over the life of the current committee the school has benefitted from their work with the development of a new playground, the development of a large playing field to the rear of the school, the enhancement of the school hall with addition of basketball nets and sports lining, and the presentation of



Participants in the Scoil Íosa 'Strictly Come Dancing' fund-raising event, April 2013:

Back, L-R: Dónal Byrne, Sebastian Lankiewicz, Shane Ganley, Liam Lyons, Jason Kelly, Kevin Henry, Conor Freeman, Tommy Lynch, Brian Phillips, Stephen Finn (winner), Michael Toughy, Barry Buckley. Front, L-R: Marian Kilkenny, Michelle Flatley, Emily Hickey, Ann Lyons, Annie Kilroy, Anna Henry, Charlene Ruane, Eileen Lynch, Ann Phillips, Maire Caulfield (winner), Donna Toughy, Moira Noone. Lasha Sabashvili (Choreographer). *Glynn's Photography Castlerea/Ballyhaunis*

iPads and associated peripherals to the school.

The pinnacle of this year's fundraising activities was undoubtedly the 'Strictly Come Dancing' extravaganza held in The McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris on 19th April last. An audience in excess of six hundred patrons were treated to a superb night's entertainment from the team of volunteer dancing couples in an exhibition of eye-catching costumes, intricate footwork and elaborate routines. The event was the brainchild of committee member Carol Keane and was the culmination of weeks of hard work by the dancers and by the very dedicated committee in ensuring its success. Judges on the night were Mildred Byrne, Michael Browne, Olwyn Murray and Angelina Nugent, and Master of Ceremonies was the inimitable Paul Claffey.

Committee members: Frank Browne (Chairperson), Carol Keane, Mary Kay Phillips, Aoife Keane, Martin Walsh, Ann Lyons, Liam Lyons, Paula Donnellan, Dolores Byrne, Helena Byrne, John Durkan, Lorraine Waldron, Anne Phillips.

Confirmation

The pupils in Fifth and Sixth Classes received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, 23rd February 2013. The ceremony was presided over by the Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. Michael Neary assisted by Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. The children had also undertaken the 'You Shall be my Witness' preparatory programme over a number of weeks prior to receiving the Sacrament. Our thanks to all of the parents who gave of their time to assist with the programme and to the teachers, Ciara Byrne, Dónal O'Brien and James Duggan.

The children who were confirmed were: Holly Brown,

Clodagh Byrne, Aoife Carney, Gillian Donnellan, Michael Gostkoski, Oliwia Halas, Amy Keane, Ethan Keane, Conor Keane, Darren Maughan (Snr.), Darren Maughan (Jnr.), Jenita McCormack, Winnie McDonagh, Pierce Nestor, Martynas Pleckaitis, Rebecca Reynolds, Luke Walsh, Winnie Allen, Kyle Cooke, Tara Coyne, Rachel Dillon, Mila Maciukaite, Stephen Maughan, Jack McGoldrick, Kevin McHugh, Megan Morley, Áine Phillips, Sheena Roddy, Jacob Ubych, Neil Carney, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Kasey Clarke, Aoife Conway, Barry Cribbin, Aoife Davis, Deirbhle Finn-Richardson, Weronika Grabiasz, Michelle Grogan, Dara Healy, Shauna Lyons, Eimear Murray, Siofra Murray, Anna Naszkierska, Alannah Nolan, Emma Nolan, Ellen Phillips, Aran Rattigan, John Reidy, David Rutkauskas.

First Communion

The following pupils received their First Communion on Saturday, 11th May: Kian Burke, Brendan Cullen, Aoife Gill, Aivita Kinderyte, Shauna McNamara, Martin McDonagh, Michal Zuk, Emma Graciová, Clayton Nolan, Zachary Prior, Martynka Ubych, Vaikaris Vaitiekus, Mike Wiktor, Micheál Finn-Richardson, Pijus Blozé, Liam Byrne, Ethan Cooke, Holly Gallagher, Lorna Higgins, Kaitlyn Maughan, Patrick McDonagh, Brian McHugh, Eoin Ryan, Darijus Valciukas. Thanks to their teachers, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Michelle Flatley and Elaine Brady for their preparatory work in preparing the children and to Parish Preparatory Team of Anne Durkan and Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. for their assistance.

Choir

Scoil Íosa Children's Choir has had another very successful year. As well as singing monthly in St. Patrick's



Scoil Íosa Confirmation Classes 2013, with teachers Dónal O'Brien, Ciara Byrne and Jimmy Duggan, Dr. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam and Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.*



Scoil Íosa First Holy Communion Class 2013, with their teachers, Elaine Brady and Ciara Fitzmaurice, and Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. Photo by www.stratfordphotography.ie

Church, the children were honoured as guests at the Gracenotes Christmas recital and also performed at a number of parish occasions including the annual dedication of the crib at the Town Square. The choir also assisted the Fundraising Committee through carol singing. The choir was directed by Ita Fahey and Miriam Judge whose work ensured that the singing was of a consistently high quality.

School Staff 2013/14

Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), James Duggan (Deputy Principal), Aisling Toal, Stella McGrath, Kevin Henry, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Marian Kilkenny, Elaine Brady, Olivia Burke, Anne Durkan, Annie Kilroy, Sheena Flanagan, Michelle Flatley, Lisa Watchorn, Miriam Judge, Joanne Forde, Dónal O'Brien, Ciara Byrne, Sharlene Ruane, Marian Nally (SNA), Mary Dillon (Secretary), Carmel Cassidy (Secretary).

Board of Management

James Reidy (Chairperson/Patrons Nominee), Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. (Patrons Nominee), Kenneth Dennedy (Principal/Secretary), Sheena Flanagan (Teacher Nominee), Alan Henry (Parent Nominee), Ann Phillips (Parent Nominee), Paula Grogan (Treasurer/Community Nominee), Tommy Caulfield (Community Nominee).



Scoil Iosa Choir with conductor Ita Fahey.

**Kenneth Dennedy
Principal**



All Ireland Minor Cup visit
Pupils of Scoil Íosa pictured with the Tom Markham Cup, won by the Mayo Minor footballers this year.
Included in photo are: Billy McNicholas, Conor Byrne, Kevin Henry, Michelle Flatley, Elaine Brady and Tom Byrne.



Paula Donnellan and Frank Browne, on behalf of the Parents Committee, presenting iPads to teachers Kevin Henry and Dónal O'Brien.



(Above)
Ballyhaunis GAA Club under-age boys and girls teams with mentors supporting Mayo in Croke Park this year.

(Left)
Scoil Íosa Sports Quiz team - County Cumann na mBunscol Quiz winners - with Kevin Henry (teacher).



Curley's Chemists, "Supporters of the Green and Red". L-R: Eamon Curley, Madeline Nolan, Bernie Flaherty, Mary Gurren, Mary Niland, Mark Curley.

BALLYHAUNIS LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAMME



Children from the Ballyhaunis Area who received medals and certificates in The Summer Reading Programme at Ballyhaunis Library from Mayo Football Star Keith Higgins. Also in the photograph is Eleanor Freyne (Librarian) and Mary Gannon (Chief Executive Librarian).

Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.



Children from the Ballyhaunis Area who received medals and certificates for taking part in the Summer Reading Programme at Ballyhaunis Library from Mayo Football Star Keith Higgins. Also in the photograph is Eleanor Freyne (Librarian) and Mary Gannon (Chief Executive Librarian). *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea/Ballyhaunis.*



Children from the Ballyhaunis Area who received medals and certificates for taking part in the Summer Reading Programme at Ballyhaunis Library from Mayo Football Star Keith Higgins. Also in the photograph is Councillor John Cribbin, Eleanor Freyne (Librarian) and Mary Gannon (Chief Executive Librarian). *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea/Ballyhaunis.*

MARGARET FINNEGAN'S 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

On the 6th June 2013 Margaret Finnegan celebrated her 100th birthday at her home in Bohogue, Ballyhaunis, surrounded by family, friends and neighbours. It is indeed a great privilege to reach ones 100th birthday - a privilege not granted to many but which has been granted to Margaret Finnegan.

Margaret was born on the 6th June 1913 in Knockinacat, Began, daughter of Jim and Rose Waldron. Since her birth she has seen the world transformed, almost beyond recognition. Just a year after she was born saw the start of the First World War which ended in 1918 with the deaths of millions in those four years. Then in her early childhood the Easter Rising of 1916 took place and the unrest continued during her childhood years culminating in the Treaty of 1922. She has memories of those sad days in Ireland, memories of the Black and Tans and the atrocities they were responsible for. Moving on, she has vivid memories of the Second World War and again the hardship it imposed on many people: the scarcity of all necessities of life and the introduction of ration books which continued on into the fifties.

But yet the greatest life-changing event in her lifetime was yet to come and that was the arrival of the technological age. She witnessed the transition from the bicycle and sidecar, pony and trap to the motor car, the arrival of air

travel, which made our world much smaller and which allows family members to travel back and forth from the United States in a matter of hours - a journey that once took a week by sea. Next it was the advance from the candle and tilly lamp to electricity which changed the face of rural Ireland.

Then she experienced the arrival of the first radio, television and the development of the telephone, and she has seen the mobile phone which today is almost a standard toy for every child. It is indeed true to say that since her birth in 1913, the world has changed beyond recognition.

On 2nd June 1943 Margaret was married to Martin Finnegan by Canon Moane in Began Church. They settled in Bohogue to begin their new life. That was in the middle of the Second World War when there was certainly no Celtic Tiger and everything was scarce and rationed - not exactly the time to be rearing a large family. They had eight in family, six daughters and two sons. Sadly her husband Martin passed away in 1992 and, added to this, she had to endure what no mother should have to endure, and that was the passing away of three of her children - her two sons and her youngest daughter.

Margaret was an accomplished homemaker and dressmaker. A woman who worked hard on the farm as well as taking care of her eight children. To mark Margaret's 100th Birthday, Mass was celebrated in her home by Canon Joe Cooney and Fr. Brendan McGuinness. A big crowd of family, friends and neighbours gathered to wish Margaret all the best in reaching this



Margaret Finnegan, Canon Joe Cooney, Knock and Fr. Brendan McGuinness, P.P., Began.
Photographs by Glynn's Photography Castlereagh.



Margaret Finnegan pictured with family and friends.

Back Row, L-R: David Bristoe, John Connaughton, Robert Connaughton, Ashling Hegarty, Margaret Finnegan, Denise Connery, Mary Lee, Ian Connery, Ann Marie Finnegan, Mark Connery, Kate Hegarty, Michael Hegarty, Leona Connery.

Front Row, L-R: Ausra and baby Emma Connery, Mairead and baby Ada Bristoe, Geraldine Finnegan, Margaret Finnegan, Rosaleen Mullen, Sheena Hegarty and Zac Bristoe.



Margaret Finnegan celebrating her 100th Birthday with family, friends and neighbours.
Photograph by Glynn's Photography Castlereagh.

wonderful milestone. A cheque and congratulatory letter from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, was presented to Margaret at the end of Mass by Fr. Brendan McGuinness Parish Priest of Began.

It is hoped that Margaret will have many more years of good health and happiness!

PARISH MISSION

The Parish Church in Ballyhaunis was ablaze with the Holy Spirit throughout the week, Monday, 18th to Friday, 22nd February 2013 when a three member team from St. Patrick's Community in Co. Leitrim delivered a powerful Mission to the local community as part of the 'Year of Faith' celebrations. Led by former drug dealer and gangster turned evangelist, John Pridmore, the five day Mission attracted huge crowds to the church throughout the week. The sessions, held both in the morning and evening, comprised of testimonies, prayer, music and healing. On the opening night, John Pridmore shared his remarkable story of healing and conversion while later in the week, team members Neil Slattery and Catherine Leigh shared their own personal stories of conversion.

On the Wednesday night, the theme of the celebration was 'God's Healing'. With up to eight priests present for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, there was a chance for all present to clear the slate, and indeed, the soul. A wonderful night of healing all round.

On the final night, following the celebration of The Mass of the Holy Spirit, the large crowd departed the parish church into the cold night air, renewed and spiritually invigorated.

Mike Byrne



Mission Team Members of the St Patrick's Mission, who conducted the Parish Mission, 18th to 22nd Feb. 2013.
 L-R: Neil Slattery, John Pridmore, Catherine Leigh.

ECHOES FROM 1951

Now that we have picked ourselves up and dusted ourselves down after losing another All-Ireland, I have been hearing echoes in my old head from the last time we won. That, as everyone knows, was back in 1951 – sixty-two years ago. What a different place Ireland was then! Living as I was then and, indeed, all my life on a farm, I have seen a lot of changes. I'm sure the young, and indeed the not so young, could not imagine living without electricity, running water, or central heating. Not to mention any TV, phones of any kind. No computer, no Laptop, iPod, and all the gadgets young people now take for granted. Not everyone even had a radio, or 'wireless' as they were then called. If you were lucky enough to live in a house that had one you wouldn't be let turn it on for the week before Mayo were playing in a big match, in case the wet battery went down.

Times were hard living on a farm in those days. The war was only over a few years. Rationing was just being phased out. In fact the last set of ration books were issued that year. Those books were never used. I think that puts into perspective the hunger there is in Mayo for an All-Ireland when you think that ration books were issued the year we last won. We produced most of our own food. We worked six days a week, and were lucky if we had the price of 'the pictures' on Sunday night. Holidays were unheard of: they were something other people had. The only people who had cars were priests, doctors, teachers, and big shopkeepers.

One of my sisters (I had seven of them!) Got married in October 1950, just after Mayo had beaten Louth in the All-Ireland Final. She and her husband Oliver were living in Dublin and I was determined that if Mayo got to the final in 1951 I was going to be in Croke Park. Well Mayo got there after a struggle and I got them to invite me to visit them and Oliver promised to take me to the match. Everything was falling into place. Now the big question was, how to get there. Money was very scarce. I had an uncle living in Claremorris who went to all the big matches. I contacted him and he got me fixed up with a seat in a car. Tom Keane had offered him a seat in his car, and he 'cadged' a seat for me too.

Adventure

This was a very big adventure for me. Apart from a week I spent in hospital in 1945 when I got my appendix out, I had never spent two consecutive nights away from the house I was born in. I was determined if I got away I wouldn't be in any great hurry back. My father was impressing on me all the work that had to be done. I can tell you that I let it 'in one ear and out the other'. I had to cycle in to Ballyhaunis to meet the car from Claremorris.

On my way there I called in to Jack Glavey in Aghamore. I knew that he went to the cattle market in Dublin every Thursday. I asked if he was going the following Thursday. The answer was 'yes'. I asked if I could have a seat home with him. Another 'yes'. I then asked if he would pick me up from my aunt's house in Chapelizod. My grandmother was living there at the time and I knew Jack often called in to see her.

I left my bike with another aunt I had who lived in No. 4 Main Street. I met the car as arranged in the Square. I remember the car was an Austin A40, driven by Tom Keane. A son of his – J.P. Keane – played for Mayo later. His brother John was in the other front seat. John later married the late Dr. Noreen Smyth. I sat in the back with my uncle and another man whose name I have forgotten. It was my first time to cross the Shannon. I think that was a bigger adventure for me than the first I crossed the Atlantic in 1991!

My sister and her husband met me in Chapelizod and took me to their home in Brookwood Avenue, Artane. Their's was a new house. Oliver was a builder and he had built it the previous year. Everything was strange to me having never been in a new house before. I had lived all my life in a house built by my great-grandfather way back in 1873.

Croke Park

Next morning we got an early Mass in Donnycarney church and hit for Croke Park. There were no tickets at the time: you paid at the turnstile. I don't know how much it cost to get in as Oliver paid for me. We got there in good time. We were standing all the time in what I now think must be 'The Hill'. We were right behind the goal posts, in the middle of Meath supporters. Oliver was a Louth man. We had beaten them the year before, so I don't think he had much sympathy for Mayo. He daren't say that out loud or he would have his wife and me to deal with!

I don't remember all that much about the match itself, only that we won easy after a bit of a shaky start. Another thing I remember was that the Meath supporters were great sports. Of course they gave me a bit of harmless teasing, but it was all in good humour.

The next morning Oliver was gone to work when I got up. He had men working with him who left their bikes at his house and went off in the car with him. I soon took one of them out for a spin up Brookwood Avenue. When I got to the main road – I was later told it was called the Malahide Road – I was very surprised to find what looked like a big circle. I really didn't know what to make of it. I must have gone round it six or seven times on the bike and thought it was great fun. When I got back to the house my sister told me it was called a roundabout. Oliver later told me that it was the first one in Ireland and it is still there. Little did I think that day, that forty years later I would be driving a car round it.

On Monday evening I was taken to visit another aunt (I had a lot of them). She and her husband lived in Marino. When we were leaving I told her that I would see her again the next day. Next day I set off on the bike, did a few turns on the roundabout, and headed off down the Malahide Road. There was very little traffic: a few cars, an odd bus, and plenty of bikes. I found my way without any trouble. I think I visited her every day I was there. At night we went out to the pictures a few times. On Thursday Oliver came home at lunch time and took me to Chapelizod. Jack Glavey picked me up as arranged, and we headed for home. Jack always stopped in Mullingar. He told me he got a great cup of tea and a ham sandwich in Shaw's. Eventually, we got to Ballyhaunis. Jack offered to put my bike in the boot and take me as far as Aghamore but I decided I would cycle home. To tell the truth I was in no great hurry to get there.

Sam Maguire in Ballyhaunis

When I went to No. 4 Main Street, I was told that Sean Flanagan was coming with 'The Cup' that night. There was going to be a big bonfire in the Square, and a victory dance in the Parochial Hall. Of course I didn't want to miss all that. I asked my aunt if she could give me a bed for the night. Of course she could, after all I was her godson as well as her nephew.

Needless to say I enjoyed all the fun at the bonfire. Seeing Sean Flanagan hold up the Sam Maguire Cup is something I will never forget. We made our way up to the hall for the dance. I don't remember what band played that night. The hall was full and everyone was enjoying themselves. At one stage I felt a bit tired so I made my way up to the balcony for a sit down and a smoke. Everyone smoked at the time. I wasn't there long when a person sat beside me and asked me for a match. I looked up, and who was there but the great Tom Langan! I thought I had died and gone to Heaven!

I had a good lie in the next morning, and it was well into the afternoon by the time I rolled in home. My father could not understand how I could stay away for a full week and all the work that had to be done. My mother told me later that every morning as he was getting up, he looked in to my bedroom to see if I had come home after they went to bed.

Those are some of the echoes I have been hearing for the past few weeks. While we didn't win 'Sam' this year, I have no doubt that James Horan and his great team will do so in the near future. I will finish up by thanking the Mayo team, James Horan and his backroom crew for the wonderful year they gave us. Five great wins, one better than the other. Five days when we were all proud to call ourselves Mayo Men.

John Gunnigan

Hide & Seek

*Oh where have I put them, my glasses so new?
They have slipped away from me, I'm in such a stew!
I know that I had them, but now they're away
Far off from my old eyes... oh why did they stray?
The old ones I had, one day hid in the fridge -
They'd be there ever since but I made a sandwich -
Another time hidden inside the hot-press
Oh why am I caught in this worst kind of mess?!
But here is my grand-daughter,
she's just home from school
She's the kindest young girl and she plays it so cool...
I tell her my story and she takes my hand
And we stroll towards the mirror that in the hall stands.
'Oh, Nana, they're lovely, they suit you quite well.
You're looking years younger, they must have a spell!'
And then I look up at my image so close
And there are my glasses sat quiet on my nose!*

Mary Gunnigan



Betty Flatley Dunn (left), late of Flatley's Café, Main St. and Sydney, Australia, and Noreen Caulfield, Carrowkeel, taken at Ballyhaunis Railway Station in August 1977.

IRELAND WEST MUSIC TV

*Filmed, Edited and Completely
Put Together in Ballyhaunis*

It's hard to believe that it's over two years since we started broadcasting our Ireland West Music Television Programme on Sky TV. Like everything else, when we started out we really didn't know who, if anyone would bother watching or for how long the programme would last. Thankfully over two years later it is going from strength to strength. Initially the show was recorded at Greenfields Studios in Headford but last Spring we made the decision to build a little television studio on Clare Street in Ballyhaunis, just beside the Radio Centre. It's what we call a three camera studio, nice and compact but at the same time more than adequate to do the job.

The programme is filmed, edited and completely put together in Ballyhaunis and then exported to the Sky Studios in London. At this stage we have gotten into a nice routine whereby on Monday we come together to decide what videos will be used. From that we make up our playlist based on a combination of requested songs, new material and of course we also trawl through our extensive stock of videos. From once the playlist is finalised, we leave everything until Tuesday and at 2 o'clock on Tuesday we start to record the links for the following week's show. On a good day that can be wrapped up within an hour and after that our technical team take over building the programme for transmission.

When we originally decided to broadcast the show we felt that it would be directed to people of Irish descent living in England. However, in the two years it has grown beyond all belief. It has become hugely popular, not alone with young and old across the UK and Europe, but here in Ireland it has completely taken us by surprise. Every week we receive hundreds of emails from people asking us to play requests or to find particular songs or maybe just with a comment to say how much the programme means to them.



Paul Claffey and Gerry Glennon in studio.

It's still early days and we have lots of ideas and plans in our heads as to how we will expand the service. The studio and equipment in Ballyhaunis is fully capable of broadcasting live programmes so in the future that may be a road we decide to take. Television by its nature is a very expensive business to be in but even with the few tentative steps we have taken we can see that there is a big desire and a great sense of pride among the people that it can be done at the level it is from a little studio in a town in the west of Ireland. It would be remiss not to take this opportunity to thank our staff, our advertisers and all the many viewers who in such a short space of time have made Ireland West Music Television the success it has become. Recently we passed the milestone of transmitting our first 100 episodes so here's to many many more. We certainly will not be found wanting in our desire and commitment to keep the project going.

Gerry Glennon

THE ABBEY MALE CHOIR

The Abbey Male Choir had a busy year. We sing twice a month at Sunday Mass. This year we sang at a number of weddings. We are indebted to our Organist Paula Donnellan and our Musical Director Moira Delaney for their assistance, enthusiasm and commitment.

New members are always welcome.

Eamonn Murren

BALLYHAUNIS AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LIMITED

Our History

In 1982 a study group came together to set up Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union under the umbrella of the Irish League of Credit Unions. The study group was comprised of twenty people two of whom had been involved in Credit Unions previously: Christina Lyons, who was on the board of Glenamaddy Credit Union, and Pat O'Connor, who had been a founder member of Tara & District Credit Union. Throughout that winter and into the spring of 1983 the group met on a weekly basis to study the rules of Credit Union. During this time the group received help and assistance from neighbouring credit unions in the Mayo Chapter of Credit Unions. As time moved on the group started a savings scheme amongst themselves and their spouses to learn how to keep proper records.

Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union Limited was incorporated on 19th May 1983 and was then launched in The Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis, on 23rd May 1983. At first the Credit Union operated for a couple of hours each Sunday after last Mass from a room in the local Parochial Hall. Membership continued to grow and the first set of audited accounts for the Credit Union showed shares of £7,305 and loans of £1,759. The first loan was for £200 to allow a member to participate in a training course.

On 12th June 1992 the new Credit Union office opened on Main St. This resulted in attracting more members to join up and increased the awareness of the Credit Union in the local community. 1992 also marked the year that the first full-time employee was recruited and the installation of the first computer system. Within two years the shares with the Credit Union had doubled to £1,000,000 and by 1996 shares had doubled again.

Continued steady growth up to 2003 meant that the Board of Directors had to again assess the suitability of its premises. After consultation with engineers and architects the Board concluded that the building was no longer suitable for the volume of business now being transacted and decided to find an alternative site.

In 2005 the Credit Union purchased Freyne's Garage on Clare St. and commenced work on the new premises. The sod was turned for on the 28th Sept. 2006 and opened for

business on 24th May 2008. The move to the new premises also marked the appointment of Mary Henry to the position of Manager.

The Credit Union occupies the ground floor for its day-to-day business while the first floor is a self-contained Conference Centre complete with Board Room, Meeting Room for up to 120 people and has a fully equipped Kitchen.

At the end of September 2012 shares stood at €15,400,000 and loans at €4,400,000.



Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union, First Board of Directors 1983.

Back, L-R: Michael Greally, Paddy Brennan, John Touhy, Aidan Kelly, Pat Fitzgerald, Vincent Freeman, Terry Coleman.

Centre: Pat O'Connor, Christina Lyons, Maura Fitzmaurice, Catherine Sloyan, Mary Freyne, Peter McCafferty. **Front:** Fr. Des Walsh.

Volunteerism

The Credit Union has always been based on volunteerism and throughout the last thirty years there have been over eighty direct volunteers involved in this Credit Union. There are also the sometimes forgotten volunteers. These are the spouses and partners of volunteers who often stayed at home with young children while the volunteers themselves attended to their committee work, etc.

Schools Savings Scheme

The Credit Union now operates a School Saving Scheme in Scoil Íosa, Tooreen, Gorthaganny and Began Primary Schools. We now have an electronic savings card similar to an ATM card and with all the security features of a PIN. The big benefit is that if the card is lost, the Credit Union still has all the transaction information.

Two staff members visit the schools fortnightly at an arranged time to take lodgments. Parents who supply their mobile number receive a text the day before transactions



Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union Car Draw finalists, June 2013.
L-R: Anthony Kilroy, Amy Brady, Dorothy Durkan, Anne Keane (winner),
Mairéad Brennan, Kieran Jenkinson.

are due in the school. The scheme has been a huge success and it is hoped extend it to other schools in the area.

Advantages of Credit Union Membership

For over fifty years people in Ireland have achieved a better way of life through their participation in their Credit Union. Credit Unions offer members the chance to have control over their finances by making their own savings work for them. Regular savings from a common pool of money, which in turn provides many benefits for members. Not only will you help yourself, but you will be happy in the knowledge you are also helping your community. Some of the benefits include:

- Encouragement and advice on regular savings.
- Loan availability at relatively low rates of interest, which remain consistent even during times of economic turbulence.
- Security of savings through the Credit Union's Fidelity Bond, and through the Irish League of Credit Union's Saving Protection Scheme and Government Guarantee Scheme protection.
- Loan protection and life savings insurance at no direct cost to the eligible member.
- The confidence that the Credit Union has no fees or transaction charges.
- The knowledge that your own savings are being used in your community.
- Confidentiality and strict privacy.
- Standing orders from bank to us to save or make repayments.
- Open thirty-eight hours per week, including lunchtime and up to 6.00pm on Thursday and Friday.
- Foreign exchange service available.
- 10% VHI insurance discount
- Bill pay service at counter - pay your ESB, phone, gas etc when you bring in bill with barcode.

- We guarantee that when you call to our office you will be dealt with by a member of staff not a MACHINE.

The Credit Union is community based and, over these years, has endeavoured to support as many community groups and initiatives as possible.

Over the past thirty years we have seen many challenges. No doubt there will be many challenges ahead and we hope that the residents of Ballyhaunis and its environs will continue to support their local Credit Union.

As we celebrate the success of the past thirty years we remember our colleagues on the Board who are now deceased: Paddy Brennan, Pat Fitzgerald, Barry Butler, Michael Greally, John Tuohy and Martin Connery.



At the Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union Open Day.
L-R: Patricia O'Connor, Hazel Niland, Madeline Niland, Pat O'Connor.

Open Day

To celebrate thirty years in business the Credit Union hosted an open day on Saturday 1st June at its offices on Clare Street.

There was a photographic exhibition showing the growth of the Credit Union, decade by decade, and featuring memorabilia of the Credit Union over the past thirty years. Members and non-members were invited to come along on the day, view the exhibition, take a trip down memory lane and enjoy some light refreshments. There was face painting and entertainment for children and it was a great chance for former directors and volunteers to chat and reminisce about the early days. The car draw also took place on the day. The finalists were: Anne Keane, Granlahan; Dorothy Durkan, Ballyhaunis; Mairéad Brennan, Ballindine; Amy Brady, Ballinlough; Anthony Kilroy, Huntsfield; Kieran Jenkinson, Ballyhaunis. The lucky winner on the day was Anne Keane of Granlahan. Each of the other finalists won €500.

Mary Henry, Manager

BALLYHAUNIS AND DISTRICT CREDIT UNION LIMITED

MY STORY AS A VOLUNTEER

How I got hooked on Credit Union

One evening friends of mine mentioned Credit Union to me over a cup of tea. A week or two later in that same house I asked how I could go about joining up. The reply was, "Call into the Parochial Hall between 7 – 9pm on Saturday night, fill out a few forms and lodge whatever amount you can afford".

Now going back 28-29 years ago with a husband and three children, one income and living in rental accommodation, there wasn't much left to save – but save I did.

Barely twelve months later that small weekly savings was enough for me to borrow IR£300. I was scared applying for that amount. The purpose of my first loan was for out-of-pocket expenses for an Irish Dancing trip to England for my daughter and I. The agreement was to repay IR£6 weekly over the next twelve months, which also included the interest due. I think records will show that I never missed a repayment. The fact that the interest was taken off the reducing balance meant that a few extra pence went into my savings each week. My God, was I a proud lady when that year ended. Not alone did I repay the IR£300 plus interest due, but by putting a few shillings into savings I now had savings of IR£500 in total. Had I not borrowed that IR£300, that money would not have been saved!

I was eager to learn more about this voluntary organisation so I attended the AGM. By the end of the meeting I was proposed as a Director – I was speechless! From then on I attended monthly meetings and was learning more with each passing month. The weekly work night was on a Monday in Jordan's, Upper Main Street where we entered the weekly transactions into journals and ledgers. The voluntary aspect amazed me – no one put a price on time. I was so glad to give back to this great voluntary organisation, where there was access to credit at a nominal rate. It didn't seem like work – there was the odd cupán tae and a bit of craic too. Mind you, my husband probably had a different view when I got home around midnight cold and tired – but always having learned something pertaining to the Credit Union.

As the years passed the business of the Credit Union became more complex and regulated. The Board of Directors always ensured that staff and volunteers were appropriately trained and had the necessary skills to complete their duties. As part of this ongoing training programme I, along with four directors and two staff, completed an Advanced Certificate in Credit Union Studies through the University of Ulster. If you had said to me all those years ago that I would graduate with a university qualification I would have scoffed at the idea. That is the beauty of being a volunteer with the Credit Union: not only do you get the satisfaction of helping a local community organisation, you also get the chance to develop both personally and professionally.

We as a family, benefited over the years from being able to buy our own country cottage, change our car and do some home improvements, and have the occasional holiday, all thanks to Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union.



'The Gem' - Wine Department Foodmarket' Award

Carney's Costcutter (The Gem), Bridge St., Ballyhaunis, was the proud winner of this year's Costcutter 'Wine Department Foodmarket' award at the annual Costcutter Awards, held in the Ritz Carlton, Powerscourt, Enniskerry, Co Wicklow, on Saturday the 31st August, 2013.

Proprietor Eugene Carney (right) was delighted to receive the award from Jim Barry, Managing Director, Barry Group: "We're thrilled to have won the Costcutter award for Wine Department Foodmarket, it's a great honour. A lot of the credit goes to the staff for ensuring the high quality customer service delivered every day. We continuously challenge ourselves to keep improving our offering and we aim to continue to go that extra mile for every customer that walks through our door. After all they are our business so it's vital they enjoy their shopping experience with us and come back again and again."



HELLO THERE!

Recent innovations in phone technology have given us i-Phones, 3G and 4G etc. This makes a big change from the sixties or seventies as far as phones are concerned. A lot of phone calls were made in those days from the old P&T public phone boxes: the big yellow and green boxes. There was one in The Square between Forde's and Bank of Ireland. One at the Friary gate and one in Upper Main Street outside the Dispensary.

Tom Hopkins' in Upper Main Street was our local phone. Tom had a coin box which was open to the public to use. The number was 76. Many farmers down the years would have Tom or Noreen or one of the girls ring Claremorris 115 and utter the words, *"Black Polly heifer, noticed first time this morning"*.

I remembered that Johnny Gilmore undertaker had number 'Guthán 2'. This reminds me of a story I heard recently about Johnny and Philip Morley. A Ballyhaunis man by the name of Rattigan died in England and Johnny and Philip went to collect his remains in Dublin Airport. Philip was told that the remains were in a certain room. When he went into the room he could find no remains. He was brought back into the room by an official who pointed out that the remains were there in an urn. This was unheard of in Ballyhaunis at the time. Indeed I believe that the urn had to be put into a coffin before it was allowed inside the church.



Other phone numbers I remember were Eddie Webb 3, Dillon Leetch's 4, the Railway Station 9, Bernie Byrne 39 and Bertie Curley 77. Of course the phones in those days were not direct dial; one had to go through an operator. I recall the signs on phones saying "do not insert money until the operator tells you". Operators who worked in Ballyhaunis included Tim O'Malley, Breege Halpin, Kathleen Curley, Myra Fitzgerald, Ann Madden, Ann Caulfield, Bridie Brennan, Mary Greene, Joe Fitzmaurice, Patricia Heaney and Margaret Finnegan. I'm sure I've left plenty of others out.

Another number I remember is Jack Morley's pub. The number was 123. Morley's was a great house for darts and dart throwers have a saying *"123 never won a game"*. In other words if you landed on 123 you would usually not win the game. I recall a man coming into Morley's one night and asking John (Dolly) to put a call through from him to his sister in England. Dolly told him that the sister would smell the drink off him, whereupon the man rushed out to Fred Herr to buy a packet of Silvermints.

Indeed when phones went automatic there were still problems. Like the elderly man from Annagh who was phoning the A.I. only for the voice telling him *"the number you have dialled is incorrect, please dial again"*, to which the man shouted into the phone, *"Well it is not incorrect because Tom Meehan gave me this number"*.

They are just a few memories I have of the phone industry some years ago. I have to finish now as I have to email my good friend in Johnstown, Jimmy Cribbin, to see how interest rates are moving. A story for another day, maybe?

Eamonn Murren



Pictured left:
Joe and Ann Hosty,
Lavallyroe, with Fr.
Tom Commins on
their 40th Wedding
Anniversary,
14th June 2013.

Right: The Moore
family, Carrowbeg,
enjoying a night-out
in Brisbane, Australia,
March 2013.
L-R: Claire, Patrick,
Mary and Jonathan.



BALLYHAUNIS CHAMBER

Ballyhaunis Chamber has again had a busy year and no doubt next year will be just as busy. Lobbying Mayo County Council for improvements to the town takes up a good part of the Chamber's time and is on-going. There have been some successes in this year's lobbying with action being taken on several matters.

The footpath on Hazelhill, which was unfinished and dangerous, has now been completed. Barrack Street, which was in a very bad state of repair has been re-surfaced and lined. The Swimming Pool has been re-furnished and was open this summer. There has been progress on the lobbying done in respect of road safety on the junction of N60/N83 and also on Morley's Corner. Ballyhaunis Chamber also submitted appeals to the Court Services to save the Ballyhaunis Courthouse which was under threat, and have also lobbied for proper road linings outside the Community School, the bypass, under the train station bridge, and these have now been completed. We are still lobbying for Main Street's car parking spaces to be properly lined out.

Together with Tidy Towns, we have requested a walkway/cycle lane linking the footpaths and the bypass to give a complete walking circuit of the town. We have also requested a two foot high embankment along the bypass for safety reasons. This is still under discussion and, hopefully, will be funded by Leader when funds are released again. A draft plan has also been drawn up for "Smarter Travel Ballyhaunis" which will involve more walkways and encourage people to walk to work.

Again, alongside all the lobbying, Ballyhaunis Chamber is trying to attract footfall to the town to support all the businesses. This year, community events included a five day Summer Festival which was a great success and enjoyed good weather. Ballyhaunis hosted both the Mayo AC Summer Series Ballyhaunis 5k and also the 8k Road race in September. The Christmas Festival is currently being organised (at time of writing) and the committee is working hard at improving on last year's festival. Christmas Lights are being organised by Michael Dee this year and who is working tirelessly on this project at present. Also, as well as the successful "Ballyhaunis Life" website, Ballyhaunis now has "Ballyhaunis Shoppers' Guide" Facebook page, where local businesses can promote their businesses and special offers all in one place. All these events are planned to encourage business into the town and keep Ballyhaunis a thriving town.

New Businesses

It is great to see so many new businesses opening up in Ballyhaunis during the past year. The Chamber would like

to wish the best of luck to all the new businesses in town. We have two new cafés: Thunder Road Café on Main Street and Nico's Café on Knox Street. Also on Knox Street, Christopher Burke Tyres has opened and The Clock Bar has made a long awaited come back after the unfortunate events over Christmas last year. On Abbey Street too there are two new businesses: BK Engineering (Brendan Kelly) and Nick Nack Paddy Wac, a second-hand shop being run by Patrick and Julie Crosby to raise funds for The Men's Shed. On Clare Street, Mike Griffin has completely re-furnished his building and opened Mike's Bikes - Sales and Repair, and Ballyhaunis Cycle Studio and Fitness classes opened also on Clare Street. On Barrack Street, Julie Gallagher has branched out with a new business, Drop Away Ireland, selling Diet Drops for which her three stone weight loss is proving a good selling point. Finally, in Devlis, Corrib Oil has opened their new Petrol Station on the site of the old Texaco Garage. Good luck to all involved in these new businesses and may they be prosperous and successful.

Fund Raising is a very important job for the Chamber. Without funds, none of these activities can take place. Public funding has been pulled back in the last couple of years and it is no longer possible to get financial assistance for festivals and events etc., so it falls to local businesses and local people to donate whatever they can to all our fund raising events. The Chamber has an on-going clothing collection which raises money continually and any clothing can be dropped in at the Enterprise Centre. We do not like asking people for donations in these hard times but all donations, however small are extremely appreciated.

My second year of Office as Chamber President is drawing to a close and by the time you read this there will be a new President in place. I would like to wish whoever takes over the best of luck in the role and say that they have a wonderful team at the Enterprise Centre in Anne, (C.E.O), Áine, Teresa and Martina who all work hard to keep the Chamber running smoothly. Thank you ladies. I would also like to thank all the volunteers and committee members without whom most of the above would not be possible.

All that remains now is to wish everyone a Peaceful Christmas and hope that 2014 brings all the happiness you wish for.

Alison McDermott

Chamber President 2011-2013



FROM PARISH TO PERSIA

I'm sitting at my desk, twenty floors up in a Doha skyscraper. It would be an understatement to say that my life has changed now that I live in Qatar. From my office window I can see gas-guzzling SUVs and high-powered American muscle cars whizzing past the Corniche - an iconic waterfront promenade which arches around the Persian Gulf, its turquoise swash lapping up to the periphery of this tiny peninsular state.

Once a sleepy city, Doha is rapidly becoming a beacon of the Middle East. Palm trees implanted along the highways and manicured roundabouts are fixtures which didn't exist in this country two decades ago. The city center skyline resembles a mini Manhattan, albeit without the cosmopolitan atmosphere and lack of street bustle.

But what is the reason for this national makeover? Well, it's simple really. Qatar boasts the third largest proven gas

of South-East Asian labourers. Single men from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and many other surrounding nations are at the forefront of building the infrastructure which is needed to stage the tournament. However, the treatment of these migrant workers has come under fierce scrutiny and has led to calls for improved working conditions and better salaries. Another question doing the rounds is: can the tournament be successfully played in the searing summer heat? Temperatures rise to over 50 degrees in the months of June, July and August. And there has been speculation that the tournament could be switched to wintertime. But that too has been met with stern opposition as it would create dilemmas for domestic club competitions across the globe. By the time you read this, the tournament could be switched to the winter months.

Qatar's ultimate mission is to transform a carbon-based economy into a knowledge-based economy by 2030. It's a massive undertaking which continually requires qualified Westerners to relocate here and work in various sectors; from finance to IT, and engineering to media. I'm currently in my second job in Qatar. I initially worked for Qatar Foundation - a non-profit government organisation that seeks to develop education, science and technology, and community life through numerous universities, centres and institutions. Basically, they want to provide for the future and sustain themselves on more than just the oil and gas. My first job here was with a custom publishing firm within the Qatar Foundation. I have written for two publications, the QF Telegraph and The Foundation Magazine, for one year before joining the Ministry of Information & Communication Technology as Senior Editor in the Communications Department. They are opportunities which the majority of 20-somethings would



The Doha skyline at night.

reserves in the world. As a result, the country currently has the highest GDP per capita in Asia and the fourth highest in the world. Moreover, nowhere on earth will you find as many millionaires concentrated in one place as in Qatar. In fact, a recent report has shown that more than 14 percent of households in the Gulf state hold at least \$1 million in private wealth. Disappointingly, I'm in the 86 percentile!

Growing pains

The rate of growth on every level in Qatar is astonishing. The construction industry is booming with an average 500 expatriates arriving in Doha every day to begin new lives. The controversial awarding of the country's bid to host the 2022 Fifa World Cup has much to do with the huge influx

be very fortunate to get anywhere in Ireland or Europe, so I feel very lucky to be gaining such experience. My workplace consists of roughly 85 percent Arabs; mostly Qataris, Egyptians, Lebanese, Jordanians etc. So as you can see I'm in the minority. But just as much as the experience is benefitting me, the chance to learn and work with people from very different backgrounds and cultures is amazing.

The way of life

Adapting to life in the Middle East is tricky business. This is the furthest I have ever lived away from home and there have been many cultural and societal changes which come as a shock to the system - even if you have done your research before emigrating. Qatar is deemed to be a conser-

vative Arab nation. The sale of pork products is banned apart from one huge Cash & Carry type of building which allows holders of a residence permit and who are not Muslim to purchase ham and rashers (not the same as home) and alcohol. The vast majority of Muslim women wear Habayas (the traditional attire), the local men wear Thobes (white robes) and Western women are expected to dress appropriately in public places. Women showing their shoulders and any dress above the knee is frowned upon and can potentially lead to a report being made to the authorities! But those types of instances are far and few between. The integration of expats and locals can always be improved upon, but I have been enthused by the welcoming nature of the locals here and the friends I have made from various walks of life.

Just like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and other surrounding cities in the Gulf region, there is an enormous expat community where Canadians, Brits, Americans, French, Spanish, Australians, and a plethora of other nationalities mix together socially. The Irish diaspora is continually expanding here, and I know many who have relocated in Doha to teach English as a foreign language or work as engineers. The opportunities for career development and highly incentivised packages with tax-free salaries are the main selling points for a leap into this grand sandpit. The cost of living has varying differences compared to Ireland and the rest of Europe. For example, would you believe me if I told you that bottled water is more expensive than petrol? Well, it's a fact. One litre of petrol costs around 20 cents! While a bottle of water will set you back just a little under. Rental accommodation prices have soared in the past few years and will continue to do so as the country struggles to keep pace with an ever-growing population.

Living in Qatar will definitely take you out of your comfort zone if it's your first time to experience the Middle East way of life. Although I would never advise someone to stick their head inside an oven, turn it on and leave it there for a prolonged period of time, doing so is a comparable experience to walking around in Doha. The call to prayer can be heard in virtually every corner of the country five times a day, including the early wake-up call at around 4.30am! If there are pitfalls to avoid then there isn't any bigger than the infamous 'Doha Stone'. A hazardous landmark, you might say? No. The Doha Stone is the extra weight which you seem to automatically accumulate in just a few months of living here. Eating out could be easily classified as a hobby for many people and the lack of footpaths in some neighbourhoods, coupled with the high temperatures, make it very difficult to get about by foot.



William Nestor with two fellow expats from Doha during a recent trip to Jordan where we visited the breath-taking ancient city of Petra.

Going home?

The rate of emigration from Ireland in recent times has been well documented and, unfortunately, there's no sign of it slowing down. A large chunk of the friends I grew up with in Ballyhaunis are now living and working in places like Australia, the UK and Canada. Many of them have made new countries and cities their homes. Conversations are held over Facebook from time to time and I always hope to hear someone say: "I'm going home for good." But sadly, very few are currently in the position to do so.

I feel that the youth of Ireland have sacrifices to make no matter what decision they make; whether it's to emigrate, remain an expat or roll the dice and return home after being away. For me, there is no place in the world like home and the thought of eventually returning weighs heavily on the mind. In saying that, I've taken the opportunity to travel and see countries such as Bahrain, Cyprus, the UAE, Thailand, and Jordan in the last 12 months or so. I hope to visit Lebanon, Sri Lanka, India, and Saudi Arabia over the course of the next year or so. They say that travelling broadens your horizons and I can definitely testify to that statement.

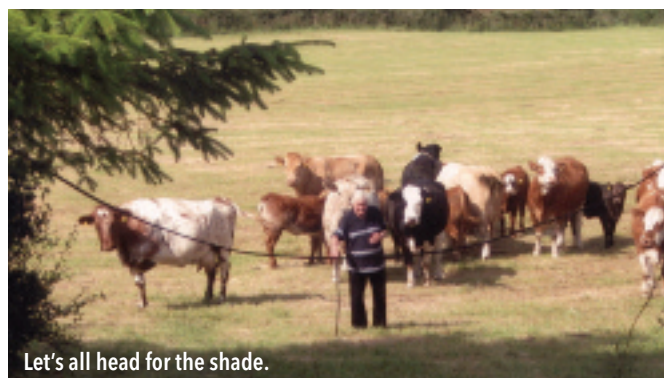
All in all, Qatar has a lot going for it. It's becoming more liberal all the time with a new Emir (kind of like a king) in place, it's the only country in the world that begins with the letter 'Q', and we only have to wait eight more years for the World Cup to arrive!

Who knows... I just might still be here.

William Nestor

ON WATER AND WEATHER

If I were a person who kept an up to date diary I would now be recording that last evening in the community centre, Cloonfad, I attended the AGM of the Johnstown Lavallyroe GWS (Group Water Scheme), or to give it its official title, I would have to add the words 'Co-operative Society Limited'. I cannot say that the meeting room was crowded but large meetings with too many present pursuing narrow personal agendas stifle rather than stimulate the real business of a meeting. I can say that this was a model meeting with responsible speakers at the top table and reasonable speakers from the floor.



Let's all head for the shade.



To Ballyhaunis as the crow flies with its Church where prayers were said for fine weather.



Cool and convenient, thanks to the water scheme.



Contented seeing 'full and plenty' lined up for winter days ahead.

Now this gives a clue that we are dealing with a successful, well-run group water scheme. This scheme featured in an article in the 1987 edition of Annagh magazine when it was in its infancy – and teething problems are a common problem in infancy. In a later article in the Cloonfad magazine, John Dowling gave us an update on the same subject. Suffice it to say now that this is a successful, well run scheme and reflects well on those who accept responsibility by serving on the management committee, and on the shareholders at large who discharge their duties by paying fees punctually and using the valuable service provided in a responsible manner.

The management committee was returned unopposed. Long serving chairman Johnny Moran must, by now, see similarities between his position and that of the Pope, who once elected to St. Peter's chair is there for life. The only lady present was secretary Daisy Moran. She is staying on even though her remuneration amounts to less than the price of a packet of cigarettes per week. A previous secretary told the meeting that after thirteen years service he had got no pension. Treasurer Tommy Shannon, who signs documents in copperplate handwriting which he crowns with a crescent flourish on top, was also returned unopposed.

Not all water schemes run as smoothly as ours. I remember reading about a Judge commenting on the number of those schemes that came before his court and Mark Twain must know about trouble with water supply when he wrote "Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting over".

No entry in a diary can avoid mention of the weather. Fair and foul we have had both in abundance this year. Fading from memory are days earlier in the year when man and beast plodded through sodden fields in claubers to the knee and fodder for animals that survived a six month Winter had to be sourced in England and France. The beautiful weather we have had for the past months has cancelled out the frustration and despair of earlier months. When Mother Nature decided to favour us she has been most generous with her gifts. Long spells of glorious sunshine, rain when it was needed, and in amounts that would suggest it was metered to give the correct gallons per acre, or should I say litres per hectares. Anyway, sunshine and showers have resulted in unprecedented growth.

It's hard to find words to describe the fine weather we have had. It is often said that a picture speaks louder than a thousand words, debatable, but any picture can be made speak even louder with the help of a few words at the top or bottom. In an attempt to recall some glorious summer days I am submitting some pictures taken by my sister Kitty on a Sunday afternoon last July. I hope that the pictures and the few added words will together be taken as a gesture of gratitude to Mother Nature for a beautiful summer and autumn.

Jimmy Cribbin

The Mayo Team

*Twenty Gallant Mayo Men
Plus a Manager Supreme
On a Sunday in September
Went to 'Croker' with a Dream*

*Alas, Alack, they all came back
E'en tho' they'd done their best
But Sam was left in Dublin Town
Once more not travelling West*

*Had an umpire signalled WIDE
But gave the Dubs a FREE
None of us will ever know
What the true result would be?*

*But 'Hawkeye' couldn't help us
And 'Specsavers' were too late,
So for another season
Mayo Seniors have to wait*

*But wait they will, until next year
While others count their chicks
Mayo are hatching secret plans
To counteract their tricks*

*In the meantime we'll play on
And never shed a tear
But sing, as Johnny Logan does,
"What's Another Year....."*



Patsy and Eileen Cunningham

Tribute to the Mayo Minors

*Let's not forget the Minors
Who kept our spirits up
By bringing home to Mayo
The All-Ireland Markham Cup*

*A credit to their County
As they wore the Green and Red
With football as it should be played
What more needs to be said.....*

*No fear of 'piseóg' and no curse
To put them off their game
But Mayo fans to cheer them on
And pride in their County's name.*

*Those self-same fans who welcomed home
The lads who did us proud
Both on and off the field of play
They cheered them long and loud.*

*We can sing again the happy refrain
As we did in the long long ago
From Antrim to Kerry and elsewhere you go
You can't beat the Boys from the County Mayo.*

"We have been receiving your publication of the Annagh Magazine for many years. It always cheers me leading up to Christmas when we receive our copy from Ballyhaunis. I can sit by the fireside and take a leisurely look through all the various news from over the year, reminisce with so many old photographs and articles. Congratulations on such a worthy magazine which, I am sure, is enjoyed by many far and wide, long may it continue.

Please see attached a couple of verses I have penned for the great Mayo Teams of 2012/2013. I was born and reared in Ballyhaunis, many moons ago. I have since lived and worked in London and eventually retired to the South West of Ireland. Like many, I have never forgotten my roots and will always be a proud Mayo man flying the Green and Red wherever I go."

Kindest Regards,

Patsy Cunningham
(formerly Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis)
September 2013

BALLYHAUNIS TIDY TOWNS

2013 has been another active year for the Tidy Towns Committee as we endeavour to enhance the appearance of Ballyhaunis and its environs, promote environmental awareness and continue the never-ending battle against litter.

Good Friday Clean-Up

Activities began with the annual Good Friday clean-up which took place on 29th March this year as part of National Spring Clean Campaign. This event goes from strength to strength each year with more and more people turning up for the bags, gloves and litter pickers, and collecting a huge amount of rubbish. Members and leaders of the local Foróige Youth Club and Western Care services users joined forces with committee members and local volunteers, and this year the newly formed Men's Shed group also assisted. Our thanks to all who took part.

Litter Action League and Cleaner Community Campaign

Mayo County Council's Litter Action League began in April, and Ballyhaunis competed with other towns of similar size on a monthly basis. Results to date have been very disappointing largely due to the appalling amount of cigarette litter discarded on the streets. In addition to the Litter League we also participated in the Cleaner Community Campaign run by Mayo County Council, competing in two categories: 'Bloomin' Lovely', for the planting of flowers, shrubs and native trees, and 'Sweep your Street', where a special effort is made to keep litter under control in a certain street. Main Street was selected for this competition, and volunteers have been busy with brushes and bags removing large quantities of litter. Results in the Cleaner Community Campaign have not been announced at the time of writing. Throughout the summer our members carried out regular litter picking, planting and weeding while Sunday morning street cleaning was undertaken by Mike Griffin and Teresa Grogan.

Floral displays

We provided extensive floral displays throughout the town with hanging baskets, tubs and containers; we also planted and maintained a number of landscaped areas with shrubs and flowers. Our Rural Social Scheme workers, P. J.

Higgins and Jimmy O'Boyle carried out most of the work preparing and maintaining the floral displays.

National Tidy Towns Competition 2013

Adjudicators visited the town on 24th June to carry out inspections, and the results were announced in September. Ballyhaunis was awarded 257 marks out of a possible 400 – an increase of four marks on last year. Of the ten categories in the competition, marks remained at the 2012 level in five with marginal increases in four categories and a decrease of one mark in the remaining category. The adjudicators commented favourably on many aspects of the work of our committee, and recommended that we prepare



Members of Ballyhaunis Foróige who helped with the Annual Good Friday cleanup of the town, along with adult members of the Tidy Towns committee - Frances Mulhern, Valentine Eku Nkongho and Foróige leader Patricia Ní Súilleabháin.

Also pictured, Foróige Club members: Ciara Mulkeen, Chloe McGuire, Catherine Quinn, Evan Fitzmaurice, Marina Carney, Laura O'Connell and Olivia Cleary.

a 3-year plan using the ten adjudication categories as a framework. Among the areas and features admired were Clare Court, Hazelwood, Station Rise, Beech Park, the Friary grounds nature walk, Scoil Íosa, the Credit Union and Ulster Bank. The approach of Ballyhaunis Chamber in using empty window spaces was commended, and action on dealing with derelict buildings was encouraged. Some good and not-so-good retail signs were noted on Main Street, and flags added additional colour and movement enhancing the views along the street. The use of the Irish language on signage was encouraged where appropriate as it is required under present legislation. Litter was noted in a number of areas but not in serious quantities. Green areas in some housing estates were described as poorly presented and estate names are needed at the entrances in many cases. Copies of the report are available from any member of the committee or can be accessed on our page on Ballyhaunis Life website. Visit www.ballyhaunislife.com

Scoil Íosa

The Green Flag Programme has been initiated in Scoil Íosa this year, where the children undertake a series of environmental activities both in the school and in the

community. Tidy Towns is happy to support the school in every way on its journey to Green Flag status. The senior classes in Scoil Íosa also took part in a nature walk and planting of native trees in the Friary grounds to mark National Tree Week in March. This event was organised by the Abbey Partnership in association with Tidy Towns.

Thank You

Our thanks to all who support our committee in various ways in our efforts to enhance the appearance and environment of Ballyhaunis. Our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of every month in the Parochial

Hall, and we gather twice weekly for outdoor work during the summer months. We welcome new volunteers who would be willing to dedicate a little of their free time to making Ballyhaunis a cleaner, brighter, more colourful place. Tidy Towns Committee: Chairperson: Nell Rochford. Hon. Secretary: Mary Donnelly. Treasurer: Maura Patterson. Asst. Treasurer: Frances Mulhern. Committee: Mike Griffin, Frances Maye, Michael Heffernan, Kay Curley, Gabriel Smith, Mary T. Griffin, Kashindi Shabani, Teresa Grogan.

Mary Donnelly



Patricia Byrne Lackner from Derrymore, with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny at this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City on 16th March 2013. It was also her birthday that day, so she had a great celebration.

Her sister, Della Weissenberger, acted as aide to the Grand Marshall in that parade.



Pictured above right: Della Byrne Weissenberger had the great honour to be chosen as an Aide to the Grand Marshall for the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade 2013. She was chosen by the men and ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Suffolk County, New York, of which Della has been a member for over thirty years. She is pictured here, on Fifth Ave., New York, with another Aide Robert Creighton (whose grandmother hailed from Tooreen) and John Dunleavy, Chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Della immigrated from Derrymore, Ballyhaunis in 1953 and is the daughter of the late Mae and Dominick Byrne, sister of Jerry and Tom, Patricia, Josephine, Attracta and Margaret. She lives with her husband of fifty-five years, Joe, in Commack, Long Island. They have six children and fifteen grandchildren.



Coming down to their level. Aidan Paul Kelly of Hazelhill showing his nieces and nephew how to do it.

L-R: Anna, Erin, Aidan Paul, Isla and Adam Kelly. Erin and Isla are all the way from Melbourne, Australia.

BALLYHAUNIS ANGLING CLUB

Ballyhaunis Angling Club (BAC) has come on in leaps and bounds in the last two years. We have members from all over the country who are happy to travel up to two hours on a Sunday morning to put their skills to the test against some of the best coarse anglers in the country.



Ballyhaunis Angling Club members display their silverware.

L-R: Alan Marrable, Larry Parkes, Marcus Kirwan, Shane Dunne, Ollie Doyle, Gary Doyle, Paul McGreivey, Leigh Maitland, Mark Leonard, Darragh Finnigan, Michael O'Connor, Rory Dunne and Bill Cassidy. The trophies include: Irish World Clubs, Winter Shield, Boyle Canal Championship, Athleague Festival, Roscommon Lamb Festival, Adrian O'Sullivan Memorial and The Hannon Cup.

2012 saw member Rory Dunne represent Ireland on Sky Sports 1 in the annual home nation's event 'Fishomania', and Jason Ward fishing with the Irish squad over in Spain for the European Championships and winning his section. At the latter end of the year brothers Rory and Shane Dunne lead Ireland to victory in the Celtic Cup held on home soil down in Cork against Wales and Scotland; Shane clenched the individual title, a first for Irish fishing!

Shortly after this there was a new annual event to be held on the River Suck, Donamon, Co Roscommon - 'The Heather Dyette Memorial'. This competition was held in memory of the dear wife of a long standing angler Bill Dyette who sadly passed away in 2011. It was great to see so many club members attend this event to show our support for Bill on a very wet and miserable day and, as an added bonus I walked away with the winning silverware.

Later on and at the tail end of the year local junior angler Callyn Murphy-Maitland tried out for the U-18 International 'Float Only' Team and made it through to the team selection for 2013 alongside fellow club members Darragh McKenzie and Cillian Fox. This was held on the

Boyle Canal in the town of Boyle, Co. Roscommon. The fishing was very hard to say the least: the cold weather had moved in and any sudden change in water temperatures can stop fish feeding completely, but the young lads knew what to do in these circumstances as the seniors in the club had shared valuable information and experience to ensure they caught and qualified on the day.

The cold weather moving in can only mean one thing and that is the start of the prestigious Winter League. This is closely followed by anglers, past and present, from all over the country and even some parts of the UK to see the results and the battle that goes on between us. The weather over the winter made it one of the most unpleasant leagues we have fished to date but, as always, the craic and banter was enjoyed by all. Most of the fishing was based in the Roscommon area due to the lack of suitable venues in the Ballyhaunis region. Shane Dunne from Roscommon town won the Winter League followed closely by Larry Parkes from Leitrim and, just one point behind for third place was myself, Leigh Maitland.

New Season

This brings us to the end of March and the start of a new fishing year. The first notable match for the Club was the first round of the Irish 'Float Only' International Team Trials held on Inniscara Dam, Co. Cork. Six anglers from the Club competed in the event giving us the strongest club presence throughout the trials. Member Gary Doyle from Carlow dominated the event with two clear wins over the weekend. After the two days three Ballyhaunis Anglers sat in the top five of the table: Gary Doyle, Mick O'Connor and myself. The second round is to be held in September.

Next up we decided we should enter a team into the World Club Qualifiers also being held down in Co. Cork on the River Blackwater at Fermoy. This competition sees clubs from all over the country both North and South of the border compete with the winning team representing Ireland in the finals against winning clubs from all over the world being held in Slovenia in June 2014. We hadn't fished an event of this scale as a club before so we weren't sure what we were getting ourselves into. The opposing teams had a lot of international experience in team fishing under their belts so a lot of preparation and planning was needed to get a result. To cut a long story short we won the event with points to spare, so are off to Slovenia next year up against the best in the world!

Following this Junior Club anglers Callyn Murphy-Maitland and Cillian Fox travelled over to Wales on the Junior Celtic Cup Team to fish against Scotland and Wales

in the annual event. The fishing is very different across the water as it's on mainly shallow, over-stocked man-made lakes. The team didn't possess the necessary skills to win this event this time round but competed to the best of their ability and, in true Ballyhaunis style, Callyn walked his section for a clear win fishing an unfamiliar method for unfamiliar species. Winning your section on your first international appearance is a great step in the right direction for any junior angler and the experience gained will see him compete at this level for years to come.

Junior development is very important to the Club as the juniors are the future of the sport. We have three qualified Angling Coaches amongst us and spend many hours either on a one-to-one basis or in small groups helping them learn the basics, or help them get their heads around some of the more technical aspects. There is nothing better than seeing youngsters catching fish and nothing more fulfilling than showing them something different that will catch them quicker with more efficiency.

Connaught has been unable to enter a team in the Interprovincial event against the other provinces until this year. Ballyhaunis was elected to take control of the Connaught council by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFI). This means not only is

Connaught back competing again but we will also be hosting the event when our turn comes around. Next year Munster is hosting this so we will be travelling down south for the weekend. It's a good event to fish as it gives us an opportunity to pull some of our junior anglers through the ranks as it gives them a little more experience fishing at a higher level. Media coverage from the local press is normally very good and forthcoming, opening up a few sponsorship deals with local businesses in return of some good coverage locally.

Leinster pulled a fast one on us this year and changed the venue at the last minute to suit themselves. Needless to say they won with ease but we weren't too far behind them and one or two more days practice on the venue and I think we would have taken the crown off them. We will be working closely with Munster next year on a surprise of our own..... All this is done in jest and is just part of the fun. It gets you out and about and mixing with new people each year, a few sensible drinks in the evenings dissecting how good or bad your day was makes it a very enjoyable weekend.

The finals of the international team selection were held in September up in Monaghan on the famous Lough Muckno in Castleblaney. The first day of the event fished

well with plenty of fish being caught throughout the day. Jason Ward won with an impressive catch of 100+ fish weighing in over 13kg. Gary Doyle finished 3rd in his section as did Mark Leonard. I myself finished 4th and Mick O'Connor finished 5th. This puts five of the Ballyhaunis anglers into the top six positions leaving us in the prime position to be selected for the world or European championships in 2014.

Our main goals as a club over the next few years are to continue growing stronger and be continually at the top of our game. The Club has progressed beyond our expectations in the last year and there isn't a coarse angler in the country that hasn't heard the name Ballyhaunis. There have been other team events held throughout Ireland and not once have we dropped below third. There are too many events to go into but you can always guarantee if there are a few club members taking part then at least one will be on the podium somewhere.

2014 is going to be a very busy year for the Club. Hopefully we will progress well and have a full report for next year's issue.

Leigh Maitland
ballyhaunisac@gmail.com



Callyn's winning catch in Wales



Jason Ward on Cullentragh Lake



Leigh Maitland

“DEAR SIR...”

The following is a selection of the prizewinning letters written by Murt Hunt, Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis, to the Editor of The Sunday Independent.

Different times

Dear Sir,

With all the hustle and bustle in the present day supermarkets where nobody has time to talk to anybody else, I was just thinking the other day of days gone-by when one had time to talk to their neighbour. A visit to your local shop could end in a long conversation with the shopkeeper or a funny incident as this turned out to be. My late mother (R.I.P.) loved her weekly spin on her bicycle to her local shop where the weekly shopping was done and the local news stories, urban and rural, were related. The lady in the shop was elderly and about my own mother's age. The chat went on and half the shopping was done and a cup of tea drank, and my mother purchased two cards, one for her granddaughter Marie who was going to America, and one for a neighbour Seamus who had died. The shop even had a supply of stamps so all my mother had to do was write the two cards, and post them next door. With all the talk and carry on a slight mistake must have been made, and the obituary card went to the granddaughter and the bon voyage card and money went to the dead neighbour's family. On apologising to Seamus's widow it brought both a smile to her face and a tear to her eye. "Wouldn't Seamus have just loved that" she said, and having known him well, and him being such a character I could vouch for it. Different times indeed!

Sports?

Dear Sir,

I see soccer favourites Ronaldo and Tevez and Drogba really hit the headlines for the wrong reasons again, and each week there is an example of petty fouling, diving and mouthing so what is sport coming to that footballers, paid thousands of pounds, can rant, rave and carry on like children? It is getting worse by the week and there is a spate of ducking, diving, tripping up and kicking and punching going on in most of our games at the moment. Indeed it has begun to take hold in our Gaelic games as well, and last Sunday's game between Derry and Monaghan was another example of ill-tempered sports. Players are falling like nine-pins all over the place, and youngsters are picking it up from games on television, and imitating it on the field of play themselves. One only has to watch youngsters playing now as they slide into the tackle and dive into the penalty area in the hope of gaining a soft penalty and start mouthing if they don't get it. Well youngsters will copy what they see,

and that's only natural. One has only to look back at games of years gone by to see the difference, and the tough and hard tackling that was part and parcel of soccer and Gaelic football, but the ducking and diving and mouthing was practically non-existent. Neither did the players practically make love to each other when a goal was scored. It did my heart good to see on TG4 the games from the sixties and seventies in Gaelic football and the shoulders and tackles that went in legally, I might add, and what is allowed or not allowed today. Who is to blame... is it the players, referees or the system? Granted Ronaldo, Tevez and Drogba and company are very talented, and as players a joy to watch, but are their antics on the field of play not having an adverse effect on the youth of today?

A Boot and a Bit

Dear Sir,

As a true blue G.A.A. man all my life, it is a proud moment to have 125 years celebrations ongoing and things have changed a lot in that time. Watching a recent match I was fascinated with the gear that most players have now, various brands and colours of boots, socks, and the now familiar bicycle shorts, also the fantastic changing rooms with showers etc. And the wonderful manicured pitches. It brought me back to my own football days, when we were not so fortunate to have these luxuries. We had pitches with an uphill and downhill, and usually togged-out behind a fence or tree. Indeed one local team were the envy of the neighbouring clubs as they had an uprooted tree as a dressing room and it provided shelter from the elements. I remember running home from the bog one summer's evening after a hard day's work footing turf, grabbing a bite to eat and running into town to play under age football for my local club. Had I football socks or boots? – No; had I togs? – No; but I was accommodated by a few mates and finished with two different football boots - both hurting like mad - and my mother's home knitted brown woollen socks. My good friend Michael (R.I.P.) had a pair of second hand boots to sell and gave me first preference, but the only problem was there was a hole in the toe of one boot, but gladly he was left footed and I was right footed. My right boot was like new and I had wet and muddy feet all the time with the left, did I mind? – Not in the slightest. Many a goal and point were scored with that good boot until eventually there was a hole in both boots. I was in secondary school before graduating to a fairly good pair. A boy named Casey had finished up school and left his boots behind, so I borrowed/stole his boots and socks and togs. I won a Connacht Colleges medal, and represented my club at all grades with those boots. I bought my first new pair in England and played for St. Anne's in Manchester for a few years, before coming home and playing for my local club again. I broke my wrist twice, was knocked out twice and now suffer from arthritis from my football injuries. Would

I do it all over again given the opportunity? – You guessed it, of course I would, even with only one good boot.

Goodbye to my Theatre of Dreams

Dear Sir,

It was there long before I arrived, so this house is really getting old - “This old house is getting shaky, this old house is getting old”. When I was a young boy there was no water or heat in this house, the water came from a barrel outside the back door and drinking water from the well. The attic under the roof of this house became my theatre of dreams, however, and it reminded me of songs, plays and novels. The wind in winter whistled through the tiled roof which was totally un-insulated, and “The Whistling Gypsy” and “The Wind in the Willows” came to mind. The rain came in during the wet days and nights, “Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head”. The snow got in between un-insulated roofing and made temporary insulation on the ceiling boards, “I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas”. Little mice made the attic their home for the winter and they really put on an exhibition of dancing and acrobatics during the cold nights, “Three Blind Mice”. I spent many a day up in the attic putting old rags, bits of long-johns etc. in between the tiles with a screw driver to try and keep out the elements. A massive blazing fire however kept the cold at bay, so we always had hot water from a large pot over the fireplace, “There’s Always a Fire in the Kitchen, There’s always a Kettle on the Boil”. Gradually, the house was extended and re-roofed, water and heating and electricity installed, and mod cons fitted, “Moving on”. More recently the attic has been newly insulated and tanks and pipes lagged, so have all the old ailments disappeared? I thought yes, but would you believe Mickey and Minnie Mouse and entourage have decided on a grand finale with a comedy, dance and acrobatics show in the newly refurbished and heated theatre. I have decided it will be for one week only, however, and the clicking noises will not be of castanets as part of their show, but of the clicking of traps as I put out the lights in my theatre of dreams forever. “Lonely I Wander Through Scenes of my Childhood”.

Most Popular Name is Con

Dear Sir,

According to news reports Sean and Ava are the most used and popular names in Ireland, but I can tell you that Con is the one that has taken Ireland and indeed the world by storm. Con, Con, Con seems to be the way forward in this crazy world we live in, and even though the politicians have been Conning us for years, they have really upped their performance in the past year. They have lied, bullied and deceived us for years and nobody has cried halt. Television ads have been conning us, as have some newspaper ads. Repeats are the norm on our TV channels,

and repeats of repeats are a speciality. Some TV channels have descended so very low with supposed quiz shows where poor unfortunate viewers are being Conned and robbed left right and centre. At nearly two Euros a call viewers are allowed 50 calls a night to be told you were “so near getting on the show, please try again”. The ones who get through rarely have the right answer and the ones who have the right answers at home cannot get through. I know parents who are virtually robbed where the children keep ringing in each night, whilst they are supposedly gone to bed. Anybody with a tendency to gamble really must be feeling the pinch with these shambolic shows. Once one could switch to these channels and catch a nice movie, but now all you get for late night viewing are these rubbish quizzes. A plethora of letters come through my post each day with offers of all kinds of performance enhancing products, from cheap Viagra that I don’t need, to easy-to-get money that I do need, to purgatives that will supposedly drive me clean round the bend. I have supposedly won every lottery in the World – all I have to do is send my bank a/c number. Five clairvoyants have promised me varying amounts of wins from 20,000 to one million immediately, but I have to send up to €50 for administration costs first. They supposedly know all about my life and hard luck stories but how come each one gets the spelling of my address wrong? The most damning and frightening came in the post the other day telling me that three souls were crying out my name from purgatory and if I sent €40 they would be looked after – how low can people descend. I get an email each day, supposedly from Telecom Eireann (but not of course), telling me I will be disconnected from the system if I don’t give them my email details. The list of Cons goes on and on, the price of a barrel of oil keeps coming down whilst the price at the pumps keeps going up, whilst the so-called friendly banks, who were supposed to be our cool, clean heroes, have brought the country to its knees. So yes, the most used if not the most popular name in Ireland is definitely CON!

Bring Back the Pencil and Paper

Dear Sir,

With all the talk about the deterioration in maths results in the Leaving Cert, it reminds me of the time in national school when in 4th/5th class we were given sums that I do believe secondary pupils could not do today. We were asked, for example, the price of papering a room 15ft by 12ft by 10ft high allowing for windows, doors, at so much a roll, and also the cost of painting the ceiling with paint at so much a tin, and to tile the floor with tiles 1ft. by 1ft. at so much per tile. Our teacher was laughed at in certain quarters because he had a system called cow sums where he went through all the system of percentages and profits by the buying and selling of a cow, i.e. buying a cow at £100 and selling her at a profit of 10%, or selling her at a loss of

10%, etc. This man was a man before his time, and the sums really helped out in later life. We used a headline copy and specialised in and took pride in our essay writing. We learned the Great Lakes of America with the simple method of teacher writing H.O.M.E.S. over a window in the school. A lad I knew could add up a list of groceries in the travelling shop he worked in in the space of seconds without making an error. And he never passed sixth class. In my opinion the standard has dropped due to computers. The answers can be got to most problems with the touch of a button, but woe betide us if the electricity is powered off. The teachers or pupils cannot be blamed but the system can, as how many can write a proper letter, add up a few simple tots or spell difficult words nowadays? It even extends to the Dáil where they have got ALL their sums wrong and cannot understand why the takings in revenue is down each year even though the tax rate is put up. A child in our national school of long ago could have told them the reason is that so many have emigrated and on the dole that there are not as many people in the tax net. Oh for the days of the pencil and paper!

**Murt Hunt,
Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo**



Catching up on old times during a recent meeting in Ballyhaunis were Pat Killeen (94) from Carrownedan, John McGee (92), Cloontumper, and Joe Keane (90) from Knox Street.



Pictured at the launch of Mike's Bike's, Clare Street, were, L-R: Carmel Higgins, Bernie Gill, Ann O'Dwyer, Marie Brennan, Mary T. Griffin and Monica Carroll.

HAIR CARE AND PERSONAL HYGIENE IN DAYS GONE BY

While washing of the feet was a very popular practice in the days of yesteryear other personal hygiene was not as popular until the end of the nineteenth century. Wooden tubs were used back then for this purpose and going to Enniscrone in County Sligo was very popular, especially to visit the famous Kilcullen's seaweed baths which were located along the sea front. It was also very popular to wash in the May morning dew which was said to be used by the young ladies in order to have a flawless complexion. Buttermilk was also used to improve the complexion, while egg white was said to achieve the same result.

Stubborn dirt from the skin was removed by the water of recently boiled potatoes. Stubborn dirt was known as "Eireach" in Irish. The dry or wet mud of the bogs was said to remove chilblains by removing the cause of the itch. Young ladies wore waist length hair and the conditioner they used was egg yoke. Also a plant called cleavers was boiled and used as a hair tonic. Hair colourants were often used and these were often marigold flowers, and washing hair in goat's milk or tobacco leaves was reputed to keep greying of the hair at bay. The juice of elderberries was said to give a glossy sheen to dark hair. The juice of cowslips and primroses was used to remove wrinkles from the skin. Saturday night was the traditional night to shave. It was considered bad luck to shave on Sundays and bad manners to have your hair cut on Good Friday.

Shaving methods in the nineteenth century were by cut-throat razor. This was an open razor and was sharpened on a leather belt. It was designed by a French man in 1762. The safety razor was invented by King Camp Gillette in 1895 who was an American. The razor went through many modifications since it was first invented and its wider use rendered the cut-throat obsolete.

James Hunt, Kilmovee.

If your visit is part of The Gathering,
here's our wish to you
"May you meet the friends and
companions that once shared
their lives with you"



On display in Delaney's window
during June Festival,
composed by Seamus Hora

ABBEY PARTNERSHIP

2013 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.

The Abbey Partnership was established to promote through community development methods, the overall development of the property of the Augustinian order in Ballyhaunis on behalf of the Abbey Trust and in conjunction with local people to design and implement programmes and projects which will cater for the social, cultural, economic, educational and environmental needs of all people living in the Ballyhaunis area, particularly of those who are socially excluded

Abbey Grounds and River Walk

During 2013 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. The TUS Scheme has also started with Jarlath Nevin.

National Tree Planting week was once again commemorated with students from Scoil Iosa planting five native Irish Trees on the grounds – under the enlightened guidance of Margie Phillips.

Thanks also to the efforts of the Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns Committee who took the initiative 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 used 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 Photographs of Convent of Mercy classes 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.

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 last year and the preschool now caters for up to 40 children over the age of 3 years 3 months, attending each day under the government's Free Childcare one 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 couple of years, with many young and not-so-young people using the facility both formally and informally on almost a daily basis. The Family Resource Centre and Ballyhaunis Chamber have also organised sporting/physical



activities in the facility on the grounds – with the Men on the Move group and Meet & Train group continuing this year.

Abbey Pattern Sports Day

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern continued in 2013 with another very successful Pattern being held. Once again full credit goes to the organisers, the Abbey Pattern Committee.

Conclusion and Plans for 2014

The Abbey Partnership plan to develop a graveyard display sign adjacent to the graveyard to enable graves to be located and make the graveyard more accessible for visitors, building on the work carried out this year by Students in the VEC Adult Education Centre. Some discussion and initial work has also taken place regarding the history and heritage of the Abbey. A Community Garden is also being developed for 2014 with the Family Resource Centre and a Community Garden Group.

The Abbey Partnership welcomes new ideas, suggestions and proposals to develop the grounds into the future and is especially keen to encourage all people, especially young people, to use the facilities and amenities that the grounds offer and take pride in keeping them clean, safe and a welcoming place.

Board

The Board is composed of Chairperson: Neil Sheridan (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

MAYO VEC FURTHER EDUCATION STUDENTS *'UNEARTH THE PAST'*

Level 4 students in Ballyhaunis Further Education Centre have undertaken the job of cataloguing the graveyard in The Friary. A group of eight students with the aid of The Abbey Partnership and VEC Teachers Karen Burke and Michelle Gavin made an inventory of those buried in the Friary graveyard. Their aim was to compile as far as possible a list of all known graves in this ancient cemetery before time had ruthlessly eroded all the evidence. Many of the overgrown slabs of concrete failed to yield their secrets. Some only partly legible, some so obliterated and weatherworn that they convey nothing definite as to locality, name, age or date of demise. The young, the old; the plain, the beautiful; the devout, the indifferent; the good, the bad are all assembled here in a common meeting place, their names once known to many but now, many, known to none.

All information is available in The Friary House c/o Stephen in the Family Resource Centre, 094 9630031, Ballyhaunis Library 094 9630161 or visit the newly developed website designed by the students during their time in classes.

<http://friaryburialgroundballyhaunis.yolasite.com>

For information on classes contact Noelle Staunton ALO (094) 9253837.



GRACENOTES



Gracenotes performing in Italy, Summer 2013

Back, L-R: Helen White, Siobhan Coyne, Eimear Thornton, Moira Delaney, Mary Dawson, Una Shiels, Maureen Thornton, Geraldine Collins, Aoife Keane. Front: Anna Henry, Aisling Macken, Agatha Higgins, Moira Stratford, Karen Ronane, Miriam Judge, Miriam Winston, Martina Kelly, Mary Patterson, Laura Brogan, Anna Butler, Ita Fahy, Bridie Giblin, Anne Lyons Marayde O'Brien, Xanthe Pratt, Margaret O'Grady.

As usual we have had another busy year. Our competitive season began in November 2012 with a trip to the Sligo Choral Festival. We competed in two competitions taking 2nd place in the Sacred music section and 3rd place in the competition for 4-part Irish choirs. Following our success in Sligo, we took advantage of the beautiful acoustics in the Friary, and recorded two Christmas songs for Lyric FM there. On hand to help with this task was Ballyhaunis native, David Dwane. One of these songs was then submitted to Lyric FM and received air-play in the run up to Christmas.

December saw us taking part in two concerts: our annual concert in the Friary with the pupils from Scoil Íosa, and another in Ballintubber Abbey with Cór Mhaigh Éo. Both concerts were in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. After Christmas we were busy preparing for the Limerick Festival of Church Music which takes place in March each year. Our hard work paid off. We were awarded 2nd place with a mark of 92%.

In April we performed a concert in the Friary with the Mayo Concert Orchestra. A total of €1,500 was raised on

the night for the Mayo/ Roscommon Hospice. In May we took part in our first ever trip to the Navan Choral Festival, where we were awarded 2nd place in the female choirs section and 3rd place in the Sacred Music Competition.

Following this we began preparing for our trip to Italy in July. There we were based in Padua, and performed concerts in Sirmione (Lake Garda) and Verona. While in Verona we were privileged to be able to give an impromptu performance in the Arena there. Following a recess for the summer we have started back rehearsing once more. As I write we are busy preparing for the Derry and Sligo Choral festivals which take place in October and November.

As well as this busy schedule we have had the pleasure of singing at some weddings with others booked in the months ahead. Should you have any queries regarding our choir you will find contact information on our website www.gracenoteschoir.com or alternatively you may contact our dedicated director, Laura Brogan, at (086) 8213864.

Martina Kelly

“AH, BUT YOU DID WELL”

To this day I do not know what woke me but, when I awoke, I was wide awake and fully alert. By my later reckoning I would say it was 7.15. I was eleven years of age and I didn't usually make it my business to see 7.15 in the morning, I would much prefer to do my patriotic duty of sleeping for Ireland. It was a beautiful summer's morning, a rare occurrence now but my memory insists that back then all summer mornings were glorious.

I got up and peered out the bedroom window that looked down Hazel Hill. Our house, now owned by Alan Rattigan, was at the junction of Hazel Hill and Knock Road. Back then the view was very different from what it is now. Now my brother Aidan and two nephews Fergal and Aidan Paul all have homes on the Hill and the new estates in Webb's field and the Quarry were not there. Back then only four other families lived on Hazel Hill. There was Bertie Mulligan's, the Maddens, the Philbins, and the Clarkes. From my window the only house you could see was an empty house, opposite Webb's field, owned by Mrs. McCormick.

I stared out the window at Webb's field trying to figure out what woke me when I noticed a strange sight of what appeared to be white sheets spread out on the grass. It was not an uncommon practice to spread out bed linen on the hedges for drying but on the grass was most unusual. I was pondering the scene when in my eye line appeared some sheep darting around the field being pursued by about a half a dozen dogs. One poor loose sheep was caught by the dogs who then began to hang out of it. It was then that things became clear. I was not looking at bed sheets spread on the grass but rather fallen sheep killed by the pack of dogs.

I dressed hurriedly and bounded down the stairs, past my father in the kitchen, flew out the door and hurdled our small front gate. My father was the family's early riser and usually had this hour of the morning to himself and to see me up was surprising enough but when I hurtled past him shouting about dogs, sheep and killings he was most alarmed. I ran past where Aidan and Fergal now live, past the hollow where the Quarry was, ran up the hill to Webb's field and flung myself through the gate at speed. The dogs were about 50 or 60 yards away and I let out a roar thinking that would scare them away. It didn't. Instead they turned their attention on me, snarling, growling, and baring their teeth. I suddenly realised I was in trouble.

Meanwhile my father was in pursuit. It wasn't hot pursuit mind, my father was not a man built for speed, he was a man built for strength. He was somewhat behind me when I had entered the field and by the time he reached the

hollow he could see all that was happening. He was breathless from the chase but he too let a roar out of him. The dogs paused and looked around to see where the shout had come from. Sensing an opportunity to escape I began to slowly back away towards the gate but the dogs advanced in time with my retreat. I stopped and they stopped. We had a stalemate. My legs began to shake but my father was beside me now in the field and told me to slowly back away and not to run or turn my back on the dogs. Whilst my father held his ground, I managed to escape the field with my father continuing the standoff in my place. Across the road was McCormick's empty house and there were some nice sized stones in the garden. I filled my pockets and entered the field once more. My father was beside himself shouting at me to get out.

Delayed Shock

At the time I had mis-spent my days cultivating a commendable skill in stone throwing by smashing glass bottles on a wall. Not a nice thing to do I know but it made me a mean shot. I fired a few near misses, getting my eye in, with barely a flinch from the pack until I clipped the leader right on the nose eliciting an almighty yelp. He jumped back encouraging me to keep going and I landed a few more until he had had enough and slinked away with the rest of the dogs in tow. They went over the ditch into what was Greene's land, now owned by Dr. Noone, and away. The rest of the sheep were huddled in the far corner of the field and there were six sheep slain on the grass. My father beckoned me, saying we could do no more.

As we walked home in silence, my father paused, stopped to look back on the field and said: *"Now that was some foolish thing you did, when I saw you in the field I thought you were a goner. Those dogs were bloodthirsty and they had the taste for the kill, they would have regarded you as just another sheep. The one good thing you did is that you didn't turn your back on them or run."*

The silence ensued once more as we continued up the hill to our house. I had delayed shock and my legs were shaking, what they call spaghetti legs. As we reached the gate my father turned to me and admiringly said *"Ah, but you did well."*

Now to get a compliment from your father back then was a big deal. Not only was it rare from my father but it was rare from any father. I struggled up the stairs hampered by my spaghetti legs to my room and fell into a deep sleep dreaming about dogs chasing me. Later when speaking to my mother, she said she had been told of my morning exploits and my father had said I was brave but foolhardy. Now the question of motherly love was never in doubt, you never needed to seek assurances on that front but your father never told you he loved you, any communication on that front came via your mother.

In Ireland at that time, maybe even in the rest of the world as well, fathers and sons had an uneasy relationship,

fraught with struggle and strife. The pictures were full of films of conflicts between fathers and sons and the libraries had scores of books and plays on the subject. Fathers would address their son as “that buck” and sons would refer to their father disparagingly as “the aul’ fella”. So many fathers refuse to praise their sons or offer a kind word in case it softens them up and doesn’t prepare them for this cruel world. In turn so many sons are left looking for a show of affection from their father. It is through words and actions that mothers show this love but it is only through deeds that fathers express this love. My father that morning put himself in harm’s way with the dogs to save me and he expressed his love as best as he could with the five words “Ah, but you did well”.

Robert Kelly
Tooraree

ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCE HALL DAYS

“Do you come here often?” was a very popular phrase and it originated in the dance halls across the west and at many other locations. It was, for many of the people who went to dance halls, the first line of conversation which took the tension out of those first meetings of shy, young people. There are other phrases which we will come to later in the article. In the early 1960s a dance hall, which was state of the art at the time, was built in the village of Tooreen near Ballyhaunis.

It was overseen by the local curate Fr. James Horan. This hall paved the way for many other locations and served as a model for others. It attracted some of the big bands of the day, some of which come to mind are the *Melody Aces*, *Clipper Carlton*, *Royal Blues*, *Johnny Flynn*, *The Mighty Avons*, *the Dixies*, *Mick Delahunty*, *the Riviera*, *Rythm Stars*, *The Royal Showband*, and many others. Some of the other dance halls which followed were The Royal Oak in Ballaghaderreen, The Central in Charlestown, The Crystal in Kiltimagh, The Royal in Castlebar, The Maple in Balla, The Marine in Enniscrone. The Casino in Castlerea, The Seapoint in Salthill, The Hanger and The Talk of the Town in Galway, The Ranch House in Cummer near Claregalway, and the Sound of Music, Glenamaddy. There were many more.

For the would-be traveller the entertainment pages were eagerly read to see where the bands were at each location and once the decision was made to travel the next part was getting a lift. The locals who had cars were very obliging. When the getting-ready was on this could take some time, getting into the latest styles which were pointed toes and

drainpipe trousers and the tie with the “*Larry Cunningham knot*” and, for the ladies, it could be mini-skirt or maxi-dress, knee-length boots or high heels, as the fancy or style took them. We all went to the local hall and, if in a town, we went to the local singing pub where they danced and sang until closing time. At closing time the lights flashed and if you ignored it and stayed on longer the local gardaí might show an interest and, on very rare occasion, enter your name in their book, which could well result in a court appearance. To be fair to the Gardaí they were very tolerant and they knew we were young and out only for a good time.

From the singing pub then to the dance hall, and we danced away the night to the good old country sound. Despite the huge crowds and no health and safety regulations being in force there were few accidents. At these dances lifelong friendships were forged and many marriages resulted from these meetings. These were times when people had little by way of earthly possessions and yet had peace of mind and heart, and a sense of good will and neighbourliness towards others. May be it is something we could copy in our own day.

I hope you enjoyed this trip down memory lane. The other phrases were, if a gent showed an interest in a lady he might ask her by way of proposal, “*would you like to be buried with my people?*” to which she might reply, “*Oh certainly but not just yet.*” Others were, “*do you normally dance here?*” to which her reply would be “*No, normally over there.*” Or if a young man went to ask a lady’s hand in marriage he would meet her father and say, “*I would like to marry your daughter*” to which he would reply, “*have you seen her mother?*” to which the young man would reply, “*I have but I would prefer your daughter*”.

James Hunt



Above: Tooreen Dancehall. Below: ‘The Mighty Avons’ Showband



BALLYHAUNIS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

2013 marked the ninth 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.

The Family Resource Centre was started in 2004 and is based in the Friary House at St. Mary's Abbey. The Family Resource Centre is focused on providing practical support, information and opportunities to all families and people in our community and works with other organisations and state agencies to improve the quality and range of services available in the Ballyhaunis Area.

The Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre is one of 7 such FRCs in Mayo, with over 100 FRCs operating in different towns and areas throughout the country. Funding for the FRCs comes from the Department of Children & Youth Affairs and a new 3 year funding agreement was signed at the start of this year, enabling Ballyhaunis FRC to continue its work with some degree of certainty up until 2016.

A number of Parenting Courses were run throughout the year through the Family Resource Centre Office. Funding was also secured from the Ulster Bank / Community Foundation of Ireland to run a home management and personal finance course. Help to establish an Alzheimer's Café and the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association also took place during the year and the Family Resource Centre was active in the Ballyhaunis Gathering event and Abbey Pattern.

The Family Resource Centre was also supportive to new groups like the Ballyhaunis Scouts Action Committee and Community Garden group as well as those groups who are well established and use the Family Resource Centre office at the Friary House.

2013 marked the fifth 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 3 years and 3 months providing a free Monday to Friday childcare service during school term time under the Governments National Free Preschool Year Scheme. 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 58 childcare places each week, employ 8 local childcare staff and operate 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 other the activities which have taken place this year include the very popular Crochet Group who meet every Friday morning as well as those computer courses which we have been successfully running over a number of years all of which have proven popular with adults and older people and are provided free or for a small charge. The Family Resource Centre also offers a community internet service – which provides a free internet café during weekdays, and is very popular.

One of the other 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 Foiroge and other interested people from the community, Mayo County Council was lobbied to secure the lease on the old D.H. 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 signed this summer but the organisation is still awaiting a reply to its funding application to equip and furnish the Youth Café submitted to Mayo North East who administer the LEADER Rural Development Programme. It is now planned to begin operating the Youth Café as soon as the funding has been secured the building made ready in 2014.

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 many 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 after-school service for Polish children to help them improve their Polish language skills, was started by their parents two years ago and takes place in the Family Resource Centre every Monday evening. Women's Yoga took place during the year as did a Men's health initiative supported by the HSE Men on the Move programme. Additional fitness and exercise classes are

planned for the new year with the help of the Mayo Sports Partnership.

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 controlled by a board of directors made up of people living in the Ballyhaunis community. In 2013 the officers were: Seamus Grogan (Chairperson), Talib Chaudhry, Manar Cherbati, Malgosia Cieslikowska, Marie Jordan, Liz Keigher, Betty Koinange, Mary Morrissey, Hina Rehman, Faith Wagacha and Company Secretary Tracey McDermott.

One of our original board members stood down this year and our thanks go to Christina Concannon for her time and effort on the FRC board since its establishment in 2003. 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 Crochet Group with a sample of their work - a crochet of the Friary House.
L-R: Tracey McDermott (Project Administrator), Eileen Rattigan, Kathleen Raftery, Maura Fitzmaurice, Bernadette Lyons, Marion Carty, Kathleen Cribbin, Julia Flanagan.
(Missing from the photograph, Linda Hopkins, Eileen Culliney).

Staff: 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, Maura O'Dowd, Siama Amjad, Nichola Weir and Denise McCormack.

Tracey McDermott
Project Administrator



Ms. Dolores Jordan of Red River Lodge, Ballina, being presented with "AA Bean an Ti 2013/2014" by Leo Varadkar, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport at a reception in The Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin.

AWARD WINNING B.&B.

Ballyhaunis native Dolores Jordan (nee Freyne) was recently awarded the 'AA Bean an Ti 2013/2014 Award' by Leo Varadkar, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, at a reception in the Shelbourne Hotel. Dolores, along with her husband Mark (originally from Tooreen), run a successful B&B business on the Quay Rd., Ballina. Conor Faughnan of the AA, in presenting the award, said, "This uniquely Irish award recognises the special place in the Irish hospitality industry for the traditional Bean an Ti. This year's winner operates a wonderful house in a setting along the River Moy in Ballina that enjoys marvellous surroundings. But that is not only what the AA Inspectors nor her guests remember. They, instead, recall her warmth and her friendliness and the genuine feeling that they have made a friend. For demonstrating the very best qualities in our industry, Ms. Dolores Jordan is named as the AA "Bean an Tí of the Year".

Dolores is daughter of the late John & Agnes Freyne, Clare St., Ballyhaunis.

FIANNA Fáil 2013

The past year has been one of consolidation and further renewal of the Fianna Fáil party in the Ballyhaunis area. A major undertaking has been the development of a vibrant Ógra Fianna Fáil organisation to serve the local electoral area. A number of our younger members have become active in the promotion of the party with particular emphasis on changing the negative perceptions of politics among young people. Local members Niamh Delaney, Joanne Delaney and Leonard Ryan attended as delegates at the Ógra National Youth Conference in Sligo during the year. At a senior level the Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair continues to grow with regular, well attended meetings being held in Ballyhaunis, Knock and Brickens. Local representative Dara Calleary TD attends all meetings and is proving to be an energetic and willing supporter of the local organisation and an active voice for the concerns of the membership in Dáil Éireann.

The party has become vocal in highlighting the neglect suffered by the local area in terms of development and job creation over the past two years despite numerous promises to the contrary. The party representatives are committed in their support of Ireland West Airport in the face of the

unfair advantage bestowed on Shannon Airport and the stated aim of downgrading our local airport. On an organisational level, Knock member Leonard Ryan has been re-elected to the Party Árd Comhairle as Constituency delegate for the Mayo Dáil constituency. In addition to Leonard's appointment, Ballyhaunis members Tom Waldron, Margaret Tarpey and Kenneth Dennedy serve on both the County renewal committee and also on the Local electoral committee. Perhaps the greatest advance of the past year was the selection of local member Seamus Caulfield to contest the upcoming Local Elections. Seamus

is an excellent candidate who, if elected, will be a fitting and appropriate representative for the people of the Ballyhaunis area on Mayo County Council. We wish Seamus and his fellow candidates John Caulfield (Kilkelly), J.P. Kean (Claremorris) and current Councillor Damien Ryan (Ballinrobe) well as they embark on what is a watershed campaign for our party.

Michael Waldron CC Officers 2013: Kenneth Dennedy (Chairperson), Tom Ronayne (Secretary), Margaret Tarpey (PRO), Moira Noone (Treasurer), Willie Brady (Vice Chairperson), Lorraine Lowry (Assistant Secretary), Tom Waldron (Hon. President), Leonard Ryan (Constituency Delegate to Árd Comhairle), Joanne Delaney (Ógra delegate), Niamh Delaney (Ógra delegate).

Kenneth Dennedy



Claremorris LEA Candidates 2014 pictured with Deputy Micheál Kitt T.D. and Deputy Dara Calleary T.D.
L-R: Micheál Kitt T.D., Cllr. Damian Ryan, J.P. Kean, Dara Calleary T.D., Seamus Caulfield, John Caulfield.



CELEBRATE YOU

You are worth celebrating. You are worth everything. You are unique. In all the whole world, there is only one you. There is only one person with your talents, your experience, your gift. No one can take your place! God created only one you, precious in his sight. You have immense potential to love, to care, to create, to grow, to sacrifice, if you believe in yourself. It doesn't matter your age, or your colour, or whether your parents loved you or not. (Maybe they wanted to but couldn't). Let that go. It belongs to the past. You belong to the NOW.

It doesn't matter what you've been, the wrong you've

done, the mistakes you've made, the people you've hurt, you are forgiven, by expressing sorrow with thanksgiving. You're accepted. You're O.K. You are loved in spite of everything. So, love yourself and nourish the life within you. Celebrate you. Begin now. Start anew. Give yourself a new birth, TODAY. You are you and that is all you need to be! You cannot deserve this new life. It is a gift given freely. That is the miracle called God who loves you. So celebrate the miracle and living. You're accepted. You're O.K. You are loved in spite of everything. So love yourself and nourish the life within you. Celebrate You.

Beir bua agus beannacht.

Aibhistín Ó Frighile

BUT WHAT IF...?

The Parochial Hall was opened in 1940, but prior to its opening it provided a marvellous playground for Val and John Byrne, myself, Johnny Foody from Clare Street and Chossie Lyons from Bridge Street - provided there were no hostilities going on between the streets! We guessed where the cinema was going to be, but wondered how all the other rooms would be utilised. In the meantime we galloped around and played 'Cowboys and Indians' months before 'Hopalong Cassidy' arrived on the big screen. I attended my first dance in 'the Parochial', quite unexpectedly, when my father asked me why I wasn't polishing my shoes and pressing my trousers like my two brothers Bertie and Joe. To their utter consternation my father said, "Put on your best pants, polish your shoes and off you go to the dance with the other two lads". I was fourteen. It was the Nurses Dance and packed to capacity. Was I excited when Mercy Flatley (the girl next door) hauled me out on the floor and taught me the steps of the Old Time Waltz. It was a great start to my dancing career as Mercy was a terrific dancer, light on her feet, a lovely girl and great fun to be with out on the floor.

In the summer of 1951, in the Parochial, now a more accomplished dancer, I asked this beautiful girl out to dance, and after a few dances could not believe it when she accepted my invitation to go upstairs for a mineral! We sat in the balcony overlooking the dancers below, chatting and pointing out people we knew. So when the dance ended, as she was living some miles away, I asked if I could see her to her car. The car was driven by an elder brother and her two sisters were also there, so I made a date with her for 8 p.m. on the following Wednesday. Wednesday came and I set off on my racing bike at 7.30 p.m., down Main Street turned left into Knox Street, waved to Liam Smith and Eddie Biesty as I passed. I'm sure they wondered where I was off to at that time of the evening. Passing Webbs' red shed, my heart was full of the joys of spring as I pedalled up the hill by Joe Keane's old workshop and settled into a steady pace for Bruff Cross the far side of Aghamore where I was to meet Clare. It was a beautiful sunny, summers evening and I eased off as I didn't want to arrive in a sweat on our first date! Sure enough Clare was there and we spent a wonderful evening walking the fields, hand in hand, talking

and getting to know each other. In no time at all it was eleven o'clock, a bright moonlight night, and as I set off for home we promised to meet the following Sunday night in Tooreen - Fr. Horan's well known ballroom. As I passed through Aghamore the lights from Jackie Glavey's bar spilled out onto the street. About a mile from the village a large dark cloud obscured the moon. I had no lamp so I had to slow down as it became hard to see ahead. WHAM! My head slammed into the belly of a horse that had been standing in the middle of the road. He didn't hear me coming, and I didn't see him. We both got one helluva fright. He screamed and took off down the road, buck-lashing in a mad clatter of hooves, emitting loud explosions from his rear end and, as I lay on the road tangled in the bike, I really thought World War 3 had broken out! While I could still hear him galloping in the distance I gingerly picked myself up, feeling pain in my left ankle and right knee knowing they were skinned. The head wasn't very clear either, but I was able to feel the bike was undamaged, eased my leg over the bar and slowly pedalled my way homewards.

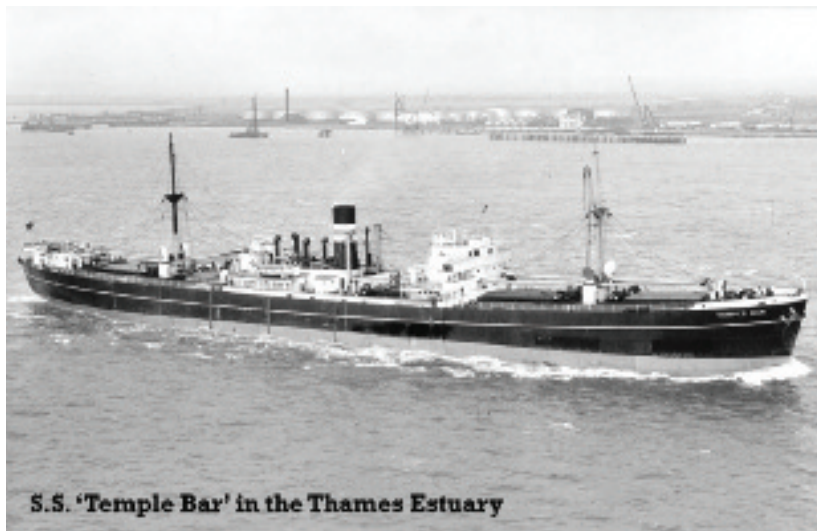
But what if that horse had been standing looking towards Ballyhaunis? I would have crashed right into his rear end and received the full back-lash from his hooves straight into the face, blasting me into eternity. My inert body would possibly be discovered early next morning by John Coyne as he drove his Ford Prefect from Kilkelly to collect the post at Ballyhaunis post office. He would have wondered how I had received such terrible facial injuries and no sign of a collision. The guards would be just as mystified and put it down to a "hit and run"! They wouldn't have realised how close they had come to the truth!

Life at Sea

Five years later I was on board the S.S. "Temple Bar", a 7,191 ton bulk carrier, making her way across the Atlantic towards the port of Baltimore on the east coast of America. I was her Radio Officer. She was originally named "Fort St. James", built in Vancouver, Canada in 1942 for the MOWT (Ministry of War Transport) British Government, to see out the remaining years of the war, and here we were eleven years later and she was still plying the high seas. She spent the last three years of the war in convoys to Murmansk, Algiers, India, East Africa and across the Atlantic to America. She carried war supplies, munitions, bombs, arms, foodstuffs in the holds and army vehicles and crated aircraft on deck. She



Fintan Lynch on board the S.S. "Temple Bar", July 1956.



S.S. 'Temple Bar' in the Thames Estuary

was a lucky ship that survived the U-Boat torpedoes and strafing by German aircraft.

I trained to become a Radio Officer at the School of Science and Technology (a nice name for it!) at Kevin Street, Dublin. There one studied Electricity and Magnetism, Radio Theory and Practice, Maritime Rules and Regulations, Radar, and on a daily basis, Morse Code. Morse became second nature to me, spelling out bill boards, road signs, name plates as I cycled up and down Georges Street on the way to and from school. The principal role of the Radio Officer was safety of life at sea, but the job also included maintenance of all radio equipment, radar, direction finding, antenna systems and lifeboat emergency radio. Weather forecasts transmitted in morse code were routinely copied twice daily for the area in which the ship was sailing, and to assist in compiling these forecasts, regular reports of local weather were transmitted from ships to weather stations ashore. Portishead Radio, a powerful station in England was listened to worldwide on shortwave for traffic (telegrams) from the company and also from families at home who might be celebrating birthdays or anniversaries with their loved ones at sea.

The "Temple Bar" was a slow ship, maximum speed 11 knots, but a happy ship, where the food was good and the officers and crew were friendly and got on well together. My work consisted of two hours on and two hours off duty from 0800 until 2200 (8.00 a.m. until 10.00 p.m. - we used the 24 hour clock). When off duty, or during the night, watch was kept on 500 khz, the international distress frequency, by an auto alarm system which alerted you if there was a ship in distress within a 1,000 mile radius. The weather was good, with a continuous low swell which made the ship roll gently with slow monotonous regularity - not too good for the head or the stomach! We were a light ship (no cargo) and she was very high in the water. As we neared the U.S. coast I sent a message from the Captain to our agents via Baltimore Radio, call sign WMH, giving our ETA (estimated time of arrival), water, fuel and other requirements. When we were within 12 hours of the

entrance to the Chesapeake Bay the Chief Officer and ABSs (able bodied seamen) stripped the hatch covers from the holds in preparation for a quick turn-around in Baltimore.

Straight into the Storm

A strong wind came up and the sea became choppy and rough, the sky darkened to the south and east and quickly spread all around us. Then the rain started to bucket down, some fork lightning to the south and the Captain ordered the hatch covers to be quickly replaced. I didn't envy the Chief Officer and ABSs now joined by 3rd Officer and two cadets as they fought the high wind and driving rain while they secured the hatches. By now visibility was low as the hatch crew holding on to the rails made their way back indoors. The wind had increased, the sea looked angry and the ship was pitching and rolling making it hard to keep ones footing. We were heading straight into the storm. I was mystified as the weather forecast I copied that morning gave no warning whatsoever of such bad weather. There was a sharp increase in the wind and as it screamed through the riggings the waves slammed against the hull and across the foredeck. The seas became higher, the troughs deeper and as we crested the waves the ship shuddered from stem to stern as she descended into the troughs. Endless walls of seawater 35 to 40 feet high came crashing against the bridge, and we looked at each other wondering if we were going to survive. The Captain gave me a message advising the agents of our situation. When I tried to key the transmitter, calling Baltimore, the transmitter tripped out, and there was loud static and no signals on the receiver. As I looked out the porthole I could see the transmit and receive antennas had been swept away. We were isolated from the outer world. Just then the 2nd Officer put his head around the door telling me to brace myself as the Captain was bringing the ship around to run with the storm. She would break up if we continued against it. I didn't know it at the time but this was a very dangerous manoeuvre.

As he brought her around she was hit broadside by a massive 40 foot wave and she leaned over at a 30 to 40 degree list to port and stayed there for what seemed like an eternity. In the radio room I caught my portable typewriter as it flew off the desk, my chair went flying from under me and I was slammed against the transmitter and lay there as the ship maintained her perilous position - Good God, I thought, we're capsizing! Slowly, sluggishly she shuddered and creaked, as she righted herself and now monstrous seas were crashing down on her after deck as she made the turn. For two days and two nights we ran before the storm, battered and broken as huge seas pushed us southeastwards. During the first night we lost one of the lifeboats, no one

saw it go in the darkness, the galley funnel was ripped off and the thin railings on the fore deck were bent and twisted from the continuous, relentless, savagery of the seas.

Life on board was impossible. Besides trying to save oneself from serious injury during the violent movements of the ship during the day, sleeping at night was accomplished, fitfully, by forming one's bunk into an arc, stuffing cushions, lifejacket etc., under the edge, otherwise one ended up on the deck. We had no hot food, only sandwiches of tinned sardines or bully beef and a mug of tea. This was because there was a cargo hold between the bridge, officers accommodation, and the galley and crews quarters, we were completely isolated from each other, so while the crew ate well, we existed on sandwiches! On the third day the storm abated, the sun appeared for the first time and the deck officers took sightings and we discovered ourselves southwest of Bermuda. We enjoyed our first hot meal. With two of the crew I was able to rig up a couple of temporary antennas and sent our new ETA, damage report and requirements to Baltimore as we slowly made our way back northwestwards towards the Chesapeake Bay.

We must have been a sorry looking sight when we picked up the pilot at Cape Henry as we entered the Bay, his first remark to the Captain being "You guys had a slight encounter out there"! Being a Scotsman the Skipper didn't appreciate the American's dry wit. The Captain could now relax as the pilot took over and steered us safely up the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore, a tricky passage of 150 miles. In the saloon at lunch we reckoned that we would be at least a week in Baltimore, repairing the damage to the ship and loading our cargo. How wrong we were. As we berthed in Baltimore a crew came aboard to weld on a new galley funnel, straighten out and repair the forward rails and prepare the upper boat deck to receive a new lifeboat which at that very time was undergoing trials before being hoisted aboard. Two servicemen arrived from Marconi to cut and put together main, emergency and receive antennas to be raised between fore and aft masts. However, I did get a chance, with my few meagre dollars, to do a little shopping in Baltimore. Two treasured white Arrow shirts, singlets, trunks, a few pairs of colourful American socks, a milk shake and a large slice of apple pie at a drugstore, plus a pleasurable haircut on the way back to the ship completed my short visit ashore.

Cause for concern

In just 36 hours we were fully loaded with a cargo of coal, refitted and on our way down the Chesapeake Bay, next port Rotterdam, Holland. As we headed out into the Atlantic the sea was as smooth as a mill pond with clear blue skies and burning sun. The forecast was for ideal weather as we set course for Rotterdam. The bosun and deck crew were busy giving the ship a badly needed coat of paint. But one thing gave us cause for concern. As the ship rolled gently to starboard in the low swell there was a

grinding, metallic noise, coming from low down on the starboard side. It was quite loud. The forward two holds were inspected by the Captain and First Officer but they found nothing amiss. As the days passed and the weather remained good we became used to the grating noise. We were blessed with fine weather for the full fourteen days it took us to pass Lands End, steam up the English Channel and arrive off the Hook of Holland. A pilot took over and brought us into Rotterdam. Our cargo of coal was discharged and as the ship rose in the water it was discovered that 5 plates were cracked and coming apart on the starboard side. As the ship had to go into dry dock to have the hull repaired, we all signed off and headed for home.

But what if at the height of the storm those plates had been ripped from the hull by the fury of the seas, the turbulent waters would have quickly rushed into the forward holds, swamping the ship causing her to founder and sink rapidly. Being unable to send a distress message or launch a lifeboat, we would have disappeared without trace, to the bottom of the Atlantic, becoming another statistic in the infamous saga of the Bermuda Triangle, where numerous ships and aircraft have been lost without trace. Thank God that did not happen to us and I lived to tell the tale.

Home Again

I arrived home to Ballyhaunis, became reacquainted with my family and pals Val Byrne, Paddy Laffey and Paddy Berwick. Slept late in the mornings. Was spoiled rotten by my mother and Aunt Cissie. Visited Mercy and Madie Flately, our good neighbours, enjoyed the chat, a cup of tea and a slice of Madie's wonderful sponge cake. Called to Padraic Waldron's shop and heard all the latest gossip from Teresa. On Sunday nights we visited Mide Freeley's Central Hotel, had a few drinks and decided whether to go to Paddy McGarry's Eclipse or Tooreen Ballrooms, the choice depending on the night and where we reckoned the best "talent" would be. There were no breathalyser tests in those days! But we did pop a couple of silvermints on the way to the dance so as not to take the ladies breath away!

A ten day break and it was back to sea again. This time on the M.V. "Sansu", a cargo liner going from Liverpool to West Africa visiting the torrid ports of Freetown, Accra, Takoradi, Lagos, Port Harcourt, Matadi, Lobito and more. But what happened to the S.S. "Temple Bar". She remained with the Temple Steamship Co., until 1960 and was then sold to the Chinese Government and renamed "Ho Ping 27". She served the Chinese nation for another 32 years, before being scrapped in 1992. Not bad for an old girl, who was hastily put together in Vancouver to last three years of the war, but lived to roam the high seas of the world for another 47 years.

Fintan Lynch

RUN WEST BALLYHAUNIS 8K

This was our sixth consecutive year in co-operation with Mayo Athletic Club with Ballyhaunis 8k Road Race. It has been a very successful event every year. Personal fitness seems to be growing by the day and as a result there are more and more races coming on stream. In many cases they are being used for fund raisers for very genuine causes. Our 8k is operated on a self-funding basis and our ambition every year is to clear our costs, while providing an enjoyable day out for runners. This year we made a big effort to support the growing numbers of "Fit4Life" groups. We supplied a medal for everyone who finished, which is always a treat for people completing their first road race. There were trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd men and women – "Fit4Life" along with cash prizes for all the normal age categories. Cash prizes were also given out to the overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd men and women.



We also provided three once-off trophies this year. The Michael Waldron Trophy - to the first man home; the Eamon Healy Trophy - to the first woman home; and the Pat Cribbin Trophy – to the first local person home. These three trophies were sponsored and presented by Frank Greally. These three men, who are now deceased, were great friends of Frank Greally and members of their respective families joined him in presenting the awards. Frank is the editor of "The Irish Runner" magazine and even though he left Ballyhaunis many years ago, he has never forgotten where his roots are. Frank is also involved in "Fit" magazine which comes with Thursdays Irish Independent. We are very grateful to Frank for his continued support. We are also thankful to our sponsors who provided many spot prizes on the day. Thanks also to the many stewards who took up positions along the route, the Gardaí, time-keepers at the finish line and people who prepared and served the food afterwards. Ballyhaunis Rugby Club, once again, provided the venue for registration, parking, showers, warm ups and refreshments afterwards. Ballyhaunis Chamber

office looked after all the admin for the event. Finally thanks to Michael McGrath of Mayo AC for all his help.

5k Summer Series

For the last two years, Ballyhaunis has also participated in the Mayo Athletic Club Summer 5k Series. This year there were five venues taking part: Westport, Castlebar, Claremorris, Brickens and Ballyhaunis. It's another very successful event. This year we had 170 entries from all over the county. The race is kept very simple with a low entry fee and basic refreshments. It's an ideal distance for starter runners and there's always a good chat afterwards. Each year one club arranges a meal after the last race and this year was our turn. It was a fantastic evening and a good time was had by all.

Ballyhaunis Meet and Train Fit4Life

It's now exactly two years since we set up Ballyhaunis Meet and Train Fit4Life group. At that time I was walking, but never encroached on any sporting activity. With the help of Anne Cunnane and Tracy Cunnane, we set up this new club and invited people along. Many people have

joined now and everyone is at different levels with different interests. We meet every Tuesday evening at 7 pm and Saturday morning at 9 am at the Ball Court in the Friary Field. All you need to start is a good pair of shoes and know what you want to do. We would normally break into three groups: a walking group, a running group and group in between, who want to do a bit more. We are non-competitive and our outings are as much a social event as a fitness effort. We will do our best to help anyone get to where they want to go and we all work together to achieve this. Some people

just want to walk, some people just want to run and some people have goals like completing a 5k, a 10 k or a half marathon. While we operate on a non-competitive basis, twelve of our members completed the Achill Half Marathon in July. I was among a group of five who completed the Athlone Half Marathon in September and currently there is a group preparing for Sea to Summit. I have to say I love it and would not miss an outing unless it was unavoidable. We all get on well and there is a place for everyone to develop at their own pace. A big 'thank you' here to Jim Donnelly who is very generous with his efforts to encourage everyone to get what they want out of the group.

If you have any interest in joining our group, you are welcome to come along any Tuesday evening or Saturday morning and see what we do. You can check out our Facebook page at "Ballyhaunis fit4life" or you can give me a call any time at: (087) 2455989.

So onward and upward from here on in.

Martin Fitzmaurice

ABBEY PATTERN THE TRADITION CONTINUES

For the ninth year in a row, since the Abbey Pattern was restarted in 2004, the Abbey Pattern tradition continued once again this year. Held this year on the first Sunday of September, a great family day out was enjoyed by the hundreds of people who attended. Almost 50 separate races and activities took place and over 140 medals and trophies were awarded, all of which were 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 and with the help of Scoil Íosa, the very popular 'Splash the Teacher' event was again held this year. The Dog Show 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. Scouting Ireland were also present this year and many thanks to the Castlebar Scouting Troup for setting up camp next to the Scout Den and giving a display of what being in the Scouts is all about, as well as encouraging adults to consider becoming involved in restarting the Ballyhaunis Scouting tradition.

While all of this was going on, the children also had a great time trying out the many bouncy castles and fun activities available on the day. And this year, we had the added attraction of a live music performance from Ballyhaunis budding music star, Olwyn Murray. Many thanks also to Fr. Stephen Farragher for celebrating Mass in St. Mary's Abbey and to Joan Flanagan for arranging the exhibition of Photography from the Convent of Mercy, also held in the Abbey.

The Abbey Pattern Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to all those local businesses and individuals who kindly donated sponsorship for the Pattern. Thanks also to all the local people who helped to prepare the church, get the Abbey grounds ready and helped out on the day itself. The Pattern tradition relies on the local people being willing to both help out on the day itself and on the Pattern Committee which prepares the event. Finally, the photos from this year's Pattern are on display in the Credit Union building and, thanks to Deirdre Moran, are viewable on the Abbey Pattern Facebook page.

A new committee has been appointed to arrange next years event, the committee is: Chairperson, Stephen Grogan; Secretary, Carol Keane; Treasurer, Brendan Donnellan.

ABBEY PATTERN RESULTS 2013

Racing

- Toddler Boys: 1. John Jennings, 2. John William Burke, 3. Cathal Walsh, Jimmy Whelan (Tied).
- Toddler Girls: 1. Georgie Mae Hession, 2. Ellen Murphy, 3. Huzan Ali.
- Boys U-6: 1. Seamus McDonagh, Kyle Burke (Tied), 3. Adam Kelly, 4 Cillian Magee.
- Girls U-6: 1. Lucy Phillips, 2. Roisin Henry, 3. Georgie Mae Hession.
- Boys U-8: 1. Conor Henry, 2. Clayton Nolan, 3. Daire Caulfield.
- Girls U-8: 1. Erica Byrne, 2. Maia Phillips, 3. Alannah Hession, Vanessa Whelan (Tied).
- Boys U-10: 1. Simon McDonagh, 2. Thomas Maughan, 3. Jack Jennings.
- Girls U-10: 1. Erin Murray, 2. Eva Henry, 3. Maeve Donnellan, Alannah Hession (Tied).
- Boys U-13: 1. Patrick Caulfield, 2. Simon McDonagh, 3. Thomas Maughan.
- Girls U-13: 1. Niamh O'Neill, 2. Niamh Foody, 3. Shauna Lyons.
- Boys U-16: 1. Sean Carrick, 2. Piarais Caulfield, 3. Simon McDonagh.
- Girls U-16: 1. Shauna Lyons, 2. Niamh O'Neill, 3. Gemma Foody.
- Boys U-18: 1. Jason Cullinane, 2. Sean Carrick, 3. Piarais Caulfield.
- Girls U-18: 1. Shauna Lyons, 2. Niamh O'Neill, 3. Niamh Foody.
- Senior Men: 1. John Waldron, 2. Julian Keane, 3. Martin Walsh.
- Senior Ladies: 1. Lisa Webb, 2. Barbara Serfim, 3. Jane O'Connor.

Novelty Events

- Boys U-8 Sack Race: 1. Adam Walsh, 2. Daire Caulfield, 3. Conor Henry.
- Girls U-8 Sack Race: 1. Alannah Hession, 2. Rachel Fallon, 3. Eva Henry.
- Boys U-12. Sack Race: 1. Jason Hession, 2. Nathan Hession, Luke Walsh.
- Girls U-12 Sack Race: 1. Erin Murray, 2. Alannah Waldron, 3. Alannah Hession.
- Boys 3-Legged Race U-12. : 1. Josh Webb and Cian Walsh, 2. James and Simon McDonagh, 3. Luke Walsh and Darren Maughan.

Girls 3-Legged Race U-12:

1. Winnie Allen and Winnie McDonagh, 2. Holly Browne and Amy Nevin,
3. Erin Murray and Maeve Donnellan.

Boys U-14 3-Legged Race:

1. Patrick and Conal Caulfield,
2. Jason Hession and Jack Madden,
3. Jack Coyne and Conor Keane.

Girls 3-Legged Race U-14:

1. Shauna Lyons and Aoife Conway,
2. Lauren Walsh and Niamh Foody,
3. Alannah Dennehy and Gemma Foody.

Girls U-16 3-Legged Race:

1. Lauren Walsh and Niamh Foody,
2. Gemma Foody and Alannah Dennehy,
3. Annie Naveed and Satiya Ali.

Boys Egg and Spoon:

1. Conal Caulfield, 2. Diarmuid Phillips, 3. Patrick Caulfield.

Junior Girls Egg and Spoon:

1. Erin Murray, 2. Habba Mruood,
3. Satiya Ali.

Senior Girls Egg and Spoon:

1. Katie Ronayne, 2. Alannah Dennehy,
3. Gemma Foody.

Long Jump

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Boys U-8: | 1. Padraig, 2. P.J., 3. James. |
| Girls U-8: | 1. Sinead, 2. Vanessa. |
| Boys 9 & 10: | 1. Padraig, 2. Shaun, 3. Raymond. |
| Girls 9 & 10: | 1. Erin, 2. Maeve, 3. Satiyan. |
| Boys U-14: | 1. Luke, 2. Soheab, 3. Thomas. |
| Girls U-14: | 1. Brigetta, 2. Sahar, 3. Erin. |

Longest Jump of the Day

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Geger Ali | (longest jump of the day). |
| Owen McDonagh | (2nd longest jump of the day). |
| James McDonagh | (3rd longest jump of the day). |
| Brigetta Curry | (best under-age girl). |
| Luke Walsh | (best underage-boy). |

BRIAN FLANAGAN TOPS ALBUM CHARTS

It's been a long time coming, but admirers of the velvet voice of Brian Flanagan always knew that with the right song and a little luck, the Ballyhaunis man would one day make it to the top. And last August, make it to the top he did for sure.

The former sweet talking bartender has topped the Irish Album Charts with a delightful collection of tunes entitled Laurie Blue. The title track is a tribute to singer Adele Laurie Blue Atkins. The catchy piece, penned by Brian himself, has really caught the imagination and the attention of the nation's music lovers.

A stunning track in its own right, the masterpiece is a real showcase for Brian's brilliant musical talent and vocal range. 'Laurie Blue' magically tells the story of Adele's story to date. Clever lyric use and quirky arrangement together make it auto-biopic, instantly catchy and sing along in equal measure.

After several years of hard graft and much perseverance, the long wait for Brian, would now appear to be almost at an end. Some of the nation's foremost songwriters have acclaimed the new release as one of the finest pieces of music composed by an Irish artist in many years.

Son of Phyllis and Brian Flanagan, Ballindrehid, Brian is based in Cork city where he lives with his wife Ruth and two children. Following the success and the rave reviews of the new release, Brian has been in big demand with radio presenters throughout the country over the past while, appearing on RTÉ 2fm with Colm Hayes and returning to home soil for a piece on Midwest Radio with Padraic Walsh before going back to the city by the Lee for some more radio work and interviews.

Yes, it's been a long time coming, but this time the dream is becoming a reality for Brian Flanagan. Laurie Blue is now available to order on iTunes.

Mike Byrne



ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR KEITH HIGGINS

Consistency is defined as *'the achievement of a level of performance that does not vary greatly in quality over time'*.

Consistency, as it applies to Mayo football these days, is defined by Keith Higgins, who has just completed yet another phenomenal season with the county senior team. A fifth Connacht senior championship medal, a second All Star, and a third All-Ireland senior final appearance are just three of the main reasons why the Ballyhaunis clubman has seen his lofty reputation enhanced even further this year. The plaudits, accolades and recognition are no more than Higgins deserves and, yet, the suspicion remains that the best is yet to come from the 28 year-old (he will be 29 next February). When you consider he began the year as the Mayo senior hurling captain, in tandem with his demanding football commitments, it makes his level of performance all the more remarkable.

An injury-disrupted spring also meant a far from ideal run-up to Championship 2013, but by the time the summer was in full swing, Higgins was back to doing what he does best. Running. Flying. Being busy. Tackling. Driving forward. Scoring. Living up to his nickname, 'Zippy', in every other game. Perpetual motion, in every sense of the phrase.

There was also another aspect to Keith Higgins' displays with Mayo up to, and including, All-Ireland Final Sunday.

After leaving his usual station in the Mayo defence in mid-summer to find his fame and fortune in the forwards, it will be fascinating to see if team management persist with the experiment next season. Higgins won plenty of friends and influenced many people with his eye-catching cameos up front against Donegal, Tyrone and Dublin in the wide

open spaces at Croke Park at the business end of the championship. His searing pace, innate ability to read the game, and seemingly effortless knack of being in the right place at the right time means that he can play pretty much anywhere. It was little wonder then that he made it look so easy. *"I think everyone was expecting it to be more complicated but James just said, 'Go out and play it as you see it'"* Keith explained to The Mayo News after the All-Ireland quarter—final victory over Donegal. "There was no major



Keith Higgins, All-Star Award Winner in 2012 and 2013.

strategy to it. Against teams like Donegal positions mean very little anyway. I enjoyed it." That enjoyment, in many ways, helps to explain just why Keith Higgins has become Mayo's most consistent performer over the last nine seasons. Just close your eyes and picture Higgins in action, in full flight. If you stripped away the big crowds, the bright lights, the high stakes, and the TV cameras, he is the kid in the schoolyard. He's the youngster on the club pitch in Ballyhaunis, he's the teenager on the back pitch in Castlebar. Running. Flying. Being busy. Tackling. Driving forward. Scoring. And doing most of it, most of

the time, with a smile on his face.

He does it because he enjoys it. He works hard on the training ground and then, on match day, he expresses himself. Very well as it turns out. *"Sometimes you hear of training sessions that are very complicated,"* Keith explained earlier this year. *"At the end of the day you have to go back to basics that you did as an under 12. Just go back to what you do in a game, footpassing and handpassing. It's not rocket science. And keep doing it. That way it comes off in a game, it's repetition."*

Good advice for any youngster who would like to emulate their Ballyhaunis hero, a young man who has brought great honour and glory to the town and the county again in 2013. Long may it continue.

Mike Finnerty

Mike Finnerty is the Sports Editor of The Mayo News, and a GAA commentator with Mid West Radio and TV3.



Alcoholics Anonymous has a meeting every Sunday night, in The Friary House at 8.30pm. www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Al-Anon Family Groups: If you are concerned about someone else's drinking, Al-Anon Family Groups offer understanding to anyone whose life is, or has been, deeply affected by someone else's drinking. Please contact Al-Anon Family Groups at (01) 8732699 or email info@al-anon-ireland.org if you need help, or for further information of local groups. There is a meeting at Scoil Iosa, Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis, every Sunday night at 8.30 pm. www.al-anon-ireland.org

PRESS PARAGRAPHS FROM THE PAST

Internet searches through various newspaper archives have uncovered references to Ballyhaunis through the nineteenth century. The examples presented here cover such diverse topics as a freak weather event in 1820, an outsider's view of the Holywell Station in 1828, Daniel O'Connell's comments on Ballyhaunis in 1843 and a report of the extent to which the authorities went to collect the 'rates' at the height of the Great Famine in Christmas 1848.

An Awful Visitation – Ballyhaunis 1820

The following interesting item was published in 'The Mayo Constitution' in July 1820, and later featured in a number of English newspapers (edited to various extents), including what appears to be the most complete version in 'The Caledonian Mercury' of Sat., 22nd July 1820. No copies of the Mayo Constitution newspaper survive before 1828.

'Dublin, July 13th [1820] --- The south-eastern part of the county of Mayo has been visited, during the last week, by one of those awful visitations, which occur but very rarely in our happy and temperate climate. Of its devastating effects, the following description and appalling particulars are given by a respectable and intelligent gentleman residing in the vicinity of **Ballyhaunes**: "A shower of ice stones, accompanied by a tremendous thunder storm, fell in this district on the 29th of June, and in its course has caused universal destruction. Its breadth did not exceed half a mile, within which it has left perfect ruin – the potato crop cut close to the earth – the flax bruised as in a mill; the corn shattered and blasted, never to rise again! All the windows within its limits are broken; numerous tame and wild fowl were killed by it. Some of these stones were flat, heavy, and as large as my watch, the greater part of the shape, but of a larger size than a pigeon's egg. Bog turf was seen penetrated by them, as if bullets had been shot into it. How far this frightful phenomenon has run its course I cannot as yet say, possibly into the Western sea. A poor lad, who was bathing at the time, unfortunately disregarding its terrific approach, had his head dreadfully cut and injured; his body partially quite black, and covered with contusions."

The Holy Well at Holywell - 1828

A description of the holy well at Holywell, Ballyhaunis, and the Station carried out there, featured in – above all places – a staunchly anti-Catholic Church of Ireland publication of the late 1820s! "*The Christian Examiner and Church of Ireland Magazine*", was a periodical founded in Dublin in 1825 and published 'by members of the Established Church'. Its December 1828 issue (Vol. VII) featured an article about holy wells and holy places in Connacht. The original article has not been tracked down, but the extract relating to Holywell (and a number of other holy wells in the West), was re-printed shortly after under the heading 'Connaught Superstitions' in the staunchly Unionist 'Belfast Newsletter' of Friday, 16th Jan. 1829. An introduction to the piece is scathing in religious prejudice of the time, but the description of the holy well, and of the Station (carried out there until within living memory) is of interest. One can sense that the writer was at best indifferent, and quite probably hostile, to the piety of those carrying out the Station. The reference to 'St. Augustine' was inadvertently printed in the original as 'St. Anthony'.

'Hollywell --- One mile from *Ballyhavis*. Near this well, which is dedicated to St. Patrick, are two very old trees. To the trunk of one is attached a sand-stone slate, bearing the impression of St. Patrick's knees, when he blessed this place; and before which they kneel in adoration. They who perform at this station go round the well on their knees, till they have repeated seven paters, seven aves, and a creed. They repeat as many as they can, rising; and afterwards walking round, they repeat seven paters, seven aves and one creed more. At the trees they kneel again, repeat five paters, five aves, and one creed, before the slate, in honour of St. Patrick: and, finally, taking with them some of the water, leave upon the tree their many coloured rags of cloth, in memorial of their piety, lest they should be forgotten by the saint. Some of the pilgrims here offer their adorations to St. Augustine, who is particularly venerated in the neighbouring Abbey of *Ballyhavis*, which a convent of the Blessed Virgin Mary founded by the Nangles alias the Mac Costellos, for the Eremites of St. Augustine, commonly called Austin Friars.'

"Once an Opulent and Merry Little Place" - Ballyhaunis 1843

There is a strong local tradition that Daniel O'Connell, the mighty "Liberator", visited Ballyhaunis on at least one occasion, and held one of his famous 'Repeal' meetings here. On the occasion of that visit, it is said, he

stayed the night in the hotel run by the Jordan family on Main St. (where Cribbin's is today.) No documentary evidence of that meeting is immediately to hand, but a newspaper report from 1843 attests to the fact that he did indeed visit here, and quotes O'Connell's interesting comments on Ballyhaunis at that time.

The context was a meeting of the 'Loyal National Repeal Association', held in the Dublin Corn Exchange on Monday, 7th Aug. 1843 - a detailed report of which was published the following day in 'Freeman's Journal'. During the meeting subscriptions received from branches of the Repeal Association around the country were recorded, and several of the accompanying letters read out. One of the officials read out a letter from one 'Mr. James Delany', whose address is given as 'French Park, Ballyhaunis', enclosing £6. 10s. from subscribers to the Repeal Association in Ballyhaunis. Delany wrote: *"I am sure I need not mention to you - who know the people so well - that there is a heart and two hands strongly attached to their native land at the tail of every shilling I send you, and that they are determined never to retire from the contest till their oppressed and misgoverned country will be relieved from alien legislation"*. This sturdy affirmation of Ballyhaunis' support of the Repeal movement was followed by rousing applause and cheers, and, the report continues, 'Dr. Gray moved that Rev. Mr. Prendergast, of Ballyhaunis, be appointed Inspector of Repeal Wardens, and Mrs. Maria Brenan, Messrs. J. McDonnell, Michael McHale and James Delany, as wardens, and J. Rogers and James Grogan, as members. He also moved that the subscribers be admitted members, volunteers, and associates, in the proportion of their subscriptions.' The report concludes:

'Mr. O'Connell willingly seconded the resolution. When last in Connaught [he said] he had received great kindness and courtesy from the inhabitants of Ballyhaunis, a town which, he grieved to observe, presented in itself a sad image of the desolation of Ireland, for its buildings were in a state of dilapidation, and distress was everywhere visible in its streets. At one period it had been an opulent and merry little place, and derived much of its prosperity from the existence in its vicinity of a monastery which was founded upon a very extensive scale before what was called the Reformation. The greedy grasp of the clergy of the established church, and in many instances the laymen also, laid upon the religious edifices and church property of Ireland, had spoliated and deformed our country, and the results of the conduct of the innovators were still painfully visible in Ireland. He was highly gratified at this proof of

patriotism on the part of the men of Ballyhaunis, and it was a consolation to him to reflect that the struggle in which he was engaged was one which would have the effect of restoring happiness and prosperity once more to their town. Motion carried.'

Notes: The Repeal Movement was founded by Daniel O'Connell in 1840 to campaign for repeal of the Act of Union or 1800 between Great Britain and Ireland. It faded out in the late 1840s as the Young Ireland movement superseded it in popularity. James Delany was most likely the man who had a premises about where the Corner Bar is now, and who, at one time, operated the Post Office in Ballyhaunis from there. 'Rev. Mr. Prendergast' was Fr. Patrick Prendergast, C.C. Annagh. The man who read out Delany's letter, named only as 'Dr. Gray', was none other than Claremorris born John Gray (later Sir John Gray), an eminent physician, politician and owner of the 'Freeman's Journal'. As a member of Dublin Corporation he brought the water supply to Dublin. His statue stands in O'Connell St., Dublin. Maria Brenan, J. McDonnell, Michael McHale, J. Rogers and James Grogan were most probably business people in the town at the time.

Heartless Rate Collectors - 1848

By Christmas 1848 Ireland was struggling through its second Famine winter. However, notwithstanding the devastation brought about by starvation, disease and ceaseless emigration, Government still needed to be funded. No effort was spared to ensure that rates were paid, apparently, as recorded in the following extract from 'The Morning Post' of Friday, 29th Dec. 1848.

'County of Mayo, Dec. 24. --- Charles O'Connell, the stipendary magistrate, has been engaged the entire of last week, with a strong military force, collecting poor rates in the division of Ballyhaunis, Began and Kiltullagh; Twenty-five of the Scots Greys, and about three-hundred infantry and police, with thirty carts, brought in a considerable quantity of hay and corn from poor people struggling to support their families, and who openly declare their regret that they did not, as a great part of the population of Mayo did, leave their lands waste.'

Paul Waldron

Ballyhaunis Library, Clare Street. Eleanor Freyne, Librarian.

Opening Hours: Mon: Closed; Tues: 1:00pm - 7:00pm;
Wed: 1:00pm - 8:00pm; Thurs: Closed;
Fri: 11:00am - 5:00pm; Sat: 11:00am - 4:00pm.

BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY GAMES

Community Games is a voluntary organisation, operating in local communities throughout Ireland. The aim is to provide opportunities for children and young people to develop in a healthy and safe environment through experiencing a wide range of sporting and cultural activities

Sadly, due to lack of volunteers a lot of areas are unable to hold competitions so children don't get a chance to experience this. At a recent meeting of the Mayo Area Board, maps were looked at and boundaries were changed to facilitate areas which had no Community Games committees. Ballyhaunis Area now takes in areas of Brickens and Began, so anyone in these areas interested in getting involved is welcome to contact the committee at any time.

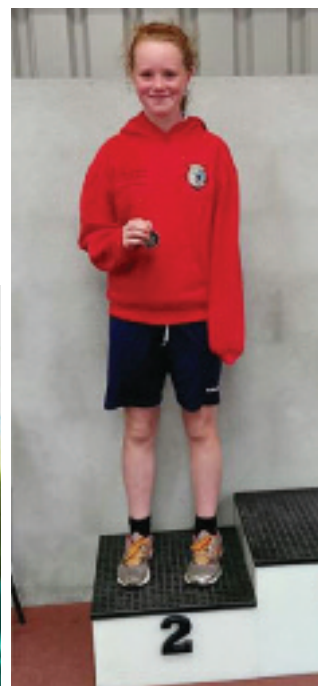
This year we entered an U-12 Girls Gaelic Football team, which acquitted themselves very well, reaching the County Final against Turlough. This team had won the All-Ireland the previous year so we were really up against it. The girls put up a great performance and when the final whistle blew all was level on the score board. An extra ten minutes was played and, although our girls tried hard the Turlough girls were not giving up their title and defeated our girls by five points. Thanks to the managers of this team Paul Smyth and Justin McDonagh.

In the handwriting competition, Alannah and Jason Hession, Began represented the Area and reached the County Finals.

Athletics is one of the highlights of the Community Games and there is always huge interest in this in all areas. This year was no different and the development of the Claremorris track and its facilities has added greatly to this event. The County Finals were held in May and, with this in mind, we held trials in April, in order to have the best athletes represent our area. Twenty-two athletes went to County Finals and our area did very well. We took home five medals: Aoife Conway took a silver medal in the



Niamh O'Neill



Aoife Conway

hurdles; Brian Sweeney also took a silver in the 100 metre sprint; Erin Murray took a bronze in the U-10 100 metre sprint, and our U-10 relay team also took a bronze; and last but not least Niamh O'Neill took the Gold medal in the U-12 100 metre sprint and went to the All-Ireland Finals in August where she won a bronze medal. These medals are very hard come by so well done to all!



Ballyhaunis Community Games Athletics Team with Stella O'Neill.

Finally I would urge parents to get involved in Community games. It's not all sport based, there are competition is handwriting, table-quiz and talent.

HISTORIC YEAR FOR LONDON G.A.A.

Granlahan Man leads London to Connacht Final and Croke Park

Surely one of the highlights of this year's Connacht GAA Football Senior Championship was the spectacular success of the London team. Not only did they attain their first ever win in the Provincial Championship since 1977, they went on to play in their first ever Connacht Final.

Their campaign opened when they beat Sligo 1-12 to 0-14 in Ruislip on 26th May. Then, on 23rd June, they drew with Leitrim – 0-13 to 2-7 – at Páirc Seán MacDiarmada, Carrick-on-Shannon. The following week, 30th June, in the replay, they beat Leitrim by a point in Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon – 2-11 to 1-13, qualifying them for their first ever Connacht Final.

The Connacht Final was played on 21st July in McHale Park, Castlebar where they were beaten by Mayo, 5-11 to 0-10.

London met Cavan in Croke Park in the Round 4 qualifiers, but were beaten 1-17 to 1-8.

The Manager of the London team is Paul Coggins of Granlahan, County Roscommon – a man with strong Mayo roots. His mother is the former Noreen Lyons of Redford, Ballyhaunis, while his father, Paul Snr., comes originally from Ballina. Paul himself is a past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School.

GAA's London links

The London GAA County Committee was set up in 1896. Liam McCarthy became Secretary and President. The All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship trophy still carries his name. London is one of only eleven counties to have won the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship – doing so in 1901.

Sam Maguire played for and captained the London football team to several All-Ireland finals between 1900 and 1904. London is the third most successful county in Junior Football with six titles between 1938 and 1986.



Paul Coggins' nieces and nephew supporting him at the London v. Leitrim match in Carrick-on-Shannon. L-R: Teresa Mullen, Niall Boyle, Lucy Boyle, Aisling Boyle, Isobel Coggins and Aoibhe Coggins.



At the Connacht Final 2013, Mayo v. London.
L-R: Niall Boyle, Teresa Boyle (nee Coggins), Paul Coggins Snr., Mary Keyes (nee Hunt), Noreen Coggins (nee Lyons).



Paul Coggins and the London team celebrate their victory over Sligo in Ruislip in the first round of the Connacht Championship 2013.

© www.keoghimages.com



A group of locals at the stone unveiled to commemorate the 'Year of Faith 2013 - The Gathering' at Holywell.

Back L-R: Eoin McManus, Majella Coffey, Mary Mulrennan, Catherine Waldron, Jim McManus, Seamus Waldron, Alacoque McManus, Tony McManus, Brian O'Neill, George O'Neill, Martin Brennan.

Front L-R: Adam Loftus, Katherine Ronayne, Mary Waldron, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P.



Under-7 Connacht Irish Dancing Champion 2013

Erica Byrne dances for the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing. She is daughter of Dolores and the late Declan Byrne from Gurteen, Ballyhaunis.



An exhibition of Scouting at the Abbey Pattern 2013.



Runners meet after the Ballyhaunis 8km Road Race, 28th September, at Ballyhaunis Rugby Club.

REGAN VISITS THE WHITE HOUSE

My name is Michael Regan, born in Cloonbook, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, Ireland and currently residing in New York City. I was second of five children, born to Dan and Delia Regan. In 1974, I emigrated to England before coming to the United States in 1979.

My Irish Season in 2013 trumped all seasons with a golden ticket - "The Invitation to the White House". Irish Season, as we in New York City refer to it, are the six weeks on the run up to St. Patrick's Day. It's the season to celebrate Irish heritage and my lineage to the County of Mayo. In the midst of these celebrations this year, I received the prestigious honour of being invited to the White House to see the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny present the bowl of shamrock to the President of the United States. My years as President of the Mayo Society of New York and avid ambassador of Irish culture in New York presented me with a chance of a lifetime and I relished the opportunity.

I took an early train to Washington DC to ensure that I arrived at the reception early to pass security and have time to explore the vastness of the White House. The White House, one of the most recognisable buildings in Washington, DC, was designed by James Hoban, an Irish-born and-trained architect who won a competition organised by President George Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson in 1792. Hoban's inspiration for the house was drawn from an Anglo-Irish villa better known as Leinster House in Dublin!

The White House, with its shining marble and presidential portraits was breathtaking, providing opportunities to enjoy and appreciate the history and events of this nation. After moving in and out of rooms, meeting senators, consulates, press from both sides of the Atlantic, we lined up for the VIP guests to enter: President Obama



and his wife Michelle, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and his wife Fionnuala. The room silenced and then erupted into applause as the Guests of Honour arrived. I was grateful for my early arrival as I was top of the line and had the opportunity to shake hands with President Obama and the First Lady, Michelle. The party began with the traditional presentation of the bowl of shamrock and lasted several hours as we sampled hors d'oeuvres of Irish cuisine, entertainment by Irish step-dancers and music by the Chieftains with Matt Molloy. The night concluded with a CIA escort to the Ambassador's private residence for a late supper and more memories to cherish.

Michael Regan



Congratulations to Mrs. Vera Waldron, Scrigg, who celebrated her 90th Birthday earlier this year. She is pictured with some of her grandchildren.

Back, L-R: Madeline Hunt, Eric Fitzgerald, Conor Fitzgerald.

Front: Ian Mooney, Stephanie Mooney, Vera Waldron and Lorraine Mooney.



FOUR MAGICAL DAYS IN 1963...

50 years ago in the summer of 1963, my grandaunt Molly Lynch watched with awe and excitement the coverage of the Kennedy visit to this country. As the 35th President of the United States, it was the first such visit of a President to Ireland. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was given a rapturous welcome. Thousands of well-wishers flocked to catch a glimpse of him. Although a very short visit of less than four days, it left a lasting impression on the Irish people. Ordinary people lined the streets, watched their televisions, and listened to the radio or bought a copy of a newspaper.

One of those people was Molly Lynch who was born in 1906 in Brackloon North to Bernard and Maria Dyer (nee Grogan from Holywell). She had four sisters and one brother. She married Captain Pat Lynch and they lived on Church Hill Street in Sligo. One sister Agnes married John (J.P.) Freyne and they lived on Clare Street (my grandparents). J.P. worked for many years in Bertie Lynch's garage on Main Street and Pat Lynch was Bertie's uncle also.

She worked as a secretary at a firm of solicitors in Sligo with the interesting name of 'Argue and Phibbs'. (Mr W. H. Argue and Mr Talbot Phibbs to be precise! A 1920's newspaper article reported that they were actively considering taking on a third member of staff, a solicitor from England by the name of Cheetam. 'Argue, Phibbs & Cheetam' - now that would have been a really interesting name!) Molly learned copperplate style writing and became quite good at it. Down through the years she also made special hand written invitations and elaborately decorated documents for visiting dignitaries to Sligo at the request of the Lord Mayor and the Borough Council.

There were many factors that made this whirlwind tour of Ireland in June so memorable and which inspired Molly to record what this event meant to her. A long letter in her beautiful handwriting would end up reaching the White House and is the reason I came to see pictures of Jack and Jackie Kennedy hanging on the wall of my grandmother Agnes' wall. The Western People newspaper, in their

editorial of 5th July, stated "Kennedy will be for ever more the symbol of the new status of the Irish and when we lavish every honour possible on him it was done not only in the name of the nation, but for every exile that ever fought for his way of life in America of the past one hundred years."

Magical Visit

Memories of this magical visit would become even more poignant when news came through five short months later about what happened on Friday 22nd November. News of four awful days that would begin in Dallas, Texas and end at Arlington National Cemetery.

So, from that Wednesday to Saturday in June 1963, Molly would have watched and listened to commentators

like Brian Farrell, Gay Byrne, Terry Wogan, Michael O'Hehir, John Bowman and Denis Meehan describe every movement of the President. There was what we now call 'blanket coverage' of the visit on Telefís Éireann and Radio Éireann. RTE was only 18 months in existence and provided live broadcasts and commentary from multiple locations. Equipment had to be borrowed from the BBC and ITV. Television cameras were allowed in for the first time to the Dáil chambers. They brought the public images from Dublin Airport, Arbour Hill, Wexford, Cork, Galway, Limerick, and Shannon Airport. The intensive coverage brought the atmosphere and excitement into homes. Viewers would have seen this handsome President tour the country in his big American open-topped limousine and in his helicopter. The Irish visit was in

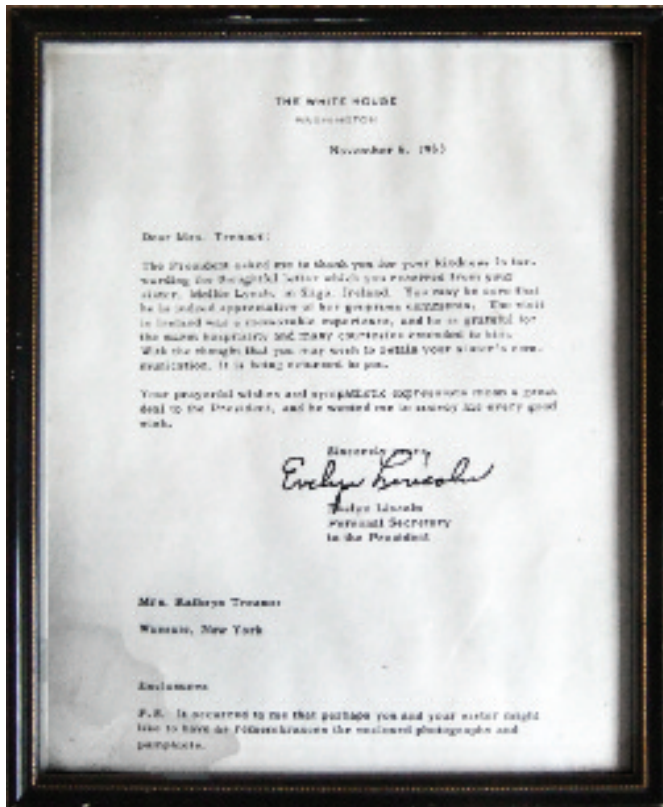
the middle of a European tour. The President had just come from a very successful visit to Berlin in Germany, where he had delivered his "ich bin ein Berliner" speech.

Molly would have loved reading about the men in their formal top hat and tails and looking at the photographs in papers of the beautiful dresses worn by the ladies at the garden party hosted by the De Valera's at Áras an Uachtaráin and at the State Dinner at Iveagh House. She would have seen the glamorous Kennedy sisters Eunice and Jean who accompanied their brother as did Jackie's sister Lee Radziwill. She would have listened to the President's speech as he addressed Dáil Éireann.

The 1950s in Ireland had been a very grey and depressing time and weary from prolonged emigration and drab prospects. This was the first time Ireland was on show in a



Sisters Molly Lynch and Kitty Treanor
- nee Dyer from Brackloon North - 1950s.



A letter of thanks from the White House.
Dated sixteen days before the assassination.



In happier times... Autographed photo of Jacqueline
and John F. Kennedy.

celebratory mood and the visit was an injection of much needed excitement. Again the Western People editor put it well when he wrote, "... by agreeing to come here he brought the prestige and influence of the most powerful office in the world to the side of a small nation to pay her an international compliment that is without parallel."

Molly later sent her script to her sister Kitty Treanor, who was living in New York State. Kitty then, in turn, thought it good enough to forward it to the White House, who in turn wrote back to her in thanks and enclosed two autographed photographs of the Kennedy family. This letter from the Personal Secretary to the President, was dated November 6th, just 16 days before his death.

Following the assassination, Kitty wrote again to the White House expressing her condolences. In thanks, she later received a book from them, entitled "The Torch Is Passed". In the weeks that followed 22nd November, the Associated Press published this book which is the story of the death of a President. Ninety eight pages of iconic photos and text sombrely bound in dark red with gold lettering.

Many thanks to my uncle Bernard and my aunt Dolores Jordan for the background information. Thanks also to Bernard for letting me photograph the images and to Dolores for providing additional photos for this article.

Sinéad Freyne



WEDDING VENUE AWARDS

Mulranny Park Hotel won the 'Best Wedding Venue in Connaught' category at the WeddingsOnline.ie Awards which were held in Clontarf Castle, Dublin, February 2013.

L-R: Mark Richardson (Irish Mystery Shopping), Alison Ruane (Mulranny Park Hotel), Suzanne O'Brien (Mulranny Park Hotel), Tara Fay (Xena Productions). Alison Ruane, Banqueting and Events Manager at Mulranny Park Hotel, is daughter of Oliver and Alice Ruane, Bargariff.

BALLYHAUNIS BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club had a very enjoyable year, under the Presidency of Breege Halpin. Bridge was played in the Hazel Bar every Tuesday and Thursday evening. There were six prize nights during the year culminating in the President's prize in May.

Prize Winners

The Murphy Cup - Ann Nestor and Patricia Gaughan.

The AIB Cup - Jean Gallagher and Michael Mahony.

The Credit Union Prize - Mary Walshe and Donal Geraghty.

The Angela Joyce Memorial Trophy - Mary Walshe and Donal Geraghty.

Easter Prizes, sponsored by Nestor and Co. Accountants - Mary Walshe and Donal Geraghty.

Members from the Claremorris Club joined us for the Angela Joyce Memorial as was customary. Members of the Joyce's family also played. Angela played a pivotal role in the running of the club for many years. Refreshments were provided by the committee. Donal Geraghty introduced electronic scoring to Ballyhaunis for the first time. It was an exhilarating experience to have instant results. The Club was very grateful to Donal for his generous contribution of time, technical knowledge and knowhow.

There were two sessions of "Simultaneous Pairs" played during the year. In this competition results can be compared



Breege Halpin, Dolores Jordan and Donal Geraghty.

with all players throughout Ireland who played the exact same hands.

The President's Prize Night took place in May and was played over two nights. This was the biggest event of the year. Paul Waldron (Claremorris) was our Tournament Director and he did an excellent job. The presentation of the prizes took place after dinner, by our esteemed president Breege Halpin. The winners were Mary Walshe and Donal Geraghty. All members who played on the night received a prize.

Condolences

During the year we lost two valuable members of the Bridge Club: Mary Dillon Leetch and Sheila Forde. Both played for many years in the Club. Mary was one of our longest serving members and a founding member. May they both Rest in Peace. The Club would like to extend its sympathy to our members who had family bereavements during the year.

The AGM was held in May. Breege Halpin was thanked for her very successful year and she was congratulated by her committee members for her intuitive leadership, progressive approach, and competent stewardship.

Patricia Gaughan was elected President for the coming year.

As this is the year of the "Gathering" Michael Mahony suggested we should have a gathering of past and present members. The President, Patricia Gaughan and her committee organised the "Gathering" on Tuesday 22nd October. It was great to meet old friends. It was also an opportunity to rekindle their interest in the game.

Oliver Jordan entertained us greatly with his rendition of many old favourites. Some eager bridge players played on, till late. Cautious bidding gave way to reckless endeavour in the midst of mirth and wine. The night proved to be a mixture of bridge, "ceól agus craic", delicious food and fine claret. The event was a great success. The committee was very grateful for the generosity of Agnes Coyne Waldron, Nell Rochford, Joe Rochford and Rita Lundon all of whom contributed generously to the festivities.



Enjoying the Gathering,
L-R: Patricia Gaughan,
Breege Halpin
(President 2012-13) and
Michael Mahoney (Vice
President).



Anne Nestor, Joe Rochford, Tony Nestor, Agnes Coyne Waldron

New Members

To those interested in taking up bridge for the first time or anyone who might like to return to bridge feel free to join any time. If you need a Bridge partner contact Breege Halpin at (087) 6883383.

Classes are available on an ongoing basis and will recommence for beginners in January. Donal Geraghty (an excellent tutor) holds class in Burke's Bar, Knock on Monday evenings at 8 o'clock. No knowledge of cards required for the beginners class. Anyone interested can contact Donal at (087) 2220222.

Donal Geraghty, Bridge Club Secretary



Katherine and Etta Healy, with their niece and nephew Joanne and Michael Healy at the Holy Well on their land in Holywell.



Siobhán and Freddy Herr renewing their wedding vows in Las Vegas! Thirty years married this year.

BILLIE BRENNAN AND THE GREAT BIG SALMON

I quite enjoyed reading Eileen Brennan's article about the folks on Clare Street in the recent Annagh magazine. The two Brennans that I most vividly remember are Angela and Billie. Angela rode a bicycle down Clare Street and at times, I recall, she rode like the wind, with her auburn red hair flying. I remember Billie as a great hunter and fisherman. Here is my Billie story from 1950.

One day in June 1950, I was on my way home from school and dawdled over the bridge across the Clare River, below the Friary Church on Abbey Street. I noticed a very big fish of a size I had not seen before treading water in the river below the bridge. I ran home to tell my father, the original Frank Glynn of Clare Street and, as luck would have it, I found him on Abbey Street. I was pretty excited and told him about the fish and we went back to the bridge. He said, "That salmon has gone astray – run up and get Billie Brennan and tell him to bring his fishing pole". I ran up to Billie's house and told him about the fish and that my father had said to bring his fishing pole. Billie caught on right away and did not hesitate.

When we arrived at the bridge, a crowd of about fifty people had gathered there to see the big salmon. Billie and I walked down the ramp to the river where he took off his shoes and socks, handed them to me and rolled up his trousers. He waded carefully into the river and even more carefully snared the salmon, raising it up into the air where it struggled and flashed in the sunshine. The crowd gave a big cheer and broke into applause, clapping loudly. It was the major excitement of the month. Then Billie walked home, barefoot, carrying the salmon, and I tagged along carrying his shoes and socks. The salmon was at least a metre long and a very impressive sight. Later, Billie sent us a chunk which my mother grilled for us to sample.

It was a rare and unusual sight. The Clare River is not a salmon river, as it does not drain directly into the Atlantic Ocean, but instead empties into Lough Corrib, which in turn does drain into the Ocean, by another exit. The salmon in question took a wrong turn when exiting Lough Corrib and instead headed up the Clare River. By the time it reached Ballyhaunis, it was confused and disoriented, and would probably have died as it was just treading water.

In 1950, I went to live with my aunt and uncle on their farm beside the River Moy, between Swinford and Foxford, so I could cycle into Swinford to attend secondary school. My route from the farm took me along the River Moy, which is a salmon river and later I got to try more salmon fishing, as my uncle was also a fisherman and caught many salmon, not always by exactly sporting methods. But in the old days, feeding your family was more important than obeying the local landlords' imposed rules.

Billie Brennan was the hero of the day he landed the big salmon. It is a day that still floats down my memory, clearly and still bright.

Francis M. Glynn, Vancouver, Canada

ANNAGH WHEELERS – ANOTHER YEAR IN THE SADDLE!

2013 turned out to be a very busy year for the Annagh Wheelers Cycling Club. A resurgence in cycling throughout the country has seen the numbers of lycra-clad cyclists on the high roads and by-roads of BH increasing dramatically. All of a sudden cycling seems to have become popular – time maybe for some of the old stalwarts to contemplate taking up another obscure sport; like golf, perhaps! Overall, our numbers are up and it was encouraging to see our annual club events well supported by locals.

Our first tour of the year was the Five Counties Cycle which was run in May as part of the events organised by Margie Phillips to raise money for Crumlin Children's Hospital. Unfortunately, bad weather encouraged many people to have a duvet day; however, four hardy souls braved the elements and completed the full 85km.

Next up was our long standing Tour of Mayo which took place at the end of May. This tour consists of 100km, 160km and 200km routes around the county. It is very much a social event and with back-up provided all the way, it is an event that anyone new to cycling can pencil in for next year.

A new event on the Annagh Wheelers calendar this year was the Bicycle Treasure Hunt which took place during the Summer Festival. This is a family event where teams are given a list of clues and must find the answers by cycling on some of the quietest and most scenic roads around Ballyhaunis. The event proved to be a big hit with anyone who took part, and hopefully it will be part of next year's Summer Festival.

A bright idea by one of our founding members meant that on 27th July at 6.05am eight of us found ourselves heading out under the railway bridge in Devlis. Our destination? Tipperary (and yes, it is a long way). Our goal? To complete a tour of the four provinces of Ireland in one day.

Once across the Tipp border, the route took us through the midlands via Athlone and Edgeworthstown towards the far side of Granard and the Cavan border. From there it



was home through Longford and Tulsk and the welcome sight of the railway bridge. Our total distance for the day was 318km taking us under 14 hours. Thankfully days like this are rare, though we're waiting to see what other mad ideas these doctors will prescribe for next year.



Some of the participants in the Family Bike Treasure Hunt that took place during the Summer Festival.

Back, L-R: Margie Phillips, Grahame Cleary, Gerry Madden, Seamus Coffey, Majella Coffey, Deirdre Browne, Frank Browne. Front: Laura Madden, Henry Concannon, John Madden, Gillian Donnellan, Holly Browne, Paula Coffey.

Our final big event of the year was the Day of Cycling in memory of Martin Connery, which was held for the third time. As ever, it was very well supported with over 50 people taking to their bikes and eating their way through mountains of sandwiches, homemade pizza and chocolate brownies. The event also raised €640 for the St. Vincent de Paul, so a big thanks to everyone for taking part.

So a year on the road has kept us busy. Hopefully 2014 will prove to be as good. For anyone interested in joining us, we venture out every Sunday morning around 9ish, and on a Wednesday evening during the summer months. You can contact us via the website: www.annaghwheelers.com or by email: grahame_cleary@yahoo.com.

Grahame Cleary

BALLYHAUNIS MEN'S SHED ASSOCIATION

2013 saw the establishment of a new community organisation in Ballyhaunis with the setting up of the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association which was formally launched in February at a meeting held in the Family Resource Centre at the Augustinian Abbey.

Approximately 20 men attended the inaugural meeting and listened to a talk at the launch about the purpose and benefits of a Men's Shed and how the idea has grown throughout the country and in Mayo in recent years. Since then the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed has grown to a membership of over 35 men and has established itself in new premises which is located at Quinn's Commercial Unit, at the rear of Val's Bar & Bistro. The Shed is open from Monday to Fridays, from 10.00am to 2pm.

The Ballyhaunis group are in the process of developing the facilities available in the shed and adding to the available equipment and material that has been acquired. The group have also visited the Men's Shed group in Castlebar and they were very impressed with their set-up and how the idea works. Our main aim is to promote and protect the well-being of men in our community in a holistic manner

focusing on both the physical and mental well-being of our members.

Ballyhaunis Men's shed is simply a group of guys who want to be involved and active within their local community and surrounding areas. It is open to all men and aims to be representative of the multicultural make-up of Ballyhaunis. The shed is currently open five mornings a week and we hope to extend this in the near future. You are welcome to come along and join us - even if it's just for a cuppa and a chat.

The concept behind Men's Shed is to provide a safe, friendly and open environment where men can meet and engage in positive, productive experiences that will, in turn, enhance their overall health and well-being. Men by nature are task orientated and enjoy engaging in activities together. Men's Sheds can form the basis for companionship and friendship and all are welcome to come along for a cuppa and a friendly chat with other men from the area. Men's Shed's are open to all men over 18 years of age and there is no upper limit.

Ballyhaunis Men's Shed officers 2013/14

Chairman - Patrick Crosby; **Treasurer** - John Kilduff;
Secretary - Aidan Gaughan; **PRO** - Stephen Grogan.

Contact Details: Phone (086) 0358066

Email: ballyhaunismensshed@hotmail.com

Website: www.ballyhaunismensshed.com

BALLYHAUNIS FINE GAEL 2013

The Branch held meetings on a regular basis with numbers attending up from 2012. A pleasing aspect of the meetings was the participation of the youth in the area. Local and national issues were always on the agenda of these meetings and the vigorous debate teased out these issues.

One of the biggest debates took place after The Boundary Commission report was published at the end of May. What impact the new boundaries would have on our area and on our local Councillor, John Cribbin were debated at great length. All agreed that it was imperative that the town holds on to its experienced representative and the branch will be leaving no stone unturned to secure this. The same Councillor was on numerous occasions during the year congratulated for his tireless work in ensuring that Ballyhaunis and its surrounding areas were well serviced by Mayo County Council and National Bodies. At our last meeting Cllr. Cribbin stated that the committees involved both in the town and the surrounding areas in all the 'Gathering' events had worked very hard and were to be



Cllr. John Cribbin attending to local issues.

congratulated on the success of their events. The Branch would like to express thanks to Deputy John O'Mahony for attending many of these meetings.

John O'Mahony T.D. is in the Hazel Bar on the third Friday of every month at 3pm to meet the public. Cllr. John Cribbin holds a clinic in The Hazel Bar at 10am every Tuesday morning.



BALLYHAUNIS DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the AGM in November 2012 the Management Board was elected as follows: Chairman: Michael Kelly; Hon. Secretary: Mary Donnelly; Hon. Treasurer: Marie Cribbin; Asst. Treasurer: Jarlath Fahey; P.R.O. Seamus O'Boyle. Committee: Paula Grogan, Manar Cherbatji, Mike Griffin, Pat Higgins, Stephen Grogan, Gabrielle Lyons, Patrick Crosby, Julie Lawrence.

The Gathering 2013

The key project undertaken for the coming year was to co-ordinate a community-wide celebration of The Gathering 2013; the aim being to compile and publicise a calendar of events that local clubs, organisations and individuals planned to organise during the year.

A number of meetings were held in partnership with Ballyhaunis Chamber bringing together representatives of several local organisations and interested parties to exchange ideas and explore possibilities. The response was very positive and an attractive brochure was produced outlining a variety of events planned to take place throughout the year.

The Golf Club hosted a Golf Gathering Weekend in May, and Annagh Wheelers organised a Tour of Mayo Cycle along with a Family Cycle Treasure Hunt as part of the Summer Festival.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival took place over the June Bank Holiday weekend under the auspices of Ballyhaunis Chamber.

The Waldron Clan Gathering took place in June, and the local GAA Club hosted their annual 'Fleadh Cheoil agus Craic' while a re-union planned for July was later postponed until August.

The local Fit4Life group hosted a Mayo AC Summer Series 5K run in July and the annual 8K road race in September.

A special committee came together to host the very successful Brackloon & District School Re-union in August. Also in August the unique and colourful Gathering Pageant celebrating the heritage and diversity of our parish took place. Led by Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher, the energy, talents and goodwill of many many people and organisations contributed to making the Pageant a truly memorable community event.

Other Gathering events took place that were not listed in the brochure, giving Ballyhaunis people at home and abroad an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and celebrate together.

Michael F. Waldron Archive

On 28th January Fr. Kieran Waldron launched his new book entitled 'Collect the Fragments: Ballyhaunis Historian, Michael F Waldron, LLD 1876-1954'. Dr. Michael F. Waldron was one of the foremost scholars in the history of Ballyhaunis and Mayo, and his writings give a unique insight into the local culture and events of his time. As an author, poet, playwright and antiquarian he had a national reputation, and twice in his lifetime he was nominated for the Nobel Prize.

The launch, hosted by the Community Council, was accompanied by an illustrated talk by Fr. Kieran on the life and legacy of Dr Waldron.

Abbey Trust & Abbey Partnership

The Community Council continues to represent the wider Ballyhaunis community in the management of the Augustinian Friary and grounds, having four representatives on the Abbey Trust which holds the property under a 999 year lease, and the Abbey Partnership which is responsible for the day to day management of the property. These representatives attend all meetings and play a key role in the decision-making process relating to the Abbey property.

During the year a comprehensive survey of the Friary cemetery was carried out by an energetic group of trainees as part of their course with the VEC located in the Friary House. The group recorded in as much detail as possible inscriptions and information on graves and headstones and numbered all burial plots, and a plan containing all this information was produced. The Abbey Partnership has arranged for this information to be reproduced on a display board located in the cemetery where it is available to all who visit.

Sub-Committees/Working Groups

A number of sub-committees and working groups operating under the umbrella of the Community Council, e.g. Tidy Towns, Community Alert, Defibrillator Project, Historical Features & Walks, have been busily engaged throughout the year in their various activities. Their reports to the monthly meetings and at the AGM every year give a unique insight into the amount of voluntary work that is taking place in Ballyhaunis, and they deserve our gratitude and support for the very valuable services they provide in the community.

Membership

The Community Council welcomes new members who would like to be involved in current activities or indeed who have new ideas for projects that would be of benefit to the community. It can only survive and thrive on the input of local people sharing their expertise and some of their free time. Membership is a nominal €5 each year.

Visit our page on Ballyhaunis Life website:
www.ballyhaunislifewebsite.com

Mary Donnelly

BALLYHAUNIS SWIMMING POOL

Over the last sixteen years a small committee comprising of Marie Jordan, Eddie Mulhern and Agatha Higgins kept the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool open regardless of the weather conditions which, in many years, wasn't to our advantage. We were determined to keep the pool operating in Ballyhaunis. We ran Irish Water Safety Courses each summer season with many young in the area learning to swim. Over the last number of years the pool was deteriorating fast with the fear of Health and Safety closing it down. Funding was needed and needed fast to upgrade the facility. Persistence paid off with the Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Mr. Michael Ring announcing to upgrade the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool with a grant of €352,000 and another €40,000 to come from the Mayo County Council. The refurbishments started mid-summer of 2012, so the pool couldn't open that season. There were a lot of unhappy children about who couldn't wait for the following year.

On Monday the 24th June 2013, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, Mr. Michael Ring visited our refurbished pool to officially open it to all swimmers for the 2013 season. It is now a state of the art pool with refurbished dressing rooms, disabled access ability and a totally resurfaced area including the actual pool itself. A constant supply of hot water for showers and hand basins is provided by the latest in solar panelling technology. On Friday 28th July the newly refurbished Swimming Pool opened its doors for use. Fr. Stephen Farragher called in to bless the facility before any of our eager swimmers leapt in. It looked like we had a very promising season ahead.

Something we were not used to – the weather for the month of July was hotter in Ireland than in Spain. The numbers using the pool for that month had never been seen before. We had parents calling in relaxing by the pool while their children went swimming, which was great to see, now that we have a very modern venue.

We held one Irish Water Safety course this year, which was a great success. The number of young swimmers availing of this course was much higher this year. We would like to thank Noreen O'Connor and James McLoughlin from the IWS for providing the course.

We would like to give Edward Mulhern our best wishes as he retired from the committee this year, and thank him for all his time and dedication over the last twenty-five years.



Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool, refurbished and re-opened 2013.



Minister for Sport and Tourism TD., cutting the tape held by Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool Committee members – Agatha Higgins and Marie Jordan. L-R: Padraic Flanagan, SEO Mayo Co.Co.; Brendan Grogan, Michael Sweeney, Engineer; Gerard Winston; Seamus Granahan, Director of Services, Mayo Co.Co.; Lorraine Carrick, Agatha Higgins, Councillor John Cribbin, Councillor Tom Connolly, Bernie Quinn, John O'Mahony TD, Munir Cherbatji, Michael Ring TD, Manor Cherbatji, Councillor Cyril Burke, Tom Ferrick, Area Engineer; Marie Jordan, Eddie Mulhern, Pool Committee; Alison McDermott, President Ballyhaunis Chamber; Catriona Legg; Marcella Keane; Luke, Cian & Adam Walsh. Photograph by James Hunt.

We finished this year's season with the Swimming Gala and Party as usual. Everybody had a very enjoyable day. All the gala events were organised by the lifeguards and office staff. They organised a variety of swimming and novelty events e.g. three-legged race, obstacle course, biggest splash. It guaranteed all children went home with a medal and everybody very happy.

Our overall trophies, of which there were two, went to Holly Gallagher, for Most Improved Swimmer, and Patrick Caulfield for Best Attendant. Congratulations to all winners and looking forward to seeing you all and more in 2014, please God.

Agatha Higgins



Swimmers with Lifeguards, Cian Conboy, Lisa Jordan, Megan Carroll and Claire Moran

BALLYHAUNIS ROCKERS 'KA TET'

2013 has been an absolutely incredible year for Ka tet. After finishing up our Irish tour in the late Summer of 2012 we set about recording our debut album in the Cold Room Collective studio in Granlahan. We spent almost three months recording and producing the album with the help of 'We Town Criers' guitarist Micheál Sheil. We had planned to release the album in February 2013, however, in the weeks before the planned release we were lucky enough to be signed to Irish indie record label "Ruby Music".

After signing to Ruby Music, we began to release a couple of singles from the album. "Let my Lady" was the first of these singles, the video for which was recorded in Michael Glavey's GAA pitch in Ballinlough by a local film crew called Phanto Films. The second single we released was "Bob N' Charlie". Both singles have done extremely well, and have both received extensive national and international radio play.

In late August of this year we released our debut album "ARCADIA" which has done far better than we ever hoped it would. We have received some incredible reviews from loads of bloggers and journalists both here and abroad. Probably the most famous fans of the album is rock legend 'Kim

Fowley', a Producer from LA, most famous for his work with 'The Runaways', 'KISS', 'Kris Kristofferson' and 'Cat Stevens'. Since hearing the album, Kim has decided to travel to the West of Ireland to work on some of the material for our second studio album in 2014. It's something we're very excited about and have begun work on the new material already.

In November of this year we will also be releasing our third single from "ARCADIA", a track called "Baby on the Brink". The video for this single we recorded primarily in MacSiúrtáins Bar in the heart of Ballyhaunis and some of the outdoor shots were shot just off Main Street, behind Eddie Murphy Menswear and Halpin's Florist. 90% of the cast were volunteers from Ballyhaunis as well, but we'll keep

their identity a surprise for now. This is going to be our biggest single this year and we're delighted that we were able to shoot the video in our hometown. We started our musical careers growing up in Ballyhaunis and love to get the opportunity to sustain that relationship. A big part of our relationship with the town these days is the Ballyhaunis Music Festival which we have been a part of for the past two years and we hope to continue to be involved in it as the festival grows in the future.

For now at least we are continuing to tour our album around Ireland and the UK and will be beginning our European tour in Spring 2014.

Tommy Concannon



Pictured L-R: Ronan Connaughton, Kyle Dee, Tommy Concannon.

Between You and Me

*Delaney's are looking for staff
I heard my father say
Sure he was told by Martin Flanagan
At work that very same day*

*I knew the message was meant for me
For laziness he couldn't take
When he mentioned work
With rod-and-line it was straight for Erritt Lake*

*Interview only took minutes
Everything nice and calm
I told the truth, no interest in school
Never sat an exam*

*Next day I received a message
Another had filled the place
It was not what he expected
I was back again in the race*

*I can see the late Paddy Walshe
As he cycled up our lane
George sent a message with Paddy
Position was vacant again*

*Sure I knew nothing of Business
Too timid to ask for a hand
Made up my mind to try my best
I wasn't going back to the land.*

*Fair play to Margaret and David
Very helpful and kind
Billy, Phyllis and Joe in the Oak
Their likes not easy to find*

*Mistakes were always made light of
Criticism not in the plan
Admit you were wrong was all you did
Go back where you first began*

*Deliveries were part of our duties
Sorting and weighing left to me
When Austin and I set out on our run
First call was to Joan for the tea*

*On Fair Days we opened at seven
George looked after the bar
I opened the gate, let in the bikes
For very few had a car*

*As I got to know the locals
I began to settle in
Soon it was Peter Moran's
Darts, a tonic and gin*

*The yard was filled with stakes and wire
Gates, troughs - nothing fancy
Who could believe they would be replaced
With Petunias, Lobelia and Pansies*

*Customers are most important
Got to keep this in mind
A friendly word and good service
They'll return again you will find*

*I have seen a great many changes
In my forty years plus three
Perhaps I would be in a foreign land
If not for George and Marie.*

Seamus Hora

Annagh 2014

**The deadline for contributing articles and
photographs for Annagh 2013 is Friday,
October 17th, 2014.**

Email: 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.

BALLYHAUNIS GAATHERING

31ST AUGUST 2013

At the beginning of the year the Executive Committee of Ballyhaunis GAA Club decided to hold an event to celebrate "2013 - The Year of the Gathering".

A committee was formed with responsibility for organising a club day where past and present members would be invited back home to Ballyhaunis to celebrate our club and our community.

The Committee – Seamus Caulfield, Fr. Stephen Farragher, Johnny Biesty, Ned Murren and Tommy Caulfield – initially planned to organise a reunion of the 1988 County Intermediate Winning Team. However, when we thought this idea over we felt that Ballyhaunis GAA Club and its history merited a bigger celebration.

After many meetings, it was decided to gather as many photographs, newspaper articles, club memorabilia, etc. as possible and to hold an exhibition in the clubhouse on the last weekend in August. Over the summer months the committee were inundated with photographs and many other articles and items of interest for our exhibition.

To get the Ballyhaunis GAATHERING underway the committee organised a novelty match between the Current U-14 team – 2013 East Mayo Champions - and the "Team of '88".

Ballyhaunis U-14s: Aiden Byrne, Charlie Phillips, Cormac Phillips, Diarmuid Phillips, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield, Gary Higgins, Oisín Henry, Piarais Caulfield, Cian Henry, Joshua Webb, Barry Cribben, John Reidy, Eamon Phillips, Darren Maughan.

'88 Team: James Reidy, Paddy Phillips, Tony Waldron, Tommy Caulfield, Billy Phillips, Johnny Cribben, Val Byrne, Kevin Henry, Richard Phillips, Seamus Caulfield, Brian Murray, David Fitzgerald, Brendan O'Hagan, Eamon Cunnane.

This was a hotly contested game which was narrowly won by the more experienced team of '88. The big crowd thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition of old style "catch and kick" football from a very fit bunch of Ballyhaunis men, who 25 years earlier, had won the County title and still clearly took great pride in wearing their favourite Red and Black jerseys.

The Exhibition was officially opened and blessed by Fr. Stephen and a crowd of over 300 people, young and old, past and present members gathered in the Clubhouse to celebrate the Club and its history.

Light refreshments were served and it was great to see so many past members and people who have made their homes in other communities, counties and countries returning home to Ballyhaunis and to their Club.

Later on that evening, in The Oak Bar, a great crowd gathered to watch a video of the 1988 final where every score, hard tackle and good play was loudly cheered on by family and friends. This video also contained footage of the after match celebrations and it was sad yet pleasurable to see so many people from the community who have since



The Ballyhaunis Intermediate Football team, County Champions 1988.

Back, L-R: Michael Phillips, Richard Phillips, Tommy Caulfield, Brendan O'Hagan, Paddy Phillips, David Fitzgerald, Eamonn Cunnane, Tony Morley.
Front: Ivan Freeley, James Reidy, Val Byrne, Tommy Moran, Brian Murray, Billy Phillips, Johnny Cribbin.

passed on in great spirits on such a joyous occasion. Many thanks to John Prenty who went to a lot of trouble in sourcing the video and transferring it to DVD.

The committee would like to thank all the people who contributed to our special GAATHERING events and would especially like to thank Fr. Stephen for his effort and expertise.

The photographs are now a permanent feature on the

walls of our clubhouse and for a nominal fee, any of the photographs can be reproduced and reprinted.

It is also possible to get a copy of the video, again for a nominal fee, of the '88 final by contacting any of the committee members.

Up the Haunis!

Seamus Caulfield
(Chairman, GAATHERING Committee)



Ballyhaunis Intermediate County Champions, 1988 versus Ballyhaunis Under-14 Footballers, 2013 East Mayo Champions.

Back, L-R: Richard Phillips, Paddy Phillips, Val Byrne, Eamonn Cunnane, James Reidy, Billy Phillips, Johnny Cribbin, Seamus Caulfield, Kevin Henry, Tony Waldron, Tommy Caulfield, Brian Murray.

Front: Charlie Phillips, Joshua Webb, Diarmuid Phillips, Aiden Byrne, Eamonn Phillips, Darren Maughan, Gary Higgins, Oisín Henry, Conal Caulfield, Barry Cribbin, Patrick Caulfield, Tommy Maughan, Evan Henry.



Enjoying the GAATHERING.

Back, L-R:
Tommy Grogan,
Tedd Webb,
David Fitzgerald,
Brendan O'Hagan.

Centre:
Brendan Morrissey,
Tony Morley,
Billy Phillips,
Tony Waldron,
Seamus Caulfield,
Paddy Phillips,
Eamonn Cunnane.

Seated: Liam Lyons,
Val Byrne,
Tommy Caulfield,
Johnny Cribbin.

BALLYHAUNIS GOLF CLUB



The year 2013 was another successful and enjoyable one for the members and officers of Ballyhaunis Golf Club. The course continues to enjoy a reputation as the best 9-hole course in the West, due in no small part to the hard work and diligence of the greens-keeping staff in maintaining the course in tip-top condition. Of course, like every other club in the country, the Golf Club was not immune to the impact of the recent financial difficulties facing everyone, and we did suffer a reduction in the number of registered members in 2013. The Club is very fortunate to have a strong array of sponsors, including many local businesses, and we would like to record here our sincere and genuine appreciation for all of the support from sponsors and supporters in the past year. Without this kind of generous support the Club would really struggle to continue, and we urge all members and local people to support these local businesses in any way they can.

As well as running competitions and supporting members within the Club, we also took part in inter-club competitions run by the GUI and the ILGU. Alas, it was not a very successful year on the competitive front, as we did not progress to the final stages of any adult competitions. It was left to our Juniors to fly the flag for the Club, and they certainly did not let us down!

On August 15th, we celebrated the success of two of our Junior members, after Andrew Hickey became the U-14's Connacht Champion winning the U-14's Connacht Close with his fellow Ballyhaunis Golf Club member Evan Henry runner-up.

Andrew Hickey, 14 year old son of James and Mary Hickey of Greenwood, is a member of the Ballyhaunis Golf Club, having taken up golf four years ago and availing of the Junior Golf programme offered by club members. Andrew's natural ability shone through at an early stage and was selected three years ago for The Connacht Development Coaching under Hugh O'Neill, Lesley Robinson and Aidan Moran. Since then Andrew has excelled under their exclusive coaching and has achieved a handicap of 5. Andrew will be found at Ballyhaunis Golf Club in all weathers all year round most of his free time; with his love of the game, dedication and practice he has dropped an astronomical 10 shots this year. He plays in all club competitions and has a considerable number of wins in his home club, including winning the coveted Junior Captains Prize this year. This summer he has competed in

The Connacht Open, the Leinster Open, the Munster Open, and the Ulster Open and qualified to play in The Boys U15 Irish Open in Waterford.

Evan, 14 year old son of Alan and Niamh Henry of Annagh, finished runner-up in Castlebar on a score of 3 over par 74. Evan has also attended Connacht GUI underage coaching, having first come through the coaching qualification system at just 8



Prizewinners in the President's Prize (Kay Curley) at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.
Standing, L-R: Cian Henry, Liam Lynskey, Martin Keane, Paul Hickey, Tony Grennan, Steven Ryall, John Mooney. Seated: Pat Curley, Margaret Dyer (Winner Ladies Prize), Kay Curley (President), John Jordan (Winner Men's Prize), John Burke.
Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.

years of age. In 2011, Evan won the prestigious Marian Coyne Tournament in Strandhill Golf Club, which is an under 18s competition. He also plays off a single-digit handicap.

Both boys are product of the club's Junior Golf programme, which has also seen the emergence of a number of other talented young golfers in the Club recently.

Club Captain Michael Lyons was naturally delighted with the most recent success of Andrew and Evan: "Our Junior Golf programme has been developed and given greater emphasis over recent years, to the point where we have close to 100 junior golfers attending our summer golf coaching every Wednesday. This bodes very well for the future of golf in Ballyhaunis. We would all like to congratulate both boys on their success and wish them every success in the future."

The club continues to run competitive, fundraising and social events, including a duck race, the annual club Am-Am, a weekly 50/50 draw and during the winter months there may be a '25 Drive'. Again, thanks to all who support these activities and an invitation to all who wish to get involved to please do so. We offer golf tuition courses for beginner adults/non-golfers and for juniors during the summer months and newcomers are always welcome and encouraged to discover the great game of golf.

Club Principal Officers for 2013:

Captain – Michael Lyons, **Lady Captain** – Joan McGuire, **President** – Kay Curley, **Secretary** – Liam Rochford, **Treasurer** – Ja Henry.

Winners of Principal Club competitions in 2013:

Captain's Prize – Tom Fanning Jnr., **Lady Captain's Prize** – Phil Glynn, **President's Prize** – John Jordan (Gents), Margaret Dyer (Ladies), **Golfer of the Year** – Tom Dillon (Gents), Kung Fanning (Ladies), **Dillon Mixed Foursomes** – Derek Walsh and Mary H. Morris.



Michael Lyons (Captain, Ballyhaunis Golf Club) with Andrew Hickey and Evan Henry, Junior members of Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.



Joan McGuire (Lady Captain 2013) with past captains on her Lady Captain's Day.

Standing, L-R: Norrie Dillon, Kay Curley, Helen Cleary, Ann Curley, Mary Frances Cleary, Anne Freeley, Marina Coyne, Roisín Hill, Nuala Fitzgerald, Mary Dillon.

Seated: Margaret Dyer, Kay Buckley, Phil Glynn, Joan McGuire, Jenny Glynn, Laurena Freeley and Fiona Prenty.

Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.



Prizewinners in the Captain's Prize (Michael Lyons) competition at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Standing, L-R: David Murphy, Pat Freeley, Tom Moran, John Burke, Pat Feeney, Andrew Hickey, Brian Phillips.

Seated: Anthony Cunnane, Anne Cunnane (winner of Captain's Prize to Ladies), Michael Lyons (Captain), Tom Fanning (winner) and Pat Curley.

Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.



Prizewinners in the Lady Captain's Day Competition at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.



WHY DID I WEAR THIS BLOOMING THING?

Eoin Butler reluctantly steps out dressed head to toe in one of this summer's hottest trends from men – florals...

Of all titles in the Bob Dylan songbook, his *Ballad of a Thin Man* might seem a rather (ahem) odd choice to have stuck in my head right now.

It's Friday evening. It's past 5pm. And the capital's office drones are spilled out on to the city streets, sipping drinks and soaking up the sun. For reasons unclear, this rotund reporter is walking among them: a bald Adonis, decked out in a floral shirt and shorts (from the Mantaray range at Debenhams). This look, I'm told, is set to be the hottest summer fashion craze for men.

Yet the refrain playing on a loop in my head is not a soothing one.

"Something is happening here," it says. "And you don't know what it is. Do you, Mr Butler?" Frankly, I have no idea why I agreed to wear these clothes. I have no idea if they really are set to be hottest summer fashion craze for men. Hell, I'm not even convinced these items belong in the men's section of a department store. Could this entire misadventure be a practical joke at my expense?

The fashion editor insists that florals are in style for men this season. She tells me 'boy wonder' Christopher Kane has eulogised the English rose and emblazoned it on trousers, shirts and T-shirts. That Givenchy and Riccardo Tisci quickly followed suit.

Unfortunately, I have no idea who any of those people are or what any of that means.

When it comes to fashion, I tend to defer to the wisdom of others. Specifically, my grandmother, who buys about 75pc of my jumpers.

But strolling through the capital today, and witnessing

the candid reactions of most ordinary Dubliners, I've decided to trust my gut in this case. And my gut is telling me this is the stupidest outfit I have ever worn in my entire life.

Urgh, I look like a Hawaiian pimp or a shower curtain come to life.

Fortunately I have Ronan, the photographer, along to provide moral support. "Yeah, you look pretty stupid all



Eoin Butler blooming.

right," he concedes, with very little prodding.

Ronan is shooting photos to accompany this piece. He wants pictures of me hanging out in ordinary Dublin haunts, in order to perpetuate the bogus notion that these are clothes a sane person might possibly consider wearing voluntarily.

Our first stop is Grogan's on South William Street. I selected this bohemian bar, in part, because it's one of my favourite places in Dublin. But mostly because it's somewhere you could walk into with blood gushing from your eyeballs and no one would pay a blind bit of heed.

Unfortunately, Grogan's is full to capacity this evening. So I mosey onward to the more genteel environs of Peter's Pub, a few doors up. I get a few strange looks and double takes from pedestrians along the way. One young man appears to laugh right in my face. However, he's wearing earphones. So I wouldn't discount the possibility that he is listening to a hilarious comedy podcast.

"Hey, Butler!" someone yells.

I keep my eyes fixed firmly on the footpath ahead.

“Are you going to the beach, Eoin?” someone else chips in.

It’s funny: if I was stuck for a few quid, I could walk in circles around Dublin all day without running into a familiar face. But throw on a figure-hugging, delph-printed matching shorts and shirt combo and the city resembles a living episode of ‘This Is Your Life’. (Do you remember THIS guffawing voice?)

In Peter’s Pub, I immediately spot two old acquaintances at a table. I take a seat at the bar and studiously try to avoid making eye contact with them. At first, I think I’m doing rather well on that front. Then it dawns on me they’re avoiding my gaze just as determinedly. Oh God, they probably think I’ve joined a cult or something.

I pretend to drink a pint of Heineken for the camera. If the resulting photos convey any sense that I’m relaxed, or enjoying myself, then I’m a better actor than I thought. Because it’s an excruciating experience.

Our next photo location is the Paddy Power bookmakers on Wexford Street. I chose this premises because I’ve never been inside a bookies shop in my life, so surprise reunions with old friends and enemies seem less likely to occur.

And so it proves. There are about six people present. All male. No acquaintances. One of the men standing next to me reeks of urine. Ordinarily, that would repulse me. But in the circumstances, I find it reassuring. I would say the vibe here right now is non-judgmental.

It’s just a pity horse racing is so brutally boring or I’d hang around all day.

At one point, as I prepare to leave, I catch a glimpse of myself in the mirror and wonder if this whole floral smock idea might grow on me over time. After all, when I heard that Christmas jumpers were making a comeback a few years ago, I’d have bet the house against it happening. Might I not find that I am similarly mistaken about this?

Well, I could drag the suspense out for a few minutes, ‘X Factor’ style, if you like. But the short answer is no. I sincerely doubt it.

Our final port of call is Stephen’s Green. It seems like an ideal location to take photographs: ducks, bandstands, flowerbeds.

As it turns out, however, wide-open spaces also provide an exponentially larger number of people an opportunity to point and stare in my direction. Which many citizens duly take the opportunity to do.

I find an occupied bench, sit down and pose dejectedly for the camera. Ronan asks me to stare into the sky. I begin to wonder how I’m going to get home to change when this is over.

The Luas red line service was heavily populated by glue-sniffers and toddlers in lipsticks on the way in. I’m not sure I could survive a return journey.

“Up,” says Ronan. “Keep looking up.”

I fix my gaze upon a tiny jumbo jet, snailing a path across the bright blue sky. I imagine I’m onboard, journeying to an imaginary land in which I, or any other thirtysomething man in his right mind, would seriously consider attempting something called the ‘China boy look’.

When I come to, I’m back sitting on a bench in the real world, where I’m dressed like an idiot and a couple of teenagers are openly sniggering at me.

Will I make it home in one piece dressed like this? Yes, I probably will. But will this ridiculous get-up prove the fashion craze of the summer? I seriously, seriously doubt it.

Eoin Butler

Eoin Butler, Doctor’s Road, was named “Feature Writer of the Year” at the 2013 National Newspaper of Ireland (NNI) Awards held recently. The judging panel said he showed a “natural capacity for storytelling that went beyond the conveying of the facts to bring readers further into the heart of stories ranging from the deadly serious to the downright hilarious.”

The above article was first published in the Irish Independent Weekend, 4th May 2013.

Eoin is a freelance journalist and contributor for The Irish Times and Irish Independent newspapers. He has also written for The Guardian, The Global Mail and is a regular guest on Newstalk FM. You can follow him on Twitter or read his very entertaining blog “Tripping Along The Ledge” at www.eoinbutler.com. Eoin has recently been included in a Penguin Ireland collection entitled “Great Irish Reportage”, published at the end of September 2013. His featured article, “For God and St. Patrick”, was written for Mongrel magazine in September 2007. This anthology includes work by many of the greatest Irish writers including Myles na gCopaleen, Patrick Kavanagh, Kate O’Brien, Mary Holland, Con Houlihan, Olivia O’Leary, Kevin Myers and Colm Tóibín.

NINETY-FOUR YEARS YOUNG



Johnnie McGarry

On a Sunday night last June I felt very privileged to be among a crowd of people who had gathered together to celebrate Johnnie McGarry's 94th birthday. Delaney's Oak Bar was the perfect setting for this wonderful occasion. Myself and my friend were lucky to get a seat right beside the music. Right in the centre of a wealth of talented musicians is Johnnie with his

violin. Beside him is the man with the cap, Paddy Joe Tighe; Connie Gildea, the ultimate master of the button key; Paddy Lyons, who put Gurrane on the musical map as a violinist; Johnnie's son and his daughter on keyboard with singing talent of the highest quality and a young woman with a piano accordion completed the list of musicians. All that is needed now is add Moira Delaney to the mix and you've got it – a showpiece too good to be missed!

Digging deep into the archives of Michael Coleman and company, reel and reel, jig after jig, memories of sixty and seventy years ago come flooding back of the days of the céilí house, when we used to dance ourselves sick until four

o'clock in the morning. It's quite fair to say that when our musicians here tonight hang up their instruments for the last time, nights like this will be non-existent. The pop scene of today is slowly but surely choking the traditional talent of our forefathers and their forefathers before them. But for tonight, come west along the road to the Oak Bar and immerse yourself in this feast of traditional music being dished up by Johnnie McGarry and his musical friends.

A short break for refreshments, courtesy of the management gives the musicians a welcome break. After a smashing pint of the black stuff we all settle down again and now Johnnie is asked to do what he does best – a couple of songs. You would hear a pin drop as he launches into that all-time favourite "Pat Murphy's Meadow". For me this is the showpiece of the night. How many people here tonight know the real story behind this song? A handful or less! It's the story of the scythe. In far-off bygone days, it was the only method of harvesting the hay and the corn. Each scythe had to be set to suit the farmer using it. Straight pole, crooked poke, adjustable 'doirnín's to suit the reach from one hand to the other; grass nail designed to hold the pole and blade together; the measurement in this case was the exact measurement from the man's hip to tip of the blade. A beautiful song, provided, of course Johnnie is singing!

He follows that up with another gem. They seem to call it "Lovely Derry"; I only knew it as "The Banks of the Foyle". Johnnie's version of the song is priceless: the story of a young lad, his heart bleeding, leaving for a foreign land to earn enough money to build a mansion for himself and his beautiful girlfriend, promising her that he will come back and they will be together forever.

Thanks Johnnie, for the wonderful memories we will take away from this, your special night, and long may you live to repeat it. Ninety-four years young. Wow, I wish I had the recipe!

Tony Carney

IN THE NAME OF GOD

Our forefathers were very aware of the presence of God in their lives and when you went to church the ladies sat on one side of the aisle. In those days the ladies wore headgear of some sort be it hat, scarf or such like, as a sign of respect. This stipulation was later relaxed. On the opposite side sat our gentlemen who, on entering the church, removed their caps, hats and such like as a mark of respect in church.

All work in those days was done in six days and began "In the name of God". No work was done on Sundays. It was known as the Lord's Day, and that it surely was as

everyone welcomed each other on this day, and many visited their neighbours and always the sick in the area. They were wonderful people as they wished each other well. There was no talk of depression back then as people were very helpful and they looked out for each other. The word recession was not as yet invented and people did not know what it meant – and maybe it is just as well.

When working in the fields or on the bog they were often within the sound of church bells and come twelve mid-day and again at six o'clock they removed their head gear to say the Angelus. Everything started and ended in the name of God. Of course at the end of day the Rosary was said. Is it any surprise they made out in their own time? What beautiful customs and what a shame to lose them.

James Hunt, Kilmovee

BALLYHAUNIS CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed so generously for the upkeep and maintenance of the Cemetery throughout the year. This year the annual Cemetery Mass took place on Sunday, 14th July, with a huge attendance. This was the first time in years that we did not need a canopy over the altar as the weather was perfect. The committee would like to thank Martin and Martina Gavin and family for erecting the altar and providing seating for the large crowd.

We would also like to thank Gavin Undertakers for donating the memorial stone in memory of all those buried in unmarked graves. We would also like to compliment all those who continue to maintain their graves to such a high standard. If there is anyone with ideas of improvements or enhancements to the cemetery please contact any member of the committee.

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

John Halpin



A BUTCHER'S DILEMMA

It's the cattle fair day, 19th December, so we can afford the luxury of a few chops from Cribben's butcher shop. Selling a couple of cattle or pigs always ensured we could have a bit of fresh meat, a welcome change from the home-cured bacon. Let's enjoy it while we can, and it's only on days like this we can afford it.

Cribben's was always noted for quality meat; throw in the fact that our family is closely related to them, so we are guaranteed nothing but the best. The key factor behind the good quality meat was, of course, Mick McDonnell, RIP. As well as tending to his farm, he worked for Cribben's, full time. He was always seen among the sheep on a fair day outside Aleck Greens and Trush Freeley's buying lambs for the butcher shop. Digging his hand into the lamb's back, Mick knew exactly what he was looking for: too fat, too thin or just right? The local sheep farmers knew all about Mick and always tried to produce the quality lamb he required.

A Strange Customer

One particular day a woman called to the shop and told Mick she wanted twenty-one pound weight of meat. "Beef

or mutton?" Mick asked. "It's doesn't matter", she replied, "as long as it's twenty-one pounds weight and all in one lump." "I have nothing that size in the shop. I'll go outside and I'll be back as soon as I can." Mick cut a wedge of beef from a heifer's hind quarters and was hoping it would be about the correct weight. He put it on the weighing machine and believe it or not, just half a pound too much! "Cut the half pound off", says she. "I only want the twenty-one." Mick took off the half pound. No plastic bags that time for wrapping meat – strong brown paper with a sheet of grease proof around the meat – and, as he was about to parcel it up, she said she needed a good look at it first. "That's wonderful", she said. "Thank you very much." "I'll carry it out to the car if you open the boot." "Arra", she said, "I don't want it at all a ghrá." Up to this, Mick had kept the cool but, on hearing this, he went berserk! "After going outside and doing my best to satisfy you; weighing it, taking a piece off it and parcelling it, that's my thanks? You don't want it?" "I'm so sorry", says she, "sure it's only how I wanted to have a good look at it. I should have explained to you it's how I'm going to a slimmin' class for the last year and I knocked off twenty-one pounds weight and I wanted to know what it looked like in a lump. But seeing how you went to so much trouble, I'd keep it only I'm a vegetarian!"

Who'd want to be a butcher!

Tony Carney

CLASS OF 1988 25 YEAR REUNION

Laura Burke, Anna Coen,
Helen Murphy, Mary Webb.



Martina Glennon, Julie Bermingham,
Lily Ruane, Niamh McHugh,
Geraldine Gormley.



Philomena Phillips, Anna Coen,
Maria Conway, Bernie Dowdall.



Karen Hunt, Kieran Garvey, Brendan
Morley, Caroline Garrity.





Drama

(Left): The Cast of "Try Anything - Twice!" (by William Rocke), St. Patrick's Drama Society, Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Noel Armstrong, Jackie Caulfield, Pat Doyle (Director) Adrian Murray, Mike Griffin (Sound and Props) Tom Colleran. Seated: Katrina Sweeney, Lydia Biesty, Marie Heneghan. *Pics: Glynn's Photography.*

(Below): Katrina Sweeney getting smelling salts from Adrian Murray in "Try Anything - Twice!" A great comedy by William Rocke staged by St. Patrick's Drama Society, Ballyhaunis. Also pictured are Jackie Caulfield and Lydia Biesty.



Graduation

John McDonagh, Grallaghgarden, after his recent graduation from IT Sligo with an Honours Degree in Industrial Design.



Ballyhaunis Active Retirement Group

on a visit to Strokestown House, June 2013.

Back, L-R: Bridget Hanley, Ann Kelly, Mary Reilly, Ann McCormack.

Front, L-R: Hubert and Bridget Croughan, Phil Ryan, Maura Fitzmaurice, Margaret Kenny, Máisín Meath, Kathleen Caulfield.

BALLYHAUNIS GATHERING

A MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATION

In the 2011 Census, Ballyhaunis was singled out as having the highest percentage of non-Irish nationals living there. With over 2,000 non-nationals living here – some 42% of total population – this makes the East Mayo town one of the most cosmopolitan and most diverse of any other location in the country.

The Gathering Pageant, held in Ballyhaunis on Saturday, 24th August, was a celebration of this multi-cultural diversity. Parish natives were joined by citizens from Eastern Europe, Africa, USA, and the Middle East on what was an unique and colourful occasion for the community and its people.

Chief co-ordinator Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P., admitted that he had many sleepless and restless nights in the run up to this spectacular event. He needn't have worried. All worked perfectly well, with every little detail coming together on the day. The historic townland of Holywell was the setting for the Pageant, where St. Patrick baptised the first Christians here at this Holy Well, or Tobar Mucno, over 1,500 years ago.

At the outset, Ballyhaunis native and well-known local historian, Fr. Kieran Waldron gave an outline of the history and significance of the Holywell site: "The 7th century writer Tireachán refers to his journey southwards from Mannin (Achadh Mór) to a well called Mucno, which is

believed to be this very well. We are celebrating today our heritage and our diversity. Our present Irish nation incorporates much diversity through many centuries – the influence and contribution of foreigners – like St. Patrick – himself, a foreigner from Gaul or Britain, the Vikings, the Normans, the English and in modern times, the rich diversity of many nations, especially Pakistan and Syria, Eastern Europe, and Africa. All are part of the stream of what we inherit. You have all added to the fabric of our society and you are all part of this Gathering", he said.

Following on from Fr. Kieran's presentation, it was drama at its best, as the story of the coming of Christianity and the development of the Ballyhaunis parish to its present day was acted out with great precision; St. Patrick's coming among us, with local bar-tender John Morley, in the role of the saint, the arrival of the Augustinians in 1348, the development of the parish church, house and convent, with the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy, under the direction of Fr. John Canning, in 1901.

Midwest Radio's Paula Donnellan gave a commentary through the proceedings, bringing her listeners through the town's most colourful history, through to the advent of the Muslim community in 1972, and later the arrival of East European and African natives in the more recent years.

Music for the occasion was also in great supply, with 94 years old Johnny McGarry, in top form as he sang from his vast repertoire of Irish songs, accompanied by his family and fellow musicians.

All in all, this Gathering was one great occasion; one in which this diverse community stepped out in style and in colour, in celebration of our heritage, our faith and our togetherness. An occasion to be savoured and remembered for many's a long day to come.

Mike Byrne



Members of Ballyhaunis Foróige who took part in the Gathering Pageant - Celebrating our Heritage and Diversity.

Standing L-R: Michelle Grogan, Aoife Conway, Claire Fahey, Aoife Mulrennan, Shauna Murray, Nadine Mangan, Chloe Ryan, Olivia Cleary, Marina Carney, Danielle Coyne, Laura O Connell, Chloe Naughton.
Front row L-R Emma Nolan, Anna Naszkierska, Aoife Nolan, Leanne Henry, Saoirse Caulfield.

Gathering Pageant





Photographs by Fr. Stephen Farragher

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival Traditional Fair Day



THE GREAT BARRIER RIFT

Now in case you might think it's some magical underwater place off the coast of Australia, you can forget it. Bear with me while I tell you the story.

In the spring of 1987 my good friend, the late Frank Leonard, asked me if I would be interested in a part time job at the security gate of Halal Meats. Being an odd job man with a lot of irons in the fire, the thought of a few extra pounds tempted me to say yes. Little did I realise what I was letting myself in for!

The interview with the general manager, Mr. Clarke, goes well. Tomorrow I will start work and he makes some changes to operating the barrier. In future no cars allowed through the barrier! Lorries and vans connected to the meat plant are all I must allow to use the entrance.

As I take up my position in the hut, the fairy tale is about to begin; first lorry of meat leaving, empty artic returning. Just as I enter up departures and arrivals in the ledger for the day, a car approaches the barrier. A lady gets out of the car and attacks me verbally. After she has burned herself out I tell her, "Sorry ma'am, no admittance in future for cars". "You will hear me say more soon. I will have you sacked!" "I only started this day job two hours ago!" As she reverses back out, things settle down and I think to myself, "that'll teach her".

Next, Mr. Clarke arrives at the hut. Then I know she reported me. "Did you refuse that woman entry to the yard?" "Yes", says I, "And she didn't like it one bit". "She is one of the Rafique family. I'll give you the number of her car and don't refuse her in future. She doesn't call often". For the next couple of hours everything is fine and I'm delighted with my new job. In a few hours I'll have my first day behind me. One hundred percent success ... or is it? Hold on, another car approaching; another lady driver, but I think I can handle this one. She is Irish; the other lassie was a foreigner. "You'll have to sling your hook Ma'am. No more cars allowed through this barrier", says I with an air of confidence. Well, she came down on me like a ton o'bricks. "I'll have you know that my husband and two sons work here. One of my lads drives a lorry and I'm bringing him a change of bed linen for the cab." "Look ma'am", says I. "You can bring the bed and the mattress, along with the linen, but you're not going into the yard. And furthermore, if you wish to report me at the office, you just go and do that." She slammed the car door shut and headed into the office. I shout after her to remove the car but she ignores me. Sometime later she comes out and she has Mr. Clarke with her. "This woman says you refused her to take her stuff into the yard", says he. "This is the truth", says I "and she



Tony Carney on Croagh Patrick for the thirty-seventh time, with his best friend Pat Morris and his sister Margaret.

was not too happy about it. "You will suspend the rule forthwith and let all cars through for now. I will review the situation and let you know the outcome." Twenty-six years later I still meet this woman regularly and she loves to talk about the day I refused her entry.

There is only one hour left of my first day: I finish at 9.30 pm. Just when I think nothing else can go wrong the fancy car that I refused entry to in the morning has pulled up right beside the barrier. This time I recognise the driver as Mr. Rafique. He hops out of the car and comes into the hut. "You are new here Mr. Tony", says he. "Yes Sir", says I, expecting the sack (and not even one day completed!) "Mr. Tony, you take my car and drive up to my new house. There is a roll of fibre glass in the boot and you give it to the plumber and bring back my car, Mr. Tony." "I will do no such thing", I says, "I have never driven a car in my life. You can see my auld 35 tractor out on the road. If I take that car and damage it, you will sack me. One way or another, I won't drive it." "You have no problem, Mr. Tony", says he, and he pushes the keys into my hand and heads into the office. I'm almost certain he is standing inside the window, watching me. The night watchman is coming on shift and I call him to show me how to start the car. "It's automatic", says he. "I don't know the first thing about it. I'm sorry." At that moment, the secretary is coming out the office door and I ask her to show me, or, better still, drive me up to the new house. She explains what I have to do and she reverses the car out past the barrier. "Keep your foot off the accelerator, and you will have no problem." There I am, on my own, with this fancy car and I'm certain that Mr. Rafique is having fun watching me through the office window. I do as the young girl told me and off I go at about five miles an hour. I land back safely, only to find Mr. Rafique standing at the office door. "You are a very good driver, Mr. Tony", says he. But I know in my heart that he is only "taking the wee-wee. We give you one hour overtime, Mr. Tony." Mission accomplished!

Just as I head for my tractor, a young fellow in a white

coat shouts my name. "We are two men short, so you must count a lorry load of sheep before you go. Write down the exact number of lambs in your worksheet for inspection in the morning." "Do you take me for a spanner short of a full set or are you trying to wind me up, because, if you are, I do very bad wind-ups!" "Make sure", says he, "you get the exact figure, but let me warn you, it's quite tricky." I decide to count the sheep, but if tomorrow turns out anything like today, there will be a vacancy for a security officer at this entrance tomorrow. I ask the lorry driver to count the lambs for me and he says he only counts sheep at night for going

to sleep and he can't afford to go to sleep on the job! Well that about sums up my day. I start the count when the lambs jump out of the truck and I believe I'm doing well until two lambs double back into the lorry! When the last lamb jumps out I figure ten lambs went back in and I just deduct the ten from my final tally. I enter up the total in my worksheet and it was never questioned after.

First day complete! Next day goes without a hitch, as do the next twelve months when I decide to pack it in. Far too static for me!

Tony Carney

"COLLECT THE FRAGMENTS"

The Biography of an Almost Forgotten Scholar

The name Dr. Michael F. Waldron is well known to regular readers of Annagh over the years, his writings having been referenced or reproduced in many issues since the magazine's foundation in 1978. Little has been published about the man himself, however... until now.

The story of this gifted writer, historian and dramatist is well told in the biography, "Collect the Fragments: Ballyhaunis Historian, Michael F. Waldron, LLD (1876-1954)" published last January (2013) by his friend and namesake Fr. Kieran Waldron.

This beautifully produced book runs to 64 pages and is enhanced throughout with photographs and other illustrations of historical importance – many in print for the very first time.

Dr. Waldron, better known locally as 'Michael P.A.' (a reference to his well-known brother, teacher / poet / humourist, P.A. Waldron), was a man of many and varied interests and talents. He wrote on a diverse range of topics, foremost amongst them being local history and archaeology – but including literature, politics, the Church, horticulture, economics, psychology, Bridge and the international language Esperanto – and was a regular contributor to local and national publications. He



Fr. Kieran Waldron speaking about the significance of Holywell at coming of Christianity to this Parish, at The Gathering Pageant, August 2013.

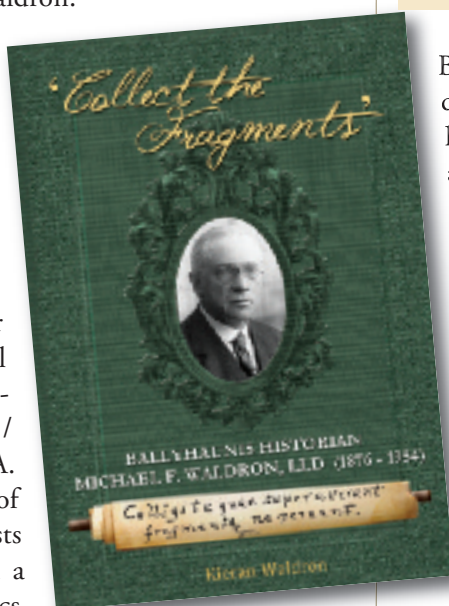
worked tirelessly for the promotion and development of Ballyhaunis and was involved in many local organisations, cultural, religious and commercial, for over fifty years up to the time of his death in 1954.

His collection of scrapbooks of press cuttings and photographs, reflecting the vast range of his interests, were preserved for posterity by Fr. Kieran's brother, the late Fr. Jarlath Waldron.

Those relating to

Ballyhaunis history and archaeology have now been digitised and are available to consult and examine in Ballyhaunis Library and the County Library, Castlebar, as well as Scoil Íosa Primary School and The Community School, Ballyhaunis.

This long overdue biography tells us much about a man who gave so much to Ballyhaunis through his scholarship. The author is one of a small number of people now living who knew Dr. Waldron personally, and who had the benefit of learning from him – at first-hand – the history of their native place. Fr. Kieran Waldron has succeeded in bringing this almost forgotten scholar to notice for present and future generations of Ballyhaunis people.



"Collect the Fragments: Ballyhaunis Historian, Michael F. Waldron, LLD (1876-1954)" may be purchased directly from the author, Fr. Kieran Waldron. For details, tel. (094) 9630246. It is also available on-line at www.mayobooks.ie

BALLYHAUNIS HARRIERS A GREAT ERA

I recently had occasion to meet with two brothers, Andrew and Brendan Nestor. Brendan lives in Cork now and Andrew lives in Dublin and meeting with them brought memories back to me of their father Michael. Michael was a barber and had his Barber Shop at The Square in Ballyhaunis.

Michael was a great sporting enthusiast and he was the driving force behind the formation of the Ballyhaunis Boxing Club and the Athletic Club. At the time there were many well known Athletic Clubs called "harriers" such as Clonliffe Harriers, Tullamore Harriers and Galway City Harriers etc. Why not "Ballyhaunis Harriers"? Initially the club developed when young men either through lack of competition at boxing or more likely the lack of competition at boxing, discovered that the boxing training in many ways mirrored long distance running training. There was almost instant success particularly with the likes of the late Pat Joe Cribbin, Frank Grealley and Pádraig Keane.

Pat Joe won a number of County Championship titles. Frank went on to break the Irish Junior 10,000 metre record (which amazingly still stands) and Pádraig Keane went on to win All Ireland Cross Country titles.

The Club went on to many more great successes and had numerous County, Provincial and indeed All Ireland Champions at almost every discipline in the sport. Names that immediately come to mind would include the Campbell brothers, Eddie and Hugh, Joe Freeley, the two Ted Webbs, Eamon Smyth, Antoinette Byrne, Olive Webb and Tommy Moran. There were also two other Club members who won All Ireland titles. They were Mick Sherry (later became an Irish International Rugby player) who won an All Ireland 110 metre hurdles and Cathal Gunning who won an All Ireland javelin title. Glory days indeed! I clearly remember the day we promoted the Mayo Cross-Country Championships in the Friary grounds. I had arranged to get posters printed and put them up all over the town. We had a very substantial admission fee (2 shillings and 6 pence). There was a big turnout but I clearly remember most of the crowd got up on the wall and didn't enter the field or pay the admission fee.

County Championship medals were provided for six events. Ballyhaunis Harriers had a strong

contingent of girls under 13 but the County Board did not realise that. Before I put up every single poster I wrote in on biro "girls under 13, ¾ mile".

The 8th of February of that year was a wet and miserable day. I viewed the proceedings from inside Tommy Smyth's car, which was parked outside the Scouts Den as I was at that time suffering from the effects of a serious injury.

Despite the inclement weather and the poor gate receipts, the event proved successful particularly as we provided the winner of the Men's Senior race.

As for the man who started it all, Michael Nestor, he moved with his family to Wexford. He died a relatively young man some years later, RIP.

Michael Joyce
Cork City and Doctor's Road



THE STORY OF 2GINGERS

You might remember a photo in the 2010 edition of *Annagh Magazine*, of Kieran Folliard formerly of Upper Main Street, holding the key to his new pub in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S.A. Well a lot has changed since then!

Founder of four popular Irish bars – Kieran's, The Local, The Liffey and The Cooper – Kieran sold his stake in the pubs in 2011 and left to launch his '2 Gingers' brand of Irish whiskey. He then sold that growing company to the Jim Beam Company in December 2012 and now serves as chief operating officer of 2 Gingers whiskey and chief US ambassador for all of Beam's Irish whiskey brands, including Kilbeggan, Tyrconnell, Greenore and Connemara. He told *Annagh Magazine* that he is currently travelling the U.S. as he launches 2 Gingers which will be in all 50 states by St. Patrick's Day!

The following is an article that appeared in *The Irish Times* of 12th April last, written by journalist Eoin Reynolds.

'Mayo Man sold Dairy Products in Saudi and set up a Whiskey brand in the States'

When his mother told him to get a job in the Civil Service, a teenage Kieran Folliard balked at the idea. So he went to Saudi Arabia to market dairy products and ended up in Minnesota where he set up four Irish pubs before launching his own brand of whiskey. '2 Gingers', as the whiskey is known, is expanding across the U.S. having started out as an exclusive brand for Folliard's pubs. It is a blend of whiskeys from the Cooley distillery in Co. Louth that was bought last year by Jim Beam.

From Ballyhaunis, Folliard caught the travelling bug early. *"In 1977, I got a great opportunity to go and work in the Middle East"*, he says, *"in Saudi Arabia with the McGuckian Brothers."* The McGuckians wanted to introduce dairy farming and produce to the desert lands of Saudi Arabia. *"They selected me because I kept harassing them to hire me. When I first applied for the job, I was turned down but I kept after them and eventually got an interview. I had a vision of how exotic it would be in Saudi Arabia to be launching a dairy product from a marketing position"*.

Folliard was inspired by what he saw: grass and crops growing on square patches in the desert, irrigated by water from the Jordanian mountains. *"It awoke something inside*



me that you just didn't have to do the normal things. My mother always said, get a nice steady job working in the civil service, so this experience was just something else. It opened me up to the possibilities and it set me up for a life of adventure, particularly as it relates to business."

In the 1980s he moved to Minnesota, where he worked for a company that provided senior management expertise to start-up companies. Having watched entrepreneurs follow their dreams, it was time to come up with an idea of his own. *"I thought, I'm going to start an Irish pub here in the Twin Cities. I had plenty of experience being in pubs – but that doesn't qualify you for a whole lot more than drinking and talking."* He wanted to set up landmark pubs with dedicated staff who would consider working for him to be their career rather than just a job. Therefore the pubs had to be large, with a high turnover, to attract the best in the business. *"Our value system was that our single greatest competitor was always going to be ourselves. Not the pub across the street or down the block. It was about our own level of curiosity and where we set our own bar so that we could lead from the front."*

He wanted to recreate a true Irish pub experience where community takes precedence. He employed craftsmen and talented designers to create a unique ambience, rather than the pre-fabricated Irish pub prevalent in the U.S. Over the years he had built four pubs, all in downtown Minneapolis. In 2006 Pernod Ricard told him he was the biggest seller of Jameson Whiskey in the city. *"When I heard that I became curious. So I asked them who is the biggest in America. They came back and said it was us. So I asked them, who is the biggest in the world? It took them 18 months but they came back and said we were number one in the world."*

Folliard had earlier met John Teeling, the man who revived the Cooley Distillery in Louth, so he asked him how much whiskey he would have to buy to set up his own brand. Teeling said 1,400 cases. Folliard was already selling 1,200 a year so he took the risk. The whiskey quickly became the pubs' biggest seller and, in 2011, Folliard

decided to sell his stake in the venture and work full-time promoting '2 Gingers' around Minnesota. Shortly after he had signed the papers, Cooley Distillery was bought by Jim Beam, a multinational spirits company. *"It was a concern. Cooley was the only distillery which was doing whiskey for people like myself."* But, having witnessed the rapid growth of 2 Gingers, Beam decided not to pull the plug. Instead, they bought the brand and employed Folliard as their Chief Operations Officer. His task is to expand 2 Gingers beyond Minnesota into other parts of America.

"You have to make your own luck in life. I get annoyed when people talk of the luck of the Irish. You bring your own luck." Folliard is impressed with the young Irish people he has employed as brand ambassadors in the U.S.A.



"All the young people that I have had here have a phenomenal talent. I can't describe the quality of education, their attitude. They are go-getters. It can't just be the people I have hired. It must be a reflection of a much broader base of people."

Kieran is married to Lisa and they have four children – daughters Vienna and India, and sons Seamus and Tyrone who both work for their father.

Sinéad Freyne

T2T's GATHERING – 31ST AUGUST 2013

Photograph taken outside the Court House, Main St., Ballyhaunis. Glynn's Photography Ballyhaunis/Castlerea



T2T's GATHERING

'Do you remember..... playing in the Fair Green? Getting a 10p ice cream in Tess Kelly's? Chips in Lilly Murphy's? Was Finn's a Cafe once?..... Was the old Credit Union Building a Shoemakers' Once?'

These were all comments passed nostalgically at a chance meeting over a pint in Paddy Phillips' last December, 2012. On that night the seed was sown for a reunion of Middle Main Street residents and their families – past and present. The idea was often mooted but never actioned. A decision was made to hold our own Gathering – 'T2T's – Terence's to Tesses' – with the inclusion criteria for participation being *'any person who ever lived on either side of the street from Tess Kelly's to Terence McHugh's.*

The year of the Gathering gave us the platform required to host such an event and so the first of many meetings, with a self appointed committee, was held in the first week of February 2013. This inaugural meeting consisted of a brainstorming session, where numerous ideas were floated and pints of Guinness were sunk! After much debate and discussion an agenda and plan was formulated – this was going to happen. Intensive research and trawling through numerous family homes and pictures, business premises, Garda stations and a financial institution allowed us to create a list of all the families who ever lived on *'Middle Main St'*. As the 31st August 2013 loomed closer and closer invitations and agendas were issued to all invitees for the celebrations. A request for any old photos was also included with the invitation.

The salad days of the Summer of 2013 produced a beautiful sunny weekend on 31st Aug 2013. Car registrations from Wexford, Cork, Donegal, Tipperary and

Dublin began to convene on Main St. With this a hastily booked flight from Manchester ensured that over 90 people arrived in the Marquee for the event. On the night, the three land-ladies of Paddy Phillips' were present: Úna Phillips, Maureen Flanagan and Breda Costello (nee Veldon) as well as Michael and Marie Horan, former owners of The Hazel. The celebrations commenced with a tree planting ceremony in the Church Yard where one member of each family put a shovel of clay onto the tree which was then blessed by Fr. Stephen Farragher. At 7pm that evening, proceedings started with a photograph taken of each family outside their former/present home. This was followed by a group photograph of all attendees. Proceedings then moved to the rear of Paddy Phillips', where an introduction/welcome was given by Tom Phillips (Committee Chairman), which was followed by an historical presentation and blessing for absent friends of Main Street – both conducted by Fr Kieran Waldron.

As conversations began to flow and old friendships were reignited the audience was treated to a photographic journey down memory lane as 150 photos were put on PowerPoint display. Nostalgic discussion, banter and tears were shared throughout the night as laughter and 'craic' began to fill the air. Songs such as ABBA's *'Dancing Queen'*, Joe Dolan's *'Good Looking Woman'* and the Saw Doctors' *'N17'* ensured that the timber of the marquee bounced along all night as one hour flew into the next.

T2T's was a very worthwhile event. Its success was guaranteed due to the participation and commitment of all involved. *'It was made by the people, for the people and all the people enjoyed it'.*

T2T Committee: Tom Phillips, Tomás Murphy, Trisha Finn, Trisha Grogan, Margie Phillips, Orla Phillips.

Tomás Murphy



Back, L-R: Patricia Grogan (Curran), Brian Phillips, Margie Phillips, Marie McGarrigle (Curran), Noel Phillips, Richard Phillips, Cathal Phillips, Padraic McHugh, Sarah Phillips. **Fourth Row:** Paul Finn, Luke Flanagan, Eamon Phillips, Caoimhe Phillips, Cillian Phillips, Clodagh Phillips, Richard Crosby, Michael Phillips, Tom Phillips, John Doyle, Luigi Hayden, Tommy Grogan, Celine Murray (Curran), Eithne O'Riordan (Curran), Bernadette Morrissey (Curran), Maire Curran, Deirdre O'Sullivan (Curran), Loretto Carney (Curran), Kathy McNulty (Phillips), Declan Phillips, Anne Phillips, Tommy Morrissey, Patrick Phillips, Peter McHugh, James McGarrigle, Billy Phillips, Orla Phillips. **Third Row:** Patricia Finn, Lisa Finn, Maggie Finn, Austin Finn, Dom Greally, Mary Kay Phillips, Laura Greally (Finn), Vicki Tighe, Paudge McCormack, Amy Tighe, Mary Tighe, Ava McCormack, Noreen Tighe, Pat Tighe, Alexander Tighe, Eithne Tighe, Tommy Moran, Tommy Curran, Philomena Koller (Phillips), Fr. Kieran Waldron, Miriam Winston (Murphy), Bernadine Mitchell (Phillips), Claire Phillips, Rita Meally (Murphy), Margaret Byrne, Patrick Mitchell, John Mitchell. **Seated:** Tom Finn, Chris Finn, Mary McHugh, Tracey Thompson (Phillips), Kathleen McHugh, Phyllis Phillips (Neary), Una Phillips, Maureen Crosby (Flanagan), Laoise Phillips, Nora Moran, Regina Moran, Cian Moran. **Front Row:** Lily Murphy, Aoife Murphy, Tomás Murphy, Muireann Phillips, Aine Phillips, Emer Murray, James Greally, Brian McHugh, Padraic McHugh, Kevin McHugh, Tara Phillips, Diarmuid Phillips, Eddie Murphy Jnr., Ted Murphy, Kirsty Allder, Maya Murphy.

CENTENARY IRELAND

BALLYHAUNIS IN 1913-14

Earlier this year I published a short biography of Dr. Michael F. Waldron, a man who did so much to inform us on the history of Ballyhaunis and who, in his lifetime, was such an influence in the development of the town¹. Just one hundred years ago he was active in the local branch of the United Irish League. The UIL was founded in Westport in 1898 with the motto 'the Land for the People' and was supported by the then Irish Parliamentary Party at Westminster. In a stirring address in Ballyhaunis Chapel Yard after Mass one Sunday in January 1911, Dr. Michael spoke about the necessity of keeping Ireland united and supporting the Irish Parliamentary Party in its efforts to achieve Home Rule. In a trenchant part of his speech he denounced the House of Lords for constantly using its power of veto on all things that were for the good of Ireland. He predicted that all the omens pointed to the success of the Home Rule Bill, once 'the claws of the Lords are clipped through the abolition of the absolute veto'. He spoke of 'rumblings in the North and the shrieks of its disappointed politicians there, angry and menacing. We are led to believe that the North is arming in fear and dread of Home Rule' (*Mayo News*, 14th Jan. 1911). In all of this Dr. Michael had his finger on the pulse of Ireland one hundred years ago.

If we think we can understand the extraordinary political developments during the War of Independence and can be so certain in our minds about the dreadful Civil War of 1922-23, we would do well to look again at those formative and chaotic years from 1911 to 1919. The Home Rule Bill was indeed introduced in 1912 but was followed by the backlash of the Ulster Covenant to oppose Home Rule. They set up the Ulster Volunteer Force to block it – at least for the 'six Plantation counties'. In this the Unionist extremists were aided by the fear and resulting chicanery of the British Government. The UVF were allowed to drill and even carry arms. Almost as a reprisal, a new force called 'the Irish Volunteers' – later called the 'Sinn Féin Volunteers', later still called the 'Irish Republican Army' – came into being outside Ulster. The Volunteers had members from many opposing factions: some strong supporters of the Irish Parliamentary Party, some from the struggling Sinn Féin movement founded in 1905, some from the Labour movement and, significantly, some from the undercover caucus called the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the remnants of the old Fenians of the 1860's. It was indeed a conglomeration of different agendas,

eventually leading to the a merging into the Sinn Féin movement, which, in the 1918 election, swept the boards and seceded to form an Irish Parliament in Dublin – the First Dáil.

The War of Independence was soon to start. No wonder that a Civil War arose after the granting of Independence since such diverse strains existed in the various movements fighting for dominance since 1913.

Patrick Moylett 1885- 1973

In the Bureau of Military History at Cathal Brugha Barracks in Dublin, now accessible on-line, there is the ninety-page file - 1513 of Witness No. 767 - an extraordinary document from a resident of Ballyhaunis which reveals so much of Ballyhaunis of 1914. The writer was one Patrick Moylett who operated a very successful business at 'Moylett's Corner' at the bottom of Main St, now the premises of the McGarry family. Moylett, a native of Crossmolina, had been trained in Harrods of London and he had also a family business in Ballina and later in Galway and London.

The Irish Volunteers

In another article in this issue of *Annagh*, Anthony Jordan summarises this important document. The first meeting of the Volunteers called by Michael Delaney of Knox St. in Donnellan's Hall, Barrack St., in July 1914 was just one day after the Howth gun-running episode. The Ballyhaunis Volunteers flourished for a time but, after the outbreak of World War One, John Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party urged the Volunteers to rally behind the British flag and go to the front in the war. The Ballyhaunis Volunteers split, as did many other branches throughout the country. Redmond had hopes that the Volunteers who stayed at home might even take the place of the contingents of the British army which might be released to the war-front. The National Volunteers, he thought, could keep the peace in Ireland in their place!

The vast majority of Irish people favoured Redmond's approach and, when the Volunteers split throughout the country, all but 13,000 out of the 188,000 Volunteers supported the Redmond line. In Ballyhaunis only Patrick Moylett and 'the three Waldrons' and a man called Maloney held out for the original purpose of the Volunteers which was to oppose the reduction or delay in implementing Home Rule, by then on the statute books but postponed to the end of the war. Who were the three Waldrons? They were P. J. of Knox St. and his first cousins John and Patrick Waldron of Abbey St. Later they were joined by George Delaney. A trawl through the *Western People* of 1914 indicates that all the talk was of Redmond's branch - now called the 'National Volunteers' – with almost no mention of the 'Irish Volunteers' favoured by Patrick Moylett and others. By September 1915 a total of 132,000 Irishmen

¹Collect the Fragments; Ballyhaunis Historian Michael F. Waldron , LLD (1876-1954) available from the author at Devlis, Ballyhaunis. (00 353 94 30246).



Paddy (left) and Jack Waldron (right), with their brother Richard and mother Cecelia, at their home in Abbey St., circa 1920.



P. J. Waldron (in later years), pictured right, with his brother-in-law Pat Keane (Tailor), also of Knox Street.

were fighting with the British Army. Though the Volunteers of both persuasions continued training and drilling exercises, the mood in Ireland was a long way from that of the sudden outburst of the Easter Rising of 1916. Even the President of the Volunteers, Eoin MacNeill, did not come to know of the planned rebellion until the day before Easter Sunday.

Friend and Envoy of Arthur Griffith

Moylett rose through the ranks of the branch of the Volunteers which, after 1916, became Sinn Féin. He was a member of the Árd Comhairle in Dublin and was especially close to Arthur Griffith and also to Michael Collins and Richard Mulcahy, but less so to Eamonn De Valera who

was in America when Moylett was at his most active in the Árd Comhairle.

Surprisingly, the many historians who record this period of Irish History, with the notable exception of Dominic Price in his wonderful book *'The Flame and the Candle – War in Mayo 1919-21'*, scarcely mention Patrick Moylett. However, we now know that he succeeded in negotiating with the highest level of Government, dealing in Downing Street with C. J. Philips, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Lloyd George. In the crucial period between October 1920 and the Anglo-Irish Truce of July 1921 Patrick Moylett was used by Arthur Griffith as his liaison person to deal with the British Government at the highest level – a classic back passage of negotiations which the British Government also used seventy years later in regard to the Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland.

For those eight months Moylett made up to two dozen trips to London on his secret mission, during which much of what transpired in the Anglo-Irish Treaty was hammered out. By then Moylett had transferred his business to Galway but Ballyhaunis had more than a little part in that major milestone in Irish History. An indication of his closeness to Griffith can be gleaned from what happened on the day the Anglo-Irish Treaty was being debated in December 1921 in the Mansion House in Dublin to which Moylett was one of very few admitted. He writes: "I went into the room where the Dáil was meeting and, when Arthur Griffith saw me, he walked down to me. There were tears running down his face". Griffith must have had a premonition that those eight months of negotiations through Moylett were at an end and a civil war was staring them in the face. Moylett wrote: "during the critical weeks of December 1921 I did my utmost to try and prevent the split in the republican ranks which was visible to all. I found that men who had taken no part in the national struggle were the most vociferous in their demands for upholding the republic. Consequently, I took no part whatsoever in the Civil War". He became a member of the short-lived political party Clann Éireann in 1926 and lived until 1973.

Patrick Moylett's full story cannot be told in this article. In fact he is a forgotten Irish patriot and really deserves a full biography. Perhaps a public lecture on his important role may be arranged sometime or, in future years, the Editors may consider more detailed articles on this remarkable man. His long witness statement delivered to an Army Officer in 1952 is fascinating in his descriptions of his exploits in the War of Independence. Readers may access the complete statement of Patrick Moylett by following the link:

<http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/reels/bmh/BMH.WS0767.pdf> or by merely typing 'Bureau of Military History Ballyhaunis' in Google or another search engine for the full document to be read at leisure.

Kieran Waldron

SOME POLITICAL AND MILITARY EVENTS AROUND BALLYHAUNIS 1914-22

In late 2012 a local historian friend of mine in Dublin named Ged Walsh, told me that he had purchased an autograph book that IRA internees at Ballykinlar Camp had signed in the early 1920's. The signature of one of them was "Fiamachin O'Muri from Béal Átha h-Amhnais, Co. Mhuigeo". I could not identify the name so I phoned my neighbour and local history expert from Sráid Knox, Joe Keane. Joe immediately said, 'Felix Murray. He worked in the Medical Hall on the corner of Clare St. and Bridge St. He was shot dead later on'. (Incidentally, Joe Keane also told me that, according to Johnny Gilmore, undertaker from Knox St., James Daly, who was executed in India for his part in the Connacht Rangers Mutiny, went to school in Ballyhaunis. His father was a baker who lived in one of two houses that were in the Lochán. He worked in Tony Morley's Bakery in Knox St.) Though I had written about the Troubles on several occasions from a national viewpoint, I had never looked at it locally. I did remember my mother Delia Kedian-Jordan often speaking of the Black 'n Tans operating in the locality and the shooting of Michael Coen and Paddy Boland. She had been a book-keeper in B.T. Lynch Motors of Main St., quite near the Garda Barracks, and witnessed many military movements.

Patrick Moylett

Early in 2013, Fr. Kieran Waldron contacted me to say he was coming to the National Library to inspect the Michael Waldron (Knox St.) Manuscripts. We met and had a long discussion about history writing. When I told him that I was working on a biography of Arthur Griffith he referred me to a

Ballyhaunis
businessman

named Patrick Moylett (1885-1932) who played an important role in the national movement and had direct contacts with Griffith. When I later checked my manuscript I found that Moylett did figure in my book in the lead-up to the Treaty negotiations, but I had been unaware of the Ballyhaunis link. Fr. Kieran also told me that Ballyhaunis was mentioned in the Bureau of Military History files. The most important file was that of the Witness Statement made by Patrick Moylett, which contains a flavour of a variety of happenings in and around Ballyhaunis from 1914-1922. All are interesting; some

amusing and others tragic. While attending the funeral of Noel Lyons, ex Knox St., in Monasterboice, Co. Louth, in July 2013, Columba Jordan told me that what was currently called 'Joe Regan's Corner', at the junction of Main St. and Clare St., used to be called 'Moylett's Corner'. Joe Keane told me that Moylett had a drapery business where Paddy McGarry had his business on Main St. Moylett also had businesses in Ballina and Galway. The Bureau of Military History operated from 1947-1957 and its task was to gather statements and documentation from people and organisations having information of events from 25th November 1913 to 11th July 1921. The information collected remained confidential until recently. It is now available online. Patrick Moylett reports that after the Howth Gun Running in 1914, and the subsequent shootings at Bachelor's Walk, he sent a letter to Michael Delaney (hardware merchant, of Knox St.) asking him to call a meeting of the Volunteers for that night in Ballyhaunis. He told Delaney that he was too old to lead the Volunteers. Delaney called a public meeting in Donnellan's Hall. Moylett addressed that meeting and got agreement that people who were over military age should leave the functions of the Volunteers to younger men. A chemist in the town named Maloney from Tipperary was appointed Secretary with Moylett elected Chairman of the new Volunteer Committee. For a time the Volunteer organisation flourished. But after the Volunteers split over John Redmond's call for people to enlist in the British Army for the first World War, the local Volunteers were re-organised and most of them sided with



Patrick Moylett (1885-1932)



One of 'Mauser' rifles secured by Patrick Moylett for the Ballyhaunis Volunteers in 1914. A bolt action rifle, it was manufactured by Mauser & Co., Oberndorff, Germany, probably in 1896.

Redmond. Only Maloney, three Waldrons and Moylett himself sided with the Irish Volunteers.

Among the many who enlisted in the British Army was a grand-uncle of mine, Thomas Kedian from Moneymore. He was killed at the Somme in July 1916. His body was never recovered. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Tower in France. Thomas Kedian, of course, is a direct relation of Private Billy Kedian of the 1st Infantry Battalion & 85th Infantry Battalion UNIFIL, who was killed on active service in the Lebanon on 31st May 1999 and is

buried in Ballyhaunis.

Following the Bachelor's Walk shooting, a man named Dillon-Leetch, a solicitor practising in Ballyhaunis, wrote a letter in the Dublin papers offering to subscribe £100 for the purchase of arms for the Volunteers provided ten others did the same in that district. Moylett replied by letter that he would be one of the ten, but the other eight did not materialise. Dillon-Leetch went no further in the matter, but Moylett purchased six .303 rifles and some revolvers. He had three good shotguns: one of them was a No. 4 bore double-barrelled gun. He ordered equipment, bandoliers, belts for ten men but he could only get enough for four; equipment was scarce at the time.

When war was declared Moylett called a meeting of Volunteers but only Paddy Waldron (P.J.), the coachbuilder, and himself attended. Later that week three more joined, the two Waldron brothers, blacksmiths, and George Delaney, who was working with Michael Delaney, but was no relative of his. Moylett purchased six Mausers of the 1896 Spanish model pattern, and one 1877 Mauser single-barrelled rifle for £2. A week later, Emmett Dalton, then aged 18, arrived at Moylett's business premises in Ballyhaunis with the six rifles, but no ammunition. Moylett had earlier been able to buy 25 rounds of ammunition from Belfast through an Orangeman. He took Emmett Dalton and his foreman, Pat Kennedy, who was in the Volunteers, to the police rifle range and they practiced there quite openly. From the split in the Volunteers in 1914 until March 1915 there was very little activity; but from then onwards the movement was growing in strength in Ballyhaunis. Moylett met the Kenny brothers of Logboy, near Ballyhaunis, and they began recruiting again. Moylett was conscious of the fact that he kept a small armoury in his private house. He had a contract with the British Admiralty which sent a representative to warn him about his activities. When Moylett declined to desist he lost the contract. Moylett, like most people in Ireland, knew nothing of the Easter Rising until Easter Monday afternoon. During the first week in May 1916, the Staffordshire Regiment were due to arrive at Ballyhaunis station. They were stopping there to collect a prisoner named Philip Waldron who was a Gaelic teacher. Moylett intended to give the prisoner some moral support and walked to the station accompanied by Head Constable Carroll of the RIC, who told him: "We know that you have a lot of guns".

After the release of the 1916 prisoners in 1917 Darrell Figgis called on Moylett to organise Sinn Féin in the South Mayo area. A meeting was held in Moylett's Hall in Ballyhaunis at which Moylett was elected Chairman. Tim Noone, was appointed secretary to the meeting. A public meeting was later held in Ballyhaunis addressed by Larry Ginnell and Darrell Figgis. The meeting was a huge success, as the whole countryside attended. From then on the Redmondite Party ceased to exist in that area.

Immediately after the release of the prisoners in 1917 the local Volunteers came out into the open and met regularly in Moylett's business premises in the town. He kept in his window a large poster which stated "Recruits taken here for the I.R.A.". When that poster faded he replaced it. In 1917 the Sinn Féin movement was organised on a national scale. Moylett was made Chairman of the local Sinn Féin organisation and later Chairman of the South Mayo Comhairle Ceanntair. Arthur Griffith was editor of a paper called Nationality but none of the newsagents in Ballyhaunis would sell it. Moylett employed a boy who sold it successfully on the streets. Moylett's foreman in Ballyhaunis, Tim Noone (Treasurer of the 4th Western division IRA) reported that on one occasion a policeman beat the boy off the street.

Recruiting Van

Moylett hired a motor van and had it painted green, white and yellow. The foreman (Doran) of the City Wheel Works in Brunswick St., Dublin only reluctantly painted it in that colour. He was a Sinn Féiner, but was afraid the British would seize the van. During those years that van went all round the country until, eventually, it had to be abandoned on the roadside in 1920 by one of Moylett's men, an I.R.A. man, Pat Morley. It was a recruiting van for the I.R.A. and from it Sinn Féin and I.R.A. organisations were built up in South Mayo, Roscommon and North Galway. When the van went into any town or village through the country it did I.R.A. and Sinn Féin business defying the police. Sergeant Carroll warned Moylett that the RIC knew well that they were distributing guns (which they were not) from that van, and that there was a close watch being kept on it. Moylett says in his deposition, "The man who drove that van was an active member of the I.R.A. Unfortunately, he was shot in 1922. His name was Felix Murray".

Moylett remembers crossing the bridge at Ballyhaunis and seeing a child of about four years of age with about an inch of crayon pencil in the act of making figures on a large British Army recruiting poster. Constable Hanlon approached the child and in a loud voice threatened the child with severe chastisement for the offence it was committing. "The child nearly died of fright. I, as a citizen, admonished the policeman and he all but arrested me for doing so".

On one occasion when Moylett and others were to go to Kiltimagh for a public meeting, he employed a public vehicle - a "brake". Eventually, only four persons turned up on the Sunday. As they were leaving Ballyhaunis in a sidecar, Moylett says, a policeman approached him and asked for God's sake to take him with them, as he had been appointed to watch him for the day, and that if he lost sight of him he would lose his job. Moylett responded, "Aren't you a damn fool to make such a proposition? Don't you know that if we take you we might shoot you on the journey and put you

in a bog hole? Notwithstanding that remark, he still persisted and wanted to come, but we did not take him. We held a meeting in Kiltimagh and I then met William Sears, who subsequently became T.D. for South Mayo. We transacted the usual business after the meeting in a hotel and dispersed without any interference from the police". It may be worth noting that the RIC were the eyes and ears of the British Government in Ireland. One form of activity they were engaged in during 1915 was to compile a "List of Clergymen who have come under notice owing to their disloyal language or conduct during the year 1915". Twenty such priests were listed in Connacht, including the famous Fr. O'Flanagan of Roscommon. Seven in County Mayo were named as Fathers Connolly, Mulligan, Gildea, Forlane, McCarrig, Meehan, O'Dowd.

In October 1917, the First Convention of Sinn Féin was held in Dublin when Arthur Griffith resigned as President in favour of Eamon de Valera. Moylett represented South Mayo at that Convention and became known to many of the national leaders. For a second public meeting in Ballyhaunis in late 1917 Moylett was able to have Michael Lennon and Sean Milroy travel on the night mail to address it. In March 1918, Moylett moved his residence to The Retreat, Salthill, Galway, but remained in Ballyhaunis except for weekends. As the possibility of negotiations for peace appeared on the agenda, Moylett, who at this stage knew all the Irish leaders, decided to relocate to London for lengthy periods. He succeeded in playing an important role in lobbying influential people in London for Arthur Griffith, with whom he appeared to be on particularly close terms. His plan of action in London was that he would only do business with the people in power. He told Griffith, "I shall go with the intention of getting on intimate terms with five or six of Lloyd George's immediate political friends, and with five or six of his enemies, and after a time I shall know what they are thinking about". That agreed, he went to London on October 20th. Moylett's mission was quite successful. His Witness Statement gives many details of his mission and other material which is of interest on a macro level but which is beyond the scope of this article. He ends intriguingly on this note, "At the first meeting of the Dáil after the return of the delegates from London, I was the only outsider admitted. Paddy O'Keeffe kept the door of the Mansion House. As I walked in I asked him: "How are they?" His answer was: "Go in. They are fighting like cats and dogs. Go in and see them". There was a huge crowd outside the Mansion House waiting for news. Moylett supported the Treaty but not the Free State Government Party which he saw as an amalgam of Unionists and the Old Irish Party. He was a founding member of the Clann Éireann Party and his papers are held in the UCD archives.

Local Organisation

During the War of Independence County Mayo was

organised as one brigade until September 1920, when it was divided into four separate brigades - North, South, East and West.

The East Mayo Brigade officers were: O/C - Sean Corcoran; Vice O/C - Patrick Dunleavy; Adjutant - Andy Flaherty; Q.M. - Joe Sheehy. Four battalions formed the East Mayo Brigade - 1st Battalion, Swinford; 2nd Battalion, Ballaghaderreen; 3rd Battalion, Kiltimagh; 4th Battalion, Ballyhaunis.

The officers of the Ballyhaunis area wanted to be put in with South Mayo but the strategy was to keep each Brigade in communication with Dublin through the railway network which remained open through the Troubles. The railway station in Ballyhaunis was the link for East Mayo. Michael Kilroy's column (West Mayo) was being severely pressed so many actions to prevent the military from travelling between Swinford and Castlebar were organised.

In January 1921 Brigadier Sean Corcoran decided that he intended forming a flying column composed of a section from each of the four battalions. The arrangement was that the column would strike in the Ballyhaunis area and then fall back on Kiltimagh. An ambush position on the Ballyhaunis road at Crossard was being chosen by Commandant Corcoran in the last week of March. He went to the Ballyhaunis area the last week in March 1921, to make the necessary arrangements. He was leaving Curley's house, Crossard, on the morning of 1st April 1921, when he ran into a raiding party of Tans. He pulled his gun to fight his way through, but he was shot from behind by a Black and Tan and fell mortally wounded. Paddy Mullen was then appointed to take charge of the brigade and did so until the Truce on 11th July 1921. A high cross marks the spot where Corcoran died. Later that day, a member of the Black and Tans was fatally wounded by a sniper. In retaliation, an armed and masked gang, presumably of Black and Tans, murdered and mutilated Michael Coen of Lecarrow, a man who was later proven not to have taken part in fighting of any kind. A monument to Coen was erected on the Cloonfad/Galway road from Ballyhaunis. Paddy Boland suffered a similar fate.

After the Truce, and while the Anglo-Irish negotiations were in progress in London, a large Sinn Féin meeting, chaired by Solicitor William Coyne, took place on 21st November in the Fair Green. It was addressed by General Sean McKeown TD, Tom Derrig TD and William Sears TD. Michael Waldron of Knox St. was also on the platform.

Anthony Jordan

Anthony Jordan is a native of Knox St. Ballyhaunis. His fourteenth biography, "Arthur Griffith with James Joyce & WB Yeats – Liberating Ireland", is published by westportbooks@yahoo.co.uk



'THE TAKE-OVER'

2013 has been an eventful year for Eddie Murphy Menswear. In March, shortly after celebrating 18 years in business, we were approached by a producer from RTE offering us the opportunity to appear in a TV show called the 'Take-Over'. At first, we were only aware that RTE were coming to do a short documentary on the shop, but it was still all very vague. We soon found out what we were in for when 'the Eddies' and business guru/Dragon's Den star Nora Casey arrived down to greet us with the news that the shop was ours for two weeks!

After a day of brainstorming, we hatched some big plans to try to boost the business and make our presence felt. We decided to bring in a new range of younger men's clothes to try and let our customers know that we have a wide range of casual wear for all ages and that we're not just a suit shop! To launch this new image, we hosted a huge fashion show in the shop and sought out the help of some famous faces, including Derek from Crystal Swing, Mayo football stars Aidan O'Shea and Keith Higgins along with Danie Poolman, Dan Parks and Tiernan O'Halloran of the Connacht Rugby squad.

Our other big idea was to bring Eddie Murphy's Menswear online, and to make everything in our store available to the worldwide market, as well as to all our customers who have emigrated in the past few years. After we built the website and got all our products online, we needed to let the public know eddiemurphy.ie existed, so we enlisted the expertise of two 'Hardy Bucks' from Swinford by the names of "The Boo" and "French Toast" to do a few adverts for us. So, one frosty March morning, we set about bringing the 'Bucks' around the sights of Ballyhaunis to shoot the video, visiting the staff of MacSiurtáins, Araby Cafe (now Thunder Road) and Curley's Pharmacy. (A special thanks to Joe Padfield, Henry Pang, Bernie Flaherty, Mary Gurren, Pamela Ashley Uba, Nuala and Stephen Nolan, and Lydia Concannon for their fantastic acting, patience and co-operation on the day. All the videos from that day, as well as the entire episode of "The Take Over", are available on youtube, search - Eddie Murphy Menswear.)

At the end of the two weeks, we were absolutely

exhausted, as I'm sure the two Eddies were as well, having spent the majority of their two weeks off farming the land in Ballyglass, so we were all happy to return to normality when we handed back the keys. But that's not to say our changes didn't stick... We're happy to report that we are continuing to expand our range of young men's clothes, our online shop has taken off very well and we are planning another fashion show for 2014. The show aired on the 18th of April 2013 and we have been inundated with good wishes and compliments from our customers since then, for which we are all very grateful.

Our excitement for the year didn't end there though. In August/September, we were delighted to have the opportunity to 'suit up' both the Mayo Senior and Minor football teams for the All-Ireland finals. A huge undertaking



Nora Casey pictured in Eddie Murphy's Menswear with, (L-R:) Lydia Concannon, Leo Greany, Tomás Concannon, Sean Griffin, Nora Casey, Enda Stritch, Michael Goulding, Gerard Callaghan, Gary Patterson, Gearóid Keane and Sarah Finnegan.

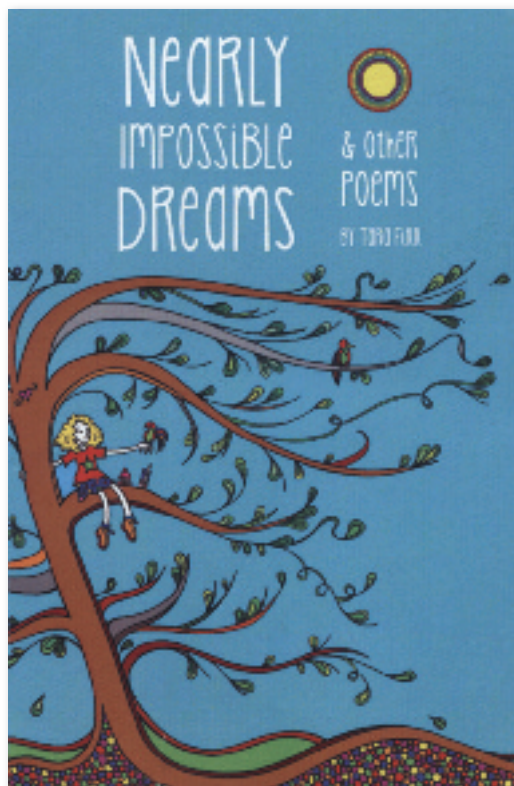
to measure both teams, their management and the county board. Then pick the formal and casual outfits for both teams, piece it all together and travel to the Citywest Hotel in Dublin on 22nd September to make sure everyone was happy and looking their best for the after party.

One of the highlights was our photoshoot for our advertising campaign. Alan Dillon, Aidan O'Shea, Keith Higgins, Alan Freeman, Michael Conroy, Liam Irwin, and Michael Hall were all good enough to kick off their boots to come and do a spot of modelling for us for an evening. The spoils of that photoshoot can be seen on our trailers around Connacht and on our Facebook page. It was a great experience overall and a great honour to be involved with two great football sides who made their county very proud.

So all in all we've had a very eventful year and looking forward to a great 2014!

Tomás Concannon

NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS AND OTHER POEMS



About the author...

Tara Finn is the daughter of Rob and Jo-Lise Finn, who live in New South Wales, Australia. Rob is formerly of Main Street, Ballyhaunis, and is son of Tom and Chris Finn.

Tara has been reading and writing from a very young age. She is currently in Year 6 and looking forward to finally getting to High School. She has won four Sydney Youth Writing Awards, and been published in numerous publications.

In Nearly Impossible Dreams, Tara expresses her emotions through a collection of over 30 insightful poems, written between the ages of 8 to 10 years. The book is published by Green Olive Press and is exquisitely illustrated by Michelle Harris. Tara says *"Most of my friends dream of becoming ballerinas, mermaids or teachers when they grow up. My dreams are a little different. From the age of five I told everyone I was going to be a writer."* Incredibly, thanks to Renata Cooper and Forming Circles, that Nearly Impossible Dream has come true at age 10. *"I feel very lucky to have this opportunity to share my poems with the public"*, Tara said.



Tara with her parents Rob and Jo-Lise Finn, brother Sean and sister Keeley.

She is a granddaughter of Tom and Chris Finn, Main St., Ballyhaunis.

Smile

Smile,
And mean it,
Your mouth may move,
But believe it,
Don't plaster,
A fake look,
Of pleasure,
To display,
A happy time,
Laugh,
Cry with joy,
Sing,
Love,
Smile.

This Is Me, Tara

My hair isn't always perfect,
I'm not the prettiest girl around,
I'm not afraid to be myself,
And won't let anyone get me down,
I laugh at stupid things,
And smile at anything,
Because I'm not afraid to be myself,
To show who I really am.
Because I'm fearless, not flawless,
What people think,
Is unnecessary,
I'm my own person,
Don't tell me I made a mistake,
Don't tell me I'm not popular,
Don't tell me I'm not pretty,
Because I'll tell you,
This is me, Tara.

My Meadow

Trees sway from side to side
Like lost abandoned children,
The grass grows in clumps,
Of Yellow, orange and brown,
And in a few speckled spots,
The dent of dry earth appears,
In the middle, a single flower blooms,
The first of many,
Butterflies swarm above the thick grass,
Above the colony of ants.
The Cockatoos and Kookaburras,
Sing their melodic tunes,
And the cool breeze of autumn,
Whips the branches around,
And nowhere to be found,
Is a single soul
In my Meadow.

OLWYN MURRAY RELEASES DEBUT SINGLE

Former All Ireland Talent Show finalist and Ballyhaunis native Olwyn Murray has released her debut single, "Falling in Love Again". Now 20 and just graduated from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (LIPA), her single is making an impact on iTunes and Irish Charts.

Performing since the age of 8, Olwyn received vocal lessons with Lavinia Gilmartin in Ballina. Since then she has sung at Feiseanna, in a group called Spirit, at school musicals at her alma mater BCS, on television, and – in 2008 and 2009 – at the World Championship of Performing Arts in Hollywood, where over the two summers she won a total of five gold medals and one silver for different categories in music. At 15 she was chosen to appear on the Late Late



Toy Show singing live to an audience of over 1 million people.

And of course in 2010 she represented the West, mentored by Daithi Ó Sé, in the All Ireland Talent Show, while also studying for her Leaving Cert at Ballyhaunis Community School. In September 2010 Olwyn moved to Liverpool to study music at the LIPA, after receiving one of the coveted 60 places on the course.

Working on her song writing and music skills, she was soon writing her own songs and performing them around Liverpool after setting up her own band. In December 2012 she was also a part of the Hillsborough Christmas number one "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother", performing in the choir on the track with massive artists such as Paul McCartney and Robbie Williams.

Now her debut recording "Falling in Love Again" is her own composition. She is working on a video to accompany the song and in the future. Since graduating, Olwyn plans to continue writing and recording more singles and music videos to make her musical dreams come true.

Street People

There are people who, through no fault of their own,
Are roaming the streets for they don't have a home.
For them Christmas brings no cheer or joy
They have children as well, but they don't have a toy.
No trees to erect, no stockings to fill.
No candles to light on their windowsill.

Christmas will come and Christmas will go.
But they're still out there on the streets you know.

Easter comes round and the days have got long.
We all go to church to make good for our wrongs.
The child that was born, now a man he has risen
He went through all that pain, so that we'd be forgiven.
Spare a thought for the poor ones out there on the street,
With no money, no hope, and nothing to eat.

Easter will come and Easter will go.
But they're out there on the streets you know.

Summer is here and the days are so hot
The long days of winter we all have forgot
The flowers are blooming, we're all so carefree
We can jump in our cars and head for the sea.
But stop for a moment, now don't turn away
That man covered in papers in someone's doorway
For him the summer is just a respite
But do we really care, could we alter his plight?

Summer will come and Summer will go
But he's still out there on the street you know.

The Winter is coming with the wind and the rain
The cycle is starting all over again
For those on the street who don't have a say
The hardship and suffering will not go away
Wouldn't it be nice if some day we could say
Those people, at last, have someplace to stay
The old ones, the young ones, the lonely, the poor
There is no one out there on the streets anymore.

Seamus Sloyan

FEEDING CHINA

Over the past few years I've been lucky to observe the evolution of a giant agricultural powerhouse whose purchases will increasingly move the prices paid around the world for key agricultural commodities like maize, milk and pork. During several years spent as a rural economy analyst and writer at the Beijing offices of the Financial Times, I've also watched the problems which hamper China's own agricultural sector, especially land reform.

China has captured the attention of world agriculture in a remarkably short space of time: only five years ago the country was still a net grain exporter. Even today it's forgotten that China remains the world's leading producer and consumer of wheat and rice – and second (behind the US) producer and consumer of corn. It's also the world's number one exporter of fruit and vegetables as well as seafood.

China has used a huge population to farm and process vegetables at prices more competitive than any less populated western country. Low wages also made China the world's number one player in the farming and processing of fish and key seafood species such as shrimps – including many of the breaded and frozen varieties sold in Irish supermarkets.

The last decade however (thanks in part to a belated government effort to increase wages in line with economic growth, which is slowing slightly now) brought prosperity which has markedly changed urban Chinese diets and made China an importer as well as an exporter of food.

As China eats more meat and dairy products, hotels in Beijing and Shanghai are busy with executives of meat processors and grain trading companies, seeking import licenses and meeting customers. Among those ranks, several Irish dairy-based food firms as well as pork processors. I've been surprised several years ago at a chance meeting with Ireland's most famous Irish beef baron in a Beijing hotel lobby.

Larry Goodman has been doing well in China. Soybean sellers however have secured the biggest contracts, in monetary and volume terms: these beans go to feeding ever-larger herds of pigs (of which China slaughters about 650 million a year). The domestic soy crop is reserved for food production as Chinese distrust of GM crops precludes direct use in local favourite foods like tofu and soy milk.

Imports of maize and wheat are growing about 10% a year but remain at less than 5% of Chinese use of both crops – a massive local crop supplies the rest. But from trips around the country I'm betting imports of maize in particular will grow in China. Being self-sufficient in maize used to be an untouchable government priority. But the scale and quality of agricultural land here has diminished

in the past two decades. And while government is allocating about €2.5 billion a year in subsidies to spur purchases of tractors and harvesters, the productivity of the land is limited by a very messy land ownership dilemma.

Agriculture remains atop the agenda of a Communist Party which built its revolution on rural peasants (Mao Zedong) and later went back to the rural base to fund China's industrial "opening up" in the late 1970s when Deng Xiaoping abandoned Mao's strictly socialist approach to economics.

Deng broke up the collectives by allowing farmers take long-term leases on land (which officially remains the state's) and to sell produce privately – once local quotas on grain were met. The resulting surge in productivity and production helped pay for the industrial zones which started China's economic surge through the 1980s and on to today.

Now it appears that the country has reached another crossroads on land policy. The price of land has surged in recent years as developers and industrialists compete for scarce arable land. Since the land remains the property of the states it's local governments, not farmers who work the land who make sales. Land sales serve as a key source of local income government is often keen to sell, while farmers are compensated as little as 15% of the real value of the land.

Government seizures of farmland create tension and violence every day in Chinese villages. Protests scare a central government which is obsessive about stability. Thus there's a growing urgency in Beijing to get a solution to the land problem. That might involve farmers getting land titles which allow them to sell or mortgage their holdings. One wing of the Chinese Communist Party argues that this would release a new wave of investment in farms, raising agricultural yields and creating prosperity in rural areas.

Another side of the Party argues the current system protects farmers by preventing (in theory, admittedly) big corporate interests from buying up swathes of land and thus leaving country dwellers potentially destitute. Lack of land would also prevent them from going back to their villages in the event of an economic slow-down, as happened here in 2009 when the global economic crisis forced factories to close due to weak export demand in Europe and the US.

The issue of land is central to another very complex problem upon which so many of the predictions about China are based, that of residency permits. China has retained a system from the 1950s which ties people to the villages or towns where they were born. Thus while you're free to go work or university in Beijing you're only entitled to use the schools and hospitals where your registration card says you're from. While wealthier migrants can pay for private services the registration system is a particular problem for the labourers who flock to the cities from small farms.

Cities however are wary of any change to the current system if it means they'll foot bigger bills for social services. Proponents of land reform say sales of farmland would enable rural dwellers to fund the move to the city. That move is encouraged by the national government, especially under current premier Li Keqiang, who sees city-building as a new driver of economic growth. Almost every foreign firm with something to sell in China – including agricultural firms – predict great growth in China from the impact of rising wages as farmers/peasants become city dwellers.

Those projections may be accurate, or optimistic. Fascinating dilemmas and decisions will determine if and how China's agricultural sector changes over the next decade. How these changes impact or improve local production will in turn decide how much food China imports.

Mark Godfrey



Jim Healy, formerly of Drimbane, with his first grandson Zachery Anthony Healy-Benson, son of Felicity (Healy) and Dan Benson, outside their home 'Drimbane' in Llanelli, South Wales.



Ballyhaunis Boxing Club member Sean Conroy, displays his Bronze medal which he won at the World Junior Boxing Championships in Ukraine September 2013.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Congratulations to Teresa and Andy O'Connell, Castletroy, Co. Limerick, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 16th July 2013. Teresa (formerly Melly) is from Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis. Andy spent almost twenty years as County Engineer in Limerick and also spent a short time as Deputy County Engineer with Mayo County Council.



Teresa Melly and Andy O'Connell, on their wedding day, 16th July 1963.

NEW BEGINNINGS

I must admit that I do a double take every time I look at the picture of "The Four Principals". Although I have been immersed in the role for a number of months now I still find it incongruous to be in a line up with such distinguished gentlemen. For many it is a nice piece of memorabilia but for me it is a reminder of the high standards associated with being Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School. Each man brought different approaches to the job but they are united in that they brought standards that were both admired and appreciated by everyone associated with the school and indeed the wider community. Interestingly, I have had the pleasure of serving under all my three predecessors. In the case of Mr. Thornton, it was only one day but I came away from that one day acutely aware that this was a man who was passionate about the school and its students. Mr. Fahey gave me the opportunity to become a member of staff here in the Community School and for that I will be forever

grateful. His pride and passion for the school was also very evident for all to see. Mr. McHugh was my Principal for nine years and it was very obvious that being Principal was more than just a job for him also. Each man casts a long shadow and the challenge for me is to build on the excellent foundation presented to me through their good work.

I think it would be appropriate for me to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pat for his outstanding contribution to the school for over two decades but particularly for the nine years he spent at the helm. Pat ushered in a new technological era during his time as Principal. Classrooms were all equipped with computers and data projectors and Pat was always anxious that the school would remain at the cutting edge of educational developments. Pat's motivation for this was his desire to see all students, irrespective of ability, achieve their potential. The welfare of students was always foremost in Pat's mind. He fostered an atmosphere around the school where students could grow and flourish in a caring and considerate environment. He was consistently an advocate for students and this was indeed appreciated by the many students that passed through his hands during his tenure as Principal. The respect and admiration the students had for Pat was evidenced by the genuine sadness expressed by many when they learned of his retirement. We had a memorable occasion late in May when we had a Whole School Assembly where the students made a presentation to Pat and their respect and fondness for Pat as Principal was clear for all to see. Pat's popularity was not confined to the students but also extended to the wider school community. He was always available to parents and staff alike and he was generous with his time and his expertise and he always acted in the best interests of the school. He brought a tremendous amount of integrity and dignity to the role and he is indeed a tough act to follow. On behalf of the whole school community I wish him many years of health and happiness in his retirement.



Ballyhaunis Community School principal Pat McHugh (left), congratulates fellow Ballindine man David McDonagh, who assumed the role of Principal at the beginning of the new school year, 1st September 2013.

David McDonagh is the fourth Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School since its foundation in 1977. Like his predecessor, David is a past pupil of Ballindine N.S. and St. Colman's College, Claremorris. He graduated from UCG and was later conferred with an H.Dip (Ed) from UCD. He has taught English and Geography in BCS since 2001. He has also served with great success as well as Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) Co-ordinator for some years.

A former Mayo Senior footballer and current Davitts player, he has been steeped in the best traditions of Gaelic football for many years now, and his contribution to Gaelic games at the school has been well noted since his arrival here twelve years ago. He won a National League medal with Mayo when they defeated Galway by a single point at Croke Park in the final back of 2001.

David is wished every success in his role as Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School.

As for myself I am hugely honoured to become Principal of this great school. I am excited by the challenge ahead. These are challenging but exciting times in educational circles. However, I am confident that with the calibre of our staff and the tremendous support we receive from the local community we are very well placed to meet whatever is coming down the road. One of those things we hope to see come on stream is a major refurbishment of the school building. The building itself dates back to 1977 and is now in need of a major overhaul. The application for a refurbishment was first made back in 1999 and has made very slow progress since. However, it would now appear that the project is coming close to

fruition. Planning permission has been received and it is hoped that building will proceed in the very near future. We hope then that we will have a school building that matches the high quality of teaching and learning that has become synonymous with Ballyhaunis Community School.

David McDonagh,
Principal, Ballyhaunis Community School



(Right): The four successive Principals of Ballyhaunis Community School since its foundation in 1977.

L-R: Pat McHugh (2004-13), Eddie Thornton (1977-99), Jarlath Fahey (1999-2004), David McDonagh (appointed 2013).



(Left): Kathleen Hunt from Larganboy with Ted and Kiki Kennedy attending the premiere of 'Ethel Kennedy' that provides an insider's view of a political dynasty.

(Above): Kathleen Hunt, along with her family who volunteered on the Democratic Campaign in the U.S., 2012.

BALLYHAUNIS TOWN F.C. 2013



Back row L-R: Tom Page, Manager; John Kelly, Jarlath Carney, Niall Richardson, Michael Waldron, Clive Connaughton, Craig Hughes, Andrew Cunnane, Gerry Gallagher, Paul Walsh, Michael Goulding, Peter Mataska, Paul Finn, Michael Krusna, A.P. Kelly, Miroslaf Rylak, Brian Kilcourse, Karl Brien (Coach).

Front row: Morgan Lyons, Fergus Coyne, Damien Hurley, Jean Pierre Jeffries, Michael Kilcourse, Kieran Gallagher, Conor Freeley, Joseph Neenan, Frankie Nolan, Paul Nolan, Tommie O'Dowd, Michael O'Rourke,

BALLYHAUNIS RUGBY CLUB



Ballyhaunis RFC enjoyed another successful year both on and off the field during 2013.

On the field Ballyhaunis competed for the first time in J1B of the Connacht Junior League after gaining promotion from J1C in 2012. Half way through the 2012/13 season, Ballyhaunis were more than competitive and found themselves right in the mix for promotion. Although their final position didn't reflect on the progress made during the season, the team had acquitted themselves very well and were well placed to make further progress in 2013/14. With just a few games played in the current season Ballyhaunis have made another good start recording two bonus point victories at home and one defeat on the road.

The underage teams are continuing to grow within the Club and teams were fielded at Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 during the course of the season. The Under 13's

had a remarkable season and went undefeated during the course of the Development League they participated in. The Under 15's and Under 17's also enjoyed a successful season with some impressive wins along the way. The Mini's section continues to go from strength to strength and the future looks very bright indeed.

Off the field, the Club ran a highly successful Barn Dance and Tag Rugby Festival. The event took place on August 17th and it saw over 120 tag rugby players take to the field. All teams were well supported from the side lines and the standard of Tag Rugby was incredibly high. The day's activities saw 'Shagg & Tag' win the Cup competition and 'G'wan Our Crowd' win the Plate.

Following the Tag Rugby the barn dance kicked off and that saw the crowd around the Rugby Club grow even further. The cowboys and cowgirls danced the night away to acts such as Ka Tet, La Bamba and Bagatelle.

The Club would like to extend their gratitude to all those who participated in the Tag Rugby tournament and all those who attended the barn dance; they all helped make the day an unforgettable one. To fulfil the demand we received for a repeat event we hope to run the Tag Rugby festival and barn dance again next summer.



Tag Rugby at Ballyhaunis RFC Grounds



A special thank you is reserved for all the Club members whose hard work ensured the event was a huge success. Finally, the Club would like to thank all those who contributed in any way to the event in particular Gareth Delaney for running the bar, Big Red Barn for their barn and event management skills and Ciara Buckley for all her photos.

The clubs were also greatly honoured when they were invited to attend the official after-match function following the Ireland and France game during the 2013 Six Nations. The Club's delegates Ned Curley and Peter Gallagher represented the Club at outgoing IRFU President Billy Glynn's final function as President.

To keep up to date with all club activities please visit

www.facebook.com/ballyhaunisrfc

For anyone interested in taking up Rugby please see training timetable below. New members are always welcome.

Training Timetable

Mini's (U-12– U-7): Thursday @ 6.30pm;

Under 13's, Under 15's and Under 17's:
Wednesday @ 7pm.

Adults (Over 18):

Wednesday & Friday @ 8pm.

Robert Duffy

Getting Dressed

If there is one thing on earth that makes me depressed
It is sitting and waiting for the wife to get dressed
I swear to watch her would drive you insane
Now some of her antics I will try to explain
We were asked out there lately to this bit of a 'do'
And there I am shining from my head to my shoe
Now I have shaved and shampooed and had a wee shower
And there I am ready in just short of a half hour.
But Maggie she is different I'll have you to know
I cannot think of a word that is slower than slow
She will not have a shower just in case she would slide
So the bath it is filled and the Radox applied.

She slaps and she splashes, she sings and she laughs
You would swear it was a crocodile let loose in the bath
She rubs and scrubs and her hair she has set
It is tied back with a scarf in case it gets wet
Next she dries herself with four towels or more
And the powder she used is like snow on the floor
I do believe she is a magician because
From a wee bag with a strap she often produces the full chemist shop
Well there are creams and lotions all of colours so bright
With small paint brushes my God they are a sight
There is lipstick and polish and bottles of spray
And small little things that pull out the hairs that are going grey.

Now the make up is on and she has powdered her nose
The worst part of all is choosing the clothes
There is no saying on earth, I bet can compare
To a woman complaining she has nothing to wear.
Now in front of the wardrobe she laments and she whinges
And the bloody thing is stuffed to the hinges
With dresses all sizes and colours so gay
Some for the sunshine or the cold winter's day
So one hand on her hip and another on her chin
She examines the contents that are hanging within
Oh the clanging of hangers rings loud in my head
As a dozen or more outfits are thrown on the bed.

I sit there and say nothing for I know it is best
I am sitting ready, she is the one who is not dressed
She stands in front of the mirror with a wide little grin,
The first outfit is tried as she pulls herself in
She pivots and smiles, she poses and sways
'That does not look right' and throws it away
She tries on some more as she still tries and throws
Still complaining she has no bloody clothes
It is maybe just me sure I am easy depressed
Maybe it is the done thing as women get dressed
She has me confused and in a terrible state
She says to me are you coming says I to her it is now nine o'clock
Sure now we are already late because I forgot to tell you
that the 'do' was at eight.

James Hunt, Kilmovee



Graduation

Sinéad Godfrey-Chambers who recently obtained a Masters Degree in Education Leadership from Concordia University, Chicago.

Daughter of Gerry and Maureen Godfrey, Curnacarta, Tulrahan, Sinéad is a past pupil of Tulrahan and Logboy Primary Schools and also of Ballyhaunis Community School.

It was celebrations on the double for Sinéad last May as she was also appointed to the prestigious position of Director of Educational Services in Chicago. Her husband, T.J. Chambers, born and bred in the city of Chicago, is a grandson of the late Kitty Morley, who, coincidentally, was a native of Sinéad's neighbouring village of Redhill in Tulrahan. They are proud parents of four year old twin girls, Kiera and Bree.



McQueeney Grandchildren

Grace (7), Niamh (4) and Jack (6 months), children of John McQueeney, Main St. and New Jersey, USA, and grandchildren of Mike and Mary McQueeney.



BAPTISMS in the Parish of Annagh Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Junior McDonagh • Keith Caulfield • Isaac Alexander Roche • Eamon Michael Freyne • Cara Michele de Phily • Adam James Ruane • Patrick Vincent McDonagh • Samantha Bernadette McDonagh • Noah Jarlath Flanagan • Cael Hannan • Willow Hannan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dylan Patrick Cooke • Cara Marie Henry • Isaac Agyei Owusu • David Takyie Owusu • Prince Okyere Owusu • Ava Rose Gildea • Mo Han Zhang • Emma Grace Connery • Mary Molly Coffey • Nora Josephine Morrissey • Izabelle Christine Finn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amma Sandra Browne • Keven Quaasa Blaukson • Gary Tristan Maughan • Orla Mary Healy • Phoebe Anne McNamara • Daniel Patrick Buckley • Hazel Kate Murphy • Heath Justin McDonagh • Conor Donohoe • Sophie Summer Regan |
|--|--|--|

DECEASED of the Parish November 2012 – October 2013

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Biesty, Carrowkeel • Bridie Brennan, Upper Main St. • Agnes Heaney, Clare Court & Bargarriff • Christy Barrett, Station Rise • Padraic Ludden, Aisling Drive • Richard Leonard-Jones, St. Gerald's Court • Sarah Reidy, Beech Park & Island • Mary Dillon Leetch, The Mews, Main St. • Kitty Corless, Abbey St. • Kathleen Connell, Upper Main St. • Maura Griffin, Clare St. • Josie Morley, Knox St. • Michael Lyons, Bridge St. • Michael Dwyer, Tullaghane • Sighle Forde, The Square • Carmel Johnston, Knox St. • Patrick Healy, Manchester & Ballindrehid • Joe Stenson, Clare Court • Catherine Dyar, Brackloon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Cribbin, Lecarrow • Patrick Diskin, Killinaugher • Pado Moran, Ballindrehid • William (Harry) Russell, Eastbourne, England • Joe Grogan, Knockbrack • Mary Fitzgerald, Bridge St. • Mona Gilmore, Dublin & Brickens • Paddy Laffey, Abbey St. • Mary Morley, Clagnaugh • Mary Byrne, Knock & Doctor's Road • Shay Webb, Chicago & Main St. • Francis Aidan Murphy, USA • Willie Joe O'Boyle, Carrowkeel • Jim McGuire, Upper Main St. & Lecarrow • Frank Herraghty, Knock Road • Sr. Assumpta Flannery, Cuan Chaitríona, Castlebar & Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis • Waldemar Manke, 10 Hazelhill Downs • Patrick Murray, Derrintogher |
|---|---|

Natives of Annagh Parish who died elsewhere, and whose deaths have been communicated for inclusion in the magazine

- Patrick James Higgins, Lurgan, died in Australia.
- Agnes O'Donnell, nee Fitzgerald, Bridge St., died in Clontarf, Dublin.
- Eamon O'Reilly, Woodpark, died in Kill O' The Grange, Dublin.

In future issues of Annagh Magazine it is intended to include names of deceased parishioners who died elsewhere. Details can be submitted by email to info@annaghmag.ie, or post to Annagh Magazine, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, or given to any committee member. Please include (1) the name of the deceased, (2) where they died, and (3) where they originally came from or lived in Annagh parish.

It is the policy of Annagh Magazine not to include obituaries or memoriam notices, as it would impossible to include them all, and unfair not to include them all.



**MARRIAGES, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis,
Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013**

Barbara McDonagh, Cloonfad
Michael McDonagh, Wexford

Veronica Regan, Killinaugher
David Nally, Tulsk, Co. Roscommon

Anne Marie Mullarkey, Tullaghane
Brian Naughton, Claremorris

Frances Grogan, Knockbrack
Ciaran Ó Raighne, Salthill, Galway

Louise Cleary, Pattenspark
Niall Curran, Bellewstown, Co. Meath

Hilary Mooney, Doctor's Road
Brian O'Brien, Westport

Caitriona Biesty, Pattenspark
Michael Egan, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon

Noreen Freyne, Island
and Frank Smith, Island

MARRIAGES Elsewhere Nov. 2012 – Oct. 2013

Jennifer McCafferty, Doctor's Road
Seamus Sharkey, Bishopstown, Co. Cork

Maria O'Sullivan, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork
Conal Higgins, Devlis

Maria Glennon, Cloonfad
Gerry Neenan, Coolnafarna

Bridget McDonagh, Knocknacarra, Galway
Thomas Webb, Station Rise

Ann Greally, Drimbane
Gerard Murphy, Tuam, Co. Galway

Sarah Chambers, Newport
Michael Webb, Main St.

Sinead Donegan, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon
Adrian Lilly, Johnstown

Christina McDonagh, The Maples
Terry Anthony McDonagh, Tooraree

Paula Campbell, Shanvaghera, Knock
Paul Lynch, Holywell

Orla Mulrennan, Gurteen
David Cahill, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin

Joanna Kolossa, Hazelhill Downs
Maraek Mazur, Hazelhill Downs

Kerry Walsh, Gurrane
Brendan Rudden, Doctor's Road



**Padraic Carney, Classaroe and Suzanne Glynn,
Barnagurry, married in St. Anne's Church, Shanvaghera.**



Weddings



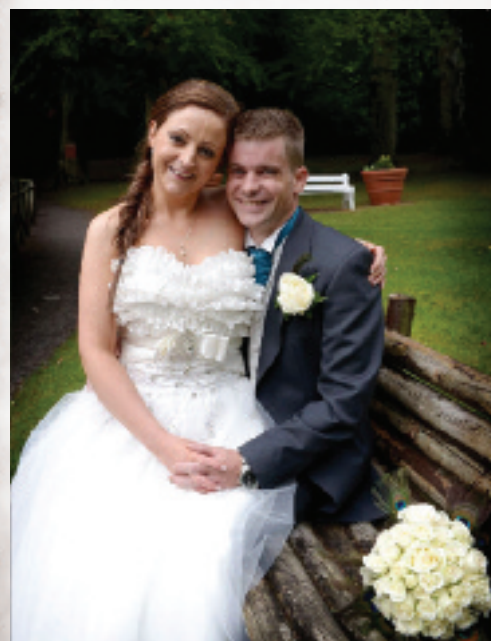
**Celia Finn, Gurrane, and James McGrath, Elphin,
married in St. Mary's Church, Logboy.**



**Liesel Ronan, Granlahan and David Page, Castlerea,
married in St. Patrick's Church, Granlahan.**



**Steven Glynn, Doctor's Road and Amber Ortiz, Mount
Shasta, California, USA, married in San Diego, California.**



**Catriona Biesty, Pattenspark and Michael Egan,
Cloonlough, Ballinlough, married in St. Patrick's Church,
Ballyhaunis.**



Jennifer McCafferty, Ballindrehid and Seamus Sharkey, Bishopstown, Co. Cork, married in St. Mary's Church, Cong, Co. Mayo, 2012. Dillon Photography.



Lyndsey Murray, Scotland and Andrew Simpson, Scotland, married in St. John's R.C. Church, Perth Scotland.



Louise Cleary, Pattenspark and Niall Curran, Bellewstown, Co. Meath, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Michael Webb, Main St. and Sarah Chambers, Newport, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyrush, Castlebaldwin, Co. Sligo



**Dan Tarpey, Carrowkeel and Mary Mooney, Irishtown,
married in the Church of the Holy Family
and St. Oliver, Irishtown.**



**Declan Ruane, Lurgan and Anna Zurek, married
in Wroclav Cathedral, Wroclav, Poland.**



**Claire Swords, Drimaderra and Terry Haire, Cross,
in St. Mary's Church, Logboy.**



**Sandra Swords, Drimaderra and Ingo Paulus, Munich,
Germany, married in the Church of the Immaculate
Conception, Mulranny.**



Adrian Jennings, Cloonfad and Jessica Ruane, Moate,
married on the 13th July 2013 in St. Mary's Church,
Logboy.



Jonathan Moore, Carrowbeg and Leah McCormick,
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, married in
St. Stephen's Chapel, Brisbane.



Orla McEvilly and Ken Carrick, Gurrane, married in Westport.
Photo by stratfordphotography.ie



Orla Mulrennan, Gurteen and David Cahill, Sutton, Dublin,
married in St. Brendan's Church, Tiernaur, Mulranny.



Kevin Cleary, Johnstown and Niamh Tracey, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, married in Co. Monaghan.



Claire Gallagher, Knock Road and John Morley, Lissaniska, married in Madonna della Rocca Church, Taormina, Sicily.



Frances Grogan, Knockbrack and Ciarán Ó Ráighne, Inverin, Co. Galway, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Ann Greally, Drimbane and Ger Murphy, Tuam, Co. Galway, married in Santo Domingo Church, Benalmadena, Spain.



**Sandra Waldron, Culnacleha, Tulrahan
and Tom Varley, Roundfort, Hollymount, married in
St. Mary's Church, Logboy.**



**Adrian Lilly, Johnstown and Sinead Donegan, Clooncrim,
Ballinlough, married in The Church of The Immaculate
Conception, Ballinlough.**



**Andrew Rabbitte, Derrylea and Máire Kirwan, Dunkerrin,
Co. Offaly, married in St. Mary's Church, Dunkerrin, Co. Offaly.**



**John Prendergast, Carrmack, Logboy and Denise O'Connor,
London, married in Saint Therese's Church, Bricksens.
*Michael McLaughlin Studios.***



Caroline Naughton, Brickens and David McGuinness, Knock married in Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Bekan.



Veronica Regan, Derrynacong and David Nally, Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. H.G. Photography, Dunmore, Co. Galway.



Paul Lynch, Holywell and Paula Campbell, Shanvaghera, Knock, married in St. Anne's Church, Shanvaghera.
Photo by Karl Keaney Photography



Derek Devaney, Coogue and Michelle Whiley, California married in St. Philip's Church, San Francisco, USA.



**John Commins, Knock and Trina Hyland, Balla,
married in St. Cronan's Church, Balla.**



**Gerard Brennan and Becky Bedson, married in Spain.
Gerard is son of John (formerly of Gurteen)
and Celia Brennan.**



**Brendan Rudden, Doctor's Road and Kerry Walsh, Gurrane,
married in Cloonfad Church.
*Photo by Marriage Multimedia, Claremorris.***



**Anne Marie Mullarkey, Tullaghane and Brian Naughton,
Claremorris, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.**



Conal Higgins, Devlis and Maria O'Sullivan, Ballincollig, Co. Cork, married in Prince of Peace Church, Fossa, Killarney, Co. Kerry, 2012.
Photograph by Woodard Photography Studio



Grace McDonnell, Cloonfad and Declan Kelly, Ballinlough, married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad, 2012. Grace is daughter of Angela McDonnell nee Meehan, Annagh.



Gerry Neenan, Coolnafarna and Maria Glennon, Cloonfad, married in Ballintubber Abbey, 2012.



Joan O'Malley, Knock Road and Brendan Collins who were married in Dublin. Photograph by stratfordphotography.ie.

Stations

IN THE PARISH OF ANNAGH

All photographs courtesy of Fr. Stephen Farragher



Derrynacong, Killinaugher Stations in the home of Tom and Judy Regan, Killinaugher, 23rd Nov. 2012.

Standing, L-R: Joe O'Neill, Colin Jordan, Damien Hayes, Michael Regan, Mark Regan, Carmel Gaughan, Sean Regan, Joe Diskin, Teresa Hoban, Veronica O'Neill, Mary Hunt, Padraig Regan, Deirdre Diskin, Roseanne Regan, Michelle Jordan, Laura Regan, David Regan, Tracy Regan, Kathleen Regan, Kelly Niland, Megan Gaughan, Christina Connolly, John Connolly, Laura Regan, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Murt Hunt, Marian Regan, Martin Fitzmaurice.

Seated: Paddy Diskin, Colin O'Reilly, Padraig O'Reilly, T.J. Regan, Tom Regan, Dylan O'Reilly, Judy Regan, Killian McGee, Marie McGee, Marie Jordan, Aaron Jordan, Maureen Comer, Helen Hoban, Geraldine Connolly, Kevin Diskin.



Knockbrack, Skeghard, Ballinphuill Station Mass in the home of Ann Murphy, Knockbrack 9th Mar. 2013.

Standing, L-R: Gabrielle Lyons, Mary Walshe, Siobhán Lyons, Eileen Lyons, William Lyons, Mary Vizard, Mary Hurley, Ruth Gill, Frances Gaffney, Margaret Fitzgerald, Noreen Gallagher, Rita Mooney, Fiona Murphy, Karen Flaherty, Mary Ryan, Joseph Lyons, Anne Marie Flaherty, Anne Plunkett, Peter Higgins, Lena Gill, Vincent Higgins, Agatha Higgins, Joan McNamara, Padraig Murphy, Michael Plunkett, Anne Lyons, Pat Gaffney, Breege Killeen, Michael Egan, Peggy Flaherty, Teresa Grogan, James Lyons, Bernadette Lyons, Michelle Lyons.

Seated: Rosaleen Kelly, Nellie Mulkeen, Deirdre Donnellan, Kathleen Finnegan, Anne Murphy, Mary Higgins, Kathleen Cribbin, Rebecca Mulligan, Lorraine Mulligan, Sandra Murphy, Claire Fleming, Caroline & Rachel Fleming, Lorna Donnellan, Bernie Lyons.

Front row: Sarah Gill, Aoife Gill, Jack Mulligan, Conor Donnellan, Edel Fleming, Niamh Donnellan.



Carrowkeel Stations in the home of Jimmy and Ann Marie O'Boyle, Carrowkeel, 15th Feb. 2013.

Back row (standing), L-R: Noreen McHugh, Ciarán McHugh, Shane McDermott, Paul Biesty, Gordon Biesty, Lorraine Biesty, Audrey Biesty, Ann Tully, Gerry Godfrey, Henry Madden, Albert Madden, Dan Tarpey, Sean Biesty, Denis Owens, Erica Owens, Seamus Owens, Liam O'Boyle, Daniel McDermott, Louis McHugh, Austin Finn, Tommy McDermott, Thomas Mulcahy, Denise McGuire, Etna Lewis, Linda McDermott, Elaine Healy, Sean Healy. Second row: Kathleen O'Boyle, Jack Madden, Conor O'Boyle, Fiona Biesty, Bernie Biesty, Margaret Tarpey, Mary Mooney, Denise Clancy, Shirley Tarpey, Jimmy Tully, Helen Biesty, Majella Coffey. Third row: Maureen Godfrey, Sadie Cameron, Ita McDonnell, Mairéad Burke, Josie Cunnane, Jimmy O'Boyle, Noreen Caulfield, Willie Joe O'Boyle, Elaine Carney, Michelle McDermott. Fourth row: Eoin O'Boyle, Ethan Owens, Anne Marie O'Boyle, Martin Caulfield, Teresa Finn. Seated: Alex Healy, Orla Coffey, Dave Mulcahy.



Cave, Togher, Carrowreagh Stations in the home of Paul Waldron, Cave, 16th Nov. 2012.

Standing, L-R: Stephen Nolan, James Cribbin, Luke Cribbin, Mary Morrissey, Michael Plunkett, Brian Waldron, Breda Waldron, Marie Cribbin, Brendan Grogan, Isobel Morrissey, Annette Doyle, Deirdre Byrne, Ann Plunkett, Eddie McLoughlin, Sean Waldron, Tommy Waldron, Teresa Mueller, Jimmy Murphy, Oliver Cribbin, Gregory Daly, Oisín McDermott, Gerry Winston, Danielle Duffy, Paul Damron, Laoise McDermott, Mairéad Damron, Áine Waldron, Tasha Coyne, Nora Brennan, Patricia Waldron, Bernard Waldron. Seated: Denise Nolan, Sheila Waldron, Bridget McLoughlin, Mary Waldron, Helen McLoughlin, Anita McDermott, Pearse McDermott, Anthony Waldron, Richard Waldron, Eddie McDermott, Treasa McDermott, Paul Waldron, Eileen Waldron.



Drimbane Stations, in the home of Patricia Greally, 15th Mar. 2013.

Standing, L-R: Maisie Sweeney, Maura Fitzmaurice, Frank Walsh, Gabriel Smith, Patrick Murphy, David McGuire, Michelle O'Kane, Barbara Murphy, Patrick Greally, Seamus Cribbin, Helen Walsh, Margaret Hannan, Teresa Cummins, Angela Cribbin, Anne Connell, Ann Kelly, Elizabeth Greally, Eva Bennett, Rachel Bennett.

Seated: Chris Mannion, Kathleen Kelly, Dympna Greally, Maura Walsh, Patricia Greally, Keelan Greally, Darren Greally, Joe Glynn, P.J. Greally, John Greally.



Derrynacong, Killinaugher Stations in home of Helen Hoban, Derrynacong, 23rd Mar. 2013.

Back row (standing), L-R: Sinéad Regan, Baby Aoife Regan, Marian Regan, John Kilduff, Noreen Kilduff, Michael Morley, Frances Mulhern, Kathleen Regan, Monica Hoban, John Joe Hoban, Maureen Comer, Michael Hoban, Lisa Hunt, Michael McDonagh, Megan Gaughan, Vincent Kedian, Martin Fitzmaurice, Malachy Donohoe, Catherine Donohoe.

Middle (seated): Theresa Hoban, Caroline Kedian, Catherine Morley, Kathleen Henry, Kian Morley, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Paddy Diskin, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Mary Hunt, Ann Carney, Maureen Devaney, Denis Buckley, Deirdre Diskin, Dolores Buckley, Geraldine Connolly.

Front (seated): Mae Fitzmaurice, Judy Regan, Elizabeth Lyons, Michael Regan, Megan Morley, Helen Hoban.



Johnstown Stations in the home of Adrian and Sinéad Lilly, 2nd November 2012.

Standing, L-R: Gemma Lilly, Ursula Morley, Sandra Morley, Sinéad Donegan, Adrian Lilly, Miriam Connaughton, Ann Marie Reynolds, Nuala Higgins, Joe Byrne, Padraic Ruane, Darragh Connaughton, John Joe Lilly, Enda Morley, Kieran Connolly, Robert Lilly, Frank Cuniffe, Michael Feeley, P.J. Fleming, John Morley, Paddy Higgins, James McGuire, Catriona McGuire, Sheena Fleming, Paddy Waldron.

Seated (back row): Margaret Byrne, Nancy Jordan, Eileen Jordan, William Lyons, Catherine Forkan, Carmel Higgins, Teresa Healy, Helen Byrne, Mary Cleary, Vona Walsh, Bridie Ruane, Kathleen Morley, Mary Morley, Kathleen Morley, Aidan Morley.

Seated (2nd row behind table): John Morley, Oisín Connaughton, Caoimhe Connaughton, Maureen Lilly.

Front row (behind table): Lorna Higgins, Rebecca Reynolds, Saoirse Connaughton, Lisa Higgins, Kelly Donegan.



Knockbrack, Skeghard, Ballinphuill Station Mass in the home of Bernie Joe and Bernadette Lyons, Skeghard, 20th September, 2013.

Back row, L-R: Adrian Lilly, Kevin McNamara, Morgan Lyons, Aoife Lilly, James Lyons, Grace Lyons, Elaine Donnelly, Gerry Lyons, Kevin McNamara, Patrick Donegan.

Third row: Michael Plunkett, Jimmy Donnelly, Pat Gaffney, Pete Higgins, Robert Lilly, Sinéad Filan, Stephen Waldron, William Lyons, John Joe Lilly, Alice Raftery, Padraig Murphy, Michael Raftery, Thomas Lilly, John Joe Lyons.

Second row: Jennifer Lilly, Sinéad Lilly, Áine Lilly, Elaine Lilly, Teresa Grogan, Kathleen Egan, Patricia Lilly, Agatha Higgins, Anne Murphy, Mary Donnelly, Gabrielle Lyons, Anne Lyons, Kay Higgins, Frances Gaffney, Mary Vizard, Eileen Lilly, Bernie Lilly, Michael Egan, Vincent Higgins.

Seated: Paddy Boyle, Robert Lilly, Maureen Lilly, Teresa Leonard, Kathleen Cribben, Mary Higgins, David Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Bernadette Lyons, Bernie Joe Lyons, Siobhán Lyons, Mary Roache, Abi Roache, Michael Roache, Gerry Cleary, Joan McNamara, Mary Finnegan.



Spaddagh, Classaghroe Stations in the home of John Joe and Patsy Flanagan, Spaddagh, 30th Nov. 2012.

Back row, L-R: Bridie O'Boyle, Mary Waldron, Stacia Carney, Aoife Carney, Regina Carney, Dolly Fitzmaurice, Francie Martin, Joan Flanagan, Bernadette Flanagan, Kevin Durkin, Sinéad Lyons.

Seated (middle): Lucy Kavanagh, Genevieve Flanagan, Bernie Quinn, Florrie Neary, Patsy Flanagan, Bridie Lyons, Elizabeth Carney, Eileen Lyons, Maureen Durkin.

Front row: Tom Neary, Val Lyons, Michael Lyons, John Joe Flanagan, Ann Concannon, Joe Fitzmaurice, Margaret Concannon.



Holywell/Woodpark Station Mass in the home of Seamus and Mary Waldron, Holywell, 4th Oct. 2013

Back row, L-R: Kathleen Ronan, Enda Jennings, John Fahy, Kieran Jennings, Walter Waldron, Seamus Mulrennan.

Third row: Gabriel Morley, Maura O'Dowd, Louise Biesty, Vinny Biesty, Catherine Waldron, Alacoque McManus, Catriona Jennings, Nicole Keeley.

Second row: Bridie Morley, Doris Carney, Noreen Fahy, Eileen Lynch, David Cahill, Aoife Mulrennan, Brian Mulrennan, Tommy Lynch, Mary Mulrennan, Seamus Jennings, Marcella Keeley.

Seated: Margaret Jennings, Anne Lynch, Jeanette Waldron, Aisling Waldron, Damien Waldron, Mary Waldron, Seamus Waldron, Katie Jennings, Thomas Keeley, Orla Mulrennan-Cahill.



Station Mass in the home of Christina Concannon, Upper Main St., 22nd Mar. 2013

Standing, L-R: Tomás Concannon, Madeline Nolan, Eugene Burke, Michael Nolan, Caroline Eaton, Tara Plunkett, Michael Nolan, Angela O'Brien, Anne Burke, Johnny O'Shaughnessy, Anne Gilligan, Stephen Nolan, Aoife Nolan, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Christina Concannon, Ryan Nolan, Alex Nolan, Jackie Dockery, Nuala Nolan, Amy Conroy, Lydia Concannon, Isobel Morrissey.
 Middle (seated): Ann Flanagan, Sarah Finnegan, Attracta Jordan, Freddie O'Brien, Mary Naughton, Yvonne Loughran, Denise Nolan, Anne Ronan, Manar Cherbatji.
 Front row (seated): Eamonn Murren, Sr. Rosario Waldron, Sr. Maura Callaghan, James Ronan, Fionnuala Forde.



Clare Street Stations in the home of John & Mary Frances Cleary, 8th February 2013

Back, L-R: Sean Freyne, Michael Cleary, Paul Donnellan, Mark Curley, Tracy Curley, Sam Cleary, Eithne Wood, Geoff Wood, Mitiku Mamo, Briggy Griffin, John Cleary, John Gill.
 Middle: Grahame Cleary, Breege Cleary, Ger Donnellan, Pauline Curley, Rosaleen Curley, Mary Frances Cleary.
 Front: Ina Freyne, Gillian Donnellan, Maeve Donnellan, Martha Grogan, Bernie Gill, Máisín Meath.



Lisbane Stations in the home of John Fitzmaurice, 11th October 2013

Back, L-R: Kieran Dyer, Margaret Dyer, Paul McGuire, Michael Nolan, Eileen Lyons, Kevin Lyons, Jack Brophy, Rose Nolan, Martin Finan, Kevin Devaney, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Kieran Fitzmaurice, Brian McMenamon, John Henry, John Joe Hoban, Michael Crowe, Aidan Fitzmaurice, Stephen Hoban.

Second Row: Fr. Stephen Farragher, Lisa Maguire, Róisín Fitzmaurice, Chloë Maguire, Catriona Crowe, Mary McGuire, Michael Regan, Elizabeth Sheridan, Mary Waldron, Mary Finan, John Walsh, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Jack Lynch, Marie Henry, Susan Hoban, Leanne Fitzmaurice, Michael Fitzmaurice, Michael McDonagh, Martin Fitzmaurice.

Seated: John Fitzmaurice, Gretta Henry, Patricia Davitt, Eleanor Lynch, Margaret Kenny, Maureen Devaney, Mae Fitzmaurice, Mary Plunkett, Mary Regan, Sally Lee, Teresa McMenamon, Jim Fitzmaurice, Patricia Brophy, Kay Walsh.



Pattenspark/Hazelhill Stations in the home of Walter and Mary Cleary, Pattenspark, Autumn 2013

L-R: Louise Cleary-Curran, Marian Biesty, Joan Biesty, Maureen Finn, Joe Finn, Niall Curran, Oliver Cleary, Joan Casby, Walter Cleary, Mary Cleary, Eileen McKermitt.

STATIONS



Bracklaghboy/Knock Rd. Stations in the home of Padraig & Patricia Murphy, Bracklaghboy, Autumn 2013

Standing, L-R: Stephen McGreal, Lisa McGreal, Jenny McGreal, John McElligott, Olive Lyons, Noreen Dunne, Claire Walsh, Mary Walsh, Teresa McGreal, Kathleen Henry, Pat Dunne, Joanne Hoban, Mick Byrne, Patricia Byrne, Sean Cunnane, Bea Marrinan, Joe Costello, Una Jenkins, Kathleen McElligott, Nuala Fitzgerald, J.P. McGreal, Marge Gallagher, John Gallagher, Brian Phillips, John Joe Hoban.

Seated: Katie Monaghan, Eamonn Monaghan, Eamonn Óg Monaghan, Margaret Monaghan, Frances Mulhern, Tara Murphy, Karen Cunnane, Padraig Murphy, Cian Murphy, Patricia Murphy, Baby Hazel Murphy, Mary Murphy, Paddy Murphy, Edward Mulhern, P.J. Smith.

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Joe Keane, Knox St., who celebrated his ninetieth birthday this October. He is pictured with his wife Marcella and family. A great time was had by all!

Back, L-R:

Joe Keane, Stella Keane, Iain Edmondson, Robert Cockburn, Kieran Cockburn, Andy Cockburn, Helen Keane, John Keane, Robert Keane.

Seated, L-R: Karen Cockburn, Tony Keane, Joe and Marcella Keane, Gillian Edmondson, Louise Keane.

Front row, L-R:

Jamie Edmondson, Georgina Keane, Harvey Keane, Tara Keane, Alex Edmondson, Ella Keane, Adam Walsh, Luke Walsh, Cian Walsh and Cillian Keane.



WALDRON CLAN GATHERING

The fourth International Waldron Clan Gathering took place at the Park Hotel, Kiltimagh over the last weekend of June 2013.

Over two-hundred people were in attendance from all over the World. There was a strong attendance from local families based in counties Mayo, Roscommon and Galway, with groups from Dublin and other parts of Ireland. Several family groups travelled from all over England and United States delegates attended from the states of Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont and Washington. From further afield, the 'Gathering' hosted Waldrons who travelled all the way from Argentina, South Africa and Australia.

The weekend began on Friday night, 21st June, with an official 'Welcome' by Tom Waldron of Cloonbook and Claremorris (Chairman of the Waldron Clan Association) followed by two brief presentations: first by Fr. Kieran Waldron on his own experiences with family history research over the past sixty years; the second by Paul

Waldron on the possibility of using DNA testing to discover the distant history of the Waldron 'clan'. A wonderful display of traditional Irish Dancing and Singing was given by the Tooreen Foróige Group. This was followed by traditional music supplied by Connie Gildea, Anthony Waldron, Richard Waldron, Orla de Bhaldraithe, Michael Plunkett and Edel Walsh. Recitations were given by Tom Waldron (Claremorris).

On Saturday morning there was a trip to the Foxford Woollen Mills and Knock Shrine. The main event of the weekend was the Dinner Dance on Saturday night with music by the Brose Walsh Band.

On Sunday morning a special Mass was celebrated in historic St. Mary's Church, Logboy by Fr. Kieran Waldron and Fr. Austin Cribbin. Readings were made and Offertory Gifts brought to the altar by representatives of the many different Waldron families now living around the world. Michael Kelly of Lissaniska gave a talk on the history of the Logboy/Tulrahan area. A bus left the hotel early on Sunday morning and brought visitors on a tour of 'Waldron Country' on the way to and back from Logboy.

Waldron Clan Gatherings took place in Ballyhaunis and Knock in 1997, 2000 and 2005, and each had over two-hundred people in attendance, from all over Ireland, England, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Africa and the Continent - all having an interest in their shared heritage.



Mass in St. Mary's Church, Logboy at the Waldron Clan Gathering

Back Row, L-R: Paul Waldron, Seamus O'Boyle, Michael Kelly, Seamus Cribbin, Fr. Austin Cribbin, Canon Kieran Waldron, Mary Waldron, Seamus Waldron, Tom Waldron. **Sixth Row:** Michael Griffin, Gus Slotman, Kathleen O'Beirne Slotman, Helen McLoughlin, Mary Waldron, Richard Waldron. **Fifth Row:** Tom Waldron, Carmen Waldron, Luke Waldron, Mary Hunt, Pat Hunt, Kathleen Lavin, Mary Carol Covey Schaffrath, Martina Quinn, Patricia Little, John P. McGuire. **Fourth Row:** Stan Miller, Grace Rickard, Rose Waldron, Barbara Green, Sr. Rosario Waldron, Margaret Waldron, Eileen Coen, John Joseph Waldron, Vincent Healy, Edward Waldron, Kent Covey, Maureen Kennedy. **Third Row:** Georgia Freeley Miller, Meabh Doolan Waldron, Noreen Doolan Waldron, Noreen Waldron Steinfeld, Fred Steinfeld, Angela Burke, Patrick Waldron, James Waldron, Angela Cribbin, Noreen O'Dowd, Edward Genever, Irene Healy, Patricia Robb, Anne Robb. **Second Row:** Maria Capasso, Rita Waldron Capasso, Rita Mooney, Margaret Fitzgerald, Josephine Nally, Liam Waldron, John Burke, Anne Burke, Ann Gilligan, Patricia Genever, Eamonn Waldron, Antoinette Waldron, Ursula Waldron. **Front Row:** Eugene Waldron, Ger Waldron, Cora Waldron, Olivia Waldron, James Waldron, John Waldron, Eilish Waldron, Teresa Waldron, Jane Keadin, Pauline Griffin, Valerie Kelly, Kathy Griffin. (Photo by Tony Griffin).



The Presentation of John Paul II Merit Awards, Cathedral of the Assumption, Tuam, 5th November 2013.

Back, L-R: Vicky Kelly, Carol Freeley, Ashling Lynskey, Aoife Murray, Dervla Phillips, Joseph Lyons, James Lyons, Colm Ronan. Centre, L-R: Niamh Murray, Áine Coyne, Sheila Brady, Yvonne Davy, Anna Doherty, Lynette Duffy, Grace Worden, Mark Phillips, Ms Orla Macken. Front, L-R: Edel Coffey, Peter O'Connell who presented the awards (Peter is from Killarney and he recently climbed Mount Everest), Archbishop Michael Neary, Lisa Higgins, Erika Webb, Trish O'Brien (Diocesan Youth Director), Eric Hynes (recipient of the Papal Cross Award).



Happy Birthday Granny!

Bridie Hunt, Larganboy, celebrating her birthday with her twelve grandchildren.
Back, L-R: David Regan, Philip Neilan, Neil Carney.
Centre: Cillian McGuire, Joanna Hunt, Aoife Carney, Bridie Hunt holding baby Jason, Robin Neilan with Paddy Hunt, Ethan Hunt, Hannah Hunt holding Molly Hunt.



Michaela Dillon of Floral Park, New York, attends the Donny Golden School of Irish Dance in Mineola, New York. She is daughter of Des and Madeleine Dillon and granddaughter of the late Helena Carney, Cloontumper. She is ten years old and competed at the Oireachtas in Philadelphia over Thanksgiving Weekend.



90th

Eileen Waldron, Cave, celebrated her 90th Birthday with family, neighbours and friends during the Stations in her home on Saturday, 26th Oct. 2013. She is pictured with her son Tony and daughter Nora Mary, son-in-law Tony Brennan (left), daughter-in-law Patricia Waldron (right) and grandson Ciarán Brennan.



Tommy Lyons celebrating his 80th Birthday, pictured with his sisters Eileen and Mary (right).



Abbey Male Choir singing for the Pageant Parade from Ballyhaunis to Holywell. (L-R: Tommy Grogan, Pat Feeney (behind), Georgie Hannan, Seamus Grogan, Luke Murray, Eamonn Murren, Brendan Donnellan, Paul Donnellan, Vincent Healy, Mike Byrne, Frankie Dillon, Paula Donnellan (Organist), Moira Delaney (Musical Director).



London GAA Manager Paul Coggins and Rebecca Osgood-Daly, pictured at the Granlahan Gathering Monument, August 2013.



Claire Lavin, Cloonlavish, Knock took up solo singing duties at Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, in June 2013. She is a daughter of Anne and Jimmy Lavin, Knock, and grand-daughter of the late Tom and Noreen Hopkins, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis.



Thomas J. Carroll of Knox St., Ballyhaunis stands behind the abandoned U.S. tank in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, September 2013.

HISTORIC HOUSE RESTORED

One of the oldest and most historic buildings in the Ballyhaunis area has been restored and conserved for posterity.

The old Waldron home in Derrymore is said to be four-hundred and ten years old and was occupied continuously up to the early 1970s. Taking a generation to be about thirty years, it can be estimated that twelve or thirteen

(nee McNamara of Island) and they raised a family of eight here in the 1940s and 50s – Mary, Peter, Austin, Nora, Nancy, Margaret, Bernadette and Walter.

It is a typical West of Ireland, three roomed dwelling in many ways, but it has some features that set it apart and show it to be a building of great antiquity. First of all, the walls are very sturdy – up to three foot thick at the base – and have a slight batter (slope) from the ground up, much like the walls of a castle. Built into the side of a hill, the floor level of the room above the kitchen is about three feet below the ground level outside. This same room has a second storey which was accessed by means of a ladder. Known as ‘Teach Bárrdha’ – the top or upper room – this

was once the lodgings of a priest who was a member of the family. He was probably Fr. Peter Waldron (1753-1834), Parish Priest of Annagh and Began 1799-1814 who is known to have lodged in a number of houses as he ministered around his large combined parish. It is also possible that the man in question was Fr. James Waldron, born in Derrymore in 1799, who died as curate in Partry in 1859.

The rooms are the same size as most traditional houses in the locality, and like most of these it had a ‘hag’ – a little room beside the fireplace – and a loft over the room below the kitchen. There’s one window in each room, facing south-east, as does the front door. The two external doors are opposite other: it’s said this arrangement helped regulate air-flow and kept fires burning efficiently in houses of this

style. The chimney still operates well and getting a fire started here was never a problem. The timberwork on the ceiling and partition dividing the kitchen from the room below is in great shape and shows a very high level of craftsmanship.

When the house was vacated a little over forty years ago, the Waldrons moved to a modern bungalow nearby. Around the same time the thatched roof was replaced with galvanised sheeting and this helped keep the old house from falling into disrepair. While his new house offered all the mod-cons of the day, Pake never fully severed his attachment to the old ancestral home. For as long as he was able, he made the short journey up the hill back to the old house every morning where he shaved and put down a fire. He died in 1991 and his wife Margaret died in 1997.

The house is currently owned by their son Austin and his wife Kathleen who live in Manchester, but have a home nearby. The restoration project was carried out by Michael G. Lyons (Cloonfaughna) and Jimmy Ronan (Bekan). The work involved re-plastering the entire building, painting the galvanised roof, renewing the windows and external doors, and installing guttering. During restoration work it became evident that the window of the kitchen was once



Front view of the Derrymore house.



Side view, showing the hag at the back.

generations have lived here since it was built around 1603. Five generations of the Waldron family can be fully accounted for living here, while the names of earlier ancestors are not now remembered. It was often said that many of the other Waldron families in the district originated from this very house in the distant past. The last residents were Patrick (‘Pake Peter’) and Margaret Waldron

almost twice as big, but had been reduced in width by as much as three feet – this might have something to do with the eighteenth century ‘window tax’ and the origins of the expression ‘daylight robbery’.

The oldest maps of the area available, dating to 1838, show the old house and neighbouring houses clearly, much as they were within living memory. While this house now stands on its own, up to the 1970s there were three other dwelling houses more-or-less in the same street, but all these

have been razed to the ground and it is remarkable that the oldest of them all is the only one remaining today. The last occupants of the other three houses were, respectively, Mrs. Kate Waldron (nee Morley), John and Nell Waldron (emigrated to Boston) and Jim and Anne Byrne.

This is an interesting and important piece of vernacular architecture and all concerned are to be complimented for ensuring its survival into the future as a tangible link with the distant past.

ORGAN RESTORATION CELEBRATED

An evening of Music and Song to mark the Restoration of the organ at St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis was held on Sunday, 3rd November 2013.

In 1930, Canon McHugh, P.P. Annagh (Ballyhaunis), along with a group of parishioners, identified the need for a good pipe organ to enhance the celebration of the Liturgy of the Church. It was decided to hold a raffle to raise the necessary funds for this worthy cause. When approached to buy a ticket for the raffle, Patrick Morley of Knox St., offered to pay the total cost which amounted to £800.

The MCs for the evening were Mike Byrne and Michael Goulding. The choirs and individuals taking part in the concert included Stephen Adams (who carried out the restoration of the organ), the Parish Choir, Ellen Phillips, Lauren Osgood-Daly, Niamh Murray, the Scoil Íosa Children's choir, Johnny McGarry and Family, the Abbey Male Choir, Joan O'Malley and Gracenotes.



Members of Gracenotes, The Abbey Male Choir and Scoil Íosa Children's Choir, with Johnny McGarry and Paddy Joe Tighe at the Evening of Music and Song.

Back, L-R: Vincent Healy, Pat Feeney, Luke Murray, Brendan Donnellan, Mike Byrne. Fifth row: Fr. Stephen Farragher PP, Anne Lyons, Tommy Grogan, Alan Henry, T. J. McCarrick, Brian Hunt, Brendan Morrissey, John Halpin, Seamus Grogan. Fourth row: Siobhán Coyne, Ann Durkin, Bríd Kenny, Mary Dawson, Mary Patterson, Maura Burke, Moira Stratford, Moira Patterson, Miriam Winston, Frances Mulhern, Una Shields, Mary Lyons, Geraldine Collins, Sr. Rosario, Anna Henry, Kay Healy, Tina Kirrane, Attracta Jordan, Frankie Dillon, Mary Hanna O'Connor, Agatha Higgins, Mairead Quinn, Mary Dillon. Third row (adults): Yvonne Loughran, Miriam Judge (Scoil Íosa Choir Teacher), Moira Delaney, Johnny McGarry, Paddy Joe Tighe. Front, 2nd and 3rd Row members of the Scoil Íosa Children's choir include: Rebecca Reynolds, Aoife Carney, Emma Graciová, Martinka Ubych, Auredas Armonivicius, Ethan Cooke, Aoife Gill, Shauna Small-McNamara, Lorna Higgins, Oliwia Halas, Winnie Allen, Winnie McDonagh, Lorna Davis, Maeve Donnellan, Lana Biesty, Gabriella Cervenakova, Ruth Henry, Anna Cunnane, Rachel Dillon, Áine Phillips, Holly Browne, Clodagh Byrne, Michéal Finn-Richardson, Lora Dimatrova, Gillian Donnellan, Karen Morgan, Erin Murray, Rachel Cleary, Grace Omaytayo, Holly Gallagher.



Map courtesy of The National Library of Ireland.



By John M. Gallagher March 1849

Crullagh and Athyshonin

Lord Dillon



D E R R Y L E A

Lord Dillon

Scale 20 Inches Irish Plantation Measure to an Inch



Tonreege
Lord Dillon

Text by Paul Waldron.
Photographed by Vincent Fahy.

Gortnageeragh

BARGARRIFF CALLED ARDARIG

The Dillon Estate Maps

This is one of the most interesting of the Dillon Estate maps held in the National Library Dublin. It is titled "Bargarriff called Ardarig" and shows the townlands of Aderg and Gortnageeragh, collectively known as Redford. The townland boundary isn't shown here, but it runs across the map about half way down. There's an '&' symbol after the 'Ardarig' in the title, so maybe the draughtsman intended to add in 'Gortnageeragh' but ran out of space, or forgot to add it in below. Anyway, somebody did add 'Gortnageeragh' in pencil later, on top. These townlands, along with Derrintogher, were all regarded one time as part of 'Bargarriff', and are listed as such in the Dillon Estate Rental of c.1805 and Tithe Applotment Book of c.1830.

The map was surveyed Pat M. Gallagher in March 1849 and holds some other interesting features. Notice the other name with Johnstown – Athyshonin – from the Irish Áit teach Sheáinín (the place of John's house), the unusual spelling of 'Currys', the old spelling of 'Ballyhavis' and the road marked 'New road to Tullaghane'. There's some nice artwork as well: an eagle on the top left, and a strange creature at the bottom and the horses heads either side of the word 'reference' in the table.

CURRYS

Lord Dillon

Surveyed by Pat M. Gallagher

REFERENCE							
No.	Names	Grass pasture	Reclaimed Bottoms	Reclaimed Bottoms	Reclaimed Bottoms	Reclaimed Bottoms	Totals
1	Widow Reilly	1 0 29		1 0 2			8 0 31
2	John Todd	3 1 12					3 1 12
3	Pat ^r Grealg	1 0 37					1 0 37
4	John Cullen	1 2 30					1 2 30
5	Mich ^r W. Bennell	2 0 33	3 3		36 1 0 20		4 1 16
6	Mich ^r Lyons	2 3 8	1 26	1 26	3 23		3 2
7	Thomas Grearke	2 2 1	3 6	1 0 0	1 13		4 1 2
8	Martin Healy		2 2 37				2 2 37
9	Widow Walker	1 1 4	1 3 20				3 0 24
10	James Fitzgerald	14 0 38	2 21	2 3	3		15 1 2
11	Rich ^d Mahony	12 2 2	7 0 10	2 3 10	6 3 30	11 3 29	41 7 2
12	Edward Givens	11 3 30	3 1 0 1				
13	Thomas Waldron						
14	John Hony	6 3 17	7 3 1		30 2 1 28	2 3 10	19 3 3
15	Pat ^r Lyons	6 2 36	3 0 36	1 2 12	2 29	9 0 18	26 1 1
16	Francis Waldron	3 0 15	1	5 2 35	3 1 19	1 1 0 13	3
17	John Finn	6 0 10	4 2		6 3 14	5 2 9	29 0
	Road		2 10				2
	River				16		
Grand Tot		36 3 14	37 1 19	15 1 21	22 1 32	30 2 28	192 2

BALLYHAUNIS GAA CLUB 2013



2013 has been a busy year for the Club, both on and off the field. We fielded twenty two teams catering for Ladies Football, Boys Football, Boys Hurling and both Football and Hurling at Senior Men's level.

Football

Under 6/Under 8 Boys Football

Training for players aged from five to eight years old is held every Friday evening in the Community School. Numbers are well up on previous years. The aim is to teach the basic skills of the game in a child friendly and enjoyable way. Games were played using the Go-Games model which is designed to give maximum participation to all players while encouraging children to try out all positions during a game. Games were played against Kilmovee, Mayo Gaels, Charlestown, Michael Glaveys, Eastern Gaels, Aghamore and Claremorris and although scores are not recorded at this grade, our skill level and knowledge of the game shone through in all games. Thanks to the parents for all their help and encouragement during the year and we urge them to continue to give their support to a great bunch of lads.

Under 10 Boys

The aim of this age group is to execute the skills learned earlier at a higher level and to show an awareness of positional and tactical play. Training started in March for this young panel of players. We played in a mini league against Charlestown, Mayo Gaels and Kilmovee on a round robin basis giving us six games. We also played challenge games against Michael Glaveys. We also hosted The Barry Butler blitz in which we competed against Kiltimagh, Aghamore Charlestown and Michael Glaveys. While results were encouraging this age group suffers because of trainers and the feeling is that with more help the team will benefit from more structured training and coaching.

Under 11/Under 12 Boys Football

In the Under 11 age group we played in the East Mayo blitz against Eastern Gaels and Kiltimagh. While numbers are low in this age bracket, there is great potential in the panel and they should be competitive in the Under 12 leagues. In the Under 12 league we were at a disadvantage from having to pick from a small panel of players. This team played a lot of football this year against teams from South and East Mayo. While winning some and losing some they showed true commitment and will continue to improve.

Under 13 Boys Football

We competed in Division 2A of the Mayo league winning three games and losing three so we just failed to

qualify for the Semi final stages of the competition. The panel showed great commitment to training throughout the season and this was rewarded when the team captured the Under 13 Vincent Caulfield Cup by defeating Charlestown in the final.

Under 14 Boys Football.

The team started training in February of this year and played in Division 2 of the Mayo League. We played seven games winning five of the seven and qualifying for the league Semi finals in which we defeated Breaffy to reach the League final against Louisburgh in McHale Park, Castlebar. Unfortunately on the night we were defeated by a fine Louisburgh team. Our performances during the league entitled us to play in Div. 1 of the County Championship, but in order to further this panel we decided to remain in Div. 2. During the course of the Championship we won two games and lost two thus failing to make the knock-out stages. The decision to remain in Div. 2 was justified when, on a historic evening in Aghamore, we defeated Div. 1 outfit Ballaghaderreen to regain the East Mayo Under 14 A Championship after a lapse of over 20 years.

Under 15 Boys Football

We are currently competing in Div.1 of the County League. At the time of writing, following victories over Swinford, Kiltimagh and Crossmolina, we are due to face Castlebar Mitchels in the County Semi Final.

Under 16 Boys Football

Playing in the highly competitive Div. 2 of the Mayo League we had victories over Kiltimagh, Louisburgh and The Neale to qualify to meet Carras in the Semi final. On the evening of the game we were beaten by the eventual league winners. In the County Championship we defeated Ballinrobe and Kiltimagh to qualify to meet Knockmore in the County Semi final. On the evening of the game we were deprived of up to five members of our team through injury. We felt we were very unlucky not to have come away with a victory. After this defeat training was intensified for the East Mayo Championship. The improvement showed when we met Swinford who had beaten us by an eight point margin in the County League, but on this occasion a top class performance saw us run out winners by a 10 point margin. In the East Mayo A Final we faced Charlestown who had defeated fellow Div. 1 outfit Aghamore in their Semi final. In a game in which no team deserved to loose, the teams were level after 60 minutes had elapsed, but after extra time we came out the wrong side of a one point defeat having led by as much as nine points in the second half.

Under 18 Boys Football

Competing in Div. 3 of the County we lost six out of the seven games. In the Summer League we won two of our

group games but just failed to make the semi-finals. In the East Mayo Championship we were defeated at the semi-final stages by Charlestown.

Under 21 Football

In the group stages, after a victory over The Neale and a defeat by Hollymount, we qualified to meet Breaffy in the County Under 21 B quarter final. On the night we were outclassed by a team which included five players who played in the following week's County Senior Football Final.

Senior Football

Ballyhaunis played in the Intermediate Championship and operated out of Div. 1b in the County Senior league. In the Championship we secured our intermediate status and were unlucky not to qualify for the knockout stages having been defeated by Kiltane in Bangor by a single point. In our opening game we went down by six points to Kiltimagh in Kiltimagh, but a victory at home over Achill confirmed that we would play Intermediate Football in 2014.

In the League things are not looking too good and at present we need to win our last three games in order to avoid relegation.

Girls Football

This year we hoped to progress with the development of the excellent work put in by the members involved in Ladies Football in 2012. We had enjoyed overseeing the improvement in skill levels and wondered how we could maintain the level of interest shown in our first year. We have been overwhelmed with the response from all players from Under 8 to Under 14s and can now look forward to seeing these girls fulfil their undoubted potential.

Under 8 and 10 Girls

We had great numbers for these age groups and the interest and commitment was evident from their first training session in March until we finished up in October. We played in a number of Blitzes and were in a position to ensure that all girls were given plenty of playing time to improve their skills and to get maximum enjoyment from participating in a team environment.

Under 12 Girls

We played in a number of challenge games and blitzes during the season and finished up with the County Blitz in which we won all our games and look forward to seeing this group playing at Under 13 level next year.

Under 13 Girls

At the time of writing we have qualified for the Div. 2 League final. The team finished our league campaign with seven wins and only one loss. We defeated Carnacon in the Semi-final and now face the only team to have defeated us this year, Swinford, in the Final

Under 14 Girls

Our Under 14 girls were our flagship team for this year and provided us with many unforgettable moments in 2013, the highlight being that memorable scorcher of a day in Ballyheane when the Under 14 Div. 2 League title was won after an epic game of football. We also qualified for the Under 14 Championship Final and, despite our best efforts, we lost out to a brilliant Parke performance in a high scoring game.

Hurling

Under 13 Hurling

We competed in the Mayo Under 13 B League. In our first game we had a big win over James Stephens and following this we qualified for the final on a scoreline of 8-10 to 2-03.

Under 14 Hurling

The Under 14 team had two wins and four defeats in the Championship but unfortunately this was not good enough to reach the knockout stages of the competition.

Minor Hurling

Ballyhaunis Minor Hurlers had a belated start to training in 2013 and, unfortunately, it came back to haunt the panel as the year progressed. Our first game was away to Moytura and even though we competed well and outscored them point-wise we conceded too many soft goals and lost on a margin of 9-07 to 2-08. We redeemed ourselves in the next round and beat Caiseal Gaels by 5-10 to 3-06. In Round 3, again we were beaten by Westport in Westport by 5-11 to 1-07 and subsequently in Round 4 at home to Castlebar by 5-08 to 0-05. At this stage training was going better and we drew with Tooreen in Tooreen 2-08 to 2-08, a game we let slip by with a high wide tally. We then comprehensively beat Ballyvary by 5-19 to 2-02. Unfortunately, with the high concession of scores early on we did not make the top four and so did not make the Play-offs.

Later on in the Championships we qualified to play Caiseal Gaels in the semi-finals, which we won and qualified to meet Ballyvary in the final. In a heart-breaking final we went down on a scoreline of 1-13 to 2-05.

Apart from the problem of the late start we never had a full panel for any training session or any game due to players working, studying or on holidays, an issue addressed by Management after the Final.

I would like to thank all the Players and especially those who had a 100% record at training. I would like to thank also Pierce Higgins, John Joe Hoban and J.P. Coen who conducted most of the training sessions. I would also like to congratulate the players who were promoted to the senior squad.

Minor Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Oisín Coffey, Cyril Collins, Jason Coyne, Joey Fahy, Colum Gardiner, Sean

Gildea, Shane Healy, Sean Herr, Joe Kelly, Conor Lenehan, Ryan Kibane, Kevin Kilbride, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Faizan Ahmed Mohammed, Qasim Nazir, Eamonn Phillips, Mark Phillips, Waquas Rehmon, Stephen Ryan, Michael Waldron, Hamza Yousaf.

Cúl Camps

Over 80 boys and girls from the enjoyed five days of glorious sunshine at the annual GAA Cúl Camp which took place at the local GAA pitch.

Under 21 Hurling

A draw with Castlebar and a victory qualified us to meet Castlebar in the County Semi-final. This time we didn't get the rub of the green and lost by 7 points. At the time of writing we are waiting to play Westport in the B Final.

Senior Hurling

This season saw Ballyhaunis Senior Hurlers going for their sixth County title in a row and setting out to regain the Genfitt Cup League title. In the Championship we had victories over Tooreen, Westport and Castlebar to qualify for the County Final against Tooreen. Our form from the previous rounds did not hold up on the day and Tooreen bridged a 10 year gap to capture the Tyrrell Cup. We wish them all the best in the Connacht Intermediate Club Championship. We have qualified for the Final of the Michael Stephens Cup following a victory over Oran (Roscommon) and have also qualified to meet Tooreen in the Final of the Genfitt League.

In Closing

Ballyhaunis GAA Club are very grateful to the many individuals and businesses who have supported the Club throughout 2013 and recognise that without this support it would not be possible to continue to provide the facilities and sporting outlet to our members. Our weekly Lotto continues to be the bread and butter of the Club finances and we also are depending on your support for the various

fundraising activities held throughout the season.

Ballyhaunis is very proud of its long tradition of providing players to various county teams. This year has been no different and, while we are all aware of the contribution of Keith Higgins to the Senior Footballers which saw us come agonisingly close to "The Holy Grail" of an All Ireland Senior title. We are equally proud of all our players who have represented their County in 2013. A special mention goes to the five Club members – Morgan Lyons, James Lyons, Shane Healy, Jason Coyne and Mark Phillips – who were part of the Mayo Minor Hurling panel that captured the All Ireland Minor C Hurling title.

Players on County Panels 2013

Under 14 Hurling:	Cormac Phillips.
Under 15 Football:	Brian O'Neill, Carlton Ubazeuono, Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield, John Cunnane.
Under 16 Hurling:	Ryan Kilbane, Calum Gardiner, Joe Kelly.
Under 16 Football:	James Cribbin.
Under 17 Football:	Stephen Nolan.
Minor Hurling:	Morgan Lyons, James Lyons, Mark Phillips, Shane Healy, Jason Coyne.
Under 21 Football:	Eoghan Collins.
Under 21 Hurling:	Kieran Kiely, Damien Keadin, Pat Kiely, Eoghan Collins.
Senior Hurling:	Donal O'Brien, Adrian Brennan, Kieran Kiely, Fergal Lyons, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Tadhg Morley.
Senior Football:	Keith Higgins, who won his second All-Star Award, 2013.

Vinnie Caulfield
Secretary



GAA Cúl Camps 2013



Ballyhaunis Under 14 Football team winners of the East Mayo Under 14-A Championship, and beaten County finalists, at McHale Park, July 2013.

Included in photo: Seamus Caulfield, Zouhir Rahmani, Zouzou Rahmani, Peace Omateyou, Patrick Caulfield, Conor Sloyan, Neil Carney, Cormac Phillips, Aifo Ebeleghe, Evan Fitzmaurice, Evan Henry, Robbie Herr, Barry Cribbin, Tommy Caulfield, Martin Fitzmaurice, Dara Healy, Darren Maughan, Conal Caulfield, Tommy Maughan, David Cunnane, Macangel Ubazuonu, Gary Higgins, Jack Coyne, Liam Herr.



Ballyhaunis Girls Under-14 Division 2 League Winners 2013.

Included in photo: Lindiwe Nkosiimeadhbh Caulfield, Roisín Lyons, Anna Naszkierska, Shauna Lyons, Siofra Murray, Michelle Grogan, Emma Nolan, Aoife Conway, Olivia Cleary, Jason Foody, Rebecca Finn, Cait Phillips, Emma Heelan, Helen Gallagher, Michael Gallagher, Amy Nevin, Alannah Dennehy, Michael Cleary, Sheena Roddy, Marina Carney, Liam Lyons. Niamh O'Neill, Jade Cunnane, Laura O'Connell, Aibhinn Herr, Katelyn Concanon, Chloe Ryan, Megan Regan, Chantelle Ubazuonu, Niamh Foody, Laura Regan, Niamh Smyth, Gemma Foody, Lauren Walshe.



The Ballyhaunis team which competed in the Barry Butler Under 10 Blitz with trainer David Burke.



(Above): Ballyhaunis hurlers in action during the County Senior Hurling Final 2013, versus Tooreen at Ballyhaunis GAA pitch.

(Left): Ballyhaunis Under 13 Football team, winners of the Vincent Caulfield Memorial Cup 2013. They defeated Charlestown 3-14 to 2-9 in the Final.

THE SCOUTS

The 4th Mayo C.B.S.I. is deadLong live the 4th Mayo Scouts!

As the year progressed 'Gathering' fever took hold of communities all over Ireland. Organisations and groups of every conceivable description were planning events, even those that were no longer in existence. Ballyhaunis with its long tradition of scouting was one such example. The 4th Mayo Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland while defunct for over 20 years was still very much a part of Ballyhaunis life. Why not have a 'Gathering' for the scouts? The scouts were great. Whatever happened to the scouts anyway? Everywhere has scouts now. Why stop at a 'Gathering'? Why not reform the scouts? Why not?

A call was made to Scouting Ireland, the umbrella organisation for scouts in Ireland, north and south. "Good to hear from you", was the immediate response, "we often wondered what happened to the 4th Mayo". A morning meeting was called at very short notice at the end of July to



activity in the town, that a display of scouting was needed to showcase the movement. The Abbey Pattern on 1st September would be the perfect venue. Scouts from Castlebar and Swinford arrived, an 'Icelandic' tent was erected and fires were lit. The adults and children were enthralled and enthusiastic, names were taken and follow up meetings were held.

The scouts were back. The 'Gathering' aspect did not go unnoticed and 'old hands' turned up with photos and plenty of stories of camps from long ago!

Since then a number of meetings were held in the FRC. Eleven adults (as of early October) have signed up for a training course and filled in the Garda vetting forms. It is hoped to have a fully functioning troop by the spring of 2014. Many of the volunteers were themselves scouts in other parts of Ireland and the UK and are anxious to get involved – surely an endorsement for the scouting movement.

Like many youth organisations in Ireland the scouts have become very professional with fulltime staff at national, provincial and county level. Scouting Ireland caters for boys and girls of all ages from six years of age and upwards.

Scouting is enjoying resurgence in popularity all over Ireland – and not just in the towns. Villages, traditionally not considered viable for a scout troop, are forming their own units or linking up with the nearest troop. In the case of Ballyhaunis the 'Mayo' parishes and villages are more than welcome to link up with us; the same applies to the 'Roscommon' side of the town. In all cases enquiries should be made directly to Scouting Ireland for advice, alternatively Stephen Grogan in the FRC will assist in directing interested parties to the appropriate person in

Scouting Ireland. Any organisation is only as strong as its members – so get involved!

The Abbey Trust has kindly offered us the use of the Friary for meetings– as for the 'Scout Den' itself, that will depend on the level of scouting activity in the town and district.

Yours in Scouting,

John Durkan



Ballyhaunis Scouting Committee meeting, October 2013.
L-R: Paul Carney, John Durkan, Stephen Grogan, Edel Conway, Jana Jurak, Karen Whelan, Marion Feeney, Susan Hill.

assess what level of interest there might be towards reforming the scouts in Ballyhaunis. This meeting, held in the FRC, chaired by Noel Leahy (Scouting Ireland) with Stephen Grogan as secretary and attended by Seamus O'Boyle, Pat Higgins, Mike Griffin, John Durkan and Martin Walsh, all 4th Mayo scouts, representing over 50 years of scouting, became the action committee.

It was decided, given the 20 year break in scouting



4th Mayo Troop, Scout Den, Ballyhaunis, 1987.

Included in photo: Shane Mooney, Michael Curley, Gerry Coen, Simon Webb, Darragh Eagney, Paul Nolan, Oliver Jordan, David Conlon, Derek Walsh, Shane Burke, Darren Conlon, John Nolan, David Laffey, Therese Cribbin (Leader), Eoin Butler, Michael Coen, Mark Gallagher, Declan Mulhern, J. P. Coen, Cormac Cleary, Edward Webb, Seamus Durkan (Leader).
 Ian Webb, Sean Fitzmaurice, Oliver Cleary, Gabriel Gallagher, Paul Lyons, Colm Jordan, Seamus Freyne, Brian Forde, Michael Regan, Conal Higgins, Alan Delaney. *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea/Ballyhaunis.*



**Brownies on Parade,
 Abbey St, early
 1980's.**

Included in photo are:
 SORCHA Hannon,
 Maria Higgins,
 Joan O'Malley, Rosemary
 Nestor, Olivia Gallagher,
 Yvonne Flynn, Rose Anne
 Regan, Tara Caulfield,
 Maria Naughton, Jennifer
 Donnelly, Emma Dillon
 Leetch, Claire O'Malley,
 SORCHA O'Loughlin,
 Martina Freeley,
 Colette Byrne, Denise Byrne,
 Sinéad London, Ciara
 Shields, Catherine Doherty,
 Samantha Glynn.
 Leaders: Jenny Glynn,
 Moyra Patterson, Nell
 Rochford, Judy Regan.
*Glynn's Photography,
 Castlerea/Ballyhaunis*



St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Leaving Cert. Class 1963-64.

Back, L-R: Evelyn Fitzmaurice, Audrey Wall, Triona Mulhern, Catherine Mulkeen, Margaret Forde, Helen Forde, Brid Glynn, Maureen Nolan, Bernadette Hett.

Front: Mary Angela Moran, Mary Dempsey, Brenda Moran, Margo Fitzgerald, Patricia Grogan, Patricia Cregg, Mary Keane, Dolores Meehan, Sarah Regan.

Tóg Míse Ar Aís

Take me back to the rolling hills, to the land where I first learnt my blood's true calling,
 Take me back to the sun-blessed fields, to the clear night sky and the birdsong mornings,
 Take me back to the land of my people, where my ancestors toiled at quarries and farms,
 Take me back to the church and the steeple, the horse cart and tractor, the taverns and barns,
 Take me back to those long loving summers, those distant relations and family friends,
 Take me back to Galway and Mayo, Cork, Kerry and Sligo, Roscommon and Creggs,
 Take me back to the lands that inspired me, nurtured my spirit and fed me my muse,
 Take me back to my grandmother's stories, to the souls that helped shape me that I never knew,
 Take me back to the coastline, back to the causeway, back to the streets that Joyce helped me imagine,
 Take me back to the libraries, back to the pages of Yeats that first filled me with longing and passion,
 Take me back to those nights at the cottage, the warmth of the fire and glow of the hearth,
 Though my bones may be tombed in the soils of England,
 The fields of Ireland shall always have my heart.

Poem written by Nathan Lunt, grandson of Josephine and Eddie Lunt, Leicester.

Josephine was formerly Josephine Hunt, Derrynaconag and a past pupil of Brackloon National School.



St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Senior Class 1961-62.

Back, L-R: Helen Corr, Kathleen Waldron, Mary Margaret Lyons, Teresa Henry, Hanoria Glynn, Miriam Murphy, Cassie Caulfield, Fidelma Devaney.
Front: Mary Lowry, Bridie Lyons, Bernadette Hett, Pat Henry, Ann Barry, Breege Byrne, Eileen Lyons.



St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Senior Class 1961-62.

Back, L-R: Pauline Melly, Kathleen Flatley, Teresa Biesty, Mary Lynskey, Mairead Mulhern.
Front: Della Concannon, Noreen Sloyan, Kitty Fitzmaurice, Patricia Judge.



St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis, Junior A, 1971.

Back, L-R: Martin Duggan, Thomas Phillips, Terence Keenan, Anthony Hegarty, John Keane, Noel Armstrong, Pat Freeley, Oliver Hannon, Pat Morris, Tommy Jordan, Michael O'Connell, Eamon Smyth.
 Centre: Vinnie Kelly, Gerry Lyons, Tom Fitzmaurice, Jimmy Hopkins, Jarlath Lyons, Michael Loftus, Michael Lyons, Martin Kelly, Kieran Folliard, Eamon Murren.
 Front: Sean Egan, Aiden Kneafsey, Timothy Murphy, Alex Eaton, Thomas Cunnane, Kieran Connolly, Eddie Murphy, John Mulligan, David Dwane, Bertie Cribbin, Eugene Morley.



St. Joseph's Convent, Leaving Cert Class, 1954.

Back, L-R: Annie Spellman (Crossard), Teresa Mulkeen (Knockbrack), Joan Waldron (Aghamore), Mary Biesty (Knox St.), Veronica Hopkins (Island).
 Front: Deirdre Wall (Devlis), Noreen Lyons (Redford), Rita Byrne (Bridge St.), Kay Waldron (Redford).



Hay Making, August 1938. Ned and Pake Grogan (Holywell) with Johnny Carney, aged 6 (Cloontumper).



(Above right): Ballyhaunis cousins at Greg Caulfield's wedding in London, Apr. 1970.
L-R: Michael Regan and sister Caitriona (Carrowkeel), Mary Cunnane (Bridge St.), Michael Biesty (Carrowkeel).



(Above): Next-door neighbours, John Carney and Jim Dolan, Cloontumper, Began, 1991.
(Left): New immigrants in New York, July 1951.
Margaret McGovern (Holywell) and Mary Cunnane (Bridge St.).



An American Night in Tooreen Hall, with Terry Long and visitors, 19th Sept. 1952.

Back, L-R: Margaret Murphy, her sister Lizzie, M. Flatley, Sean Mannion, John Joe Jordan, Nancy O'Dea, Charlie and Ciss Egan, Monica Delaney, Sean Brennan.

Front, L-R: Tommy O'Dea, Josie Brennan, Julie Morley, Pake Ruane, Bridie Carney Cameron, Maureen O'Dea, Johnny Carney, Mary Cunnane, Helen Carney.



Six Tarmey brothers
of Holywell.

L-R: Stephen,
Dominick,
Michael,
James,
Brian and
John Tarmey,
of Holywell.
Taken in U.S.A.

Missing from picture:
Martin Tarmey
who remained
at home.



First Gardai in Ballyhaunis 1923-1926

Back, L-R: John Pigott, James Murphy, Edward Ryan, Maurice Foley. Front, L-R: Michael O'Leary, Hugh Mulligan, Michael Duggan. Photo courtesy of An Garda Síochána, Ballyhaunis from an original photograph courtesy of Mrs. McGillicuddy, Knox St., with names supplied by Eddie Biesty. Gardas Pigott, Murphy, Foley and O'Leary were the first Gardai in Ballyhaunis Garda Station. The following is a list of Gardai who served in Ballyhaunis in the 1920s, with their dates of appointment: Maurice Foley (8th Mar. 1923), John Pigott (8th Mar. 1923), James Murphy (8th Mar. 1923), Michael Duggan (8th Mar. 1923), Peter Brennan (17th Jan. 1925), Edward Dominick Ryan (4th June 1925), John Glynn (5th Feb. 1926), Bartley Donahoe (6th May 1926), Michael Mahony (6th Aug. 1926), Hugh Patrick Mulligan (17th Nov. 1926), William Joseph Farrell (25th July 1927).



Take
a walk down
Memory Lane

Brian Ruane, Lurgan, at a
Pig Fair in the Square,
Ballyhaunis,
1960s.



Michael and Mary Ruane, on holidays in Lurgan, Ballyhaunis, August 1987. Michael came originally from Lurgan and spent most of his life in Philadelphia, U.S.A.



Bringing home the hay
Three generations of the Ruane family, Lurgan.
Bernard Ruane, his son Brian and Brian's son John.



Taken in Finn's house, Mountain, Forthill, 1950.
Standing: Tom Finn, Mick Carney, Pat Finn, Rose McLoughlin,
Anne Finn. Seated: Patrick Finn, Kate Finn.



L-R: Teresa and Patrick McGarry, Abbey St., John Gallagher Jnr.,
John Gallagher Snr. and Maureen Gallagher, Main St., 1950.



Members of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce who organised the Ballyhaunis Trade Fair 1984, pictured with An Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald and local politicians.

Back, L-R: Pat Martin, Enda Murphy, Tommy Johnston, Mike Webb, Dermot Eagney, Paddy O'Toole T.D. Front: Pado Moran, Gerry McGarry (Chamber President), An Taoiseach Garret Fitzgerald, John Dillon, Sen. Jim Higgins, John O'Brien.



Michael Culliney, Tavnaghmore and Leeds, England (right) with nieces Kathleen Casserly (Leeds) and Mary Teresa Naughton (Bekan), 1990.



L-R: Mary Fitzmaurice (Mountain), Maggie Moran (Forthill) and Mary Kate Connor (Tavnaghmore). Pic taken in Connor's house, early '90s.



(Right): Silage making in Bekan, 1970. Jimmy, Timmy and Jim Ronan Snr. Noel Kelly in tractor.



Taken in Birmingham, 1968. L-R: Michael Moore, Andy Rabbitte, Martin Doyle, Tom Cleary and Eamon Sullivan.



Mike Griffin, Clare St. 1950's



Teddie Webb, Tommy Caulfield, Val Rattigan, in the 1980s.



Tony Morley, Eamon Murren, Michael Murren, Mick O'Connell and Michael Grogan. Pictured at Seamus Caulfield's Wedding in 1996.



Golf Outing Clifden 1995

Back, L-R:
Tony Flynn, Bernie Jennings,
Mike Grogan, Rory O'Connor,
Tom Eagney and Noel Patterson.

Centre:
Val Rattigan, Robbie Herr,
Alf Hudson, Brendan McGrath
and Alex Eaton.

Front: Patsy Glynn,
Freddie Herr, John Tighe
and Mike Herr.

APRONS

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasions was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.



When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her ears. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the Fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

Remember - Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw!

**Maureen Kelly (nee Burke),
Oranmore, Co Galway**

CROÍ

CONTINUE THEIR FIGHT AGAINST HEART DISEASE AND STROKE

In the last year, heart and stroke charity Croí have been busy with a hive of activity taking place throughout Mayo and the West of Ireland. The mission of the charity is to prevent cardiovascular disease, save lives and promote recovery and wellbeing.

In Mayo, Croí Nurse, Ailish Houlihan has launched a number of new initiatives. The latest one being a 'Heart Attack Awareness' campaign aimed to educate people on the signs and symptoms of heart attack. As part of this awareness campaign, a FREE public health talk was given on Wednesday, 6th November in the TF Hotel in Castlebar. It was presented by Dr. Jim Crowley, Consultant Cardiologist.

Earlier this year, Ailish also launched a 'Stroke Awareness' campaign to highlight the signs and symptoms of stroke. Two awareness days took place in Mayo General Hospital, along with two public health talks in Castlebar and Ballina. Two other talks were given in Achill and Belmullet on the 7th and 14th November respectively.

Other new initiatives involve community cardiac rehab (where cardiac rehab is being offered in the community for the first time) – this programme is delivered by Croí affiliated instructors – weight management classes and a pilot is currently underway for a new school initiative on healthy living (healthy eating and education). A new 'Women at Heart' campaign was also recently launched in Galway to highlight the fact that heart disease and stroke are the biggest health threats for Irish women. The aim is roll out this campaign nationally.

These programmes run in conjunction with activities in the Heart and Stroke Centre based in Galway. Among the free public health talks, awareness campaigns and various activity programmes, Croí have also been working with GPs and practice nurses to provide them with educational conferences and workshops to learn the latest guidelines in preventive cardiology. Croí have also launched Ireland's first Masters Degree Programme in Preventive Cardiology. The charity (in partnership with NUIG, MSD Ireland and the Kerry Group) enrolled their first group of students in September of this year.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Croí is entirely funded through their own fundraising activities and public support. Croí needs your support to continue their life-saving work.

For more information on any of these programmes, please contact Ailish Houlihan on 094-9049172 or email ailish@croi.ie.



Fighting Heart Disease & Stroke

**Helen Meehan,
Croí Friends Ballyhaunis**

THE LAME DUCK

Just one other item of great importance before I finish my contribution for Annagh 2013 and I assure you it has nothing at all to do with 'Game for a Laugh'. I'm referring of course to the huge weight of traffic passing through the Square in Ballyhaunis five days a week. No traffic control whatever - everyone in a hurry to exit the Square in all directions. I go to town every day of the week and only once in the last year did I see a guard on traffic duty and that was for a funeral.

Wave after wave of incoming traffic from the Bridge end - cattle trucks, cattle trucks with trailers, sheep trucks, poultry trucks, sand and gravel trucks, delivery lorries and vans, complete with the everyday traffic of cars and tractors. Add in all the traffic approaching from Main Street, Clare Street and Knox Street to complete the nightmare. I did three, five minute checks of a Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon this current week mid September and the Monday reading was 65, 59 and 68 on the Monday and 79, 71 and 66 on the Tuesday, the total number of vehicles going through the Square.

Next, I ask myself, where does the pedestrian stand in all of this? By accident I turned on the radio on the morning of 10th September (I don't listen to Midwest) and the topic was the use of the pedestrian crossing. I can't say that I agree with all the advice being given to the pedestrians. "Try and make eye contact with approaching driver", we were advised. I don't agree at all, because by trying to make this contact, the pedestrian can't see what's happening on the other side. While I agree the pedestrians should choose the last moment to cross, once you put your foot on the crossing, the onus has shifted to the driver of the oncoming vehicle or vehicles. Most drivers seem to be on the lookout and always prepared to give way while others drive ahead while the pedestrian is crossing. This can be terrifying especially for older people who take quite some time to get across. Best advice would be, everybody driving to slow down and keep alert. For the pedestrian, remember if you walk out under a car or lorry, you will surely be knocked down, and if you wait long enough your moment will come when you can cross in safety. So much for pedestrian crossings!

What does the pedestrian do where there is no recognised crossing? Don't we have this situation in Bridge St.? Of all four streets leading to the Square, Bridge Street is the one in most need of a foot crossing. I've made enquiries regarding this but nobody seems to know why. I would not dare ask a county councillor because you seldom or ever get the answers to the questions you ask.

Imagine you are standing at Curley's Jewellers shop and you need to cross over to Colleran's Pharmacy, a distance of twelve or fourteen yards. You are putting your life on the

line by doing this. In order to get across in relative safety, you must use the foot crossing on Clare Road, walk up to Gallagher's old shop and across Main Street via the foot crossing, over past the two guys arguing about a suck calf and across the foot crossing below the Bank of Ireland and track all the way back to Colleran's - a distance of, wait for it, 175 yards. Measure it if you wish. I did. A sizeable journey for an old person.

If Mayo County Council cares about the pedestrian, why no foot crossing in Bridge Street? If the answer is that it is too busy and too dangerous to construct a foot crossing, then that's all the more reason why a foot crossing should be in place at this point. Failing to do this, the council should consider what, for me, would be a good alternative. Construct a new foot crossing at the post office. On most days of the week this is a very busy section of the town. You have the post office, car park, Ulster bank and supermarket on one side, with Delaney's garden centre, hardware and the Oak on the other, and always people wanting to make the crossing. Worth thinking about I reckon.

By-Pass

I would also think that parking should be prohibited on both sides of the street from the river to the Square. This would have the effect of speeding up the flow of traffic and allow an extra metre and a half for the artics to negotiate the turn on the Claremorris road.

There is so much talk about the tourist industry and how it can affect our economy. One can only imagine what the tourists will think when they come into Bridge Street only to be wedged in between stinky cattle and sheep trucks, and all because our government turns a blind eye. Apart from our own ability to survive we have made very little headway since Cromwellian times. Anything is good enough for the West, all because we take it lying down. It's past time we stood up for ourselves. We need our by-pass, and we need it now. Thirty or forty million should cover it, provided you scrap a lot of the paper work or, should I say, red tape. Forty million would only put a small dent in the bail-out mountain.

It's long past the time for telling our politicians that the "no money" excuse does not wash any more, and the broken promises thing has long passed its sell by date. A Ballyhaunis by-pass is not a luxury but a necessity and perhaps a life-saving one as well. We do not want a repeat of the last by-pass effort, a mile of lame duck road going nowhere and serving no useful purpose: the odd car; the odd pedestrian. Not forgetting the pile of money spent on this lame duck road this current year constructing two sod fences on the road edge. What in God's name do those ugly looking articles do to improve this road? Hazard a guess here - a deterrent for camping travellers? If that is the reason, then Mayo County Council needs to wake up and cop on. Those travellers are an age-old part of our society. County Council or nobody else will make them change

their traditions and cultures. They were here long before you came and they will be here long after you're gone.

For the next three weeks until mid October our Ministers will be mouthing off about the cuts that will be needed in the Budget, in order to get the economy moving again. They will be telling us that they too feel the pain the taxpayer has to suffer, but to keep our chin up because we are about to exit the bailout shambles. Believe that and you are living on planet Cuckoo. Our grandchildren will be paying the price for the same bailout. How in God's name can they feel the pain with salaries of one hundred and two hundred thousand euro plus? Let me give them guys some idea what real pain is. The poor woman getting her children ready for school, hard pressed to find enough food or money to see her through the day; her husband waiting for the dole office to open to collect his lousy few bob with no job and no prospect, wondering how much more will be

added to their misery in the Budget. And this family is only one of thousands who has to suffer the same fate. That is what I call pain, and until some James Connolly like politician stands up in the Dáil and rocks the house to its foundations things will never change. Something like this: "This is the first day in the life of this building that self interest by all government politicians is abolished. This is the first day in the life of this House that we must reach out to the poor and bridge the gap between them and the rich. And we will make damn sure that the wealthy supply the material to build that bridge". Then - and only then - will that poor woman be freed from the vacuum of fear and hopelessness in which she lives.

"Cometh the Day, Cometh the Hour".

Tony Carney

Take a walk down Memory Lane



Taken at Seamus and Paula Grogan's Wedding, 1996.
L-R: Eamon Phillips, Jack Halpin, Seamie Webb.



Above: Edward Murphy, Geraldine Smyth, 1962.
Left: Miriam Murphy, Rita Murphy, 1959.

GLIMPSES OF HOLYWELL PAST

*Pat Joe Lyons in conversation
with Seamus Mulrennan*

Pat Joe Lyons was born in Holywell, Ballyhaunis on the 8th of February, 1915. He has lived all his life in Holywell working as a farmer and cattle-dealer. He now lives in retirement with his son Paddy and family. Blessed with a remarkably vivid gift of recall, here are some early memories he shared recently.

Cattle Dealing

From a young age Pat Joe wanted to follow his father into the cattle dealing business. "My father used to be buying a few cattle, trying to get a few pound out of them. There was nothing for me only to get out dealing – dealing was in my head. We made a few pounds out of it... A few, not thousands like nowadays. To buy an animal and get three shillings on them you were at no expense. It was like turning the money over, until we got into it in a bigger way. Cattle were for nothing. The best animal that was in it – a heifer or a bullock – was only making about £2."

Cattle were driven to the fairs before the advent of lorries, and so you had to make an early start in the morning. "Going to the fair in Claremorris, for example, I'd set off in the morning, walking with these cattle, while my father would be doing the jobs at home. I'd leave, maybe at five o'clock in the morning, and he'd catch up to me before we'd get into Claremorris, on a horse and cart. I don't think there was any bike on the road at the time. The roads were bad at the time – there was no ways of repairing a road, only whatever you'd do with the shovel." There was a great spirit of co-operation in the farming community at the time and, when travelling to fairs that time it was important that people helped each other out. "When you'd meet nice people they'd help, and you'd do your best to help them again."

"We went to the fairs in Claremorris, Ballinlough, Kiltimagh. We never went to Castlereagh. When you walked them too far they wouldn't look near as good – Kiltimagh was far enough! If you could bring them from Kiltimagh, keep them for a week and they'd settle down and improve a bit. My father started off with heifers, and that's what we

continued with, and Paddy (my son) is still in that business."

Bog Houses

Pat Joe has seen great changes in the quality of housing in his life-time. As a young boy he saw the very last of the old scraw dwellings that were once a feature of the Irish landscape, and knew the people who lived in them. A number of these houses stood along the highest stretch of road in Holywell (between Connolly's and Grogan's), on the right hand side of the road heading towards Claremorris. The land is now reclaimed and any traces of those houses long-since obliterated.

"They were only small houses. The people built them there, where they were, but got the scraws in further – in where there was good sod scraws. They used dig them up with a spade and build them up one line on top of another. The roofs were made of scraws as well. There was a middling old-fashioned man living in one of them, and when it would be raining heavily he used say, 'Keep to the dry part!' The drops were coming down there unknown to them... Oh there was some horrid rough stuff in them

days. They hadn't a thing, and there was no pension at the time. I don't know where they got a bit of a living at all. This man that was in it - he was called John Gahagan - and his living was going around the country gathering rags. He'd a big bag on his shoulder and he'd go all around the country, for miles around. The doors in them were very low as well. He used say, 'Keep ye're heads down and ye won't get touched.' There were no windows in them either. No one could understand how they lived at all, and there was hundreds and thousands like them in the country."

"I saw a few of those houses, in fact I pulled down one of them – the one where the ambush was in 1920. I bought the bit of land after that and I pulled down the house that was there. The ambush was in 1920 - the first Monday in August. That house was on the right hand side, across the road from Jack Connolly's. It belonged to Plunkett's. They lived [later] above at the top of the town. John Plunkett was the man's name. There was two more down there, but they were a good bit further down, maybe three or four hundred yards further down. They were onto the bog. All on the right hand side of the road. In another house, there was a woman called Ellen Griffin."

"A woman lived there and they used to call her Bridget Plunkett. I knew her well. When people were dead, she'd go around to the house and wash the corpse. And they



weren't up to giving her a glass or two, when she'd do all this work. And she'd start singing and shouting. Her house was right out within ten yards of our own main road."

An Early Memory of Emigration

Just as at the present time, emigration was a feature of life in Pat Joe's younger days. At that time, those going to America would get the train to Claremorris, and from there get the connecting train bringing them to Queenstown or Cobh, just outside Cork, to catch the ocean liners. "When there were neighbours going to America, they'd get the train in Ballyhaunis, and the train would be coming up heading (through Holywell) for Claremorris and they'd be waving their hands out of the train, bidding us goodbye."

Little William

Pat Joe's father's name was William Lyons. He was from 'Cnocán na h-Uaille' (Knocknafolia or Cruck), near Began, where there was six Lyons families living close to one another. William married Winifred Tighe of Holywell and they lived in her home place. Another Tighe sister, Mary Ann, married Martin Tarmey of Holywell. When William came to live here, he had a neighbour with exactly the same name but no relation. To distinguish them, the neighbour was known as 'Little William'. Pat Joe continued, "...And my father was only about an inch taller, and he was called 'Big William'!"

The terror of TB was ever present in Pat Joe's younger days, and many families lost one or more members to the dreaded disease. He recalled the particularly poignant case of the family of 'Little William' Lyons. "There were three little girls and a boy in it and they all died with the TB. The father and mother were dead before that, but there was an old sister in the house belonging to little William, and she was the last. But she faded away at the latter end with TB as well."

First Car

"The last time I think I told you about the first car that came to Ballyhaunis when I was going to school. He was a man living where Donnellan's have the house now, in Clare Street. Matt O'Malley was his name. It was a yellow car. I'd be between six and seven years, and the car would be there, out in front of the house. He'd do a bit of hackney work. Things were coming up a little bit at the time, because when I was six or seven things were a little better than before I was born."

The Holywell Ambush

One of the landmark events of the War of Independence in the Ballyhaunis area was 'The Holywell Ambush', when the local I.R.A. attempted to capture a Black and Tan lorry which crashed in Holywell.

"I'd be five when the ambush took place in 1920. The Black and Tans were coming from Ballyhaunis, heading for Claremorris. They weren't supposed to be pulled up at all

there, but the driver lost control of the lorry on the road. It was a sand road with lumps of stones sticking up everywhere; there was no ways of grinding them down either at the time. The lorry went in there to the right, into the bog. They had to camp there then as there was no other ways for them to get going to Claremorris – there wasn't much transport on the road that time. The camp was to the right, about ten yards from the main road."

"I remember P. Kenny. He was the leader of the local I.R.A. He was wounded during the ambush and there was no other place to bring him only over across the fields to Pat Healy's house. It was Little William and Jack Caulfield that carried him back. He wasn't able to walk. They landed him as far as Pat Healy's – Pat that was in it at the time, 'Big Pat'."

After the ambush, there was a lot of fear in the locality. The reputation of the Black and Tans was widely known, and they promised reprisals on anyone they thought helped in the ambush. Most of the people in the area moved away for a while, until things came back to normal. A local man Jim Caulfield (Jack's brother) was captured by the Black and Tans and taken down to The Mill on the Claremorris Road. He was very lucky to escape with his life.

"The Black and Tans promised to burn the houses. All the houses that were along there, no-one stayed there at night time. They'd pull out the door after them and belt off to some of the relations. My relations were up in Knockanarra – They were Regans at the time. I must have spent a fortnight anyways up there until things had settled down. All the people then came back to their own houses."

Holywell Pattern

The very successful 'Gathering Pageant' at the Holy Well in Holywell earlier this summer put the spotlight once again on this significant sacred and historic site. In the past the Pattern at Holywell was one of the highlights of the local social calendar, and huge crowds would attend. The people would gather in a large, flat field belonging to Michael Grogan, at the back of his buildings. This is where the entertainments would take place, and football matches too, on occasion. "The Pattern was going on for a good while, and in the latter end, when the people got to know something, it faded away. I was quite young at the time. I remember standing at the gate. It was so much to go in." Stalls were set up along the road and Pat Joe recalls the novelty of visiting the sweet stall there: "Mrs. King – she lived at the top of the town there somewhere – and John King was the son, they used bring out a load of sweets and apples and oranges and that. They had a little donkey cart and they'd bring out these for the children to buy."

Those who wanted to perform the Station – and it was usually the women – would go across the road to the Holy Well. "They used to make Stations there at the Blessed Well. It was women that used make the stations. Their drapery (dresses) at the time were right down as far as their



The ancient tree that once stood beside the holy well in Holywell. Taken 1972.

toes. They used pull up the skirts for fear they'd get too wet in the grass because, as a rule, it was in the evenings they'd make the Stations. I used be there; a good few lads of us watching these poor women making the Stations and blessing themselves. They'd go right around where the well was. The ring was right around the well. There was a big ash tree at the well. They'd be making these stations the last three Fridays in July. And when the first Sunday in August would come they'd have this pattern."

Burke's Estate

The townlands of Holywell Upper, Holywell Lower and Derreens belonged to the Burke Estate. The Burke family lived in 'Holywell House', but had died out by Pat Joe's time. "The Burkes had gone out of it before I was born. They had passed away, or maybe I might be born but I knew nothing about them."

Records show that the last of the Burkes living in Holywell were two brothers and a sister: John, Edmund and Elizabeth Burke – all unmarried. Elizabeth died before 1901, and in the census of that year John was 81 and Edmund 71. Edmund was still living in Holywell at the time of the 1911 census, but died shortly after. They had the name of being good landlords and provided a lot of employment for the local people. The lady who was the cook there lived in a little house across from Patsy Morley's house (now Walter Waldron's). Lots of men were employed as herdsman, including Martin Tarmey. The Congested Districts Board bought the estate after that and divided it

up into individual farms which were assigned to some of the tenants already there and to a number of families who moved in.

"Before you could get any of Burke's estate you had to make a house. Whatever way they got the money. They were large houses. As cheap as things were, it would cost something at the time. They brought in four families into Holywell. There was Jack Grogan at the far end beyond, John O'Brien, that was two, Michael Grogan and Pat Healy". The first three came from Larganboy while Pat Healy came from Knock. Healy's got Burke's old house and a much larger farm for taking the big house, which none of the local people would take as it was much too big and difficult to keep.

Former tenants of the Burke estates got new farms from the carved up estate, and hadn't far to move to their new holdings. The Kelly family lived in the field in front of Jack Caulfield's and were given a farm. "Brian McGovern's father Tom came from one of them little houses there (near Rose Carney's). That's where he came from. And he married a lady further up in the village in Holywell. She

was Mary Morley." Another McGovern sister married Grogan who lived beside Jack Caulfield's in Upper Holywell. Anne Caulfield whose mother had moved from a little house into what was Scanlon's (the ruins of which is still standing between McManus' and Connolly's) returned from America and married James Waldron, Spotfield, Began, and they got a farm. Another of the Caulfield sisters married Connolly in the next farm to Little William's, now owned by Lyons'. All of the Tarmey's originally lived around Holywell Cross and across from Austin Biesty's. Tom Tarmey got one of the farms and moved.

Pat Joe Lyons has witnessed many changes in his lifetime. As a young child, he witnessed Holywell at the very beginning of its renewal: the days of the Landlord were over and the land now belonged to the people. New houses were built and former tenants and newcomers alike were able to support themselves on the new holdings carved from the division of the old Burke estate. Sadly, with the passage of time many houses have become unoccupied and several are gone without a trace – their occupants alive only in the memory of Pat Joe and the locals who take an interest in their past. In recent decades new families have built houses and are living in Holywell, renewing the population once again. What changes will the young people of 2013 witness in their lifetimes?

SCHOOLS FOLKLORE COLLECTION

During the School year of 1937-38 the Irish Folklore Commission, in co-operation with the Department of Education and the Irish National Teachers Organisation, launched one of the greatest drives in folklore collecting ever undertaken in Ireland. That year almost 100,000 children, aged eleven to fourteen, in 5,000 schools were involved in seeking out and setting down for posterity material dealing with a wide range of Irish folk tradition. The result embraced folk tales and folk legends, riddles, songs, proverbs, customs and beliefs. Games and pastimes as well as traditional work practices, and many other topics were covered.

The children collected the material mainly from their parents and grandparents and other older members of the local community. This material is not only of enormous value to scholars of folklore but is also of great interest to people from every walk of life. It is, of course, of special interest to family and friends of the original collectors. This collection covers each of the twenty six counties, and the essays from County Mayo are available on microfilm in the County Library in Castlebar.

The primary schools in the parish of Annagh are well represented in this collection – St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, St. Mary's Boys (Abbeyquarter), Brackloon, Coolnafarna and Derrylea National Schools. While pupils from the parish also contributed to the collections of school they attended in the adjoining parishes of Began, Aghamore, Loughglynn and Kiltullagh.

As this is the 75th anniversary of this endeavour we on the Annagh Committee decided to publish some of the essays collected in the schools in Annagh (Ballyhaunis) Parish. We hope you enjoy reading them. These extracts come courtesy of the Schools Manuscript Collection, part of the National Folklore Collection, University College Dublin.

Local Forges

There are three forges in the Parish of Ballyhaunis [1938]. The names of the smiths are Mr. Boyle, Mr. Moran, and Mr. Waldron. The one belonging to Mr. Moran is there about a year, and Mr. Boyle's forge is there for half a century, while Mr. Waldron's is there for a century. Mr. Moran's forge is situated at the top of the town, Mr. Boyle's is situated outside the town near the railway, and Mr. Waldron's is situated in Clare St., in the middle of the town.

The forge is composed of a small building, usually one storey, where the bellows and fireplace are situated. The bellows are mostly made of leather, and they come from Dublin. The purpose of the bellows is to kindle the fire. There is only one fireplace in all the forges in Ballyhaunis. The smith uses the anvil, the sledge, the drill, the tongs, the punch, the trough, and the file. The work the smiths are engaged in, is shoeing horses and donkeys, also for making ploughs and other iron articles.

I heard the above from my father.

Cyril Coyne, Bridge St., Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo
St. Mary's Boys N.S., Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis

Old Hedge Schools

In olden times a hedge school was held in Coolnafarna and the name of the master was Mr. McDermot and he used to stay at Grogan's in Kiltaboe. The school was mixed and every child, both boys and girls, had to bring a bundle of straw to thatch the school and a man by the name of Mr. Moran that used to thatch it. The children had to do the reading, writing and sums and they had to pay the teacher quarterly and they had to bring turf. In the summer the master gave them their lunch. Every year they had an examination on prayers and all the other subjects.

Information got from Mrs. Fitzmaurice, Spaddagh, Ballyhaunis.

M. Fitzmaurice, Spaddagh, Ballyhaunis
Coolnafarna, N.S., Ballyhaunis

Local Fairs

The fairs the people of my district usually go to are the pig fairs and cattle fairs which are held monthly in Ballyhaunis. The cattle fairs are held in a special field called the Fair Green, and the pig fairs are held on the streets of the town. The biggest cattle fairs of the year are held on the 16th of March, the 14th of May and the 29th of October. The fair in March was held long ago on the 17th of March, but that day was sanctioned by Government as a national holiday so they changed the date to the sixteenth. The cattle dealers usually come from Dublin, the Midlands and the north of Ireland, and the pig dealers come from Castlebar, Limerick, and Kerry, and they usually buy a wagon load or two of cattle or pigs respectively. The seller usually asks more than he expects to get and the buyer mostly bids less than he intends to give.

The difference is divided and re-divided by a third man, mostly, until at last the price is settled. The dealers usually mark the animals with raddle, or cut them on the back with a knife but the local people usually mark them with manure. Then either the seller or buyer has to give custom to Mrs. Trench who I think has a lease of the Fair Ground from the Land Commission.

The custom varies, such as follows: for calves you pay four pence, for bullocks and heifers six pence and for cows eight pence; for bonhams two pence, for pigs four pence, and for horses eight pence. When the seller gets paid outside the local bank or hotel he gives luck money to the buyer as follows: calves six pence to one shilling, bullocks and heifers one shilling to one shilling and six pence, horses five shillings to ten shillings, bonhams six pence to one shilling and pigs one shilling to two shillings. If there is a halter on a horse or bull that is given to the buyer also.

I heard this from my father. He lives in Knockbrack, in the parish of Annagh, Ballyhaunis.

John Joseph Cruise, Knockbrack, Ballyhaunis
St. Mary's Boys N.S., Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis

St. Patrick's Well

St. Patrick on his way to Croagh Patrick stopped at a place now known as Hollywell and built a church there. He also blessed a little well that is now in Tarmey's field, Hollywell about two miles from Ballyhaunis and that is the reason why the place is called Hollywell.

It became a famous place of pilgrimage and down to the present day some of the old people still perform stations at the well on Garland Sunday, that is the Sunday after Reek Sunday, the first Sunday in August. St. Patrick left St. Mucna in charge of his church there and the ruins of a Patrician Church are still to be seen and it is said that St. Mucna is buried there.

It has been used in recent years as a place of burial for still-born children. It is also said that a prince from Kerry came to the well on a pilgrimage and died there and was buried there in the little graveyard attached to the church. A pattern is still held on Garland Sunday in Hollywell. There are no special prayers to be said, but the Rosary is said by the people.

It was the custom to tie a piece of ribbon or woollen material to the tree which over hung the well. The reason for doing that is not known. From Patrick's Well in Hollywell St. Patrick's Church in Ballyhaunis got its name, and Hollywell, without a doubt is a place of great sanctity. The water of this well was supposed to have curative power and many people on pilgrimage brought holy water home with them and used it as we use it in the church. There is a story told about a stone bearing a cross which was taken from the church at Hollywell, but it is said that it fell off the cart about half a mile on the road to Began from Hollywell. It was replaced but it fell off again and again, so they left it there in the place where it fell, and it may still be seen by the roadside at Carrowkeel. This stone is said to have power of curing diseases of animals and used to be visited by many people for that purpose.

The Station at Holywell

The Stations are started by going up to the mound where the stone is placed about ten yards from the well. Kneel and say ten Hail Marys and ten Our Fathers then go round the mound seven times saying a Hail Mary each time, go on your knees from the mound to the cross at the well, and say ten Hail Marys. Make the sign of the cross three times with the little stone left on the cross and kiss the cross each time. Then go round the well ten times saying an Our Father and a Hail Mary each time. Rest on one knee each time as you pass the stone that has the mark of St. Patrick's knee. Come to the cross again and do as before, then come to the well and say three Hail Marys, then fill the cup with water and taste it.

Told by Mrs. Biesty, Patten's Park, Ballyhaunis

Churning

We have a churn at home and it is 2 ft 2 ins high, 1 ft 1 ins wide at the top 1 ft 6 ins at the bottom. It is round. It is 25 years old. The different parts in it are, the dasher, which is 8 ins wide, and the handle which is 4 ft long, the splasher which is 4 ins wide and it fits down on the handle and rests on the lid; the lid is 1 ft wide with a hole in the middle of it in order to let the handle of the dasher go up and down. My mother churns once a week in summer, and once every two weeks in winter.

If a stranger comes in while the churning is being made they say "God bless the work" and give a hand at the churning, if they did not my mother would say that the fairies would bring it. The churning takes about half an hour. The churning is done by hand, and the dasher is moved upwards and downwards. When the butter is made they can see the little lumps on top of the milk. Water is poured on the milk to make it thin. When the churning is made the butter is gathered and put into the butter dish, then spring water is poured on it to wash the buttermilk out of butter, then it is salted and is made in prints with butter spades. The buttermilk is used for making bread and when plentiful she gives it to the pigs. There are local stories connected with churning. Some people put a coal of fire under the churn because they say that the fairies would bring the butter. It is not right to let fire or water out of the house with any person while a churning is being made. If you do that person will bring the butter. It is not right to give the milk of a newly milking cow until you churn yourself first, if you do that person would have all the butter that cow had.

I got this from my grandfather. He lives in Holywell in the Parish of Annagh, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.

Patrick O'Brien, Holywell, Ballyhaunis
St. Mary's Boys N.S., Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis

(Right): Coolnafarna N.S., 1950s.
Back, L-R: Rita Brennan, Mary McGuire, Mary Murtagh, Geraldine Judge, Billy Quinn, Michael Flanagan, Martin Quinn. Centre: Desmond Lyons, Sean Phillips, Micheál Kenny, Tommy Judge, Padraic Phillips, Michael Brennan, Joe Fitzmaurice. Front: Margaret Boyle, Mary Lyons, Josephine Grogan, Mary Brennan, Mary McHale, Rita Folliard, Theresa Folliard, Eileen Folliard.



(Left) Pat Stenson, Leow,
with his grandsons Padraic
and Sean Phillips.



L-R: Taken at Coolnafarna N.S. Reunion,
5th August 1994, in the Manor House Hotel.
L-R: Billy Quinn, Joe Fitzmaurice, Padraic
Phillips, Matt O'Dwyer, Fr. Micheál Kenny,
Sean Phillips.



Padraic Phillips and John Joe Hoban, working
behind the meat counter in Noel Waldron's
Spar supermarket, Main St.,
Ballyhaunis, 1970s.



(Right) Taken in the 1980s.
L-R: Tommy Clifford (Leow),
Padraic Phillips (Leow),
Katie Diskin (Tullaghane)
and Sean Phillips (Leow).

Patrons

*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please Support Local Business and Industry.
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Delaney's Ltd., Hardware , Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St. & Hazelhill.	Tel: 9630296
Delaney's, Gareth , Select Bar and Lounge, Abbey St.	Tel: 9630024
De-Luxe Cleaning , Carpets, Upholstery, etc., (Prop. Vincent Higgins)	Tel: 9630284
Dillon-Leetch & Comerford Solicitors , Main St.	Tel: 9630004
Donnellan's Joinery , Undertakers & Funeral Home, Clare St.	Tel: 9630045
Eagney Insurance Services Ltd. , Bridge St.	Tel: 9630793 / 9630794, Fax: 9630795
Electrical & Pump Services Ltd. , Knox St, www.epsireland.com	Tel: 9633500, Fax: 9630761
Epic Bar & Night Club , Main St. All events catered for. (Prop. Liam Folliard).	Tel: 087 2807158
Fahy Opticians & Contact Lens Centre , Main Street.	Tel: 9630212
Fahy, Vincent , Photographer. www.whitethornphoto.ie Innovation House, Claremorris.	Tel: 086 3672314
Farragher, Fr. Stephen, P.P. , Parochial House	Mob: 0879210305, Tel: 9630006
Finn Footwear Specialists (Ballyhaunis & Kiltimagh)	Tel/Fax: 9630141 / 9381970

Fitzer's Bar , Knox St.	Tel: 9631974
Fitzmaurice, Martin & Patricia , www.newireland.ie	Mob: 0872455989
Flanagan Motors , Tooreen, New and Used Cars	Tel: 9649433
Fleming, Seamus & Annette , Lavallyroe, B&B and Cab Hire	Mob: 0868195500, Tel: 9646040
Forde's Ltd. , The Square (The House for All the Family)	Tel: 9630013
4-D's Off-licence , The Square (Best Value Selection of Wines, Spirits, Beers)	Tel: 9630013
Freeley, Terence , Braga, Portugal	
Freyne Family , Clare Rd.	
Gallagher, Michael & Martina , Seven Oaks B&B, Knock Rd, martinagallagher1@gmail.com	Mob: 0862375536, Tel: 9630605
Garvey-Moran, C. , Knox St.	
Gavin, Martin, Undertakers , Funeral Home, Headstones & Grave Care, Knox St.	Mob: 0876324586, Tel: 9633448
Gem - Costcutters (Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery), Bridge St.	Tel: 9630840
Gill's Pub , Clare St. (Props. John and Bernie Gill).	Tel: 9630039
Glynn's Photography , Doctors Road	Tel: 9630026 / 9620094 (Castlerea)
Goulding, Jim & Mary , Doctors Road	Tel: 9631272
Greene, Tony & Pauline , 106 Green Drive, Shohola, PA 18458, U.S.A.	Tel: 0015705597079
Griffin, John, Orthodontist , Upper Main St.	Tel: 9630534
Griffin, Mike, Taxi Service , Clare St. / Devlis.	Tel: 9630213, Mob: 0879047466
Grogan, Austin, & Sons , Concrete Products, Cave.	Tel: 9630072
Gud2Go , Healthy Wholesome Food, Upper Main St.	Tel: 9632850
Gurteen Kitchens Ltd. , Gurteen, www.gurteenkitchens.com	Mob: 0868244386, Tel: 9630797, Fax: 9630751
Halpin, John & Breege , Floral Occasions (Teleflorist), Main St.	Mob: 0876883383, Tel: 9630012
Hazel Bar & Restaurant , Contact Margaret/Tim, Main St.	Tel: 9630885
Hazelhill Family Practice , Hazelhill.	Tel: 9632170 / 9632171
Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd. , Europallets, alan@hazelhilltimber.ie	Tel: 9630094 / 9630250, Fax: 9630825
Helen's Laundrette , Barrack St.	Tel: 9630841
Hencro Ltd, Crossard , Tooreen, Ballyhaunis, www.hencro.com	Tel: 9649424, Mob: 0876380156 / 0864003713
Heneghan's Carpets & Furniture , Main St.	Tel/Fax: 9630770, Mob: 0872245661
H.E.R. (Photo Supplies Ltd) , Kilmannin Business Centre. helenfreeley@gmail.com	Tel: 9633389, Fax: 9633476
Herr, Fred , Grocer, Knox St.	Tel: 9631305
Higgins Auctioneers , Main St. www.johnhigginsauctioneers.com	Tel: 9631372
Higgins, Pat & Sally , Devlis	
J.G.'s Barber Shop , Barrack St.	Mob: 0872450079
J.P. Bookmakers , Clare St.	Tel: 9632614
Jennings, Bernard , B.D.S., Dentist, Knox St.	Tel: 9630315
Johnston, Margaret , Knox St.	
Johnston, Kieran, Agri-Services Ltd. Knock Road. kieranjohnston@eircom.net	Tel: 9633383, Mob: 0879175856
Jordan, Colette & Assoc. , Architectural Engineering & Energy Consulting, colettejordanandassociates@gmail.com	Tel: 9373232 / 0868366944
Jordan, Delores & Oliver , Annagh	
Jordan's Windows & Double Glazing , Clare St.	Tel: 9630641
Kay's Beauty Salon , Knox St.	Tel: 9630065
Keane Kitchens Ltd. , Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd, www.keanekitchens.ie	Tel: 9630038
Keane, Brian, Heating & Plumbing.	Mob: 0876224604, Tel: 9640351
Keane, Joe , Knox St.	Tel: 9630751
Keith Revins, Tyres , Batteries, 24hr breakdown service, Clare Rd.	Mob: 0862569155, Tel: 9630573
Kelly, Pdraic, Bar Furniture Manufacturer, Abbeyquarter.	Tel: 9630089
Kelly, Rosaleen , RPN, MIRI, SK, CPP, Kinesiology, Learning Difficulties	Tel: 9630022, Fax: 9632751
Kenny, Joe , Knox St. and Tullamore	
Kirrane Auctioneering , Main Street, www.kirraneauctioneers.com	Mob: 0872308674, Tel: 9630240
Kirrane Bros., Seamless Gutters , Fascia, Soffitt, Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis.	Mob: 0863858922, Tel: 9646079
Lilly, John Joe, Plant Hire , Johnstown	Tel: 9630352
Loughran & Burke , M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., Upper Main St.	Tel: 9630017
Lyons, Michael G., Agricultural Contractor , Cloonfaughna, Knock.	Tel: 9880249
Lyons, Michael, Coach & Minibus Hire , Lecarrow, lyonsbushire@eircom.net	Tel: 9630347
Lyons, Tommy , Publican, Main St.	
MacSiurtain's, Live Music & Sports Bar , Main St, (Prop. Stephen & Nuala Nolan).	Tel: 9630854
Madden, Gerald, Snooker Tables , Gurteen www.maddensleisure.com	Tel: 9630228
Major Equipment Intl. Ltd. , www.major-equipment.com , info@major-equipment.com	Tel: 9630572, Fax: 9630788
McGarry Development Consultants , Engineers, Architects, Clare St.	Tel: 9630170
McGarry's Ladies Wear , Main St.	Tel: 9630084

McNamara Car Dismantlers , Knockbrack.	Mob: 0872615828, Tel: 9630439
McNamara, Eamon, Car/Tractor Repairs (24-Hour Service).	Mob: 0866061739, Tel: 9630386
Mercy Sisters , Hazelhill.	Tel: 9630108
Midwest Radio (96.1 FM) , Clare St. www.midwestradio.ie	Tel: 9630169 (Main) / 9630553 (Ad's)
Mike's Bikes , Clare St.	Tel: 9633401, Mob: 087 9047466
Mobile DNA , Abbey St. All phone repairs/sales/unlocking.	Tel: 9633403. Mob: 087 3554757
Moran Coaches & Minibus Hire , Knock Rd.	Tel/Fax: 9630346
Moran, Kieran, Building Services , Knox St.	Tel: 9630079
Moran, Donal, T.V. Systems , Knox St.	Tel: 9630569
Moran, Tommy , Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St.	Tel: 9630493
Morley, M.J. & Sons , Electrical & Plumbing Cont. Boiler/Pump Repairs, Lissaniskea, Began.	Mob: 0876116372, Tel: 9380315
Morley, Tony & Sons, Exterior and Interior Decorators , Knox St.	Tel: 9630944
Moroney, Flan & Serene	
Mulhern, Edward, Taxi Service , Knock Rd.	Mob: 0876961579, Tel: 9630249
Mulrennan, James & Sons , Ltd., Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens), mulrenns@gmail.com	Mob: 0868535661
Murphy, Eddie, & Sons, Menswear Specialists , Main St, www.eddiemurphy.ie	Tel: 9630651
Murphy & Sons Autosales Ltd. , Service Station & Shop, Dublin Rd. Mob: 0872490634, Tel: 9630307, Fax: 9631440	
Nestor & Co., Accountants , Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.	Tel: 9632000, Fax: 9631936
Nestor's Corner Bar , The Square.	Tel: 9631011
Nicholson's Bar , Bridge St.	Tel: 9630357
Noel's Barber Shop , Bridge Street (Prop. Noel Folliard)	
NourFoods, Quality Halal Irish Meats ,	Clare St. Tel: 9632765 / 086 3880017
Noone, Dr. Patrick & Moira , Ardpatrick	Mob: 0851580407
O'Boyle, Seamus , Carrowreagh	
O'Connor, Fr. John O.S.A. , Duckspool House, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	
O'Mahony, John, T.D. (Clinic: The Hazel, 3rd Friday of every month at 3pm)	Tel: 9373560
Oak Bar , Bridge St.	Tel: 9630099
Occasions Royale , Weddings, Corporate Events www.occasionsroyale.com	Contact Maggie, Mob: 0862624125
Parochial Hall	For bookings contact, Mob: 0877924439
Patterson, Noel, M.R.C.V.S. , Main St.	Tel: 9630113 / 9630865
Phillips Clothes Shop , Dalton St., Claremorris.	Tel: 9372020
Phillips Menswear , Main St.	Tel: 9630368
Phillips Shoes , Main St.	Tel: 9630368
Phillips, Eamon, High Class Victualler , Main St.	Tel: 9630381
Phillips, Paddy, Publican , Main St.	Tel: 9630118
Quinn Quacks , Classaroe (Prop. Bernie & James Quinn).	Tel: 9630734 / 086 3957057
Red Square, Fast Food/Restaurant (Prop. Seamus Grogan).	Tel: 9631360
Ribbon, Gift & Craft , Main St, www.houseofweddings.ie .	Mob: 0868618460
Rochford Motors , Main Mitsubishi/Seat Dealers, Knock Rd, www.rochfordmotors.ie	Tel: 9630350 / 9630163
Ruane, P., Radio & T.V. Dealers/Repairs , Knox St.	Tel: 9630129
Ryan's Supervalu , Newpark.	Tel: 9630359
Rugby Club , Doctors Road.	
Scoil Iosa Primary School , Abbeyquarter, iosaballyhaunis@gmail.com .	Tel: 9630310
Stratford Photography	Mob: 0872469355, Tel: 9630293
TC's Fitness Devlis, Ballyhaunis.	Mob: 086 0618126
The Courthouse Accommodation & Val's Bar & Bistro , Main St, www.courthouse.ie	Tel: 9630068
TheGroomingKennel.com , Devlis, (Prop. John Burke) info@thegroomingkennel.com	Mob: 0866035126
Thunder Road Café/Takeaway , Main St. (Hosts: Josie & Eugene)	Tel: 9632868
Timoney, Martin, RECI, Electrical Contractor , Carrownedan.	Mob: 0872398402
Tynan Dillon & Co, Chartered Accountants , Clare St.	Tel: 9630261
Ulster Bank Ltd. , Abbey St.	Tel: 9630049
Valerie's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon , Barrack St.	Tel: 9630681
Waldron, Anthony, Excavation Contractor , Clagnagh.	Mob: 0874141462
Waldron, Austin , Derrymore	
Waldron, Pearse & Paula , Vermont, USA.	
Webb, M.J., Master Butcher , Main St.	Tel: 9630003
Weissenberger, Della & Joe , New York, U.S.A.	
Western Brand Group Ltd. , Knock Rd. wbrand@iol.ie	Tel: 9630069, Fax: 9630834
Winston, Gerard (Top Oil) , Devlis	Tel: 9630395

You can contact Annagh Magazine at the following email address: info@annaghmag.ie

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, or visit our website www.annaghmag.ie.

Deadline: The **deadline** for contributions to Annagh 2014 is Friday, 17th October 2014. 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.

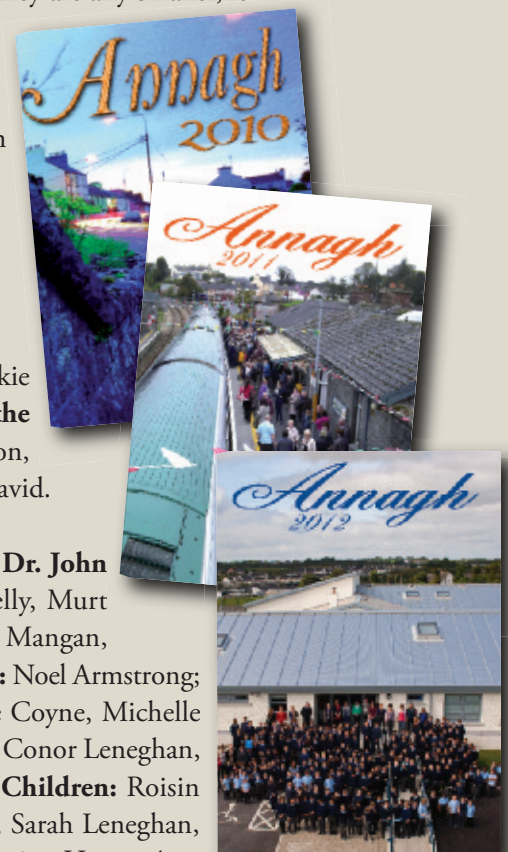
Annagh 2013 Cover

FRONT COVER: Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher, at the Pageant in Holywell, August 24th, 2013.

Saint Patrick: John Morley. **Bottom left. Sisters of Mercy:** Noreen Fahy, Jackie Caulfield, Eileen Lynch, Bridie Morley. **To left of small Ash tree. Women at the Well:** Dolores Biesty, Lydia Biesty, Stella O'Neill. **Pagan Irish:** Chloe Naughton, Olivia Cleary, Chloe Ryan, Aoife Mulrennan, Midie Corcoran (Tuam), Amor Javid. **Seated to right of small Ash tree:** Majella Coffey, Anna Naszkierska.

Main Group, back row, L-R. Augustinian Friars: Pat Doyle, Adrian Murray. **Dr. John McEvilly, Archbishop of Tuam:** Brian Hunt; **Canon Canning:** Michael Kelly, Murt Hunt. **Second row, L-R:** John Mullarkey; **Pagan Irish:** Claire Fahey, Nadine Mangan, Aoife Nolan, Saoirse Caulfield, Leanne Henry, Tom Waldron. **Augustinian Friar:** Noel Armstrong; Eugene Finnegan (Tuam). **Front, L-R: Pagan Irish:** Shauna Murray, Danielle Coyne, Michelle Grogan, Emma Nolan, Aoife Conway; **Dancers:** Ellen Phillips, Niamh O'Neill; Conor Leneghan, Oisín Coffey, Brian O'Neill; **Dancers:** Erica Byrne, Emma Collieran; **School Children:** Roisin Conway, Chloe Henry, Amy Regan, Daniel Hill, Sean Carrick, Simon Morley, Sarah Leneghan, Alicia Cleary, Liam Hill, Emma Leneghan, Katelyn Coyne, Tara Coyne; Christine Henry, Ann Leneghan, Karen Coyne.

BACK COVER: Photograph of the Friary Avenue, Christmas 2011, by Martin Durkan, Abbey Street & USA.





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Ballyhaunis Parish Magazine