



# Annagh

2014



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# FOREWORD

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When Michael Cusack and the founding fathers of the GAA met in Hayes' Hotel in Thurles 130 years ago on November 2nd, 1884, the morale of the nation was at an all time low. Following the devastation caused by the Great Potato Famine of the 1840's the population of the country was reduced from 7 million to 4.5 million. Cusack and his compatriots saw the revival of our national games and pastimes as a means of reawakening the spirit of the nation. The revival of our games took place in the broader context of the Cultural Revival with a strong emphasis on the Irish language, music and literature.

From the outset the parish has been the basic unit of the GAA and over the past 130 years no other voluntary organisation has done more to fortify parish identity than the GAA. As an amateur sporting organisation it has developed from very humble beginnings into a well-structured body that extends into every corner of Ireland and thrives largely on the efforts of volunteers who give freely of their time and talents. For much of its history, like most sporting bodies, it has been male-centred. However, in recent years this imbalance has, thankfully, been addressed with the rapid growth of ladies football. Nearly every club can now boast its own grounds and changing facilities that cater for both men and ladies. At times of mass emigration the GAA has kept communities alive at home while providing a focal point for our emigrants overseas to celebrate their culture and identity.

During the past year our GAA club has brought great pride to our parish and community with the success of our footballers and hurlers. To win the county intermediate football and senior hurling titles in the same year is a truly remarkable achievement and we commend players, management, club officials and all who had a part in bringing this about. Thanks to Midwest Radio, the internet, and social media, our emigrants in far flung lands such as Australia, USA and Canada have been able to follow the success of our teams.

The present issue of Annagh seeks to capture some of the enjoyment that our footballers and hurlers have brought to our parish. It also captures other important events in the lives of the people of the parish during the past year, as well as recalling people and events from the past.

I wish to commend the committee on their hard work in gathering all the material for this issue. I also wish to take this opportunity to send Christmas greetings to our emigrants all over the world and wish you every blessing for 2015. We will be remembering you especially at Masses on Christmas Day. Don't forget you can join us on our webcam at [ballyhaunisparish.ie](http://ballyhaunisparish.ie)

Beannachtaí na Nollaig and na h'athbliana oraibh uilig.

*Stephen Farragher*

**Fr. Stephen Farragher.**



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# EDITORIAL

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As the year 2014 comes to an end it will probably be remembered for the wonderful weather during summer and autumn which gave us long sunny days and bountiful crops. However, other things happened to ensure that 2014 will remain in our memory, many of which are documented in the pages that follow.

On a breezy, October Sunday in McHale Park, Castlebar, Ballyhaunis Intermediate footballers ended a twenty-six year wait when they won the Mayo Intermediate County Championship by defeating Hollymount/Carramore by a single point and ensuring Senior Football competition in 2015. Two weeks later, on a glorious day in Tooreen, Ballyhaunis Senior Hurlers captured the T.J. Tyrrell Cup for the tenth time when they defeated Tooreen by two points. We congratulate team captains, Liam Lyons and Adrian Brennan, the players, both management teams and Ballyhaunis GAA Club for achieving this unprecedented success. Keith Higgins who is a member of both teams, made history this year by becoming the first Mayo player to win an All Star in three successive years.

Midwest Radio, based in Ballyhaunis and the most listened to local radio station in Ireland, celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday in 2014. Midwest has been the heartbeat of community life in Mayo and has raised the profile of Ballyhaunis locally, nationally and internationally. It was fitting that Managing Director and founding member, Paul Claffey, should be inducted into the PPI Hall of Fame.

As this year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, we mark this solemn event by including a list of Ballyhaunis soldiers who died in the Fields of France and Flanders, in Gallipoli, in Mesopotamia and beyond. It is our intention to hopefully examine the individual stories of soldiers who fought in the Great War in future editions.

This year also marks the beginning of a period of commemoration of events in our own country one-hundred years ago that led to the gaining of Irish independence. As we approach the centenary of 1916 we would welcome written contributions and photographs, for inclusion in future issues, to remember the men and women from our parish who fought for Irish freedom.

Annagh Magazine continues to focus on our own parish, but we would like to acknowledge the submissions from adjoining parishes – from people who regard Ballyhaunis as their local town. We try to include as many items as possible, but inevitably some have to

be left out due to lack of space or, occasionally, the poor quality of photographs.

For many of our readers, 2014 will have been a sad one as they will have lost a close family member, relative or friend. The Annagh Magazine Society lost our former colleague Máisín Meath, who served as the Society's Secretary, Chairperson and Vice-president at various times. She had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the town and parish, and the efficiency and care which she brought to her roles as secretary and custodian of photographs over the years was unsurpassed. It is a tribute to her that we have the largest amount of photographs ever in Annagh this year.

Our former Chairman, Martin Forde, also passed away this year. His knowledge of the parish and surrounding district was extensive, and he was particularly well versed in the history of the War of Independence locally. He wrote and sourced many articles and photographs over the years, and also played a prominent role in the distribution of the magazine each year. His no-nonsense approach in the chair allowed the smooth running of meetings, and ensured that the magazine continued to be produced on time and within the high standards it has enjoyed for many years.

We miss them both and would like, as a tribute, to dedicate this issue to their memory.

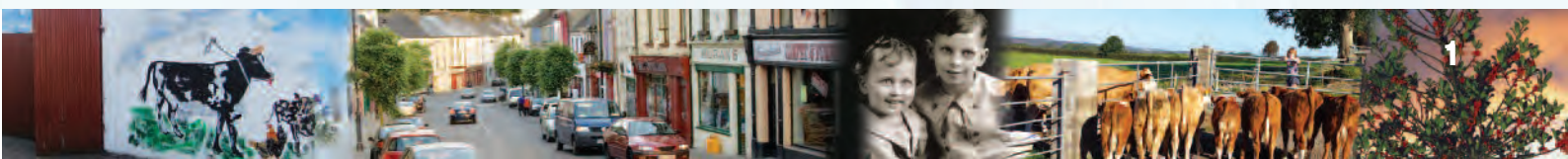
In this our 37th edition we thank you our readers, patrons, contributors of articles, photographs and poems for making this magazine possible. Thanks to our sales outlets for selling the magazine.

Wherever you are reading Annagh 2014 we hope that you enjoy it, and that it will connect you in a positive way with the people of Ballyhaunis and the parish of Annagh.



## Annagh Society Officers for 2014

President	Joe Keane;
Chairman	Jim Landon;
Treasurer	John Halpin;
Secretary	Sinéad Freyne;
Editorial Committee	Paul Waldron, Grahame Cleary, Nell Rochford, Sinéad Freyne, Jim Landon;
Sales and Marketing	Seamus Mulrennan;
Web Administration	Fergal O'Mahony;
Patrons	Mike Griffin.





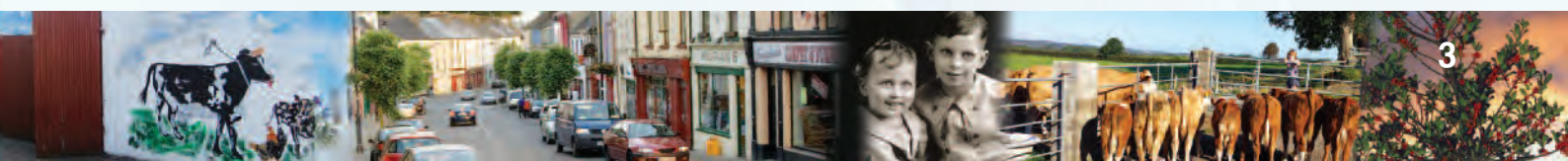
# CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Views of Ballyhaunis Town – Photographs	Martin Durkan	4
Review of the Year	Mike Byrne	5
Ballyhaunis Summer Festival – Photographs	Fr. Stephen Farragher	9
Ballyhaunis Soldiers Killed in The Great War		10
World War I Appeal		13
Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast 1933-1960	Kieran Waldron	13
Closure of Ballyhaunis Courthouse	Evan O'Dwyer	16
The Origins of Ballyhaunis Courthouse	Sinéad Freyne	19
Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions 1855-59	Paul Waldron	22
The Long Way Home	Michelle Curley	27
Growing Up in Ballyhaunis	Scoil Íosa Students	30
The Harvest	James Hunt	34
The Challenge of Life	Henry Madden	35
Walking the Camino	Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.	37
Ballyhaunis Chamber	Anne Cunnane, CEO	39
Love/Hate Star 'Elmo' Visits Ballyhaunis		40
A Fairytale in New York	Peter Higgins	41
Sacristans Mark 110 years of Church Service	Mike Byrne	43
A Ship for Patrick	Martin Durkan	45
Time to Leave	Mary T. Kilroy	47
A Lovely Story	Mary T. Kilroy	49
100% School Attendance Record	Mike Byrne	51
Ballyhaunis Boxing Club		51
Tracing the 'Missing' Murrays of Logboy	Michael Kelly	52
Muintir Mhaigh Eo, Áth Cliath	John Costello	56
Connacht Veteran and Vintage Motor Club	Fabian White	58
Letters to the Sunday Independent	Murt Hunt	59
The Abbey Male Choir	Eamon Murren	60
Ballyhaunis District Community Council	Mary Donnelly	61
Why Ballyhaunis?	Hans & Helma van de Put	62
Ballyhaunis Cemetery	Martin Gavin	63
Wedding Photographs		64
Baptisms, Marriages & Deaths in the Parish of Annagh		81
100th Birthday Celebration - Andy Forde		82
Wedding Anniversaries		83
The Blizzard of 1947	James Hunt	84
The Thumbers	Seamus Hora	84
The Third Verse	Robert Kelly	85
Wonders of Nature	Henry Madden	87
South Australian Award Winners	William Lowery	89
Ballyhaunis Fit4Life 2014	Martin Fitzmaurice	91
From the Churchyard up the Street	Columba Jordan	93
Fr. Jarlath Ronayne, O.C.S.O.	Rita Meally	97
Annual Friary Mass		98
Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre	Stephen Grogan	99
The Wash Day	James Hunt	100
From A to B: Arizona to Ballyhaunis	Gerry Culliney	101
Gracenotes	Liesel Ward	105
Our Trip of a Lifetime to the Holy Land	Mike & Mary T. Griffin	106





Dr. Deirdre Garvey appointed Head of GMIT Mayo		107
Gorman Family Album - Photo Feature		108
An Emigrant's Tale	Ruairí Finan	110
Happy Birthdays Sweet Sixteens!	Anthony J. Jordan	112
Ballyhaunis Angling Club	Marcus Kirwan	113
Abbey Partnership	Neil Sheridan	114
Annagh Wheelers - Full Cycle	Grahame Cleary	115
Ballyhaunis Golf Club	Séamus Swift	116
Help in Finding the Mugans from Ballyhaunis	Demelza Mugan Heraty	117
Golf Club Greenkeeper Retires		118
Ballyhaunis Foróige	Fionnuala Nolan	119
St. Vincent de Paul Society	Matt O'Dwyer	119
Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association	John Durkan	120
The Man Behind the Mic	Mike Finnerty	121
Moran's Terrace	Eamon Murren	122
Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group	Paula Grogan	123
Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union	Enda Caulfield	124
Fine Gael		124
Ballyhaunis Heritage Society		124
Mutiny On The Boundary	Jimmy Cribbin	126
Seventy Years Ago – Ballyhaunis Concert Stars		127
Ava features in 'Buckets for Barnardos'		127
Ballyhaunis Scouts	Marion Feeney	128
Rusty Nuts & The National Museum	Edward Mulhern	130
Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool	Agatha Higgins	131
The Abbey Pattern		132
Scott Medal for Bravery		134
Controversy over Ballyhaunis Water Supply...in 1914	Michael Kelly	134
Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter January-June 2014		135
Ballyhaunis Library – Summer Reading Photographs		138
Ballyhaunis Bridge Club	Patricia Gaughan	140
Mary McCorry (Glynn) Centenarian Celebrations		141
Days of Struggle and Strife - Book Review		142
Stations in the Parish of Annagh – Photographs	Fr. Stephen Farragher	143
The O'Reilly Family of Woodpark	Margaret Conroy	148
Special Olympics	Mike Byrne	150
The Parish Choir	Kay Healy	152
Your Field - Poetry	John Corless	153
Ballyhaunis Musical Society 1995 - Photographs		154
Good Neighbours	Anne Lyons	155
Fianna Fáil	Kenneth Dennedy	156
Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns	Mary Donnelly	157
Pioneers Outing 1955 – Photograph		159
Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club	Mark Curley	161
Killinaugher Commemoration	M.Finan, S.Kenny & G.Henry	162
33 Reasons to Move to Ballyhaunis	Jonathan Cleary	166
Midwest Radio – 25 years of Broadcasting	Sinéad Freyne	168
First Mayo Footballer to Win Three All Stars	Mike Finnerty	172
Scoil Íosa News 2014-2015	Kenneth Dennedy	174
Ballyhaunis GAA Club	Vinnie Caulfield	177
Patrons		190





# Views of Ballyhaunis Town

Some Panoramic 180 degree shots of Ballyhaunis, giving unusual views of the town.  
Created with the Photosynth app on an iOS device,  
by Martin Durkan, Abbey Street.

The top end of Main Street, St. Patrick's Church  
and Upper Main Street



Abbey Street



Abbey Street and Bridge Street



The Square





# Review of the Year

Mike Byrne

## November 2013

Two GAA All Star Awards make their way to Ballyhaunis when Keith Higgins secures his second trophy while Yvonne Byrne picks up her first in the Ladies category. And the national awards keep coming, with the news that journalist Eoin Butler, Doctor's Road, has been named 'Feature Writer of the Year' at the National Newspapers of Ireland Awards. Erica Byrne from Gurteen wins the U-7 Connacht Irish Dancing Championships for 2013. A petition is launched in the US to have a Naval Class Ship named in 2017 after Corporal Patrick 'Bob' Gallagher, Bargariff who was 23 years old when he was killed in the Vietnam War. Martin Durkin, Abbey Street and now based in the US is among those spearheading the campaign.



**A Holly Tree stands out in stark contrast against a Winter Sky.**

(Photograph by Jimmy Leonard).

## December 2013

Ballyhaunis court sits for the last time in the town as the service is being transferred to Castlebar. Judge Mary Devins is joined on the last day by retired Judge Bernard Brennan, members of the local legal profession, Gardaí and journalists. The purpose built old stone building has been in existence since 1864. Ex BCS student Dr. Deirdre Garvey is appointed Head of Mayo Campus at GMIT in Castlebar. Deirdre joined GMIT in 2008 as a senior lecturer at the Mayo campus and was responsible for the LifeLong Learning area. Singer/songwriter Brian Flanagan, now based in Cork, makes his debut on American TV featuring as one of the lead artists in a production entitled IRISH – The Musical.

## January 2014

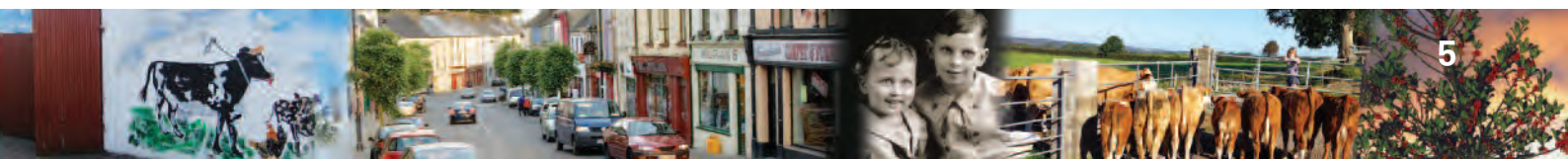
The year 2014 kicks off in wild fashion throughout the island with winds of up to 150 kms per hour ravaging through the country. Coastal regions like Galway, Westport and many parts of Clare experience unprecedented storm damage as waves brake through causing much damage to homes and businesses throughout many coastal regions. Tuesday, January 21st marks the end of an era for the business community in Ballyhaunis when Bridge Street businessman George Delaney dies following a brief illness. Aged 82, George operated a hugely successful retail operation on Bridge Street since opening to the public there in 1951. On yet another sad note, Knock native and former Senator and TD John Carty (63) dies following a brief illness. A former pupil of St. Patrick's College in Ballyhaunis, John served as a public representative until his retirement in 2011. Construction work on new toilet facilities gets underway on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church.

## February

Scoil Íosa senior pupils come out on top in the Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union Quiz. The winning team was comprised of twins, Amy and Ethan Keane, Holly Browne and Joshua Webb. Scott Bravery Medal is awarded to Ballyhaunis native Garda Brian Freyne. Together with two of his colleagues, Brian braved roaring flames in a house fire in Mullingar to rescue a two year old girl in a house blaze in August 2011. Son of Bernard and Mary Freyne, formerly of Devlis, now residing in Gurteen, Brian received his bravery medal from Justice Minister Alan Shatter at the Garda Training Centre in Templemore. Also present at the presentation was Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan. Following the great success of last year's Brackloon NS Reunion Gathering, the organisers of the event are awarded a National Heritage Award from the Heritage Council of Ireland. Love/Hate Actor Laurence Kinlan who plays Elmo in the hit series, hosts an acting workshop at Rochford Motors in association with the SEAT dealership. There is great interest in the workshop with forty local people attending.

## March

Planning permission is sought by An Post to use a unit at the Enterprise Centre as a new sorting centre. Ballyhaunis Foróige Club raise €500 towards the Donal Walsh Live For Life Foundation. Presentation of cheque is made to Donal's mother Elma at a ceremony in the Parochial Hall. Donal, a Kerry teenager who touched the lives of so many through his writings and subsequent appearance on television, passed away at the age of 16,



in May, 2013. Former Ballyhaunis Community student Craig Hughes makes his debut as a reporter on RTÉ's Prime Time programme. Craig, from Knock Road, was the winner of the inaugural Vincent Doyle Award for Investigative Journalism in 2012. Euro Millions ticket valued at €250,000, is sold in The Gem. The Clare Street Club wins the Eamon Healy Memorial quiz in The Hazel. The winning team is comprised of Brendan Donnellan, Eileen Donnellan, Mary Henry and Mary Frances Cleary. At the Annual General Meeting of the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed, the following officers were elected - Chairperson: John Durkan, Secretary: Stephen Grogan; Treasurer: Aidan Gaughan; and PRO: Joe Glynn. Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union introduce new online service for banking. Ladies choral group Gracenotes carry off three of the main prizes at the Kiltimagh Choral Festival, including the award of Choir of the Festival. The group was under the baton of conductress Laura Brogan.

## April

Former Mayo Person of the Year Nollaig Ó Muraíle gives a talk to a packed house at the Credit Union centre on the first day of the month; the title of the talk is: 'Béal Átha hAmhnais agus Ceantar Máguaird - A Dhaoine agus a nOidreacht – The Ballyhaunis Area - Aspects of its people and their story, AD 500-2000'. The talk is hosted by the newly established Ballyhaunis Heritage Society. Work commences on widening the road junction at Morley's Corner, Kilmannin. John Cribbin launches his local election campaign at the Parochial Hall. Former



Morley's Corner, Kilmannin where work was completed improving visibility at the Ballaghaderreen road junction.

Roscommon Gaelic football star and International Rules boss Paul Earley returns to his old Alma Mater at Ballyhaunis Community School where he presented end of year awards to the boys and girls in almost all sporting codes, including Gaelic football, hurling, soccer, squash and basketball. BCS girls Gemma Foody, Alannah Dennehy and Niamh Foody win the Under 15 Connaught Schools Squash Championship.



The good summer of 2014 is reflected in these views of Michael Finn's garden in Devlis.

## May

On the first day of the month, a Farmers' Market begins outside the courthouse on Main Street. With a fine selection of stalls from fresh vegetables, to souvenir pictures and a great assortment of traditional cures and remedies, the market got off to a flying start on its first day of business. The plan is to hold the market at the courthouse every Thursday for the remainder of the season. As temperatures for the month of May continue well below normal, we wait for the first bit of heat and warm weather as we enter the summer months. After the final results of the European and Local Elections, held on May 23rd, outgoing Councillor John Cribbin regains his seat at the Council chamber when he is elected at the Castlebar count centre. Fellow Ballyhaunis native and Fine Gael candidate Neil Cruise, is elected to the council for the Ballina electoral area. Neil, a publican based in Foxford, is son of Peggy and the late John Cruise, Knockbrack, Ballyhaunis. Meanwhile, in the European elections, Jim Higgins loses his seat after 10 years at the Euro parliament. Castlerea candidate Luke 'Ming' Flanagan tops the poll and is the first to be elected for the constituency. Former Bank of Ireland manager David McConn is appointed manager of Our Lady's Shrine at Knock.

## June

Johnny McGarry Snr., the well known musician from Drimbane celebrates the great occasion of his 95th birthday with a party for family and his many friends in The Hazel, Main Street. The celebration is recorded by Mayo TV and broadcast all over the world through the wonder of satellite TV. Community School Leaving Cert student Martin O'Gara is the recipient of a special award on June 12th. Martin, from Carrick, Ballinlough, has the rare distinction of not having missed a single day at







school, either primary or secondary since he first started school 14 years ago. Great sadness on the Doctors' Road when former Ballyhaunis Community School principal Eddie Thornton dies following a brief illness. A native of Swinford, Eddie took up duty as principal of BCS when the school first opened, in 1977. He had been previously principal of the old Technical School from 1969 until the establishment of BCS 37 years ago. The Corpus Christi procession takes on a new turn this year when the procession heads through Upper Main Street and concluded with Benediction at St. Gerard's Crescent. The annual event is a great success with a huge crowd turning out for the procession. Credit to the residents of Upper Main Street and Aisling Drive who pull out all the stops in a great effort to have their areas looking their finest for the occasion. The Procession concludes with Benediction and hymns at the Aisling Drive Estate. Many medals are won by local athletes at the Special Olympics held in Limerick and a celebratory party is held in their honour on their return.



A group of Ballyhaunis girls who attended the Michaela Foundation Girls Summer Camp at Knock Shrine this summer.

Back, L-R: Holly Browne, Rachel Dillon, Clodagh Byrne, Aoife Carney, Amy Keane. Centre: Grace Omata, Gillian Donnellan, Maeve Donnellan, Alannah Nolan. Front: Brenda Omata, Winnie McDonagh, Hannah Waldron, Emma Graciová and Olivia Halas. The event was set up in memory of the late Michaela McAreavey, and will now become an annual event.

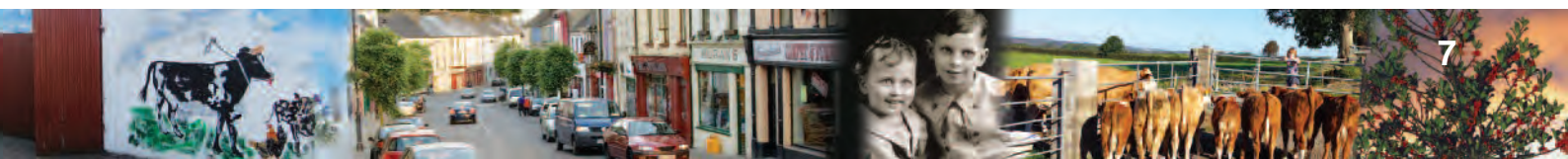
## July

Ballyhaunis Under-14 footballers win the County Title with a great win over neighbours Aghamore in the final. The team is managed by Upper Main Street brothers Tommy and Seamus Caulfield. John Doyle from Annagh wins Martin Keane's Captains prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Margie Phillips of Main Street hosts a very successful cycle in support of Children's Hospital in Crumlin. The cycle takes in Counties Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, Galway and Leitrim, and finishes with a most enjoyable barbeque at Phillips' Bar on Main Street. Over €2,400 is raised through the fundraising exercise.

Brickens native Sister Kathleen Conway celebrates 60 years of her profession. Sister Kathleen, a member of the order of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas, is sister of Joan Biesty of Pattenspark and Margaret Hopkins of Island. Over 60 young girls from many parts of the province take part in the first ever Michaela Foundation Summer Camp in Knock. Among them were 15 girls from Ballyhaunis. The camp, held in memory of the late Michaela Harte-McAreavey from County Tyrone, is for girls from age 11 to 13. Niamh Henry from Annagh wins Anne Cunnane's Lady Captains prize at Coolnaha. After an absence of some 30 years the Scouting movement has been re-established in town with the revival of the 4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scout Group and the establishment of a Beaver and Cub sections.



Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P., celebrates Mass in Aisling Drive during the Corpus Christi Procession which, this year, followed the route from St. Patrick's Church, along Upper Main Street as far as Aisling Drive.







Old houses at Devlis Crossroads were demolished and the road re-aligned during the year.



Devlis crossroads after re-alignment

## August

Long time member of the Annagh Magazine Society committee Máisín Meath of Clare Street dies following a brief illness. Knock Novena attracts one of the biggest crowds in its history, as pilgrims come from near and far to celebrate the 135th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist at the Parish Church in Knock. Long serving broadcaster with Midwest Radio John Duggan retires from local station where he has spent almost 30 years broadcasting. A retired member of An Garda Síochána, John first began broadcasting with Midwest during its pirate days in the cloakroom of the Midas Nite Club, back in 1985. The Abbey Pattern took place following the Annual Mass which this year, was celebrated by Main Street native Canon J. J. Cribbin, P.P. Milltown. At the end of the month the old houses at the junction of the Dublin and Galway roads in Devlis are demolished in preparation for re-aligning the junction.

## September

Gurteen resident Paul Claffey has been inducted into the PPI Radio Awards Hall of Fame. Paul was chosen to receive this accolade along with fellow broadcasters Tony Fenton of Today FM, Áine Lawlor of RTÉ Radio One and Walter Love of Radio Ulster. The four were selected

by a group of their peers in the radio industry. The oldest resident in the parish Pat Joe Lyons of Holywell passes to his eternal reward in his 100th year. A total of 224 runners/walkers take to the streets of Ballyhaunis for the seventh running of the Mayo AC 8K Road Race. This is the biggest in terms of numbers in the seven years of the event, with students and teachers from Ballyhaunis Community School taking part in large numbers to help raise funds for the school. The Tóstal Brackloon and Killinaugher weekend is a great success. Among the highlights of the weekend was the celebration of Mass at the ancient Church site in Killinaugher by parish priest Fr. Stephen Farragher. After a replay played in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick, Mayo lose out to Kerry in the All-Ireland Football semi-final. In the process Keith Higgins plays his 101st game for his County.



A new ESB e-car charge point was installed in the Clare Street car park during the year. It is situated in front of what was 'Mac's Hill' and opposite the Library.

It provides a service where electric cars can be re-charged by being plugged into the terminal.

## October

Bekan native Michael Kelly is guest speaker at the Ballyhaunis Heritage Society's talk in the Credit Union. The talk is entitled 'The Land War in Logboy'. Michael, son of Mary and the late John Kelly, Lissaniska, Bekan, launches his book 'Struggle & Strife on a Mayo Estate-1833-1903'. The book is launched by RTÉ GAA analyst Martin Carney at Brickens Community Centre, on October 9th. Ballyhaunis Gaelic Footballers bridge a 26 year gap when they win the Mayo Intermediate County Championship for the first time since 1988. Managed by Kiltimagh man Tomás Morley, the team beat Hollymount/Carramore by one point at McHale Park in Castlebar in a thrilling final. Lana Biesty wins a silver medal in the Kumite Karate championships in Dublin. She is daughter of Vincent and Louise Biesty, Holywell. History is made as Ballyhaunis win the double, as the Hurlers capture the Mayo Senior County Hurling Title with a win over neighbours Tooreen, just one week later. The townspeople take great pride in bedecking red and black flags and bunting all over town. To end a perfect sporting month, Keith Higgins wins an amazing third GAA All Star Award at a black tie Awards Ceremony in Dublin on Friday 24th October.







## Ballyhaunis Summer Festival

TRADITIONAL FAIR DAY - JUNE BANK HOLIDAY





# Ballyhaunis Soldiers Killed in The Great War (1914-1918)

The list of the following soldiers is reproduced from the roll of honour of Mayo soldiers killed during World War I compiled by P.J. Clarke in his book *'Mayo Comrades of the Great War 1914-1918'*, with additional names provided by Michael Feeney in his book, *'Remembering Mayo's Fallen Heroes'*. The names as they appear are based on the spelling recorded by the British Expeditionary Forces. Any soldier with an address listed as Ballyhaunis is included here.



**Bagley, Michael, Private.** 6th Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. No. 16450. Enlisted: Shrewsbury. Born: Ballyhaunis and resided in Claremorris. Killed in action on 10/08/1915 at Gallipoli. Memorial: Helles Memorial, Turkey. Grave ref: panel 190-196.

**Beirne, John, Private.** 1st Bn. Royal Irish Regiment. No. 10049. Enlisted: Clonmel. Born: Ballyhaunis and resided in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Brother of Miss Bridget Beirne. Aged 22. Died of wounds on 10/02/1915 at France and Flanders. Memorial: Ypres Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium. Grave ref: Panel 33.

**Burke, James, Private.** 1st Bn. Cheshire Regiment. No. 52011 (formerly 7121 Connaught Rangers). Enlisted: Boyle. Born: Ballyhaunis. Killed in action 12/05/1917 at France and Flanders. Memorial: Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: Bay 5 & 6.

**Carney, John, Private.** 2nd/5th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. No. 4834. Enlisted: Heywood, Lancs. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Thomas and Winifred Carney, Larganboy, Ballyhaunis. Aged 34. Killed in action 09/09/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier & Face 3C.3D.

**Carney, Martin, Gunner.** 192nd Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery. No. 150092. Enlisted: Liverpool. Born: Ballyhaunis. Died of wounds on 17/08/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave ref: III.I.19.

**Cassidy, Richard, Sapper.** Royal Engineer Corps. No. 94568 (formerly 172nd Tunnelling Company, R.E.). Enlisted: London. Born: Ballyhaunis. Died of wounds on 03/08/1915, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: II.B.32.

**Conboy, Bernard, Private.** 1st Bn. Irish Guards. No. 3732. Born: Ballyhaunis. Enlisted: Halifax, Yorks. Killed in action on 06/11/1914, at Belgium. Memorial: Ypres Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Grave ref: Panel 11.

**Connor, Joseph, Private.** 6th Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers. No. 411. Enlisted: St. Helen's, Lancs. Born: Ballyhaunis and resided in Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon. Son of Pat and Catherine Connor, Knockleggan, Castlerea. Aged 31. Died 27/02/1917, at Greek Macedonia. Memorial: The Lembet Road, Salonika, Greece. Grave ref: 851.

**Corfield, Harry, Private.** 2nd Bn. Scots Guards. No. 6063. Enlisted: Leeds. Born: Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 16/05/1915, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Guards Cemetery, Guinchy, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: IV.M.2.

**Cosgrove, Patrick, Private.** Army Cyclist Corps, Frontier Mounted Rifles, North Lancaster Regiment. No. 13890. Enlisted: Hindley, Lancashire. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Patrick and Bridget Cosgrove. Died: 05/12/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: IV D8.

**Cunane, Thomas, Private.** 1st Bn. Manchester Regiment. No. 1661. Enlisted: Manchester. Born: Ballyhaunis and resided in Westport. Killed in action on 21/12/1914, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: Panels 34 and 35.

**Cunnane, Patrick, Private.** Princess Victoria's 8th Royal Irish Fusiliers. No. 20985 (formerly No. 4403, Connaught Rangers). Enlisted: Ballyhaunis. Born: Ballyhaunis. Died of wounds on 24/05/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Loos Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: Panel 124.

**Downes, James, Private.** Labour Corps. No. 421263 (formerly No. 4045, Connaught Rangers). Enlisted: Ballyhaunis. Born: Ballyhaunis. Died of wounds on 15/10/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Nine Elms British Cemetery, Belgium. Grave ref: V.F.16.





**Dwyer, John, Private.** 15th Bn. County of London Regiment. No. 5287. Enlisted: London. Born: Ballyhaunis. Died: 15/09/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier and Face 8D.

**Flatley, John, Lieutenant Sergeant.** 4th Queen's Own Hussars. No. 45283. Enlisted: Manchester. Aged: 40. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Michael and Bridget Flatley. Died: 31/03/2018 at France and Flanders. Memorial: Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Panel 3.

**Flynn, Matthew, Lieutenant Corporal.** 3rd Bn. Grenadier Guards. No. 20249. Enlisted: Edinburgh. Born: Ballyhaunis. Died: 14/09/1916. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier and Face 8D.

**Folliard, Thomas, Private.** 5th Bn. Connaught Rangers. No. 6667. Enlisted: Huddersfield. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 07/12/1915, at Salonika. Memorial: Doiran Memorial, Greece. Grave ref: 21.

**Freeman, James, Driver.** Royal Army Service Corps. No. T3/022756. Enlisted: Leeds. Born: Ballyhaunis and resided in Holbeck, Leeds. Died 07/09/1915 at England. Memorial: Aldershot. Grave ref: R.315.

**Golden, Michael, Private.** 1st Bn. King's Liverpool Regiment. No. 7680. Enlisted: Liverpool. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 10/03/1915 at France and Flanders. Memorial: Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: Panel 6 to 8.

**Hopkins, Austin, Private.** 41st Agri. Company., Labour Corps. No. 212056. Died 01/06/1919. Buried in the Abbey Cemetery, Ballyhaunis.

**Hopkins, James, Private.** 14th Bn. King's Liverpool Regiment. No. 18886. Enlisted: Southport, Cheshire. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. Son of Ellen Hopkins, Larganboy, Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 30/08/1917 at Salonika. Memorial: Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece. Grave ref: E.1039.

**Hopkins, John, Private.** 8th Royal Lancaster Regiment. No. 15738. Enlisted: Eccles, Manchester. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Mary Hopkins, Island, Ballyhaunis. Aged 35. Died 20/07/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: VI.C.4.

**Kearns, Ambrose, Private.** 7th/8th Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers. No. 43693. Enlisted: Manchester. Aged: 21. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of John and Ellen Kearns. Died: 07/06/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Voormezele Enclosure, Belgium. Grave ref: XV K 21.

**Kedian, Thomas, Lance Corporal.** 10th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. No. 9593. Enlisted: Bury. Born: Ballyhaunis and resided in Heywood, Lancashire. Son of Patrick and Mary

Kedian, Moneymore, Ballyhaunis. Aged 26. Died 07/07/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier and Face 3C.3D.

**Kerrane, Thomas, Corporal.** 8th Bn. East Lancashire Regiment. No. 16513. Enlisted: Bolton. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of William and Bridget Kerrane. Aged 37. Died: 10/04/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Feuchy Chapel, Wancourt, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: MEM 3.

**Madden, Thomas, Private.** 1st Bn. Irish Guards. No. 6731. Enlisted: Nottingham. Born in Ballyhaunis and resided in Eastwood, Notts. Son of John and Mary Madden, Cloonfad, Ballyhaunis. Aged 31. Killed in action on 27/09/1918, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Sanders Keep, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: II.B.8.

**McClean, John Bolton, Private.** 9th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. No. S/3925. Enlisted: Nottingham. Aged: 37. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of John and Mary McClean. Died: 23/07/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier and Face: 8C 9A 16A.

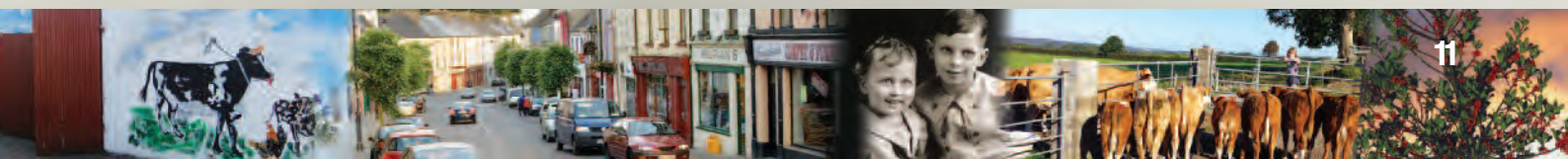
**McManus, William, Private.** 2nd Bn. Irish Guards. No. 2785. Enlisted: Dublin. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis. Son of Michael and Catherine McManus, Feamore House, Ballyhaunis. Aged 28. Killed in action on 30/09/1915, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Loos, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: Panel 9 and 10.

**Meehan, Thomas, Private.** 10th Bn. Sherwood Foresters. No. 26257. Enlisted: Guilford, Surrey. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Mrs. Bridget McNamara. Died: 04/07/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier and Face 10C 10D 11A.

**Moran, Austin, Private.** 7th Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Enlisted: Manchester. Aged 28. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Patrick and Ann Moran. Died: 09/09/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: 4D 5B.

**Morley, John, Private.** 1st Bn. Irish Guards. No. 9851. Enlisted: Birmingham. Born: Aughamore, Ballyhaunis. Son of Thomas and Mary Morley, Cappagh, Aughamore, Ballyhaunis. Aged 28. Killed in action 09/10/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Grave ref: Panel 10 to 11.

**Morley, Thomas, Private.** 9th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. Enlisted: Manchester. No 9275. Born: Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 07/08/1915, at Gallipoli. Memorial: Helles Memorial, Turkey. Grave ref: Panel 58 to 72 or 218 to 219.





**Morrisroe, Michael, Private.** Prince of Wales's 7th Bn. Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). No. 3401. Enlisted: Ballyhaunis. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis. Husband of Margaret Morrisroe, Chapel Street, Ballyhaunis. Aged 35. Killed in action 09/04/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Bois-Carre Military Cemetery, Haisnes 200-2. Grave ref: E.II.

**Mulkeen, Patrick, Gunner.** Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery. No. 86271. Born: Ballyhaunis. Enlisted: Wigan, Lancs. Son of Michael and Catherine Mulkeen, Tubber, Aughamore, Ballyhaunis. Aged 29. Died of wounds on 07/05/1917, at Salonika. Memorial: Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece. Grave ref: A.187.

**Murphy, William, Sapper.** 185th Royal Engineers (formerly 10063, Connaught Rangers, 185th Tunn. Coy., R.E.). No. 91972. Enlisted: Manchester. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis. Son of Michael and Mary Murphy, Newtown, Tulrahan. Aged 31. Died 04/02/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Becourt, Somme, France. Grave ref: I.J.9.

**Murtagh, Patrick, Private.** 1st Bn. Grenadier Guards. No. 13060. Enlisted: Manchester. Born: Knock. Son of James and Sarah Murtagh, Meeltrane, Aughamore. Aged 33. Killed in action on 26/10/1914, at Belgium. Memorial: Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. Grave ref: Panel 9 and 11.

**O'Brien, Matthew, Private.** 1st Bn. Royal Dublin Fusiliers (formerly 88071 R.F.A.). No. 22176. Enlisted: Wigan. Born and resided in Knock. Son of Patrick and Bridget O'Brien, Shanvaghara, Knock. Aged 31. Died: 21/09/1915, at Gallipoli. Memorial: Addolorata Cemetery, Malta. Grave ref: E.EA.A.654.

**Owen, John, Lance Corporal.** 1st Bn. Irish Guards. No. 9626. Enlisted: Manchester. Born and resided in Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 25/09/1916, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier and Face 7D.

**Owens, Thomas, Sapper.** Royal Engineers. No. 157262. Enlisted: Pontefract, Yorkshire. Aged: 28. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Michael and Bridget Owens. Died: 04/12/1917, in England. Memorial: Minster Thanet Cemetery, Kent, England. Grave ref: 2027.

**Prendergast, Patrick, Private.** 1st Bn. Connaught Rangers. No. 4200. Enlisted: Ballyhaunis. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Thomas and Maria Prendergast, Chapel Street, Ballyhaunis. Aged 24. Killed in action on 21/01/1916, at Mesopotamia. Memorial: Basra Memorial, Iraq. Grave ref: Panel 40 to 64.

**Regan, Edward, Private.** 2nd Bn. Irish Guards. No. 12377. Enlisted: Manchester, Lancs. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 13/04/1918, at France

and Flanders. Memorial: Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium. Grave ref: Panel 1.

**Tarpey, James, Private.** 5th Company. Australian Machine Gun Corps. No. 1780. Enlisted: North Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of John and Bridget Tarpey (née Costello), Bekan, Ballyhaunis. Aged 24. Killed in action on 09/04/1918, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Villers Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Somme, France. Grave ref: II.A.6.

**Tarpey, Michael, Private.** 12th Bn. Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment). No. 14739. Enlisted: Leeds. Born: Ballyhaunis. Killed in action 27/09/1915, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Loos, Pas de Calais, France. Grave ref: Panel 39 to 40.

**Treston, Michael, Private.** 6th Bn. Connaught Rangers. No. 3987. Enlisted: Galway. Born and resided in Annagh, Ballyhaunis. Son of James and Ann Treston, Annagh Ballyhaunis (one of four brothers who served). Aged 19. Died of wounds on 18/09/1916 at Home. Memorial: Bristol. Grave ref: 13.6. Screen Wall and Panels.

**Veasey, Michael, Private.** 1st Bn. Scots Guards. No. 5671. Enlisted: Leeds. Born and resided in Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 11/11/1914, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Zantvoorde British Cemetery, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Grave ref: VI.H.15.

**Waldron, James, Private.** 8th Bn. Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (formerly 5092, Connaught Rangers). No. 43098. Enlisted: Brighton. Born: Ballyhaunis. Son of Patrick and Bridget Waldron, Derrymore, Ballyhaunis. Aged 28. Killed in action on 16/08/1917 at France and Flanders. Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Grave ref: Panel 70 to 72.

**Waldron, John, Private.** 3rd/5th Bn. Lancashire Fusiliers. No. 202672. Enlisted: Bury, Lancs. Born in Ballyhaunis and resided in Heywood. Son of Patrick and Mary Waldron, Knocknacat, Ballyhaunis. Aged 30. Killed in action on 10/10/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium. Grave ref: Panel 54 to 60 and 163A.

**Waldron, Patrick, Private.** 1st Bn. (Infantry) Machine Gun Corps (formerly 35475, Lancashire Fusiliers). No. 64814. Enlisted: Bury. Born: Redford, Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 24/09/1918, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Vadencourt British Cemetery, Maissemy, France. Grave ref: V.D.3.

**Waldron, Walter, Private.** 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers (formerly 24928 Hussars). No. 40094. Enlisted: Dublin. Born and resided in Aughamore, Ballyhaunis. Killed in action on 01/03/1917, at France and Flanders. Memorial: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Grave ref: Pier and Face 16C.





## Appeal for the Stories of Local Soldiers in World War I

Behind each of these names are real narratives of local Ballyhaunis men that for various reasons – political, historical, economic, and patriotic – enlisted in the British army and were sent to fight in World War I. The centenary of the Great War provides an occasion to examine these individual stories in the detail they deserve.

To this end, we are appealing to readers for any

additional information on these soldiers, or on any soldier who fought in World War I. We would greatly appreciate any photographs, letters, diaries, documents or other memorabilia that help to uncover the hidden stories of these brave men.

Please contact any member of the Editorial Committee, or email [info@annaghmag.ie](mailto:info@annaghmag.ie)

## Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast, P.P. Ballyhaunis, 1933-1960

Kieran Waldron

Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast will be remembered affectionately by many of our older residents by his title in his latter days - 'the Archdeacon'. He was a lovable character in many ways, even if at times he appeared to be slightly eccentric and aristocratic in style. I can still remember him, in a flight of enthusiasm clicking his fingers from the pulpit as he hailed the choir in the gallery and called for the Fr. Faber hymn, 'Sing, O Mother, I could weep for mirth!'

Fr. Geoffrey was a native of Accony, Louisburgh, native place of many priests who served in the Tuam diocese. His other assignments during his career after his ordination in Maynooth in 1903 were at Crossboyne, Letterfrack, Diocesan Examiner of Schools, and Castlebar (twice).

He died in Ballyhaunis on 29th May 1960 and is interred in the church grounds under the Calvary.

During his lifetime he was a prominent figure in Mayo public life, serving in the County Library Committee during the infamous dispute about the appointment of a Protestant lady from Dublin as Mayo County Librarian in 1930. Subsequently, however, he had a distinguished

role as a very active Chairman of the Mayo County Vocational Education Committee and was, no doubt, influential in securing the rather substantial two-storey, purpose-built Vocational School for Ballyhaunis in 1942, long before many other towns in the county attained such an amenity.

### Chaplain

Not many may be aware that he had a colourful ministry in the First World War as a Catholic Chaplain, mostly in the Egypt/Palestine campaign. The invasion of Catholic Belgium at the start of the war in 1914 and the rampage by the German army in their despoliation of the country, and the forced enlistment of its citizens to work under the Germans, had caused immense suffering on a neutral country. Cardinal Mercier of Belgium, in many impassioned letters, had appealed for help and Archbishop John Healy of Tuam, in his Lenten Pastoral Letter of 1916, was unashamed in his promotion of the war campaign, asking his co-diocesans to come to the aid of Catholic Belgium in its efforts to defend itself against the Germans, or 'the Prussians' as John Healy preferred to call them:

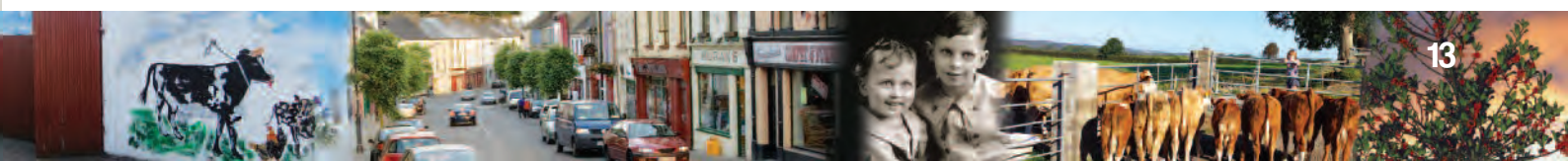
*"I hope that while you will till your fields, you will also be ready to fight against all comers but especially against the Germans. We till the land that bore us and we mean to hold it at any cost; and Irishmen are able to fight. This has been proved at every battle-front in Europe and is now admitted by all. And we want more such genuine soldiers. It is not for England but for Ireland we want them."*

*We do not want our fertile acres seized by the brutal*



Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast  
as a young priest.

Photo courtesy of Anne  
McMyler O'Connor





*foe. What is to save them and enable us to hold them but your strong arms and courageous allies? I hope you will rally to the flag not by compulsion or coercion but from a sense of duty as becomes free men. The man who strikes a blow against the Prussians strikes a blow for justice, freedom and right. Every acre the Prussian rules over has been acquired by injustice and rapine."*

No wonder then that in 1916 he called on the young Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast, at the time a curate in Castlebar, to enlist as an Army Chaplain and accompany Irishmen to the front. Fr. Geoffrey, in his earlier position as Diocesan Inspector, would have had much contact with his archbishop.

The irony of it all is that six weeks after the Pastoral was read from the altar at Masses throughout the diocese, the rebellion of Easter Week 1916 had taken place, an event which so much altered the attitude of the people to the views of the archbishop.

It is said that a good chaplain is as important as a good general to an army. Fr. Geoffrey Prendergast was commissioned as a Temporary Chaplain (with the rank of Captain) on 25th July 1916 and arrived in the 'Egyptian Theatre of War' on 13th December 1916.

It is remembered that he was shell-shocked during his war-time experience, which perhaps caused some of his

slight eccentricities. The Palestine campaign included the desire to capture Jerusalem from the Turkish forces and their German allies. The headquarters of General Allenby was transferred to Raffah in Gaza. He won the Third Battle of Gaza on 7th November 1917 and his force pushed northwards towards Jerusalem which was captured on 9th December 1917. For some reason Fr. Geoffrey returned to Ireland on 23rd November of that year and he formally resigned his commission on 10th December 1917. (This detail is by courtesy of Dominic Price, author of *The Flame and the Candle – War in Mayo 1919-23*.)

### Superior Officer

At home in Ireland in later years, Fr. Geoffrey was to use his rank as Captain with good effect on two occasions. The first was during the Troubles when he confronted a rather officious Lieutenant in Castlebar on the occasion of the funeral of one of the Kilmeena ambushers in 1921. The officer had ordered the removal of the tricolour on the coffin and a riot was imminent when Fr. Geoffrey stepped forward to save the flag for the relatives. "Stand back!" shouted the officer, but Fr. Geoffrey asked him to name his rank. "Lieutenant, Sir", he said. "I am a Captain. Have respect for your superior officer", Fr. Geoffrey replied. The officer quietly pulled back, saluted and later



Archdeacon Prendergast photographed after a Scout Investiture in the Parochial Hall in the late 1950's.

Back L-R: Seamus Durkan (Abbey Street), Three National Scout Leaders, William Mulligan in doorway (Former Scoutmaster), John Morley (Kilmannin), Fr. Foley O.S.A.  
 Middle L-R: Christy Morrison (Knox Street), Frank Mulligan (Devlis), Fr. Thomas Rushe C.C. (Chaplain), Pat Higgins (Devlis), Jim Higgins (Devlis).  
 Front L-R: Billy Lyons (Devlis), John Higgins (Devlis), Archdeacon Prendergast P.P., Colm Durkan (Abbeyquarter), Michael Herr (Knox Street).





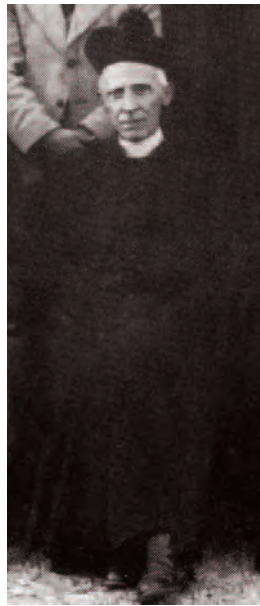
apologised.

On another occasion he similarly confronted a band of military which came to raid the Presbytery in Castlebar to search the rooms of a fellow-curate, Fr. John Willie Meehan, who was known to be sympathetic to the movement.

Fr. Geoffrey's rather distinguished military demeanour came probably from his having consorted so long with the officer class of the army.

At his funeral in 1960, following the general opinion of the time about involvement of Irishmen in the British Army during the Great War, Archbishop Joseph Walsh hardly mentioned this involvement, but he did mention that he later served as Chaplain in the new Irish Army from 1923 to 1924. The Archbishop stressed rather his achievements in Ballyhaunis including his special support of the Boy Scouts and the Local Defence Organisation and his dedication to the poor and the St Vincent de Paul Society. He was indeed known for his care for the poor and whenever Pat Killeen, who depended on nothing more than his tin whistle for a livelihood, called to his door for a pittance, Fr. Geoffrey always called for a tune from Pat, before parting graciously with what he called 'your semi-corona' – the long forgotten half-crown.

The reticence of Archbishop Walsh in regard to the World War, while very much in tune with common attitudes in 1960, was very much at variance with the stance of his predecessor, Archbishop John Healy who was archbishop from 1903 to 1918. The rather flamboyant poster which has survived, quoting Archbishop Healy, may not have been his idea but it certainly reflected his views.



Archdeacon  
Prendergast in  
1939.



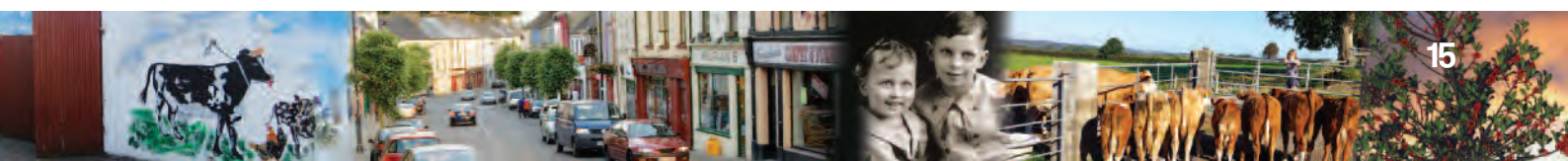
Recruiting Poster, used during First World War.



#### Patrick J. Waldron, Knox St., Ballyhaunis.

Patrick J. was a soldier in the 147th Infantry, Company C., World War 1 Battalion, US Army and was killed in action in Staden, Belgium on the 6th Nov. 1918 – five days before Armistice Day – aged twenty-six. He was finally laid to rest on 11th Sept. 1923 in Arlington Cemetery, Washington DC.

He was a son of Thomas Waldron and Mary Egan, who operated a Shop and Public House on Knox Street. Patrick J. was an uncle of the late Geraldine Finnegan, Knox St.





# Closure of Ballyhaunis Courthouse

Evan O'Dwyer

## The Last Day

And there it was, the last case to be heard in Ballyhaunis Courthouse after 150 years. Judge Mary Devins, the resident Judge of the District Court assigned for Ballyhaunis, made her final court order. Superintendent Joe Doherty applied to have a non national man accused of burglary remanded in custody. The man with poor English was consenting to his bed and breakfast in Castlerea Prison until his next Court appearance. The Order was made and the accused was taken through the oversized green door guarding the Courtroom in handcuffs. "And that's it - out with a whimper" commented Judge Devins as she left the bench to the call of "all rise".

There was no fanfare as the business of the day and an era came to an end. We had known for some years that the Court Service who operates courthouses was scaling back the court venues. In County Mayo only fifteen years before, we had nineteen court venues, closing Ballyhaunis left five. Four days later, Swinford followed suit, and now we have four Court venues in the third largest county in the Country.

The handling of the closure was a mess. In July word leaked from the Court Service that closures were imminent. No one in officialdom would confirm the rumours. The whole town was left with uncertainty as to what the future held. We were to carry on from month to month until an official announcement was made. Not what you would consider dignified towards the court practitioners or the townspeople of Ballyhaunis.

In October there was the false start or rather end. News had come through but it was unconfirmed. We all assembled for court as usual but the start was delayed as we scurried around for something concrete. The first word came from an official in Australia via text. Judge Devins was informed by a shop assistant in Charlestown. Yes it was true - Ballyhaunis was to close but not today and on we went.

A press release and circular then came in November; Tuesday 3rd December, 2013 was the final sitting. When the news broke it was decided by those that had practiced in the Court over the years that it would be easy to be disheartened or even resentful. Remember that the Court Service cited the cost of upkeep as one of the main reasons why the Courthouse had to shut. The annual cost was €14,000 - not a whole lot in the scheme of things, you would imagine. However, it was decided to make the most of the occasion and reflect on the good times that the Court Sitting in Ballyhaunis brought to us all.

So the final day arrived. Everyone took up their customary positions. Superintendent Joe Doherty sat on the front bench to the left aided by Sergeant Kieran McNicholas. Behind them Gardaí Dolan, Flaherty, Ryan and Devane, all of Ballyhaunis Station. To their right, on the side benches were the visiting Gardaí from Claremorris and Castlebar. The public gallery was thronged with standing room only. Mike Griffin, the caretaker of 38 years, marshalled the door. On the solicitors' benches, John Dillon-Leetch sat on the left of the front bench as he had for the past thirty odd years, as had his brother Tom, father and grandfather before him. I stood on the right beside the three steps to the witness box, as my own father and grandfather, and Micheál O'Cleirigh and Austin Crean had done before me. Solicitors from around the counties of Mayo, Galway and Roscommon joined in the day's proceedings, there to witness the last sitting of the Court.

The whole scene was as we had come to know and expect every first Tuesday of the month since 1879. The Courthouse was a living and breathing history of Ballyhaunis life. A bustling and vibrant court with the business of the day about to begin.



Retired Judge Bernard Brennan and Judge Mary Devins on the bench at Ballyhaunis Courthouse

Judge Devins came out on to the bench accompanied her predecessor, Judge Bernard Brennan who had spent almost twenty years sitting in Ballyhaunis in the eighties and nineties. We all rose and sat in our seats. I looked down for the last time at the tattered green felt which covered the bench. The initials, 'JOD' that someone years before carved into the wood were still to be seen.

Judge Devins invited Judge Brennan to address the







Retired Judge Bernard Brennan, Dermot Hewson (Solicitor Ballina), Evan O'Dwyer.

audience. He lamented the decision to close the Courthouse and whittling away of county life. He reflected that "this district court brings back a lot of happy memories for me. Many people sat before me and told their stories, some accurately, some half true, others less than truthful and others hardly believable." He continued that "in the district court there were always the gawkers down the back who'd come in to see what was going on, and they'd go away after the court and go down the town and discuss, just how wrong the decisions were". He concluded by thanking the people of the town for having him as their Judge and for the kindness that had been shown to him in his time sitting

in Court in the town. He was given a standing ovation and became overwhelmed.

Judge Devins spoke then, also sharing the views expressed that the decision, if portrayed as an economic one, was nonsensical. She also thanked the people of the town for their generosity towards her in her time.

Superintendent Doherty also spoke. He explained that he feared for the role the Gardaí had as a deterrent to crime prevention now that crimes committed in Ballyhaunis were not been dealt with by local courts. There was no logic to the decision he mused.

Messrs. O'Dwyer and Dillon-Leetch addressed the court for the final time from their front row perches.

Once the speeches concluded Judge Brennan left an emotionally charged courtroom and the business of the day began. Within ninety minutes the final order was made and that was it, once and for all.

### The Courthouse Building

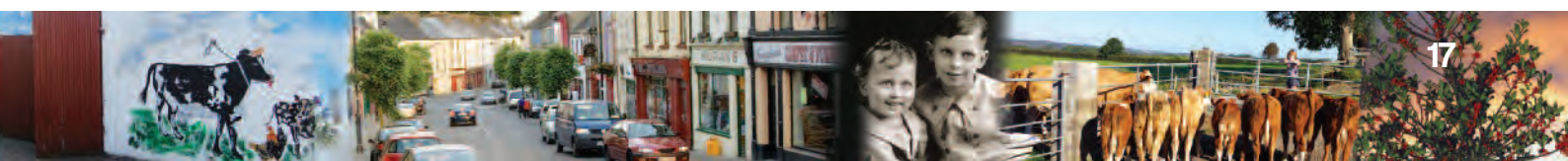
The Building that housed Ballyhaunis Court until December 2013 was designed and constructed in 1862-'63. Its design and layout were not unique but ran to a standard template operated by the Crown Services at that time.

Despite being in the centre of the town and known to us all, it was a building that few frequented or had reason to. Some that did have reason to may not have openly admitted to it.

Inside and in the centre of the structure was an imposing two storey open plan courtroom. In recent



Michael Keane (Claremorris), Mary Teresa Griffin, Brian O'Connor (Ballaghaderreen), Conor O'Dwyer, Charlie Gilmartin (Kiltimagh), John Dillon Leetch, Sergeant Kieran McNicholas, Retired Judge Bernard Brennan, Ailish McGuinness (Court Service), Judge Mary C. Devins, Evan O'Dwyer, Superintendent Joe Doherty, Brendan Donnelly (Swinford), Dermot Hewson (Ballina), Mike Griffin.







Charlie Gilmartin (Kiltimagh), Mike Griffin, Brendan Donnelly (Swinford), John Dillon Leetch, Kathleen McBride, Dermot Hewson (Ballina), Judge Mary C. Devins, Evan O'Dwyer, Patricia McGarry, Retired Judge Bernard Brennan, Brian O'Connor (Ballaghaderreen), Mary Teresa Griffin, Conor O'Dwyer, Michael Keane (Claremorris).

years the paint on the walls had begun to peel with dampness. In winter you could easily catch a cold as, given its age and construction, it was almost impossible to heat. Mike Griffin would often turn on the heat days before the court was scheduled to sit to start a thaw. In summer the large window captured the sunlight and kept the heat within the stone walls to keep it very warm and humid. If nothing else it was a courtroom with character – a living and breathing auditorium.

Affixed to the wall behind the judge was an imposing metal harp representing the Court Service. The judge and registrars' wooden benches date back to the opening day and are now battered and worn. Aside from the solicitors and Gardaí benches the public gallery could best be described as compact. In its hey day when Traffic Gardaí had more resources, and many people came to court to face speeding summonses, there could easily have been over a hundred people herded into the gallery.

Overlooking the Courtroom was the old District Court clerk's office. It closed in 1957 when the late Tim Forde was the last permanent clerk posted here. Just before the court closed in December that office remained in a mummy-like state with his desk, typewriter and draft summonses left untouched and in the same way it had been in 1957.

### Court Business

As with all District Courts every criminal act alleged to have taken place must start there. More serious cases are sent to higher courts but everything relating to Ballyhaunis and its surrounds began in Ballyhaunis. Most of the time, the work of the court was taken up with traffic and public order offences. Occasionally curious prosecutions were heard like the green grocer from Bridge Street convicted of selling potatoes without a permit. The complainant was a competitor. When the meat factory came to town the Department of Agriculture encamped in the Court for many years with breaches of Regulations. The Court saw the first decision to refuse an auctioneer a licence renewal for "conduct unbecoming". The way speeding cases were prosecuted by the Gardaí was changed because of cases which began in Ballyhaunis. We have had our fair share of serious crimes also pass through the Court, with people accused of sexual offences and even on the very rare occasion, murder.

In January the next sitting of Ballyhaunis Court took place in Castlebar. We now had a Ballyhaunis day in Castlebar which was intended to be for cases from our town only. That lasted three months. Now the identity of our town and our Court is consigned to history.





# The Origins of Ballyhaunis Courthouse

Sinéad Freyne

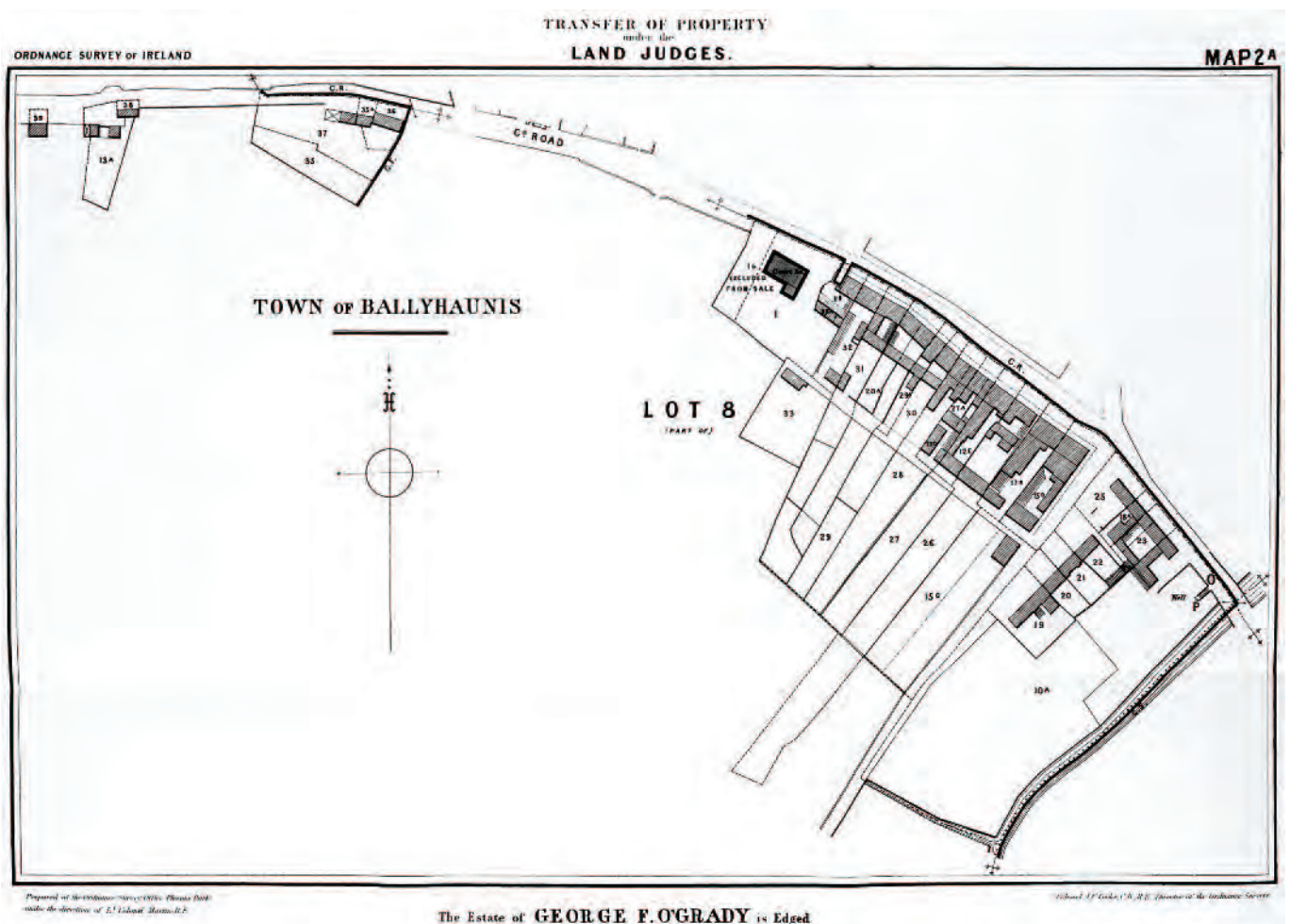
Last winter on reading much of the coverage in local newspapers on the closure of Ballyhaunis Courthouse, many varying dates were recorded as to when the first court was held in the Main Street building. Some newspapers stated 1874, 1875 and indeed 1880 as the founding date for the building. And in a Courthouse Survey carried out by the heritage service *Dúchas* in 1998/9, they date the building of the Courthouse to circa 1875 ('The Courthouses of Ireland - A Gazetteer of Irish Courthouses', compiled by Mildred Dunne and Brian Phillips, The Heritage Council 1999). However, Judge Devins, at the last sitting, said there had been continuous court sittings in Ballyhaunis since the 1860's, and the Coroner's Court had been held in the building from the 1860's until the 1990's.

Petty Sessions had of course been conducted in the town long before the current building was built. Many hours can be spent online looking through scanned original documents from the Ballyhaunis petty sessions starting of 1855 on the website [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie). It is

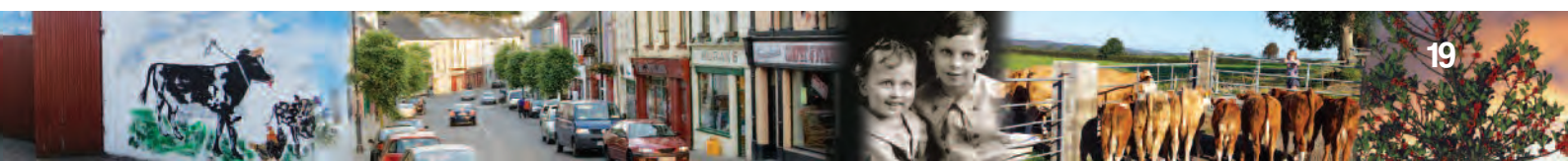
also known that a premises in Knox Street was used as a courtroom during the 1800s. So when was the Main Street building actually built?

We can discount the 1880 date because a map shows that the Courthouse on Main Street was up and running before that year. This map was included in a 'Rental' or catalogue detailing the estate of George F. O'Grady, when that estate was put up for sale in the Landed Estates Court on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 1879. One of the notes elsewhere in the rental, under the heading "Rights and Easements Admitted to Exist" reads: "*The Courthouse of Ballyhaunis is the property of the County Grand Jury and will be excluded from the sale.*"

A visit to the County Library in Castlebar and a trawl through *The Telegraph* or *Connaught Ranger* newspaper of the early 1860's shed some light on the origins of the building. I discovered the first evidence pertaining to a new courthouse for the town in the *Connaught Ranger* of Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 1861. It had a front page report from the Mayo Summer Assizes held a week earlier in



The courthouse is the building at the top of Main Street entitled 'Court Ho.' and is 'excluded from sale' in a map prepared for the sale of the George F. O'Grady Estate (Hazelhill townland), which can be dated to June 1879.





Castlebar on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. The foreman of the Grand Jury was Lord John T. Brown, M.P. (and of Westport House). While other members of the Jury are not listed, they are quoted in the body of the article contributing to the session. They included - Sir Richard A. O'Donnell (Newport House), Sir Robert Lynch Blossie, Sir Samuel O'Malley (Kilboyne House), Captain Higgins, Colonel F.A.K. Gore (Belleek Manor) and Colonel Charles Knox. Also mentioned were a Mr. Carter, Mr. H.I.H. Browne, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Blake, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Jordan, and Mr. William Symes. Also present were members of the Cess Payers' Committee.

During the discussions on 'Fiscal Business', Mr. Henry Brewster, the County Surveyor for Mayo North was called to proceed with his report to the assembled gentleman. The baronies under his remit stretched from Costello to Erris, Gallen and Tyrawly. During the course of his report he said, *"An application comes before you for building a new Courthouse at Ballyhaunis. I can only say that if Presentment Sessions, or sessions of any sort, are to be held in that town, some place must be provided; and I hope that the plan and specification which I have prepared may meet with the approbation of the Grand Jury."*

#### **Messrs. Taaffe and O'Grady**

Later in the article, it is reported that "The Ballyhaunis Courthouse excited a considerable amount of discussion. Sir R. L. Blossie said they had no power by law to spend a farthing of public money for such a purpose. The highest amount they could vote, for the keeping up of a petty session's court was £10. He (Sir Robert) held that the proprietors should build the Courthouse. Mr. Jordan said it was not at all clear that the law was against the granting of money for the purpose of building petty session courts. The proprietors (Messrs. Taaffe and O'Grady) had subscribed £100 each, and he (Mr. Jordan) held that, as the presentment putting the remaining sum on the county had been unanimously voted at special sessions, it should be allowed."

"Colonel Gore proposed, that, as they had power to grant £10 a year for the keeping in repair a petty session's court, they give at once £200 in lieu of the £10 a year; and this £200 with the £200 given by Messrs. Taaffe and O'Grady, will build an excellent house for them.... He (O'Grady) said he would be satisfied with the

proposal made by Colonel Gore. Colonel Gore then put his proposition in the shape of a resolution. Sir Richard O'Donnell moved, as amendment, that the £200 be put on the Barony of Costello. Mr Jordan said that would be tantamount to putting the whole of it on Messrs. Taaffe and O'Grady."



This plaque and symbol of the court service was positioned at the top of the court behind the Judge's bench.

#### **A new Railway Terminus and Courthouse**

"Colonel Gore observed that the Railway Terminus would be in Ballyhaunis, and that an unsightly courthouse there would greatly detract from the good name of the county in the eyes of strangers (laughter). Sir Richard withdrew his amendment, and it passed unanimously, subject to the opinion of the Judge as to its legality."

And indeed the opening of the railway in Ballyhaunis on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1861 was a catalyst

for the growth and development of the town during that time. In an article entitled "Courthouses – the Mirror of Society", written by Niall McCullough, he says that "The extent to which the spread of legal uniformity is related to urban growth and town foundation is striking – the courthouse as an ornament and support to new towns is a recurring theme in Ireland" ('The Courthouses of Ireland - A Gazetteer of Irish Courthouses', compiled by Mildred Dunne and Brian Phillips, The Heritage Council 1999).

Back in Castlebar, the members of the Grand Jury and Mr. Brewster were men of their word and the following notice appeared in the 'Connaught Ranger' of 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1861:

#### **BY ORDER OF THE GRAND JURY –**

Tenders will be received by me/for completing the following works, according to plans and specifications which may be seen at my Office in Castlebar:-

#### **Costello Barony.**

1 - To build a Courthouse, in the town of Ballyhaunis: not to exceed... £400. 0s. 0d.

Henry Brewster,  
County Surveyor, North Mayo.  
Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> August 1861.

In his surveyors' report to the Mayo Spring Assizes, 1862 in the Grand Jury Room on Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, Henry Brewster briefly mentions progress on the building work





stating that: “*The contractor is proceeding with the new Sessions-house in Ballyhaunis, and promises to have it fit for occupation before next winter*”. And in July of 1863, Henry Brewster states in his report to the Mayo Summer Assizes that: “*The new Courthouse in Ballyhaunis is nearly complete. The mason work and carpentry is well done, but the slating is very bad, indeed – particularly the dashings around the chimney shafts, and the ridge tiles.*”

The next notice appears in the *Connaught Ranger* on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1863:-

#### **Costello Barony**

- 1... To make a privy and yard wall, together with seats, in the Courthouse of Ballyhaunis; not to exceed 25/
- 6... To provide and supply 12 chairs, a table, fire-irons, &c., &c., for the Courthouse of Ballyhaunis; not to exceed 7/

The Tenders will be received and Contractors declared at the adjourned Sessions to be held at Ballyhaunis on Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 1864. Grand Jury Office, Castlebar, 15<sup>th</sup> December 1863.

Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions were held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 1864 as the new Courthouse was completed and put to use. The following excerpt from the *Connaught Ranger* gives us an amusing insight into our ancestors who frequented this brand new Courthouse building over 150 years ago.

“The court was densely crowded, and although twelve o’clock was the time fixed for the performance to commence, long before that hour arrived a goodly array of the litigious-disposed, and some who had an appearance of being up all night in beer-cribs, began to arrive and form in rapid succession a formidable audience in the temple in which justice was to be administered. Artificial flowers and thunder and lightning ribbons, in all the variety of fashion, might be also seen amongst the serio-comic group collected in the hall. As the vigilant *gendarmes* opened the proceedings with charges against the male portion of the community, for imbibing poisonous stimulants and ‘going on the beer’, the witness-table, as the centre of attraction, contained

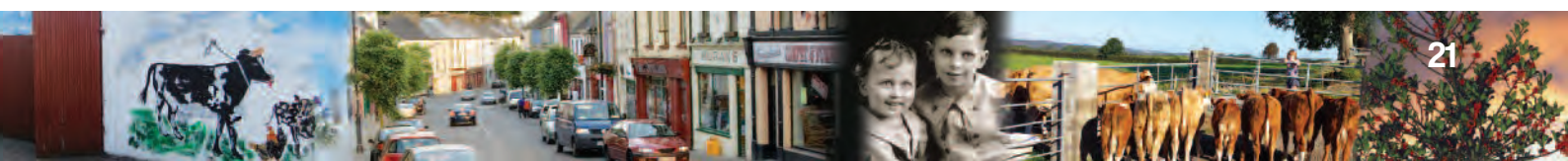
the officers of law and order in dandy boots. Sub-Constable Nixon (said to be gifted with a florid imagination), and another peace officer enjoying the frugiferous name of Curran, were soothing the sorrows of the fair sex whose lords had the misfortune of going too deep in Campbell’s bottle, believed in the salubrious and classic region to contain the real ocean.”

The aforementioned Courthouse Survey carried out by *Duchás* sent their surveyors to the Ballyhaunis building in March 1998. The property received a rating of Regional Value which is considered to form part of the architectural heritage of a particular town. In their report they describe the building as “a detached, four-bay, two storey courthouse, built c.1875, set back from the street behind a forecourt, with entrances in the slightly projecting end bays to either side of the two-bay double-height courtroom. It was partly refurbished internally c.1950 and renovated c.1995-7, when the roof was refurbished using fibre cement slates, and eight-over-eight pane and four-over-four-pane timber sash windows were inserted. The walls are of broken coursed hammer-dressed limestone.”

For those of you who have never been inside the building, it goes on to say that “In the courtroom, the judge’s bench enclosure is panelled. There are four-panelled doors, plain timber staircases, and a fireplace with a stone bracketed mantelshelf, cast iron and tile inset, and hearth guard of ironwork. The first floor over the courtroom, where there was previously a balcony, may have been altered c.1950. The general seating was replaced c.1980.



The Courthouse





# Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions 1855-59

Paul Waldron

The Court House on Main St., Ballyhaunis was built in 1862-64 and, until its closure earlier this year, served as the local theatre of justice for just over 150 years, having been the seat first of the Petty Sessions, of some Sinn Féin and Dáil Court sittings during the War of Independence, and then of the District Court since 1924. It replaced an earlier 'Petty Sessions House' located on Knox St., on the site now occupied by The Lantern public house.

The Petty Sessions dealt with a broad range of minor infringements of the law such as assault, breach of the peace, trespass and various types of 'nuisance'. Held every month, they were conducted by one to four magistrates – usually just two or three – drawn from the local landed gentry. 'The Irish R.M.' series of books by Somerville and Ross, which were adapted for TV in the 1980s, gave a good impression of how they operated.

The 'Court Order Books' for the Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions, from 1855 to 1921, can be seen in the National Archives, Dublin and have also been made available online by the genealogy website [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com), where one can search for a fee. They detail the proceedings of every Petty Sessions sitting, case-by-case, over these sixty-six years, giving the magistrates' names; the names and usually addresses of complainants and defendants; the names of witnesses; the cause of complaint and the order or judgment delivered. They are one of the most inclusive sets of records for the ordinary people of Ballyhaunis in the nineteenth century: nearly everyone in the town and parish, at some time or other, appeared before the magistrates either as complainant, defendant or witness.

What follows is a look at the cases which came before the magistrates in Ballyhaunis in the earliest five years covered in these books, 1855 to 1859, giving rare glimpses into the lives of our ancestors in the mid-nineteenth century – just ten years after the Great Famine. In the examples that follow, spellings of personal names and place names have been retained as in the original.

## Assault

The types of offence that came before the magistrates were many and varied. The vast majority – about 30 per cent of all cases heard in the timeframe 1855-59 – were for 'assault', ranging from stone-throwing and spitting to violent assaults with various implements including sticks, tongs, spades and shovels. In many cases the assaults were in association with other offences such as theft or damage to property, or 'breach of the peace'. A lot of cases were dismissed either 'without prejudice' or 'on (the) merits', which determined if the case could be brought again. Sometimes defendants were simply

'bound to the peace', but usually fines were imposed, ranging from 1d (pence) up to £1.10s. – always 'with costs at 1s. 6d'. Sometimes a choice was given between a fine or prison sentence, e.g. '5s. or one week's imprisonment', or '10s and costs 1s. 6d. or one fortnight's imprisonment', up to '£1. 10s. or one month's imprisonment'. The prisons were 'Castlebar Gaol' or 'Swinford Bridewell', and in some cases sentences included 'hard labour'. More serious cases were sent forward to the Quarter Sessions in Claremorris or Swinford.

Anthony and Patt Moran (Island) brought seven people up for 'assault 9<sup>th</sup> May 1856 at Island' – William Delany Snr., Edmond Delany, Michael Delany, John Murphy, William Delany Jnr., Honor Delany and Winifred Murphy (all Island). The witnesses included Patrick Nevin and some of the defendants. The magistrates fined John Murphy £1 and costs, while William Delany, Michael Delany, Anthony Moran and Patt Moran were 'bound to keep the peace'. At the same sitting John Murphy brought Anthony and Patt Moran up for assault on the same day, but this case was dismissed. Cases like these raise a number of questions: why were the Morans assaulted? What brought the defendants together in their common purpose? This item names a lot of people possibly related to each other, and suggests a connection through family or friendship between the Delany and Murphy individuals. Cases such as these, involving groups of people, can be useful in genealogical research as they give an insight into kin or friendship networks at a particular point in time, showing who associated with whom.

Later that year there was a case where Thomas Frain and John Judge (both Carrareagh) brought a case of 'assault on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 1856, at Carrareagh' against John Brehaney, Martin and Thomas Frain, John and Patt Frehilly. The occurrence here of neighbours using two versions of the same surname – Judge and Brehaney – at the same time, is notable.

One wonders what the background was to a case heard by the Petty Sessions in the following year which makes reference to a local musician of the time. John Caulfield (Abbeyquarter) brought Michael Grogan, Bridget Grogan and Bridget Grogan Jnr. (all of Ballyhaunis) up for 'waylaying complainant and breaking his fiddle on night of 21<sup>st</sup> Apr. 1857 at Ballyhaunis'. Witnesses were John Caulfield, Owen Herity and B. Herity. At the same court, Michael Grogan brought Caulfield up for 'breaking complainant's window and kicking his door' on the same night. Michael Grogan was fined £1 plus costs, or one month's imprisonment with hard labour, while the case against John Caulfield was dismissed without prejudice.

Cases under the heading 'Threatening behaviour'





range from persons 'having stones in their pocket' to 'threatening to take complainant's life'. They usually feature as part of ongoing disagreements often between neighbours, as do cases of 'Damage to property' – broken windows, broken-down doors, damaged limekilns, etc.

The next most numerous category of case was for 'Drunkenness', or persons being 'Drunk and Disorderly', and they took up 15 per cent of court time. All were brought by members of the local constabulary (RIC). The great majority include 'breach of the peace', and most took place 'on the public streets of Ballyhaunis'. Very occasionally people were charged with 'rioting', but such cases were few and far between. The usual punishment was a choice between a fine of 6d (plus costs of 1s) or twenty-four hours' imprisonment, either in Castlebar or Swinford, or, for serious breaches, a 2s. 6d. fine (plus 1s. costs) or forty-eight hours' imprisonment. Apparently, one third of each fine went into a 'reward fund'. The court order books for the years 1855-59 reveal that many people – mostly men – from every background and from all parts of Ballyhaunis and surrounding parishes were summonsed at one time or other for offence such as these, and that most of them occurred on Fair Days, around Christmas time, on St. Patrick's Day or on other feast days.

## Nuisance

In third place, as far as court time was concerned, were cases classified under the heading 'nuisance'. These too were brought by the local RIC and mostly involved dogs which were not 'logged' or licensed, dogs without muzzles, and obstructions to the public road. By far the majority of cases involved pigs being allowed to 'roam at will on the public road', and the fine varied from 1d to 6d, with 1s costs. Everyone, it appears, in both town and country, had a pig at that time: they were often the only source of meat throughout the year in a household, and a vital part of the local and national economy. Most had just one pig, others had two; some had more. Of the forty cases heard on the last day of 1855, eleven were for 'nuisance' having one or two pigs 'wandering on the public streets of Ballyhaunis, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1855'. The defendants on that day were Michael Grogan, William Killion, Patt Killion, Francis McGuire, Thomas Crawley, Michael Torpey, Patt Morrally, William Tormey and Catherine Tormey (all of 'Ballyhaunis'). All were fined 6d and costs.

A variety of other offences made up the 'nuisance' category; usually where farming tasks were carried out on the public highway, or where material was left there causing an obstruction, including mud, 'a large heap of manure', stones, turf and carts. At the same court cited above Catherine Boyle (Clagnogh) appeared for 'nuisance by burning a lime kiln on side of the road at

Clagnogh, 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1855', while her neighbour Patt Hunt was up for 'nuisance by cleaning oats at Clagnogh 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1855.' Both cases were dismissed. Michael Moran (Coolnaha) was before the court for 'nuisance by threshing corn on the public road at Coolnaha, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1859', for which he was fined 1s and 1s costs.

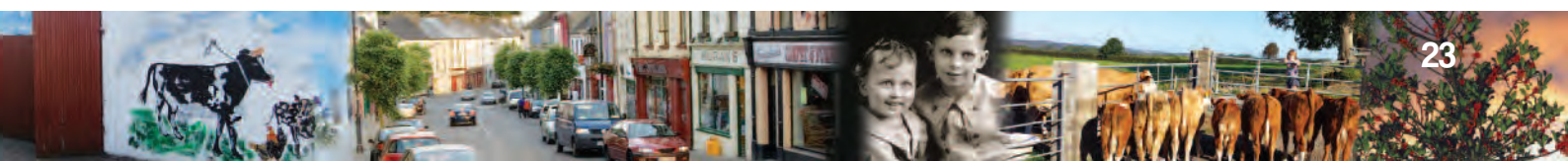
In an early case of illegal parking, John McGreal (Ballyhaunis) appeared for 'nuisance by leaving his cart on the public streets of Ballyhaunis, 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1859', and was fined 6d with 1s costs.

## Trespass

Next in number after 'nuisance' cases were cases of trespass, taking up 10 per cent of court time. The trespass was usually committed by animals or fowl on pasture, 'reserved grass', potatoes, turnips or oats. In each case, the exact number of animals is given, the precise dates the trespass occurred, and occasionally, the value of the crop lost. Where the trespass occurred over a certain number of days, the total number of 'trespasses' is given. Edward Brehany (Carrareagh) brought Thomas Morrally (Clognaugh) for 'trespass by 28 cows on his grass and potatoes from 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1857'. In fact, only two cows were involved here, but they were on Brehany's land for fourteen days. Morrally was fined 4s and costs of 1s. 6d. James Jordan (Kiltabough) brought James Frehilly (Scrigg) for 'Trespass by 14 sheep on complainant's pasture and turnips, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1856 a Kiltabough'. Frehilly was fined 2s 4d and costs 1s 6d. Records such as these show how much livestock people generally had at the time.

The great number of trespass cases show just how ineffective fences were at that time. There was no barbed wire then, and it was hard to make stone walls (where there was enough suitable stone to build them), sod fences or hedges fully stock-proof. They also show that many people lived too close to their neighbours, a situation sure to cause problems where every square foot of land was important, and a crop ruined by animals could spell disaster for the coming year.

Some trespass cases involved 'levelling fences', where fences were knocked either by animals themselves, or deliberately by humans. Through the 1850s and 1860s many new fences were being built in the Ballyhaunis area as the land was 'striped' by landlords and their agents, and divided into individual farms. Needless to say, there was controversy about the placing of some of these, especially where houses were built close together, and a new fence around one person's land might cause an obstruction or inconvenience to their neighbour. Some people were unhappy with the new divisions and occasionally went to great lengths to continue farming land they once held, but which now formed part of a neighbour's property. Thady Murphy





(Lurgan) brought Anne and Patt Hagan (Lurgan) for 'Maliciously throwing down the complainant's fence and driving his cattle into complainant's own oats on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May 1859 at Lurgan'. The magistrates were unable to reach a verdict, and left the decision to be made later by Mr. Strickland (Lord Dillon's agent).

Other cases of trespass involved people cutting turf where they weren't supposed to. Knox and Taaffe, the local absentee landlords, were very active in hauling people to court over this. In 1857, Ansley Knox brought John Duffy, Michael Killeen, Michael Kenney and Mary Knafesy (no addresses given) up for 'Trespass on complainant's property by cutting turf July 1857 at Island after being cautioned by complainant's herdsman not to do so'. The witnesses were Anthony Moran (possibly the herdsman in question) and Myles Fitzmaurice who lived in the town and who probably held some official position as he shows up as a witness in many cases.

Other land related cases included 'forcible possession' where individuals insisted on using land claimed by others, or obstructions to Rights of Way, usually described as 'preventing complainant going his/her passage'.

Some cases of poaching, with or without dogs, appeared before the magistrates. Landlords still exercised power over who had the right to hunt where. In 1858 Francis R. O'Grady Esq. of Tavraun (landlord) brought James Parsons, John Cunnane and Patt Carney (all Ballindrehid) up for 'Trespass on lands with dogs in pursuit of game 25<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1858 at Island'. All were fined 1s and costs, 1s 6d.

## Wages

There were many cases where employers were taken to court for non-payment of wages. At the Petty Sessions of 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1855 Bartholomew Rabbit (address not given) brought an action against Charles Boyd (Coolnafarna) for 2s wages; Thomas Noon (Annagh) brought a similar action against Francis Waldron (Cave), for 12s 6d wages, and Nancy Kerins, 'servant' (Bracklaghboy) did the same regarding Sally Byrne (Island) for wages amounting to 10s. The court found in favour of all three employees, and decrees were issued for the wages outstanding, plus costs. Not all were so lucky: on 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 1856 Martin Fox took an action for 17s 10d wages against James Eakins (Johnstown), but the case was 'dismissed without prejudice'.

Sometimes the court order books are the only place you'll find a person's occupation recorded: James Keegans (Abbeyquarter), 'land surveyor', took two actions in May 1857: one against Peter Joseph Lynch (Carranedin) for £8 wages; and another against John Lyons (Cloonacurry), for £3. 5s 2d wages. The first case was adjourned; the second 'dismissed without prejudice'.

Others cases concern employees 'absconding from service'. At the court of 7<sup>th</sup> May 1855, James Davis, MD (Abbeyquarter) took Mary Allen (Derrylea) to court for 'absconding from service as servant maid.' The judgement was simply that she should be 'fined or imprisoned'. The following year Michael Tarpey (Ballyhaunis) brought Patt Finnegan (Ballyhaunis) up for 'absconding from service 7<sup>th</sup> May 1856'. In this case it was ordered 'defendant to be committed for 1 month with hard labour if he does not return to his service.'

## Drink

Breaches of the licensing laws and the illegal sale of drink take up only about four percent of cases in the years 1855-59. The term 'tippling' is used frequently in cases involving illegal drinking, especially where unlicensed houses or sheebens were involved. In 1856 two people appeared for offences committed at the Pattern of Holywell: Anne Grogan (Abbeyquarter) for 'having a tent open for sale of spirits at Hollywell on 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug. 1856 not being duly licensed'; and Thomas Caulfield (Ballyhaunis) for 'tippling in a tent of Anne Grogan' on the same date, presumably at the same place. Grogan had the option of a fine of £6 and costs, 6s 6d, or one month's imprisonment with hard labour. Caulfield too had an option – a fine of 2s 6d, plus costs 1s, or twenty-four hours imprisonment.

In 1857, at the summons of Robert Brierton, Head Constable, three Ballyhaunis publicans were before the bench for keeping late hours: Michael Lyons for 'keeping his house open for the sale of spirits at a quarter past 11 on the night of 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1857 and having persons drinking therein'; Anne McHale for 'keeping house open at the hour of 11.45 on night of 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1857 for the sale of spirits, and having persons drinking therein'. Also Saragh Finn for 'keeping house open for sale of spirits on night of 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1857 and having persons therein who had the appearance of recently drinking'. Lyons and Finn were each fined 10s and 1s costs, while the case against McHale was dismissed.

Sunday night closing time must have been 9.00 then as Sub-Const. John Flanagan brought Michael Patton (Ballyhaunis) up for 'permitting patrons to remain drinking after 9 o'clock on night 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1858', which was a Sunday night.

Only four percent of cases heard at Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions in the second half of the 1850s involved theft. A broad range of goods were in question, most often in very small quantities: hay, grass, oats, potatoes, turnips, turf, fowl, sheep, and an occasional cow. Sums of money varied from pennies to 'five sovereigns and a half, and two pound notes'. Quantities of manure were included occasionally, as were 'rods', probably sally rods for making scollops for thatching.





It's apparent that the great majority of the incidents were caused by extreme poverty, and many seem inconsequential and petty by today's standards. Bryan McDermott, landlord (Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon) brought Stephen Garahan (Lew) to court for 'stealing two sally trees on night 16<sup>th</sup> Apr. 1856, at Lew.' The case was dismissed.

At the other extreme was a case concerning two strangers, where one Christopher Keane (Ballyneacarly) had Owen Keenan (Baslick), up for 'Robbery and stealing from complainant on night 7<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1859 five sovereigns and a half, and two pound notes at the house of John Waldron of Aughamore'.

## Other Cases

Several people appeared before the bench charged with 'Breach of Sabbath' between 1855 and 1859. In 1858 three men – Thomas Grogan and his servant John Mooney (both Cloonbullig), and James Walsh (Hazelhill) – appeared for 'Breach of the Sabbath, on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec., working a corn-mill'. Grogan and Walsh were fined 4s 7½d, plus costs 1s, while the case against Mooney was dismissed. The next year John Cunningham (Abbeyquarter) and Anthony Morrally (Clagnagh) were brought up for 'Breach of the Sabbath 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1859, driving a cart and horse laden with goods contrary to the statutes.' This case was dismissed as it was 'considered a case of necessity'.

Ballyhaunis had just one doctor at the time, James Davis MD (Abbey Street), so many people depended on alternative or traditional medical practices and remedies instead. One client was obviously unhappy with having paid a local 'practitioner' – on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1858 Bryan Lyons (address not given) brought Thady Brennan (Hazelhill) to court for 'Receiving from complainant the sum of 8s under the false pretence that the defendant would cure complainant of the Ague, in which he failed'. 'Ague' was an old term for fever. The case was dismissed without prejudice.

Sub Constable Nicholas Maddigan had Jeremia Mears (Coolnafarna) and John McHugh (Devlis) up for 'Exposing meat for sale 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1855 at Ballyhaunis'. It's not clear if the law broken concerned illegal selling of meat, or the fact that it was Christmas Day. The case was dismissed.

The court held on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1856 included a case where Richard Meehan (Brackloon) appeared at the behest of Thomas John Quill Esq., for 'Keeping a kiln for the drying of corn and other grain at Brackloon parish Baken...' Apparently, he should have applied for a license or permit to carry out this task which was a preliminary to milling. It must have been a serious offence as he was fined £12 or six months imprisonment.

James Cooney (Hazelhill) brought William Jordan

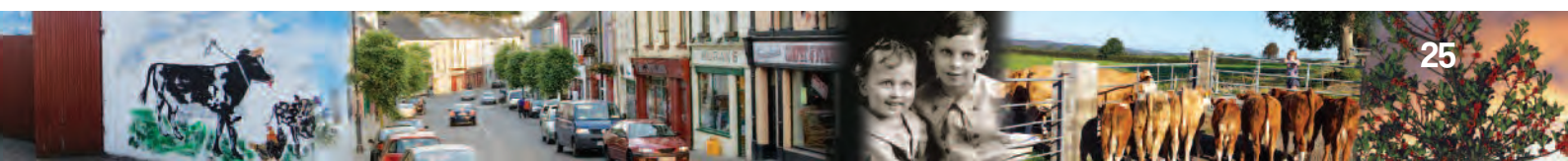
(Ballyhaunis) to court in 1859, for 'Breaking complainant's pound gate and driving four horses out of said pound 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar. 1859 which were impounded for trespass on lands of Hazelhill.' Livestock were impounded for trespassing or in default of a payment. Sometimes the owners attempted to reclaim animals without paying up. In 1855 John Parsons, Sheriff's bailiff, Claremorris, brought Thomas and John Ronayne of Ballykilleen up for 'rescuing 2 heifers seized under a barrister's decree 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1855'. The case was dismissed without prejudice.

Speeding was an offence back in the 1850s too, apparently: Sub Constable Edward Read brought Patt Mark (Ballyhaunis) up for 'Furiously driving a horse through the town of Ballyhaunis on the night 18<sup>th</sup> Mar. 1859.'

Cases of cruelty to animals occur infrequently, and generally involve mistreating other people's animals, not their own. The cases seem to have been mild enough and usually involve people driving off neighbours' animals with sticks, stones, or sometimes dogs. They often occurred in conjunction with trespass cases, and usually were symptomatic of ongoing disagreements between neighbours.

Francis Murray, an extensive property holder in Abbeyquarter at the time, brought Myles Fitzmaurice to court for 'Refusing to give up possession of the house which you hold as ... tenant from complainant at the weekly rent of 4s and which house is situate in that part of the market town of Ballyhaunis in the county of Mayo called Carrownemonister ...'. Note the use of the Irish form of Abbeyquarter – *Ceathrú an Mainistir*. The magistrates ordered that possession be given up, and that Fitzmaurice pay 1s 6d costs.

Several cases for burning land were brought by Philip Taaffe, the Dublin based landlord. Although illegal, it was long-since thought that burning scraws and scattering the ashes enriched the soil. It might for a year or too, but it caused long-term damage. Taaffe, who owned nearly 3,000 acres in the Ballyhaunis area, brought several of his tenants before the courts for this activity. In 1857 Thomas Moran (Cugue) was brought up for 'Perniciously burning or causing or permitting to be perniciously burned, without the consent of the complainant, 5 roods 3 perches late Irish plantation measure, of the soil or surface of the soil of the lands of Lacticribbin in the barony of Costello and county of Mayo in the occupation of the defendant Thomas Moran as tenant of the complainant.' The placename 'Lacticribbin' or 'Laughticribbin' (*Leacht Uí Cribín*), now apparently forgotten, appears in several documents around this time and refers to part of Carrownluggaun or Tooraree townlands, in the general Upper Main Street/Doctor's Road area.





## Differences

The impression given from looking at these records is that we were a very litigious society in those days, ready to go to court at the drop of a hat. Everyone and anyone availed of the legal route to sort out differences, however trivial. Genuine poverty gave rise to many of the cases, while excessive drinking and bad fences also played a significant part. Few of our forebears kept entirely clear of the Petty Sessions in the nineteenth century, and the Court Order Books offer insights into their everyday lives in a way no other surviving records can.

The new Court House on Main Street opened in 1864 (see Sinead Freyne's article elsewhere in this issue), and the Petty Sessions House on Knox Street changed function, as recorded by local historian Dr. Michael F. Waldron (1876-1953): "*The first national school [in the town] was opened in Knox Street, in a building called the 'Old Courthouse' on the site of the houses afterwards built by Mark Waldron. That would be before 1865.*" It continued in use as a school for several years and valuation office records name John Rourke and Martin McGreevey (both teachers) as successive occupiers through the second half of the 1860s. It was replaced by a premises on Abbey Street, across the road from the Friary gate, which operated until a new school – St. Mary's N.S. – was built in Abbeyquarter in 1879.

By the mid-1880s the 'Old Courthouse' on Knox St. was in use as a grain store and, along with Dr. Davis' old dispensary next-door, belonged to brothers Mark and Michael A. Waldron. In the 1890s the Waldrons built two new buildings on the site, where the Lantern public house and Melissa Beauty Therapy are situated at the present time.

## Magistrates

Two Resident Magistrates (RMs) operated in Ballyhaunis during this time, though both lived in Castlereagh: Charles O'Connell (nephew of Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator), who was replaced in 1859 by Charles Arabin, a Westmeath man. The post of RM was government appointed, while the other magistrates sat on the bench as part of their civic duty. These others included Austin J. Crean, Austin F. Crean (both of Ballinvilla), James Dillon (Coogue), John Nolan Ferrall (Logboy), Charles French (Erritt Lodge), Francis Richard O'Grady (Tavrane), George Rutledge (Hollymount), Joseph J. Blake (Clonbur), Richard O'Grady (Tavrane) and Philip Taaffe (Woodfield).

## Policeman

Just over a third of the cases appearing before the magistrates were brought by the RIC, and so the following policemen are known to have been stationed

in Ballyhaunis in the period from 1855 to 1859. Three **Head Constables** - Robert Palmer (1855-57), Robert Brierton (1857) and Andrew Noonan (1858-59). **Constables/Sub Constables:** Patrick Barry, Peter Bennett, Peter Conry, John Daly, James Devine, Patrick Dwyer, Michael Dooley, John Flanagan, Michael Flanagan, David Gallagher, Michael Gannon, John Gilligan, Jonathan Jenkins, William Johns, Charles Kearns, John Keating, Patrick Kelly, John Leatham, Nicholas Madigan, Edward Maune, William Nixon, Meredith O'Connor, Charles O'Dowd, Bernard O'Neill, Robert Palmer, Edward Read, William Robinson, Edward Searson and Jeremiah Sheahy.

## Publicans Licenses

At the Petty Sessions of 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1857 the town's twenty-two publicans had their certificates or licenses renewed, at a cost of 1s 6d each. No addresses are given but the location of most premises, as found in Valuation Office records, are given here.

Patt Blackhall, Bridge St. (south)  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Crawley, Main St. (north)  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Cunnane, Main St. (south)  
Patt Delaney, Main St. (north)  
Owen Doyle, Main St. (north)  
Martin Duffy, Main St. (south)  
Mich<sup>l</sup> Patten, Main St. (south)  
Mich<sup>l</sup> Folliard, Main St. (south)  
Patt Ford, Abbey St. (south)  
Luke Frehilly, Main St. (south)  
Sarah Fynn, Main St. (north)  
Mich<sup>l</sup> Grogan, The Square  
James Jordan, Main St. (north)  
Mich<sup>l</sup> Lyons, Main St. (north)  
Anne McHale, Bridge St. (south)  
William Meath, The Square  
David Morally, Abbey St. (south)  
Patt Morally, Main St. (south)  
Austin Muldoon, *not known*  
Edw<sup>d</sup> Mulhearn, Main St. (south)  
Mich<sup>l</sup> Mulrenan, Knox St. (east)  
Francis Murray, Abbey St. (south)

In the following year's license renewal list (18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1858) the following don't appear: Thomas Crawley, Luke Frehilly, Sarah Fynn, James Jordan and Austin Muldoon; while the following five additional premises had licenses granted:

Patt Rattigan, Main St. (north)  
Charles Stewart, Main St. (north)  
Michael Tarpy, Main St. (south)  
John Waldron, Abbey St. (south)  
John Waldron, Aghamore.





# The Long Way Home

Michelle Curley

That feeling, right there, in the pit of your stomach. Or more accurately, the one from the tips of your fingers to the soles of your feet...Home.

It's the fresh air with the unmistakable undertones of heather; that West of Ireland mist that envelops you whole when you step off the plane at Knock airport; the heat from the turf that warms your bones because on the annual trip home, you are granted the seat nearest to the fire normally reserved for Daddy or the visitors, or in my house, the brother-in-law.

It's the aroma of the bread baking in the oven, the recipe that has passed from Granny to Mammy and on to me, yet for some reason it smells and tastes so much better when I've travelled thousand miles to eat it – although, to be fair, it is likely that it tastes better simply because Mam is a better cook than me – or has had much more practice.

It's the first dinner of bacon and cabbage; the Christmas tree in the corner and sitting on the high stool in Paddy Phillips'. It's the long overdue catch-ups with friends who are scattered in all corners of the globe, living different lives than we ever could have imagined. That slightly awkward first minute but, thereafter, the knowledge that no matter how long has passed or how many words have gone unsaid in the 12 months since you last gave each other a hug, it matters not because great friendships are timeless, consistent and lasting.

Mine is not an unusual tale, instead it seems that towns across the West of Ireland are re-living a trend first seen 160 odd years ago, which has impacted and affected almost every generation since. I left Ireland in May 2004 with two bags, big dreams and a longing to experience something different. At that time I was bound for London and started my first job on the career ladder less than a week later when a fellow Irish emigrant recognised that my lack of experience counted for little when compared to a willingness to learn and a work ethic that you actually can't teach, but which most Irish people are instilled with from an early age.

Six years, countless memories, new friendships and life lessons later, I packed up my belongings and journeyed to South East Asia and Australia. A road so travelled by recent generations that it often feels the streets of Vientiane are paved green, white and gold. At the time I had no intention of staying in Australia beyond a month's travelling, but a chance telephone conversation when I was in Cambodia, with a man who was to be my boss for the next three and a half years, encouraged me to take a chance and accept a role in Sydney, before I'd ever set



foot in Australia's Harbour City.

Fast forward almost four years and a life in the land 'Down Under' – after being initially sponsored on a 457 visa by my old employer, I gained Permanent Residency status over a year ago and am on course to become an Australian citizen by mid next year. What that means? Well your guess is as good as mine – for all intents and purposes it means I can stay in this

amazing country indefinitely and yet it doesn't mean I consider myself an Australian just yet. For over the years I have found that regardless of how far from the parish of Annagh I roam, I'll never feel less of a Ballyhaunis girl or a Mayo lady.

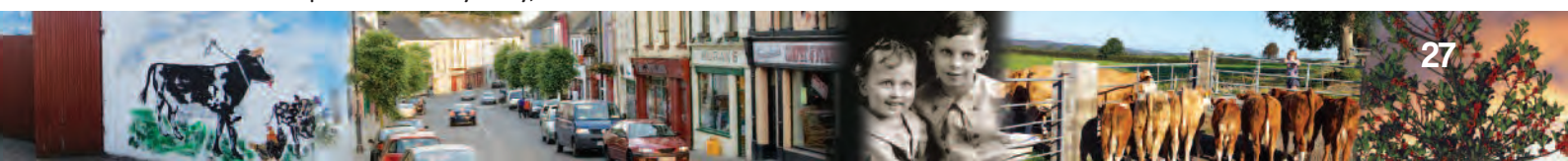
I imagine that for as long as I call these shores home, every European summer I'll be up late watching the Connacht championship and, all going according to plan, biting my nails and roaring at the television on late nights in August and on the third Sunday in September.

I'm not alone. You wouldn't believe how many Irish people you can fit into a pub on a Sunday night/Monday morning for a game that doesn't kick off until 12:30am local time. Nor would you believe the banter that ensues amongst rival supporters regardless of which side takes home 'Sam' – an occurrence difficult to comprehend for any non-partisan viewers, particularly those who don't have a drop of green blood in them.

And on the occasion in early October when Ballyhaunis won the County Championship, the pre-game conversation with my father re-living a victory some 46 years earlier is one I cherish and hope to remember for years to come. There are few of his teammates from that day remaining, even fewer still living in Ballyhaunis, and the fact that he was attending the game and able to have a few 'socialables' afterwards, was lovely to listen to but hard to be so far removed from.

I recognise how blessed I am – a great job, a strong friend base that includes people I have known for fifteen plus years, an amazing climate and, for the first time in living memory, an actual tan rather than just a series of freckles which have joined the dots. And yet, the things I miss are not replaceable nor can they be replicated regardless of how long I live here – the birth of nieces and nephews, family weddings, baptisms and other special and essential occasions.

For, if life is an eternal compromise, and the choice you take is finding employment and building a life away from the Emerald Isle, then the offset is the knowledge that there will always be a part of you that longs for home.





## IRISH DANCING



Above: Dancers from the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing who performed at the Abbey Pattern 2014. Back, L-R: Ellen Phillips, Niamh O'Neill, Meave Flanagan, Derbhla Freeman, Mary Elwood (Teacher). Centre: Clare Fleming, Mae Hession, Leah Guilfoyle, Rebecca Mulligan, Lucy Phillips, Erica Byrne, Maia Phillips, Emma Colleran, Laoise Greally, Leah Elwood. Front: Cathy Greally, Niamh Donnellan, Laura Flanagan, Marissa Collins, Ciara Dooney, Katie-Rose Shaw, Caitlin Cosgrove, Alesha McGarry, Chloe Hurley, Lucy Flanagan, Aoibhinn Gallagher, Chloe Hurley, Kate Colleran, Edel Fleming. Photograph by Jara Jurak

Left: Dancers from the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing who danced at the Summer Festival in June 2014: Leah Guilfoyle, Maia Phillips, Erica Byrne, Lucy Phillips, Emma Colleran, Leah Elwood.



Derbhla Freeman, Ellen Phillips, Amy Greally, competing in Under 14 at Roscommon Feis 2014. The girls are pupils of the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing in Ballyhaunis and are second year students in Ballyhaunis Community School.



Erica Byrne and Emma Colleran from the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing, Ballyhaunis dancing at the Summer Festival 2014.





Like Father, Like Son! Fergal Kelly celebrating after the Mayo Intermediate County Final, with his wife Claire, sons Adam and Sonny Jay and daughter Anna. Also in the picture is Fergal's father, Aidan, who also won this trophy in 1967.



Three 'Knox Street Rovers': Joe Kenny (Tullamore), Johnny Biesty (Ballyhaunis) and Ado Kenny (Strokestown). Photographed in Tullamore 2013.



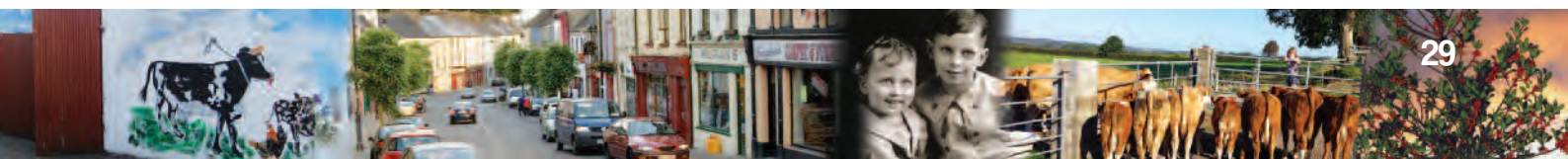
At the President's Night in Ballyhaunis Golf Club 2013. Back, L-R: Patricia Heaney, Margaret Corcoran, Myra Healy. Front: Kay Curley (President), Mary Larkin, Margaret Cosgrove and Breege Halpin.



Wrenboys and girls who called to Dom Morley's house in Lissaniskea on St. Stephens Day 2013. They are Nathan, Jason, Alannah and Jorja Mai Hession from Cloonbulban, Began. Photograph taken by Fiona Morley Clarke, Celbridge.



Active Retirement group practising Tai Chi, with tutor Colin Dempsey.





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# Growing Up in Ballyhaunis

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Hello, my name is Cian and I live in Ballyhaunis. There are lots of things I like about Ballyhaunis. The Abbey Pattern is one of them. It's a big festival that happens annually in the Friary field. There are races, music, fun, games and lots more. I really like the three legged race and the egg and spoon race. Another thing I like about Ballyhaunis is the Rugby and GAA clubs. They are both very fun to go to and people from other schools are there too, so you make lots of new friends and get a lot of exercise. I really like the Christmas play that happens every year at school. It's fun rehearsing for it and you get great satisfaction on the night of the play when everyone is clapping and cheering. Then there's the night that the Christmas lights go on. Everyone gathers in the Square and there's lots of singing and dancing. Then Santa comes and turns on the lights that twinkle and sparkle in the night sky.

Scoil Íosa is also a very nice place. The teachers are very friendly and so are all the children. You learn lots of new things and make lots of friends. There is a play each year and sometimes a talent show. You don't get much homework (most of the time) and there is also a school Gaelic team which actually won a county championship last year. There is also a choir, Green Flag Committee and much more. Ballyhaunis is a great town to grow up in and live in. My name is Cian and those are all the reasons I love Ballyhaunis.

**Cian Walsh**

Hi my name is Rida and I live in Ballyhaunis. I go to Scoil Íosa and I love it. I am 12 years now, and I am in sixth class and about to go on to Secondary School. There are a few things I want to tell you about why I love growing up in Ballyhaunis. Firstly, it is a friendly environment and I have lots of friends here. Every now and then there is a Fair or Festival in town which I always go to. In 2013 I went to the Summer Festival and I entered the drawing competition. I won 2nd prize in it and I got a medal.

I am also a member of the Library and every Summer I enter the Summer Reading Challenge. Last year Keith Higgins came to the Library and gave out the medals and certificates to the people who did the Challenge. Lots of people entered it last year and it was fun. Another thing is that just at the end of 5th class, 5th and 6th had a little bike ride around the town. The Gardaí were in front of us and it was a lot safer. This is all I am going to tell you about growing up in Ballyhaunis.

**Rida Naseer**

My name is Simon. I love Ballyhaunis. I love all my friends. I love my school and my classmates. When I was

in 4th class, Mr. Henry came in giving out GAA leaflets about GAA Under-12, so I put my hand up and took one. So that evening, as I was watching The Simpsons and had pressed the select button, I noticed it was 10 to 6 so I asked my Mum to drop me to the GAA pitch out the Knock Road. She said o.k. So when I arrived I walked in the gates for the first time and walked over to the trainer. I told him my name. I thought this was going to be boring because I did not know anyone, but then I saw Josh, Jack, Piers and Aidan and so on and so forth. I did not know how to play but I gave it my best shot. I messed up lots of times but I still didn't give up. After training I took a shower. When I was finished my Mum asked me how was it. I replied crap, but she said the second training is never as bad as the first. I missed about 3 training sessions after that in a row. But then my friend Ibrahim helped me get better at my solos and my skills and the rules.

The next day it was training so I grabbed my boots and headed for the GAA grounds. I put 110% into it. And I scored a point. I was glad of that. I was on the sub bench for about 3 matches. Then I started scoring goals and points at training. Then they started calling me the buggeman because when Josh was taking a free I yelled buggeman and he put it wide. Everyone started laughing. Now I have about twenty names like Simi, Baby Simo, Cidona, Simeon. Now GAA is my life. That is why I love Ballyhaunis.

**Simon McDonagh**

Growing up, in what I think is one of the most amazing towns in Ireland, Ballyhaunis, was amazing for me. My name is Daniel Hill and I am in 6th class in Scoil Íosa, Ballyhaunis. Scoil Íosa is the name of the Primary school in Ballyhaunis. It is a modern school with projectors, lots of classrooms and in those classrooms are the amazing teachers of Ballyhaunis. Our 6th class teacher's name is Ms. Byrne, and our teacher is one of many delightful teachers in Scoil Íosa. Summer is wonderful in Ballyhaunis. There are two main events in Ballyhaunis every summer. In the middle of the summer is the Summer Festival. It lasts two days and is full of stalls, children running around and people laughing and enjoying themselves. What I usually do in those two festival days is I look at the stalls for about an hour and then spend the rest of the day in the park.

The second event is the Abbey Pattern. It is only on for one day and it is held just before we go back to school. It all goes on in the Park. There are races and lots of stalls to do things at, and if you don't like any of that, there's always a playground to play in and enjoy yourself. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else than Ballyhaunis





because it may not be the best town in the country to everyone, but it is to me and, I should think, everyone else who lives in Ballyhaunis.

**Daniel Hill**

My name is Jakub Jurak, I am eleven years old. I was born in Bratislava in Slovakia and I live here in Ballyhaunis, Ireland. I came to Ireland in November, 6 months after I was born. I lived beside Caulfield's shop for a few days or weeks. Then I moved into 2 Hazelhill. However I rarely was in it as both my Mum and my Dad went to work so I had to be minded. Two years later, I went into playschool. I had a lot of friends there and some even stick to this day. However, my life completely changed when my Mum was pregnant. I was very confused and excited for not only did I have a new sister coming, I also was moving yet again! I was scared about the baby, the house and what the baby would be, as I really wanted a brother; but on 13th of September, my life completely changed as my little sister Jasmine arrived. I was only 3½ years old, so I don't remember much but what I do know is that she was awfully LOUD.

One year later, I moved into my new house and prepared myself for the big step - school! I was extremely shy for my first year in school, my teacher was Ms. Flanagan. Most of the time I wasn't paying attention, my mind was focusing on home. Over the years I had different teachers, Senior Infants Ms. Durkan, 1st class Ms. Burke, 2nd class Ms. McGrath, 3rd class Ms. Watchorn, 4th class Ms. Cunnane, 5th class Mr. O'Brian, and now 6th class Ms. Byrne. I have been to the Abbey Pattern, the switching on of the Christmas lights, birthday parties and so many events. I have many more memories too and I am happy to share them here in Ballyhaunis.

**Jakub Jurak**

For me growing up in Ballyhaunis has been great. I moved from Dublin around nine years ago. I got into a good school and made lots of friends. I usually go to the park with a few of my friends. I go to school and learn away. I love my teacher. My family is wonderful and loving. I have one brother and zero sisters. My brother is in college and I sort of miss him. I go to the Abbey Pattern nearly every year. It's real fun. There are races and candy floss, and there's even a Dog Show. And then there's the Summer Festival where there's music and it's good fun. I go to Scouts which is brilliant. I really like school. We have a good teacher and she's really nice. We do a good bit of work but it's ok. At small break we usually sit down and talk outside. And at big break we play a game of catch or football. That's how good it is here in Ballyhaunis.

**Tamzin Whelan**

Hey! My name is Mahau Asif and I'm going to tell you about Ballyhaunis. I have grown up in Ballyhaunis. I am now 11 years old. Ballyhaunis is a wonderful town. In Ballyhaunis every year there is a festival called the Abbey Pattern. It is on the last Sunday in August. There are stalls all around the place and people can buy lots of different things like cupcakes, toys, food, jewellery and lots of other things. I go to it nearly every year.

There is another festival too, the Summer Festival. It is on in the Friary grounds. There is loud music, bouncy castles, ice cream vans, a Dog Show and many other activities. Later on in the summer there is a fun fair on in a huge car park. There are rides like bumper cars, atrampoline and even more rides. You can get ice cream, and candyfloss and slushies. I go to it every year. Then at the end of June in school we have a sports day. We get ice cream and lots of exercise. Every class does it. Well that's about me growing up in Ballyhaunis. Bye xxx

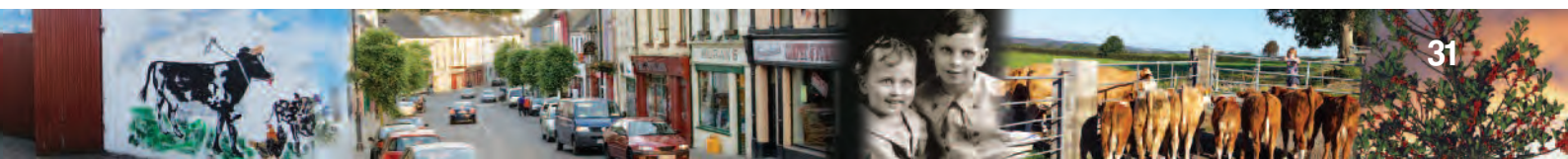
**Mahau Asif**

Growing up in Ballyhaunis has been fun. There have been lots of fun things that have happened. When the Christmas lights are switched on and people go up to town to watch. Some people visit Santa that day. The Abbey Pattern is really fun with lots of cool stalls to play things at and to buy things at, and watching the dog show and things. School is really fun. Sports day is most people's favourite day, because you play games and go on the bouncy castle and get ice-creams from Caulfield's shop. Last year in fifth class we had a big water fight at the end! The Duck Race is really fun. You buy tickets to help raise money, and there is a big race with toy ducks. And best of all, the people who come first, second and third get a prize for winning!

One year the choir went to sing Christmas carols at Supervalu to raise money at Christmas. We raised a good bit of money and it was fun too! The choir is one of my favourite parts of school. We sing really pretty songs when we practice for Mass. We don't go every Sunday, but it's still really fun! The choir teacher, Ms. Judge, is a great singer and a great teacher. She is really nice and really funny! I look forward to having more memories growing up here.

**Ruth Henry**

Hello my name is Dara, and I have been living in Ballyhaunis since I was two. Living in Ballyhaunis is great fun. There are lots of fun summer camps, and festivals, and a great school. I remember my first few days of school. I knew some of the people from playschool but there were a lot of people I didn't know. Our teacher's name was Ms. Flanagan. One of the things I remember is I used to pretend to do karate with Ruth every break time. Another memory I have is playing soccer in the





park with Kevin. We used to go to the park a few times every week and play soccer for about an hour and a half. They are two of my memories and I'm sure I will have a lot more.

**Dara Rattigan**

Hi my name is Jamie and I live in Ballyhaunis. Ballyhaunis is a very nice place. I have lots of friends and family. My favourite subject in school is maths. It's not that bad. I have lots of memories from when I was small to 11 years old. I'm 12 on the 15th of February. One memory I have was when I went to the circus. It was such fun and you could join in if they asked you. Once when I went, a clown was there. He asked me to go in the ring.

Another memory was when I went to Tayto Park. I had lots of fun. I have lots of memories about when I was 5 to 11 and more ages. I love Ballyhaunis and I have lots of memories. I would never like to grow up in another place ever. When I was 10 I had a great time. I loved it. I love Ballyhaunis. And I'm sure I'll come across lots more things in Ballyhaunis.

**Jamie Allen**

Hi my name is Ibrahim. I live in Ballyhaunis. My family and I went to the Abbey Pattern. My friends are Raymond, Daniel, his little brother, Liam, and Kevin. We had great fun there. At the beginning there were lots of races going on. We enjoyed watching the races. There was a puppet show on for the small children. They enjoyed it a lot. Some people got face paints. Some even dyed their hair like Cian, Dara and Raymond who were there with me, and so did Liam, Daniel and Kevin. We had great fun. Tamzin got sick there, so she went home. She came back after a long while.

There was an obstacle course about 2 minutes walk. There were swings. The two people there pushed us on the swing for five minutes. Then you'd have to walk on ahead. There were bridges there. The first one you had to walk on. The people there scared you. Like they wanted you to fall off the bridge. The second one was easy there was two pieces of wood. You could walk on the both of them. Or else you could walk on one of them. Then a person at the end would give you a code. The code was three fingers. You would have to walk back and show three fingers. Then they'd get a stick and get a marshmallow and stick it to the stick. And after a minute or two you get your marshmallow and then you eat it. Ballyhaunis is a nice place to live. People in Ballyhaunis are very kind.

**Ibrahim Mahmood**

Hi my name is Gabriella. And I'll tell you how I grew up or I am still growing up in Ballyhaunis. I have a lot of memories in Ballyhaunis. I will start with the best ones. Ballyhaunis has a lot of fun things like the Abbey Pattern. At the Abbey Pattern there are a lot of games like races, 3 leg races and much more. Also at the Abbey Pattern there are bouncy castles of every kind - small, big and medium. I have friends that always go to the park with me and their names are Tamzin, Tamara, Raymond and Daniel. We always have great fun at the park. We go on the swings, into the basketball court, go on the roundabout and a lot more.

But the best thing about everything is family, friends and of course your teachers. My teacher is Ms. Byrne. She is very nice and kind. I love my school, and even though I will be going to Secondary school soon I will always remember this school. I also love doing the Christmas concerts. They're really fun to do because you get to sing, act and just have so much fun. I love Christmas in Ballyhaunis because you get to see the lights go on. You get to play in the snow and have hot chocolate with marshmallows. And that's all. I hope everyone else has a great life in Ballyhaunis like me.

**Gabriella Cervenakova**

Hi. My name is Salwa. I am 11 years old and I live in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo in Ireland. I was born in Ireland and I've been living here for 11 years. All of my family was born in Syria just not me (odd one out). I have 2 brothers, 2 sisters, Mum, Dad and me. When I was 8 years old I started going to the best school in the world (Scoil Íosa). All the teachers here are so nice and right now I'm in 6th class. My 2 sisters are twins and are in 3rd class. My brothers are in Secondary school.

My teachers name is Ms. Byrne. I think I'm getting the hang of this. You learn Maths, English, Irish, History, Geography in 6th class and a lot of other things. When I went into my 6th classroom I said "I'm going to be the oldest from all this school and I will always have respect for older and younger people than me." Every time I go on a trip with my family they ask me would I like to live here or in Ballyhaunis. I will always say Ballyhaunis because I was born here and I live here and it is the best place ever.

**Salwa Rahmani**

Hi! My name is Raymond Benkhelifa and I am eleven years old. Growing up in Ballyhaunis has been great for me and I think there will be more things yet to come. If I hadn't grown up here then I wouldn't have my kind friends in my class. School has also been fun. There have been sports days, Christmas plays and a lot of other things too. I was very shy when I first went to school but I met Jamie and Daniel in play school so I wasn't too





worried. It turned out I was having fun in school and I made a lot of new friends. But as I was growing, things got harder in school and I was disliking school more and more. After school I would go to my friend's house or they would come to mine and we would have some fun.

Apart from school my Dad eventually bought a car when I was seven or eight. He would bring me to Smyth's and I would have to pick one thing to buy. But when I was nine I started to think "I don't want to go to school, but I have to". A week or two ago the Abbey Pattern was on. I think last year it was better though. I am now in Sixth class and so far it has not been as hard as I thought it would be, and homework has been pretty easy. I enjoy reading books. Well that's been how I grew up in Ballyhaunis and I hope some good things will happen in the future. Goodbye!

**Raymond Benkhelifa**

Hi! My name is Mohamad. This is the story of how I grew up in Ballyhaunis. First, when I was a child I used to live in this small little house. My cousins used to live beside me. They used to give me toys when I was small. We even played football and other games. My age was 4 or 5 at that time. Then I moved houses. I moved to Esker Pines number 7. It was a slightly bigger house. I loved it there. People play outside, new friends and even 3 of my cousins live in Esker Pines.

Then I went to school. My first friend was Ibrahim. He is a Muslim just like me. I made more friends. They all were nice and kind. My class was 1st class. This was an old school. After 2 years they upgraded the school and it was much better. I was in 3rd class. Everything looked new and tidy, not like the other school. Everything was normal in 3rd class. I learned new words, I learned multiplication and division. At fourth class, we had this table competition. It's when every table has a chance to win. The winner gets sweets. 5th class was the same but it was a hard class. We learned way more things there. When the summer holidays came my family and I went to Spain. I went to a wedding there, my uncle got married. Everyone was proud of him. After I came to Ireland it was cold. I went to 6th class and that's how I grew up.

**Mohamad Kezze**

Hello, my name is Peter and I'm from Ballyhaunis and these are some of the things I like about Ballyhaunis. The Abbey Pattern: The Abbey Pattern has taken place in Ballyhaunis for many, many years. It is a day when you have a lot of fun in the Abbey Grounds. There are bouncy castles, races, ice cream and a lot more stuff. What I like about the Abbey Pattern is the racing because you race with most of your friends and everybody has a good time.

The Fair: The fair in Ballyhaunis is a place where everybody goes out to buy something except little babies. The sort of stuff the fair sells is a lot of old things like a video tape of the 90s, very, very old kettles and pans. People like my Grandad, the tinsmith, make some copper buckets. People are singing and dancing and you can sit on tractors and motorbikes, and that's the fair.

The Park in Ballyhaunis is a place where there's a football court, swings, slides, a wheel and the basket. The football court is where you play a game of soccer, the swings you swing on, the slide you slide on, the wheel goes very high when people push it, and the basket would be the same. That's what it's like living in Ballyhaunis so far.

Ballyhaunis is Cool.

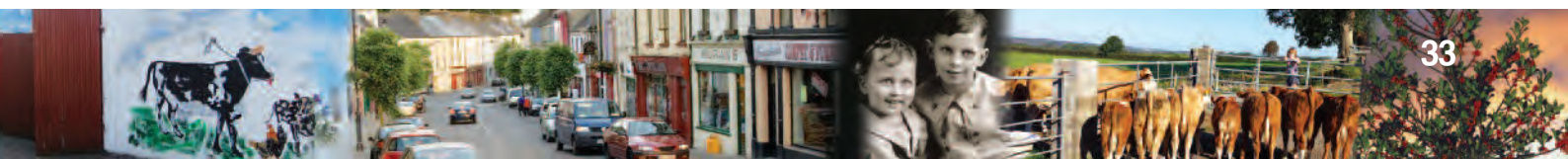
**Peter Maughan**

Hi I'm Tamara, I am eleven years old and I'm going to tell you all the great things about Ballyhaunis. Firstly I love all the events we get involved in, for example sports, Abbey Pattern and the summer festival. Another thing is I love my school I have so many amazing friends, all of whom I love so much. I also love my school because of all the terrific things we do here, like sports day, athletics, cycling, bake sales and Scouts (which I can't wait for). I love travelling like when I go to Dublin to see my cousin and my Aunt. But I always enjoy coming home and seeing everyone I love. I've lived here my whole life and I like it a lot, although the weather is usually rainy. I kind of like the rain. So that's some of the great things about Ballyhaunis.

**Tamara Squire Keane**

Hello my name is Tara. I am 11 years of age and I have been living in Ballyhaunis for 8 years. It was the best thing that happened to me because I made friends and the best thing of all I go to Scoil Íosa. It is great there. The teachers are kind. The Principal is kind too. The first day I walked into Scoil Íosa it was like my life had only begun. It was the best day of my whole life. I love going to Scoil Íosa every day. I love getting my clothes on, getting my hair brushed, and everything like that because I know it's going to be a new beginning every day in Scoil Íosa. I'm in 6th class now; my teacher's name is Ms. Byrne. She is a fantastic teacher. She is really kind. Anyways I should tell you something else about my school! I have two best friends named Barbara and Teresa but I have other best friend too, not just Barbara and Teresa. I couldn't wish for a better town. My dad loves Ballyhaunis and my mum loves Ballyhaunis and my family. Anyway I'll go now. Thank you for reading my story.

**Tara Cullen**





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Hi my name is Hannah and I am twelve years old, and I am going to tell you about my experience of growing up in Ballyhaunis. I can remember when I was young and going to the Abbey Pattern. It was so much fun. I remember going on all the bouncy castles and slides. My brother loves going on them as well. School here is fun as we do French, basketball, sports days and we work as well. I also liked the summer festivals. I remember one time I bought a ring. I performed in the summer festival this year doing hip hop with girls from Scoil Íosa and other schools. I have enjoyed growing up in Ballyhaunis and I hope everyone else does to.

**Hannah Waldron**

Growing up in Ballyhaunis is really cool. I'm 11 years old and happy to live here for the rest of my life. I have made such a lot of friends. Let me tell a lot of stories about Ballyhaunis.

I've made a lot of friends in Scoil Íosa Ballyhaunis. Before school I had a friend called Barbara. However we started school together and made our Holy Communion together. We went through all our classes together. We're even going to make our Confirmation together. We're BFFs. When I started school first I knew only Barbara, but I made lots of friends and they are friendly! School in Ballyhaunis is cool. We do a lot of different activities and work. It's not so bad. In Ballyhaunis there are a lot of festivals such as the Abbey Pattern. There's everything in that festival. There's an ice cream man, bouncy castles and races. I like racing. I always win a medal. It could be 1st, 2nd or 3rd, I don't care. The judges are very fair with the racing. There are more festivals too down the town where there are lots of stalls. I don't care who thinks I'm wrong but.....

**I LOVE BALLYHAUNIS!**

**Teresa Cleary**

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## The Harvest

**James Hunt**

The corn harvest began in early spring with the sowing of the various crops. These crops were tended to and nurtured during the summer time, right up into autumn when harvesting and gathering of the crops began for real. In the West of Ireland the crops sown were mainly oats, barley and potatoes; as they were in the South, though not exclusively. In the East wheat and barley were grown; and in the North, rye and flax, as these were the raw materials for the linen industry.



All the crops were sown in March depending on the weather, but a rule of thumb was that ploughing began for the main crop on March 18th, and sowing of crops took place, where possible, on Good Friday. The weather, as always, played its part, either negatively or positively, and windy wet weather was not welcome, particularly in the latter stages when crops began to ripen. Over-ripe grain was often subject to lodging and this was a particular hazard as it rendered the crop useless and almost impossible to harvest. In poor soils oats was the preferred crop as it was suitable to a damp climate which often was evident in the poorer regions.

Oats was often referred to as a nurse crop. A reaping hook or sickle was used to cut the areas which were more awkward. My grandfather (my father's father) often used this. They needed to be used with care to

avoid injury as they were very sharp. The corn when cut was bound in sheaves. Then six or eight sheaves were put together to make a stook. Later, this was made bigger to make a siomadín and these were gathered into a bigger version which was known as a stack. This was thatched awaiting the thresher.

### **Féile Searbhaidh**

Large groups of people were on hand in those days to help and these were known as meitheals. With the advent of mechanisation these practices dwindled, and hence came the times we have today, when no corn is harvested anymore. This practice is now, for many, a distant memory and for others it is a new story of by-gone days. When all the crops were harvested the Féile Searbhaidh was held to celebrate the completion of the work. It was a house party when all the neighbours gathered and there was music and dancing in the farmhouse until the early hours of the morning.

The vegetables were gathered and put in pits in the fields and great care was taken of them as they were much needed food for the winter; people back then had less money at their disposal than they have today to buy food. The straw was gathered and used for thatching the dwelling houses and out-houses on the farm. Some of the straw was used for bedding the livestock, and some was put in canvas bags and put around the doors to keep out the draughts and cold during the winter. The following spring the practice was again repeated.





# The Challenge of Life

Henry Madden



Students of Ballyhaunis Community School, with their teachers Caitriona Raftery, Sharon Mulroy and Orla Phillips on their charity walk in September.

As I parked my car in Tooreen, on my way to the County Final between the beloved club of my youthful hurling days, and Ballyhaunis, a young lad with his hurley and sliothar was going past. My mind flashed back to my happy days playing for Tooreen, and we were not stuck for conversation as we made our way to the magnificent grounds, which is such a credit to the local community. He told me he played in the half-forward line the evening before as Tooreen won the Mayo U-16 'A' Hurling Championship Final, when they defeated Westport by 2-21 to 2-04 in McHale Park.

He had recognised me; he was Shane Crinnigan, and was typical of the delightful group of students and their teachers, that we met here last month on a glorious Autumn afternoon. Kathleen and I feel so privileged that the staff and pupils of Ballyhaunis community School, since the start of this century have been calling into our home every year as they pass down our road on their annual charity walk, where they raise funds for many deserving causes. For the first time, Orla Macken was unavoidably absent and will be glad to know she was in our thoughts.

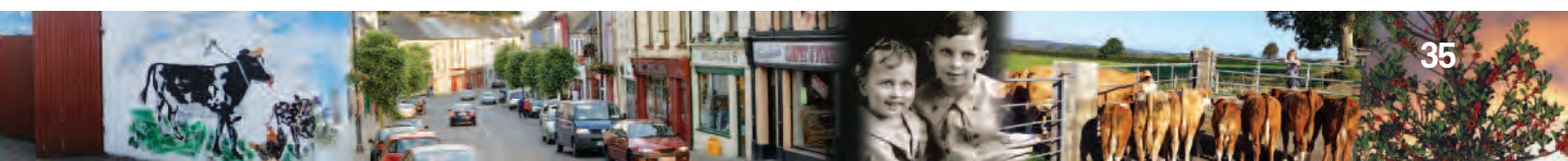
What struck me about this group in particular was that they brought to life one of my favourite reflections '*The Challenge of Life*', and epitomised its core message – to be just yourself. The efforts they made 'to be just



Dervla Phillips, Caitriona Raftery (teacher), Aoife Nolan.

themselves' can be seen from the photographs, and their interaction with their teachers showed the level to which education has evolved since our young days - happy times indeed!

The idealism of these young people in helping others less fortunate than themselves, as they set out in life, bodes well for the future of society and their teachers are to be commended for sowing the seeds that will bear much fruit down life's road and set an example for others to follow.







Aoife Murray, Aron Peake, Aisling Lynskey,  
Kelly Donegan, Shane Cribbin.

As they departed, Kathleen and I hoped that life would be kind to them, and an Irish blessing for each individual in the group came to mind.

May God grant you always:  
A sunbeam to warm you,  
A moonbeam to charm you,  
A sheltering angel so  
nothing can harm you;  
Laughter to cheer you,  
Faithful friends near you,  
And whenever you pray,  
Heaven to hear you.



Emer Daniel-Dempsey, Chloe McNulty, Katelyn Clarke,  
Serena McLoughlin, Claire O'Gara, Laura Lavin, Hayley Conroy,  
Róisín Fitzmaurice, Huma Arshad.

### ***The Challenge of Life***

*To just be yourself is the challenge of life.*

*Whatever the world has to say,*

*Be honest and truthful in all that you do*

*And take the straight pathway each day.*

*The world may persuade you to 'go with the flow',*

*Conform, or fall in with the crowd,*

*But don't be afraid, always lift up your head*

*And keep walking tall, walking proud.*

*The challenge of life is to be who you are,*

*There's no other person like you,*

*So keep your ambitions, your hopes and your dreams,*

*Be steadfast, and watch them come true.*



Emer Daniel-Dempsey, Kathleen Madden, Chloe McNulty.





# Walking the Camino

Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.

Last April I received a phonecall from a friend of mine and in the course of our conversation he asked if I would be interested in walking a section of the Camino in Spain. The last time I had walked the Camino was in 2006 when, along with a priest friend of mine, we accompanied a group of young adults, mostly from the Tuam area, on the final 150 miles.

The 'Camino' (Spanish for 'the way') goes back to the 8th century when, along with Rome, it was the most popular pilgrimage for Christians. Tradition says that following the death and resurrection of Jesus, the apostle St. James went to Spain to preach the gospel. Following his death by martyrdom in Jerusalem, little is heard of him again until his remains and those of two of his disciples were discovered in the northwest of Spain. By the middle ages Santiago de Compostella had become a very popular destination for pilgrims, the most popular route being the Camino Francés which begins in St. Jean Pied de Port in the Pyrenees in France and continues along the roof of Spain through the Basque region, on through the provinces of Palencia, Castille and Leon and finally into the province of Galicia. The landscape of Galicia bears a striking resemblance to the West of Ireland with its stonewalls, boreens, lush green fields, and it gets more rainfall than any other part of Spain. St. James' Gate in Dublin, most noted as the location of Guinness' brewery, was the place where Irish pilgrims boarded the boats that took them to France, Spain and Portugal to commence their pilgrimage on foot to Santiago. (Santiago is the Spanish for St. James). St. James' Park in London was where English pilgrims gathered before walking to Canterbury and boarding the boats in Kent. Likewise Rue St. Jacques in Paris was another gathering point for pilgrims from France.

## Preparations

Two previous experiences of walking the Camino had taught me the importance of preparing well. The maxim: "Fail to prepare... prepare to fail" certainly applies to the Camino. Preparation for this particular pilgrim meant getting up at 6.30 am three mornings each week during the summer months to do a five mile walk, increasing that to ten miles in the weeks leading up to the start of the pilgrimage. Another important factor to be considered as part of the preparation was footwear. Proper shoes and socks are essential if the two great scourges of the Camino, namely blisters and tendonitis, are to be avoided. Pilgrims are advised to wear boots or strong shoes that allow your feet to expand. A pair of sandals or flip flops, along with a light rucksack, pairs of shorts, T-Shirts, a poncho in case of rain, and a flexible water



Pilgrim's Progress

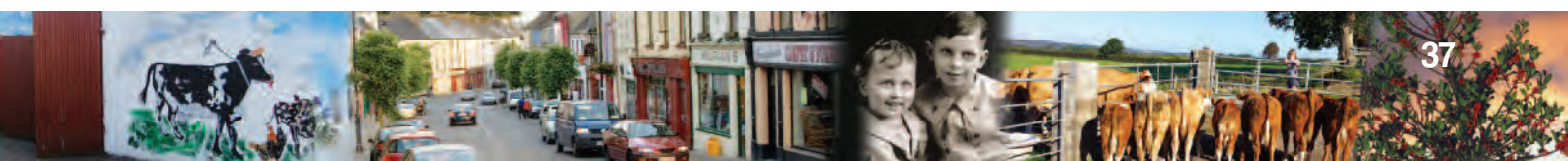
bottle are also essential. Depending on the time of year the weather can be very hot or rainy and hydration is essential.

On Sunday August 24th three of us flew from Dublin to Santander and caught a bus to Burgos where we began our walk on Tuesday, August 26th. We stayed in a nice hotel near the city centre and only a stone's throw from the beautiful cathedral of Burgos. We had a quiet, restful day on the Monday which afforded us the opportunity to visit the cathedral with its high, vaulted Gothic ceilings, beautiful stained glass windows, side chapels dedicated to various saints, and the adjacent museum. It was in this city in 1582 that the great mystic and reforming saint of the 16th century, Teresa of Avila, established one of her convents. It was while on a journey from Burgos to Avila in October 1582 that she died.

## Pilgrims

On Tuesday we arose early to commence our walk at 6.15am. It was still dark as we set out in the company of other pilgrims, many of whom had commenced their walk in St. Jean Pied de Port in France. Gradually, the tarmac, concrete, steel railroads of suburbia gave way to stubble fields and gravel-covered paths. This part of Spain is known as the 'Meseta' - a large plain punctuated by occasional steep hills. Trekking across those vast stubbled cornfields, it was easy to understand why Spain was so important to the Roman Empire, supplying much of the grain to feed its citizens.

Our first stop at the end of our first day was a little







The dusty road ahead.

hamlet, nestled into a hollow on the Mesta, called Hornnillos del Camino. By the time we reached our destination we had walked twenty miles and arrived before the intense heat of the afternoon.

Our daily routine on arrival at our destination included showering, doing our laundry by hand, and hanging it to dry, which didn't take long in the hot afternoons. This was generally followed by a light lunch and a siesta to rest the weary limbs. One of the great joys of the Camino is meeting with pilgrims from various parts of the world. We met with a group of young pilgrims from Seoul in Korea, many of whom were carrying musical instruments. When we reached our destination, Leon, after eight days of walking this talented group of youngsters were giving an open-air concert in one of the many plazas in the city.

Some of the towns and villages we passed through on the way included Fromista, Itero de la Vega, Castrojeriz, Carrion de los Condes, Sahagun, El Burgo Ranero and Mansilla de las Mulas. A great variety of hostels (Albergues and Refugios) and restaurants provide accommodation and food for the pilgrim at very reasonable rates. Many of the people catering for the needs of the pilgrim can speak a little English. "A Pilgrim's guide to the Camino" by John Brierley was indispensable for the advice it gave for each stage of the Camino: distance, gradient, available accommodation etc. The Scallop shell signs and the yellow arrows painted on roads, signposts, footpaths, and trees mean that it's almost impossible to stray off the pilgrim path. On the

seventh day our walk took us from Calzadilla to Mansilla along a stretch of road that is classified as the longest stretch of Roman road left in Spain today. It was laid over two thousand years ago and it is estimated that the stone for the foundations had to be transported from over a hundred miles away. We travelled in the footsteps of the great emperor Augustus, who used this route in his campaigns against the Cantabrians.

### Completion

On arriving in Leon, a beautiful city, with its beautiful cathedral and many other beautiful churches, there was a great sense of satisfaction on completing our walk, but also a sense of sadness saying goodbye to pilgrims with whom we had walked the 120 miles. Most of them were continuing onto Santiago to complete their pilgrimage. We took a day to sample some of the delights of the city before catching a bus to Santander on the first leg of our journey home.

Having completed approximately two thirds of the Camino Francés, in reverse, it is my hope to return in the next year or two and walk the first section from St. Jean Pied de Port to Burgos. Whenever one undertakes a pilgrimage, it involves two journeys: the outer one we walk with our feet and the more important inner journey where the spirit of God dwells in each of us. Many of the pilgrims do not do it for religious reasons and yet many say that it has a transforming effect on them. In today's fast, noisy world, the human need to get off the merry-go-round, and to enter into that sacred space that is within each of us, to commune with nature and with silence, is as strong as ever. Viva El Camino!





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# Ballyhaunis Chamber

Anne Cunnane, CEO

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Another busy year for Ballyhaunis Chamber has just passed and the lobbying of Mayo County Council for improvements to the town is still a main part of Chamber activities. There have been some successes again this year with Morley's Corner and the Cloonfad Junction (N60), both of which dangerous junctions are currently being worked on by Mayo County Council. Barrack Street has been resurfaced and lined making it much easier to drive/walk. The Ballyhaunis Chamber, along with Tidy Towns and Annagh Wheelers, are still working on getting a walkway/cycle lane linking the footpaths and the bypass to give a complete walking circuit of the town.

Unfortunately we were not successful in keeping the Ballyhaunis Courthouse open but we are now in talks for getting the premises for Community use. Currently the very successful Farmers Market takes place there on the forecourt. It was weekly during the summer months but during the winter due to weather it will be held the third Saturday of every month. We encourage all to pay a visit to see the great value and wonderful products for sale.

Another issue that is constantly being raised is parking in Ballyhaunis and this was also flagged in a recent survey that was carried out. We would like to ask all business owners and their employees to park off Main Street to free up parking on Main Street for potential customers. An Lochán Car Park (bottom car park on Knox Street) has been upgraded by Mayo County Council and would be an ideal parking space for employees as it would only take a few minutes to walk to the Main Street. We have also asked Mayo County Council for better car parking signage for the town. We would thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Again, alongside all the lobbying, Ballyhaunis Chamber is trying to attract foot-fall to the town to support all the businesses. This year, community events included the Ballyhaunis 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 which were both huge successes. The Christmas Festival is currently being organised (at time of writing) and any help or suggestions on activities would truly be welcome.

## Progress Ballyhaunis

Another initiative is "Progress Ballyhaunis" which is just being set up on how to turn things around for Ballyhaunis. At this stage (going to print) a couple of meetings will have taken place where we hope to get a working group together to get short term and long term projects to help Ballyhaunis. If you would like to become

involved in this project please contact the Ballyhaunis Chamber all ideas and help are truly welcomed and appreciated, we need to work together as a town to make this a success.

The Christmas Lights this year are being organised by the newly formed Ballyhaunis Traders Association with Paddy Phillips working tirelessly on this project at present. The Ballyhaunis Traders Association (BTA) have done excellent work and had a very successful shopping promotion for the month of May with excellent value for money and services in the town. The BTA are currently selling tickets for a fantastic Prize Draw to help raise funds for the Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights which costs in and around €10,000 per annum. This covers Insurance, maintenance works, electrician, hire of cherry picker, etc. No funding is available to help cover these costs so each year the Ballyhaunis businesses foot the bill. We are hoping to raise much needed funds to help ease the burden on businesses as they fund a number of events for different organisations throughout the year, for which we are all very thankful.

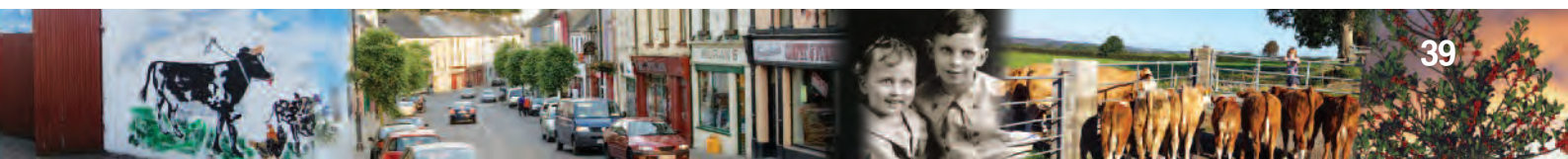
Prizes for the draw are €500 Ballyhaunis Shopping Voucher (sponsored by BTA); a weekend away in the Wyatt Hotel, Westport; a man's bike (Mike's Bikes); a colour television (The Gem Costcutters); and hampers (Hazel Bar and Restaurant, Phillips' Bar and Curley's Chemist). A huge 'Thank You' to the sponsors for such wonderful prizes. Tickets cost €5 each and are currently being sold in a number of locations. Follow us on Facebook 'Ballyhaunis Xmas Festival' for more information. We have lots more ideas to help promote shopping in Ballyhaunis and the BTA is very pro-active in driving campaigns forward.

The "Ballyhaunis Life" website, and "Ballyhaunis Shoppers Guide" Facebook page are still going well 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

Many new businesses has opened up in town: Mario's Chipper and Pizzeria (formerly the Red Square), Bridge Street; B Nova Beauty and Nail Bar, Clare Street; Melissa Beauty Therapy, Knox Street; and TCs Fitness, Barrack Street (back door of the old Supervalu) has opened teaching Krav Maga (self-defence). We wish them well: may they be prosperous and successful.

Fundraising 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 few 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 fundraising 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. We would like to thank the Ballyhaunis businesses for their help and support throughout the years - they have been fantastic.

Again, a huge thanks to the wonderful team at the Enterprise Centre: Martina, Teresa and Fiona who all work hard to keep the Chamber running smoothly; and to Michael, Gerry, George and Sean who always help in any way they can to keep things running smoothly. 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 2015 brings all the happiness you wish for.



## Love/Hate Star 'Elmo' Visits Ballyhaunis!



L-R: Love/Hate Actor Laurence Kinlan pictured at his SEAT acting workshop in Ballyhaunis with Oisín Henry, Claudia Glavey and Brian Waldron. Liam Rochford, of Rochford Motors, is on the right.

Star of popular TV series Love/Hate, Laurence Kinlan ('Elmo' in the show), paid a visit to SEAT and Mitsubishi dealer Rochford Motors on Saturday 25th January 2014 to host a SEAT acting workshop and impart some of his wisdom on Mayo's aspiring actors. The SEAT Ireland brand ambassador played host to over forty actors at Rochford Motors on the Knock Road in Ballyhaunis. Workshop participants learned several tricks of the trade and listened intently as Laurence told the story of his rise to stardom. This workshop was one of many that Laurence hosted throughout the country as part of his

role as a SEAT brand ambassador.

Speaking at the event, Laurence Kinlan said, "These acting workshops are a wonderful idea and I'm delighted to host them in my role as a SEAT brand ambassador. I am thrilled at how the day went and I'm glad people enjoyed it. To make it as an actor is not easy, it requires hard work and persistence and that level of hunger was certainly visible amongst the participants."

Liam Rochford, of SEAT dealer Rochford Motors said, "We were delighted with the level of interest in the workshop and over forty

people in attendance is testament to that. There is some fantastic acting talent in Mayo and from observing the participants, I think they really took something away from it. Here at Rochford Motors, we were thrilled to be given the opportunity by SEAT to host this workshop for the talented actors of Mayo."

Having finished filming the fourth series of Love/Hate last Autumn, Laurence was announced as a SEAT brand ambassador receiving the keys to his all new SEAT Leon FR in October, 2013.





# A Fairytale in New York – May 2014

Peter Higgins

Christmas time in 2013 in the Higgins household in Ballinphuill, and thoughts of the 2014 GAA Championship were being discussed. With the knowledge that Mayo's opening game of the Football Championship was in New York, a collective decision was made that the team needed all the support that could be afforded, so the decision was made to book a week's holiday in NYC.

On Friday 3rd May, a gang of intrepid travellers comprising of Kay Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Clare Higgins, Erin Higgins, Peter Gallagher, Noreen Gallagher, Adrian Murray and myself boarded Joe Freeley's Maxi Taxi at 4.45am. We were dropped at Terminal 2 in Dublin Airport, where we were greeted by a customs official joking "is there anyone at all left in Mayo!"

We were joined by Pado Cunningham, who delayed his flight to accompany us, and we landed in Kennedy Airport at lunch time on Friday. We were taxied in to Manhattan, where we were met by Mark (Westy) Gallagher, who had flown in from San Francisco, and we were delivered to our accommodation.

On the way in, I was given a telephone number and the directions to Willie McBride's in Hoboken. We duly took the Path subway and were met by a stretch limo, courtesy of Willie McBride's. We were greeted by Sean Hession at Willie McBride's, where it was like

"Ballyhaunis on Tour". With plenty of food and drink on offer, we saw why it is said that you cannot beat Irish hospitality in the States.

Saturday was a day of relaxation and getting our bearings around NYC, with various tours around Manhattan.

On Sunday morning, we boarded the subway for Gaelic Park, and it was like the train to Croke Park on All Ireland day, with young men and women from all over Mayo and beyond heading for Gaelic Park wearing the "Green and Red".

What we met there cannot be described in words, as Mayo people from all over the USA congregated and met with family and friends from back home. The match itself was a formality as expected, but the sense of family and friendship was unforgettable.

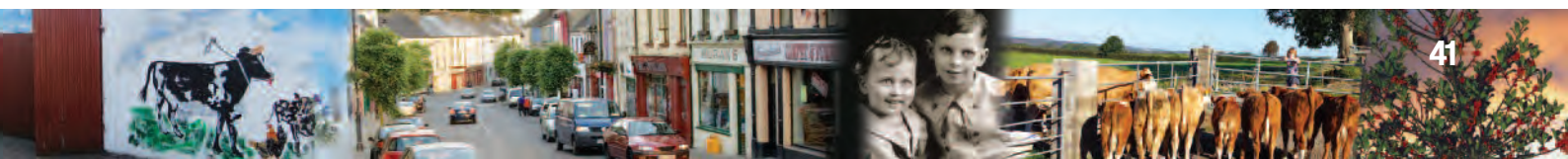
After the game, Ballyhaunis Club Chairman, Mike Webb, rounded up as many Ballyhaunis people as possible, from home and away, to get a group photo with Ballyhaunis player, Keith Higgins; though some were too busy reminiscing with old friends to make the shot.

Sunday night walking down 7th Avenue and Broadway was like the middle of the movies: everybody bustling along, men and women begging for money "for the Weed", one big coloured man looking for "a short term meaningful relationship", and much more. Eventually we



Gaelic Park, New York. Ballyhaunis on Tour, 4th May 2014

- Back, L-R: Gareth Morrissey, Ross Nolan, Mark Gallagher, Brendan Morrissey, Peter Gallagher, Pado Cunningham, Tony Greene, John Jordan, Brian Hunt, Dermott Eagney, Darragh Eagney, George Delaney, Vincent Keane, Kathleen Frayne, Michael Frayne, Noreen Gallagher, Maggie Coyne (Frayne), Katie Frayne, Mike Webb, Laurie Frayne.
- Centre, L-R: Sean Hession, Rita Ann Sullivan, Isobel Morrissey, Keith Higgins, Cait Webb, Kay Higgins, Michael Frayne's boys Micheál and Seamus.
- Kneeling: John O'Connor and son Jack, Pierce Higgins, Erin Higgins, Clare Higgins, Tyler Coyne (Daithí and Maggie's Son).







Gaelic Park, New York, 4th May 2014. Erin Higgins getting her jersey autographed by her uncle and Godfather, Keith Higgins.



Times Square Station, 4th May 2014, before boarding subway to Gaelic Park. Pierce Higgins, Mark Gallagher, Clare Higgins, Noreen Gallagher, Erin Higgins, Peter Gallagher.

made it to “Rosie O’Grady’s”, where we enjoyed the hospitality of Mike Carthy and Caroline Duggan, a cousin of Peter Gallagher.

Later in the week after a hard day’s shopping, as we were relaxing in “Tír na nÓg” (relations of Cait Webb), four year old Erin Higgins was playing on the floor when some gentleman passed by and, in a very “un New York-like manner”, patted her on the head. We looked up to discover it was Tony Moran from Ballyhaunis, famous for his horse drawn carriages in Central Park. And so another

night continued.

The trip was never uneventful: even our taxi back to Kennedy Airport was memorable; when the Egyptian driver miscalculated the time, Noreen Gallagher, in the front seat, got a rollercoaster trip that she never expected judging by her screams!

On our last day, after saying goodbye to Mark Gallagher, we had some time to spend in Kennedy Airport. As Peter Gallagher and I went for refreshments

at the bar, we asked the bartender which was the best beer. An American gentleman interrupted by saying that he was drinking Brand X, and it was better than English beer any day. We informed him that we were Irish, when a beautiful coloured lady behind the bar exclaimed, “You’re Irish? You’re so lucky; you’ve got the best cheese in the world. I love Dubliner cheese!” The American gentleman (of Galway descent) agreed and said, “So is your Kerrygold butter.”

I could go on and on about Remembrance Park, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and more; it would be a book in itself.

Finally, we arrived back to the relative quietness of Dublin Airport to be greeted by the ever reliable Joe Maxi Freeley. What a week!



McHale Park, Castlebar, 13th July 2014. Pierce Higgins, Erin Higgins, Kay Higgins, Keith Higgins (after winning his sixth Connacht title (2006, ‘09, ‘11, ‘12, ‘13, ‘14), and Peter Higgins.





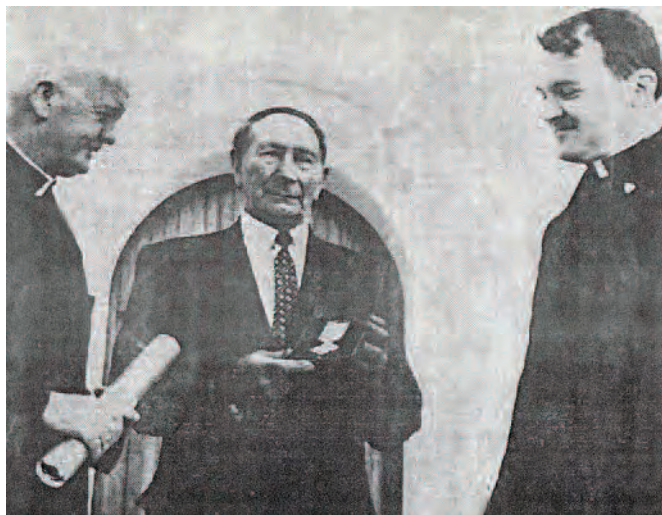
# Sacristans Mark 110 years of Church Service

Mike Byrne

When Willie Kelly of Began departed to his eternal reward at the age of 83, on February 14, 1971, he left a huge store and legacy of memories behind him. Willie was something of an institution in the Parish and among the people he served. A veteran of World War 1, where he served as far afield as Baghdad, postman in the Began postal district for a lifetime, and Sacristan in Began Church, where he served for a remarkable 66 years.

Writing in the noted Began Parish history in 1986, 'Béacán/Began, Portrait of an East Mayo Parish', Fr. Kieran Waldron, a native son of Ballyhaunis, and curate in Began in the 1960's/70's, described the late Willie as: "One of the most colourful characters in the history of Began". A very apt description indeed.

It was 110 years ago this year, in 1904, Willie took up duty as Sacristan in Began. For his dedication, long years of service and attention to duty, he was awarded the



The late Willie Kelly (centre), receives the Papal award of the Benemerenti Medal in September 1970, from Fr. Tommy McEllin, P.P., Began. Also pictured is Fr. Kieran Waldron, C.C. in Began at that time.

Papal award of the Benemerenti Medal by Pope Paul VI, in 1970. Talk to anybody above a certain age in and around the Parish of Began today about the late Willie Kelly, and you can be certain that the memories, tales and legends relating to this Began son, will come flooding back to no end indeed. A zealous gatherer of folklore and an inveterate reader of the most abstruse subjects, he often amazed people with his recollections, both real and imaginary, after Mass on a Sunday, or on any opportunity that he got a willing listener. Willie was something of an authority on, what he would call, 'the real history of Began'!

But it was as a Sacristan that Willie is best

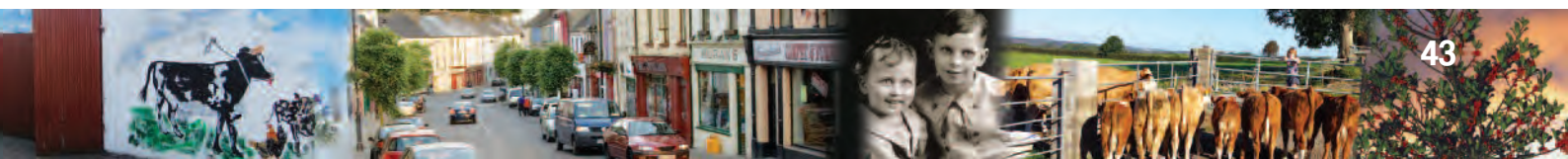


The Parish Pastoral Council made a presentation to Frances Maye on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Fr. Stephen presented her with an engraved Galway Crystal Vase on behalf of the people of the parish, acknowledging her devoted service to the parish. The Parish Pastoral Council presented her with a gift voucher and a bouquet of flowers. Mary Goulding baked a cake specially for the occasion. L-R: Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Frances Maye, Mary Donnelly (Parish Secretary)

remembered in the Began Parish. An amazing service of 66 years in this capacity, must surely be a record of some sort. When Willie was about 16 years of age, the Parish Priest in Began at that time, Fr. Freeley, asked him to take over the job as Sacristan in the Church. And so began a lifetime of service. He rang the bell in the belfry on the hill each morning at 6 a.m., and for another 60 years and more-with the exception of the three years' absence during the Great War, he labored away in this post, giving absolute loyalty to all the priests who came to Began, from the Rev. Fr. Bernard Freeley to the late Fr. Tommy McEllin. He served under no less than five parish priests; four Archbishops, and within the reign of six Popes. A world record for sure by any standards!

And, coming back to the present generation and to the present time, 110 years after young Willie first took up duty in his native Parish Church, that noteworthy and noble work of Sacristan is carried on as a family tradition, with that same precision, loyalty and dedication by two of Willie's daughters, Frances May, here in Ballyhaunis, and her sister Teen Carney, who has given sterling loyalty to the priests in Began for some time now.

After living and working in England for many years where she worked at both office work and as shop





assistant, Frances returned to Mayo in 1987, and settled in Ballyhaunis. In the great jubilee year of 2000, Frances was offered the position of Sacristan by Parish Priest Canon Joe Cooney, an offer which she accepted without any hesitation. In the years that followed, such was Frances' dedication and commitment to her task as Sacristan cum caretaker, Canon Cooney frequently remarked in public, that "If Frances was to be paid for the long hours she spends in this church and for the untold work she does here, we simply could not afford to pay her". Her dedication to her work is certainly something to behold. Since his appointment in July, 2011, Frances has worked under the present Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher.

Frances' younger sister, Teen was christened Christina, but due to the fact that her big sister Frances had difficulty in pronouncing her name after she came along, 'Teen', was the best she could manage, so the name has stuck to this very day. After the death of the late Fr. Edward Tuffy in 1998, Teen was appointed Sacristan in Began, when Fr. Paddy Mullins was appointed Parish Priest. She has since served under the present PP, Fr. Brendan McGuinness, following his appointment in 2011. Together with her husband, Tony, Teen operated the Post Office in Began for several years until its closure a few years ago. She also ran a very successful grocery



Teen Carney, pictured at the Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Began where she has served as Sacristan since 1998.

store at the Post Office, managing to combine her daily duty as Parish Sacristan and at the same time cater for the needs of the local people of the Parish through her well stocked and well maintained grocery shop.

Today, all of 110 years after their father Willie Kelly's appointment as a 16 year old teenager, Frances and Teen continue the family tradition as Parish Sacristan's in the local district. A wonderful and unique record for sure, and one to be very proud of too, and long may it continue.



'The Square'. A painting by Johnny Shaughnessy.





# A Ship for Patrick

Martin Durkan

In the early 1990s I had the opportunity to move to the US after winning a green card through what became known as the Donnelly Visa Program. It was a special program under which the majority of the green cards were allotted to the Irish. The remainder were divided up amongst the rest of the planet. So, as a new immigrant, I walked through the streets of Boston, occasionally recognising people from back home.

As time progressed I moved further west and, as I did, the number of Irish I encountered decreased. Eventually, I could go no further west and settled in Oceanside, California. Oceanside is a relatively small town in the northern tip of San Diego County. It is also the home of Wooden Pier and a large US marine base known as Camp Pendleton. As I walked the pier I thought I must surely be the first person from Ballyhaunis to do so - but I was wrong.

A colleague brought an *Irish Times* article to my attention. It told the story of Patrick Gallagher from Ballyhaunis who was awarded the US marines' highest award for bravery. I subsequently found out that Patrick had been based in Camp Pendleton and was probably the first Ballyhaunis man to walk the pier at Oceanside. Patrick grew up in Derrintogher and was the eldest son of the late Peter and Mary Gallagher.

I later recounted the Patrick Gallagher story to a fellow Irishman in Dallas, Marius Donnelly, and together we decided to launch an on-line petition to have a US navy ship named after Patrick Gallagher. The address is [www.patrickgallagherusmc.info](http://www.patrickgallagherusmc.info)

Patrick was one of two thousand Irish immigrants who served in the US military in Vietnam. He is one of seventeen Irish citizens to be killed during that conflict. Two of the seventeen were from his local area - Christopher Nevin of The Neale, and Brian Óg Freyne of Ballaghaderreen.

Should the USS Patrick Gallagher sail, then it will sail for all. Please consider signing the petition and also encouraging others to do the same. The short term goal is to have 5,000 signatures by the end of 2015.

The *Irish Times* article detailing the full story of Patrick Gallagher is reproduced here with the kind permission of its author, Patsy McGarry:

"Everybody knew him as "Bob", though his real name was Patrick. He was the second eldest of nine children born to Mary and Peter Gallagher. They lived in Derrintogher, three miles from Ballyhaunis. Patrick attended the Vocational School in Ballyhaunis and had done well there. The Principal, Mr. Padraic Hughes, recalled him as *"a grand type of boy: he was very intelligent and passed his group certificate with honours"* and, at just under six feet, he was also a good footballer.

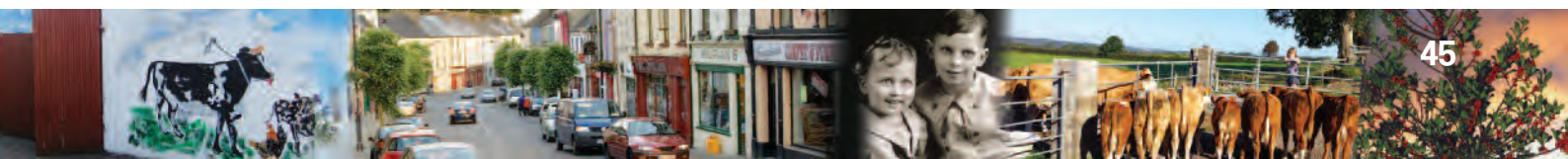
When he was 18, Patrick emigrated to the New York area to live with his aunt and uncle. Patrick followed in the footsteps of so many others from Ireland. In the US he got a job in real estate and started law school. He was interested in politics and he canvassed for Bobby Kennedy, then a senator for New York.

The 1960s were a time of change in the U.S. and Patrick could see that the war in Vietnam was becoming more intense. He volunteered for service (not drafted) and joined the U.S. Marines. In February of 1966 Patrick returned to Ballyhaunis for three weeks of leave. His family were aware that he was now in the Marines but he did tell them that he had received orders for Vietnam. He didn't want to worry them.

He went to Vietnam in April and on July 18th, 1966, he saved the lives of three comrades there. Four of them had been manning a defence post at Cam Lo near the border with North Vietnam, when it was attacked by communist forces. Patrick kicked a grenade out of their position before it exploded. The citation for the Navy Cross he was later awarded read, *"another enemy grenade followed and landed in the position between two of his comrades. Without hesitation, in a valiant act of self-sacrifice, Corporal Gallagher threw himself upon the deadly grenade in order to absorb the explosion and save the lives of his comrades"*.



Corporal Patrick Gallagher.





## Extraordinary Heroism

As the three other marines ran to safety two further grenades landed in the position and exploded, miraculously injuring no body. Patrick's squad leader ordered him to throw the grenade he was lying on into a nearby river, it exploded upon hitting the water. *"Through his extraordinary heroism and inspiring valour in the face of certain death, he saved his comrades from probable injury and possible loss of life"*, the citation continued. He was awarded the Marines highest award, the Navy Cross. *"It is a pleasure to pin this medal on your chest"*, said General Westmorland, commander of all U.S. forces in Vietnam.

His bravery and the subsequent award of the Navy Cross meant that Patrick had to tell his family he was in Vietnam and not in San Diego. On January 28th, 1967, he wrote home. He had just heard that day about the coming award and wrote to tell his mother before she was contacted by the U.S. and Irish newspapers.

He began the letter *"I hope you won't be too mad at me for the news I got for you. When I was at home last year I had my orders for Vietnam when I got back to the U.S... I have been in Vietnam since last April (1966) and I will be leaving here in 60 days. Now don't get worried, everything is going just fine here and I am enjoying it very much. I was afraid you might worry too much so I made my aunt and sister in New York promise they would not tell you I was there. I had planned on not telling you until I got back to the U.S."* Patrick made light of his heroism, *"it was not much but they made a big thing of it"* he said.

News of this local hero caused great excitement in Ireland. It was all over RTE and the newspapers. Sean Duignan of R.T.É. interviewed the family and in Ballyhaunis great plans were laid for Patrick's homecoming.

Tragically, on March 30th, Patrick was killed while on patrol in Da Nan. He was 23. The American Embassy in Dublin contacted Father Rushe, Parish Priest in Ballyhaunis. He told Patrick's parents following that Sunday's Mass.

As the *Western People* reported on April 22nd, 1967, *"the funeral to the New (Ballyhaunis) Cemetery was one of the largest*

*to pass through the town"*. There was a poignant scene as Staff Sergeant Moylan (a cousin, who had preceded Patrick into the Marines) laid a wreath on the grave on behalf of the US forces and then presented the American flag which draped the coffin, the Navy Cross medal and the citation to Patrick's mother.

At the graveside were two other Irish mothers who had lost sons in Vietnam: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nevin of Brize, Balla, whose son Christopher, (29) was killed in Vietnam in February, 1966 and Mrs. Mary Freyne, Church St., Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon whose son Corporal Bernard (Brian) Freyne (21) was killed in Vietnam just a few weeks earlier.

Bobby Kennedy, wrote to the Gallagher family. In a letter dated April 10th, he wrote *"Winston Churchill said, courage is rightly esteemed as the first of all human qualities because it is the one that guarantees all others. This courage Corporal Gallagher gave to us all. To him and to his family are due the thanks of a humbly grateful nation"*. Bobby Kennedy was killed just over a year later in June of 1968."

Patsy McGarry of the Irish Times, then a school boy, attended the Freyne funeral in his home town of Ballaghaderreen. Patrick Gallagher was due to leave Vietnam in early March but due to a lack of replacements his tour was extended. If you believe the USS Patrick Gallagher should sail then please sign the online petition at:

**[www.patrickgallagherusmc.info](http://www.patrickgallagherusmc.info)**

We also ask that you encourage others to consider doing the same.



A United States Navy Ship





# Time to Leave

Mary T. Kilroy

As of today, April, 2014, I am the custodian of a certain cache of letters that somehow have managed to survive through a romantic courtship up until life began to change with the societal upheavals in the 60s. Stored in many assorted boxes, the letters somehow held a certain reverence within the box.

At an earlier, much less informed time, I would have read them and tried to catalogue them by date. Someone at a later time rifled the box to tear-off the stamps for a budding collection - an aspiring philatelist. Otherwise, they were just there perched on a shelf, untouched for the most part. We had moved five times since the letters began and so they were carefully carted each time to our next home. I was the only daughter sandwiched among five brothers and growing up was a full time job for them, while I settled fairly close to hearth and kettle.

Returning again to the contents, once I was in more of a position to take real ownership of them, I began to take the contents more seriously. And somewhat of a magical mystery tour unfolded as time allowed a new passion to unfold before my eyes.

One would immediately question who were the principals involved, who saved them, why were they saved, and what of the contents? To answer the most important questions as to who the senders and recipients were one has to trace the historical record and determine the primary cause.

## Emigration

Upon my grandfather William McGuire's sudden passing in 1918, in Gurrane, Ballyhaunis, my grandmother Onnie (nee Waldron) was left the young widow of six children with the oldest, Delia, at the tender age of 11. My grandmother was fortunate in that of the large Reask Waldron family (into which she was born) only two stayed behind in Ireland with her - her sister Delia and brother John. The others all emigrated. Uncle John was the youngest male to remain behind and ultimately became the inheritor of the family place in Reask.

But the decision to have her sister Delia stay at home when women both older and younger than she had already emigrated remains a question. And the same would be true for my grandmother. Were those three better off staying, or were they delaying the inevitable, their own children having to leave them? A mystery remains as to how the decisions would have been made. Delia had a sweetheart - Thomas Waldron - and married him in 1892 at the age 21, and began her married life in Derrymore.

Whatever the reasons that came in to play, the fact is



Miss Delia A. McGuire, 1920s, shortly after her arrival in the U.S.A. The author's mother.

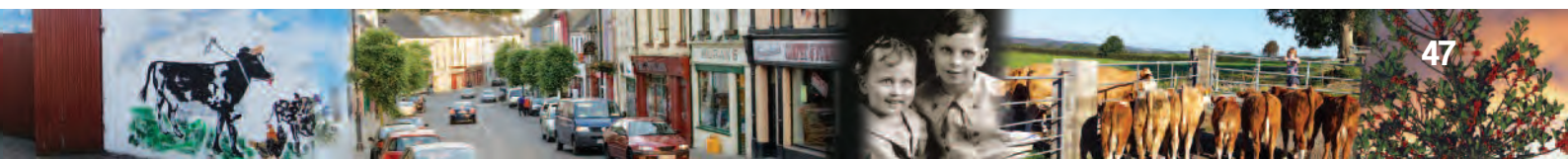
that the three siblings who remained at home ended up within walking distance of each other: Reask (the ancestral home), Derrymore and Gurrane forming a symbolic triangular route. Brother and sisters were near enough in those times when no thought was given to walk to visit each other or offer support in time of need. Of Delia's eleven children, Bridget was the last one born in the year prior to my grandfather William's passing in 1918. Delia's oldest boys John, Walter, and Michael, all strapping young men, would have been in the ready to offer and to provide the assistance needed by my grandmother in keeping up with the work in the fields following her husband's untimely death.

Delia's eldest was Marian and the first of the lot to have experienced the transatlantic journey. Her arrival and accessing a job would have followed a similar pattern to those of her aunts and uncles from the previous generation, but to a different destination in the States. Their journeys took all of 'the Reasks' primarily to Des Moines - Iowa's 'Irishtown.'"

Nonetheless, negotiations were conducted by letter. Marian would have been a 'working out girl' herself, but who would she have come to, who would have been her sponsor, as she was to become my mother's? Possibly one of her father's people - one of the Waldron's from the town of Ballyhaunis may have settled in the greater Boston area. Two of Marian's sisters Katherine and Margaret, in addition to her brother Thomas, would have joined her in what must have seemed like an eternity. Marian was ten years older than Katherine.

## New World

My mother was barely fifteen (if that) when she left home for the train to Cobh where the ocean liner would





take her on her passage to 'The New World'. Who would have made that journey with her, a family member - a neighbour, or perhaps, if she were lucky, a travelling companion from the village or the town? In retrospect, those thoughts suggest perhaps wishful thinking. She would not have the contents to fill a trunk, so it is more realistic to speculate that she travelled with what she owned locked in a suitcase.

It was a long week journeying across the Atlantic, and especially so should she have no friend to share the experience with. I recall her telling me that she suffered from sea sickness, rolling on the cabin floor, praying for divine intervention to spare her the physical distress that was all consuming.

She would have been met at the pier in Boston by the long awaited familiar face of her first cousin: how much of a pioneer was she to have weathered the storm at sea and survived the journey to land safely on terra firma?

I recall in 1948, in a much later time in my mother's life, when my father sponsored a niece Sheila and nephew John. My recollection is of walking home from school the day they were to arrive, sharing with my chums the news that our family was expecting visitors from Ireland. We never had visitors. I have a distinct memory of their arrival in our tiny apartment where they would be the first of many 'visitors' to follow, and another bed would be set up. What lingers for me is the

damp smell that emanated from the inside of their suitcases. Perhaps my parents and aunts were familiar with the strong smell of the turf fire permeating the fabric of every item that had made the crossing. Damp leather is a trigger for me to this very day - the force of smell and the power of the brain to recall.

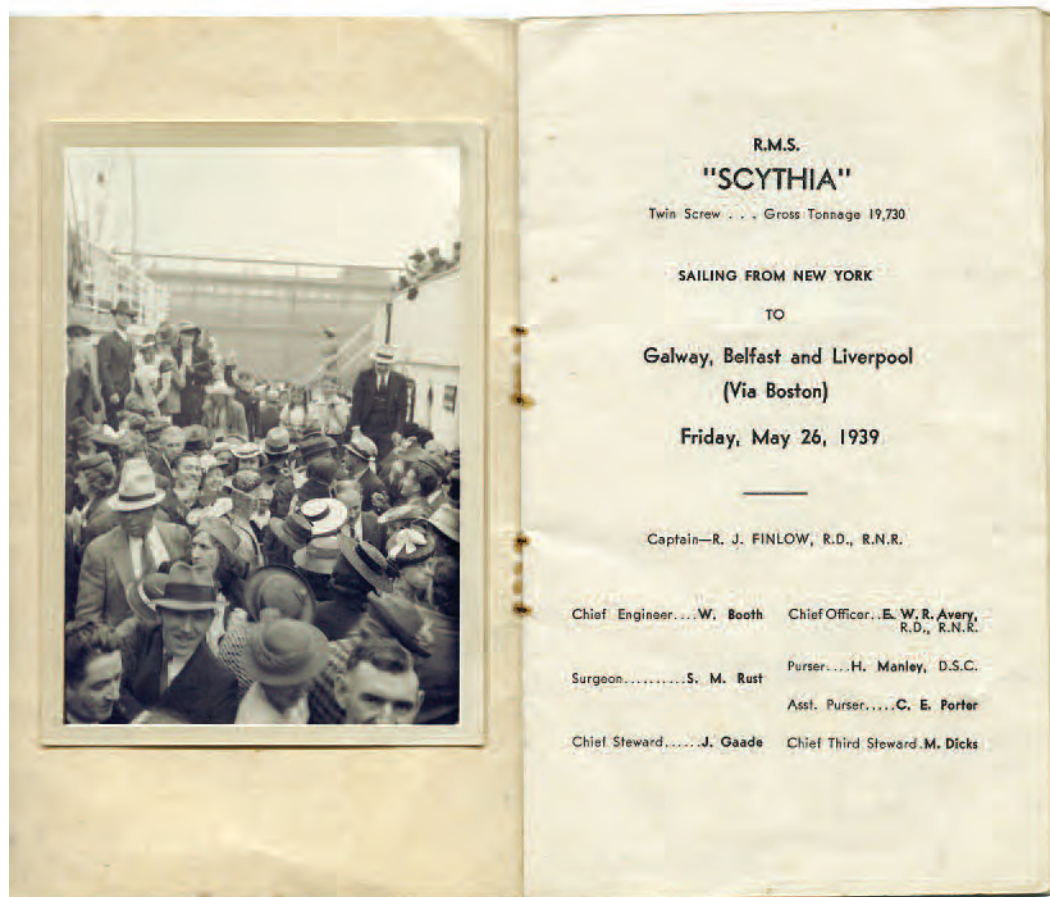
My mother, however, had a different task that afternoon - to begin the phone calls after combing the 'help wanted' female classifieds in the local newspaper. Believe it or not one of those calls that afternoon resulted in an interview the next morning and Sheila got a position as domestic assistant to Mrs. Harris, which she held until the day she left for a vacation back home in Galway in 1960, never to return.

A digression perhaps, but those stories are extant, no longer to be repeated. What was the time like for my mother? What was her first job and what were her chores and the responsibilities associated with the job? Was her life any different to the life of any of those millions of young women landing on the shores of a nation that displayed signs in store-front windows, "No Irish Need Apply"? Is it any wonder that they ended up on one of the lower steps of the employment hierarchy?

But back to the question, was she different and what made her so? She was my mother!

Photo of Passengers disembarking R.M.S. 'Scythia' in 1939 and a page from the Cunard White Star 'Scythia' Passenger List booklet.

*Courtesy of Sinéad Mallee, who's grandmother Nora Mallee, née Sloyan, Lakehill, Knock, returned from New Jersey in 1939.*





# A Lovely Story

Mary T. Kilroy

As they clamoured on the East Boston pier that last Saturday afternoon in May, 1938, the air was filled with excitement as Auntie May, taking leave of her older sister, Delia and Delia's young sons, was waiting to board the Cunard-White Line *Scythia*. Scanning the crowd, Auntie May noticed a photographer from The Boston Sunday Post milling around and somehow was able to attract his attention. A published story in Sunday's edition (May 29, 1938, p. 5) relates that "A pretty Irish girl, Miss Mary McGuire... sailed on her way to Ballyhaunis, County Mayo to visit her mother. Friends with her declared Miss McGuire was making the trip primarily 'to tell her mother about her romance...'" Before leaving, however, she promised Delia that she would record all the details of the crossing.

Auntie May was returning home to her mother for the first time since her arrival in the States in March, 1931. Finally on board and after settling in with her roommate and choosing the top bunk, the two adventurers begin to check out their surroundings and fellow travellers. The detail of the diary includes the daily menu - "*The food is very good, I eat lots*" - who she spent time with, and an account of her sea worthiness in the age before Dramamine. "*Today is Thursday and it seems everyone is sick but I am still able to keep my head above water.*"

Her companions on board had come from villages clustered around the town of Ballyhaunis, in southeast Mayo. Auntie May was from Gurrane and some of the others were from nearby Began and Gurteen. She notes, "*There is not a very large crowd on. And it seems they are all going to Mayo.*" The long days on board in the company of these new companions were languid days of leisure when one could become self absorbed and put on airs of gentility and refinement.

Auntie May was a working-out girl, and in her time here she had risen the domestic ladder to become a governess to a prosperous Boston family living in the Back Bay. Historians tell us that those single young immigrant farm girls who became domestics were exposed to the finery of the lady of the house and often tried to emulate her style and demeanour when out with their own friends on their precious days off.

Auntie May's spending money would have been limited, however. Even though board, room and uniforms would have been provided by the family, the



My grandmother, Mrs. Honoria McGuire with my uncle Martin McGuire, John's father, wearing the hat she purchased for my Auntie May's homecoming. Photographs by Charles Powell, Official Photographer, Blackpool Beach.



My grandmother, Honoria McGuire on her first trip to England to see her grandson John P. McGuire, 1938.

limited wages would have a singular destination. Soon after her arrival in 1931, and upon receiving her first pay, my mother and her sister would have made a trip to the local bank to open a joint savings account. The deposits were made and the bulk of the money was destined to be sent home to 'Mother.'

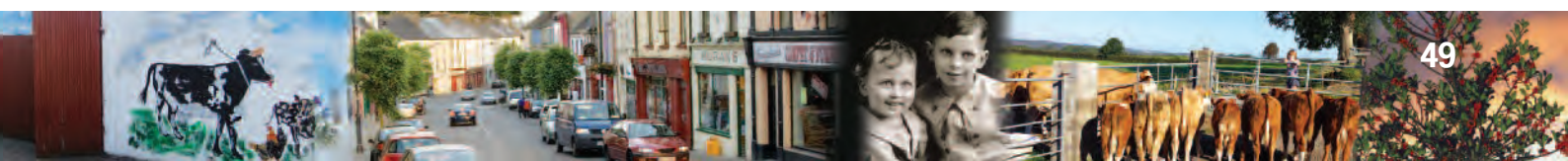
There was very limited money to shop with. On one occasion during a visit home by my mother in the summer of 1934, Auntie May wrote to tell her of a withdrawal of five dollars from the bank account to purchase a scarf. Whereupon my mother responded by chastising Auntie May for the extravagant amount to pay for a scarf, while reminding her of the exclusive purpose of the account.

## The Scythia

Continuing with the diary on board the *Scythia*, Auntie May's new companions were beginning to play a huge role during the crossing, as they played cards, danced



R.M.S. 'Scythia'





and listened to the strains of the popular tunes of the season, *My Reverie and Cry Baby Cry*. Never would have Auntie May enjoyed herself for such an extended period of time.

The diary continues noting that there was time for confession and three Masses, one on the First Friday; while noting the presence of three lovely priests on board, one destined for Belmullet, where my brother John and his wife Lynn live today. By Thursday the ship hit a rough patch and most of the passengers' stomachs responded to the listing deeply to the right, and then to the opposite direction. Auntie May choose to have her meals in bed, not suffering the motion sickness of the day.

Lapping in unaccustomed luxury and putting on airs, everyone was on his or her best behaviour. As the crossing drew closer to its ending, Auntie May acknowledged, at one point in the diary, that *"I am just dying to know how they will look, neat and clean."* This comment did not have significance to me when I first read it.

In a letter written in early June, just days before Auntie May's arrival home, my grandmother wrote to my father thanking him for his generosity for sending her a few pounds in anticipation of Auntie May's visit. After having read so many of my grandmother's letters describing the destitution, scarcity and food insecurity that she and the family endured, I was baffled by how she chose to spend the gift. My anticipation was that she would have spent the money on having a 'drop o' the craythur' or a tea cake in the house. I was completely blown away with my grandmother's response to how she would spend the money. *"Thanks again for your gift two days before Mary came. I got it so I got a new hat for to go to Galway"*. A new hat, are you kidding!

What was this? I couldn't make any sense of it. The only thing that I could pull out of it was the purchase of the hat was one of those Joycean 'Yes' moments arising from deep within, an emerging sense of self in the moment.

Continuing on with Auntie May's diary and then letters written once she was at home, she recounts her first sighting of her mother. In one of the letters written shortly after arriving home, she writes to Delia about seeing her mother as Auntie May arrives on the tender in Galway. *"Mother looks great, I knew her and she knew me. They all knew me on the tender coming in. Everyone said I never changed."* The greeting party included Mother... *"and Aunt Delia and (Uncle) John and Delia Lyons came to Galway to meet me."*

Auntie May continues once she has settled in at home. *"Mother looked nice in Galway. She had the black coat on and a nice black hat with flowers and a veil (sic)*

*on it, very nice, I was surprised."*

My grandmother recorded her response to her daughter's arrival on the following Sunday in a letter to my father. *"Well James I went to Galway to meet Mary. I could not get on the tender as it had gone out the evening before...I new (sic) Mary the first sight I got of her when out of the tender and she new (sic) me and she spoke across to me. O Dear God, it was lovely to see her again. I cannot see a bit of change on her."*

### **A Show Stopping Hat**

Somehow the entire picture of the hat emerged fully in the letters, full circle if you will. Auntie May's nervousness about whether her greeting party would meet the imagined standards of her ship-mates proved unfounded. And my own initial judgment of my grandmother's spending was also unfounded. Ultimately my grandmother's decision to splurge on a show stopping hat turned out to be the *pièce de résistance*!

The first weekend of that July my grandmother visited her oldest son in Manchester. *"Well Delia, Mother went to England yesterday, July 1st to see Martin so I had a wire today telling me she landed alright and had a lovely crossing."* Martin had married the year before and the main reason for the visit was to meet her newest grandson, John P. McGuire who was born on April 5th that spring.

And so the hat was a mainstay in her travel wardrobe that summer. *"Mother looked very nice going, I bought her shoes, stockings, gloves, slips, and other under cloths (sic), Julia went to the station with her..."*

### **Such a lovely story**

There is a lovely postscript to add to this story. On further reading into the letters, I came across one written by my grandmother to my mother in the spring of 1932. She writes to my mother, *"And I got your letter Saturday saying that you were not coming and I was all through with the white-wash and paint."* My grandmother continues, *"I went Friday morning to the Nine Fridays to town and I was very warm and carried paints so now I have it done. I was to go Saturday evening for a new hat and to get the car for Sunday to go to meet you but when I got your letter I felt it for a while, but now Delia I am better pleased. Delia, when you come don't have it in you (sic) mind the going back again. Your trip would not do you any good as you would be all the time thinking of going again trusting in St. Joseph that journey will never be for you again as I am making a novena for you all the time for that and I trust that Jesus will not refuse me."*

It would appear from this letter my grandmother was already thinking of a new family tradition: wearing a new hat to greet her daughter returning home.





# 100% School Attendance Record

Mike Byrne

It may have been Leaving and Junior Certificate examination time at Ballyhaunis Community School last summer, but on Thursday, 12th June, between the tension of the days exams, an unique achievement was celebrated at the Knock Road academy.

Martin O'Gara, from Carrick, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon, who holds the unique distinction of not having missed a single day at either Primary or Secondary school since his very first day at school fourteen years ago was the recipient of a special award from the Senior Educational Welfare Board – one of only two in the country to graduate this year with such an achievement.

Making the presentation to Martin, Senior Board Officer, Denise Collins, congratulated the Ballyhaunis student on such a wonderful achievement. She congratulated and paid tribute to Martin's parents Padraic and Maureen for their role in his unique achievement. She remarked that over the past fourteen years, there had been days in which Martin was not feeling 100%, but he still had the determination and courage to make the extra effort to make it to school. *"That is determination", she remarked, "and certainly deserves credit".*

Community School Principal David McDonagh, also paid tribute to Martin and his parents for this achievement. He reflected that it was also important to be thankful that Martin had sufficient health to sustain him throughout each of those school days over the past fourteen years. Speaking after the presentation, Martin's proud mother Maureen, said *"Looking back over the years, even as a young child, it was always easy to get Martin out to school in the morning, no matter the*



Martin O'Gara receiving his award from Denise Collins, Senior Officer at the National Education Welfare Board. They are joined from left to right by Martin's parents Maureen and Padraic, BCS Principal David McDonagh, Peggy Cheevers, former Principal of Carrick National School, Concepta Moran, BCS Deputy Principal and Martin's younger brother, Colm.

*weather or how he felt on any day, he never once pulled a 'sickie!'"*

It was a great family celebration indeed, for Martin, his parents Padraic and Maureen, and also brother Colm, who has just finished his second year at Ballyhaunis Community School. And, just minutes after the celebrations had ended, it was back to the drawing board for Martin, as he repaired to the examination hall to undertake his art exam on his final day of the Leaving Certificate 2014.

## Ballyhaunis Boxing Club

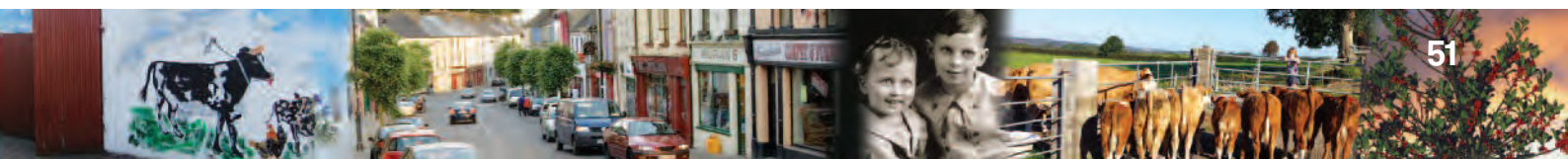


L-R: Darren Maughan, Stephen Maughan, Niamh O'Neill and Sean Conroy, after receiving their awards at the Mayo Boxing Awards Night held in Hotel Ballina.

The Ballyhaunis Boxing Club was formed in 2008 and since then we have had great success with the children we train. We cater for boys and girls from eight years of age.

To date we have won 80 Connaught titles, 23 National titles, three European Bronze medals and one Bronze World title. Last year one of our boxers was successful in making the Irish Youths Boxing Squad. He narrowly missed out on selection for the Junior Olympic Squad which travelled to China during the summer. Our boxers attend tournaments all over Connacht, and also travel to the National Stadium on a regular basis.

Anyone interested in joining our club will be most welcome. We train on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm in Began Community Centre.





# Tracing the 'Missing' Murrays of Logboy

## A GENEALOGICAL DETECTIVE STORY

Michael Kelly

On 26th December 1862, in the town of Mankato in Blue Earth County, southern Minnesota, thirty-eight members of the Dakota Sioux nation were hanged in retribution for the bloody uprising of the previous August (known as the Dakota War) in which hundreds of white settlers had been butchered. It was the largest mass execution in US history.

The Sioux might have paid an even heavier price for their revolt. A total of 303 of them had been rounded up and all were destined for the gallows. The majority were saved, however, by the intervention of President Abraham Lincoln, who at the time was preoccupied with the Civil War while also grieving the loss of his 11-year-old son, Willie, who succumbed to typhoid fever earlier that year. In commuting the death sentences, Lincoln had to face down intense local opposition to leniency, given the nature of the atrocities that occurred during the uprising. *"I could not hang men for votes"*, he said.

But it didn't end there. Within a few months, virtually all of the Native American tribes had been expelled from the state of Minnesota, clearing the way for a further influx of white settlers. The following May, the first batch, mainly European immigrants, arrived in Blue Earth County. Among them were several members of a family named Murray, whose final resting place today is a little cemetery in the township of Mapleton. The inscription on the gravestone of the eldest Murray proudly testifies to his Irish roots. It reads:

**THOMAS MURRAY,**  
BORN 1808  
IN THE TOWN OF LOGBOY, CO. MEYO,  
PARISH OF ANACK, IRELAND.  
DIED AUG 21, 1898.  
AGED 90 YEARS.



An engraving of the mass execution of 1862.  
(Courtesy Minnesota Historical Society).

### A Hopeless Quest?

More than a century after Thomas' death, a Texas-based descendant of the Murrays set out to trace their Mayo roots. I was already researching the history of Logboy and since my own family tree contains Murrays I offered to help. The prospects of success looked bleak, however. The only clue to the Murrays' origins was the gravestone inscription. Family folklore suggested they had left Logboy around the time of the Famine, so even if any kin had remained behind, the

link was likely to be long-forgotten. Besides, there is a dearth of pre-Famine records for Logboy, which prior to 1894 was in the parish of Annagh. Baptismal records for Annagh parish only exist from November 1851 while marriage records began the following year. Griffith's Valuation came later in the 1850s. The only relevant pre-Famine records were the Tithe Applotment Books dating from 1833 and these revealed no Murrays in the vicinity of Logboy, although admittedly they do not provide a comprehensive listing of land occupiers. In all probability, however, the Murrays would have been tenants on the estate of the Nolan family, landlords of Logboy at that time.

### 1851 estate rental provides a clue

During my research I gained access to a bound volume of townland maps and the associated rental, which had been drawn up in 1851 in connection with the enforced sale of the Nolan estate through the Encumbered Estates Court. There, in the tenant list for the townland of Cossallagh, I found the following entry: *'Widow Catherine Mullowney (late Thomas Murry)'*.

The surveyor of the estate had fortuitously decided to record not only the current occupier of the holding but also the previous one. I suspected that this Thomas Murry and the Thomas Murray who ended up in Minnesota



Thomas Murray's gravestone





were one and the same. Proving that would be another matter.

### A steer from the *Boston Pilot*

I had almost conceded defeat when it occurred to me to check the *Boston Pilot's* 'missing friends' database on the off-chance that the Murrys might show up there. Between 1831 and 1921, the *Boston Pilot* newspaper carried messages from people who were trying to trace friends and relatives in the US with whom they had lost contact. This genealogical treasure trove of over 40,000 records is now available as a searchable online database. If the Murrys had arrived in the US at different times, or if they ever became separated there, perhaps one of them might have posted a message in the *Boston Pilot*?

It came as no surprise when my initial search of the database for a 'Murray' from Mayo produced no result. It was, after all, a long shot! However, when I searched on 'Murry', to my surprise I hit the jackpot. On 5th July 1851 a lady named Catherine Kerrane (née Murry) had placed a notice seeking information about her four 'missing' brothers, namely John, Michael, Patrick and Thomas Murry, whom she had last heard from three years earlier, just before they headed out West. She confirmed that they were natives of Co Mayo ... and more specifically hailed from the townland of Cossallagh, one of the nine townlands making up the Nolan estate at Logboy. Undoubtedly these were the same Murrys that had previously occupied Mrs. Mullowney's holding. I was now able to pinpoint precisely the site of the ancestral Murray homestead, which was clearly marked on the 1851 map. The site of the house, long since

vanished, is today part of Jimmy Devine's farmyard.

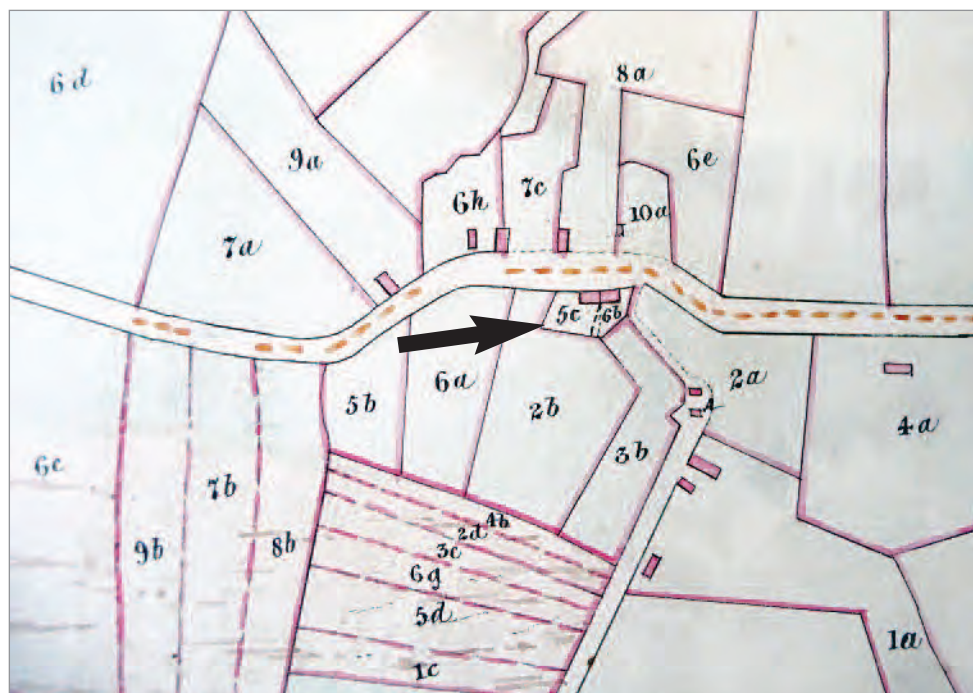
When Catherine Murray placed her advert in the summer of 1851, she was living in Pennsylvania along with her husband Thomas Kerrane. They had married before leaving Ireland and their eldest daughter Bridget was born here around 1848, as I later discovered from the US Federal Census of 1860. Catherine had lost track of her brothers in 1848 once they left Pennsylvania, where they had been working as labourers on the Delaware and Hudson Canal, and headed out West.

### Another 'lost' Murray turns up

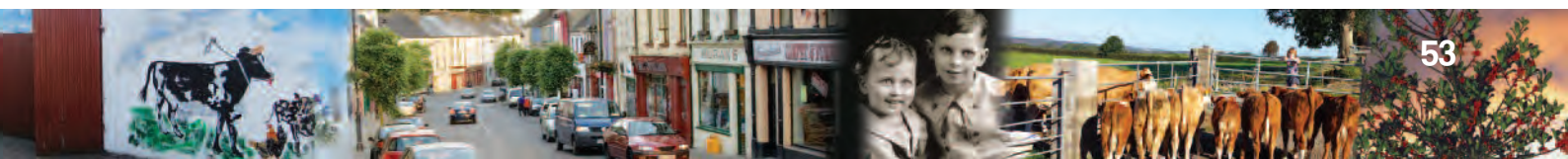
I did a further search of the Boston Pilot database for the surname Kerrane, as well as variations such as Kirrane and Kieran, but it yielded no result. It did, however, turn up an unusual-looking surname, Krawn, which I immediately recognised as the local pronunciation of Kirrane. In August 1854, information was being sought on Thomas Krawn and Catherine Krawn (née Murray) who had not been heard of since going to Ohio in 1851. The enquirer was Owen Murray with an address at New Custom House, Charleston, South Carolina. A further search for Owen Murray revealed that, three years later, in September 1857, he placed yet another advert seeking information about Thomas Kirrane. This time he also gave details of his own missing brothers Thomas, Michael, Patrick and John Murray who, he stated, hailed from Annagh parish, Co. Mayo. I had found another Murray sibling named Owen, hitherto unknown to me!

### From Famine refugees to Wild West pioneers

Another break-through occurred when I tracked down, through Ancestry.com, two Minnesota-based researchers, both descendants of the Murrys, who were independently trying to reconstruct the family tree. With their help, and using US records (census returns, newspapers, etc.), I gradually began to pick up the trail of the Murrys in the US. It seems that five Murray siblings had arrived from Logboy to New York in the late 1840s, namely Thomas (1808-1898), Michael (1818-1902), John (c.1819-1895), Catherine (1821-1881), and Patrick (c. 1826-1910). It's not yet clear how many arrived together. According to a newspaper report at the time of his death in 1898, Thomas



Location of the Murray home (plot 5c) at Cossallagh, Logboy, 1840's.





and Patrick had arrived in 1848, and the following spring they both pushed west to Wisconsin and later crossed the continent all the way to California having got caught up in the 'Gold Rush' of 1849. Failing to strike it rich on the goldfields, they retraced their steps before settling down to farming life in Houston County, Minnesota, in 1851.

### **'Primeval wildness': the Murrays together in Minnesota in 1857**

Catherine Murray-Kerrane's appeal in the Boston Pilot for information about her lost brothers in 1851 obviously paid dividends because six years later, in October 1857, we find five Murray siblings reunited and farming in close proximity in Houston township, Houston County, Minnesota. The only one missing is Owen; apparently his search for his siblings proved fruitless. Catherine and her husband Thomas Kerrane, now known as Thomas Carey, had arrived in Houston County the previous year. They now had five children whose various birthplaces reveal the family's US odyssey: Bridget (aged 8, born in New York), Martin (6, born in Pennsylvania), Mary (4, born in Wisconsin), Margaret (2, also born in Wisconsin) and one-month old Thomas (born in Minnesota). Several of their neighbours were Irish, although most were Norwegian. A history of Blue Earth County confirms their story: 'During the year 1848 Thomas Carey came to America and settled in Pennsylvania. After a brief sojourn in that state he became a pioneer of Wisconsin, but a year later, in 1853, he came to Minnesota, settling in Houston County and embarking in farm pursuits. The country was in its primeval wildness ...'.

### **Final destination: Blue Earth County**

Following the departure of the Native Americans in 1863, the Murrays and the Careys moved to Blue Earth County, settling on new holdings near the town of Medo. Medo was the Indian word for 'small potatoes', the irony of which was scarcely lost on refugees from the Irish potato famine! There they carved out new lives, raised their families and ended their days.

Thomas, the eldest, married an Irish woman, Bridget McNulty; they had no children. Shortly before his death



Patrick, youngest of the Logboy Murrays c.1885 (born c.1826, died 1910).



Sen. Frank Murray (1870-1930).

in 1898 at the age of 90, Thomas was the victim of 'one of the most atrocious assaults ever committed in the confines of Blue Earth County'. The attack occurred at his home in the course of an apparent robbery. His brother Michael married twice: his first wife, Mary Jane Classick, died in childbirth in 1873 and three years later he married Winnifred Neary. He had 14 children in total. Their brother John, after moving from Pennsylvania to Illinois, had reputedly worked for a spell on the Erie canal before switching to farming. He married an Irish girl from county Galway, Hannah Verdon, in Paynesville, Illinois around 1850. He also saw action in the Civil War, having enlisted in the Union army in December 1864. He was with General Sherman at Atlanta and was wounded in the hand at Nashville. His son, Frank Murray (1870-1930) became a successful attorney and served as a senator in the Minnesota State legislature. Finally, Patrick, the youngest of the Logboy Murrays, married Bridget McKniff, and they had eleven children. The eldest son became a successful physician.

### **Epilogue**

In 1908 the author of a history of *Blue Earth County* spoke 'with reverence and gratitude' of the pioneers of 'the cabin age, whose ploughs broke the primeval soil, whose firearms disturbed the awful silences ...'.

Among those hardy pioneers were the Murrays from Logboy. What a tale they had to tell! They had fled from Famine in Ireland to the New World, which must have been a big culture shock for them. They probably spoke little English setting out. They had survived the 'coffin ship crossing' of the Atlantic, and they had worked hard 'in the land of opportunity', first on canal building and then in farming, adapting to strange terrains and climates. Some had followed the gold rush across the continent. They had first-hand experience of the Indian wars and it's virtually certain that some of them were present in Mankato, their county town, on that fateful day at Christmas 1862 when 38 of their fellow human beings went to the gallows.

That we were able to identify their Mayo homestead more than a century and a half after they fled the Famine is quite unique. Almost everything we know







about the Murrays stems from records created after they left Ireland. We will probably never know how many were in the family. There was a gap of ten years in age between Thomas and Michael. Were there other children born between them? Perhaps some died in infancy? In 1822, when Thomas was only 14, the Logboy district, in common with most of Mayo, was badly affected by famine and associated diseases.

Thomas, despite the unhappy circumstances of his leaving Ireland, never forgot his native place. He had spent the first 35 years of his life at Logboy and despite half a century 'in exile' it was the place he wanted carved on his tombstone. Had his wish not been honoured, it's unlikely that the family's origins would ever have been rediscovered. But it was the fortuitous discovery of two earlier records from 1851 that provided the key to unlocking the mystery, namely a 'lost persons' advert in the Boston Pilot newspaper and a supplementary entry on an estate rental in Mayo.

But one loose end remains. What happened to the

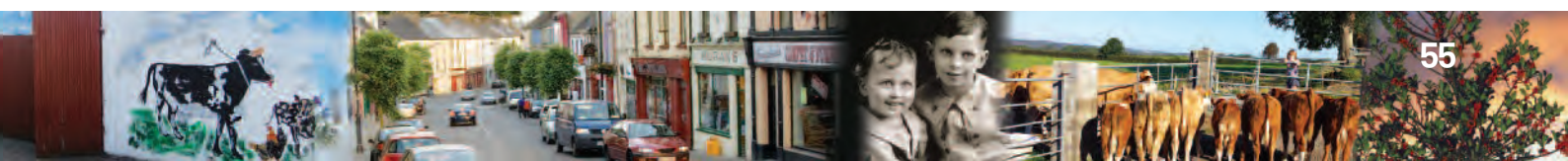
sixth sibling, Owen Murray? I have been able to establish that Owen, along with his wife and five young children, had arrived in New York in March 1852 on a ship from Liverpool, which was commonly used as a transit port by Irish emigrants in those days. Unlike his siblings, Owen had decided to move south, to Charleston, probably because he had secured employment on the construction of the New Custom House which had commenced in 1853. The Federal Census tells us that he was still there in June 1860 by which time the family had increased by two. Because he found himself in the South, it was the Confederate Army that Owen joined during the Civil War, serving with the Hibernian Guard, Company No. 1, comprising older members of the Irish Volunteers. (It's not uncommon to find Irish siblings on opposing sides in the US Civil War). Thereafter, the trail runs cold. The descendants of his siblings in Minnesota are now trying to find out what happened to him. Let's hope that they are more successful in their quest than he was and that the family link-up is finally completed.



## 90th Birthday

Joe Keane, President of the Annagh Magazine Society, celebrated his 90th Birthday with fellow committee members and guests, pictured in December 2013.

Back, L-R: Martin Forde, Seamus Mulrennan, Nell Rochford, Paul Waldron, Jim Lunden, Sinéad Freyne, John Halpin. Front, L-R: Máisín Meath, Marcella Keane, Joe Keane, Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.





# Muintir Mhaigh Eo, Áth Cliath

John Costello

**As President of Muintir Mhaigh Eo, Áth Cliath (Mayo Association Dublin), I would like to give you some background as to when it was founded and its activities.**



Muintir Mhaigh Eo President, John Costello (left) and Al McHugh at a function in The Four Seasons Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin.

Photo by Brian Ryan.

The Dublin branch of the Mayo Association was founded in 1905 in Fleming's Hotel, Great Denmark Street, Dublin by two great sons of Mayo. One of them, Major John McBride from Westport, subsequently took part in the 1916 Rising, was captured afterwards, court-martialled and sentenced to death. He is buried in Arbour Hill in Dublin. On the 4th August 1963, Eamonn De Valera unveiled a plaque on the house where he was born at The Quay in Westport.

The other was Edward Lavelle from Belcarra, whose parents owned a shop in Balla. Edward, or Ned as he was known, became the father figure of Mayo people in Dublin and remained committed to the organisation he founded right up to the time of his death almost sixty years later. Ned Lavelle was also a long serving President. As a young man he developed a keen interest in amateur drama and was involved with a local group which won an All-Ireland title that earned them a week long run in the Gaiety Theatre.

It was originally called the Mayo Men's Association. The purpose of the association was to help Mayo people, and enable them to establish their presence and identity in the capital city of Ireland. The membership of the association initially was quite small. Some other members apart from Major John McBride fought in the 1916 rising. They included Frank and Jack Shouldice from Ballyhaunis. Jack fought in the GPO during Easter week and Frank fought with the East Wall Garrison. Their sister

also fought in the GPO. Other notable members of the association at this time were: W.V. Doherty, Charlestown who was the second President of the association; M.J. Cassidy, Charlestown who was the second Treasurer; Dr. Loftus, Attymass, Ballina, father of Sean 'Dublin Bay' Loftus; Chief Supt Dick Creagh, Garda Depot, Phoenix Park; Paddy O'Beirne of O'Beirne Fitzgibbons Gents Outfitters, O'Connell Street, Dublin; Terry Connell, Ballyhaunis; Dr. Egan, Castlebar and Clontarf Road, Dublin; Mick McHugh, Castlebar and Chief Provost of the Irish Army; Tommy O'Donnell, Charlestown, Editor of the Sunday Independent; Paddy O'Donnell, member of the Oireachtas reporting staff; Mrs. Loftus, Dawson Street, Dublin and Killala; T.J. Killeen, Ballyhaunis, Controller of Dublin Postal District; T.J. Cogger, part owner of Kelly's Drapery on North Street, Dublin.

The membership reached about four hundred around the 1920s and dancing appeared to be the social activity organised by the association. In 1933 Mayo won their first All-Ireland Final, a Junior Championship by defeating Donegal by 2-15 to 2-02. Subsequently the team and officials of the County Board were entertained by the association to a banquet in Barry's Hotel.

The 'middle' era of the Mayo Association saw some considerable change. Those who struggled to keep the association alive through the dark unending war years passed the baton to a new and younger generation of Mayo migrants.

## The 1950s

In the 1950s another member of note was Paddy O'Beirne who was a native of Aghamore. He was born Byrne, son of Dominick and Maria Byrne. He was one of a family of twenty-one children, eighteen of whom survived, and who lived in Bruff House. He was apprenticed to the drapery trade in Ballina. He later moved to Dublin where he entered the drapery department at Clery's. He later set up his own business with a Cork man called John Fitzgibbon. They had a shop in O'Connell Street called O'Beirne and Fitzgibbon for many years. Paddy was an accomplished footballer and played in an All-Ireland Final with Mayo in 1921 – a match they lost to Dublin. He switched his allegiance to Dublin in 1923 and won an All-Ireland with Dublin. While he switched his allegiance as a player he did not lose his interest in his home county. He was in at the start of the association and continued to offer his support until his death on 6th June 1978 - a dedicated Mayo man to the end.

O'Beirne was to play an important role in the revival of the association in the 1950s. Along with Ned Lavelle





he was one of the prime movers behind meetings of the association which were held at the time in The Catholic Club in O'Connell Street. Also prominent at those meetings were Frank Patten, Dick and Clare Hearn, Kathleen Hanley, Frank McCormack and Paddy O'Beirne's nephew Joe Lydon of Kilkelly, who later became secretary of the association in 1958 with Eamon Mongey as chairman.

The capital was beginning to see a form of economic recovery and was a magnet for some of the country's finest and brightest. Mayo people coming to Dublin for work and opportunity were well educated and ambitious. They were more confident than the previous generation who went in search of work. O'Beirne and Patten proposed to stand aside and allow a transfusion of new blood who sought not only to increase the membership but also to broaden the scope of the activities. A meeting was called in 1958 and the then officers of the association agreed not to seek re-election, in what can now be seen as a very generous gesture towards the betterment of their organisation.

Eamon Mongey, who then became chairman, was a household name because of his exploits on the football field. There was a whole new committee put in place and it was agreed to retain Ned Lavelle as president because of his link with the founders. A new constitution was drafted and adopted. Under the new constitution the objectives set out included the provision of cultural and social outlets for the members and the promotion of the economic interests of Mayo. The name of the association was changed to Muintir Mhaigh Eo, Átha Cliath (MME ÁC).

Quiz programmes, socials, lectures, drama and inter-county debates, discussing the topics, became part and parcel of the activities. Some of the people who have delivered lectures to the association include Dr. Seamus Caulfield on the Céide Fields, Fr. Tommy Egan on Ballintubber Abbey and Mrs. Cecil Woodham-Smith on her book 'The Great Hunger'. That lecture was delivered in Trinity College Dublin and was attended by Mr. Éamonn De Valera, then President of Ireland. These examples are but to name a few as there were many more, too many to mention.

Mr. De Valera honoured the organisation on a number of occasions. MME ÁC was the first county association to be received at Áras an Uachtaráin in 1964 when the first ever Mayo Person of the Year, Patrick Keegan (the first lay man to address the Vatican Council), and members of the association were greeted by the President at the Phoenix Park.

## **New York**

Eamon Mongey stepped down as chairman and Joe

Malone, a fellow Castlebar man, took over. Joe was an up-and-coming business man with plenty of drive and an abundance of ability and new ideas. At the time Eamon, more than anybody, was responsible for making our association the premier one in the capital. He also brought flair and organised the first Dress Dance. During his term the horizon was broadened to include a first ever county association visit to New York. It was a major undertaking and took some years to bring to fruition. Malone persevered with the idea and persuaded the membership that it was possible, and so it proved to be.

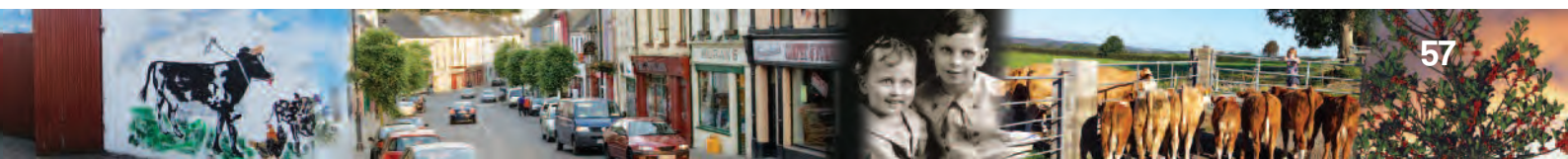
In May 1962 MME ÁC, now led by another Castlebar man Frank McCormack (RIP), became the first county association to charter an Aer Lingus Boeing aircraft for a flight to New York. Eamon Mongey was PRO and he saw to it that the crew of the flight was from Mayo. The captain was Tom Cregg, co-pilot Barney O'Beirne and first officer Tom Kelly. There were 140 passengers on the flight. In New York the group was treated royally thanks in the main to the good offices of Bill and Paul O'Dwyer. The group was introduced to Mayor Richard Wagner and was also hosted at a banquet in the Four Seasons Hotel.

With a constant infusion of new blood, MME ÁC became more streamlined and professional in its outlook. For many years it has helped those with physical disability, special needs and many other charitable organisations by giving financial aid to assist in the work of providing better quality of life for those finding it difficult to cope on their own. Nor was it unknown for the association to provide loans to a community or co-operative to assist them over a period of time until they became solvent or self sufficient.

The introduction of the Meitheal Award in the late 1970s was another step forward by MME ÁC. It was first presented in 1979 and the recipients' on that occasion was Archbishop Joseph Cunnane and Monsignor James Horan, P.P. Knock. Ballyhaunis won it in 1981. MME ÁC has also played a prominent role in the development of the Mayo Enterprise Fund. This fund is available to new Mayo entrepreneurs in the form of seed capital to enable them to bring their ideas for new industry and job creation to fruition. It is a practical way for the association to continue to play a role in the future development of the county.

## **Officers 2014/2015**

At present the officers of the association can only serve two years in office and are elected at the association's AGM each year. This gives an opportunity for new people with fresh ideas to take up office. There are a total of 31 people on the committee including officers. The officers for year 2014/2015 – President: John Costello, Bohogue, Ballyhaunis; Vice-President: Dr. Mona McGarry, Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis; Honorary Life President: Frank





Fleming, Claremorris; Chairperson: Carmel Heaney, Swinford; Secretary: Paul Sammon, Louisburg; Treasurer: Martin Snee, Kilkelly; PRO: Mairead Kenny, Ballina.

Our Honorary Life President, Frank Fleming, has been a very prominent and active member of the association for many years. He has also served as chairman of the association and has raised large sums of money for Mayo charities over the years. He played inter-county football for Mayo in the 1950s. He is also a member of the Civil Service GAA Club in Dublin where he is a valued member.

One of the social highlights of the year for the association is the annual Mayo Person of the Year and Meitheal Award Gala Dinner held every February.

Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas over the years has had many fine members of the association including Dr. Mona McGarry, who is now the Vice President and a former Chairperson; Anthony Jordan, Knox Street, who has written extensively on Major John McBride; Robert Kelly, Upper Main Street; Mick Kelly, Bekan; Seán Lyons, Logboy; Walter Kilcullen, Brickens, who served as Chairman and PRO, and many more over the years – too many to mention.



Ballyhaunis natives John Costello and Mona McGarry are currently President and Vice-President of Muintir Mhaigh Eo.

## Connacht Veteran and Vintage Motor Club

Fabian White

In 1984 a group of car enthusiasts came together and formed the Connacht Veteran and Vintage Motor Club, the C.V.V.M.C. They came together to promote and maintain the older car movement. The first meeting held was on the 13th April 1984 and consisted of ten men and one woman. It was their love of the older cars that brought them together at first, and over time it blossomed into what we have today - "People with a common interest sharing common interests".

Today we look forward to our monthly meetings and



organising events, runs, shows and bus trips etc. Some of our members like to support static days while some would rather attend runs. However, the club is as much about people as it is about older cars and everyone is made feel welcome.

As everyone knows, 'from a good seed something will grow', and we have over 170 members this year. We are delighted to do our part for charities and have supported many in the past 30 years throughout Connacht. We have our main run on the last full weekend in June every year and move it around between Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon. This attracts on average 120 to 130 enthusiasts from all over Ireland and some even travel from the U.K. to attend this event.

As Chairperson I can say that the members are warm, caring and friendly, making you feel part of whatever is happening. We are a happy-go-lucky club that has a good outlook on life in general, and while we still have our disagreements and fall-outs this shows that we are all normal. I like to think.

We are supported by our wives, husbands, partners and families and it is thanks to them that the C.V.V.M.C. is as good and as strong as it is. To keep up to date with what is happening with our club you can find us on [www.cvvmc.ie](http://www.cvvmc.ie).



Michael G. Lyons presenting a cheque on behalf of the Connacht Veteran and Vintage Motor Club to Bridget Mulrennan and Catherine Sloyan, Croí.





# Letters to the Sunday Independent

Murt Hunt

The following selection of letters was written by Murt Hunt and published in The Sunday Independent.

## Piscine – Hommes - Femmes

Reading nearly every day in "The Indo" about the ongoing Oscar Pistorius case, my mind cast back to another rude sounding name which, in itself, was funny. In 1991 my young wife was diagnosed with cancer and was only given three months to live. We were given the present of a trip to Lourdes by a benefactor. It was our first pilgrimage and, of course, we knew no French. On arriving at our hotel, I went down to the Grotto on my own. I needed to get to the toilets badly when I arrived at the Lourdes demesne, but was too embarrassed to ask for the toilets, as I did not know the word for same. On arriving at a sign that said *Piscine*, I thought, 'I am on the pigs back now'. But when I saw the queue I was totally dismayed, as there were literally hundreds queuing; women on one side and men on the other. A kind hearted Irishman understood my plight and explained that we were at the baths (*Piscine*). He also directed me to the toilets, and I would know in future that *Hommes and Femmes* were what I was looking for.

My wife lived three years, instead of three months, (thanks no doubt to our Lady's intervention), she made three trips with me in total and I went back on pilgrimages of my own for the next 10 years to that beautiful place. However, the memory of that first trip will always stick in my memory, as there was sadness interlaced with comedy; and on subsequent trips I was able to direct other pilgrims to *Femmes and Hommes* locations, and also the *Piscine*.

## No bad backs in those days

Reading in "The Indo" about kids having to carry heavy schoolbags and satchels to school and the damage it may do in later life; I had to smile to myself, as many moons ago, as school kids, we had to carry the heavy bags as well. However, we had no transport to the school door and home again in the evening, like many kids today. We used shanks mare (very few had a bike) to and from school in all kinds of weather, and usually in our bags we had our home made soda bread, maybe with a slice of cheese or, as a treat, sometimes we got jam. The schoolbag also contained a bottle of tea or cocoa to be heated at the discretion of the teacher by the turf fire. No crisps or bars or yoghurts like today's pupils.

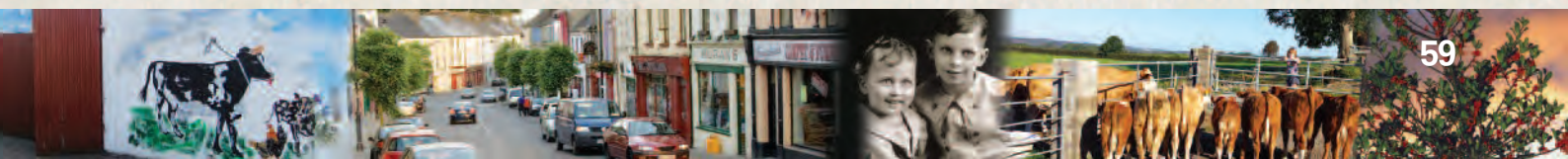
I worked for a drinks firm for 31 years, and many of the early years were spent loading barrels or kegs on to lorries for distribution all over the West of Ireland and beyond, in some cases. The kegs varied in weight from 135 lbs (62kgs) to 155 lbs (71kgs). There were 6 kegs on each pallet and 3 pallets (18 kegs) high were left up on the lorry by the forklift. They had to be stacked 3 high, and it was up to oneself how they were loaded onto the lorry. The loading was done by oneself and you just got on with the job, and the lorries loaded as fast as possible. The load would usually be 216 kegs and in the early seventies there could be 16 lorries going out each day during a hot summer. Many of the staff would be required for manning the lorry deliveries, so often the 16 lorries would be emptied and loaded between two men.

No one ever told us we were not allowed to lift such weights by ourselves, and no heed was passed; until near the end of the 31 years service, a health and safety man came and showed us the proper way to lift weights, how to stand with feet apart etc. and no keg was to be lifted by one man on his own. He asked us for our comments after his talk and slideshow demonstration. When he asked me what I thought of the talk and demo, my comment was "It came 30 years too late." The poor man was not out the gate two minutes until normal, one man practice resumed. Bad backs had not been invented at the time.

## You see me now

Parked outside the bank the other day in my native town of Ballyhaunis, I watched with interest as the people went hither and thither. I was amazed to find I knew only about 1 in every 20, and, indeed, there were more foreign nationals than locals. My town of Ballyhaunis has become famous as a centre for these foreign nationals who are becoming more Irish than the Irish themselves; and, indeed, have integrated very well with the local community. What a change from 30 years ago, when I would have known every person that passed by, and what a headache today for postmen delivering mail.

I remember vividly the first black man I saw in Ballyhaunis many years ago. He was a vet who came to help out a local vet with the T.B. eradication scheme. He was brought out to many farmers to do odd jobs on his own, and I suppose he would have been paid by most on the spot or after a beast was sold, but there were always the odd few that would say "God





bless you and I will see you again". There was one man in particular that used the services of this vet a lot and he was particularly fond of the "God bless you and see you again" bit. On a particular visit, however, the new vet was ready for *mo dhuine*, and said in broken English "Before I start you not see me again, you see me now."

### A Round Chewit

At our Sunday Mass many years ago, our priest made a strange request that had the whole congregation mystified and wondering just what was he on about. He said "for a long time now I have been looking to get (what sounded like to the congregation) a round chewit, and I wonder would any of the congregation be able to help me to get a round chewit." He said "getting a round chewit is not an easy thing to do, but if you put your heart and soul into it, it can be done, no matter what the difficulties or circumstances."

Most of us honestly thought he was losing the plot, and more wondered would they be able to help him in his quest, and maybe there was a round chewit (whatever it was) knocking around at home someplace, if he would only explain or give a definition. Well, explain he did and the answer was really simple, and it was a way of drawing attention to his sermon. What he was saying was he was looking for a way to "get around to it", and seemingly, he had a job in hand that he was putting on the long finger for a long time and he was hoping that the congregation would give him a hand in accomplishing the task.

How many times have we put a task in hand on the long finger, and put off until tomorrow what we could easily do today. That may involve calling to see a sick friend, making up with someone whom we have not spoken to for years, calling to the graveyard and tidying our loved ones graves, doing that spot of painting, sending off a few pound for a deserving cause, tidying up the yard, or many major and minor tasks that need to be done.

We all without exception would have put off tasks that we really should have completed weeks, months, even years, ago; and this sermon would be a wakeup call to us all to get on the ball and straighten our affairs. A simple quest that Sunday morning long ago may have changed many of our lives forever.

### Two Laws Still in Existence

When I was a young lad many moons ago, I often heard my father saying that there were two laws; one for the poor and another for the rich and well off. I often heard him in conver-

sation talking about "the mugeens of quality" and "the ordinary five eights". He would also mention the filthy rich, and the pauper poor, and the high society, and the low and down trodden, the top dogs and the scavengers.

It took me many years to understand the meaning of his words, but I found out in later life that the mugeens of quality, the filthy rich, the top dogs and the high society all belonged to the same category; as did the ordinary five eights, the pauper poor, the scavengers and the low and down trodden belong to another category.

In today's world the two groups are still there, they have not gone away. In one category we have (crooked) bankers, politicians, property developers, so called high class criminals, tax exiles who live abroad in order to pay no tax, and so called tycoons who have escaped to foreign lands with other people's monies. They think they are above everybody else, and how dare anybody cross them or query their actions. This can involve embezzling millions of pounds, taking out loans they know they will never pay back, even robbing banks, post offices and other institutions, deception of every kind; and they expect it is their given right to do so.

The other category will pay the piper if they are found guilty of any charges, and often are jailed for the most petty crimes or wrong doings, not being able to pay bills, stealing small items of food for their hard up families, living rough on the streets and getting caught up in events they have no control over.

Some in category one regard themselves as the pillars of society, and that they cannot be done without, and if queried often ask the question "Do you know who I am?" They regard and describe some in category two as beneath them. How wrong they are, but how right my poor dad was in summarising it all so many years ago.

## The Abbey Male Choir

Eamon Murren

Once again we had a busy year. Apart from singing at masses in our Church we also sang at a number of weddings. We also sang at the Abbey Pattern Mass in our spiritual home in the Abbey.

As always we are indebted to our organist Paula Donnellan and our musical director Moira Delaney for their help and support. New members are always welcome.





# Ballyhaunis District Community Council

Mary Donnelly

The Community Council aims to establish and implement community development projects and services for the benefit of the local community, with particular emphasis on social inclusion. It is a legal entity providing a forum where community needs can be identified, and enabling the setting up of sub-committees or working groups to cater for such needs.

## Abbey Trust and Abbey Partnership

A key role of the Community Council is to represent the wider Ballyhaunis community in all matters relating to the Augustinian Friary and grounds. Members attend regular meetings of the Abbey Partnership which is the body with responsibility for the day to day management of the property. Members of the Community Council also form part of the Abbey Trust which holds the property on a 999 year lease, the other parties being Mayo County Council and the Augustinian Order.

A number of groups operate under the auspices of the Community Council, including Defibrillator Group, Tidy Towns, Community Alert/Neighbourhood Watch, Historical Features and Walks. These groups are comprised of volunteers who provide important and valuable services in the community, and they deserve our support and appreciation.

## Text Alert Scheme

At our AGM in December 2013 it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was in need of new impetus. A public meeting took place in January which was well attended, and following discussions with Sergeant Kieran McNicholas and local Gardaí, and Sergeant Regina Carley of Claremorris District, it was agreed that Ballyhaunis would join the Text Alert scheme. Under this scheme a list of mobile phone numbers for local co-ordinators is supplied to the Gardaí, and text messages are sent out if the Gardaí receive reports of suspicious activity or crime in the area that warrant the public being alerted. It is hoped to have the scheme up and running before the end of the year.

## Community Futures

A review of the Community Futures Programme was initiated in March by Mayo Community Futures under the auspices of Mayo County Council. Ballyhaunis took part in the programme in 2006 and following extensive local consultation and involvement, a Community Action Plan 2007 - 2010 was produced. This plan reflected the needs and aspirations of the people of Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area, and the priorities for action over the next three years. Unfortunately the collapse of the economy and consequent funding and budgetary cuts rendered a number of the projects unachievable.

The review undertaken this year involved analysis of



Jarlath Fahey is greeted by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny at the launch of the Community Futures Evaluation Report in Castlebar on 7th April 2014.

the Plan to examine any achievements/benefits that had taken place and also any challenges/obstacles encountered. The Evaluation Report was launched in Breaffy House Hotel on 7th April, where each community in the county that had taken part in the programme had an opportunity to display what had been achieved and what was still outstanding under the Community Futures Action Plan.

Following the launch members of the Community Council met with Sheila Coll of Mayo Community Futures to identify and address elements of the Plan that could be achievable with limited expenditure. These include improving parking and traffic flow in the town, and establishment of the Text Alert Scheme.

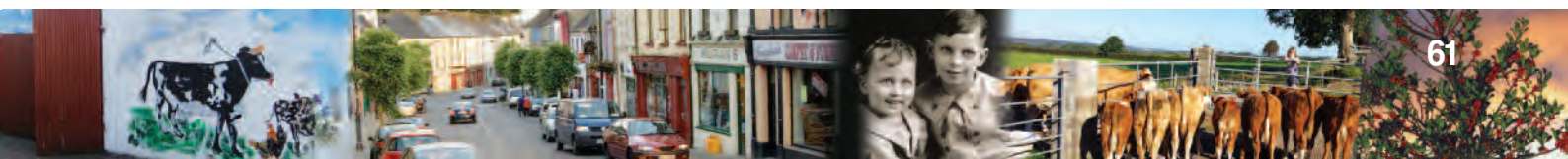
## Mayo Community Engagement Network

The Community and Integrated Section of Mayo County Council has recently set up Mayo Community Engagement Network to replace the Community Forum. The Network facilitates the community sector to input into the decision making process of the County Council and other local policy making structures. All community and voluntary groups in the county who register with the Network will have an opportunity to nominate representatives on a number of committees. The Community Council has registered with the newly established Network under the Community and Voluntary Sector.

## Membership

The Community Council welcomes new members who wish to become involved in, or support current activities, or who have new ideas for community projects. Membership is open to everyone for a nominal fee of €5 per year.

Officers of the Management Board elected at the last AGM in December 2013 are as follows: **Chairman:** Michael Kelly; **Vice Chairperson:** Manar Cherbatji; **Hon. Secretary:** Mary Donnelly; **Asst. Secretary:** Stephen Grogan; **Hon. Treasurers:** Marie Cribbin and Jarlath Fahey; **P.R.O.:** Paula Grogan.





# Why Ballyhaunis?

Hans and Helma van de Put, The Netherlands and Gurrane



Hans and Helma van de Put

We have been asked this question many times since we bought a house in Gurrane. We are Hans and Helma, a Dutch couple who made that strange decision in October 2004, ten years ago now. We have no connections with the Irish, like friends, family, or blood relationships. None whatsoever. In a way we just felt connected to the Irish spirit, culture and lifestyle in general, and the traditional music and sing-songs of course! We travelled a lot around the world during our holidays since 1992, and we've seen many wonderful and beautiful countries, cultures, landscapes and people. Of all these impressions the Irish atmosphere meets our interests the most. After all these experiences, buying the house in Ballyhaunis seemed a very good idea, so we fulfilled that dream, settled down and nowadays we are looking forward to every holiday. A whole new environment was to be experienced. We met all kinds of very friendly people since 2004 and for us it is very relaxing, exciting and life-changing in a way. It feels very much like home in the Wild West.

Why Ballyhaunis? We picked Ballyhaunis from the Internet when we saw a house advertised on the website of an auctioneer. We printed the auctioneer's information and, during a short holiday in October 2004, we bought it in a "split second", just because we wanted it, liked the area and it felt good. The houses we looked at near the coastal areas or in some tourist places, were very derelict or far too expensive for us. We are not that wealthy, and it was boom time in Ireland. We are just an ordinary Dutch couple, with regular jobs and a shortage of money at the end of the month! Our adventure began, and the development and improving of the house and its conditions still carries on.

As soon as we paid the money over the internet in 2004, we bought lots of second-hand Dutch stuff and furniture, to make the house habitable and cosy. We brought it by ferry in a big van and a big trailer. Hans' brother travelled with us that first time and the trip was amazing. We had all sorts of weather during the trip, snow in Wales and rain and sleet in Ireland. As we arrived in the evening, the van was immediately stuck in the mud in front of the house. We could not get it out in the dark and damp conditions. But, we kept our humour, said "it can't get any worse" and we lit the open fire in the empty house. We put some mattresses on the ground and had a good night's sleep after a couple of Irish whiskeys! The next day we got the van out of the mud in the front garden... well, it looked more like an overgrown paddock and we couldn't walk around the house because of the high grass, weeds and rubbish. We burned the old bed that was left in the house in the back garden. The day was great and all the things that we had brought fitted in the right place. Hans and his brother Ton did the rough work and I focused myself on cleaning the kitchen and instructing them about where everything had to be stored. After two days we got back to The Netherlands with an empty van and a great feeling of having a big job done.

## Meeting the People

The next holidays were spent on planning, landscaping, maintenance, flooring and painting the house and, of course, exploring the environment and the town, and meeting the people of Ballyhaunis itself. I remember the proud feeling that we had when my (Helma's) parents spent a week with us in the house the following summer, something we will never forget. They thought the house was lovely and had lots of character. And, of course, we sometimes have friends and family to the house to spend some nice days together.

Paddy Waldron, who sadly died some years ago, helped us out in the beginning, with painting and doing some jobs around the house. He was the one who introduced us one day to Paddy Phillips' pub. Since that time when we 'fancied a quick one' (which is often) it is our favorite place for a pint. It is also our favorite place to meet people who keep asking us: "Why Ballyhaunis?" John Morley, the barman, declared us 'locals', some time ago, and Úna, Margie and the regular customers welcome us every time, with pleasant "welcome homes". Margie even let me use her house in Dublin when I was there for study. Hospitality all over! We became connected with a lot of nice people around





Ballyhaunis and Gurrane.

We have forgotten about the rotten summers of rain and drizzle. We have forgotten about the winters when everything was frozen and we had leaks all over the place and we have even forgotten the experience of Hans in the hospital in Galway last summer. We have also forgotten about that Christmas Eve when we hadn't a drop of heating oil in our tank, because of 'Murphy's Law'. I was studying with the plaid over my lap and we were sleeping on the mattress in front of the open fire. How romantic! Neighbours always helped us out or knew somebody that could fix things for us. We are very thankful for their kindness and we cherish the good things and the contacts that we have in Ballyhaunis. Our holidays are becoming more relaxed since Ryanair operates a new flight from Eindhoven to Knock twice a week (at least in the summer). So less hotels and train tickets in Dublin. Our Lady must have heard our prayers!

There is more time for us now to spend on the course of Ballyhaunis Golf Club. The way the members make us feel welcome is extraordinary. There is always a day out, a nice tournament, or a match to play all year round. And then there is our very kind neighbor Helen, who keeps an eye on the property, and Michael Walsh who cuts the grass and does jobs around the house.

Well, I could go on telling about all our Ballyhaunis stories, people, adventures and feelings, but this is just a glimpse of the answer to the question: Why Ballyhaunis? Now you know the answer: Why not?? Although the time was not right to buy at that time (during the Celtic Tiger period), we do not regret it for one second. Ballyhaunis is the right location. We can reach our favourite places like The Ox Mountains, Cong, Connemara, Westport and Achill



Island in a one or two hours' drive. And, very important, we mingle during our holidays with the locals, as we are not in a tourist area, which really is enriching for us.

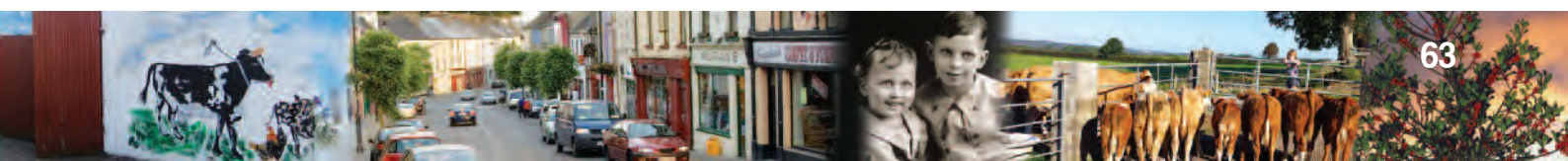
We might see you in town someday, and have a nice chat or a pint together! Sláinte mhór agaibh! (Proost! In Dutch).

## Ballyhaunis Cemetery

Martin Gavin

Ballyhaunis Cemetery is now online. To view a grave visit [www.irishgraveyards.ie](http://www.irishgraveyards.ie), select 'Graveyard Search' and then select Ballyhaunis under County Mayo. Fill in the details of the person whose grave you wish to view and press Select.

Anyone wishing to make a donation supporting the upkeep and improvement of the graveyard can do so on the Ballyhaunis Graveyard page on [irishgraveyards.ie](http://irishgraveyards.ie). Simply click the donate button at the bottom of the page and make your donation which is greatly appreciated and helps to cover the ever increasing cost of maintaining the graveyard.







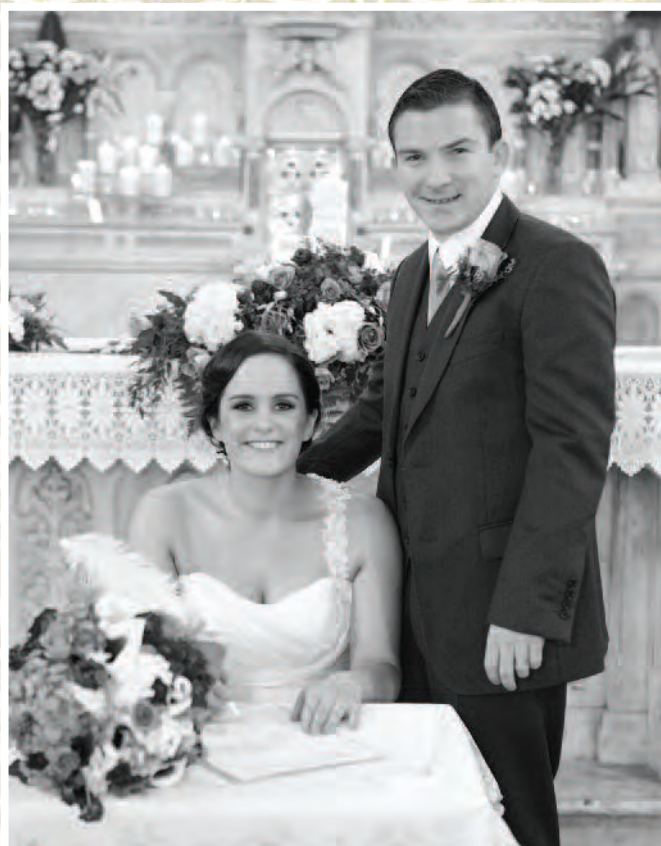
Siobhán Halpin, Main St., Ballyhaunis  
and Damien Connor, Tooreen,  
married in the Church of the Annunciation,  
Balzan, Malta.



Andrew Halpin O'Brien, Nar Nar Goon, Australia  
and Erin Murphy, Drouin, Australia,  
married in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Iona, Australia.  
Andrew is son of Mary (nee Halpin) and Michael O'Brien.



Aileen Nestor, Doctor's Road  
and Cliff Singleton, Dublin,  
married at Marino Church, Griffith Avenue, Dublin



Alison Ruane, Bargariff  
and Eoin Norris, Corbally, Limerick,  
married in the Claddagh Church, Galway.







Amanda Byrne, Bracklagh  
and Paul Gilligan, Taugheen,  
married in St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church,  
Bekan



Andrew Shanaghy, Larganboy, Ballyhaunis  
and Kiah Lam, Hong Kong,  
married in Benicia, California, USA.



Andrew Smyth, Upper Main St.  
and Paula Rouse, Ballina,  
married in the Chapel of Markree Castle, Co. Sligo.



Annie Kilroy, Huntsfield, Kilkelly  
and Jason Kelly, Castlereagh,  
married in St. Celsus' Church, Kilkelly.





Arlena Feerick and Joseph Larkin,  
married in St. Mary's Church, Logboy.



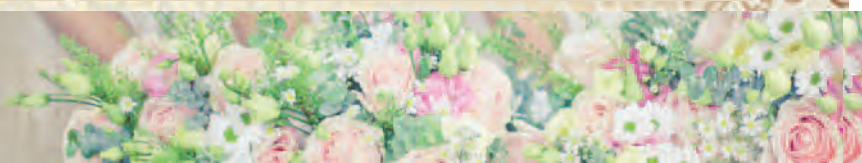
Carol Donnelly, Ballinphuill  
and Brian Fitzsimons, Cavan,  
married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Cathal O'Reilly, Woodpark  
and Máire Ivanna Heneghan, Gorteenmore,  
Tourmakeady, married in Ballintubber Abbey.  
PHOTOSBYJEN – Jenny McCarthy LIPPA



Cian Higgins, Devils  
and Katie Hayward, Weymouth, Dorset, England,  
married in St. Joseph's Church, Weymouth.







Ciara Kelly, Lissaniska  
and David Conboy, Knock,  
married in Keadue Church, Roscommon.



Colette Jordan, Tooreen  
and Aiden Grealis, Ballycroy,  
married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Corina Duggan, Began  
and Ross Cunningham, Salthill, Galway,  
married in Church of St. John the Baptist, Knock.



David Hester, Culnacleha, Tulrahan  
and Catriona Tierney, Gortnalea, Dunmore, Co. Galway,  
married in Dunmore Church.





David Lyons, Began  
and Lorraine McDonnell, Salthill Galway,  
married in Castle Dargan Hotel, Sligo.



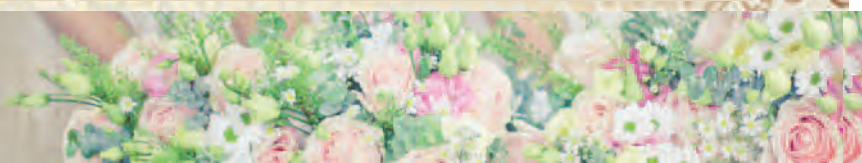
David Moran, Derrymore  
and Deborah Duffy, Parke, Castlebar,  
married in Parke Church.  
Joy Heverin Photography.



Dennis Moroney, Abbeyquarter  
and Julie Collins, Cork City,  
married in the Honan Chapel, UCC, Cork



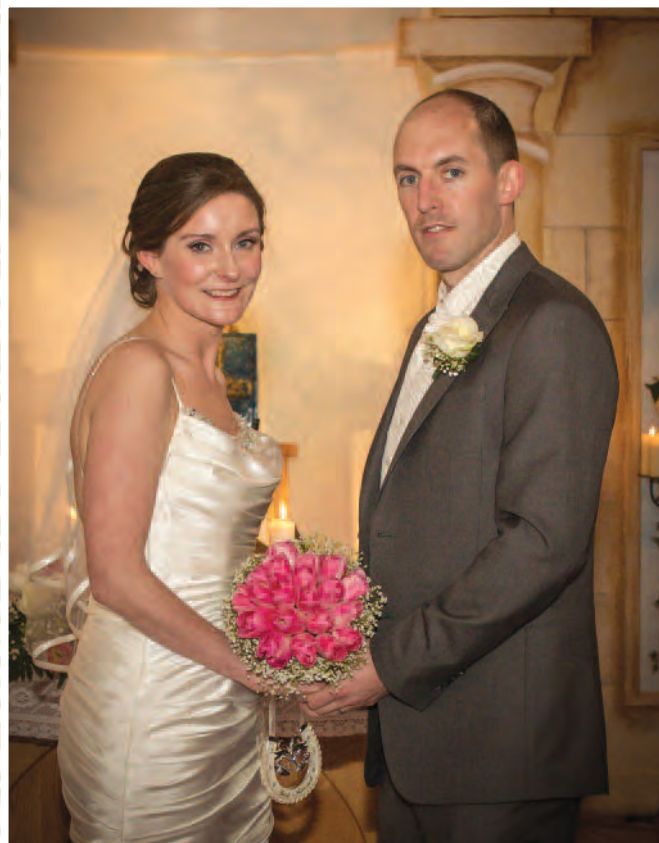
Elaine Carney, Bricksens  
and Dessie Keegan, Ballaghaderreen,  
married in Mulranny Church.







Derek McConn, Ballyhaunis  
and Deirdre O'Donovan, Cork,  
married in The Honan Chapel, UCC, Cork.



Lisa Kirrane, Cloonfad  
and Paul McConn, Ballyhaunis,  
married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.



Elaine Cregg, Cloonlough, Ballinlough  
and Padraic Kirrane, Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis,  
married in the Church of the Immaculate Conception,  
Ballinlough.



Enda Lyons, Began  
and Karen Gallagher, Corraun, Achill,  
married in Corraun Church.



Enda Nestor, Knock Road  
and Lynne Henderson, Glasgow,  
married in St. Aloysius' Church,  
Glasgow.



Tracey Lowery, Lavallyroe and  
Michael Wade, Mountbellew,  
married in  
St. Patrick's Church,  
Cloonfad.

Sara Shanahan, Limerick and  
Vincent Thompson, Limerick,  
married in St. Patrick's Church,  
Ballyhaunis.  
Sara is daughter of the former  
Úna Lyons, Holywell.  
Darren Kirwan Photography.







Errol Gill, Clare St., Ballyhaunis  
and Mary Byrne, Geashill, Co. Offaly,  
married in Raheen Church, Co. Offaly.



Fiona O'Brien, Bracklagh, Brickens,  
and Damien McDonnell,  
married in St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church,  
Bekan



Genevieve Flanagan, Spaddagh  
and Mikey Walsh, Brosna, Co. Kerry,  
married in St Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis,  
in 2013.



Gerard Lyons, Carramack  
and Lisa Driver, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow,  
married in St. Moconog's Church,  
Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co. Wicklow.





Maria Flatley, Tooreen and Jason Powers, Devils,  
married in Tooreen Church.



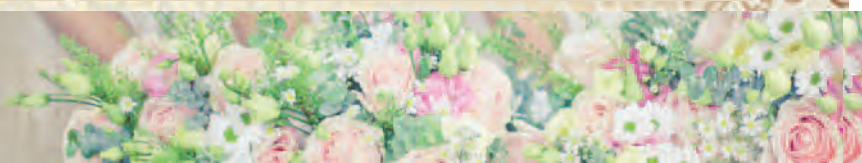
John Hoban, Brackloon North  
and Imelda Tighe, Acres, Aghamore,  
married in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore.



Joseph Costello, Bohogue  
and Katherine Banks, Palmerstown, Dublin,  
married in St. Philomena's Church Palmerstown.



Justyna Koralewska, Ballyhaunis  
and Mateux Pasternak, Ballyhaunis,  
married in Świnoujście, Poland.





Melissa Keane, Tooreen and  
Stephen Brady, Liscat,  
married in St. Joseph's Church,  
Aghamore.



Maria Cleary, Birmingham  
and Patrick Naughton,  
Connemara, Co. Galway,  
married in St. Patrick's Church,  
Ballyhaunis.  
Maria is daughter of  
Tom Cleary, Johnstown.

Michelle Heneghan, Roundfort  
and Seamus Horan, Bricksens,  
married in the Church of the  
Immaculate Conception,  
Roundfort







Karen Walsh, Gurrane  
and Tommy Kearney, Cloonfad,  
married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.



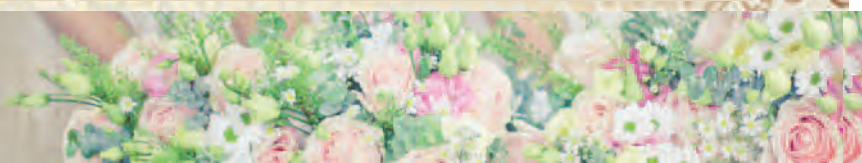
Katherine Rabbitte, Derrylea  
and Patrick O'Malley, Louisburgh,  
married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Katie O'Dowd, Carlow and John Kennedy, Watsonia,  
Melbourne, Australia, married in Mayo Abbey Church.  
'Katie spent many happy times in Johnstown'.



Lisa Carney, Scregg  
and Michael Burke, Tavrane,  
married at La Candalaria Church, Tias, Lanzarote.







Mairéad Greene, daughter of the late Garda Willie Greene, Gurrane, and Eoin Hallinan, married in Drogheda.



Joanna and Marek Mazur, Poland, married in Templo Ecomunico de San Salvador Church, Spain.

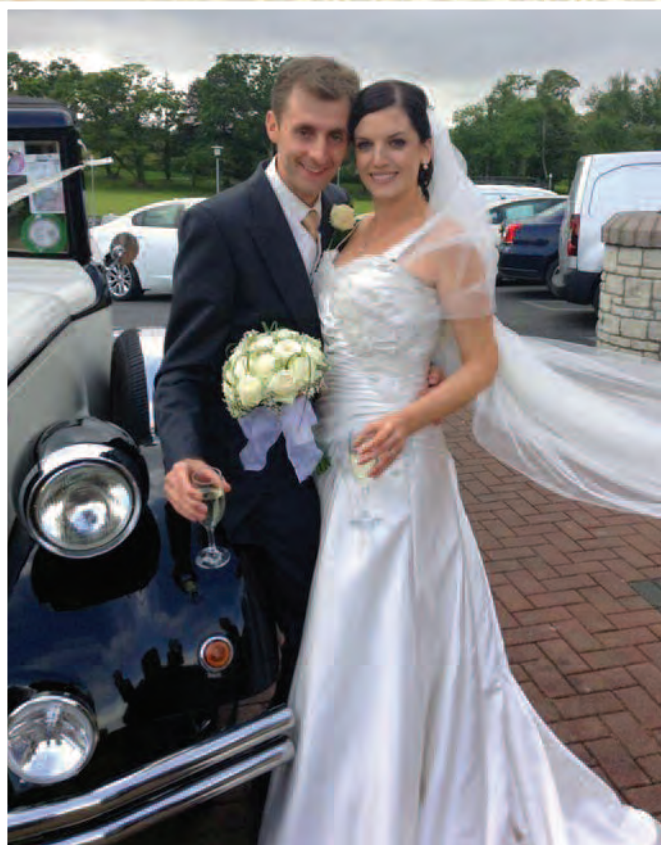


Maria Rochford, Knock Road and Conor Simpson, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Maria Walsh, Knock Road and Morgan Barry, Carrick-on-Shannon, married in Began Church.





Martin Devaney, Coolnaha  
and Pauline Egan, Culmore, Kilkelly,  
married the Church of St Mary and St Michael  
in Tooreen



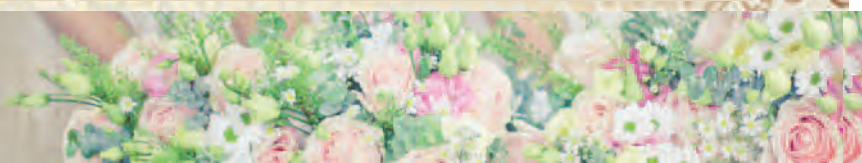
Martin Kilbride, Ballyhaunis  
and Siobhan Connell, Ballinlough,  
married at the Church of the Immaculate Conception,  
Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon.



Mark Connery, Bohogue  
and Ausra Suodyte, Lithuania,  
married in St. Anne's Church,  
Vilnius, Lithuania.



Michael Curley, Crossard  
and Muireann Phelan,  
married in the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle,  
Callow, Co. Mayo.







Michael Marigliano, Island  
and Diane Duffy, Aghamore,  
married in St. Joseph's Church,  
Aghamore.



Tracy Folliard, Aghamore  
and Micheál Walsh, Knock Road,  
married in St. Joseph's Church,  
Aghamore.



Michelle Morley, Began  
and Kevin Rourke,  
married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Natasha Higgins, Knockbrack  
and John O'Meara, Clonbur, Co. Galway,  
married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.





Oisín Cleary, Clare Road  
and Clodagh McCallig, Claremorris,  
married in Markree Castle, Co. Sligo.



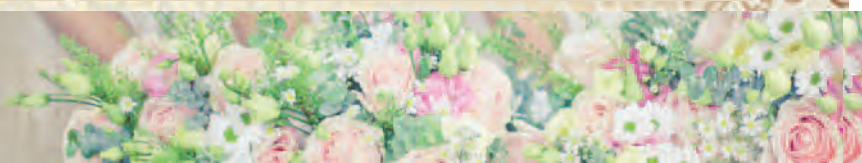
Orla McGarry, Devlis,  
and Micheál Ryder, Galway,  
married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Patience Ashu Egbe, Ballyhaunis  
and Valentine Eku Nkongho, Ballyhaunis,  
married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.  
Both are from Cameroon.



Patricia Kenny, Carnbeg, Aghamore  
and Noel Halvey, Dublin,  
married in the Irish College Rome.



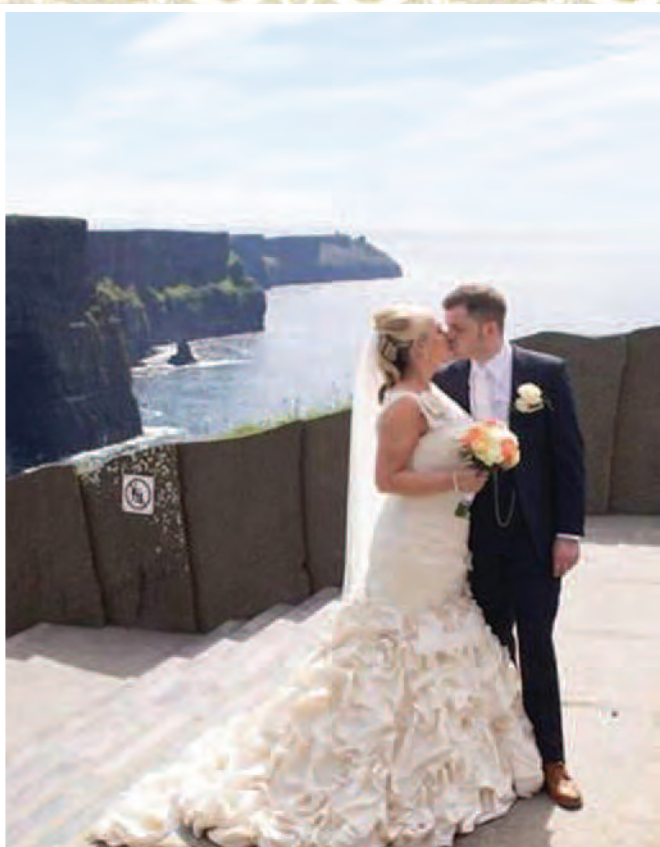




Patricia Loftus, Lavallyroe  
and Tom Diamond,  
married in St. Patrick's Church,  
Cloonfad.



Sarah Healy, Cloongoonagh, Tooreen  
and Martin Browne, Tubber, Co. Galway,  
married in St. Mary's Church, The Claddagh,  
Galway.



Selina Brennan and Ryan McConville,  
married in Doolin, Co. Clare.  
Selina is daughter of John Brennan,  
formerly of Gurteen, Ballyhaunis.



Siobhán Kedian, Derrynacong  
and Sean Ganley, Crossard,  
married the Church of St Mary and St Michael  
in Tooreen





Stephen Kelly, Station Rise, Ballyhaunis  
and Amanda Caulfield, Kilkelly,  
married in St. Celsus' Church, Kilkelly.



Tim Rabbitte, Derrylea  
and Deirdre Burke, Athenry, Co. Galway,  
married in Coolarne Chapel, Turloughmore, Co. Galway.  
Photo by Louis Carr Photography, Craughwell.



Tommie Page, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon  
and Linda Mooney, Irishtown,  
married in the Church of the Holy Family  
and St. Oliver, Irishtown.



Mary (Tootsie) Freeley, Hazelhill  
and Peter Corcoran, Australia,  
married in St. Patrick's Church,  
Ballyhaunis.





# Baptisms Marriages Deaths

## Baptisms in the Parish – November 2013 to October 2014

Tom Edward John Murphy, Gurteen  
Nora Louise Ni Laighin, Leow  
Lilly Rose Ellen Curley, Greenwood  
Agyeiwaa Owusu, Old Convent  
Lucy Antwiwaa, Old Convent  
Darren Bale Nkongho, Old Convent  
Valentine Nkongho, Old Convent  
Conor James Ledwith, Galway  
Emma Bronagh Shields, Leitrim  
Kyle Thomas Hayes, Old Racecourse  
Tyler Joseph Madden, Claremorris  
Sharon Waithira, Old Convent  
Conor Joseph Allen, Tooraree  
Alessia Palumbo, Hazel Lawns  
Sonny Jay Kelly, Hazelhill  
Mya Rachel Caufield, Island  
Hugo Nicholas Roche, Galway

John Thomas Fitzmaurice, Forthill  
Peter Martin Gallagher, Annagh  
Robin Anthony Webb, The Maples  
Caragh Wynn Swan, London  
Sean Francis Monaghan, Bracklaghboy  
Niamh Conlon, Knock Road  
Ciana Margaret Collins, Abbeyvale  
John Caulfield, Tooraree  
Stacey Louise McGarry, Drimbane  
Edward Scott Murphy, Gurteen  
Eva Grace Kilcourse, Station Rise  
Ciara Michelle Cameron Canny, Old Racecourse  
Bradley Jayden Maughan, Cherrivale  
Tom Patrick Burke, Hazelwood  
Eoghan Monaghan, Forthill  
Liam Charles Thompson, Manchester  
Katie Donna Marie McDonagh, The Maples

## Marriages in St. Patrick's Church Nov. 2013 to Oct. 2014

Genevieve Flanagan, Spaddagh  
Michael Walsh, Brosna, Co. Kerry

Mary Freeley, Hazelhill  
Peter Corcoran, Robinvale, Victoria, Australia

Katherine Rabbitte, Derrylea  
Patrick O'Malley, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo

Sara Shanahan, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick  
Vincent Thompson, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Carol Donnelly, Ballinphuill  
Brian Fitzsimons, Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan

Maria Rochford, Knock Road  
Conor Simpson, Monkstown, Co. Dublin

Natasha Higgins, Knockbrack  
John O'Meara, Claremorris, Co. Mayo

Maria Cleary, Birmingham, England  
Patrick Naughton, Birmingham, England

Nsume Patience Ashu Egbe, Old Convent  
Valentine Eku Nkongho, Old Convent

## Marriages Elsewhere

Kenneth Waldron, Ballindrehid  
Alma Maughan, Knockmore, Co. Mayo

Siobhan Kedian, Derrynacong  
Sean Ganley, Crossard, Tooreen

Michael Lyons, Lecarrow  
Katherine Manning, Adelaide, Australia

Martin Mongan, Station Rise  
Lisa Marie Sweeney, Tuam, Co. Galway

Martin Kilbride, Ballyhaunis  
Siobhan Connell, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon

Orla McGarry, Devlis  
Mike Ryder, Galway

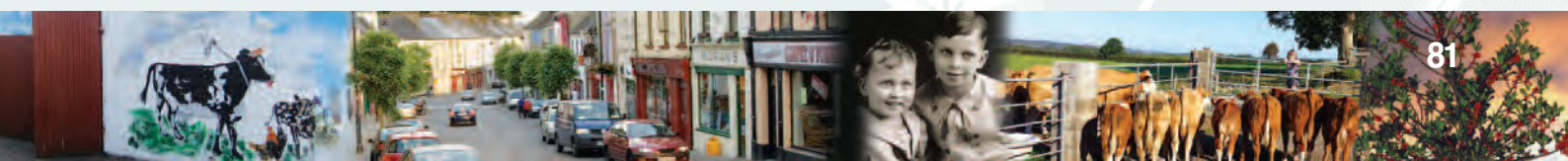
Timothy Rabbitte, Derrylea  
Deirdre Burke, Athenry, Co. Galway

Cathal O'Reilly, Woodpark  
Máire Ivanna Heneghan, Woodpark

Mark Connery, Old Racecourse  
Ausra Soudyte, Lithuania

Michael Marigliano, Island  
Diane Duffy, Aghamore

Jason Kelly, Derrynacong  
Annie Kilroy, Derrynacong





## Deceased of the Parish – November 2013 to October 2014

Patrick Folliard, Knox St. and Kiltibo  
 Marian Morris, England and Cloonbullig  
 Mary Stacey, Clare Court  
 Bernard Joe Lyons, Skeghard  
 Etta Hernon, Galway and Holywell  
 May Fitzmaurice, Gurteenbeg  
 Jim Connell, Devlis  
 Pat O'Brien, Station Rise and Knox Street  
 Adam James Ruane, Johnstown  
 Breege Moran, Devlis  
 Eileen Fitzmaurice, Brackloon South  
 Richard Philbin, England and Tooraree  
 Teresa Finn, Carrowkeel  
 Kieran Webb, Brickens and Tooraree  
 Monica Thomas, England and Bridge Street  
 Martin Forde, Island  
 Seamus Coen, Devlis  
 Delia Grogan, Kiltibo  
 Jarlath Kelly, Derrynacong  
 Harry Thompson, Aisling Drive

Mary Donnellan, Dublin and Clare Street  
 Claire Phillips, Main Street  
 Eddie Thornton, Doctor's Road  
 Billy Kiely, Beech Park  
 Michael Lyons, London and Johnstown  
 Michael Kilbane, London and Derrynacong  
 Mary Ellen Frehil, Clare Court and Island  
 Dolores Jordan, Annagh and Main Street  
 Teresa Mueller, Carrowreagh  
 Máisin Meath, Clare Street  
 Michael Kelly, Island  
 Ann Fitzmaurice, Forthill  
 Tom McDonnell, Ballinphuill  
 Pat Joe Lyons, Holywell  
 Annie May Duffy, Clare Court and Kilmovee  
 Sarah McGarry, Drimbane  
 Mary Cunningham, Dublin and Abbey Street  
 Jim Fitzgerald, Redford  
 Mary Keegan, Main St. and Pattenspark

## 100th Birthday Celebration

Congratulations to Andy Forde, retired Ballina businessman, who celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year. Andy was born and reared in Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, in 1914, son of Tom and Mary Forde. A gifted footballer, he was a staunch member of the far-famed 'Knox Street Rovers' team in the 1930s. He served his time in Tommy Coyne's of Bridge St., Ballyhaunis before taking up employment in Padden's shop on another Bridge St. – this time in Ballina – the town where he spent most of his life. He later established his own business, 'Andy's' (now Durcan's Insurance), on Abbey St., Ballina, which he operated for many years. Down the years he was a regular visitor to his home town, travelling from Ballina on a motor-bike.

Andy now lives with his son Andrew in Ballinrobe, and is still fondly remembered as a popular businessman, fun character and a wonderful neighbour. Several of his neighbours and acquaintances travelled to Ballinrobe to mark his milestone birthday with him, his sons Desmond, Andrew and Gerard, and extended family on Sunday 4th May 2014.



Andy Forde as a younger man and centre, pictured with his sons, L-R: Gerard, Andrew Jr. and Desmond. (Pics courtesy of P.J. Clarke, Ballina)



Andy Forde celebrating his 100th birthday.







## Wedding Anniversaries



50th



**Tom and Eileen Rattigan**, Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 15th August 2014 with family and friends.

Tom and Eileen Rattigan pictured on their Wedding Day, 17th August 1964, St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



40th

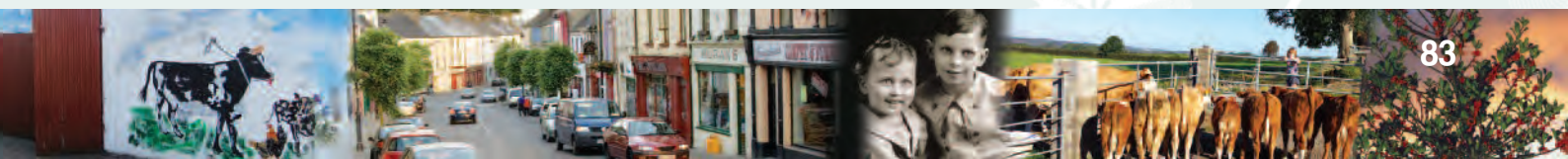
**Jim and Rita Lundon**, Knock Road, who celebrated their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary in September, 2014. Jim, a native of Dingle, Co. Kerry, and the former Rita Canning of Ballyvary, Co. Mayo, were married in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, City Quay, Dublin, on the 29th September 1974.



40th



**Tom and Anne Cleary**, Birmingham, celebrated their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary in Ballyhaunis earlier this year. Tom, who comes from Johnstown, and the former Anne Waldron of Beagh, Dunmore, married in St. Theresa's Church, Williamstown, Co. Galway on 5th Aug. 1974, and their reception was in Churchfield House, Knock. They were presented with a Papal Blessing at the wedding of their daughter Maria to Patrick Naughton of Connemara (which took place in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis), by Canon Sean Grady, Birmingham but formerly of Westport. Tom and Anne met in Birmingham, but came back home to Ireland to be married. They then returned to Birmingham where they had three children Maria, Stephen and Thomas, and now three grandchildren, Emma, James and Liam Cleary.





# The Blizzard of 1947

James Hunt

Writing this article, I feel very much out of my depth, as you can appreciate; so in doing so, I depend a huge degree on the stories related by our senior citizens and their experiences of the event.

The year of 1947 was affectionately known as White '47. By all accounts the situation was pretty dire, and it is something no one would relish a recurrence of. The autumn and harvest of the previous year of 1946 are reported to have been the worst in living memory. The harvest in the stooks re-grew itself and for this to happen weather has to be exceptionally wet. This was very poor weather by any standards in a time when there were no mobile phones, or cars, or a man going to the moon, or any word of the ozone layer. The weather in early 1947 was bitterly cold with a north-easterly wind; a small blizzard occurred on January 11th followed by a huge blizzard on February 23rd. Waking up to fifteen foot snow drifts, people's only means of direction was the top of the telegraph poles, which gives an indication of the depth of the snow.

Travel during the blizzard was very difficult and was mainly on foot, as there were very few cars and bicycles were a rarity. The only telephone was in the local post office, which was the norm in those times. Against this backdrop, we have little to complain about in our present day recession. We must bear in mind that there was no electricity and many of the mod cons of the modern world did not come for many years afterwards, as many of them were not as yet invented. Further bear in mind that the countryside was strewn with many grocery shops which had all the requirements needed for the family home.

The snow lasted for many months and travelling in it was very dangerous as it was very fine snow and it was very wet; hypothermia was a great threat and death could easily be the result. The wells were all frozen over so the people had to resort to boiling the snow to get water for washing, etc.

I hope you enjoyed this trip down memory lane; an event that is 68 years this coming February 23rd 2015.

# The Thumbers

Seamus Hora

*The practice of thumbing in the seventies was rife  
Cars they were scarce it was part of our life  
Friday is one of the days I recall  
People seeking a lift, for post office to call*

*First on the road, summer light, winter dark  
Problem with hearing, this was Mrs. Clarke  
The ball alley stood out on the hill up ahead  
In winter this part of the road I did dread*

*A picturesque cottage my next port of call  
Where colourful roses adorned the wall  
Doors painted brightly, lime on each stone  
Mod' lady called Sally stood waiting alone*

*By this time the car was beginning to fill  
A couple of regulars awaited me still  
Pat Hoban was next – with a strange point of view  
To let air circulate cut vent holes in his shoe*

*The three in the back were not very pleased  
'Let in Mrs. Ganley', crush became squeeze  
Sadly, the last one, mobility did lack  
Surname was Kenny, either Jimmy or Jack*

*Each day of the week things were much the same  
So many thumbers! Too numerous to name  
Some are still with us; some laid to rest  
Relaxed eyes closed tightly,  
I can picture them best*

The Scene: Friday morning, mid-1970s, between Tully Cross and the Letter Box. These were landmarks on your journey from Gorthaganny to Ballyhaunis. Other sights to describe your location were the Ball Alley, Regan's Hill and Bill Forde's. Each had the same significance as Brendan Shine's song, "Where Did You Meet Her?"

The poem above describes a typical Friday morning in this era. Those mentioned in it are just a few of the many people I knew as 'thumbers'. Today, I am delighted to have been a part of that Ireland. When I look back, I can see that it helped me prepare for the life I live today. Sometimes I can't resist a smile when I remember their witty sayings. It's only now I appreciate their prayers and good wishes like "God Bless You". I know they are more comfortable now than in the rear seat of my Ford Escort. When I think of them, they give me the 'lift' I require to get on with life.





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# The Third Verse

Robert Kelly

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I have been known to sing a song or two, even when not asked. I have also been known to sing unusual and seldom heard songs, again, with little prompting. But you would think I'd be shy of public singing after the very first song I sang got me in such trouble. I guess I never learn.

I was six years of age and attending the Convent School. We were due to make our First Holy Communion the following week. Our teacher was Sr. Oliver and that particular day she was anxious as our class was being scrutinised by a senior nun who wanted to make sure we had everything ship-shape for the big day. This formidable lady arrived in our class and asked if any student would recite a prayer or sing a song. Eager to please, the room was awash with hands. First, one of the boys sang "Jesus Loves Mary" followed by one of the girls who said a prayer "Mary Loves Jesus". Then I was picked. I opened up with the third verse of a song called "There Lived up on a Hillside".

Allow me a moment to talk about this song. Opposite our house, on Knock Road, was Johnnie McGuire's workshop. It was a fascinating place and all of us as kids treated it as our de facto playground. Johnnie would never shoo us away as he was a man always in good form, singing many a tune as he went about his daily work. He was a lovely singer with a huge catalogue of songs, but the one that stuck with me was, "There Lived Up on a Hillside". I absorbed that song like a sponge without really taking in its full content. Within the song, a man brings a lady down a laneway and when his advances are spurned, he murders her in a fit of pique. The song was based on a true incident and is about 300 years old. There are four verses in this song but it was in the third verse all the exciting action was relayed, and of course didn't I choose to belt out that verse.

I hadn't a clue what the words were about, I was only singing it phonetically. Silence descended on the class, only to be broken by the senior nun who let out a mighty scream "STOP, STOP". Well I stopped. The class stopped. The whole school stopped, and dare I say the whole town stopped such was the scream. A note was duly written and placed in an envelope marked for the attention of my parents. I was delighted with myself, sure wasn't I the only child in the whole class given a letter to bring home? I handed the letter to my mother that evening when I was sat down for dinner. My mother, God rest her soul, had a great sense of humour. She told me years later that after reading the contents of the letter she had to run down to the sitting room to have a laugh; and when she came back and questioned me some more she had to run out again to hide more

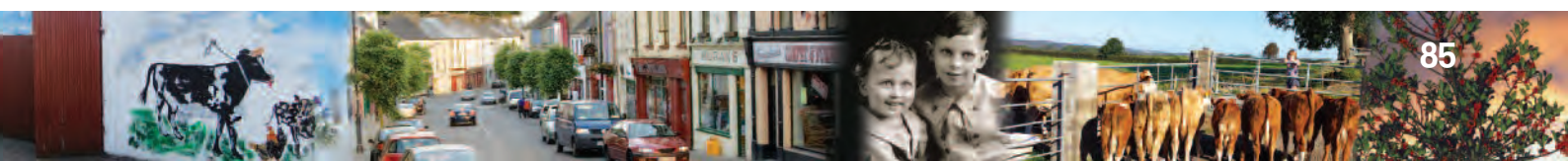
laughter. She told the story to Johnnie who saw the funny side also. It was agreed that, to protect my innocence, he would sing the first two verses, skip straight to the fourth verse and omit the third verse altogether. As a result I have lost the third verse from my memory and have never managed to find it since. After that I gave up singing adult songs and concentrated on prayers and holy songs, well for a week at least until the Communion was over.

## Characters

It was in the Convent and the Boys School that I learnt my ABCs but the place in which I learnt the most was Johnnie's Workshop. It was a University of Life with so many characters who called by. I can recall their wit, their humour, their turn of phrase: such things remain with you for life. Some of the characters, amongst whom was Michael Greely who lived in the house on the left hand side as you go down the Doctor's Road. He had a shop and Michael had spent some time in Chicago. He was always talking about Chicago, the Windy City, so much so that he was known as Windy. "Here comes Windy!" would be the refrain but we dared not to say it to his face. You also had Tom Philbin who was a prankster and a very witty man. Also knocking about were Micko Rattigan, Patsy Glynn and another wit Scout Lyons who said that during the Suez War in 1956, Ballyhaunis didn't have enough petrol to take a stain out of a tie. There they discussed the weather, politics, the weather, current affairs, the weather, boxing, the weather, hurling, football, oh, and the weather. There were songs aplenty. Paddy Cassidy would sing "Burlington Bert" whilst Jimmy Callery's song was "The Woodlands of Loughglynn". You also had a certain man who will remain nameless. I know now he had a condition called Malapropism. He left in a huff one day saying he didn't come here to be insulated (insulted) and another time after a visit to the doctor he reported having a vitamin (virus). One time Johnnie got an old trap to bring back to life. This man took one look at it and kept repeating, "Firewood, firewood". After Johnnie had worked his magic and restored the trap, the man took back his original assessment and said "Johnnie you have it in immaculate conception (condition)".

## Boxing Memories

Then you had the two Mick Morans from Waldron's Terrace. One was called Black Mick as he had black hair and the other Red Mick on account of, well you're ahead of me there. Red Mick's claim to fame was that he had worked with Don Cockell who, in later years, was British Heavyweight Champion, and fought Rocky Marciano for





the World Title. This went down well with Johnnie who had a great interest in boxing. Johnnie would enthuse about Sonny Liston; even when Sonny was in jail, Johnnie had him earmarked as the next Heavyweight Champion and he was right on the money. I would listen to their passionate talk about boxing and I suppose my love of the sport developed here.

In 1951 Sugar Ray Robinson was touring Europe, taking on all contenders and beating them. In London, however, he became unstuck, defeated by Randy Turpin in a result that nobody saw coming. This was a huge shock and the 64 days it took Sugar Ray to redeem himself in the rematch was filled with endless debate in the workshop. In May 1955 the focus of attention was fixed firmly on Marciano and his bout with Don Cockell, Red Mick's former workmate. Red Mick didn't rate him so, naturally, a lot of people took this as their cue to back him favourably. Mick said Cockell couldn't even get out of his own way, to which others replied he didn't need to, others got out of his way. But Mick had the final laugh. Marciano won easily in nine rounds. Marciano was a great champion who retired undefeated. Floyd Patterson took over his mantle but he was never a great champion. He might have been fast and skilful but he had a weak chin. He held onto his title for a good spell but a lot of this was down to his manager who handpicked unworthy opponents. One such opponent was Ingemar Johansson, a big Swede who had previously been disqualified from the Olympics for not trying. He wasn't expected to win but he had a powerful right hand nicknamed "The Hammer of Thor" and he used it to knockout Patterson in the third round.

I used to get up in the middle of the night and listen to all these fights. I'd have to clamber upon a chair to get close to the wireless on the high shelf as, on pain of death, you were forbidden to move the wireless from its allotted position. I endured hours of discomfort standing in that position, listening to the commentary cackle, bang, sizzle and whistle, just about gleaning enough information about how the bout panned out. I remember that fight in particular. The following morning I was up early to go to the bog with sleep in my eyes but I managed to visit Johnnie beforehand and tell him the result. He was delighted to hear the news as Radio Eireann in those days wouldn't demean themselves reporting on the boxing. You'd have to wait for the Evening Press to read the result, but Johnnie had it from a good source now, and could spread the word among the boxing aficionados. They dismissed him citing Patterson as an easy winner, and when he disclosed his source he invited further scorn with them calling me a Gasoon who wouldn't have a clue. Needless to say Johnnie vouched for me and we were both proven right.

## Last Visit

Life carried on, I moved to Dublin for work and Johnnie's business slowed down. The wheelwright trade went out of fashion with the coming of tractors and soon Johnnie's workshop grew silent until it was knocked down. Milo Henry's house sits there now. I used to call upon Johnnie when I came home and in later years I'd visit him in the nursing home. On my last visit I was told he was too weak and shouldn't be receiving visitors. I told them I had come from Dublin to see him so they allowed me some brief moments. On entering the room I knew it was a mistake: Johnnie was in a poor way and didn't recognise me. I told him he had great patience with us as children and thanked him for the great times and even told him he taught me my first song all those years ago. I then heard a little voice saying "Sing it to me". I began to sing "There Lived up on a Hillside" and Johnnie joined in after the first line. His voice was very weak, like a whisper but as the song progressed it grew stronger. Two verses in, Johnnie began to sing the third verse while I, like a fool, had rushed to the fourth verse. Johnny stopped and I stopped. Then not to ruin the moment I continued with the fourth verse with Johnnie following in tow. If I had only steadied myself I would have heard the long lost third verse from my childhood. When I came out of the room the corridor was full with the nursing staff, kitchen staff and other visitors who had been listening by the door. They couldn't believe Johnnie had been singing as he hadn't spoken for the last four or five days and now here he was singing. That was Johnnie's last song. He died two days later and I'm still without that third verse.



Maura and Sean Griffin, Clare Street on their Wedding Day, 1953.





# Wonders of Nature

Henry Madden

Those who try to convince everyone else that there is no Supreme Being might not be so sure of themselves if they had a proper understanding of the magnificence of our world, with the beauty of its dawns and the colours of its sunsets and rainbows, along with the splendour of nature, and the wonderful goodness of people. Where did all this splendour come from? It certainly did not come from 'a big bang' as those 'experts' would have us believe. Voltaire put it beautifully when he wrote, 'I cannot imagine how the clockwork of the universe can exist without a clockmaker'.

Swallows are just a tiny part of that clockwork. Just like humans, they recognise 'that home is a magnet which draws those whose situations have taken them abroad back to the heart of contentment and rest'. We marvel at the invention of modern navigational aids, but what about the extraordinary instinct in the tiny, tiny brain of the swallow that guides it from Ballyhaunis to Africa, and then right back to the nest in which it was born. But sure we're forgetting about the Clockmaker.

Shortly after Kathleen and I started out life together in Gurteen, we were befriended by these fascinating and beautiful wonders of nature. Long before the advent of the internet we were treated to their twittering each spring as they showed their delight to be back home as they set about building or refurbishing their nests to rear their families. It was fascinating to watch, but difficult to photograph as the nests were built in various locations high in our buildings, just a few inches from the roof. We marvelled at the dedication of the parents in hatching, protecting and feeding their rapidly growing brood; but it was not easy, using a mirror, to check the eggs and the scaltháns as they developed.

All that changed in 1989 (the year Mayo reached their first All-Ireland Final for thirty eight years) the day I placed a bicycle tyre and tube, for future emergencies (as I thought) on a nail in the boiler house. That May a nest was built right on top of the tyre. It must have been seen as the ideal site for the happily returned couple to build a nest and raise their family, and it certainly was the ideal location for photographing all the action. Needless to say that tyre was never touched since, and it has lasted a lot longer than it would have on the bike! It's incredible that the nest is now twenty five years old and was occupied for all but one of those years; the swallows just refurbish and re-line it with feathers each time. Two years ago a second nest was built on the bottom of the tyre, just four feet from ground level.



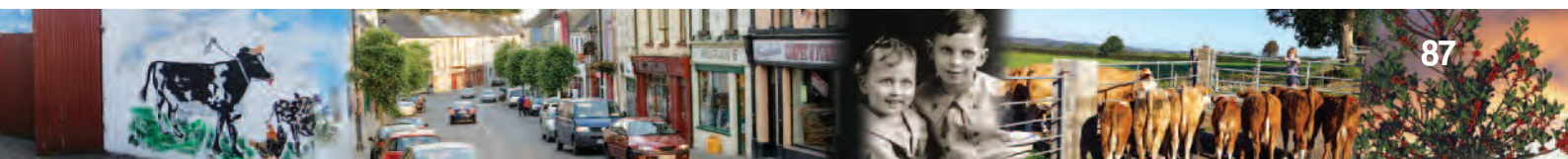
The swallows pose for one last photograph before take-off from the nest, nineteen days after they were born

As we walked to school in childhood, my friends and I loved looking for, and observing, birds' nests, and it gave us a love of nature. Now being able to see and photograph the beautiful swallows at close quarters was the icing on the cake. It was distressing to read earlier this year how shooting down swallows has become a big 'craze' in some countries they pass over; thus we feared our friends had fallen to this barbarism when they had not arrived by late April. However, all was well as we spotted them on May 8th flying around our house. They were delighted to be home. It's amazing that after such a long tiring journey that, after reaching Ireland, they did not stop but travelled on to Mayo... they must have green and red blood in their veins alright!

They quickly make up for lost time, working flat out refurbishing the nest and the first egg was laid on the



15th May, and on each following day until the 19th. Four scaltháns were born on 3rd June, and the fifth egg turned out to be a 'glugger'. The new swallows left the





nest on Sunday 22nd June. It's amazing that nineteen days from birth they were flying around. They were immediately joined by about twenty more of their relations in a celebration of new life as they flew around our house all day; talk about happiness and the important things in life!



Our grandchildren were fascinated to witness and observe these beautiful birds and they got great enjoyment when the swallows, as they developed, would stare intently back at them. We kept these visits to the minimum and the parents would wait on the roof, with the grub, until the way was clear again.



We had hoped to show them in their nest to Fr. Mike Barry, whom the people of Ballyhaunis help so brilliantly, so that he would recognise them when they flew over his parish in Tanzania, East Africa, later on, but they had just left the nest the day he arrived.

The fledgling was the last leaving the nest and was hesitating, but then was gone in a flash (of the camera!)

Our friends take one last look at their home-place before setting out on their epic journey. Safe journey to them, and we ask The Clockmaker to bring them safely back home here again, so that we can all enjoy their delightful company in the coming year.



Swallows for me, are a perfect example of what the writer had in mind:

*'All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen'.*





# South Australian Award Winners

William Lowery

***"OMG People! We won the Telstra Business Award in the 'Start Up' category in South Australia. We can't believe it! We are so honoured and thank you Clapham for making this a reality! We love you xxx"***

*– quote from Zoi Kokoti,  
June 27th, 2014.*

As the above states, Eire Café won the Telstra Business Award in the Start-up category. Eire Café is owned by Stephen Lowery from Lavallyroe and Zoi Kokoti, Adelaide, South Australia. Telstra is the largest telecommunications company in Australia and, since 1992 has spent in excess of \$800,000 in highlighting and rewarding businesses which has set themselves what seemed to be impossible targets in order to succeed. Each State or territory has a Telstra selection board and the various businesses can present themselves as possible potential competitors for selection to the State final and ultimately state recognition if succeeding at this level. They are invited for interview and brought through the rigors of their business make-up. Their records are scrutinised to ascertain their level of progress since their initiation, their plans for further development and expansion and what support they have in place. Other areas of perusal were the order and variety of the professionals they had selected to advise them from lawyers, accountants and other business associates et al. who had more experience in business which, although not necessarily in the same line, was in general terms know-how that provided a level of insight which a firm needs to experience in order to grow and succeed.

## Extraordinary

It was said that this Eire Café just didn't try to survive. They set out to do something extraordinary; it did not just happen. Imagine starting a local community café in a four shop crescent in the town land of Clapham, just outside Adelaide and, in the space of nine months, being credited with ISO 9000 and succeeding in doing a food supply deal with a national retailer. This café was included in a number of high performing establishments with a formal planning process. This business was built as a series of processes, employing the cheaper oriented roles first and moving upwards from there. Constant day by day, week by week observations were under scrutiny of the key performance indicators. These metrics soon suggested the café was on the correct route which would allow other interventions to be applied. The café was growing to a point of full employment with the necessary impetus to advance afresh and concentrate on another line. This they did with two



Zoi Kokoti and Stephen Lowery, owners of Eire Café, at the presentation of the South Australian Best Start-up Award.

national retailers and the expansion of the business was inevitable with the formation of a new company KoKoLow Ltd., and this takes responsibility for the new diversification of Eire Pies.

On August 9th the Australian National Final Awards were held in Melbourne. Marian and I had the privilege of being present at this gala function in the Crown Plaza Hotel. With us were my brother Michael and his wife Lie Teng, Zoi's mother Maria and father George,

her aunt Gina and two friends, Vicki and husband John. There was so much tension and excitement having come so far and endured further enquiry for two previous days, the company really stood up on its own for the worth it had achieved.

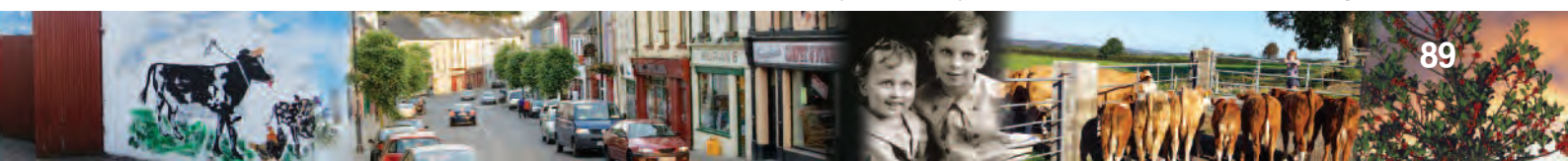
## Cloonfad

For the people of Cloonfad, Stephen is well known as a chef having qualified in Professional Cookery specialising in French Cuisine in the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology. Having graduated from GMIT he served his time in the Ardilaun Hotel, the Station House Hotel, Clifden and eventually, meeting his first personal target of Headship, in the Restaurant Nua in Maynooth. Over the next number of years, in fact to date, he travelled to America, New Zealand and eventually came to Australia and spent most of his time in Melbourne. Having spent seven years there he moved to Adelaide and opened Eire Café in Clapham with Zoi Kokoti, his partner.

Zoi was born in Adelaide but moved to Melbourne and this is where she met Stephen. She worked for over 20 years' in the Australian Retail industry and this gave her extensive experience in running businesses in a way that assisted them in reaching their full profit potential. Her background was in financial management and process improvement for increased profitability. Zoi took on the back-end management of Eire Café from the finances through to marketing including social media and, with a keen commercial eye, ensures the aesthetics of the brand and café are at the highest level.

The café was an old deli, a two unit shop incorporating three other shops in a country community. Clapham is a town land with a main road running by and they chose this area to do business. Cormac Costello, a school friend who was in Melbourne with Stephen, came to Adelaide with him and helped him transform the run-down deli to a modern café restaurant. Eire Café was born two weeks later.

Watch the acceptance speech on Youtube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-WzI77CPIg>







Two sisters meet after fifty-three years. Monica Biesty (left) meets her sister Betty at Shannon Airport, July 1978 – her first trip home from New Jersey, U.S.A.



*Pictured right:* Patsy Biesty, Pattenspark, on holiday from Boston, July 1992.



Maureen O'Dea, Claremorris and Mary Cunnane, Bridge St., Ballyhaunis, enjoying their first trip home from U.S.A. in 1952.



*Pictured right:* Opening their Christmas Box from Carrowkeel, December 1990, with plum pudding and Christmas cake. Mary Cunnane and Mary Regan, Hallandale, Florida, USA.



# Ballyhaunis Fit4life 2014

Martin Fitzmaurice



Runners at the start of the Run West – Ballyhaunis 8k.

Three years on and, as Elvis Presley used to sing, “It ain’t no big thing, but it’s growing”. We started in the Autumn of 2011, three people who wanted to encourage people to get out and train to be fit – including ourselves. Since then a number of people have joined our group and stayed the course. For many reasons some have left, often just other time constraints with growing families, work etc. Currently we have a membership of approximately 30 people. We meet twice per week: on Tuesday evenings at 7pm and Saturday mornings at 9am. To date we have kept things on a non-competitive basis and stayed away from membership rules, regulations and restrictions. We all enjoy it on a social level and travel in groups of walkers, joggers or runners every week. At the same time a number of people have competed in all kinds of distances during the year, some at their own level and some striving to improve their fitness levels, leading to greater distances and speeds.

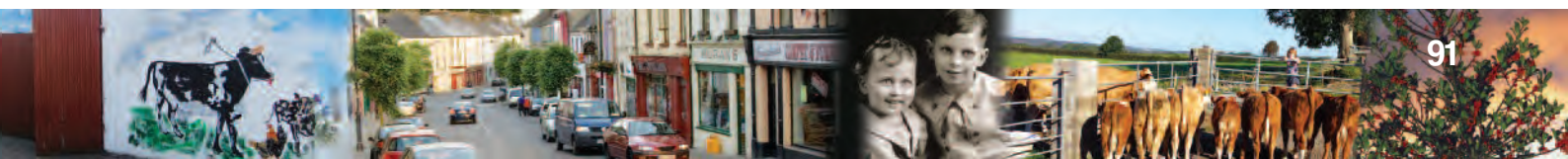
All members must register with Mayo Athletic Club, who are affiliated to Athletics Ireland. We collect the membership of €40 a year on their behalf and pass it onto them. We are a voluntary group and don’t take any income for our efforts. All new members are given a good welcome and encouraged. After a few weeks, they normally fall in with a group that they can travel with and, in time, either stay there or move up the line, depending on their ambitions.



Fit4Life group. L-R: Caitriona Concannon, Patricia Waldron, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Susan Hoban, Elaine Patterson, Mary Waldron, Martin Fitzmaurice, Mary T. Griffin, Karen Clancy.

## Big Events

While we all take part in many races over the year collectively and individually, we have a hands-on part in two events every year. Mayo AC run a summer series of five races at a distance of 5k. This is a great starting goal for all novices and is a very enjoyable series, where you meet loads of Fit4life members from all over the county. This year Ballyhaunis opened the series with a record number of entries.





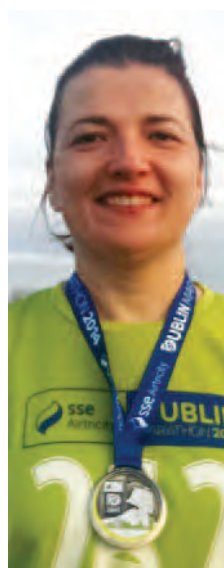
The big one of course is our annual “Run West – Ballyhaunis 8k” held in September. Last year our numbers were down, due to the number of races taking place at the time, so we had to make a special effort to increase interest and numbers. We held a number of meetings with the Parents Association of Ballyhaunis Community School and came up with a plan. The overall outcome was a record number for this race also. The school needed to raise funds and it was decided that as many kids as possible would complete the course for sponsorship. In the end approximately 100 students from the school completed the course with a few of the teachers and parents. Our actual race numbers were up also and it led to a record field. It was a beautiful day and all that took part enjoyed the fare. There was a medal for all finishers, loads of food and spot prizes.

### Bright future

The future for Ballyhaunis Fit4life looks very bright. But I do remember three years ago when I would be sitting watching telly for hours at night, and how much my life has changed now. I have made a life change which I plan to keep up while I have the health to do so. But I wonder how many more people are out there like me, just sitting there watching TV, thinking “Could I do that?” If you are one of those, just come over any time we meet and someone will go out with you and see what you can do and what you want to do. Just give it a go for a few weeks till you fall into a group that you can be comfortable with and enjoy the outing. Three years ago I only dreamed of jogging at all. Now I have completed all kinds of distances from 5k, 8k, 10k, 10 mile, and even have completed my second Half Marathon this year. I was nearly the last one in, but I enjoyed every bit of it.

My second love would be GAA and while we did not have the Sam McGuire to display on the day of our 8k, I feel we have a couple of All Stars. It’s dangerous when you start naming people, but two people stick out this year. “Player of the year award” Caroline Hession managed to train for and complete a three-quarter Marathon in Athlone and then went on to complete the Dublin City Marathon in October. I don’t know where she found the time, balancing family commitments and work, but somehow she managed it. “Newcomer of the year” would have to go to Mary Waldron who is with us over a year. She joined as a walker but this year decided to try jogging. She was very happy to have completed her first 5k in June during the Summer 5k series. But then she excelled herself when she completed the 8k in September. But we have so many who make great progress during the year in different ways. Each making great achievements at their own level.

Back in January this year, I looked for assistance both for leadership training and funds for skills and



A very happy Ballyhaunis Fit4lifer, Caroline Hession, after completing her 1st marathon, the Dublin City Marathon 2014.

equipment etc. I succeeded in being awarded a grant for Circuit Training from the ETB (Enterprise and Training Board) under health and fitness programme. This took place in the Autumn of 2014 and was definitely beneficial to all members. It also gave us some variety, away from running for a few nights.

There are so many people who contribute to make the Club so successful, from members who assist with training, members and people who help out with our two races every year and people who help out with administration. Every club survives on the input of its members and we have a very rich vein of people who give unselfishly all the time to help everything run smoothly.

So please join us any Tuesday evening or Saturday morning. You can check us out on our Facebook page Ballyhaunis fitforlife or you can give me a call any time for further information at: (087) 2455989.



David and Derek McConn who completed the Melbourne Marathon on 20th October 2013.

## Annagh 2015

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2015 is

Friday, October 16th, 2015.

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





# From the Churchyard up the Street

**Columba Jordan**  
*in conversation with Jim Lunden  
and Séamus Mulrennan*

It was in February 2014 that we began our trips to the house of Liz and Columba Jordan situated high up and overlooking Annagh. We were welcomed with warmth, tea and biscuits and good conversation about life and times in former days...Columba remembers:

"We were very close to the church when we were growing up – so close that it often happened that one of our animals would jump in over the fence of the churchyard. Across the road lived Sarah Anne Cooney and a Miss Muldoon. Also across the road was an area known as the Dardanelles. We played in the Fairgreen: football in summer or cowboys and Indians. A bad Fair Day was bad for business.

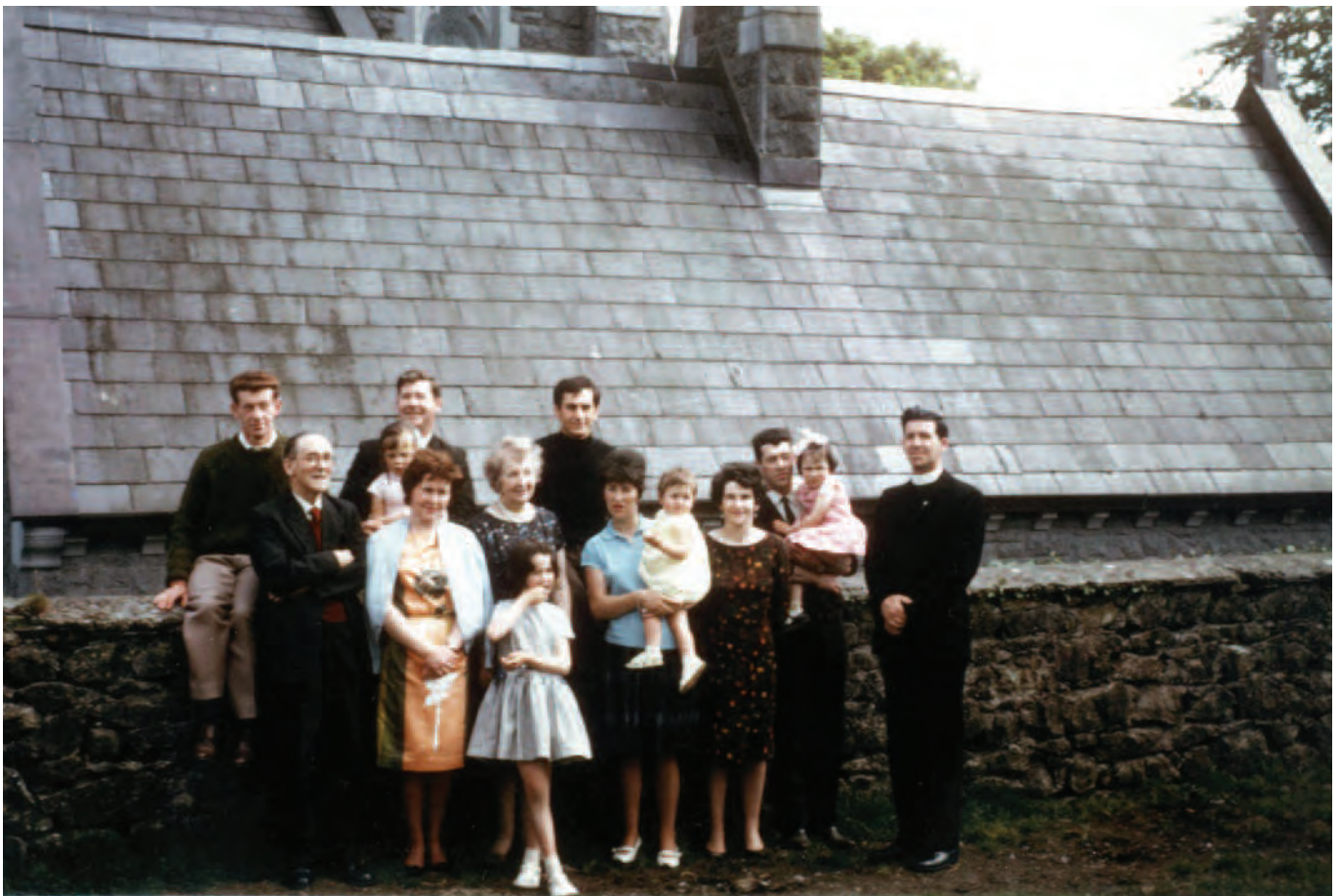
"In our shop everyone had a certain job to do and on the land the cows had to be brought in for milking and then brought out at a certain time every day. There were two curates in the church. If Jim Clarke, the Sacristan,

was away, or going to the bog, he would ask me to ring the Angelus at twelve or six o'clock. I would have been nine or ten at the time.

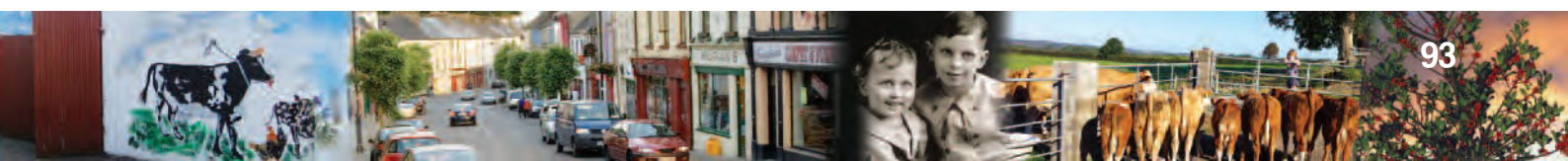
"In the shop weighing was very important. You had to weigh tea, sugar, flour, dried fruit, bread soda and pepper. I remember one day that Micky Jordan from Annagh had an empty sack of pepper and he blew it at us and we were all teary eyed from the pepper!

"Our uncle Johnny, who was blind, fed and milked the cows every day. He was a daily Mass goer and got a lot of help from our cousin, Tom Hopkins. During the war we had a pony and cart as the lorry was off the road – the pony brought stuff from the railway station all through these years from 1939-1945. The cart was backed into the station and loaded up. On one occasion my brother Brendan was loading two-pound pots of jam when the pony bolted and a lot of the jam jars were broken.

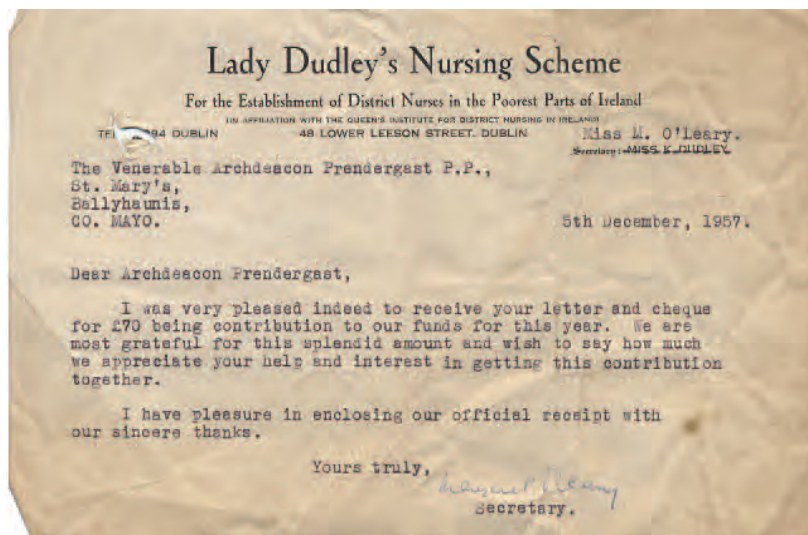
"At the time you could get carriage paid to the station or carriage paid home. Eddie Fitzgerald had a horse and dray at the time. Billy Brennan used to bring the stuff to



The Jordan family, Upper Main St., taken in the early sixties, on the church wall.  
Back, L-R: Jarlath Jordan, Columba Jordan, Michael (Chum) Borges. Centre: Austin Jordan, Attracta Jordan, Bridget Borges, Mary J. Jordan, Ursula Jordan and her daughter Michelle, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Oliver Jordan holding his niece Siobhán O'Connor, Fr. Brendan Jordan. Front: Marina O'Connor.







The proceeds of an annual Nurses Dance.  
The Treasurer was Mrs. Mary J. Jordan.

the shop if it was carriage paid home; chests of tea, biscuits, cigarettes, and sides of bacon. All the fertiliser, Indian meal, bran, pollard, linseed and a wagon load of flour were collected from the station.

"The tea came from Belfast – ten tea chests at a time. I remember Bernie Ludden working in our shop – he came in 1932 and left in 1945. He was from Westport and in later years we met him a few times in Mulranny. All the family worked in the shop as did Brendan Moran, Dennis McGrath, Sonny Lyons and Ted Burke, who also drove the truck a few days a week. Orders were taken often through a note or the postman and deliveries were made three days a week. I remember when we got the phone – Ballyhaunis 25 at the time.

### School Days

"I spent a few years in St. Mary's Boys National School before moving to Coolnafarna National School where Joe Webb, Paddy Healy, Georgie and Paddy Delaney and Paddy Waldron also attended at the time. Jimmy O'Dwyer, the Principal, was a very nice man. Each Summer, while I was in National School I went to my grandmother and two uncles' farm near Loughrea, where I spent many happy days with my cousin Frank Caffrey from Ballina and Sheilagh Lyons.

After Coolnafarna it was on to Garbally College, in the footsteps of my brother Brendan. Later my brothers Oliver and Jarlath attended as well. Garbally was a rugby school so I played on the college team. We came home only at Christmas and Easter at the time. We had no uniforms but had blazers and there were only two lay teachers at the school.

"So in 1949 I went into the business and started a three year apprenticeship, as did Milo Henry in Gallagher's the previous year.

"In the business during the war years the commercial travellers came to Ballyhaunis by train and stayed in the Central Hotel on Main Street, where Supermac's is now. Once a month, Willie Morrow, from between Ballina and Enniscrone, would arrive into the shop selling Clarendo, raise his hat to my mother and say, 'How is Miss Lyons today?' We had two banks, the Ulster Bank and the National Bank (now the Bank of Ireland). There was a lot of credit in the business



Columba Jordan, taken in the  
back garden.



The Jordan family, taken after a  
Eucharistic Procession in the 1940s.  
Clockwise from back left: Mary Hannah,  
Brendan, Columba, Oliver, Ursula and Jarlath (centre).







Liz and Columba Jordan at a Dinner Dance in the 1960s.



Austin Jordan (left) and his friend Peter Hannon on holidays in the 1930s.



Columba Jordan, Joe Webb and Joe Green enjoying a night out in Ballyhaunis, 1950s.

– people had notebooks and when they sold an animal they would pay off some or all of the debt. My mother did all that in her time.

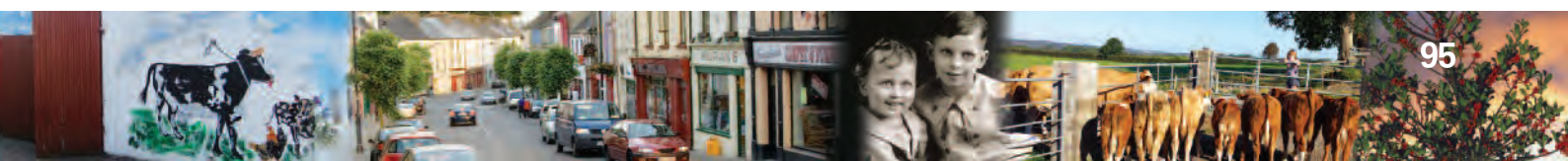
“I remember Bernie Ludden cutting hedges with my father during the half days, as did Tom Hopkins. My father had a bike which he used hang in his shed. Tom was always borrowing the bike until one day my father told him to keep it. Tom was really delighted!

“The work was hard and physical at times. The fertiliser bags were two cwts (hundredweight) and the bags of flour were ten stone. Three people lifted the fertiliser bags. We often delivered directly from the station up to beyond Brickens and out nearly to Kiltimagh.

“The shop was open after half eight Mass in the morning. We had fifteen people in the house between our own family and staff at one time, with some part time workers as well. We might be gone in to get a bit of dinner when a shout would come that there was someone at the counter. We worked on at night often to ten o’clock and I remember Saturday nights working up to eleven o’clock, and being open again on Sunday after the Masses. Now that’s all changed.

“Carnivals in the Fairgreen first and then in the Friary grounds were a big thing at the time. Films in the Parochial Hall and later in the cinema in Clare Street were also popular. The dances in the Eclipse Ballroom on Clare Street and in Tooreen were hugely popular as all the top showbands played there. Gus Caulfield had a truck so often we headed for Tooreen Hall. He brought us all in the truck. Fr. Horan was the curate there at the time.

“In Spring 1953 Fr. Rushe asked me to drive Archdeacon Prendergast to Claremorris. As I had not got insurance for my father’s car he told me to take his car. I remember driving his Morris Minor at full speed (30 m.p.h.) to Claremorris. The Archdeacon went to Maguire’s home to meet the newly consecrated Cardinal Dalton. I was called in later and met Cardinal Dalton and Canon McGarry. They told the Cardinal that my brother Brendan was to be ordained a priest the following year. Later, I remember when the Archdeacon came out he clicked his fingers, gave orders and sent a few priests running in several directions! Dalton Street and the Dalton Home are now called after Cardinal Dalton.





## Our Street

We asked Columba about who he remembers living in Upper Main Street from the Parochial Hall up to the Tooraree Road; and from where the Hazelhill Family Practice is down to the church yard and over a long number of years.

“Miss Reilly taught music; Tommy Freeley; Tommy Flatley; the Gibbons family – one of whom was the Parish Priest’s driver; Larry Moran; Michael Lyons had a business like our own – his son was manager in Clery’s Shoe Department. My father would not close the shop until the shutters closed in Lyons’.

Next was Miss Muldoon; Sarah Anne Cooney; Miss Waldron; Ned Glynn – Tommy’s uncle – who had a butcher’s shop; Lyons’ bicycle shop - when he was not there a sign on the door would say, ‘Gone to bog on bike!’; Michael Greeley’s shop, like our own; Mrs. Ruddy’s drapery shop which did repairs as well; Mary Hopkins – my aunt – I spent a lot of time there. Arthur Prenty’s, a butcher’s shop for a while; Shryane’s; Miss Fitzmaurice, Gurteen – a returned American; Waldron’s; Culliney’s; Mick Moran, a blacksmith’s forge; Kenny’s – Michael Kenny undertaker, coffin maker, motorised hearse – Tom Hopkins worked there, I visited there many times.

Then came Curley’s – Michael Curley; Roche’s;

Michael Rattigan; Hannon’s, later times Sergeant Nally; the Forde family; McNaught’s who lived beside us earlier; there was a retired priest in the next house; Cunningham’s; Miss Cooney; Miss Flatley; Gus Levins; Mick Folliard; Andy Egan – National School teacher in Carrownedan; the Stenson family; Jim Cassidy, John Freely; Tommy Glynn’s slaughterhouse; Ard Patrick house; Bob Kelly; Molly Madden; Paddy Cassidy; Miss McNamara; Michael Caulfield; William Dillon-Leetch; Tommy Walsh – a thatched house; Paudge Brennan; Miss McDermott – National School teacher in Brackloon; Mike Smyth, butcher; Sarah Brennan, sweet shop; Paddy Kearns; Mr. Regan, pig buyer; Grogan’s – who owned the land where Ryan’s Super Valu is now; Dominick Barrett; the Leo family; Mr. McLoughlin’s clinic – he was the Relieving Officer, open on Fridays; Greta Johnson; Caulfield’s meal store; the Presbytery; Caulfield’s; Mrs. Hoare; O’Malley’s; Bernard Lyons’; Harry Benson’s; Mrs. Sweeney; our house; McNaught’s – later John Henry’s; Lady Dudley Association; my aunt Margaret Byrne and back to the Churchyard where it all began all those years ago.”

As we drove away from their home high up overlooking Annagh, we were enriched with many wonderful insights into times gone by, the people and the place. Only some of the story has been told, there will be other days; *Beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach!*



J. J. Byrne's shop, Upper Main Street, owned by Columba Jordan's aunt Margaret.





# Father Jarlath Ronayne, O.C.S.O.

Rita Meally

Michael Ronayne, my great-grandfather, married Winifred Ralph of Lurgan, Brickens in the mid-1800s. They had in all ten children – Michael (later Fr. Jarlath, Cistercian Abbey, Roscrea); Roderick; Fr. Thomas, PP Mountbellew; Fr. James; John; Mary; Winifred (my grandmother, who married Edward Murphy of Main Street); Kate, wife of Michael Flanagan, Brickens and mother of Tom Flanagan, Co. Surveyor and of Sr. Canice, South Africa; Ellen, wife of J. Donnellan, Castlereagh; and Thomas, who married Maggie Ellen Biesty.

Michael (Fr. Jarlath) was born in Lurgan, Brickens, Ballyhaunis in 1869. Early on in his childhood Michael expressed a wish to study for the priesthood. He had three uncles who were priests and served in the archdiocese. He was given every help with his national school education and, when old enough, was sent to Carrick, near Ballinlough, to study the classics under Mr. Nolan Kenny – a private teacher who resided in that area. With a good foundation in education, he passed on to St. Jarlath's College, Tuam. Having completed the preliminary course there, he was selected for Maynooth where he was ordained a priest in June, 1895.

## Student Days

Michael Ronayne always spoke highly of Maynooth. He was a student of average ability, with good application, and he had no difficulty in negotiating his examinations as he met them. During his student days, however, he developed into a wonderful athlete. More than six feet tall, he could clear the bar at an inch over his own height. He was a great hand-baller and an accomplished horseman, but his favourite sport was the pole jump. With a suitable pole, fashioned from a young tree, he was crossing the bar at well over 10 feet, breaking records with ease.

After his ordination, his first mission was at Letterfrack, Connemara. Fr. Jarlath was about two years in Letterfrack when Dr. McEvilly, Archbishop of Tuam, visited the parish for confirmation. He was accompanied by the Archbishop of Melbourne, then home on holidays. Fr. Jarlath (or Fr. Michael as he was popularly known), was the preacher.

Following the ceremonies, at dinner, the visiting Archbishop complimented the young curate on an excellent sermon and it had such a pleasing effect on his own Archbishop that Fr. Ronayne was shortly afterwards transferred to Westport – a more important curacy!

His stay in Westport was brief – twenty months in fact – whereupon he was assigned to Granlahan, in the parish of Ballinlough. So we find him back again once more in the very district in which he got his first Latin

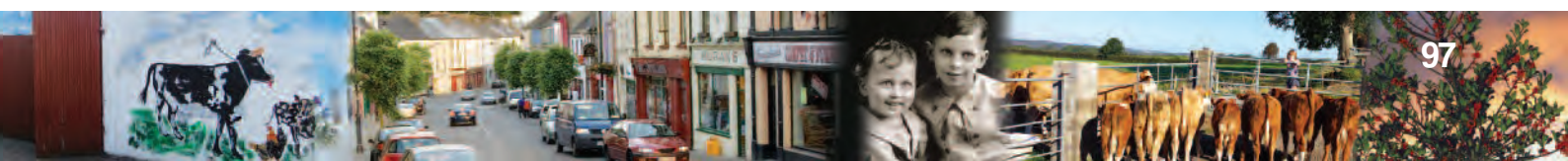


Fr. Jarlath Ronayne, O.C.S.O.

grind. Here with the help of voluntary subscriptions and local effort and work he built a ball alley at Cashlieve, Ballinlough. In the country again he was able to keep his horse - a hunter – and for the well trained animal and dashing curate, his journeys were often the shortest distance between two points.

## Horses and Jumps

He often told a story of an incident which happened while he was curate in Granlahan. The annual show was being held in Roscommon. Fr. Michael entered his horse for the jumping events, but as there were no motor horse boxes in those days, he rode his horse quietly in to town on the evening before the show. While there, he would familiarise both himself and his horse with the various jumps in the show. The workmen had just completed the fences when the young priest arrived and naively suggested that he might take a canter over the course. There was general alarm, for the workmen had no time to go round and repair the damage which might result. When he suggested that he would be satisfied with a try at the champion wall he knew they could scarcely refuse; he was determined to teach them a lesson! The course was cleared, he reined in his horse and cleared the jump with ease. He then dismounted, handed the reins to one of the workmen, turned, took a few strides and cleared the wall himself in the reverse direction! No matter what should happen on the morrow, he had his victory today!





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### **Last post – Glenamaddy**

After four years in Granlahan, he was transferred to Glenamaddy, which was to be his last mission in the archdiocese. Full of life and vigour and meticulous in dress, Father Ronayne faithfully ministered to his people.

Then one day the news broke that he had decided to leave the mission and enter one of the most rigorous orders in the Church. His holiday time came along and he decided to make a retreat at Mount St. Joseph Abbey, Roscrea. He went in to the monastery, made his retreat and straight away decided to leave the mission and the world, and join the Trappists. The people in the parish were surprised and disappointed at his intention to enter the monastery and so also were his friends and family. With deep devotion, great humility and strict observance of the rule of the Order, he passed through the novitiate to his profession. He lived in the cloister as Father Michael Jarlath, O.C.S.O. His first assignation was as spiritual director of the college and public confessor.

### **Scripture and his love of Knock**

In the cloister, for many years, he taught Holy Scripture. He wrote many articles, which were edited and published in pamphlets and magazines. When the cause of Knock came to be promoted, he was given special dispensation and he was the first Cistercian who was ever afforded the privilege of preaching in public. Since his childhood, Fr. Jarlath had a deep devotion to Our Lady of Knock and his faith increased as he progressed in years. He advocated the erection of the Stations of the Cross in the Church grounds in Knock and also canvassed his friends. A generous subscription came from his Lord Abbot in Roscrea and the public stations were erected on the grounds of Knock. The Way of the Cross is practiced by millions from around the world who visit Knock today.

Fr. Jarlath passed away on Christmas Day, 1950 at the age of 81. He had been in the cloister more than forty three years. His remains were laid to rest, coffinless, in a grave on the grounds of Roscrea Abbey.

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## **Annual Friary Mass**

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The annual Mass in the Friary took place on Sunday 31st August 2014 and was celebrated this year by Canon J. J. Cribbin, P.P. Milltown, a native of Main St., Ballyhaunis.

Thanks to Teresa Healy of Johnstown for the beautiful flowers she provides from her garden for the altar every year and for her tasteful flower arrangements throughout the church which helped make it look so beautiful. To the Mass Servers who did a fine job on the day, Padraic and Brian McHugh, and thanks to Martina Gavin for helping out with the Readings.

The Abbey Male Choir under the guidance of Moira Delaney and organist Paula Donnellan sing annually at the Mass and always provide beautiful songs and music throughout. Many thanks to Paula Grogan who helps organise this annual mass and to Seamus O'Boyle for his assistance as Eucharistic Minister. This annual Mass in the Friary is always a popular and well-supported part of our community calendar so a special thanks to everyone who attends every year.



The Altar and Church were beautifully decorated by Teresa Healy of Johnstown with flowers from her garden.



Canon J. J. Cribbin celebrating the annual Mass in the Friary.





# Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

Stephen Grogan

2014 marked the tenth 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 seven such centres in Mayo, with over 100 FRC's operating in different towns and areas throughout the country. Funding for the FRC's comes from Tusla and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs through a three year funding agreement which will enable 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 number of Home Management and Personal Finance courses. Help to establish an Alzheimer's Café and ongoing help to support the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association also took place during the year.

The Family Resource Centre was supportive of new groups like the Ballyhaunis Scouts Action Committee and

Community Garden group, as well as those groups that are well established and use the Family Resource Centre office at the Friary House.



Community Garden

The view from the bottom of the garden, looking up towards the back of the Friary house.

## Community Garden

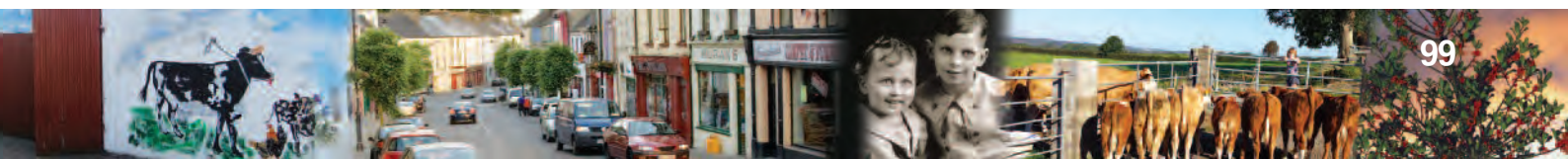
The Community Garden in particular has been a great success, which we hope to build on in future years. A Horticultural Class was held during the summer and volunteers were drawn in to help maintain and develop the garden throughout the summer. Students from Scoil Íosa also helped at the beginning of the project when the garden was laid out and the students helped to plant an apple/fruit orchard. Much thanks and appreciation also goes to the TUS scheme and in particular Johnny Murphy and Jarlath Nevin for creating such a wonderful garden.

2014 marked the sixth 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. The Community Pre-school has proven extremely popular with local parents and the quality of the service provided by its dedicated staff has been recognised at both County and National levels.

The Family Resource Centre also operates another childcare service in the town – with



Children who attend Ballyhaunis Community Pre-school.





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the “Greater Tomorrow” service based in the Old Convent Asylum Accommodation Centre, funded by the HSE West. Both services provide high quality childcare and employ a number of local childcare staff.

Both services are operated on the “High Scope” system of quality childcare provision. Courses in Parenting and children’s development are now also being offered by the Family Resource Centre’s childcare staff.

Some of the other activities which have taken place this year include 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 these 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 and help with printing.

### **International Community**

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. An Afterschool Service for Polish children to help them improve their Polish language skills, was started by their parents three 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.

A great deal of the work of the Family Resource Centre depends on the participation of volunteers in both our management committee and in the activities themselves.

The Family Resource Centre is an active member of the Abbey Partnership, Community Council, and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and taking an active part in their activities held in the town. It is also interested in working with as broad a range of community groups and organisations in the town and willing to help out in as many ways as possible.

### **Board of Directors/Staff**

The Family Resource Centre is controlled by a Board of Directors made up of people living in the Ballyhaunis community.

In 2014 the officers were: Séamus Grogan (Chairperson), Talib Chaudhry, Manar Cherbatji, Malgosia Cieslikowska, Marie Jordan, Betty Koinange, Mary Morrissey, Hina Rehman, Faith Wagacha and Company Secretary, Tracey McDermott.

The FRC would welcome expressions of interest from people living in the town who would like to join the FRC Board.

The staff are Stephen Grogan and Tracey McDermott in the Friary House along with Childcare staff, Patricia Kelly, Barbara Murphy, Liz Ward, Cliona Mulvaney, Helen Kiely, Nicola Ryan, Maura O’Dowd and Siana Amjad.

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## **The Wash Day**

**James Hunt**

My earliest memories of the wash day are that it was done on Mondays, and it was a very important day in the timetable of the lady of the house. It was done weekly. In some of the better off houses they could afford to build big bath-houses which were equipped with all the mod cons of the day. The more humble, ordinary houses had to do with less, and the routine of the wash day went something like this:

The water was carried from the well to the dwelling house where it was boiled in a big metal pot on the fire. While this was happening the tub for washing and the wash board and the clothes were carried to the washing area which was close to the well or stream. The boiling water was carried to the well and the washing, which was very labour intensive, took place there. The washing

involved using the washboard to take the grime out of the clothes. It also often needed clothes to be trodden on to get them fully clean. The housewife of that era was very particular about how all the people of the house looked. If they were not neat and tidy and clean she often saw it as a reflection on her not doing her job properly.

Following the washing the clothes were brought close to the dwelling house and put on the grass or on the clothes line to dry. Clothes horses, which were wooden structures in the house, were used in poor and wet weather to help dry clothes. They were brought into the house and when the children were in bed the housewife often did the ironing and put the clothes away. In those days everything had to be spick and span.





# From A to B: Arizona to Ballyhaunis

Gerry (Patrick) Culliney

We completed a journey this year that began fifty-one years ago, when I left Ballyhaunis to go to the U.S. Taking our children, their spouses and our grandchildren to Ireland for a walk back in time was a dream that became the vacation of a lifetime.

The journey began with our son Sean, his wife Kristen, and our grandchildren Reece (age 8) and Harper (age 6) arriving from Tucson, Arizona; our daughter Erin and her husband Sergei from London; our granddaughter Calli from Corvallis, Oregon; and my wife Shirley and myself from Prescott, Arizona. We had ten days to explore. Needless to say, luggage was quite a puzzle to solve in our average sized minivan, but Sean worked it out.

Driving through the Irish countryside from Dublin to Mayo certainly got the attention of our grandkids. There were lots of questions raised, especially from Reece, on seeing the expanses of green; the variety of cattle, sheep, horses and donkeys grazing in the fields; and the bogs. Even the cool Irish weather with showers was a welcome change for the family members from Tucson, where the average summer temperatures are over 100 degrees F. (38°C)

Finally, we arrived in Ballyhaunis, which had been spoken about and googled frequently by our grandson, Reece. His desire to sleep in the 'little house' which his great-grandpa built, and where his aunt Noreen still lives, was heart-warming. Explaining that this was the house where we were all born and raised again brought lots of questions. Harper found a special friend – a young foal – in the field behind the house. With the help of our wonderful neighbour, Justina, she found her a way to visit the little one. She really would have liked to bring him home!

With the help of our cousin, Michael Sloyan, the history of the McLoughlin and Culliney families in Reisk, Lassiney and Began was traced back to the 1860's. We walked the fields in the rain and visited the remains of the homesteads.

The wonder of the two-room school-house in Began again generated many questions about life in those days. Many thanks must go to Michael for his wealth of



The Culliney family. Older generation: John, Noreen and Gerry Culliney. Second generation: Erin and Sean (Gerry's kids); Third generation (grandkids): Reece and Harper Culliney (Sean's children).

knowledge and his ability to translate it to all of us.

A highlight of this visit was *the cutting of the cake* during a family gathering, a cake proudly made to welcome me home by my aunt, Joan McLoughlin, ninety-three years young. It made me very happy to be with her and see many of the cousins, neighbours and friends.

Our entire experience – from the great food and drink; the wonderful B&B's where we were welcomed (all were able to accommodate nine of us in good style); swimming in the cold Atlantic and walking the beach in Enniscrone; riding bicycles in the rain in Killarney; building sand castles and swimming in Galway Bay; shopping in Dublin and seeing all the street musicians; to a rather wet day at the Dublin Horse Show – was thoroughly absorbed and enjoyed by all.

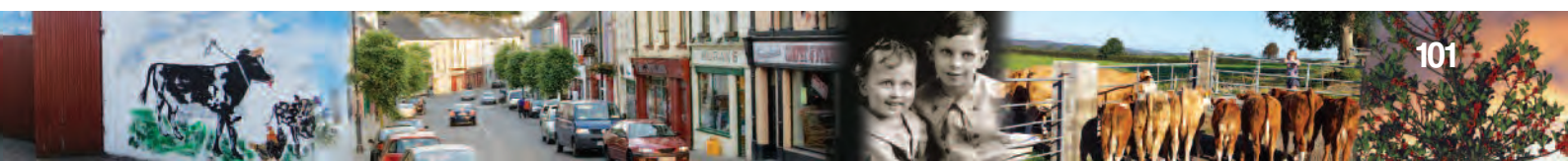
This Irish journey will live with me forever. It was amazing and we have so many photographs to remind us. Erin now has dual citizenship and Calli is in the process of getting her dual American/Irish citizenship and plans to attend college in London. We hope that they will all someday retrace this experience.



The cutting of the cake. Joan McLoughlin & Gerry Culliney



Dinner in Claremorris: Clockwise, from front: Gerry, Shirley and Reece, Noreen, Harper, Kristen (Sean's wife), Sean, Erin, Sergei (Erin's husband), Calli.







Main Street, Ballyhaunis, early 1960's.



The first Leaving Certificate class in the new Convent Secondary School, 1952.

Back, L-R: Sr. Assumpta, Gemma Smyth, Marion Burke, Una Waldron, Mary Meehan, Bridgie Kelly, Margaret Durkan, Sr. Enda. Front, L-R: Pauline O'Brien, Ursula Jordan, Hannah Byrne, Maureen Flanagan.







## Haymaking in the Friary Field

Seamus Kelly, making winrows, with Miko Mannion and David Jordan cocking the hay in the Friary Field in 1978.



Abbey Pattern 1964 Vincent Caulfield with children Tommy, Anne and Baby Vinnie.

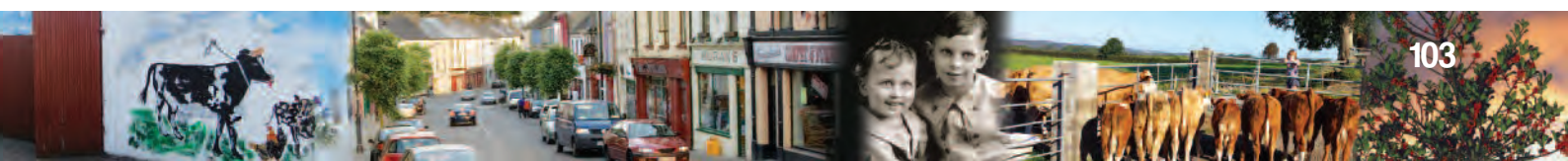


Fancy Dress in Convent Grounds, 1940s. Johnny Biesty Attracta Jordan as members of the Red Cross.



(Left) Attracta Jordan, Marie Flatley and Catherine Biesty, 1940s.

(Right) John Regan, Carrowkeel, with Sr. Lelia Waldron (his sister-in-law) and grandniece, Lillian Cunnane on the donkey, August 1967.







John P. Jordan, Derrymore, receiving Holy Communion from Pope John Paul II, in 1979, at Knock Shrine. Courtesy of Rosaleen Curley.



Rian and Finn Herr, born 2nd Oct 2014, sons of Robert and Sharon; grandchildren of Michael and Christine Herr, Crossmolina and Knox Street, Ballyhaunis.



Jimmy Connor from Aghatarn, Tooreen, pictured with his daughter Kerrie, at his retirement celebration in Val's Bar & Restaurant, Ballyhaunis, on Wednesday, 15th October 2014. Jim has served Mayo County Council in the local area as Water/Sewerage Engineer and Caretaker for the past forty years.



Fred Herr, Great Grandfather of the twins pictured above, with his brother Robert.

The Derryhog Stations, hosted by Mrs. Kathleen Mannion, pictured with her seven children, grandchildren and neighbours. Back, L-R: Fr. McGuinness P.P. Began, Kathy Keadin, Caroline Hession, Máire Áine Ní Mhainnín, Kathleen Mannion (who hosted the stations), Pdraig Mannion, Denis Mannion, Bernie Hoban, Luke Mannion. Centre, L-R: Bridie Prendergast, Maureen Neary, Caitlin Keadin, Sean Mannion, Luke Mannion, Nathan Hession, Teresa Jordan, Bernadette Mannion, Elaine Ní Fhátarta, Niamh Mannion, Patrick Mannion, Lorraine Mannion. Front, L-R: Ava Neary, Jason Hession, Aine Mannion, Jorja Mai Hession, Sinead Mannion. Kneeling: Kate Mannion, Alannah Hession, Amy Mannion, Saoirse Hoban, Rachel Hoban, Cora Hoban.





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# Gracenotes

Liesel Ward

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It's that time of year again when we put 'pen to paper' for the esteemed Annagh Magazine. It is always nice to take time to reflect on another Gracenotes year, where we can see that our weekly Thursday night rehearsals really do pay off!

We returned to rehearsals in the Parochial Hall after the summer break, early in September to the din of chatter and laughter where the members caught up with each other, before we began our singing practice. Our conductor, Laura Brogan, welcomed two new members, Paula Walsh and myself, Liesel Ward, to Gracenotes. We had a full itinerary of choral events lined up for the months ahead so practice sessions were going to be busy. Sadly, Frankie Ralph O'Malley's beloved partner, Frank Heraghty passed away on September 22nd. May he Rest in Peace.

Our first outing of the season took us to the Dunmore Choral Festival to a most enjoyable non-competitive concert. This was followed by the inaugural Derry Choral Festival which took place in October. We were delighted to come in third place in the Sacred Music Section.

Our next day trip took us to the Sligo Choral Festival where we took third place in the Sacred Music Section. For the Festive Season we teamed up with our friends in Cór Mhaigh Eó to perform in a magical Christmas concert in the beautiful Ballintubber Abbey. Our own Christmas Concert took place in the Friary in Ballyhaunis, to raise funds for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society. We were joined by a wonderful choir of boys and girls from Scoil Iosa. We also brought some festive melodies to our friends in Brookvale Nursing Home on December 22nd.

Our first outing in 2014 was our Christmas Party. We also welcomed a new member, Grainne Hambly, to the fold. Our practices were in full swing again in preparation for the Kiltimagh Choral Festival. We were delighted to win three 1st places and also win the accolade of Choir of the Festival!

Gracenotes were delighted to be requested to sing at Maria Rochford's wedding in May. It is always a pleasure be part of a couple's very special wedding day celebrations. On June 13th, we were all deeply saddened to learn of Maureen and Eimear Thornton's great loss as Eddie passed on to his eternal reward. May he Rest in Peace.

Our final events were local to us as we performed at the Glór Aghamore Festival in the Big Red Barn. This was a wonderful event with many musicians, poets and dancers taking part. Our last outing was to Ballinlough in the Kiltullagh Church of Ireland, where we took part in the Wilde Summer Festival which was a beautiful and intimate concert.

The members of Gracenotes would like to thank our conductor, Laura Brogan for her hard work and dedication throughout the year. As a saying goes, "Music is Life, that's why our hearts have beats!"

Gracenotes Officers: Chairperson – Moira Stratford; Treasurer – Eimear Thornton; Asst. Treasurer – Anna Henry; Secretary – Laura Brogan; PROs – Miriam Judge and Liesel Ward; Musical Director – Laura Brogan. Committee Members: Geraldine Collins, Mary Dawson, Agatha Higgins, Martina Kelly, Maureen Thornton.

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

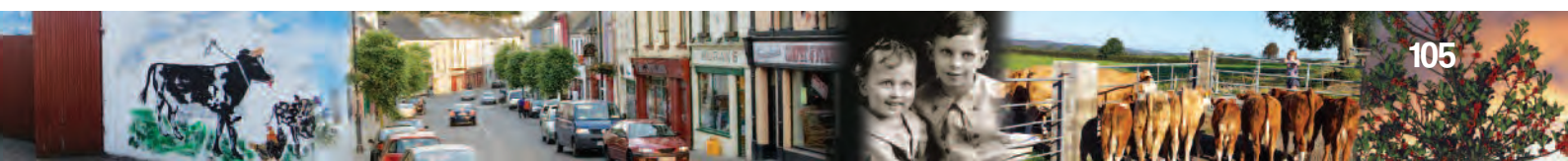
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## Artwork on Ballyhaunis Streets

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Two murals by Johnny Shaughnessy have, for many years, adorned the back of Main Street. They brighten up the area no end. One is on the Finn's Footwear warehouse and the other at the back of Phillips' Butcher Shop.





# Our Trip of a Lifetime to The Holy Land

Mike and Mary T. Griffin

Last June, we fulfilled a dream of a lifetime when we had the privilege of travelling to the Holy Land. The thirteen day pilgrimage was organised by Fr. Benny McHale, former curate in Ballyhaunis and now based in Athenry (making his 28th pilgrimage), and the fifty four pilgrims were mainly from the West of Ireland. Our trip began by visiting all the Biblical sites associated with Jesus in Galilee, the northern part of Israel. Our guide, Palestinian Mutassem, promised us that what we read about in the Bible at home, we would experience there – and how right he was!

Places that were once names for us now became a reality as we re-enacted Jesus' trips across the Sea of Galilee: we listened again to the Sermon on the Mount on a hill overlooking the Lake; we visited the town of Capernaum where He lived for three years and where He went to the Synagogue; we read again the story of Him multiplying the loaves and fish at Tabgha; and we stood at the Church of Peter's Primacy to listen to how He made St. Peter the chief shepherd of His flock.

We had the joy of visiting the Wedding Church of Cana where all married couples renewed their wedding vows, before moving to Nazareth to visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and St. Joseph's Workshop and the Synagogue where Jesus preached His first sermon. A lovely mosaic in the courtyard depicting the Apparition at Knock made us feel at home, before we renewed our baptismal vows in the River Jordan.

Mass on Mount Tabor was a real highlight as was our visit to Nain, Meggido and Haifa. We read the story of Jesus exorcising the possessed man before journeying to Caesarea Philippi where we read about St. Peter being made the rock on which Jesus would build His church. Afterwards, we travelled on to the Golan Heights from where we could look into Syria and Lebanon, before reflecting on St. Paul's conversion on the Damascus road.

From there, we travelled south through Beth Shean on our way through the West Bank into Jericho where we recalled the Temptations of Jesus, the healing of Bartimaeus, the encounter with Zacchaeus, and the story of Joshua who led the people of Israel into the Promised Land.

We then visited the place where Jesus was baptised, before we had the pleasure of seeing a Palestinian

shepherd leading his flock as we headed towards Jerusalem and Bethlehem. There we stood at the spot where Jesus was born and where the Holy Family lived for two years, which was followed by Mass in the Shepherd's Field.

## Old City of Jerusalem

On route to Jerusalem, we saw where King Herod was buried. We found the Old City of Jerusalem such a colourful place to be – with the famous Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Calvary), the Churches of the Scourging and Condemnation, the Ecce Home, the Church of St. Anne and the Pool of Bethesda. We visited Abu Ghosh (biblical Emmaus), Ein Karem (place of Visitation and John the Baptist) and the famous Jewish Museum of the Holocaust (Yad Vashem).

We enjoyed walking in the footsteps of Jesus down the Mount of Olives, visiting Bethphage - the place of the Ascension, the Pater Noster Church, Dominus Flevit (where Jesus wept over Jerusalem) and the memorable Garden of Gethsemane. We travelled to Mount Sion where we prayed at the room of the Last Supper. We spent time at David's Tomb, Mary's Dormition and the fascinating St. Peter in Gallicantu where Jesus spent the last night of His life on earth.

Mass in Bethany at the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus was a special event. At Lazarus' tomb we read the story of Jesus being raised

from the dead. We were also able to have a dip in the Dead Sea, see the Qumran caves and visit Masada, the mountain where the Jews had their last stand in 73AD. We also had time for some shopping. The hotels were very comfortable and the food was first class. Our guide was excellent and Fr. Benny and his helpers, Gertie and Martina, left no stone unturned to ensure that our trip of a lifetime exceeded all our expectations.

In all, we visited seventy two places of biblical and historical importance and, we can honestly say, that the readings at Mass and the decades of the Rosary have taken on a completely new meaning since we came home. It was the most exciting and satisfying trip that we have ever experienced. All we can do is recommend that you one day treat yourself to a trip to the Holy Land – before you leave for the Promised Land! As the Jewish farewell goes – 'Next Year in Jerusalem!'



Mike and Mary T. Griffin with  
Fr. Benny McHale at the  
Sea of Galilee





# Dr. Deirdre Garvey appointed Head of GMIT Mayo Campus

Former student of Ballyhaunis Community School, Deirdre Garvey was appointed Head of the Mayo Campus of the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) in Castlebar last December. She is a native of Carrownedan and daughter of Mary and the late Tom Garvey.

Deirdre joined the GMIT in 2008 as a Senior Lecturer with responsibility for the Lifelong Learning area. Prior to joining GMIT, she worked as a senior specialist in the area of Strategic Management at the Irish Management Institute (IMI) Dublin and taught on Executive and MBA programmes in the areas of management, strategic management and international strategies. She also worked as associate faculty with The Open University and has lectured at both the Dublin and Athlone Institutes of Technology.

Her career has also given her extensive experience at senior management level with technology companies in an international environment. She has worked for US companies, Microsoft, EPDC and Stream International. She has also worked on business mentoring assignments with the Mayo Enterprise Board and provided consultancy to various local enterprises.

She was awarded her PhD. from the School of Business Studies, Trinity College Dublin. She holds a



Deirdre Garvey

Masters Degree in Business Studies in International Business from the Smurfit Business School, and a BA (Hons) in Management from the IMI where she was awarded the TSB Gold Medal for distinguished academic achievement. She also holds a Diploma in Graphic Reproduction Technology from DIT.

She is currently a member of the Council for the West, a non-profit voluntary organisation, which promotes awareness of the major social and economic issues affecting development in the west of Ireland. As the Mayo Campus celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, Dr. Garvey is wished continued success.



## Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Brickens native Sr. Kathleen Conway, Texas (second from right), pictured on the occasion of the Mass of Thanksgiving in Ballyhaunis to celebrate the 60th anniversary of her Profession to the Order of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word, with family members, from left: Sr. Noreen (Texas), Margaret Hopkins (Island), Fr. Jimmy Conway (Texas) and Joan Biesty (Pattenspark).



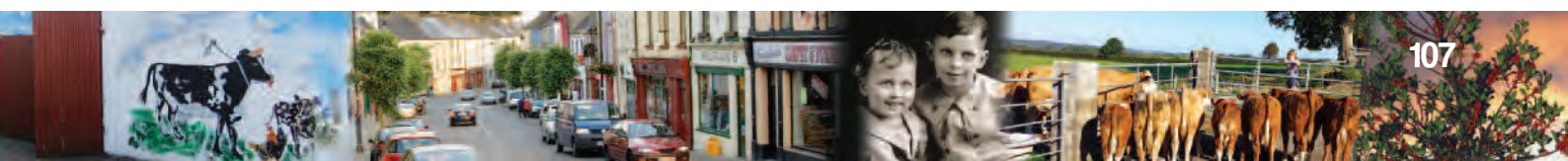
Sara Nally, who took First Place in a Feis in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon, 2014. She is grand-daughter of Kathleen and the late Pat Regan, Derrynacong.

## AA Meetings (Alcoholics Anonymous) Fridays & Sundays 8.30pm:

Venue: Family Resource Centre, Friary Grounds, Ballyhaunis.

## Al-Anon (Family Support Meetings), Sundays 8.30pm:

Venue: School Iosa, (Boys N.S.) Abbey Quarter, Ballyhaunis.





# Gorman Family Album

*The Gorman family lived in Upper Main St. until the late 1970s*



Fergal, Owen and Eddie Gorman.



Garda John Fox and Garda Matt Gorman, taken at the Barracks in Ballyhaunis.



Garda Matt Gorman, at his retirement in Carlow, November 1993.



Gorman brothers. Back, L-R: Fergal, Eddie. Front: Owen, Declan. Taken in St. Joseph's Convent School, Ballyhaunis.



As we are today – the Gorman family – taken at Monica Gorman's daughter Pamela's First Communion.  
Back, L-R: Owen, Fergal, Eddie and Declan.  
Centre: Monica, Matthew Gorman Jnr.  
Front: Bridie Gorman (mother), Declan's son Charlie, Monica's daughter Pamela.







Matt Gorman (right), with son Owen (left), daughter Monica (front) and brother-in-law Noel Gumley, Cavan (centre).



Monica, Owen and Fergal Gorman.

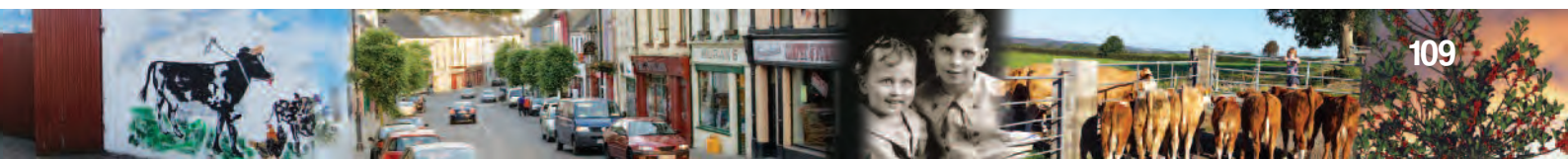
## 6th Class 1977-1978



**St. Mary's N.S. Class with teacher Jim Lundon**

Back, L-R: Albert Madden, John O'Connor, Fergus Coyne, Martin Waldron, Brian Marrinan, John Leonard, Paul Burke, Damien Rattigan, Gerry Hunt, Michael Rattigan.

Front: Tony Waldron, Jarlath Freyne, Paul Donnellan, Derek Byrne, Robert Flynn, Richard Phillips, Cathal Freeley, Kevin Henry, Seamus Ruane, Seamus Ryan, Liam Hebron.





# An Emigrant's Tale

Ruairí Finan



Michael Scully, Paul Downes, Ruairí Finan and John Bracken in Dubai.

## *"Is glas iad na cnoc i bhfad uainn...."*

Despite being nearly 6,000 kilometres away, having a different language, culture and climate, more and more Irish people are leaving for the Middle East each year, particularly the United Arab Emirates. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven states formed in 1971 by the then Trucial States after independence from Britain. Since then, it has grown from a quiet backwater to one of the Middle East's most important economic centres and the unofficial trade and transport hub of the world. Recently having graduated from college, caught between the crossroads of a job hunt in Ireland and a desire to put off the reality, I took up the opportunity to teach in Dubai. 'Tax Free' living, good weather and a sense of adventure - it was a no brainer!

I wasn't twelve hours in the country before I had begun my first day's proper teaching. It was all quite daunting, really. Between distinguishing your Mohammed Al Sheibanis from your Adam Abou Shadys to singing the National Anthem of the country with the class at the beginning of the day, I was thrown in at the deep end. While growing up in Ballyhaunis, I was a part of the generation that grew up in the first real multicultural classrooms. As well as this, it was my first day officially teaching. This was a steep learning curve but an enjoyable one. The children are remarkably westernized. The children could tell you more about the fortunes of the Spanish, Brazil and Germany soccer teams than they would their own. They watch western television, they shop in western malls, they live in a western society, basically. The only real difference is the vast majority are Muslims. With that, no more than at home regarding Catholicism, we have our 'good' and 'bad' Muslims.

I really enjoyed my first year teaching. The kids were great craic, very industrious and strangely motivated for

a group of eight year olds! Going to school in Abbeyquarter, I dread the thought of what the consequences of a "Sir, you forgot to give us the homework for the weekend" would be like, but out here the children, on the whole, love to work and be challenged. They were fascinated about Irish culture, my upbringing on a farm and living in the countryside. One of the parents from Yemen told me at the parent-teacher meeting that little Mohammed was coming home with an Irish accent. The 'Haunis lilt is going global!

Living so far away, the Irish connection is key. I myself was very lucky that I came out with a group of lads from college and I met some girls in my school where we formed our own little Irish enclave on the outskirts of Dubai. Some people might argue that moving halfway across the world and surrounding yourself with Irish people is a bit of a contradiction. However, besides all our faults, the Irish people abroad are magnificent and really make you feel at home. The Irish community out here is thriving and becoming bigger. Some of the older generation would have been out here in the 1990s when there were no more than thirty or so Irish people living in Dubai. Now there are estimated to be in the region of 7,000 in the UAE alone. I'm a member of the Dubai Celts GAA club. Tournaments are run across UAE, the Middle East and Asia throughout the year between the various clubs in the region. Good, bad, indifferent, the social aspect is key and they are phenomenal sporting events not only for the level of Gaelic Football and Hurling played at these tournaments but also the social element as well as the craic. The Middle East has its own County Board and is in the process of putting forward a proposal for a 'County' team to be represented in the GAA Championships at home. It's an amazing experience to see the Burj Al Arab glistening in green on St. Patrick's Day and it can only be a testament to the esteem that Irish people are held in abroad.

## **Lifestyle**

While the recession has had a big impact on the growing numbers of people emigrating, a lot of people have come out here first and foremost for the lifestyle. Clear blue skies, golden sunshine and beautiful beaches are a nightmare for a pale skinned and freckly Brackloon North man but prove an attraction to some! The absolute misconception that alcohol is hard to come by here is ridiculous. The nightlife here is fantastic from midday brunches to beach parties and massive concerts, you really haven't an excuse to be bored here! The centrality of the place is massive also. It is one of the busiest transport hubs in the world as you're less than





three hours from so many locations in Africa, Asia and Europe. Last year I backpacked through Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand for six weeks during my summer holidays that proved to be the experience of a lifetime.

While the UAE has many positives to its name, it must also be held up for the way its lowly paid African and Asian workers are treated. The disparity between the rich and poor is disgusting. Unfortunately, there is an element of commercialisation out here. Between the children it's about iPads and Mac TVs and between the parents it's about the amount of maids, cleaners and drivers they have. There is vast wealth in the region, however, this wealth is supported by lowly paid, mistreated and exploited workers. The sad reality is that

money talks and while the situation is improving somewhat due to international pressure, it is still a dark shadow that will tarnish what reputation and esteem that the region has cultivated for itself.

My experience out here has been nothing if not rewarding. From the people I met, the things I have done and the craic I have had, I would encourage anyone with a sense of adventure and a desire for travel to come and avail of the opportunities that lie for you abroad. *"Bionn Siulach Scealach!"* While they say the economy is picking up, that teacher jobs are being created and that now is the time to get home, I say there is a lot more travelling to be done yet! There's time enough!



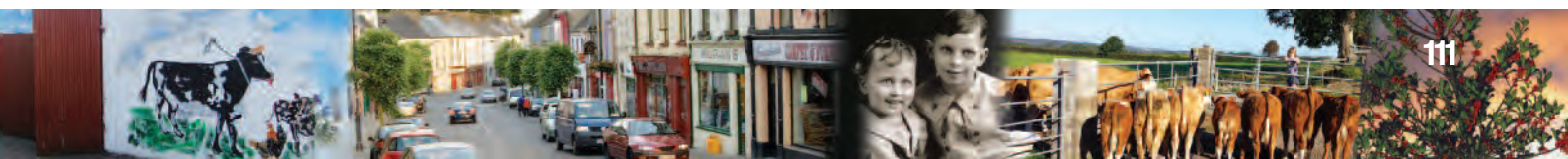
Pat Joe Lyons, Holywell, with his grandchildren, clockwise from left: Louise Shanahan, Lorraine Lyons, Ronan Lyons, Siobhan Lyons and Patrick Lyons, Sara Shanahan (bride). The occasion was Sara's wedding, 28th March 2014.



Joe and Marcella Keane enjoying the Ballyhaunis Street Festival 2014.



Olwyn Murray Music Video Launch, May 2014. Back, L-R: Isaac Carroll, Olwyn Murray, Johnny Oosten, Breda Murray. Front: Adrian Murray and daughters Siofra, Niamh and Erin Murray.





# Happy Birthdays Sweet Sixteens!

Anthony J. Jordan, Dublin

I was giving myself a last birthday present on the night of my recent birthday. My wife had departed upstairs at eleven with that day's *Irish Times*. I turned on the recording of the first programme in the third series of the Danish television series 'Borgen'. It was engrossing as usual. As the story was reaching a finale at five minutes to midnight, the telephone landline rang loudly. I was discommoded muttering, "Who the hell could that be at this hour of the night?" Not wishing to miss a second of my programme I pressed the pause button before struggling over to the window sill where the phone sat. Lifting the receiver I was stunned to hear a loud male voice sing. "Happy birthday to you, happy to birthday to you, happy birthday dear Anthony, happy birthday to you". It took me about two seconds to come to and realise that it was my dear friend Tony Greene calling from Pennsylvania, USA. I began to laugh aloud acknowledging that he had



Tony Green with Anthony Jordan and his mother Mrs. Jordan in Portmarnock in 1970.

caught me unawares. I should have known, because for many years we communicated especially on the date of our respective birthdays in April. As usual, it was wonderful to hear his voice as he apologised for calling so late: it was only seven o'clock where he was.

Then, as we always did, we spoke aloud, as if the distance between us demanded it. Tony, one of my oldest friends from two houses away from ours on Knox St. Tony, with whom I played football, hurling, rounders, conkers, Cowboys and Indians, chasing, handball,

along Knox St. and in the Lochán. Tony, with whom I spent summer camps in the FCA at beautiful Bundoran near the summery-sea at Finner Camp. We failed to hitch-hike back from Sligo after watching Mayo play one year and had to walk most of the way. I won't name the person who refused to stop and give us a lift, whom we got to know later in life. Tony, with whom I started to work in Durkan's Bottlers on Abbey Street distributing

beer around Mayo. Tony, the high-catching long-legged blonde right cornerback, with whom I played football for Ballyhaunis in Prentý's Field on the Clare Road. Tony, with whom our paths diverged as I went to College and he emigrated to the Land of the Free. Tony, who stayed with us briefly at our house in Portmarnock in 1970. Tony, who when my wife and six month old baby Judith exchanged our house in Portmarnock for a summer in 1972 with a family in Rutherford, New Jersey, met us at Port Authority and drove us westwards. Tony, who despite the passing of so many years, has remained vivacious and positive, just like he was as a boy on Knox St. Tony, who married a beautiful and sensitive woman named Pauline.



Anthony Jordan's granddaughter Lily Antonia found a copy of her granddad's book (in green) on display in the window of Hodges Figgis during the Bloomsday celebrations in Dublin last June.

Anthony's book is entitled 'Arthur Griffith with James Joyce and WB Yeats Liberating Ireland'.

## Travel

When the dust settled he told me of a recent trip they had made to





Kansas City, Missouri, across the river Mississippi from Kansas. They went further west to Wichita on the Arkansas River and the largest city in the state of Kansas. Such names evoked for us the cowboy films of our youth, and characters such as Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, Hopalong Cassidy, Wild Bill Hitchcock, John Wayne, Geronimo and Cochise, seen in the Parochial Hall or Paddy McGarry's Star Cinema. "I never thought I'd make it to Wichita", Tony said. I told him how my two daughters and my granddaughter were visiting Edinburgh and that they skyped me in the morning to sing "Happy birthday". Oh for the joys of modern communications! Tony said he found Google Earth incredible as he and Pauline travel the world road by road. He has been through Ballyhaunis some time back, street by street. As the camera panned down Knox St. he could see Pat Byrne in his shop where P.A. Waldron used to live in our youth: virtual reality!

Tony knew that Mayo had again disappointed their supporters two days earlier in Croke Park, losing to Derry

in the League semi-final. We repeated our various diagnoses of what is amiss and relived the horrors of so many defeats at All Ireland level since the 1980s. I told him that the pain was visceral for those of us at home saying that it must be worse for those abroad who continue to follow the cause and hope against all hope. Then twenty-five minutes had passed as we said goodbyes, me to Pauline and Tony, and them to Mary and I.

I did not return to 'Borgen' but went upstairs to share my good fortune with my wife who was still reading her newspaper, as she commented, "You have all the neighbours awake, talking from Dublin to Pennsylvania". I met John Costello, current President of the Mayo Association in Dublin, this summer. He told me that he had been in New York to see Mayo play New York in the first round of the 2014 Connaught Championship. Among the people he met there was Tony Greene. The flame still burning...

## Ballyhaunis Angling Club

Marcus Kirwan, PRO

Ballyhaunis Angling Club's achievements over the year 2014 are as follows: IADA Irish Open, teams of five held on Lough Muckno, Co. Monaghan. Ballyhaunis Angling Club entered two teams into this event and won the Irish, a great result for the club.

Ballyhaunis Angling Club represented Ireland at the 34th FIPSeD World Championship on the River Sava in Slovenia.

Four members of the Club represented Ireland in the Celtic Cup held in Scotland.

Junior Member Darragh McKenzie became the U-18 Junior Canal Champion 2014.

World Championship in Croatia, Club member Jason Ward from Kiltimagh, representing Ireland, won his Gold medal on a section win at the championship.

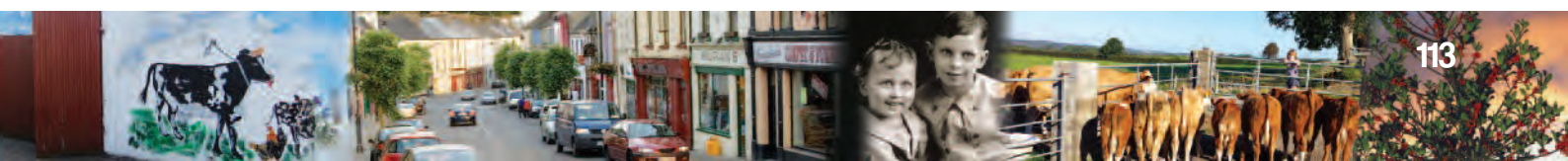
The World Pairs Championship Lakelands and inland Waterways Ireland 2014, held each year in Ireland in the counties of Leitrim, Cavan and Fermanagh. Six members from the Ballyhaunis Angling Club fished this event. 138 anglers fished the great waters of Ireland. Club members Shane Dunne and Rory Dunne, the brothers we call them, ranked 7th place overall in the Pairs Championship

NCCFI Inter Provincial Senior Championship was hosted by Munster Coarse Angling Council and held on the River Shannon at O'Brien's Bridge, Co. Clare on



Ballyhaunis Angling Club, winners of the NCCFI Inter Provincial Senior Championship held at O'Brien's Bridge, Co. Clare. Pictured are Shane Dunne, Rory Dunne, Marcus Kirwan, Dara Finnegan, Leigh Maitland, Bill Cassidy, Ollie Doyle, Gary Doyle, Mark Leonard and Larry Parkes.

Sat./Sun 20th/21st September 2014. The ten match anglers from the Ballyhaunis Angling Club worked as a team to win the championship. The team was as follows: Shane Dunne, Rory Dunne, Marcus Kirwan, Dara Finnegan, Leigh Maitland, Bill Cassidy, Ollie Doyle, Gary Doyle, Mark Leonard and Larry Parkes. What an achievement it was for the match angler and the Ballyhaunis Angling Club.





# Abbey Partnership

Neil Sheridan

2014 has been a year of change for the Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership and Abbey Trust, marked by the change of some of the group's members and by the tragic loss of the group's founding chairperson, Mr. John Coll from Mayo County Council.

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

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.

During 2014 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 the Multi-Sports Facility being used on a daily basis.

The Friary Grounds and River Walk are an invaluable and attractive amenity, 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.

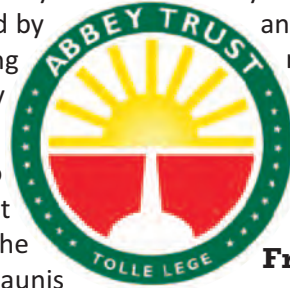
Mayo County Council also continue to make a significant contribution ensuring the property is insured, the playground area inspected on a regular basis and taking responsibility for the maintenance of the both St. Mary's Abbey and the Friary House.

## 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 photography on the theme '100 Years Inhabited', held as part of National Heritage 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 office space in the Friary House to the Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, which works 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

## 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 Chambers 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

The tradition of the Abbey Pattern continued in 2014 with another very successful Pattern being held, despite the bad weather. Once again full credit goes to the organisers, the Abbey Pattern Committee.

## Conclusion and Plans for 2015

The Abbey Partnership welcome 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 amenity that the grounds offer and take pride in keeping them clean, safe and a welcoming place.

## Abbey Partnership 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 Co. Council), Nell Rochford (Community Council).





# Annagh Wheelers – Full Cycle

Grahame Cleary



Members of Annagh Wheelers after completing the Four Provinces Cycle in July 2013.  
L-R: Pat Freeley, Joe Gallagher, Mike Cleary, Darragh Delaney, Bernie Jennings, Jerry Kneafsey, Sean Gallagher, Grahame Cleary, Brendan Fallon (Swinford).

Another autumn, another look back at the year that was, another Annagh Magazine article. As a member of Annagh Wheelers, it goes without saying that when you look back on the year, it can often be difficult to pick out only a few highlights from the time spent pedalling the highways and byways of the West of Ireland and beyond.

The cornerstones of our cycling calendar are the club tours which are certainly a highlight, with this year being no exception. On the last Sunday of May the Tour of Mayo was as successful as ever – a 100km or 200km route over some of the most scenic roads in the country, at a steady pace, with a steady supply of grub at the feeding stops along the way – what more could you ask for?

Another event, which was in to its fourth year, was the Day of Cycling for Martin Connery which was held at the end of August. This event is unlike any of the usual tours or sportives that take place throughout the country. It is unique as it is an event that caters for all types of cyclists, at all levels: from people who bought a bike on the Bike-To-Work scheme last year and have only cycled it a handful of times since; to the people who cycle five days a week, 52 weeks a year. If you do one lap of the 25 mile route or six laps, it doesn't matter. What matters in this event is getting people on saddles. It's a very social day and the fact that it takes place at the end of August/early September allows people ample time during the summer to get some training done.

This year saw over 40 cyclists take part with everyone enjoying the fine weather, the favourable tailwind for the most part, and the much needed grub at the end of each lap. In addition, there was a collection on the day

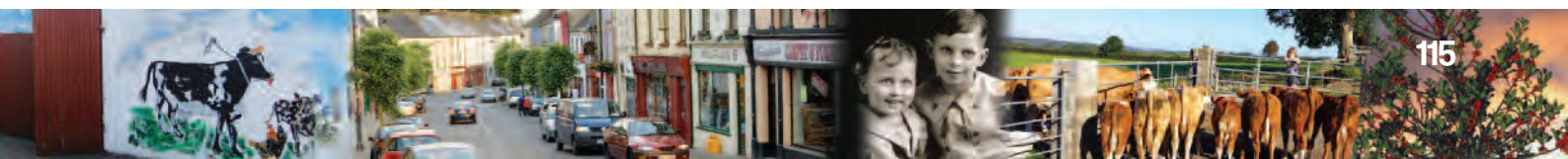
for St. Vincent de Paul which raised €625 – many thanks to everyone who got involved.

Another social event is the Five Counties cycle which is part of run-walk-cycle fundraiser organised by Margie Phillips each year for Crumlin Children's Hospital. The incentive for this event is easy – no matter what the weather you know that Margie looks after her troops very well, laying on a massive barbeque at the finish. This year was no exception and we even managed to stay dry for the entire day – a first in four attempts!

These events are only a flavour of the tours undertaken throughout the year; many club members travel around the country completing other events from the Ring of Kerry to the Inishowen 100, from the Mayo Pink Ribbon to the Tour of Sligo and from the Westportive to the Tour of Connemara.

The last twelve months have seen a significant increase in the number of new members who regularly join the club spin on a Sunday morning, or the T4s on a Wednesday night during the summer. These new faces have had a very positive effect on the club bringing lots of enthusiasm and new ideas (Strava comes to mind but I'll leave that for another day) while raising standards for everyone.

If reading this you think that you'd like to join us, or train for any one of the events mentioned above, then don't be shy, dust down that Bike-To-Work bike that's been sitting in the shed and get out on the road. You won't have to go far before you bump into one of us. Alternatively, you can always meet us at the top of the new road at 9am on Sundays or in Clare Street on Wednesdays evenings during the summer.

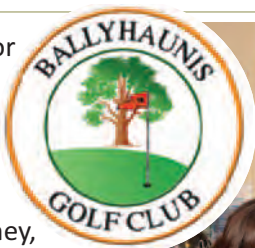




# Ballyhaunis Golf Club

Séamus Swift

2014 was another exceptional year for Ballyhaunis Golf Club members and officers. In spite of inclement weather in January, we had a very successful Winter League; David Murphy's team being the overall winners.



In March our Head Greenkeeper, Liam Devaney, retired after many years of service. Liam led a team who have kept our course on par as one of the best in Ireland. We would like to wish Liam and his wife Imelda all the best in their future.

The Club ran a number of fundraising events throughout the year, starting with a 'Slave Auction' which was a huge success, a Club AM AM, Duck Race, 50/50 Draw and a Race Night. We would like to thank all who contributed in any way to these events.

We would like to thank all our sponsors for your continued support and commitment to Ballyhaunis Golf Club. This is very much appreciated and we encourage all our members to support our local businesses.

We would like to congratulate Shane Freeman on winning the Roscommon Junior Scratch Cup. Our Junior golfers were to the fore again in 2014. Evan Henry was selected on the Connacht Under 15 team with Andrew Hickey as a reserve. By all accounts Evan acquitted himself extremely well and we hope to see our club represented at National level in the near future by these two very talented young gentlemen.

During the summer months we ran hugely successful Junior Golf mornings and Adult Beginners' lessons. We encourage and value new members and everyone is welcome to come along and try this wonderful game.

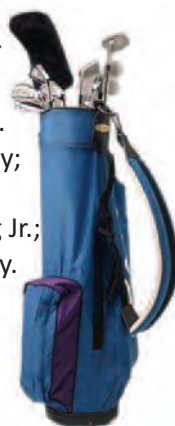
Well done to all who took part in our Pink Evening raising €636 for Breast Cancer Awareness.

## Club Officers 2014

Captain: Martin Keane.  
Lady Captain: Anne Cunnane.  
President: Anthony McNicholas.

## Winners of the Principal Competitions 2014

Captain's Prize: Gents - John Doyle;  
Ladies - Kay Fanning.  
Lady Captain's: Ladies - Niamh Henry;  
Gents - Alec Eaton.  
President's Prize: Gents - Tom Fanning Jr.;  
Ladies - Anne Freeley.  
Golfer of the Year: Tom Moran and  
Mariette Pottgieter.  
Roscommon Junior  
Scratch Cup: Shane Freeman.



Winner of the Captain's Prize 2014, John Doyle (centre) with Captain, Martin Keane and his wife, Carol.  
*Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

Winner of the Lady Captain's Prize, Niamh Henry (left) with the Lady Captain, Anne Cunnane.  
*Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*



Winner of the President's Prize, Tom Fanning with the President, Anthony McNicholas.  
*Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*







Winners of the Winter League Competition at Ballyhaunis Golf Club sponsored by Homecare Medical, and also winners of the Timmy Lavin Memorial Shield.

Back, L-R: Michael Lavin, Anthony McNicholas (President), Anne Cunnane (Lady Captain), Chris Lavin, Martin Keane (Captain) and Micheál Lavin.

Seated: Tony Cribbin, Eugene Kilbride, Jason Meehan, Andrew Hickey (Team Captain), Anne Greenway and Bernie Flaherty. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



The Captain's Prize Ladies winner, Kathleen Fanning, being presented with her prize by Martin Keane, (Captain) and his wife Carol.

## Help in Finding the Mugans from Ballyhaunis

I am reaching out to readers of the Annagh Magazine for help in tracking my grandfather's family, the Mugans from Ballyhaunis. Below is the only information I have on them, kindly provided to me by the Church in Ballyhaunis.

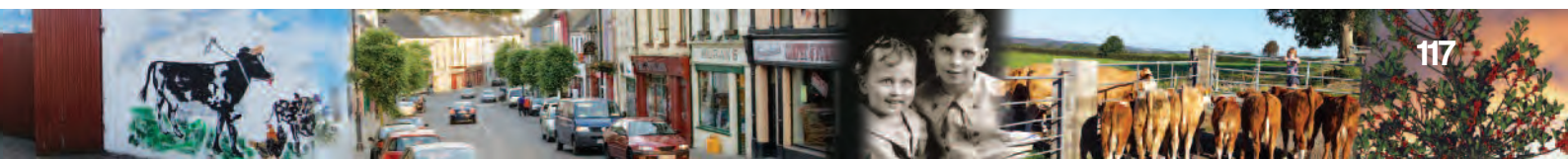
John Mugan and Margaret Willis had a son John (my great-grandfather) who married a Mary Flannery (my great-grandmother) daughter of James Flannery and Mary Deignan on the 12th of October 1915. The following are baptismal records for John and Mary's children:

- Mary, born 16th October 1915
- Ellen, born 4th February 1917
- John Martin, born 3rd December 1923, my granddad
- Margaret Mary, born 1st July 1925
- Brigid Teresa, born 21st March 1927

I know there was also another daughter named Madeline, but I am unsure of her date of birth.

Mary (my great-grandmother) died on the 2nd of February 1929 aged 37 years. I also think that my great-great-grandfather John Mugan died the same year. My great-grandfather John then married Statia Murphy on the 2nd of November 1931. They had a daughter named Christina who was born on the 28th of November 1931. My great-grandfather John Mugan died in November 1975 and was laid to rest beside his first wife Mary in the Cemetery in Ballyhaunis.

If anyone has any information regarding the Mugans, if any of them are still alive, or if I have relations I do not know about please contact, **Demelza Mugan Heraty on +353-86-3543811.**





# Golf Club Greenkeeper Retires



L-R: Anthony McNicholas (President), Anne Cunnane (Lady Captain), Liam Devaney (Head Greenkeeper), Imelda Devaney and Martin Keane (Captain). *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea*

On 6th April 2014, Ballyhaunis Golf Club paid tribute to Liam Devaney on his retirement as Head Green-keeper after thirty-five years of service.

A large gathering of club members, former Captains and Presidents joined with Liam, his family and work colleagues for a most enjoyable social evening in the Clubhouse.

The Captain, Martin Keane, Lady Captain Ann Cunnane and President Anthony McNicholas paid glowing tributes to Liam on his many years of dedication and loyal service to Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Liam was also commended for the many and varied improvements to the course over his thirty-five years of service. The Lady Captain presented Mr. Devaney with a watch on his retirement and the Captain presented Mrs. Imelda Devaney with a bouquet of flowers. Mr. Devaney thanked all present for their kindness and the courtesy shown to him over the years, and he wished the Club every success in the future.



Liam and Imelda Devaney photographed with their Family at a special function at Ballyhaunis Golf Club to mark Liam's retirement as Head Greenkeeper of the Club. Standing, L-R: Tom Colleran, Stephen Devaney, Nathan Colleran, Ronan Devaney, James Colleran, Anthony Devaney, Oliver Devaney. Seated: Celine Colleran, Liam Devaney, Imelda Devaney, Emma Colleran, Kate Colleran. Missing from photo: Martin Devaney. *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea/Ballyhaunis.*





# Ballyhaunis Foróige

Fionnuala Nolan

Ballyhaunis Foróige Club was formed in October 2008. It is a youth club for teenagers aged 12 to 18 years. We do many activities that provide entertainment for first, second and third years. Fourth years also come back to our club.

Last year we raised funds through organising car washes, bucket collections and cake sales. Our chosen charities were for Special Olympics and for Donal Walsh R.I.P Live Life Foundation. We were honoured to meet

Elma Walsh (his mum) to present her with a cheque for €500 euro. The highlight of the year was an overnight trip to the Achill Adventure Centre. We enjoyed many activities such as surfing, canoeing and kayaking. It was greatly enjoyed by our club.

We organise many different outings for our club on a Friday night, such as cinema trips and supervised discos.

Our Foróige Club always welcomes new leaders.



Elma Walsh, mother of Donal Walsh RIP, accepts a cheque for €500 for the 'Donal Walsh LiveLife Fund' from members of Ballyhaunis Foróige Club.

Front, L-R: Danielle Coyne, Elma Walsh (Donal's Mother), Shauna Murray.  
Second Row: Conal Caulfield, Shane McDermott, Keevan Murphy, Aoife Davis, Emma Nolan, Anna Naszkierska, Marina Carney, Claire Fahy, Nadine Mangan, Chloe Naughton, Michelle Lyons, Fionnuala Nolan.  
Third Row: Joe Murphy, Jack Coyne, Eimear Murray, Shauna Lyons, Michelle Grogan, Juliane Gardiner, Olivia Cleary, Chloe Ryan, Laura O'Connell, Aibhinn Herr.  
Fourth Row: Liam Herr, Evan Fitzmaurice, Sean Herr, Calum Gardiner, Gary Higgins, Cathal Carney, Alannagh Nolan, Roisin Lyons, Aoife Nolan, Aoife Mulrennan, Emma Lyons.  
Back Row: Marie Caulfield, Lisa Carney, Aisling Caulfield, Ann Lenihan, Tina McGoldrick, Chris Henry.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

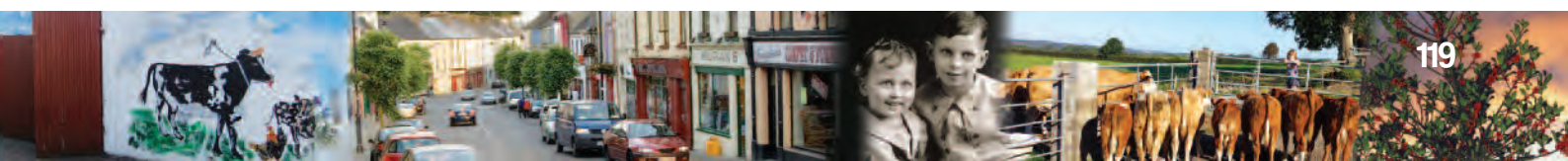
Matt O'Dwyer, Secretary



Our Society was founded by Frederic Ozanam in Paris in 1833 to help the less well off. We, in the Ballyhaunis Conference, try to continue this work in our small way. We help people on social welfare whose income has not increased in recent years. We help those who have fallen on hard times due to reduced income, unemployment, sickness or mounting debt. We help with food, fuel and education costs.

**Our confidential helpline number is (086) 2640969.**

Our sincere thanks to all who support us financially. A special work of thanks to Gracenotes, Scoil Iosa Choir and Annagh Wheelers who fundraise for us. Thanks also to the staff at the Friary House for their help. We express our sympathy to the family of former member Jim Connell who died during the year.





# Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association

John Durkan

It is over two years now since the establishment of the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association. Despite a number of challenges the group has continued to operate and has grown in strength. The main aim of the group 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 its members.

Ballyhaunis Men's Shed is basically 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. You are welcome to come along and join us - even if it's just for a cuppa tea 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 with other men from the area. Men's Sheds are open to all men over eighteen years of age and there is no upper limit.

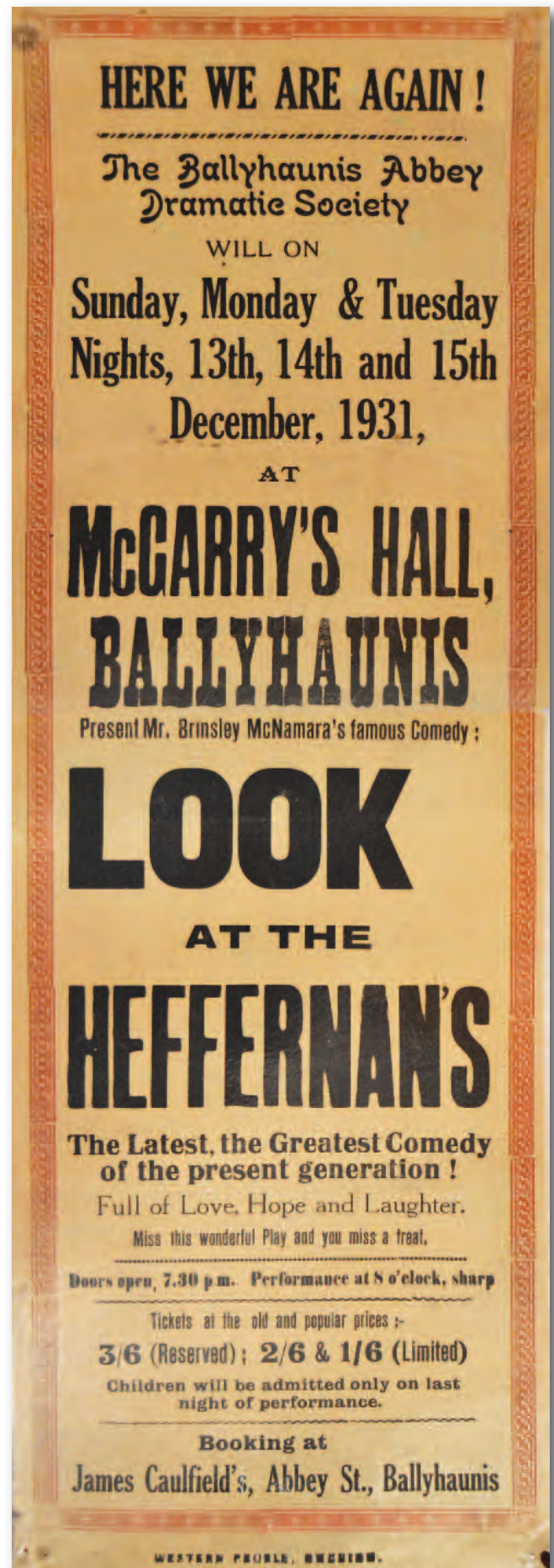
## A.G.M.

The second AGM of the group heard the report from the outgoing committee and discussed activities for the coming year. Fifteen men attended the AGM and it was felt that good progress has been made over the last twelve months, such as, an official group established, a new premises procured, made habitable and located at the Knox Street car park at the back of Val's Bar and Bistro. Some enjoyable activities, not least the Pancake Day and participation at the Abbey Pattern, were organised this year also.

The group has been making bird feeders and raised garden beds over the last couple of months as well as making on-going improvements to the Shed, including installing a wood burning stove to make the Shed more comfortable.

## Officers and Opening Hours

The following were elected as the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed officers for 2014/2015. Chairperson: John Durkan; Treasurer: Aidan Gaughan; Secretary: Stephen Grogan; PRO: Joe Glynn. The Shed is open from Monday to Fridays, from 10am to 2pm and is free of charge. It is open to men over 18 years who want to drop in and/or take part in the work going on in the Shed.



1931 Ballyhaunis Abbey Dramatic Society Poster.  
Courtesy of Edward Mulhern





# The Man Behind the Mic

Mike Finnerty



Commentator Mike Finnerty is pictured working for Sky Sports at Croke Park on All-Ireland Hurling Final Sunday this year.

Of all the GAA matches played in 2014 the one game that brought most of the country to a standstill was the drawn All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final between Kilkenny and Tipperary. Do you remember where you were between 3.30pm and 5pm on Sunday, September 7th? If you have even a passing interest in Gaelic Games, there's a fair chance you were watching or listening to the match that's become known as the best All-Ireland Hurling Final of all time. An epic.

That was also the day when it finally dawned on me that I was one of the luckiest men in Ireland this summer. I had the best seat in the house and was working for Sky Sports television as they broadcast an All-Ireland Final around the world for the very first time. We were making history, and I was part of a team that had been handpicked by a company that wrote the book on how to produce live TV sport. It wasn't going to get much better.

I was sitting on the seventh floor of the Hogan Stand in Croke Park that day when the thought occurred, with about ten minutes left in a breathless game. I was commentating on an All-Ireland Final that had caught fire after about thirty seconds and had taken on a life of its own thereafter. It was end-to-end, relentless, frantic.

There were more than 82,000 people in the stadium and every time a score was taken, or a chance was missed, the place seemed to shake with the deafening noise. In all my years of All-Ireland Finals, big occasions, I had never experienced anything quite like this. My adrenalin was pumping and every sense was heightened. If there is such a thing as 'being truly alive' then this certainly felt like it.

So with ten minutes to go, I sat back, took a drink of water, looked around Croke Park for a few seconds, and took a mental picture. I needed to savour the moment. The noise, the colour and the atmosphere were incredible. It was a long way from Ballinrobe to here, I thought. And then I dived back into the game again.

An unforgettable summer had started on Saturday, June 7th when Sky Sports broadcast their first GAA

Championship match live from Nowlan Park in Kilkenny. I was fortunate to be chosen to commentate on that historic game between Kilkenny and Offaly in the Leinster Hurling Championship, and thankfully, we all hit the ground running. It was the start of a fantastic summer that took me to great GAA theatres like Thurles and Wexford Park and Croke Park, and I got the opportunity to work alongside some GAA greats like Nicky English, Jamesie O'Connor, Paul Earley and Peter Canavan. Great days, great memories, and hopefully the best are yet to come.

## Back to the start

Being the son of a Ballyhaunis mother (Marie Mulrennan from Gurteen), I spent a lot of my childhood in this part of the world. Saturdays, summer holidays and every Christmas Day were all spent with Seamus and Mary Mulrennan and the cousins; so Ballyhaunis was like a second home during my 'short trouser' days. I also graduated to fencing fields, driving tractors, painting sheds and cutting bushes as the years went by, but little did I know that Ballyhaunis was going to have such a profound influence on my working life in later years.

I was a fresh-faced teenager when I walked into the studios of Mid West Radio for the first time in the early 1990s. A few years later I was handed the microphone for my first live GAA commentary, and the rest is history. I have spent the last 20 years travelling all around the country working for Mid West Radio, following the fortunes of various Mayo football and hurling teams, and chasing dreams with club teams from Ballaghaderreen to Kiltane.

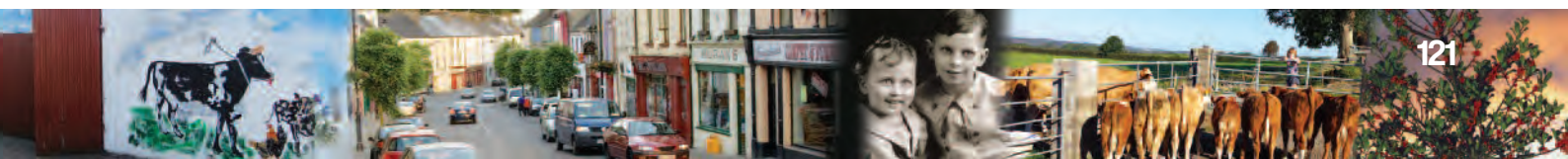
The work has given me a great grounding in the basics of broadcasting and the fundamentals of forging relationships with co-commentators, analysts, players and managers. Not to mention ordinary, decent folk from all four corners of the country.

All this experience has proved invaluable and, undoubtedly, played a major part in me being appointed as one of Sky Sports' commentators for their first season of GAA Championship broadcasting in 2014. Having worked over the years with Mid West Radio, TV3 and Setanta Sports on their gaelic games coverage, it was an honour and a privilege to get the opportunity to be part of Sky Sports' historic coverage this year.

It was also very humbling to be contacted by so many people around the county who were genuinely delighted to see 'one of their own' being part of the Sky Sports team. And nobody was prouder than Mam and Dad, Marie and Tony. Without them, and their support and encouragement, none of it would have been possible. The same goes for everyone at Mid West Radio who gave me a chance back in the day.

Roll on 2015!

*Mike Finnerty is also the Sports Editor of The Mayo News.*





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# Moran's Terrace

Eamon Murren

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Moran's Terrace was located at the top of the old Fair Green in Ballyhaunis. It is behind what is now known as St. Gerald's Court. The landlord was Frank Moran who lived in a house which was located behind where Beech Park is now. He was a brother of the publican Larry Moran.

When I was growing up there were some great characters living in Moran's Terrace. The first house was home to Tom "Tailor" Hopkins. "Tailor" was quite gifted in his profession but, unfortunately, was fond of drink. The fact that he lived only yards from Larry Moran's didn't help matters.

The next house was the Lanigans'. Their mother Biddy used to sell herrings every Friday at the Square. She would wrap them in newspapers as she sold them. Biddy was a lovely, inoffensive lady, God rest her. Her best known son would have been Gus. Gus used to have a band and was well known all over the west of Ireland. He later emigrated to Manchester. I can recall that the first Christmas card we would get in our house every year would be from Gus. He had a brother Johnny who stayed at home in Ballyhaunis. Johnny did a lot of odd jobs for people like Sean and Alacoque Corcoran who had a restaurant where Noel Patterson now has the animal centre. Johnny also did jobs for Paddy Ryan, Nora McGillicuddy and others. He led a simple life and loved a pint, a fag, the pictures and a good cowboy book. There were other members of the Lanigan family who emigrated before my time. I think one of the girls went to New Zealand.

The Devaneys were next. Tom "Tawdy" was a well known character. He used to sell the Mayo colours on the eve of big matches. He was small in stature and for this reason he used to ride in pony races and donkey derbies. His brother "Shirl" was, I believe, a very good jockey and would have made it to the top in England but for the fact that he took the rap for some misdemeanour done by a more famous jockey.

Tom Barrett and his family also lived on the Terrace before moving to Station Rise. Tom would travel to all fun fairs and carnivals with his swing-boats, hobby-horses, etc. He would be ably assisted by his sons Jimmy, Christy and daughter Patricia. Sadly, the last three mentioned all died at a very young age. Mrs. Barrett only died about two years ago and she lived to be a good age. Another son Tommy was a classmate of mine. I met him at his mum's funeral. He lives with his family in Holland. The girls I remember were Norrie, Bridie and Sally.

Next door to Barretts' was Tom Sharkey. Tom was the Town Crier. He took over from a man called Duignan.

Tom would ring his bell outside the Church and announce into his make shift tannoy that Duffy's Circus was coming to town, or whatever news he had. He was interested in football and I can remember him on occasions coming to our house to listen to the big games.

I also remember Bridie Maguire living in the Terrace. She was a very small woman with a great sense of humour. She would often be looking out when we would be playing football in the Fair Green. Those are the characters I remember from Moran's Terrace. Most of them have gone to their eternal reward. They were people who lived in very hard times but were honest, hard working people.

Around the corner from Moran's Terrace was the "Dardanelles". I can only remember a Mrs. Keegan living here. I remember her winning money at Perk's Carnival down at Mac's Hill. I think there was a Piggot family living there too. From what I know the "Dardanelles" was built to house families of men who had fought in World War I. There is a Mons Terrace in Castlebar built for the same reason. Perhaps some local historians might delve into that for next year's Annagh?



Taken in Upper Main St., 1965. From Left: David Freeley, Micheál Murren, Michael Henry, Eamon Murren, Kathleen Caulfield and Vincent Caulfield (front), with greyhounds 'Firo' and 'Blank Cheque'. As a young pup 'Blank Cheque' visited a neighbour's henhouse and helped himself. The resultant damage had to be compensated for by supplying a blank cheque - hence the name! (Courtesy Tommy Caulfield).





# Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group

Paula Grogan

Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group provides training to members of our community in CPR techniques and how to use a defibrillator. Our training is recognised by the Irish Heart Foundation who provides certificates to those who complete a full training course. The Irish Heart Foundation advises people to complete a full training course every two years and to attend short reminder sessions throughout this period to keep their skills up to date. Our group has three Instructors who have undertaken an Instructor Training Course with the Irish Heart Foundation. Our Instructors are Marina Coyne, Orla Moran and Edel Conway who give of their time and volunteer their skills for our group and we are very appreciative of this.



Defibrillator instructors Orla Moran, Edel Conway and Marina Coyne.

During the past year, Brackloon Reunion Group gave a very generous donation to our group which will help us purchase new training equipment. We would like to thank Ballyhaunis Credit Union for their generous monetary donation during 2014 and in providing their upstairs premises for our training sessions free of charge. As part of our fundraising initiative during the past year, we held our annual Fun Table Quiz in The Hazel and many thanks goes to the large number of businesses in Ballyhaunis who gave either excellent spot prizes or generous donations. Tommy Caulfield has been our regular Quizmaster and his wide and varied range of questions for all ages and abilities has helped make them fun and enjoyable nights out! Thanks Tommy! We would also like to thank Homecare Medical Supplies Limited for their annual monetary support of our group for which we are very grateful for.

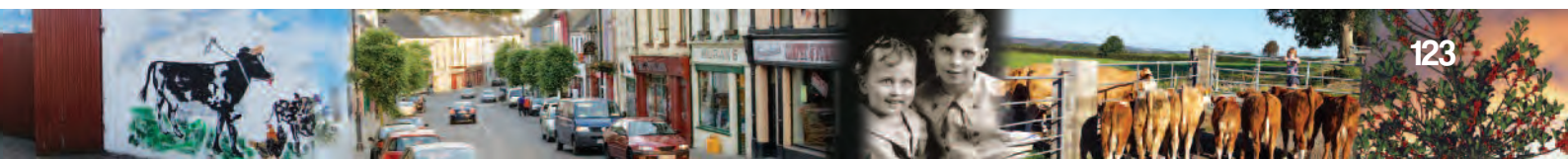
The locations in our Parish of the defibrillators are:

- Michael & Rose Nolan, Brackloon,
- Helen Hoban Derrynacong,
- Michael & Rosaleen Kelly, Kiltybo
- Joe & Kay Healy, Annagh
- Shane Burke, Tullaghaune
- James & Caitriona McGuire, Johnstown
- Stephen & Nuala Nolan, Kilmannin
- Scoil Iosa National School, Abbeyquarter
- Austin & Dorothy Biesty, Pattenspark,
- St. Patrick's Church, Main Street, Ballyhaunis
- G.A.A. Gates, Knock Road
- The Golf Club, Coolnaha

If you would like to take part in a full training session and learn CPR techniques and how to use a defibrillator, leave a message on (086) 2076581 and a member of our committee will contact you. Our Instructors are also available to local sporting organisations who may wish to have their members take part in full training sessions.



Ninety-eight year old Sean Jordan, Johnstown with his grandson Paul Jordan holding the Sweeney Cup. Paul is goalkeeper with the Ballyhaunis football team who won the Mayo Intermediate Football Championship title on Sunday, 5th October at Elvery's McHale Park Castlebar, for the first time since 1988, beating Hollymount/ Carrramore.





# Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union Ltd.

Enda Caulfield

It has been a very busy year in Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union. Early in the year we introduced our new online services with a complete new website [www.ballyhauniscu.ie](http://www.ballyhauniscu.ie) enabling our members to move money between accounts, transfer money to bank accounts, pay bills, check balances, view statements and apply for loans. We now accept payment by debit card in our office. We constantly strive to improve our services for the benefit of our members by improving technology and ongoing training for staff and volunteers.



Since the last publication of Annagh Magazine we have had two members' car draws, last December's winner was Sergiy Kolchanov, June's winner was Valerie Murray, with five members in each draw winning €500 each. Congratulations to all.

All throughout our growth we have been at the very heart of the local community in Ballyhaunis and we continue that today even in challenging economic times. Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union Ltd. provides sponsorship and funding to many local projects and charities through our Sponsorship/Donations Initiative which we launched earlier this year. Applications were invited from clubs, groups or individuals (partaking in an event) within our common bond.

All successful applicants were invited to a presentation evening in our office. We are delighted to offer this opportunity next year and for those not successful this year – there's always next year.

Remember your credit union is there for you, owned by you, so please feel free to discuss any credit needs you may have, you are always welcome and will always be served by one of our courteous staff.

This Christmas check out our Santa's grotto on Main Street and don't forget to visit the polar bear and penguins in our office. To all our members we send a special greeting this Christmas to express our sincere appreciation for your confidence and loyalty.



Mary Henry, Manager, presents car keys to Valerie Murray (centre). Also included is Enda Caulfield of Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union.



Sergiy Kolchanov in his new car.



Credit Union Staff and Volunteers: Maura Murphy, Katherine Kilbride, Mary Rudden & Enda Caulfield, pictured with the Ballyhaunis Special Olympics team.





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# Fine Gael

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The local Fine Gael organisation reports on a busy and successful year. With local Councillor John Cribbin nominated as a candidate to seek re-election to Mayo County Council for a fourth consecutive term, the first half of the year was exceptionally busy for all to ensure that John was elected. This was achieved with the support and assistance of party activists from Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas.



Cllr. John Cribbin

Contributing factors to John's 1,750 first preference votes were his dedication, commitment and delivery to his area since first elected. At the inaugural meeting of

the new Claremorris Municipal District on June 13th John was the unanimous choice of his fellow councillors for the position of Cathaoirleach for its first year.

At a recent party meeting in Ballyhaunis the Chairman, on behalf of the members, complimented Cllr. Cribbin on his re-election and appointment as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District. Councillor Cribbin was also complimented for securing funds for many different schemes and projects in the Ballyhaunis and District area. The local party would like to thank John O'Mahony TD for his attendance at meetings, and his advice and assistance in dealing with constituency matters.

## ADVISORY CLINICS

**John O'Mahony TD:** Third Friday of every month  
@ 3 pm in the Hazel Bar.

**Cllr John Cribbin:** Every Tuesday  
@ 10 am in the Hazel Bar.

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## Ballyhaunis Heritage Society

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An informal meeting of a few people interested in local history was held in January 2014 and from it emerged the formation of the Ballyhaunis Heritage Society. Orla Phillips was appointed as Chairperson with Pat Higgins as Secretary and Stephen Grogan as Treasurer.

The first in a series of very successful lectures in the Credit Union Centre was on the topic of 'Landed Estates in The Ballyhaunis Area' by Paul Waldron which drew a large and appreciative audience on 24th February. Paul's research on the topic proved to be phenomenal and most interesting. The second lecture on Tuesday 1st April by Dr. Nollaig Ó Muraíle of NUIG was on the broad topic 'Ballyhaunis Area: Aspects of its people and their story 500ad- 2000ad'. Nollaig's talk was scholarly but also homely because of his wonderful knowledge of the area and its history. Again the attendance was way beyond expectations.

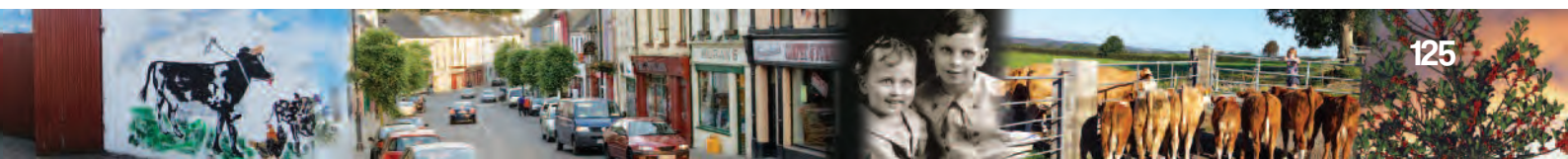
The great interest in local history was again demonstrated when the Heritage Society welcomed the renowned author Dominic Price on 'Ballyhaunis - Crucible of Tradition, Transition and Revolution 1910-1924' on Friday 16 May at 8pm. Dominic's very successful book *The Flame and the Candle – War in Mayo 1919-24*, launched by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, has been widely acclaimed. One review said it is 'a meticulously researched and well-written book in which the outrages on the various sides are not overlooked'.



His lecture was so detailed and well-received that he was invited back to speak on the Civil War period in November.

The most recent lecture organised by the society was delivered by Michael Kelly on 'The Land War at Logboy' on Monday, 6th October. Michael, a native of Beken, is the author of the recently-published book, *Struggle and Strife on a Mayo Estate, 1833-1903*, about the Nolan landlords of Logboy and their tenants. His talk covered the murder of the landlord's bailiff in 1881, the Lurgan Cross riot, the reality of evictions and a celebrated episode at Derryhog. This lecture brought out an audience of almost one hundred people underlying the great interest in local history and the need for the new Society.

Watch out for notices of upcoming events.





# Mutiny On The Boundary

Jimmy Cribbin

My recent trip to Churchpark and Drimbane was not pre-planned. Now there is more than one Churchpark in the Parish, the one we are concerned with here is sandwiched between Johnstown and Drimbane, which is connected by what is known locally as the New Line. My trip was made necessary by some cattle being opportunists and taking advantage of a lapse of concentration on my part, and who managed to get onto the road. Luckily, two neighbours came along when badly needed. With Gerry Hunt taking the Cloonfad side and Declan Doyle taking the Ballyhaunis side, we quickly diverted them onto the New Line. It was not the most convenient place but it was the safest place. We are continuously advised never to compromise safety for convenience.

The cattle had nearly a mile of relatively safe road way ahead of them and seemed to know that. They took off like athletes after the starters gun had gone 'bang'. They were not the first 'athletes' to race along that track. Frank Greally, editor of 'The Irish Runner' often used the New Line as a sprinting track while training for track and field events as a young fellow. Whether Frank ever ran as fast as my cattle I cannot say. I will admit that my cattle had an unfair advantage. They had four legs. Frank had only two. With my two average legs following them on foot myself was out of the question. Nothing for it but to try and outmanoeuvre them by a 'pincer' movement, driving to Ballyhaunis turning left at the Railway bridge, driving along the Drimbane Road to where the New Line ends, hoping the cattle had not broken the 'four minute mile' and got there before me. Not an animal in sight. I proceeded further on to see if they were on their way to Logboy. As I approached Chris Mannion's house it dawned on me that this was no longer a job for a 'Lone Ranger'. Reservists would have to be called on and as far as I was concerned Chris Mannion was in the first line reserve.

As I went to the shed where he was working I noticed that he had his onions harvested and spread out to season in the September sunshine. In the garden his turnips, carrots and other vegetables showed signs of a bumper yield. I cannot truthfully say that Chris has given up work, just that he no longer works as an agricultural contractor. A job he spent many years at and at a time when it was a tougher job than it is at present, sitting on a tractor with no cab in all kinds of weather. Using machines on land that nature never designed to be put under the plough, resulted in many breakdowns. Like many of his generation he spent years of his youth working in England. Unlike many of his fellow countrymen he did not work in the construction industry keeping a roof over the heads of the population. Instead, he helped to keep bread on their table by working in a bakery in

Birmingham. I was in Birmingham for a short time, but we never met. However, I remember seeing him march past as a member of the Birmingham Irish Pipe Band, heading a parade at a Fleadh Ceoil in Swinford in 1961.

Those of us who were aware of the difficulties associated with agricultural work were not surprised when Chris retired early from that work and returned to England where he worked until he reached retirement age. While over there he seems to have got into a habit I had myself while I was in London, of rambling into second hand book shops because on trips home he often presented me with books that he had picked up there.

He knew the type of stuff that I liked and I found them entertaining and enlightening. One trip to a second hand book shop in London has just come to mind. I had an interest to get my hands on a book that was out of print. I made an enquiry. "No, just sold one last week, a beautiful volume". Now at the back of the shop there was a pile of books. They looked as if they had been brought there in a horse cart and just tipped up as if they were a load of turf. I was not long rummaging through the pile until I came across the elusive volume. Beside the pile was a notice which read 'ALL BOOKS One Shilling'. As I brought the precious book to the counter I was expecting (because I had shown my hand earlier) that the special offers of one shilling would no longer apply. "Where did you get that?" he asked. I indicated with my thumb. I asked "how much?" looking in the direction of the 'cart load'. He read the notice aloud adding, "you won't read that in a night Pat." I would have given a pound for it on the day.

Back to reality! All the words that were ever written won't get the cattle home. We set out together to prove that actions speak louder than words. We did not find them in the first place where we looked, nor the second, but eventually found them in John McGarry's field. He had put them there and closed the gate. He told me later that he knew they had not come from Lecarrow. The cattle let us know in their own way that they did not like their 'Hide and Seek' game ending. They sprinted to the end of the field and with a hop, skip and jump cleared the boundary fence into land recently purchased by Austin Cribbin. At a quickly convened conference it was decided that this mutiny had gone far enough. Order would have to be restored as soon as possible.

Extra reservists would have to be called up. I headed for Lecarrow where I intended to recruit one of the fittest men in the locality who happens to be the owner of the occupied territory. Austin keeps in form by cycling along the New Line. He is not at home but his son Niall volunteers to man the New Line. As we are dealing with mutineers who outnumbered us, are clever and more





adaptable to guerrilla tactics than we are, strategy must be carefully planned. But “the best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft a-gley.” Never more true than when minding the proverbial mice or frisky cattle at a crossroads.

With a jeep blocking the road south, I positioned to the north, Chris bringing up the rearguard to the west and Niall manning the ‘bearna baol’ to the east. Happily, this was one scheme that did not go ‘gang aft a-gley.’ The mutiny was suppressed and order was restored. The cattle, though molly coddled from the day they were born in the matter of food, health and shelter are still chewing the cud about the freedom they lost when their ancestors were domesticated centuries ago and would make another dash for freedom if the opportunity presented

itself. Their recent spirited dash for freedom and independence was put up and put down with both sides observing the code of chivalry and took place along the New Line which forms the boundary between Johnstown and Lecarrow.

Although there was no formal treaty, peace was restored and the New Line returned to be a quiet country lane along where athletes can sprint, walkers take leisurely strolls, enjoy the pleasant countryside or pick blackberries - although it was not originally planned for those purposes. It was opened at the beginning of the last century to facilitate people that had Turbary Rights in Agloragh Bog, for bringing home their turf. It is little used nowadays for this purpose although some turf is still cut in Agloragh.

## Seventy Years Ago – Ballyhaunis Concert Stars

FROM THE FILES OF THE WESTERN PEOPLE, 1944.

A real Gaelic gathering met in the parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis on St. Patrick’s night (1944) when the annual Concert and Céilidhe Mhór was held. It was one of the best functions of its kind yet held in Ballyhaunis. Of the many artistes who contributed to the enjoyable programme special mention must be made of Hannah Green, the four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Green, Abbey Street. This talented little girl was the idol of the night and her very able rendering of “The Rose of Mooncoin” and “Fáinne Geal an Lae” received prolonged applause. We congratulate this

gifted child and feel that she has only laid the foundation of a brilliant career.

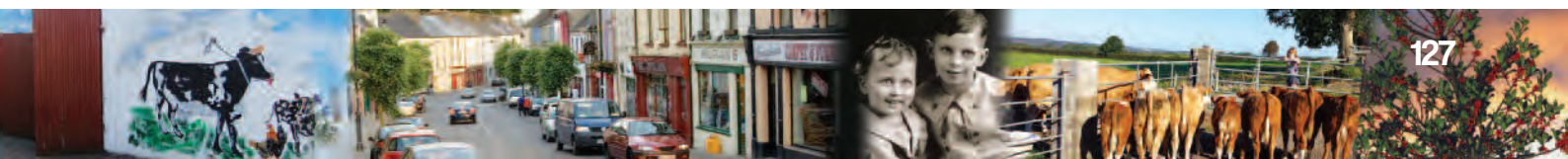
Mention also must be made to Miss A. O’Shaughnessy, Castlebar, county dancing champion, who delighted the audience with exhibitions of Irish step dancing. The Misses Edna Lyons, Nellie Roche, Margaret Flannery, S. O’Sullivan, H. Doherty and Master Bertie Curley danced the six-hand reel, while the four-hand reel by Miss H. Jordan, Miss Kathleen Morley, Miss Annie O’Brien and Miss M. Dolan left nothing to be desired.

## Ava features in ‘Buckets for Barnardos’ National Campaign



Pictured are four year old Ava O’Herlihy with actress and Barnardos Ambassador Amy Huberman. Ava is daughter of Mark and Sandra O’Herlihy (née Keane), and is granddaughter of Patsy and Mary Keane of Doctor’s Road. Ava is a member of the well-known Billie Barry Stage School in Dublin and was one of two children chosen to appear in a campaign publicising the charity’s only National Collection Day – Buckets for Barnardos, which this year was on the 19th September last. Ava has an older brother Daniel, and took part in the Billy Barry Stage School’s 50th Anniversary Celebration Show ‘GOLD’ held recently at the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin. Wishing Ava every success in her acting career.

Barnardos has grown into Ireland’s leading children’s charity and operates over 40 centres in local communities across the country, working with vulnerable children and their families. They also run a number of national services supporting parents and professionals with an information resource network and counselling services. For more information on Barnardos work, to make a donation or to volunteer, please contact [www.barnardos.ie](http://www.barnardos.ie) Photo courtesy of Barnardos





# 4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scout Group

Marion Feeney

After an absence of some 30 years the Scouting movement has been re-established in town with the revival of the 4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scout Group and the establishment of a Beaver and Cub sections.

The new Scout group currently involves some 36 children and 15 Adult Scout leaders who meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings and operate from Ballyhaunis Rugby Club. As with the expression "Tall oaks from little acorns grow", it is hoped that this revival of Scouting will grow over time to involve more young people and adult leaders.

The aim of the Ballyhaunis Scout Group is to benefit Young People by developing their Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual skills and to promote the Scouting Method along with encouraging young people's interest in outdoor pursuits and teamwork.

## Scouting Method

The Scouting Method guides the work of the Scouts and involves:-

- **Learning by Doing**
- **Nature and Outdoors**
- **Service and Commitment**
- **Personal Progression**
- **Symbolic Framework (Uniform and practices)**
- **Scouts Promise and Law**

The Beaver section is open children aged 6, 7 and 8 years. The Cub Scout section is open to children aged 9, 10 and 11 years.

The Beavers and Cub Scouts engage in a variety of group and team games, learn various outdoor skills and participate in outdoor pursuits such as camping and hiking. Being a Beaver or Cub Scout also enables the young person to take part in a wide range of other learning and personal development opportunities, provided under the umbrella of the Scouting movement.

## Revival

The revival of Ballyhaunis Scouting followed on from the 2013 Abbey Pattern, when a group was established to prepare a road map to re-start the Scouting movement in town. Contact was made with Scouting Ireland who provided a series of training events, which were held in the Family Resource Centre offices at St. Mary's Abbey and later with the other County Mayo Scout groups, in Castlebar.

All of the adult volunteers registered with Scouting Ireland, completed their Garda Vetting and undertook

child protection training, which is now mandatory. A series of planning meetings also took place and the newly formed Ballyhaunis 4th Mayo Scout Group was started at the beginning of this year with Chairperson Marion Feeney, Group Leader John Durkan, Treasurer Karen Whelan, Secretary Stephen Grogan and Quartermaster Susan Hill. The other adult scout volunteers are; Kathryn Trais, Edel Conway, Kevin and Paul Carney, Jana Jurakova, Mairead Murphy, Paul Damron, Mark O'Malley, John Walsh and Marie Coll.

The Ballyhaunis 4th Mayo Scout Group want to thank the Abbey Pattern Committee, Cllr. John Cribbin and former MEP Jim Higgins for their financial support, which was vital help as the group got established. The Scouting tradition has been brought back to Ballyhaunis with a new generation of Scouts and great success is anticipated for 2015.

## "Scouting Through the Ages – A New Generation Takes over the Mantle"



Handing over the flag of the 4th Mayo Troop.  
L-R: Canon J.J. Cribbin, Pat Higgins, Kevin Carney,  
Marian Feeney and John Durkan.

*Photograph by Jana Jurakova.*





## 4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scout Group

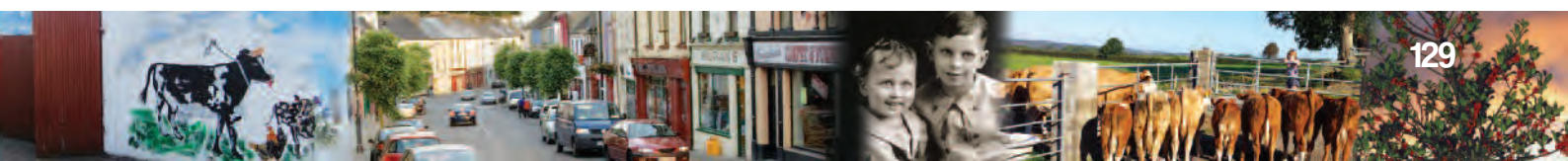


Scout Leaders, 4th Mayo Troop. Back, L-R: John Durkan, Susan Hill, Mairead Damron, Marion Feeney, Paul Damron and John Walsh. Front: Jana Jurakova, Kathryn Trias, Edel Conway, Karen Whelan, Kevin Carney and Paul Carney. *Photograph by Jana Jurakova.*

Cub Scouts and Leaders,  
Jana Jurakova,  
Karen Whelan,  
John Walsh,  
Paul Carney,  
Stephen Grogan,  
Susan Hill and  
Kevin Carney.  
*Photograph by  
Jana Jurakova.*



Beaver Scouts and  
Leaders  
Kathryn Trias,  
Mairead Damron,  
Marion Feeney,  
Mark O'Malley,  
Maria Coll and  
John Durkan.  
*Photograph by  
Jana Jurakova.*





# Rusty Nuts and the National Motor Museum

Edward Mulhern

For over thirty years a group of like-minded vintage car enthusiasts have been meeting and attending car shows and auto jumbles in both Ireland and England. We originally used to travel to England by air, but with the restrictions imposed by airlines on weight related items - and you can imagine what parts are needed for the restoration of old cars - it was not practical to use air travel anymore to transport our rusty nuts, etc.

We decided to beat the system and so converted an old Toyota Coaster bus into a camper van. This fulfilled our needs for a number of years, but with our clientele growing we upgraded to a Leyland Leopard, a 53-seater bus with a 6 litre Cummins diesel engine. We converted the bus into a camper providing full catering and accommodation for ten to twelve adults. We painted the bus emerald green and have the name "Rusty Nuts" prominently displayed on the sides and front.



Rusty Nuts' trusty Leyland Leopard, converted into a camper providing full catering and accommodation for ten to twelve adults.

## Beaulieu International Autojumble

Our principal venue for almost 25 years has been a village called Beaulieu, situated in The New Forest in Hampshire, UK. The Beaulieu International Autojumble is held each September on the estate of Lord Montagu. It is the biggest sale of motoring items this side of the Atlantic. It is now in its 48th year and is showing no signs of slowing with attendances exceeding over 40,000 during the two day event.

Auto-jumble, Automobilia, Collectables, Petrolmania or just plain motoring junk – call it what you like, you'll find it at Beaulieu. It is by far the greatest open air Aladdin's Cave of the motoring world, and chances are if you cannot find what you are looking for amongst the 2,000-plus stands at Europe's largest auto

jumble, you might as well give up.

Finding your way around the Auto-jumble is quite simple as the site is divided into three fields. There is a green field for professional traders and a red field for more general spares. And a yellow field for newcomers and amateur traders to the scene, with more reasonable prices and some better bargains assured here.

On the Saturday Bonham's hold an auction of classic cars, motorcycles and motoring memorabilia with over a hundred lots on offer. Admission at £25 stg is by catalogue only and is aimed at those with deep pockets. On Sunday "truck traders" is an added bonus with amateur auto jumlbers selling their surplus ephemera from the boot of their cars.

## National Motor Museum

Admission gives entry to all attractions, including the National Motor Museum, Bond in Motion, World of Top Gear and of course Dealers Mart which has 200 vintage and classic cars for sale by their owners.

On the 8th April 1952, Lord Montagu opened his home to visitors for the first time. In the entrance hall he assembled half a dozen old cars as a tribute to his father who was an early motoring pioneer. This collection would grow over the years to become the now famous National Motor Museum. The decision to found a charitable trust was taken in 1968 to safeguard the museum and library collection. The museum building was expanded in 1972 and again in 1988. It has now acquired more than 300 vehicles and thousands of objects relating to motoring history. More than 350,000 people visit the museum annually and it is indeed worthy of a visit if you are ever in the south of England.



Rusty Nuts crew at the entrance to the New Forest, Hampshire, UK. Front to back: Dom Murphy, Edward Mulhern, Mark Murphy, Shane Egan, Padraic Gallagher, Brendan McGuire, Enda Caulfield, Oliver Corless, Alan Rattigan, Anto Heneghan.





# Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

Agatha Higgins - Secretary

With our Lifeguards employed and the children on summer holidays, it was time to open the doors of the Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool for the summer, which they duly did on Saturday, 21st June. Thanks to Fr. Stephen Farragher for blessing the pool and all its facilities.

Once again our Summer was a great success, we didn't have the summer weather we had in 2013 but that didn't stop our diligent swimmers from using the pool.

We held one Irish Water Safety course this year, which was a great success. Again, as in other years, we had great numbers of young swimmers availing of this course. We would like to thank Ronan McLoughlin for being our instructor and James McLoughlin from Irish Water Safety for examining those who took part in the IWS course.

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 such as the three-legged race, an obstacle course and the biggest splash. It guaranteed all children went home with a medal and everybody was very happy.

Our overall trophies, of which there were two, went to Anna Naszkierska who received the 'Best Attendance' Award and to Erin Murray who received the 'Most Improved Swimmer' Award. Congratulations to all winners and looking forward to seeing you all and more in 2015.

We would like to thank our new caretaker Colin Jordan for his time and dedication this summer. We would also like to thank our lifeguards, Megan Carroll, Claire Moran and Marc Mulligan, for the great work over the season.

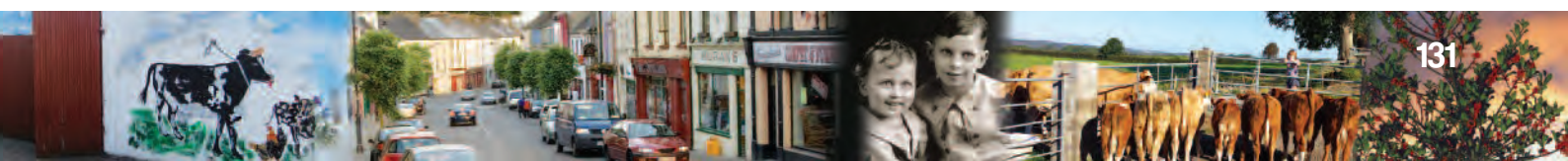
Look forward to seeing you all again next year.



James, Sinéad and Jack Lynch, Chicago Ridge, Illinois, USA, grandchildren of Peggy Daly, Upper Main Street.



Caroline Kirrane MIPAV MCEI SPMV REV, Cloonfad pictured (left) with her husband Kevin at a recent graduation ceremony in Limerick Institute of Technology. Caroline graduated with Honours in the Science of Property Sales Marketing and Valuations. Kevin Kirrane MIPAV MCEI REV received his TEGoVA accredited Recognised European Valuer certificate in Tallaght Institute of Technology.





# The Abbey Pattern

The annual Abbey Pattern celebrated its tenth year since it was re-established and took place, as is tradition, on the last Sunday in August in the Friary Field. As usual the event started off with Mass in the Abbey at 1.30pm, celebrated this year by Canon J. J. Cribbin, Parish Priest of Milltown and a native of Ballyhaunis.

The traditional races kicked off at about 2.30pm. In spite of the rain the Ballyhaunis locals, from as young as two years old up to the more 'senior' ladies and gentlemen, had great fun taking part in the various races and events which were very competitive. As usual the Credit Union podium was very busy with medals handed out to all the deserving winners.

The Dog Show, hosted by the Mayo ISPCA, was, as usual, a very busy spot with lots of dogs showing off their skills, and some just showing off their cuteness. Again, there were lots of winners and very happy owners, with rosettes being given out for various categories. The ISPCA is a very valuable association which takes in and takes care of abandoned and homeless animals and sets about getting them new homes where possible.

This year we also had a Puppet and Magic Show which was very popular with all the children. As usual the children were treated to face painting and there were many magical faces to be seen around the field!

The Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group held demonstrations on CPR techniques and this proved to be a popular event. Ballyhaunis Golf Club ran their annual Duck Race at the river and this again was a great success; while Lady Captain, Anne Cunnane, sold her delicious golf themed cup cakes.

The Scouting ladies ran a very successful shop with cups of hot tea and coffee proving very popular on a cold and rainy day. People sat under cover to chat and enjoy some homemade baking from Máire Caulfield's cake stall. The Ballyhaunis Men's Shed displayed and sold some of their wares, and an Aloe Vera stand was also kept busy on the day.

Meanwhile on stage there was a group of local musicians playing some traditional music, followed by a BOKWA display from Tracy Cunnane and the TC Fitness Ladies. Making a very welcome return to the Abbey Pattern this year was the Mary Elwood School of Irish



The Sack Race, overseen by Tommy Caulfield, Martin Walsh and Mike Griffin. *Ciara Maher Photography*



The Dog Show was a barking success! *Ciara Maher Photography*

Dancers. A large crowd gathered around the stage to watch a wonderful display of dancing.

Photos on the day were taken by Ciara Maher Photography. Best Dressed Lady was Helen Biesty. Bonny Baby Winner was Stacey McGarry. Raffle winner was Marie Roddy.

Unfortunately, due to the rain, a lot of other events scheduled for the day could not take place; but thank you to all who came out and supported the event in spite of the dismal weather.

The Abbey Pattern Committee would like to express a sincere thank you to all the local businesses and individuals who very kindly donated sponsorship. We really appreciate your continued kindness and support which enables this traditional event to take place. A huge 'Thank You' also to all who helped out in any way on the day, especially to those who prepared the Abbey for





Mass; to the four gentlemen on the gate collections; to the ladies who looked after the raffle tickets; to those who helped out setting up the field before and cleaning up afterwards; and to those who helped out with the races. You are all very much appreciated. And much appreciation goes to Leo Forkan, who did a fantastic job as MC and, indeed, race starter.

Finally, in order for the Abbey Pattern to go ahead next year, we need more people to get on board and join our committee. This is a community event and needs the community to get involved to ensure that this tradition runs well in to the future.

### Abbey Pattern Committee:

Chairperson: Carol Keane; Secretary: John Durkan; Treasurer: Brendan Donnellan; Committee members: Stephen Grogan, Stephen Finn, Johnny Mullarkey, Joe Glynn.

*Photographs: Ciara Maher Photography*

## ABBEY PATTERN RESULTS

<b>U-4 Boys</b>	1st Mark Feeney	2nd Ciaran Cosgrove	3rd Cathal Conlon & Sean Donnellan
<b>U-4 Girls</b>	1st Maya Fitzmaurice	2nd Lauren Henry	3rd Stephanie McDonagh & Ava Caulfield
<b>U-6 Girls</b>	1st Emma Henry	2nd Georgia Maye Hession	3rd Siofra Forde
<b>U-8 Boys</b>	1st Kyle Burke	2nd Michael Sweeney	3rd Daire Caulfield
<b>U-8 Girls</b>	1st Vanessa Wheelan	2nd Erica Byrne	3rd Bree Hession
<b>U-10 Boys</b>	1st Jason Hession	2nd Brian Sweeney	3rd John McDonagh
<b>U-10 Girls</b>	1st Erin Murray	2nd Caitlin Maughan	3rd Alanna Hession
<b>U-13 Boys</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Owen McDonagh	2nd Thomas Maughan	3rd Dean McGarry
<b>U-13 Girls</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Niamh O'Neill	2nd Aoife Conway	3rd Aisling Cleary
<b>U-16 Boys</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Simon McDonagh	2nd Owen McDonagh	3rd Dean McGarry & Luke Walsh
<b>U-16 Girls</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Niamh O'Neill	2nd Aoife Conway	3rd Winnie McDonagh
<b>U-18 Boys</b>	1st Martin McDonagh	2nd Humza Humza	3rd Owen McDonagh
<b>Ladies</b>	1st Tracy Cunnane	2nd Caroline Hession	3rd Eileen Donnellan
<b>Gents</b>	1st Declan Murphy	2nd Martin Walsh	3rd Cathal Hession
<b>Sack Race</b>			
<b>U-8 Boys</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Michael Maughan	2nd Adam Noone	3rd Ahmad Naveed
<b>U-8 Girls</b>	1st Erica Byrne	2nd Vanessa Wheelan.	3rd Sinead O'Neill/Emma Henry
<b>U-12 Boys</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Jason Hession	2nd Brian Sweeney	3rd Thomas Maughan
<b>U-12 Girls</b>	1st Alanah Hession	2nd Laura Allen	3rd Roisin Kerrigan



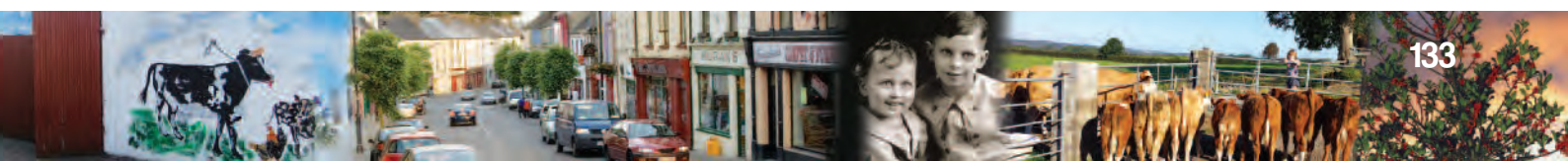
Carol Keane makes presentations to: Johnny and Caroline McGarry and their daughter Stacey who won the Bonny Baby Competition (*left*); Marie Roddy, Raffle Winner (*centre*) and Helen Biesty, Carrowkeel, winner of the Best Dress Lady (*right*).



Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union members John Mooney, Aiden Kelly and Eddie Mulhern present prizes at the Abbey Pattern.



Erin Murray, Caitlin Maughan and Alannah Hession battle it out for the medals in the U-10 Girls Sprint at the Abbey Pattern





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# Scott Medal for Bravery

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Garda Brian Freyne (centre), formerly of Devlis and now living in Mullingar is pictured with former Minister for Justice Alan Shatter T.D. (left) and former Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan (right) on the occasion of the awarding of the Bronze Scott Medal for Bravery to him, at a ceremony in the Garda Training College in Templemore on 14th February 2014.

As featured on page 135 of the 2012 edition of Annagh magazine, Brian and his colleagues rescued a two year old child from a burning house in the early hours of 22nd August 2011 in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. The two parents and four children were in the house when the fire started. As the family escaped, they did not realise that the two year old girl was still inside. Responding to a 999 call, seven Gardaí arrived at the scene. The house was filled with thick black smoke and extreme heat. Five Gardaí attempted a rescue but were beaten back by the smoke.

At this stage Brian and another colleague from the Regional Support Unit arrived ahead of the fire brigade and had a powerful torch that could penetrate the thick smoke and found the little girl in an upstairs bedroom under her cot. Garda Freyne carried the child to safety and she was taken to hospital, where she later made a full recovery.

The Bronze Scott Medal is An Garda Síochána's highest honour. In 1923 Colonel Walter Scott, an Honorary Commissioner of the New York City Police and



*Photo courtesy of An Garda Síochána*

a well know philanthropist, presented An Garda Síochána, then the world's youngest police force with a \$1,000 gold bond. There was only one condition attached to the award of the Scott Medal: "No action, however heroic, will merit the award of the Scott medal unless it takes the shape of an act of personal bravery, performed intelligently in the execution of duty at imminent risk to the life of the doer, and armed with full previous knowledge of the risk involved".

Brian is son of Bernard and Mary Freyne, formerly of Devlis and now living in Gurteen, Ballyhaunis. He is brother of Martina, Noreen and Seamus and is a past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School.

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## Controversy over Ballyhaunis Water Supply...in 1914

Michael Kelly

With all the recent fuss over Irish Water, it is interesting to note that water supply – or rather the lack of it – was an even bigger issue for some Ballyhaunis residents exactly a century ago.

In the spring (no pun intended!) of 1914 the parched citizens of Tooraree and Hazelhill were up in arms over the water issue. On 16th March 1914, they got together to sign a petition to the Claremorris Board of Guardians in the following terms:

**'Sir – We, the undersigned ratepayers of Tooraree and Hazelhill, respectfully call your Board's attention to the grave necessity that exists amongst us for a pure water supply as we are depending, or rather have to depend, upon the supply from the clouds by catching the rainwater from our houses and storing it in barrels, and after it has been stored for a couple of days we have to strain it through cloths and then boil it, and as Sir Archeson McCullagh, L.G.B. Inspector and our own sanitary inspector have pointed out to us**

**and your Board, that said water from such source is not fit for human consumption.**

**The nearest water supply to us is the dip well at the end of Ballyhaunis Post Office over a mile from us ... and in frosty and snowy it is almost an impossibility for us to procure it – and in summer time we may have to wait a considerable time for the well to flow as it is many a time exhausted ...**

The letter concluded in exasperation: **"We are twenty-five inhabitants on a desert at a time when Ireland is flooded..."**

The 25 signatories were: John M. Conry, J.P., John A. Prenty, P. Moylett, James Lyons, Francis Clarke, Edward Webb, Thomas Walsh, Bridget McDermott, Honoria Glynn, Annie Walsh, Mary Cooney, P.M Smyth, John Moran, Annie Hopkins, Pat Tully, Patrick Dignan, Patrick Finn, Patrick Cassidy, John Rattigan, Martin Dwyer, Pat Sullivan, Michael Elwood, Pat Glynn, Bridget Lyons, and John Kearney.





# Ballyhaunis Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter

## January – June 2014

### JANUARY

#### Cluster Mass

Ballyhaunis Parish once again hosted the Cluster Mass at noon on New Years day. The cluster encompasses the parishes of Aghamore, Ballinlough Ballyhaunis, Began and Knock. Fr. Stephen was the principal celebrant and the concelebrants were: Fr. Brendan McGuinness, Fr. Joe Feeney and Fr. Richard Gibbons. The choir was drawn from the cluster area as indeed were the participants who undertook readings, prayers of the faithful and the bringing up of the gifts to the altar. There was a large attendance with each area well represented.

A sincere thanks to all involved in the organising and co-ordinating of such a memorable event.

#### Enrolment Programme

The enrolment programme for those preparing for the Sacrament of Holy Communion commenced on Sunday, 26th January at 10 o'clock Mass. It was a most encouraging start with a large crowd present on a wet, windy and very cold January morning. Fr. Stephen thanked the teachers, parents and the seven transition year students from the community school who put such a huge effort into ensuring that the children be well prepared for this important step on their Christian journey. In addition, he encouraged the parents/guardians to lead by example and accompany the children to Mass in the lead up to their First Communion day on May 10th. The music, which greatly enriched the occasion was provided by the Scoil Iosa choir, under the guidance of Miriam Judge. This all coincided with the start of Catholic Schools Week.

#### Church Maintenance

Early in the new year hymnal holders were attached to each pew in the church to hold the laminated prayer leaflets for the those in the congregation who wished to avail of them during Mass. A new microphone was also installed at the pulpit. The construction of the new toilet block adjacent to the church got underway on Monday 6th January. The work was carried out by R&N Sloyan Construction Ltd. The heating system in the church underwent essential maintenance, which resulted in one artery of the system, which had been blocked for a number of years, being cleared. This has resulted in a warmer church and a more efficient heating system.

### FEBRUARY

#### Feast days

The month commenced with the feast of St. Brigid. A very well attended Mass was followed by the blessing of crosses which also took place at the vigil Mass. The blessing of candles to mark the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas day) took place at the Sunday masses, while the blessing of the throats, which is synonymous with the feast of St. Blaise, got underway after the Monday morning Novena Mass.

#### Pastoral Council Meeting

The Parochial Hall was the venue for a meeting of the Pastoral council on Monday 24th February. Among the items on a busy agenda was the concern about the shortage of priests serving our parishes. In addition to their ever increasing workload, it was pointed out that there are about 70 active priests trying to look after 55 parishes within the Archdiocese of Tuam.

### MARCH

#### Lent

The early days of March saw the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 5th of the month. Masses were celebrated at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm. It was most gratifying to have consistently good crowds attending the 10 o'clock mass throughout the Lenten season..

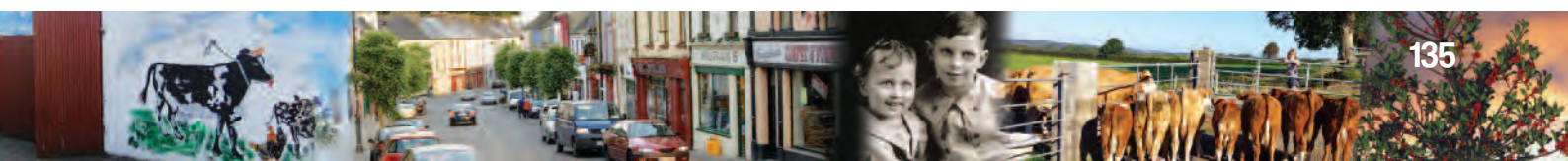
#### Parish Pastoral Council

September heralds the start of another school year and Fr. Stephen celebrated Masses in both Scoil Íosa and the Community School.

The Parish Council convened on the third Monday of the month after the summer recess. It was decided that an evening of music and song would be held on Sunday 3rd November to mark the refurbishment of the Church organ.

#### First Confession and Catholicism DVDs

Tuesday evening, March 11th was especially significant for the Communion class as they made their First Confession. Later that evening, a series of DVD's on Catholicism and understanding our faith commenced in the Parochial hall and continued each Tuesday evening throughout lent. The series was narrated by Fr. Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Chicago.





## St. Patrick's Day Masses

The 10 o'clock Mass on St. Patrick's day was a memorable occasion as it embraced all things Irish from our native language and cultural identity, to music and song. Fr. Stephen adopted a bilingual approach in his celebration of the mass. Soloist Oliver Jordan, with Ludmilla on the organ, further added to the occasion by singing a number of songs "as gaeilge". The harp more than any other instrument, symbolises our unique identity and Lisa McGuire of Brackloon, played it so beautifully throughout. The impressive display of shamrock in the church porch was arranged by Margie Phillips who was on hand to distribute it. The 12 o'clock Mass saw the Abbey and Parish choirs join forces to give an excellent performance. The live streaming in the Church is particularly important in reaching out to people of the parish and others living abroad at this time. The following links will permit access to the website:

<http://www.mcnmedia.tv/livecamdisplay.asp?CamID=131>

or <http://ballyhaunisparish.ie/webcam/>

## APRIL

### Permanent Diaconate

Three members of the Pastoral Council attended a meeting held under the auspices of St. Joseph's Cluster in Knock House Hotel on Wednesday 9th April. It was addressed by Frank McGuinness who spoke about the role of the permanent deacon. Mr. McGuinness was appointed a deacon for the diocese of Elphin in December 2012. He referred to the intensive four year training programme which he had to undergo and described it as very challenging. He went on to outline what the work of the permanent deacon entails, while also emphasising that it does not replace the work of the priest, but rather complements it, in full collaboration with the laity and in keeping with the expectations of the Church. The areas of ministry entrusted to the deacon can include assisting the priest at Mass, celebrating baptisms, presiding at funerals by saying the prayers, reading the Gospel and giving the homily if required to do so. With the shortage of priests, there are increasing numbers of permanent deacons being appointed in diocese throughout the country. Consequently, this is an area which the Tuam archdiocese will have to look at sooner rather than later.

### Children's Liturgy

A children's liturgy was held in the sacristy at the 12 o'clock mass on the first Sunday in April. There were 22 children in attendance. A children's liturgy is a "Liturgy of the Word" which is adapted to make it relevant to the lives and experiences of young children aged 4 to 7 years. At each gathering a story or topic is introduced to

the children, e.g. it could be about Easter or Our Lady. It is then discussed and the children draw and colour a picture on the subject. Their work is then displayed at the back of the church. The Liturgy begins and ends with a prayer. A second liturgy was held on Sunday 27th April which again proved very successful. It is hoped to hold this once a month, excluding the summer months during the 12 o'clock mass. Notice of such gatherings will appear on Facebook and the parish newsletter.

Remembering the words of Jesus *"let the little children come to me – don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these"*. (Matthew 19:14)

Great credit is due to Pastoral council members, Emer Gallagher and Clare Higgins for the work they put into organising and co-ordinating the Children's Liturgy and also to the parents who assisted them. More parents are encouraged to become involved in this very worthwhile endeavour.

## Holy Week

A sub committee was formed to organise the Holy week ceremonies with Fr. Stephen. It was decided to liaise with the John Paul II transition year students from the community school and this contributed in no small way to its success. The students played a prominent role in the Good Friday liturgy. Midwest radio broadcast the Mass of the Lord's supper on Holy Saturday with station presenter, Gerry Glennon being the narrator. The Easter Triduum was considerably enhanced by the presence of the Scoil Iosa, Parish and Abbey Male choirs on consecutive nights. Favourable comment was made about the attendance at the Stations of the Cross at 3 o'clock on Good Friday and positive feedback on the figures depicting the Resurrection of Christ, which were placed in front of the altar in the sanctuary. They certainly captured the true meaning of Easter. Well done to former Pastoral Council member, Patricia Plunkett, who came up with the suggestion and took responsibility for setting it up. A very sincere thanks to all who helped in any way to ensure the success of the Holy week ceremonies.

## MAY

### Holy Communion

May 10th was a very special day for the 32 children from Scoil Iosa who made their First Holy Communion, Fr. Stephen after speaking to them expressed his gratitude to their teachers Stella McGrath and Michelle Flatley for the work they put into preparing the children for their special day. He also thanked Anne Durkan, who co-ordinated the parish programme and transition year students, Cathal Carney, Oisín Coffey, James Reynolds, Piaris Caulfield, Leanne Henry, Sarah Skeffington and Joseph Lyons who helped to make the programme such





a success. The occasion was enhanced by the Scoil Íosa choir, under the guidance of Miriam Judge. Thanks was also expressed to all who helped in any way, from preparing the church to co-ordinating the parking.

### Toilet Block Construction

The construction of the public toilet block was completed in time for the First Communion Ceremony on May 10th. It incorporates a toilet for the disabled in addition to baby changing facilities. It will be open for Masses, Weddings, Funerals and any other events held in the church.

### Graduation Mass

The "Graduation Mass" for the 85 Leaving Certificate students took place in the Community School on Thursday evening 22nd of May. This was followed by a presentation of a certificate to each student and photographs were taken with parents, family members, teachers and class colleagues. This is always a very special evening for the students concerned.

## JUNE

### Talk by Fr. Colm Kilcoyne

The Parochial Hall was the venue for a talk given by Fr. Colm Kilcoyne (pictured right) to Eucharistic Ministers on Thursday 5th June. It was particularly beneficial for those present who had recently volunteered to participate in this ministry in that they got a very good insight into what the duties of a Eucharistic Minister entails. On Sunday June 22nd, the feast of Corpus Christi they were commissioned in a brief ceremony during the 12 o'clock Mass.

### Corpus Christi Procession

The annual Corpus Christi procession was held on Sunday, June 22nd continuing the age old tradition in our parish. This year's procession took on a new direction as a large number of participants processed up through Upper Main Street and into Aisling Drive, where Benediction was conducted by parish priest Fr. Stephen Farragher. As in former years, the sun shone brightly on the procession, making the occasion a glorious one filled with fervour and devotion. Full credit is due to the residents of Upper Main Street and indeed to the residents of Aisling Drive who kept the flag flying in style by having their respective areas looking splendid for the occasion and suitably adorned with altars and sacred images, adding greatly to the splendour of the occasion. Benediction hymns were performed by the combined Parish Choir and the Abbey Male Choir.

### BALLYHAUNIS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL 2013 – 2017

**Chairman:** Michael Goulding

**Secretary:** Christina Concannon

**Assistant Secretary:** Martina Gavin

Fr Stephen Farragher

Anne Carney

Clare Higgins

Emer Gallagher

Gabrielle Lyons

Laura Brogan

Majella Coffey

Mary Mulrennan

Michael Byrne

Mike Griffin

Orla Phillips

Orla Loftus-Moran

Willie Ryan

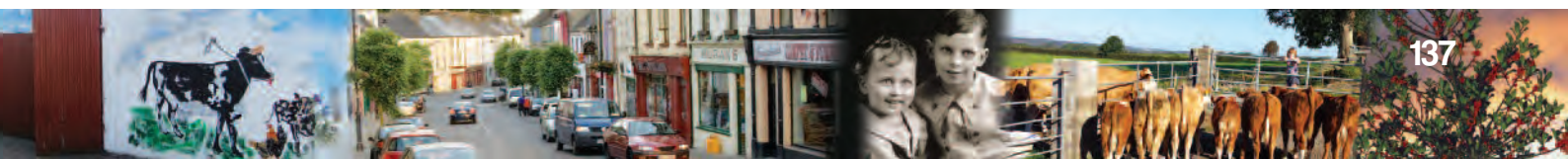
Anne Durkan

Siobhán Quinn

Marie Brennan



Members of the Parish Pastoral Council who organised the special Mass for deceased loved ones on Saturday, November 1st and who presented Sacristan Frances Maye with a birthday cake to celebrate her 80th birthday. Standing, L-R: Martina Gavin, Christina Concannon, Mary Mulrennan, Laura Brogan, Orla Loftus-Moran, Marie Brennan, Frances Maye, Ann Carney, Gabrielle Lyons, Emer Gallagher, Claire Higgins, Orla Phillips, Mike Griffin. Kneeling: Fr Stephen Farragher, Michael Goulding.





# Ballyhaunis Library - Summer Reading Challenge



Children from Ballyhaunis who completed the Summer Reading Challenge at Ballyhaunis Library were presented with certificates and medals by Cllr. John Cribbin and Mayo Footballer Keith Higgins at Ballyhaunis Library.

Also included in the photographs are Mary Gannon (Senior Executive Librarian), Eleanor Freyne (Ballyhaunis Library) and Bridie Wimsey (Kiltimagh Library). Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.



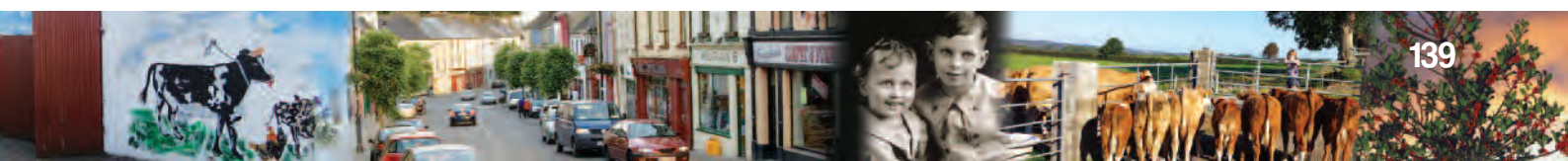


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# Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

Patricia Gaughan - Club Secretary

I am delighted to report another successful year was had at Ballyhaunis Bridge Club with new and returned former members joining us in our weekly efforts to outwit, outbid and most of all to enjoy our weekly games.

The AGM took place in May. The new officers elected for 2014-2015 were:-

**President** - Ann Nestor;

**Vice-President** - Dorothy Durkan;

**Secretary** - Patricia Gaughan;

**Treasurer** - Rita London.

Since the start of our bridge year 2014-2015 we have moved to the Clare Court Centre. We now play on Wednesday and Thursday nights with an 8pm start

## Competition Winners

**Murphy Cup:** Ann Nestor & Patricia Gaughan.

**D. Murphy & Sons Autosales:** Corrine Flatley & Vinny Healy.

**AIB Cup:** Mary Walshe & Donal Geraghty.

Nestor & Co. Accountants: Mary Walshe & Donal Geraghty.

**The President's Prize**, presented by Patricia Gaughan, was won by Mary Walshe and Donal Geraghty.

## Memorial Plaque

A Mass for all deceased members of the club was held in the Parish Church in January and the celebrant was Fr. Kieran Waldron, whose sister Patricia was a lifelong member of the club.

It was decided from this year on that the club would no longer have a memorial night for any one individual but instead have a memorial night for all deceased members. The Murphy Cup was kindly donated by Mrs. Kathleen Cribbin and Mrs Sheila Duffy, nieces of Mrs. Murphy, who taught bridge in Ballyhaunis for many years. It is now known as The Memorial Cup.

This cup was played for in October and the winners were Susan Laffey and Michael Cameron. The night was sponsored by Nestor & Co. Accountants. The cup and cheque were presented on the night by our esteemed President, Mrs. Ann Nestor.

On the night the President presented to the club a memorial plaque, designed by Helena Caulfield. The names of all our deceased members since the foundation of the club in 1962 are recorded on this plaque. Many



The Memorial Plaque being presented to  
Ballyhaunis Bridge Club.

L-R: Patricia Gaughan (Secretary),  
Ann Nestor (President), Rita London (Treasurer).

thanks to all the people who helped to compile this extensive list, it took time and effort and the club appreciates all contributions made. This plaque now hangs in the entrance hall of the centre for all to view. The night was rounded off with a glass of wine and delicious food prepared by our kind members.

This Summer we lost a long and valued member of the Bridge Club, Mrs. Dolores Jordan. The club would like to extend its sympathy to the Jordan family and to all members who lost loved ones throughout the year.



## Joining Us

Please feel free to join us for Bridge, you are very welcome. If you need a playing partner, please contact Breege Halpin at 087 688 3383.





# Mary McCorry (née Glynn)

## Centenarian Celebrations

With joy we report that one of our local girls, Mary McCorry (née Glynn), formerly of Cuiltycrehan, Brickens, achieved centenarian status on 30th July 2014. Mary is becoming a regular in the Annagh Magazine having featured in 2012 as the oldest surviving pupil of St. Joseph's Convent School, Ballyhaunis.

Mary's 100th Birthday was marked with a week of celebration including a party at Grounds Farm, near Birmingham, England, the weekend prior to her birthday which was attended by more than a hundred of Mary's family and friends. Strong representation from California and Washington DC with additional support nearer home including Mayo, Northern Ireland, Dublin and Jersey with nephews and nieces all contributing to the occasion and making the day very memorable and special.

Mary and her surviving siblings Nance, Nell, Teresa, Joe and Una boast a cumulative age of 550 years and joined in the celebration with vigour supporting a theory, "there must be something in the Cuiltycrehan water".

Mary's immediate family, nephews and nieces, old friends including Mary Kenny, Winnie McHugh and Kath Gold ensured that a day assisted by pleasant weather, good food and refreshment was something special. The birthday toast was proposed by her brother Joe and the many greetings included cards from Queen Elizabeth, The Obamas and respective UK and Irish Governments.

The actual day itself (July 30th) was a more sedate affair with a family lunch taken at The Boathouse in Sutton Park, Birmingham on the banks of a lake, a day again blessed by very pleasant weather and good company.

The evening was highlighted by a family mass in the garden of Mary's home, celebrated by Fr. Kelly of The Rosary parish and wherein a papal blessing scroll from Pope Francis was presented to Mary by Fr. Kelly.

All in all a magic and memorable week – well worth the 100 year wait!



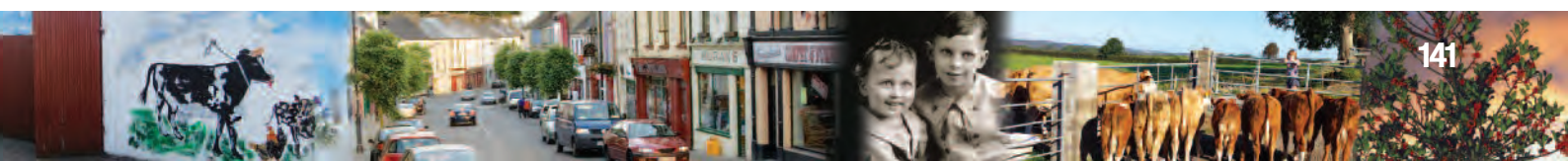
Birthday Girl.



The US branch of the Glynn family flew in from California and Washington DC for the celebration headed by brother, Joe and wife, Helen.



From right, sisters Teresa, Una, Nell (standing), Mary, Nance, brother Joe and wife Helen, niece Teri, daughter Marie and (standing) son Paddy.





# Days of Struggle and Strife

## The Nolan Ferrall Estate at Logboy from pre-Famine to Land War

Brickens Community Centre was the venue for the launch in October of a new local history book entitled *Struggle and Strife on a Mayo estate: the Nolans of Logboy and their tenants, 1833-1903*. Written by local historian, Michael Kelly, a native of Began, the book draws on a wide range of sources to uncover the story of the Nolan Ferrall estate at Logboy over seven decades of the 19th century. Published by Four Courts Press, it is part of the Maynooth Studies in Local History series which, in the words of Professor Roy Foster, has 'brought about a quiet revolution in Irish local studies...and changed the larger landscape too'.

The story begins in the 1830s when the heavily-indebted estate of the Catholic Nolan family at Logboy was inherited by Edmond J. Nolan (1790-1868), a Dublin-based attorney. A benevolent landlord, he was responsible for building a new school and church at Logboy before 1840.

The book gives an account of the hardships suffered by tenants during the 1840s when starvation, disease, death and emigration devastated the locality. The landlord was eventually forced to sell the estate through the Encumbered Estate Court in the aftermath of the Famine but it stayed within the wider Nolan family since the purchaser was his wealthy nephew, John Nolan Ferrall (1832-95), who also inherited lands in Co. Roscommon. Nolan Ferrall proceeded to build up an extensive property portfolio throughout Mayo and Roscommon and he enjoyed a privileged lifestyle during the post-Famine economic recovery, while maintaining reasonably good relations with his tenants for over two decades.

But when a confluence of misfortunes reduced Mayo tenants to penury once again in the late 1870s, the Logboy estate was targeted by organized land agitation led by Fenian activists and closely linked with agrarian unrest at nearby Irishtown. In June 1879, the sheriff's bailiff under police escort was attacked by crowd of 600 protestors while attempting to serve processes on the estate. Relations between Nolan Ferrall and his tenants deteriorated, resulting in further violent confrontations and evictions. When his estate bailiff, Luke Dillon, was brutally murdered near his home in November 1881, this proved to be a turning point for the landlord and he

abandoned Logboy for good.

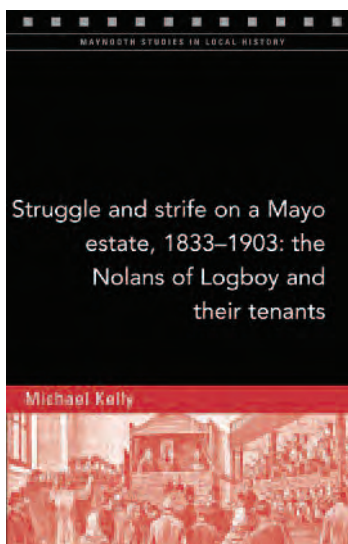
About the same time the new Land Court opened for business in Claremorris and when tenants were awarded rent reductions averaging 20% by the court, the tense situation was defused, at least temporarily. However, the

Logboy estate again became a flash point during the second phase of the Land War, known as the Plan of Campaign, when tenants with external support combined to pressurise the landlord to negotiate more reasonable rents.

At a public meeting in Claremorris on 19th January 1887, John Redmond MP hailed the success of the Plan of Campaign in bringing Lord Dillon to his senses and forcing him to reach a compromise with his tenants. Redmond believed that this victory could be replicated on the Nolan Ferrall estate. The next month, there was a major showdown between the state authorities and tenants at Logboy. A police force of

250 was drafted in to the estate to enforce a writ on the Murray holding at Derryhog but had to back down in the face of 2,000 protestors. Days later the estate demesne was the scene of a mass rally when an estimated 12,000 people turned up to protest against threatened evictions and the landlord's abandoned mansion was seized as a platform for speakers. Trouble was avoided as there was no police presence. Eventually, after most of his fellow landlords had relented, Nolan Ferrall too conceded a rent reduction. After his death in 1895, the United Irish League took up the tenants' case until the Wyndham land act of 1903 finally enabled them to become landowners.

This book should appeal not only to locals but to anybody with Mayo ancestry or an interest in Mayo history during this troubled period.



### Ballyhaunis Library Opening Hours

<b>Monday</b>	Closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	1.00 pm – 7.00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	1.00 pm – 8.00 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Closed
<b>Friday</b>	11.00 am – 5.00 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	11.00 am – 4.00 pm





# Stations IN THE PARISH OF ANNAGH

Photographs courtesy of Fr. Stephen Farragher



**Killinaugher Stations in the home of Geraldine and John Connolly, 28th October, 2013.**

Back, standing, L-R: Martin Fitzmaurice, Evan Fitzmaurice, Sean Regan, John Connolly, Bill Comer, Deirdre Diskin, Padraig Regan, Mary Nolan, Anne Fitzgerald, Helen Hoban, Marion Regan, Tommy Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Regan, Maureen Comer, Kevin Diskin, Michael Nolan, Aileen Burke.

Back, seated:

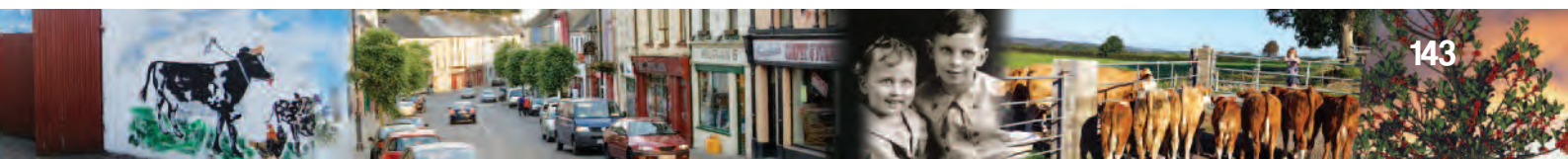
Geraldine Connolly, Mary Hunt, Úna Fitzmaurice, Bernie Egan, Anne Keane, Andy Gavin, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Tommy Fitzgerald.

Front: Joe Diskin, Aaron Jordan, Caroline Regan, Michelle Jordan, Tom Regan, Marion Gavin, Christina Connolly, Sarah & Shane Gavin.



**Stations in the home of Eileen Waldron, Cave, 26th October 2013.**

Seated, L-R: Noreen Kilkenny, Bridget McLoughlin, Mary Margaret McBride, Rita Morris, Eileen Waldron, Irma Folliard, Marie Cribbin, Josie Folliard. Kneeling: Katelyn Coyne, Tara Coyne. Seated, centre: Oliver Cribbin, Teresa Mueller, Nora Brennan. Standing: Kathleen McBride, Brendan Morrissey, Sean Waldron, Sheila Waldron, Denise Nolan, Mike Nolan, Breda Waldron, Bridie Waldron, Margaret Cribbin, Isobel Morrissey, Bernard Waldron, Susan Hoban, Patricia Waldron, Tom Waldron, Ciarán Brennan, Tony Brennan, Paul Waldron, Tara Niland, Padraic Phillips. Back: Mary Morrissey, Patrick Waldron, Tony Waldron, Luke Cribbin, James Cribbin, Karen Coyne.







Clare Street Stations, in the home of Ger Donnellan, 28th February 2014.

Seated at front, L-R: Bernie Gill, Ina Freyne, John Cleary, Pat Donnellan, Martha Grogan, Gillian Donnellan, Aibhe Donnellan, Mark Donnellan, Tom Donnellan, Eileen Donnellan, Paula Donnellan, Meave Donnellan, Margie Phillips and Mary Frances Cleary. Back, L-R: Bridie Levins, Pauline Curley, Una Phillips, Brendan Donnellan, Seán Donnellan, Paul Donnellan, Seán Freyne, John Gill, Grahame Cleary and Ger Donnellan.



Devlis Stations in the home of Ita and Jarlath Fahey, 21st March 2014.

Standing, L-R: Micheál Ryan, Fr. Kieran Waldron, Frank Fahey, Niki Fahey, Pat Higgins, Pauline McGarry, Marian Higgins, Áine Fahey, Gerry McGarry, Eddie Murphy, Robbie Herr, Paddy Joe O'Brien, Kevin Higgins, Mike Griffin. Seated: Jarlath Fahey, Vera Ryan, Donal Fahey, Betty Coen, Mary Elwood, Breda Burke, Mona Herr, Sally Higgins, Ita Fahey, Aoibhinn Herr, Mary Ryan, Sean Herr, Liam Herr, Ann O'Brien, Vincent de Philly, Mary Waldron, Ann Moran, Ann Durkan, Dee Moran, Bríd Fahey. Front: Kevin Durkan, Mary T. Griffin.







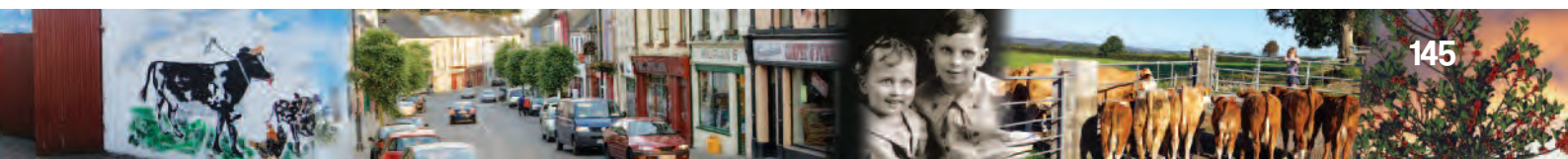
**Ballinphuill Stations in the home of Kay and Peter Higgins, 29th March 2014.**

Back, L-R: Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Gerry Lyons, John Finnegan, Noreen Gallagher, John Joe Lyons, Marcella Keane, Pat Gaffney, Kevin McNamara, Mary Sloyan, Michael Egan, Bernie Lyons, Kathleen Egan, Mary Donnelly, Joan McNamara, Liam Lyons, Tina Kirrane, Agatha Higgins, Vincent Higgins, Teresa Grogan. Middle row: Gabrielle Lyons, Mary Finnegan, Mary Walsh, Mary Higgins, Kathleen Cribbin, Bernadette Lyons, Frances Gaffney, Ann Murphy, Ann Lyons, Michelle Lyons. Front row: Jimmy Walsh, Joseph Lyons, Darragh Ganley, Keith Higgins, Kay Higgins, Peter Higgins, Erin Higgins, Claire Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Ger Conroy, Geraldine Conroy.



**Drimbane Stations in the home of Anne and Seamus Kelly, 4th April 2014.**

Front, L-R: Nora McGivern, Eddie McGivern, Ann Biesty, Anne Kelly, Seamus Kelly, Dymrna Greally, Helen Greally and Martha Gallagher (partially hidden). Second row: Joe Glynn, Patricia Greally, Maura Fitzmaurice, Lisa O'Connell, Lydia Biesty, Bernadette O'Malley, Margaret Hannan, Mary Kelly, Caroline McGarry and Aleshia McGarry. Third row: John McGarry Snr., John McGarry Jnr., Tom Carroll, Kieran Kelly, Michael O'Malley, Alan Kelly, Dolores Biesty, Laura O'Connell, Olivia Cleary, Seamus Cribbin, Dave McGuire, Paul Sykes and Mary Sykes. Back group: Padraig Kelly, Gina Kelly, Benny McCarrick, Alta Regan, Stephen Biesty, John Biesty, Gerry O'Connell, Assumpta Coyle, Daniel Coyle, Sheila Commins, Paul Biesty, Patrick Murphy, Julie Cleary, John Greally, Gabriel Smyth, Fiona Biesty, Elaine Walsh and Barbara Murphy.







**Carrowkeel/Woodpark Stations in the home of Bernie and Gordon Biesty, Carrowkeel, 11th April 2014**

Seated at front: Rebecca Clancy, Lorna Clancy, Mark Clancy, Gordon Biesty, Bernie Biesty, John Clancy, Amy Clancy, Lauren Clancy, Annette Clancy, John Cribbin. Second row, seated: Audrey Biesty, Helen Biesty, Sean Biesty, Geraldine Clancy, Mary Duffy, Paddy Duffy. Third Row Seated: Conor Clancy, Denise Clancy, Jack Madden, Damien Connor. Standing group at back: Padraig Clancy, Albert Madden, Carol Clancy, Gabriel Morley, Mairead Duffy, Catriona Duffy, Sinead Morley, Karen Clancy, Lorraine Biesty, Fiona Biesty, Paul Biesty, Phil Biesty, Rita Madden, Katie Madden, Ann Biesty, Assumpta Coyle, Josie Cunnane, Ann Marie O'Boyle, Teresa Connolly, Ita McDonald, Jimmy O'Boyle, Susan Connolly, Margaret Tarpey, Catherine Morley, Gerard Lyons, Ann Tully, Jimmy Tully, P.J. Morley, Dan Tarpey, Teresa Morley, Mary Tarpey, Shirley Tarpey, Bridie Morley.



**Abbey Street Stations in the home of Dorothy Durkan, 4th October 2014.**

Back, L-R: Dorothy Durkan, Benny McCarrick, Fionnuala Nolan, Marcella Keane, John Durkan, Michael Conlon, Geraldine Conlon, Aoife Dennedy. Front: Susan Laffey, Ann O'Dwyer, Maura Fitzmaurice, Triona Flatley, Ann Durkan, Kevin Durkan.







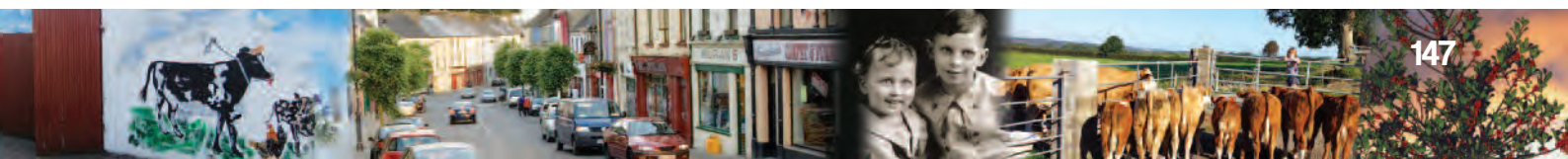
**Devlis Stations in the home of Mary T. and Mike Griffin, 10th October 2014.**

Standing, L-R: Mairéad Griffin, Martha Lucey, Robbie Herr, Bernie Finn, Aleena Feeney, Máire Ivanna Heneghan, Frank Finn, Geraldine Finn, Jarlath Fahey, Una Shiels, Laura Webb, Dee Moran, Breda Burke, Mary T. Griffin. Seated, L-R: Marie Webb, Mary Donnelly, Mary Waldron, Mike Griffin, Celia Dowdall, Ann O'Dwyer, Annette Murphy, Mike Doherty, Mae Carroll, Monica Carroll.



**Killinaugher/Derrynacong Stations in Home of Deirdre and Joe Diskin, 17th October, 2014.**

Standing, L-R: Tom Fitzmaurice, Susan Weigel, Lora Regan, David Regan, Joe O'Neill, Colin Jordan, Peter Weigel, Christopher Murphy, Michelle Jordan, Tom Regan, Mark Regan, Alvin Murphy, Pdraig Regan, Michael Regan, Sean Regan, Geraldine Connolly. Seated, L-R: Megan Gaughan, Veronica Nally, Julia Kelly, Mary Hunt, Veronica O'Neill, Kevin Diskin, Helen Hoban, Linda Cunny, Bernadette Reilly, Joe Diskin, Marion Regan, Aaron Jordan, John Diskin, Sarah Nally, Christiana Sehaumburg, Carmel Regan, Kathleen Regan, John Connolly, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Martin Fitzmaurice, Deirdre Diskin.







**Doctor's Road Stations in the home of Helen Healy, 3rd October, 2014.**

Back (standing in arch), L-R: Oliver Cribbin, Martin Brennan, Colm Rudden, Shane Healy, John Brady, Oisín Brady, Roger Brady. Back, seated: Gráinne Walsh, Kevin Kilbride, Seamus Mulrennan, Mary Mulrennan, Bernie Brady, Laura Brady, Mary Keane, Patsy Keane, Mary Cleary, Hugh Rudden (standing). Third row from back, seated: Marian Feeney, Matt O'Dwyer, Ger O'Dwyer, Dara Healy, Aidan Byrne, John Reidy, Conal Caulfield, Patrick Caulfield. Seated to left hand side: Helen Healy, Mary Kelly, Katherine Kilbride, Sinéad Healy. Fourth row from back, seated: Helena Brady, Saoirse Brady, Muireann Brady, Finian Brady, Joe Duffy, Mary Duffy, Katie Duffy, Mairéad Reidy, Pat Grogan. Front: Samantha Byrne, Mary Rudden, Breege Halpin, John Mooney, Tommy Caulfield, James Reidy, Maura Burke, Peg Byrne, Brian Byrne.



**A Gathering in Micky Reilly's house in Coolloughra, 1960s.**

Back (standing), L-R: Dolly Fitzmaurice (Spaddagh), Mick Finn (Classaroe), Mary Casserly (née Lyons, Spaddagh), Kathleen Flanagan (Spaddagh), John Ruane (Lurgan), Maggie Lyons (Arderry), Mrs. Bucknall (England, née Croghan, Ballinlough). Front: John T. Lyons (Spaddagh), Delia Ruane (Lurgan), Micky Reilly (Coolloughra), Bernie Ruane (Lurgan), Unknown, Pat Cooney (Classaroe). *Photo courtesy Joan Flanagan.*





# The O'Reilly Family of Woodpark

Margaret Conroy

The O'Reilly family has been in Woodpark since at least the mid-19th century. James Reilly was listed in Griffith's Valuation of Ireland as a tenant of Baron De Heizler and partners. James was a labourer who married Mary Anne Waldron sometime before 1854. She was possibly from Woodpark also, as James had neighbours of the same surname. Sadly, James died in 1865 aged only 40, just two months after his youngest child was born. His wife Mary Anne died in 1896 aged 67.

Their children included Thomas (1857–1947), Margaret (1854) and Eliza (born 1867). There may have been more children, due to the gap between Thomas and his sisters. In the 19th century, the surname had various spellings: Riley, Rielly or Reilly, depending on which priest was writing up the baptism /marriage records in Annagh parish. In those days, parish-ioners would not have dared to say "I spell my name differently" to the clergy! In any case, the name changed to O'Reilly around the turn of the 20th century.

Thomas married Ann Brady (1866–1951) of Mace Middle and had the following children: Mary Catherine born in 1893; Bridget 1895, Elizabeth 1897, Anne 1899, Margaret 1902, James Patrick 1904, Thomas Joseph 1909. There were also three un-named infants who died soon after birth.

Thomas Joseph O'Reilly was born in 1909 and died 13th Feb 1979, Woodpark, Ballyhaunis (see below). In 1946 he married Bridget Mary Johnston (1911-1985), daughter of Edward Johnston and Mary Hunt of Hazelhill. They had two sons: Eamon in 1951 and Thomas J. O'Reilly in 1948. Eamon went to the College in Ballyhaunis and Thomas (Tommy) went to the Technical School. Tommy never married and looked after his parents and the farm. Sadly, Tommy died suddenly at home in Feb. 2003 and is buried with his parents in Ballyhaunis Cemetery.

Eamon O'Reilly married Ann Lyons in March 1975 in Ballyhaunis. She is the youngest daughter of Patrick Lyons and Josephine Gorman of Brackloon North and Derrylahan respectively. The Lyons family can trace their Brackloon roots to the early part of the 19th century and possibly beyond that time.

Eamon's and Ann's two sons are Cathal and Bobby. Their grandson Tommy was born January 2013 to Bobby and Ciara. Cathal married Máire Ivanna Heneghan earlier this year.

Eamon joined An Garda Síochána on the 5th July



March 1975, L-R: Bridie O'Reilly (nee Johnston), Eamon O'Reilly, Ann Lyons, Thomas O'Reilly Sr. and Thomas O'Reilly Jr. (All photographs courtesy of Ann O'Reilly née Lyons of Brackloon).



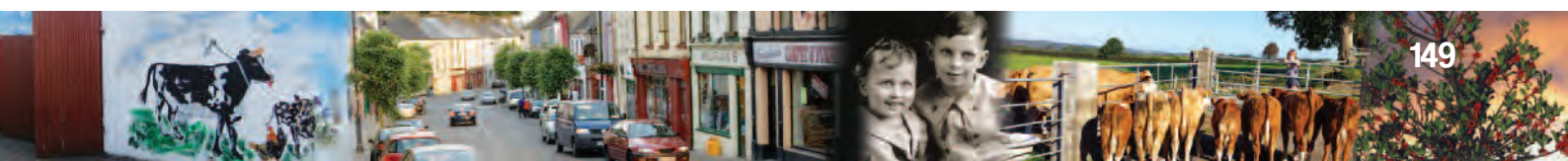
Eamon O'Reilly aged about 12 years.



Eamon O'Reilly on his Retirement Day, 16th Sept. 2011.



Ann Lyons O'Reilly with grandson Tommy O'Reilly.





1972 and served in Dublin. He was based in Dún Laoghaire as a Detective Inspector for seventeen years and was one of Ireland's most experienced crime-fighters. In particular, he led the investigation into the sad death of Raonaid Murray. While his investigations did not lead to anyone being charged with Ms Murray's murder, he was involved in many other successful investigations. He retired from the force in September 2011. He took ill in the summer of 2013, but thankfully was able to attend his grandson Tommy's christening. He died on the 8th July 2013 in St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. May he rest in peace.

See also the 2012 edition of Annagh Magazine (page 141) for more photographs of extended O'Reilly and Johnston families.



Tommy O'Reilly with his mother Ciara and father Bobby.



Cathal O'Reilly with nephew Tommy.

## Annagh 2015

The deadline for contributing articles and photographs for Annagh 2015 is

**Friday, October 16th, 2015.**

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

### Notes on photographs for next year's magazine:

All photographs should be fully named and dated, if possible, and the owner's name included on the back. The contributor's name will be published only if this is requested.

Photographs sent digitally, by email or on CD, should be in jpeg format, and scanned at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, i.e. large size. Small, low-resolution images may not be suitable for publication. Due to the large volume of material submitted, regrettably, it may not be possible to include all photographs supplied.

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

## Special Olympics Success

Mike Byrne

Last June Ballyhaunis and district was well represented at the National Special Olympics in Limerick, and all competitors did themselves very proud in their various sporting events.

Padraig Prendergast won Gold in the Mini Javelin, Silver in the Relay and Silver in the 800 Metres Run. Irma Folliard won Silver in the 50 Metre Run and Bronze in the Mini Javelin. Thomas Campbell won a Gold medal in Bowling. Brian Slevin won Bronze in the Shot Putt competition. Paul McNamara won Gold and Silver in Table Tennis. John Healy won two Gold medals in the Motor Activities. Annette Rattigan won Bronze in the 25 Metres Run. Niamh Waldron collected a Silver medal for her performance in the 50 Metre and a Bronze medal in the Mini Javelin event.

Ballyhaunis Chamber welcomed back all the Special Olympic athletes from the area with a party in The Communal House, Clare Court, on Sunday evening, 15th June 2014. It was a marvellous occasion and all the successful competitors were in high spirits and full of the joys of victory as they were greeted with a hero's welcome to the Clare Court centre.

Liz Kilbride and Elma Kilbride hosted the party on behalf of the Ballyhaunis Chamber and it was an occasion to relish and remember for all the celebrating competitors. Well done to all competitors who did themselves and their families so proud at those very competitive events.



Niamh Waldron, pictured with her Mum Bridie at the Special Olympics National Games in Limerick, after being presented with her two medals.





# Special Olympics



Michael, Eric and Margaret Kilcourse.  
Ciara Maher Photography.



Paul McNamara in deep concentration  
during a table tennis match.



John Healy.  
Ciara Maher Photography.



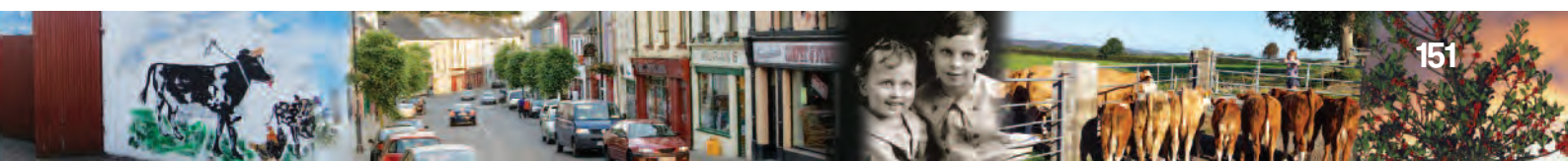
Mairead Ganley, Irma Folliard and Emily Hickey.  
Ciara Maher Photography.



Annette Rattigan and Cllr. John  
Cribbin. Ciara Maher Photography.



Tadhg Buckley, Kay Buckley, Paul McNamara,  
Sarah Buckley and Ciara Buckley.





## Kay Healy

During the summer, our Choir Gallery has been refurbished with new seating and wall-mounted gas

New members are very welcome to join the choir. We need to put in a good practice to achieve the standard we have attained, and this means total dedication by all members. However we make time for little chats and have lots of lighter moments and banter from the 'back row'.

**Chairperson:** Michael Kelly; **Secretary:** Kay Healy;  
**Treasurers:** Frances Mulhern and Maureen Thornton;  
**PRO:** Kay Healy; **Musical Director:** Moira Delaney;  
**Organist:** Ludmelia Burcovski.

# Down Memory Lane



Pat Biesty, Ann Biesty and Paddy O'Connell,  
with An Taoiseach Jack Lynch.



Robbie Herr and Tommy Caulfield take a break at the Square 1984



Vera O'Connell (left), Mary Ellen Griffin (Clare St.)  
and Paddy O'Connell.



# Your Field

John Corless

I watched you steer the plough  
drawn by a faithful bay mare,  
cultivating an existence  
on unforgiving Mayo hills.

Together you turned the sod,  
under the scrutiny of birds,  
circling, before they swooped  
to pluck the fresh food.

We planted you late that summer  
harvested before your time.  
Barley and hay awaiting collection,  
gathered with heavy hearts.

Now I watch a younger man  
steer a shiny green tractor  
Skilfully around shrubs,  
flower beds and a garden swing.

His young son watches every move,  
As he stands beside his mother,  
in the comfort of the bungalow  
built on your field.

John Corless is a writer, creative writer teacher and actor. He is also Director of the Claremorris Fringe Festival of Drama ([www.johncorless.net](http://www.johncorless.net)).

John facilitated a creative writing course in Ballyhaunis during the Autumn. This poem appears in John's 2009 book of poetry entitled 'Are you Ready' published by Salmon Poetry. ([www.salmonpoetry.com](http://www.salmonpoetry.com))



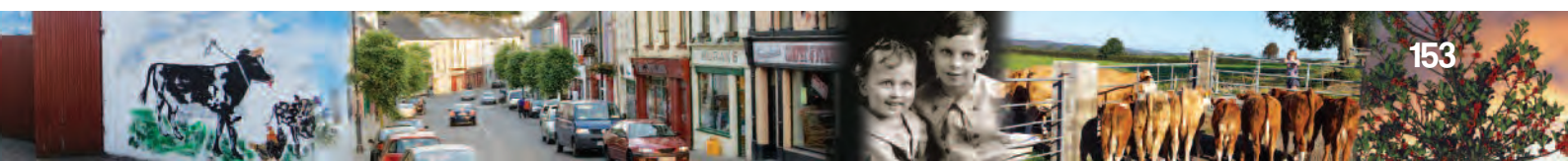
Taken in a potato field in Lincolnshire, England, 1966.

Standing:  
Andy McGrath (Mountain, Aghamore),  
Dan Healy (Kilbrogan),  
Michael Regan (Derrynacong),  
Jim Fitzmaurice (Lisbane),  
Pat Regan (Derrynacong),  
Victor Mortimer (England).  
Kneeling:  
Eric Linghard (England),  
Ernie Mortimer (England).

Photo courtesy of Jim Fitzmaurice.



Patrick 'Brod' Caulfield (Drimbane) and Louise Fitzmaurice (Abbeyquarter). Photo taken in 1978.





# Ballyhaunis Musical Society 1995



Ballyhaunis Musical Society staged the show 'My Fair Lady' in February 1995. It was the second annual production by the society. Playing the lead characters that year were Michael Horan as Professor Higgins and Anna Henry playing Eliza Doolittle. Mike Byrne showed his comedic side in his portrayal of Alfred Doolittle and Tom Colleran played Colonel Pickering. This photo shows some of the cast in full 'Ascot' costume as they enjoyed a day out at the races in the beautiful sunshine.



Front, L-R: Tina Kirrane, Mary Smyth, Eileen Jordan, Una Shields, Aisling Toal and Anna Henry. Second row: Mary Lyons, Moira Noone, Michael Horan, Celine Murray and Breda Burke. Third row: Aiden Kelly, Mary Hunt, Patricia Grogan, Laura Greally and Tom Colleran. Back row: Kevin Henry, John Leonard, Michael Kelly and Jack Greene.

(Left) At the Galway Races in 'Ascot Costume' 1995: Una Shields, Eileen Jordan and Breda Burke.





# Good Neighbours

Anne Lyons



Standing, L-R: Kay Higgins, Tina Kirrane, Marie Brennan, Mary Higgins, Jimmy Walsh, Agatha Higgins, Kathleen Cribbin, Billy Phillips, Katie Phillips, Mary Walsh, Gary Higgins, Diarmuid Phillips, Vincent Higgins. Front, L-R: Cáit Phillips, Michelle Lyons, Roisín Lyons, Dearbhla Phillips.

It is hard to put into words what it means to have good neighbours. They are there for you at both happy and sad times, and yet they don't live in your space!

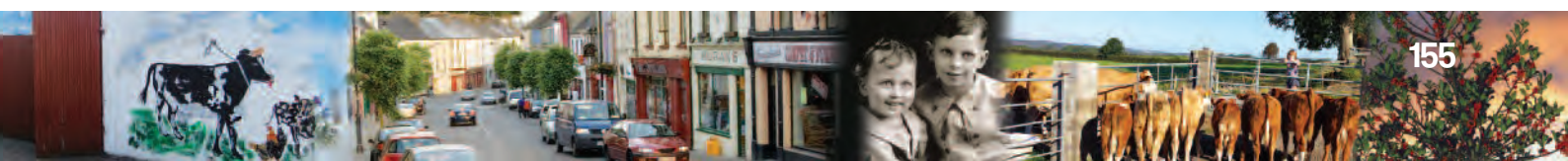
I have been so lucky to have come to live in such a neighbourhood, that is Knockbrack, Skeghard and Ballnphuill.

They pulled out all the stops on Sunday, 21st September last when the winning All-Ireland Mayo Minor C Hurlers returned home, via Ballyhaunis, to fantastic celebrations. There was a big gathering at Knockbrack with a bonfire, flags and bunting. It was fantastic to see. The team bus stopped and James Lyons, their Captain, led his victorious team-mates off the bus to a triumphant welcome. Plenty of photographs were taken, plus lots of hugs, kisses and congratulations.

As a family we were so humbled that our great neighbours would honour our son James and the team so well. As the TV programme 'Neighbours' says: "When neighbours become good friends". A big 'Thank You' to our good friends for creating such wonderful memories.



Mayo Minor Hurling C Captain, James Lyons (left) with team-mate Mark Phillips and the All-Ireland Hurling Minor C Final trophy.





# Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair Fianna Fáil

Kenneth Dennedy

As another year passes, the Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair Fianna



Fáil can look back at what has been a successful period in the continued regeneration of the party on a local basis with regular well attended meetings taking place and active participation in party activities by the local membership. The past year has given our party cause for celebration with the election of John Caulfield to Mayo County Council attaining the highest first preference vote of any Fianna Fáil candidate in the local election held in May 2014. It is gratifying and a tribute to those members who worked hard with John to ensure that this area will benefit from having a local representative. The year has

also brought its disappointments most notably in the failure to return a candidate to the European Parliament in this constituency for the first time ever.

The party has continued to highlight the inherent neglect of the area, particularly with relation to the lack of funds for Ireland West Airport especially in light of the pre-election promises given to the board by the current Taoiseach. The Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair will continue to draw attention to this anomaly particularly as we have a General election on the horizon. We are thankful to Deputy Dara Calleary for his support but more so for his availability to the local people and to the local organisation. As a group we face many challenges but with continued participation the organisation will continue to grow and develop further. Ar aghaidh le Fianna Fáil.

On a more sombre note 2014 saw the passing of our dear friend and mentor John Carty. John's association with the local organisation spanned nearly 50 years. He was an integral part of all activity within the party in Mayo in general but more particularly in the Ballyhaunis Comhairle Ceanntair. His wisdom, knowledge and awareness of the history of the place and its people were always of great value to all whether we were organising a function or mobilising for an election campaign. John's election as a public representative to the County Council, The Seanad and to Dáil Éireann was a fitting reward for his years of dedication not just to the party but to the people of the area, and in his relatively short time as a public representative it is fair to say that John delivered to the people on every level.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Members of the Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair Fianna Fáil celebrate John Caulfield's election to Mayo County Council. Back, L-R: Daniel Tarpey, P.J. Higgins, John Leneghan, Martin Brennan, Seamus Mulrennan. Centre: Margaret Tarpey, Rosaleen Harrison, Joe Hosty, Mary Gurren, Anne Leneghan. Front: John Caulfield MCC, Eamon Ó Cuiv TD, Mary Caulfield. Taken in Carty's Public House, Knock. Photograph by James Hunt.

## 95th Birthday

Pictured on the occasion of Johnny McGarry's 95th Birthday.

Back, L-R: Gerry Clarke, John Lyons, Roisín Ní Suilleabháin, Lorraine Lyons, Joan Conway, Patricia Uí Suilleabháin, Cora Lyons, John McGarry.

Front, L-R: Paul Francis, Sarah McGarry, John McGarry.

Photograph by Jimmy Leonard.





# Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

Mary Donnelly

The Tidy Towns Committee continues to work for the enhancement of the town and its environs providing floral displays, planting flowers and shrubs, picking litter and promoting environmental awareness in the community.

Our hanging baskets were put in place early in the summer adding colour and vibrancy to the streetscape. Thanks to the beautiful weather and frequent watering and feeding by our Rural Social Scheme team, the baskets and other planters and containers attracted much favourable comment as they continued to bloom right into the autumn.

Members of the committee carried out regular litter picks throughout the town, and Mike Griffin continued his Sunday morning street cleaning service ensuring a clean and litter-free town for the benefit and enjoyment of all who visit or pass through Ballyhaunis on a Sunday.

Our annual Good Friday clean-up on 18th April was well supported; we thank the many groups and individuals who turned out to help and collected vast amounts of litter. Mayo County Council's Litter Action League ran from April to October with monthly inspections being carried out and reports issued.

Unfortunately the town has performed badly in this competition largely due to the appalling amount of cigarette litter discarded on the streets. We appeal to smokers to please dispose of their cigarette butts in the bins or containers provided - not on the street

## Cleaner Community Campaign

Our efforts in this campaign were very successful last year when we were awarded first prize in the 'Sweep your Street' category for Main Street. Bridge Street was selected by our committee for the campaign this year, and we await the outcome at the time of writing. Special thanks to the extra helpers who joined us for a major clean-up of Bridge Street, the swimming pool car park and the riverbank area in July. A huge effort was made by all, digging and pulling weeds, cutting back overgrown shrubs, sweeping up, power washing and removing all the rubbish.

We carried out another major clean-up in August, this time in the upper and lower car parks off Knox St., assisted once again by our extra helpers. A busy evening was had by all, cutting back overgrown shrubs surrounding the car parks, strimming grass and weeds, sweeping the steps between the upper and lower car parks and broken glass on the car park surface.

## National Tidy Towns Competition 2014

This year the competition has been completely restructured; the overall marks available have been

increased from 400 to 450, with the number of categories reduced from 10 to 8 by combining certain categories, and the maximum marks in some categories increased.

Adjudicators visited the town on Sunday 8th June to carry out inspections, and Ballyhaunis was awarded 259 marks. The adjudicators described the town as having a lively feeling and a pleasant urban atmosphere on the day of adjudication. Their report was generally very favourable; many business premises were admired, among them The Clock, Nico's Restaurant, Herr's, Forde's, Caulfield's, Eddie Murphy's, Ali's Barber Shop, Phillips' Butcher shop, The Hazel, James Lyons', Rochford Motors, Gill's Bar, Keane's Kitchens, Gavin's Funeral Home, EPS.

Other premises mentioned favourably include the Enterprise Centre, the swimming pool, the Courthouse building, the Garda Station, the Community School, the Library, the Fire Station, Scoil Íosa, Homecare Medical Supplies, the Credit Union, Dillon-Leetch's, Midwest Radio, Clare Court and several properties related to health services.

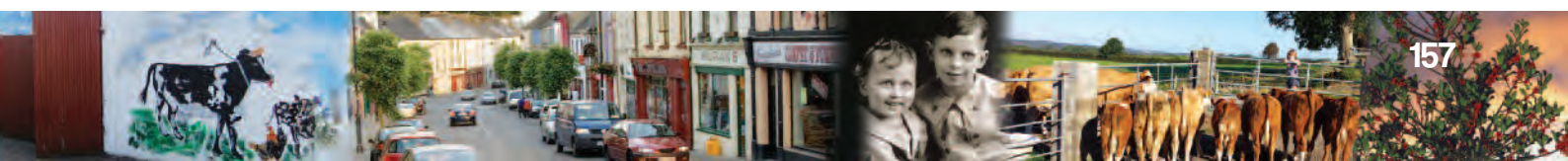
They were particularly impressed by the Friary grounds (described as the town park in the report), referring to many aspects in a number of categories, e.g. a high quality public amenity, freshly cut grass and well-kept lawns, spacious ball court where several people were playing games on the day, a sanctuary for wildlife where swallows, mistle thrush and blackbirds were observed by the adjudicators during their visit.

Their recommendations include preparation of a three-year plan, emphasis on waste prevention as well as reduction, composting, better maintenance of green areas in housing estates and provision of a footpath on Doctor's Road.

The entire report can be viewed on the Tidy Towns page on Ballyhaunis Life website, or copies are available from the committee.

## Smarter Travel

In conjunction with Ballyhaunis Chamber, Ballyhaunis Fit4Life and Annagh Wheelers, we are involved in discussions with Mayo Co. Council with a view to setting up Smarter Travel in Ballyhaunis. Smarter Travel is an initiative of the Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport which encourages the use of more sustainable and environmentally friendly means of transport, e.g. walking, cycling, public transport where possible, and reducing the use of cars. The children in Scoil Íosa have taken part in 'Walk to School' days where they assembled in An Lochán car park off Knox St. in the





morning and walked to school under the supervision of school staff, parents and members of the above organisations.

We congratulate the children and staff of Scoil Íosa on securing a Green Flag award for the school, and we wish them every success as they continue their environmental awareness programme.

### Looking Ahead

At the time of writing our committee is actively formulating a 3-year plan, identifying projects and setting goals which we hope to achieve year by year. One of our first tasks is to assist in the setting up of Residents' Associations in local housing estates which will take responsibility for the maintenance of the estates and deal with any issues that are of concern to the residents. We hope to establish links with local sporting organisations in an effort to have footpaths and lighting installed to provide safer access to their grounds.

We have registered with Mayo Community Engagement Network which has been set up by Mayo Co. Council as a forum where community and voluntary groups can nominate representatives, who will engage with the Council in certain areas of decision making. A number of Residents' Associations have also registered with the Network which will give them some measure of clout in the maintenance of their estates.

### Thanks

We are very grateful to all who support our committee in various ways, and to all who assist us in litter picking, clean-ups etc. in the town or in their own local area. Special thanks to Ryan's SuperValu for sponsorship, and to all who contribute financially either to our church gate collection or our mite boxes in the shops. These are our only sources of funding for our activities from year to year. Look out for our new mite boxes in many of the shops and pubs; when you drop in a coin or two your loose change stays local and enables us to provide all the floral displays which enhance Ballyhaunis so beautifully!

We welcome new members and helpers who would like to dedicate a little of their spare time to making Ballyhaunis a cleaner, more colourful place. Our meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month in the Parochial Hall, and we gather twice weekly for outdoor work during the spring and summer.

Tidy Towns Committee: **Chairperson** - Nell Rochford; **Hon. Secretary** - Mary Donnelly; **Hon. Treasurers** - Moyra Patterson and Frances Mulhern. **Committee** - Gabriel Smith, Kay Curley, Mike Griffin, Michael Heffernan, Teresa Grogan, Mary T. Griffin, Frances May, Kashindi Shabani.



Haymaking in Cave, twenty-five years ago, June 1989.

Back, L-R: Paul Waldron, Eddie McDermott, Val Waldron, Oliver Cribbin, Mark Waldron.

Front: Caoimhe Barnaville, Patrick Waldron.



Neighbours and friends  
Seamus Caulfield and Brian Murray,  
Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis,  
in 1977.



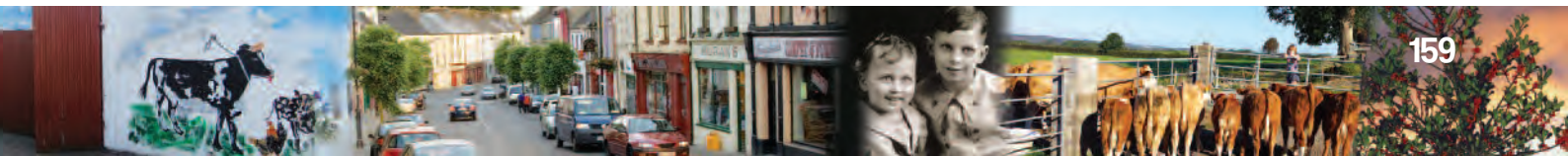
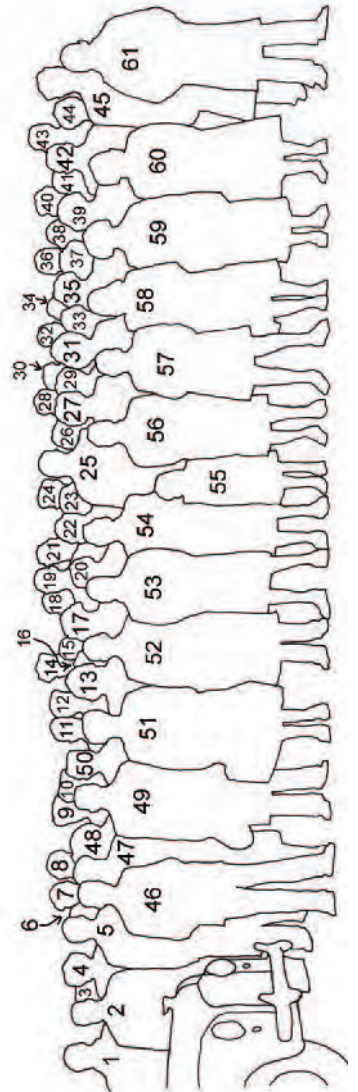




**Ballyhaunis Pioneers' outing to Dublin, 1955, pictured outside the Four Courts Hotel.**

Photo courtesy of Marion Regan.

- BACK: 1. Seamus Walsh (Johnstown) 2. John Kelly (Lecarrow) 3. Unidentified 4. Teresa McGarry (Clagnagh) 5. Columba Jordan (Upr. Main St.) 6. Unidentified 7. Tom Murphy (Cooloughra) 8. Tom Hopkins (Upr. Main St.) 9. Bill Feeney 10. Unidentified 11. Unidentified 12. Tom Culliney (Leow) 13. Benita Tarpey (Carrowkeel) 14. Billy Comer (Killinaugher) 15. Unidentified 16. Unidentified 17. Monica Henry 18. Willie Murphy (Lurgan) 19. Padraic Murphy (Cooloughra) 20. Veronica Tarpey (Carrowkeel) 21. Seamus Sloyan (Kiltybo) 22. Josephine Jordan 23. Unidentified 24. Unidentified 25. Austin Murphy (Lecarrow) 26. Teresa Mulkeen (Knockbrack) 27. Kathleen Hunt 28. Unidentified 29. Betty Sloyan (Forthill) 30. Unidentified 31. Eleanor Fitzmaurice 32. Albert Madden 33. Nina Dyer (Lurgan) 34. Unidentified 35. Mary Biesty 36. Unidentified 37. Mary Boyle (Island) 38. Madeleine Rattigan (Pollnacraoghy) 39. Mary Waldron (Knock) 40. Unidentified 41. Nora Biesty 42. Joe Horkan (Churchpark) 43. Gus Caulfield (Carrowkeel) 44. Sarah Anne Waldron (Cave) 45. Tom Hunt (Derrynacong)
- FRONT: 46. Mike McGreal (Main St.) 47. Sarah Freeley (Clagnagh) 48. Kitty McGreal (Main St.) 49. James Cox 50. Micky Moran 51. Peg Cox 52. Padraic Folliard (Kiltybo) 53. Seamus Forde (Upr. Main St.) 54. Sean Mulhern (Upr. Main St.) 55. John A. Murphy (Lecarrow) 56. Padraic Forde (Upr. Main St.) 57. Anthony Jordan (Knox St.) 58. Unidentified 59. Bridget Waldron (Cave) 60. Catherine Biesty (Knox St.) 61. James Regan







Tom McCormack, Thomas Lyons, Kieran Benson (Birmingham), Tommy Moran, Johnny Biesty and Gerry Benson (Co. Donegal), on the occasion of the Benson brothers visit to Ballyhaunis during the summer of 2014. Kieran and Gerry are formerly of Main Street.



(Right) On Yer Bike! Tom Lyons and Bríd Morley.



Henry Forde, formerly of The Square, home on holidays from Australia, and Pauline Curley, Clare Street.



Pauline Curley, Clare Street with Nancy Scott (née Fitzgerald).



(Left) Tommy Webb, Main St., June 1973.

(Right) Mike Webb, Tony Greene, Cait Webb, Pauline Greene, New York for Mayo v. New York match, May, 2014.







# Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club

Mark Curley

2013-14 was a very progressive year for Ballyhaunis RFC. It saw the Club gain great success both on and off the field of play.

The senior team had an excellent League campaign. They finished in second place in the Connaught Division J1B League and narrowly missed out on promotion after being beaten in a play-off decider to Ballina RFC. Fintan Crawley, a member of the team, was rewarded for his excellent season by being selected to represent the Connaught Junior side.

Hugh Curley, one of the clubs founding members, was honoured by the Connaught Branch by the inception of the Hugh Curley Cup. Carrick-on-Shannon and Corrib contested the inaugural Hugh Curley Cup final and was hosted by Ballyhaunis RFC. The Headford team won the spoils and Corrib became the first name to be etched on the Cup.

The Club ran the 'Tag me out' Tag Rugby festival and Barn Dance for the second year. Once again they proved to be a great success. The tournament saw teams from all over the country compete and a Sligo team won the Cup. The night's entertainment was headlined by Mundy and our very own Olwyn Murray supported.

The Ballyhaunis RFC Bingo celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our hosts, Julian's of Midfield, and all the volunteers for the years of help they have given to keep the bingo running. Bingo takes place at Julian's of Midfield every Thursday night at 8.30 and all are welcome.

The underage teams are continuing to grow within in the Club and teams were fielded at Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17 during the course of the season. All these teams enjoyed a successful season with some impressive wins along the way. The Minis section continues to go from strength to strength and the future looks very bright indeed.

For more information go to [Facebook.com/ballyhaunisrhc](https://www.facebook.com/ballyhaunisrhc).



Ballyhaunis Rugby Club Under-14 Team. Back, L-R: Danny Hill, Neil Carney, Dara Healy, Enda Crawley, Cillian Costello, Zachary Quinn, Jack Ronayne, Jack Deegan. Front: Jack McDonagh, Aiden Cooper, Nathan Coll, Matthew Walsh, William Cunnane, Daniel Coyne, Jack McDonald.

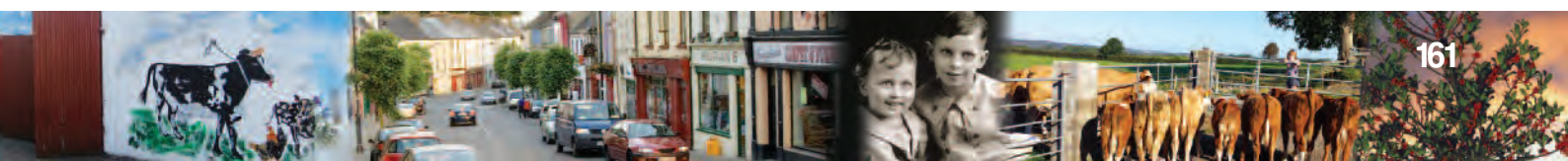


Ballyhaunis Rugby Club Junior 1B Squad, pictured with the Six Nations Trophy at Ballyhaunis Rugby Club Grounds.

Back, L-R: Marek Suntil, William Lyons, Aidan Healy, Eugene Durkan, Sean McKay, Patrick Egan, Michael Macken, Mantas Smirnovas, Darius Ivoska, Dainius Ivoska. Centre: Edward O'Connor, Stephen Jenkins, Brian Waldron, David Lilly, Patrick Gallagher, Séamus Horan, Gabriel Gallagher, David Morley, Leo Convey. Front: Gary Patterson, Declan Murphy, Robert Duffy, Fintan Crawley.



Rosaleen Curley presenting the Hugh Curley Cup to John McHugh, Captain of the Corrib Rugby Club, Headford. Also included is Peter Gallagher, Ballyhaunis Rugby Club.





# Killinaugher Commemoration

Mary Finan, Seamus Kenny and Greta Henry



Part of the huge attendance at the special Thanksgiving Mass beside the old Church structure in Killinaugher.

## *“Ar Scáth a Chéile a Mhaireann na Daoine”*

As part of the Gathering event organised by the Brackloon School and District Reunion Committee in 2013, a commitment was made to unveil commemorative stones on the Caldragh in Forthill and on the ancient church site of Killinaugher. Inspired and encouraged by the positive community spirit engendered by last year's successful event, the committee was delighted to embrace the opportunity provided this year by the Community Diaspora Project 2014. The focus of this initiative centred on local communities reaching out to diaspora on the basis that diaspora relationships are rooted in people and place. Our theme for this year's Tóstal Brackloon and Killinaugher event was that of *‘bothántaíocht’* or the rambling house, with its focus on hospitality, traditional music and storytelling.

On Saturday the 13th of September, Mass was once again celebrated at the ancient church site in Killinaugher for the first time in several hundred years. It was an historic and moving occasion for all concerned as people gathered to worship at this sacred place, following in the footsteps of generations before them. The church itself is believed to date back to early Christian times and there is reference to it in the acclaimed manuscript *‘Acta Sanctorum-Hiberniae’*. During the Penal Times people again congregated here to attend Mass and, according to folklore, it is believed that a priest was hanged at that site. The name of the village of Killinaugher is derived from the existence of this church as *‘Cill’* means church and *‘Luineachair’* is the

name of the holy woman associated with this place.

As part of the preparation, local people had retraced and outlined the ancient church paths which led across the fields to the church. Seeing the crowds once again streaming across these ancient mass paths, one could reflect on the words of Jeremiah: “Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

The festive weekend commenced with an Irish music night in the local Coney Island Bar, Gorthaganny on Friday night, the 12th of September. It was a great night with music, song and recitation. Family, friends and the many visitors immersed themselves in our rich culture of music and storytelling while renewing friendships and welcoming old friends.

## **Mass**

The highlight of the weekend was the Memorial and Thanksgiving Mass on the site of the ancient church of Killinaugher celebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher, Parish Priest of Ballyhaunis. It was a memorable and poignant experience to celebrate Mass on a site just like many of our ancestral diaspora who gathered together during periods of religious persecution in the 17th and 18th centuries. The moving ceremony began with a memorial walk from the old church site to a nearby burial ground where, in more recent centuries, unbaptised children were buried. The church commemorative stone and ancient burial ground were duly blessed by Fr. Farragher. The Mass ceremony was opened by Fr. Farragher,





assisted by Mass server Dylan Gaughan, who welcomed everybody. Selected readings were read by Lora Regan and Deirdre Diskin and a Responsorial Psalm sung beautifully by Megan Gaughan. The Prayers of the Faithful were offered by Maureen Comer, Joe Diskin, Caroline Regan, Alan Regan, Anne Breganey (Grealley), Tommy Fitzmaurice and Yvonne Finn (Fitzmaurice). Symbolic gifts were offered by Bill Comer, Marian Regan, John Connolly, Geraldine Connolly, Kevin Diskin, Seán Regan, David Regan and Carmel Regan. A feature of the ceremony was the music provided by the local choir led by Choir Director Martin Fitzmaurice and accompanied by able musicians Lisa McGuire, Eimear Finan, Evan Fitzmaurice, Terry McGowan and Richard Waldron. At the end of the ceremony, a moving reflection was recited by Greta Henry with musical accompaniment by Lisa McGuire on harp and Terry McGowan on flute. This reflection eloquently and movingly captured the ambience of the occasion.



Fr. Farragher blesses the Children's Burial Ground (Caltragh) close to ancient Church of Killinaugher (Cill Luineachair).



Commemorative stone placed on the site of the old Church of Killinaugher.

## Reflection

*"Today we gather together as a community of faith to celebrate our Christian heritage. It is a significant day for the people of Killinaugher and surrounding villages as we gather here celebrating Mass where our ancestors once worshipped in their very own church. We visualise them walking along the road to Mass each Sunday, perhaps some on bicycles and some in traps."*

*We know from our experience of grandparents that they were people of great faith and devotion and that they trusted in God for all their needs. They were very close to nature here in the stone-walled fields with the sound of songbirds all around, and while out working in the fields they could identify with that beautiful icon of a man and woman picking potatoes, their heads bowed in prayer as the angelus bell rang out from the little church in the background. Perhaps the angelus bell could be heard far away. What a lovely reminder for mid-day prayer."*

*Many of our ancestors were forced to emigrate for economic reasons and while they had very little material value to bring with them, deep in their hearts was a strong faith and trust in God."*

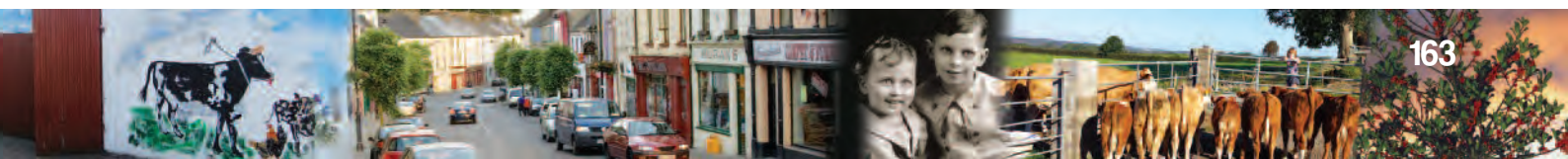
*This day is also significant for another reason as we remember all the children who were buried in this sacred place. As Fr. Farragher blesses the burial ground and unveils a memorial here, we think of the great sense of loss felt by their grieving parents and families. Time heals but does not erode the memories and each parent carries their own special memory deep in their heart. And so on this day as our thoughts mingle with the memories, we try to deepen our gratitude for the gift of life with a sense of how precious each day is and we pray that those who have gone before us may rest contentedly on this day, far from us but forever in our hearts and forever with all whom we have loved."*

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dílse."*

As the proceedings were ready to finish, Pádraig Regan addressed the congregation and thanked Fr. Farragher, the people of Killinaugher and those who assisted in preparing the Thanksgiving Mass. Fr. Farragher also blessed the commemorative stone prepared for the Caldragh. As we were ready to depart, Richard Waldron finished the proceedings with a moving performance of 'Faith of Our Fathers' on the bagpipes.

## Thanks

Special thanks has to be extended to Padraig and Marion Regan and their family for opening up their house and grounds in facilitating the 'Rambling House' and celebrating the custom of the 'bothántaíocht'. Indeed, the great hospitality of the people of Killinaugher and







Styles on stone walls that were placed along the Mass Path from the Church of Killinaugher towards Derrynacong and Killinaugher.

those who assisted on the day has to be duly acknowledged. Gratitude has to be extended to the many musicians who gave us many musical memories while attending the festivities in Coney Island Bar and again at the 'Rambling House' marquee. One will specially remember the music, song and recitations of Michael Nolan joined by other local and accomplished musicians Paddy Joe Tighe, Pat Lyons, Terry McGowan, Gordon Nolan, Patsy Finan, Denis Igoe, Richard Waldron, Martin Fitzmaurice and Eimear Finan. Further song and recitation was provided by Anthony Jordan, Stephanie Coffey, Brian Hunt, Murt Hunt and Killian McGee.

Finally it is important to acknowledge the visiting diaspora who travelled distances from Ireland and abroad to attend the weekend festivities. Memories shared, memories cherished.

### Some Local Comments on the Day's Events

In the month of September as we made our way,  
To the ruins of an old church, to kneel and to pray.  
To honour the people, now for centuries deceased,  
Who would have worshipped at that spot  
along with the priest.  
And folklore now tells us that a priest at that time,  
Was hanged from a tree, for saying Mass was a crime.  
There we met many people from the  
townlands around,  
All feeling very privileged to be on Sacred Ground.  
First we joined in the blessing of  
the dead infants plot,  
Where a plaque was unveiled  
and now marks the spot.  
Then we thought of the parents,  
who had suffered such loss,  
As Fr. Stephen began Mass with the sign of the cross.

*Kevin Lyons, Spaddagh*



The Regan family, Killinaugher, brothers and sisters.  
L-R: Bridie Regan, Kathleen Regan, Mary Henry,  
Bernadette Reilly, Sean Regan. Taken at the  
Celebration Mass in Killinaugher, 13th Sept. 2014.

Magical were today's events: Mass at church site;  
Mass paths; Weather great; Wonderful presentation.  
Well done!

*Maureen & Bill Comer, Killinaugher*

On a glorious afternoon, on Saturday 13th September 2014, people came from near and far and some from overseas to celebrate a remembrance and thanksgiving Mass at an ancient religious site located on my Uncle Sean and Aunt Bridie Regan's field in Killinaugher, Ballyhaunis. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher, PP, Ballyhaunis. The choir provided beautiful music throughout the Mass; my niece Megan sung during the mass and my nephew Dylan was the Mass server. My niece Sarah took part in traditional Irish dancing. It was a truly memorable afternoon to see so many neighbours, relatives and friends. And a great community occasion. With all the neighbours in Killinaugher taking part in the Mass celebrations, bringing up gifts and saying readings and prayers and putting many hours into making the village look so beautiful.

A special thanks to all involved.

*Carmel Regan, Derrynacong*

On a wonderful day in September, we were privileged to have participated in the Mass, in glorious sunshine, where our ancestors worshipped throughout the centuries.

*John, Geraldine Connolly & Family, Killinaugher*

It was our privilege to be part of the great community who came together to remember, in a special way, those who have gone before us and worshipped at this ancient religious site in Killinaugher. The stone





erected on the day is a tribute to these people and a reminder for generations to come. It was especially important for our family to have the children's burial ground, in our field, blessed by Fr. Farragher, remembering those Angels and their loved ones.

Many thanks to the Brackloon and District Reunion Committee for including this celebration as part of their wonderful weekend of events.

*Marion, Pdraig, Alan, Lora, Sinead and  
Aoife Regan, Killinaugher*

What a fabulous day was had at the Killinaugher Mass. On a sleepy hill in Killinaugher young and old all assembled for the erecting of the Stone and the blessing of the Burial Ground. The heavens blessed us with a beautiful sunny day as young and old listened as the history of our little village was told. A lot was learned, and then the Rambling House took place.

Neighbours chatted and caught up with the local goings-on and ate and drank and enjoyed the craic and music. It was a fine occasion brought together by a fine community. Thanks.

*Caroline Regan, Killinaugher*



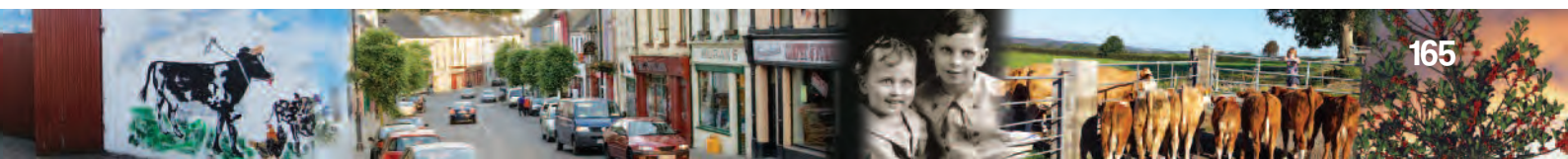
Some of the group attending the Thanksgiving Mass in Killinaugher.



Laura Dillon (Ballindrehid) on her granddad Seamus and uncle James Walsh's farm in Johnstown with triplets and two sets of twin calves all born this year. Seamus delivered the triplets and one set of twins within two hours on a busy Saturday afternoon in March.



Mary Steegstra (nee Walsh, Johnstown) with her husband Geoff, daughter Alana on her 16th birthday and son James in Perth, Western Australia.





# 33 Reasons to Move to Ballyhaunis

Jonathan Cleary

After 18 years in Asia, and with an interesting tale or two to tell, I felt an article for Annagh Magazine was long overdue. The gist of this story arises from a recent family dinner in my adopted city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One of the joys of living in Kuala Lumpur is the abundance of reasonably priced restaurants, and we usually head out on a Saturday night for a quick bite and some liquid nutrition. During one of these evenings recently, my two lads, Ethan 13 and Callum 11, produced a list of 10 reasons why we should move to Ireland. The lads come back to Ireland, on average, once a year, so with the majority of our stay spent in Ballyhaunis, the list is effectively 10 reasons to move back to BallyH. The list, as it turns out, is not exhaustive and currently stands at 33 and counting.

The list ranges from the sublime “we can baby sit cousin Jade”; to the ridiculous “the floor is carpeted”; to the untruthful “there’s a turf fire”, alas the fire is no more, it’s soul taken and encased in an iron box (aka the stove); to the religious “there’s a Mosque nearby”; to the absurd “the food is great” - this coming from the lads who bring back their own instant noodles and chili sauce from Malaysia (their equivalent of Barry’s Tea and Tayto). Let’s just say the list has been debated at length at that first dinner and many dinners since. Though, to be fair, the list does capture the essence of Ballyhaunis – family, friends, community, diverseness and sense of place. If nothing else, the list has helped me to remember what it was like for me at their age growing up in Ballyhaunis.

As a kid, even though you have your various groups, you also felt that you were part of something bigger. It was always comforting to see the town come together in happy, surreal (the time C.J. Haughey arrived in a helicopter springs to mind), joyous and, though more often than not, sad occasions. This list also evokes many happy memories of my own childhood and teenage years at home. There are some notable omissions from the lads’ list; such as the Scouts, camping, basketball, cycling, bonfires and street football; no doubt these would be a welcome addition to their list if they experienced them first hand.

One item on the list that was a source of amusement stated that “we can do the groceries”. Firstly, where I’m from, they are “messages” not “groceries”; and secondly, my lads never obviously experienced the joys of doing messages for my grandma, Maureen Cleary – if they had, I’m sure they would quickly scratch it from the list. The task of doing Grandma’s messages started with finding

the purse or pension book if it was a Friday. I was never given a list, each message was done individually and I had to go to specific shops: Alice’s for sweets, cigarettes and wafers, Bernie Byrne’s for milk, stout and paraffin (though not all in the same bottle), Delia’s for veg, Forde’s for the paper, Waldron’s (The Spar) for brown



Jonathan Cleary with Callum (left) and Ethan.

bread, Mike Webb’s for meat and the Mace (Flynn’s) for other odds and sods. In addition, I also had a catch phrase, I had to tell Mike Daly that the pork fillet or the lean loin lamb chops where “for Grandma” – much to my embarrassment. On one occasion, Grandma was not her usual self so I offered to do the “messages” based on her usual needs. I wrote a list, went to Ryan’s and got everything under one roof. Let’s just say she was not pleased and the pink Snack (the best of the three) was not forthcoming for my troubles. Today they have slogans for the way she shopped and long may it continue.

Then there is another item on the list that still evokes a feeling of fear within me: “We can go to the Friary field when we are bored”. Going to the Friary in my day did not involve playing football in the Dome, it meant serving Mass. I really enjoyed my time as a Friary server. There were three groups, St. Oliver, St. Matthew and, surprise, surprise, St. Augustine. We did a three week rotation with the first week being the longest – on Sunday we served half eight Mass in the morning and Benediction that evening; on Monday through Saturday, we served nine o’clock morning Mass (which had the added advantage of missing an hour’s school) and Rosary in the evening. The next week we served ten o’clock Mass and afterwards we were treated to sweets for our efforts of the previous week: Emeralds, Colleen





Deluxe, Scots Clan (never a fan) and Milky Moos. On the last week we served half eleven Mass and then the cycle began again. Each Christmas both the choir and the servers were treated to a Christmas party which was food in The Hotel and off to the cinema to watch "The Sound of Music". So where is the "fear" in that I hear you say?

Well, the Rosary was the problem, not the rosary itself, rather just getting to the Friary on time. It was a long, dark walk on cold, winter nights and, as an innocent 10 year old, I was terrified of the dark footpath that led to the Friary. I would hang around the Post Office and wait for an elderly parishioner and then follow them up the steps, while loitering 50 yards behind. If my timing was off, then it was a mad dash from the gate, past the hollowed out tree, and up the steps, pausing under the light halfway up to catch my breath. That's where the blind panic would start; I'd round the corner of the church hoping, and even praying, that the small sacristy light would be on. If not, then I had to run in the door in a mad dash, fumble with the light switches and, finally, as the light came on, breathe a sigh of relief.

## Orang Éire

One of the main things that the lads would really like to experience, and one that is top of the list, is to play a decent game of Gaelic football. For my many sins, I have the privilege of training the kids from our local team, Orang Éire each Sunday morning. On average we get around 20 kids ranging in ages from 7–13. As they are the only team in Malaysia (and yes, they do class themselves as Malaysian Champions) they only experience a "proper" match once or twice a year when we attend one of the regional tournaments.

In the Asian version of the game, we generally play 9-

aside to accommodate clubs with smaller numbers, with 7 minutes a half to allow for the heat. The lads are actually pretty handy, and if we go with the adage that "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" then, in this instance, their football ability must all be down to my wife, Erni. Ethan and Callum did get a taste of the local game a few summers back, donning the red and black, and this has only whetted their appetite for more.

Then I began to wonder if we did move back, where would we live? Fate has probably already decreed that it would be Griffin's in Clare Street. My grandma moved from Clare Street West to East, from Griffin's to Cleary's. My dad was slightly more daring and moved from Clare Street all the way passed the cinema and the speed limit sign to Clare Road. Uncle Mike, the adventurous one, moved 100 yards further out the Clare Road. Brother Grahame didn't like "life in the sticks" and now lives back in Clare Street; so by default I'd probably have to live in Griffin's – providing Mike and Mary T. didn't mind!

Personally, I miss the seasons from time to time, no more so than when I'm out for a run (well jog, well, truthfully, a fast walk). Yes, the heat in Malaysia is appealing and it's certainly easier to motivate yourself when there isn't a gale force wind blowing outside. However, running in heat and high humidity does take its toll and at times you wish you were doing an early morning run on a crisp winter's day across Agloragh; where it would take a good 15 minutes for the beads of sweat to appear rather than the usual 90 seconds.

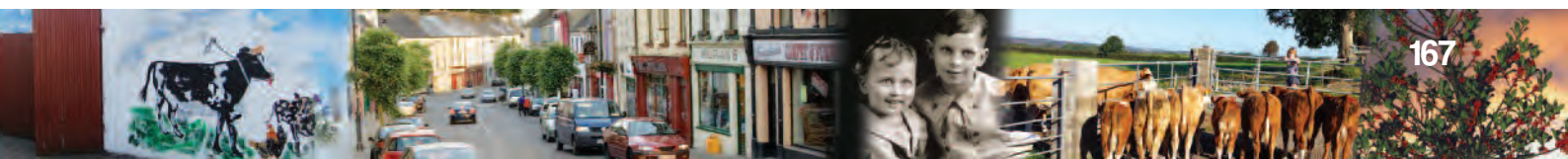
So, in conclusion, despite all the lads' protestations, we won't be moving back West any time soon. Hopefully, my annual pilgrimage with the lads to Ballyhaunis will continue long into the future, and in that time, I hope they develop the sense of being part of something which, for me, has grown stronger over time.



The Halpin sisters of Main Street, Ballyhaunis, L-R: H  l  ne McCafferty, Mary O'Brien, Lolo Murphy, Anne Murray.



Vinnie Kelly (left) and Luke Murray, first cousins from Lissaniskea, Beken, both retired as Principal of their respective primary schools last June, 2014. Vinnie was Principal of Beken NS for the past number of years, while Luke stepped down from his position as Principal at Fairymount NS, Co. Roscommon.





# Midwest Radio Celebrates 25 years of Broadcasting

Sinéad Freyne

***"Good morning, it's Monday 24th July 1989 and this is Midwest Radio ..."***

Those were the first words spoken by presenter Adrian Eames and so began a twenty five year journey of legal broadcasting from Ballyhaunis.

But locals know that the association with 'Ballyhaunis Radio' goes back further. Two Castlerea men Paul Claffey and Chris Carroll decide to set up a pirate radio station in 1985 and they began broadcasting from the cloakroom of Midas Nite Club. Although run on a shoe-string its popularity grew and listeners tuned in from all over the province.

But the day of the pirate was numbered and government brought in legislation to clean up the cluttered air waves, which at the time was supporting hundreds of illegal stations. The Radio and Television Act of 1988 meant pirates had to shut up shop and apply for a franchise licence if they wanted to go legal.

They made the decision to apply for the County Mayo licence. A big farewell concert and party bash was held on New Year's Eve 1988 when the pirate Midwest was to close down. It was an emotionally charged day, with the doors of Midas left open. People wandered in and out all day to express their condolences and give support. Presenters were doing their shows as normal and saying their "goodbyes". People like Paul, Chris, Gerry Glennon, Michael Neary and John Duggan had become household names. But they were now losing their jobs with no guarantee they would be the successful applicant for the new Mayo licence.

A consortium was put together, including the Western People and Connaught Telegraph newspapers, the Federation of Western Churches, Horan International Airport and NCF. An oral hearing was held in Galway in 1989 and by April they were notified of their success.



Paul Claffey pops the cork on a bottle of Champagne outside the old Abbey Street office, alongside some of the radio staff of the day, following the renewal of Midwest Radio's radio licence in 1999. The group includes:- John O'Toole, Padraic Walsh, Chris Carroll, Sharon Behan-Woods, Martin McHugh, Rory O'Brien, Brendan Redmond, Joe Freeley, Harry McGowan, Bernie Greally, Benen Tierney, Mary Raftery, Pierce O'Reilly, Paula Donnellan, Monica Morley (partially hidden), Willie McNeely, John Duggan, Michael O'Keeffe (IRTC Chairman), Paul Claffey, Fr. Brendan Hoban, Carol O'Dowd, Teresa O'Malley (partially hidden) and Margaret Jennings.

What followed was three months of gargantuan effort to get the legal Midwest Radio on air.

## **From Pirate to Legal**

There was pressure to move broadcasting away from Ballyhaunis on the periphery of the county and set up in Castlebar, the county capital. But credit is due to Paul and Chris for their loyalty to Ballyhaunis. Two old residential houses in Abbey Street were being renovated at the time and a rental agreement was secured. Interviews were carried out and "twelve apostles" were appointed, including the aforementioned Adrian Eames. The evening before the opening broadcast, the new studios were locked at 7pm and nobody was let in until the following morning when the new Midwest Radio went on air at 7 am - the first local station to do so outside of Dublin.

Today we can access hundreds of radio and TV





stations on the internet but twenty-five years ago it was really exciting stuff with cutting edge technology, a young workforce and the branching out of local radio into the rural areas of the West of Ireland. For the first time listeners could ring up their local radio station and get notices and requests read out on air. They could choose what music they wanted the presenter to play. They could hear the local news, weather and death notices. Local sport has always been hugely important too. Liam Horan was the first to do a full commentary of a provincial final on local radio.

Emigrants and the Diaspora were always important to the station. Many programmes were broadcast down the ISDN line from around the world. And in 1996 on St. Patrick's Day programmes were produced in six languages and broadcast all over the world through the shortwave transmitters of the BBC World Service. This was a big deal before the internet made broadcasting internationally so much easier.

North West Radio came on air in 1990 and was also hugely successful. So the decision by the broadcasting authority to not renew their licence in 2004 came as a complete shock. It was a devastating blow to all concerned and it is a source of great hurt a decade later. They broadcast from studios in the Market Yard, Sligo and The Diamond in Donegal.

In 1993 who will forget 'A Day in the Bog' at Knock Airport when 25,000 people descended on the area? This ultimately led to a 150 ft bank of turf arriving at Yonkers Racetrack for the 'Beat on the Peat' the following year. Ten tonnes of dried turf was packed into seven 40ft containers and shipped over to the US. It was a marathon weekend in September with over 40,000 in attendance. Artefacts from Riverstown Museum were also shipped, as was a two roomed fully furnished Irish cottage, a thrasher, a tractor, ploughs and spinning wheels. Mildred Byrnes' Irish dancers were there and a plethora of singers and musicians.

### State of the Art Broadcasting Centre

As far back as 1997 a new building was in the planning. A site was bought on Clare Street where Dillon's hardware store had operated from. It was estimated to cost in the region of £500,000. The final figure would be €1.6 million when it was completed in 2003 and the subsequent state of the art new Radio Centre is a welcome addition to the landscape of the street. Mayo native Mary Davis and CEO of Special Olympics Ireland performed the official opening. It was attended by a big

gathering of invited guests. It was also the day of the largest ever landslide in Ireland which occurred in North Mayo.

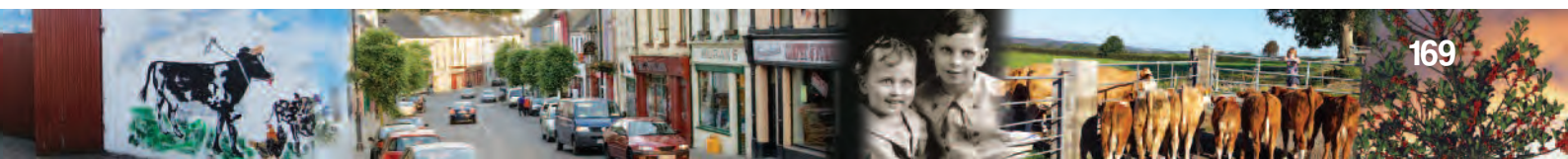
Looking back over 30 years, one can't forget to include John Duggan who turned up at Midas Nite Club in Garda uniform, asking a nervous Paul would he mind playing one of his songs on the radio to see what the listeners thought of it. It's a great story retold by John in the Midwest Radio 25th Anniversary magazine. Paul of course thought that Garda Duggan was there to raid the pirate station of its equipment. However after getting over his initial shock, he went on to take John on as a new presenter. John has been a constant of the Mid and North West schedule right up to his retirement earlier this year. As well as the 'John Duggan show', he co-presented the weekly 'Rambling House' with traditional musician Seamus Shannon.

In the spring of 2008, local and national articles appeared in the press on the possible sale of Midwest and four other local stations to Richard Findlay, former CEO of Scottish Radio Holdings for a reputed combined figure of €52m. It came close but with the recession waiting just around the corner the sale never materialised.



Midwest Radio Broadcast Centre on Clare Street opened in 2003.

The downturn also affected the internet station Midwestirishradio.com which had begun broadcasting in 2005. Una Flanagan, Noel Grogan, Gerry Glennon and the late Tommy Murphy were among the popular presenters. It became a precursor to Irish West Music Television which came along in October 2011. It was first





filmed at a studio in Headford, but last year a fully equipped television studio was built beside the Radio centre, which is the former home of the Fitzgerald and Glynn families. Now two TV programmes are filmed and put together in Ballyhaunis every week and broadcast on satellite TV.

## Memories

The following are some of the people I remember when I worked there in the 1990's. They kept the show on the road at the weekends.

Liam Horan and his young crew who all went on to do great things in sports journalism – Mike Finnerty, Jonathan Mullen, Majella Loftus and Daniel Carey; who will forget 'the shoe' - Willie McNeela – who died far too early but could make the most mundane game sound interesting; Jim Carney from the *Tuam Herald* was always a bundle of energy and an absolute gentleman to work with; I will never forget Stephen O'Grady's sheer nerves on his first sports show broadcast. He went on to become another fine sports presenter. But Ballyhaunis people will remember that the first sports presenter was our own Willie Ryan.

The Country Show with Abbeyknockmoy's 'Smokey Joe Scahill' was where I spent many a Saturday night answering the request line. Joe Byrne also presented a bi-lingual show on Saturday nights between 8 and 10pm called 'Ceol agus Fáilte'. I would go home for my tea and the phones would be answered by his niece Ann Marie O'Loughlin who was a fluent Irish speaker. Ann Marie and her sister Niamh would later travel to Bolivia on an adventure that would end tragically when a bus they were on, veered off the road.

Some of the other stalwarts I remember from the weekend 'family' included John McIntyre from Swinford – a gentleman who went off to Dublin to become a bus driver for Bus Eireann; The late Tommy Murphy from Ballina who was a talented jazz musician; Brendan Redmond, now living in Thailand, who at one stage presented shows seven days a week.

On Sundays, Michael Neary would ring in the link for Mass at 9.50am from a church in the region. I hoped, as I read the death notices live, that the link would still be 'live' at ten o'clock when I pushed open the fader and announced this week's Mass. During those ten minutes, many a bead of sweat appeared on my forehead. It didn't look good if a transmission breakdown occurred at the start of Mass! The Faith Alive team of Fr. Colm Kilcoyne, Fr. Brendan Hoban and Monica Morley would then arrive in the studio, followed later by Seamus Shannon for his show 'Shannon's Ireland'.

Michael Commins and Séamus Ó Dubhthaigh were two more giant attractions of the Sunday evening



Paul Claffey following his induction into the PPI Hall of Fame

schedule. The talented Padraic Walsh was always very busy at the weekend working in the production studio making adverts.

On the switchboard in the 1990's, the main person during the week was Helena Madden from Lisacul – her love for the music of Cliff Richard was legendary. In the evenings, Monica Carroll and Mary Nolan were in control. At the weekends Carol and Sandra O'Dowd, along with Bernie Flanagan from Spaddagh were ladies I worked with. Patrina O'Donnell also started with the station during this time. In administration and traffic were Sharon Behan Woods, Mary Raftery and Bernie Grealley.

Some of the sales personnel, I remember were Harry McGowan, Martin McHugh, Benen Tierney, Margaret Jennings and Joe Freeley with Mary Whittington and Tina Mitchell in the Ballina office. John O'Toole from Louisburg was the financial controller. News team members over the years included Tom Shiel, Chris Clesham, the late Liam Molloy, Henry McGlade, Liamy McNally, Paula Walsh and Seamus Duke, Siobhán Holiman, Pierce O'Reilly (founder of Irish TV), Maria Mullarkey, P.J. Gibbons and Teresa O'Malley.







At the PPI Radio Awards 2014 L-R: Gráinne Kivlehan, Gerry Glennon, Aine Claffey, Geoffrey Claffey, Paul Claffey, Chris Carroll, Enda Carberry, Bernie Greally, Martina Carroll.

Radio drama used to be a big part of the MWR schedule and it was a programme that I really enjoyed working on. It was the brain-child of Teresa O'Malley in the years before she joined the news room and went on to become News Editor. The Gala Awards were always a great show to be a part of. Geraldine Lavin of Ballaghaderreen later took over the helm and added the successful short story and poetry element to the show.

### PPI Hall of Fame

News arrived in the autumn of the induction into the PPI Hall of Fame for Paul Claffey. This was announced at a ceremony at the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland offices in Dublin on 7th September. Since its establishment in 2012, the award has been recognised as one of the most respected honours to receive in the world of Irish radio. Previous recipients have included Gay Byrne, Marian Finucane, Gerry Ryan, Michéal Ó Muircheartaigh and Joe Duffy. The other 2014 Hall of fame inductees are Tony Fenton of Today FM, Áine Lawlor of RTE and Walter Love of BBC Radio Ulster. Paul is quoted as saying that he was honoured and delighted to receive the award, especially as it coincided with

Midwest Radio's 25th anniversary. "Local radio has become one of Ireland's success stories. From humble beginnings we've grown a radio station here in the West of Ireland that is now recognised as one of the most popular and successful stations in the country. It has taken 25 years of hard work but I've enjoyed every single minute of it."

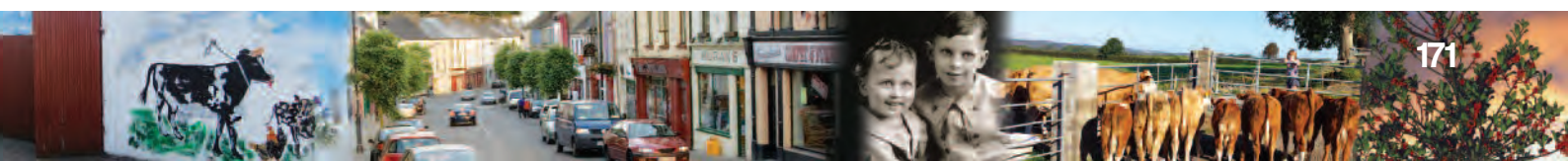
The good news continued when, in early November, the JNLR (Joint National Listenership Research) figures were published and revealed that for the first time Midwest Radio is now the

most 'listened to' local radio station in Ireland. Throughout their 25 years, they were always in the top three stations in the country, but this year they reached the coveted top spot with a 1% point lead on their rivals Highland Radio in North Donegal, who held the title for many years.

Congratulations and continued success to all the Midwest Radio team. And here's to many more years of broadcasting in Ballyhaunis.



PPI Hall of Fame Precipitants - Aine Lawlor RTÉ, Walter Love BBC Radio Ulster, Paul Claffey, Midwest Radio and Tony Fenton, Today FM.





# First Mayo Footballer to Win Three All Stars

Mike Finnerty



Picture credit: Paul Mohan / SPORTSFILE

At the rate he's going it seems only a matter of time until a bronze statue of Keith Higgins joins the two men and a calf in The Square in Ballyhaunis.

On Friday, October 24th the multi-talented sportsman became the first Mayo Gaelic footballer in history to win three All Star awards. The fact that he won them in succession merely underlines the incredible nature of the achievement.

In years to come, Keith Higgins will look back on 2014 as one of those special seasons that will live on forever.

His year began by helping Connacht to win the Interprovincial Football Championship title for the first time since 1969, and at the time of writing it still hadn't ended. 'Zippy' played a leading role in winning his sixth Connacht SFC medal with Mayo, while 'Jimmy' turned in a superb second half in the County Final with the Ballyhaunis hurlers to notch his seventh Mayo SHC medal against Tooreen. Keith was also the lynchpin for the club's footballers as they ended a 26-year wait for the Mayo Intermediate FC title. Throw in his third All Star award, allied to his exploits with club, county and Connacht, and you begin to get an idea of the fairytale season it was for the quiet-spoken all-rounder.

The good news is that the man himself believes that his best days are still to come. He will celebrate his 30th birthday in February but is far too busy right now for serious contemplation about how well his career is going. But he knows that when the dust eventually settles, and he finally hangs up those white boots of his, those All Star statuettes will be among his most prized possessions. "When I started out eight or nine years ago, to win one All Star would have been a big thing," Keith

told The Mayo News back in October. "Now I've won three but I think I've realised that these are awards that you really are going to appreciate fully when your career is over. That's when you'll sit back and reflect on things like All Stars and medals you've won."

We've all known for some time that Keith Higgins was a very special talent, a player to be thankful for. Those of us who saw him make his senior championship debut against Roscommon in 2005 also remember his flushed, smiling, baby-face as he waited to accept the All-Ireland U-21 football championship trophy in Ennis in 2006. That was the day his career really took off. He hasn't had time to look back since as the Connacht Championships, All-Ireland Finals, All Stars and accolades came rolling in. And now he's made history, becoming the first Mayo footballer since the All Stars were conceived in 1971 to win three of the coveted awards. It is a remarkable achievement.

But, true to his self-deprecating nature, Keith felt there was room for improvement despite being chosen as one of Ireland's best fifteen footballers in 2014. "I wouldn't have been overly impressed with my own form. I felt that I didn't play as well as last year," he said in October. "I'd have to say that, overall, I'd regard the season with Mayo as a failure," he continued. "Winning four Connacht Championships in-a-row was great, but ultimately coming up short in an All-Ireland semi-final would mean the year has to be seen as a failure from our point of view. James Horan stepping down as well after the Kerry game, after coming so close to winning an All-Ireland with us, probably just added to the whole thing too. There's still major disappointment there, but no point really in over-analysing it, dwelling on it, or getting bogged down by it. It didn't work out, you have to move on."

Higgins, who works in the Bank of Ireland in Castlebar, is already looking forward to his eleventh season with Mayo. He is also energized by the prospect of linking up with the new Mayo senior management after working with both Noel Connelly and Pat Holmes at U-21 level in the past. "Any time you have new management in, you get new ideas and a new approach. Noel and Pat have worked with a lot of us and Donie Buckley being involved again means that there's continuity there from the last management. You won't know for sure how things are going until the championship comes around next year, but hopefully we can kick on again."

It's highly unlikely that Keith Higgins will be found wanting anyway as his career continues on its upward trajectory. Pound-for-pound he remains the best around.







Inter-Firm Soccer Competition, Ballyhaunis Festival, 1990. Back, L-R: Denis Hannan, George Hannan, Tony McDonagh. Front, L-R: Niall Delaney, Sean Ruane.



Taken in Upper Main Street in the 1950s. P.D. Freeley, Annie Freeley, Noreen Power, Philomena Power (nee Freeley), Agnes Freeley (nee Gormley).



Inter-Firm Soccer Competition, Ballyhaunis Festival, 1990. Back, L-R: John Commins, Tom Howley, Al Madden, Martin Connery, Sean Barrett. Front, L-R: Hugh Carney, Eddie Rogan, Pat Powers.

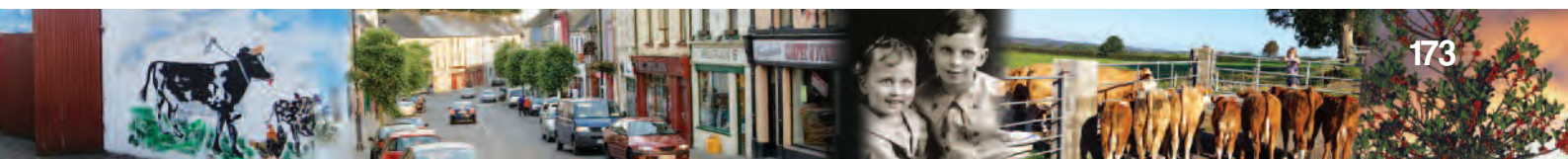


Mrs. Josephine McGuire and Mrs. Agnes Freeley - the Gormley sisters, Ballindrehid.



(Left:) Mai, Geri, Daisy, Eddie, Brenda (all R.I.P) and Patsy. Members of the Fitzgerald Family, Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis.

Glynn's Photography, Castlereah.





# Scoil Íosa News 2014-2015

Kenneth Dennedy

*Le teacht deireadh na bliaina, ba mhaith linn Beannachtaí na Féile a glacadh roimh gach duine i bparóiste Beal Átha hAmhnais agus thar lear. Chomh maith le sin caithfidh mé míle buíochas a sheoladh roimh chách dár dtuismitheoire ar son an méid tacaíochta a bhroinntear ar ár scoil í mbliana.*

As another year passes, all at Scoil Íosa are proud to reflect on what has been one of the most fruitful years experienced by our school socially, academically and in terms of sporting pursuits.

## Sports News

As is the norm, teams and individuals from our school participated in a variety of sports both competitively and socially, including Gaelic Football (boys and girls) Soccer, Hurling, Athletics and Basketball. The students were also fortunate enough to avail of the GAA Coaching Schemes in both hurling and Gaelic Football.



**Gaelic Football:** 2014 proved to be a landmark year for the boys football team as, after a hard fought campaign, the team attained the Mayo Division 1B title ending a run of barren years for the pupils. After defeating Scoil Raifteire, Castlebar in the Semi Final, the boys qualified for the Final where they met a very good team from Culleens NS, Ballina. The Final was a closely contested affair with our team enduring a sustained period of pressure in the second half before triumphing by the narrowest of margins. Final score: Scoil Íosa 1-12, Culleens NS 3-5.

**In the Girls competition** our girls team acquitted themselves very well, narrowly missing out on a place in the Division 1A Semi Final. Excellent performances against Muire Gan Smal, Claremorris and St. Joseph's NS, Ballinrobe set the team up for the crunch game against St. Patrick's NS, Westport. Unfortunately, we came up short in the final game losing by three points after a tight, hard fought game.

**Football Panel:** Boys - Aidan Byrne, Cian Walsh, Jack McGoldrick, Shaun Morley, Jamie Allen, Daniel Hill, Joshua Webb, Darren Óg Maughan, Ibrahim Rahmani, Simon McDonagh, Soheib Arshad, Kevin Durkan, Luke Walsh, Pearse Nestor, Ethan Keane, Conor Keane, Dara Rattigan, Tommy Cleary, Darren Maughan Snr. Girls - Holly Browne, Megan Morley, Áine Phillips, Sheena Roddy, Winnie Allen, Sahar Arshad, Rachel Dillon, Sarah Hopkova, Gillian Donnellan, Amy Keane, Winnie McDonagh, Rebecca Reynolds, Teresa Cleary, Erin Murray.

**Hurling:** Once again our hurlers acquitted themselves well in all competitions with some excellent individual performances.

Competition was strong and while the team proved to be very competitive, we did not progress beyond the group stages of the Cumann na mBunscoil competitions. Training for the teams began early in term 1 under the guidance of Dónall O'Brien. This year's coaching saw the emphasis on skill development in the younger pupils, particularly those in the third and fourth classes. This programme culminated in participation in a skills blitz held at the Connacht Centre of Excellence in early June.







### Quiz

Teams from Scoil Íosa took part in a number of competitions including the Credit Union Quiz and the Cumann na mBunscol Sports Quiz. However it was in the Credit Union Competition in which we really made our mark. The team consisting of Amy Keane, Ethan Keane, Holly Browne and Joshua Webb, with Luke Walsh (sub), qualified for the County Final as winners of the local Chapter competition. After a tight competition in the county finals, Scoil Íosa qualified for the All Ireland Final held in the RDS Dublin on April 6th. The children performed superbly in the final where, despite facing an incredibly challenging series of questions, they finished in fifth place out of a competing total of 104 teams. We are very proud of our achievement in this regard and congratulate all involved including parents, the local Credit Union and team mentor Kevin Henry.

### Athletics

While athletics is still in its infancy in Scoil Íosa, the pupils have continued to participate actively in this area. Over the course of the year the children from various classes visited the indoor athletic facility at Claremorris Sports



grounds under the auspices of the Mayo Sports Partnership programme. On a competitive front, pupils from Scoil Íosa took part in the Schools Cross Country Competition with individual success for Erin Murray, Joshua Webb, Erica Byrne and Kian Burke who qualified for the County Finals in Ballina in late September.

### International Appearance

We were very fortunate to have an international competitor among our students. In September 2014, fifth class pupil, Lana Biesty had the honour of being selected as a member of the Irish Karate team to compete in a major international competition held in Scotland. By all accounts Lana acquitted herself very well and performed admirably.



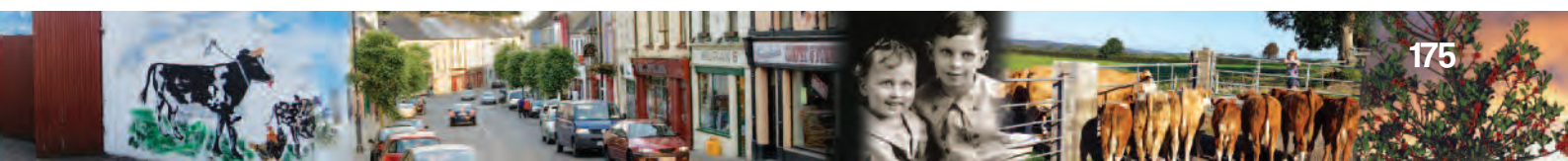
### Green Schools

Under the guidance of Marian Byrne and previously Iona Cunnane, the children from Scoil Íosa completed a two year Environmental Awareness Programme leading to the award of An Taisce's Green Flag. The Flag was presented to our student representatives Luke Walsh, Sheena Roddy and Kian Burke at a ceremony in The McWilliam Park Hotel on May 27th, 2014.



### Digital Schools Award

The promotion of the use of ICT continues in Scoil Íosa. All classes have access to top quality computer technology to assist in teaching and learning. Our parents group have helped in this development through fundraising to provide the best in cutting edge technology for the school. Our work this year was formally recognised by the Department of Education and







Scoil Íosa First Holy Communion Class, 10th May 2014.  
Glynn's Photography Ballyhaunis/Castlerea

Skills when Scoil Íosa was recognised as a Digital School of Excellence. This is a major honour for our school and underlines the progressive nature of our education provision. The award was attained under the leadership of our ICT Co-ordinator Dónall O'Brien

### Choir

Scoil Íosa Choir had another very successful year with their participation in a number of events as well as commanding their regular monthly slot in St Patrick's Church. The children rehearse weekly under the direction of Miriam Judge.

### First Communion

The following pupils received their First Communion on May 10th in St Patrick's Church:

Kamile Aleksunaite, Laura May Allen, Nida Armonviciute, Lucy Bray, Nikita Cleary, Roisín Conway, Isabelle Cox, Kaitlyn Coyne, Annie McDonagh, Evan McNamara, Shannon Morgan, Colm Rattigan, Ciara Reynolds. Darijus Simkevicius, Serena Squire, Katrina Strapkova, Brian Sweeney, Erica Byrne, Daire Caulfield, Alicia Cleary, Laura Dillon, Chloe Henry, Isabelle Henry, Jason Lyons, Michael Maughan, Kian Morley, Adam Noone, Miai Phillips, Tara Phillips, Adam Walsh.

### Scoil Íosa Staff: 2014/15

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

### Board of Management

James Reidy (Chairperson),  
Fr. Stephen Farragher (Patron's Nominee),  
Kenneth Dennedy (Patron's Nominee/Secretary),  
Sheena Flanagan (Teachers' Nominee),  
Anne Phillips (Parents' Nominee),  
Alan Henry (Parents' Nominee),  
Paula Grogan (Community Nominee),  
Tommy Caulfield (Community Nominee).





# Ballyhaunis GAA Club

Vinnie Caulfield, Secretary

## Introduction

2014 has been an historic and unprecedented year for the Club in terms of trophies in the trophy cabinet. We are indebted to the many individuals and businesses who made this year's success possible. Thanks to the people who supported the Club in years when silverware was not as plentiful and we hope that their loyalty and support has been somewhat rewarded. A special thanks to team sponsors for their continued support. Finally, a big thank you to the club members who week-in week-out continue to sell lotto tickets, maintain grounds, coach teams and give their time so unselfishly to their community.



to all the boys for their enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

Panel: Aaron Jordan, Adam Kelly, Alex Byrne, Alfie Hickman, Alex Tighe, Brandon Sweeney, Cathal Conlon, Cian Moran, Cillian Caulfield, Darren Quinn, Eamonn Óg Monahan, Ethan Kilbane, Fionn Conlon, Jack Nolan, Jamie Nolan, John William Burke, Liam Hill, Mark Feeney, Seán Donnellan, Shane Flanagan, Thomas Curran, Tom Donnellan, Mike Kyangi.

Trainers: John Burke, Brendan Donnellan and Darren Conlon.

## Under-6 Football

The Under-6 footballers met every Friday evening at the GAA grounds, April to October. Great progress was made with the emphasis on participation and enjoyment in a non-competitive environment. Approximately twenty budding four, five and six year olds came together each week and learned the basics of Gaelic Football. Among the highlights of the season were the friendly challenge 'matches' against Eastern Gaels and Kiltimagh. The season culminated with the Mick O'Connell Tournament and the presentation of medals to all players. Well done

## Under-10 Boys Football

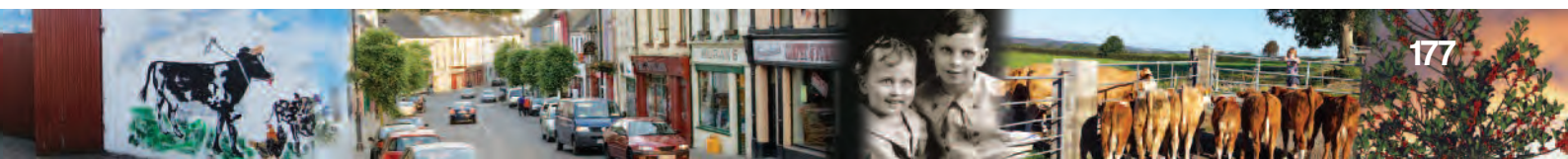
Training for Under-10 boys started in March with up to 26 boys attending training on Friday evenings. Training during the early part of the season was mainly skills based with the emphasis on the basic skills such as soloing, passing, picking the ball etc. We then moved on to working on game situations and understanding positional play. Games were played against Charlestown, Eastern Gaels, Kiltimagh and Aghamore which were enjoyed by all the players and new friendships were made. For the summer months training was increased to two evenings per week and improvements were



### Ballyhaunis Under-14 Football Team. County Champions 2014

Back, L-R: Seamus Caulfield (Manager), Daniel Murray, Jack McGoldrick, Alex Peters, Darren Maughan, Eneeb Naseer, Neil Carney, Simon McDonagh, Barry Cribbin, Eoin McDonagh, Dara Healy, Adrian Byrne, James McDonagh, Tommy Caulfield (Trainer).

Front, L-R: Haroon Shabeer, Conor Keane, Josh Webb, Darren Maughan, Conal Caulfield, Cormac Phillips (Capt.), Jack Coyne, Patrick Caulfield, Pierce Nestor, Ethan Keane, Luke Walsh.





immediately seen in skill levels and understanding of game situations. In August we played in the Barry Butler Cup and were disappointed not to reach the final. The year finished up at the end of September with the traditional Mick O'Connell Cup in which Cian Burke's team defeated a team led by Aiden Sloyan.

Panel: Cian Burke (Capt.), Eoin Ryan, Adam Noone, P.J. Greally, Yordan Kirchev, Nathan Noone, Kyle Burke, Yazan Kezze, Colm Rattigan, Martin McDonagh, Ethan Cooke. Aiden Sloyan (Capt.), John McDonagh, Conor Henry, Daire Caulfield, Clayton Nolan, John F. McDonagh, John McDonagh, Michael Richardson, Kian Morley, Ahmad Naveed, Mohid Magsood.

### Under-12 Boys Football

Training for the Under-12s began in early April. This year we were grouped with Charlestown, Ballaghaderreen and Ardmoy in a mini-league. All players competed well and showed a huge improvement in their ball skills and team play. Unfortunately this was the only competition organised by the County Board for our players to compete in. The East Mayo Board did not organise any competition for Under-12s. Fortunately there was an Under-13 league in which many of the Under-12s played. This group was quite successful in reaching the league semi-final only to lose out to Claremorris. Management would like to thank all parents who helped out with transporting players to and from games: your help and support was much appreciated.

Panel: Daniel Murray, Daniel Hill, Diarmuid Phillips, Joshua Webb, Sean Caulfield, Padraig McHugh, Cian Walsh, Tommy Cleary, Patrick Daly, Sean Morley, Kevin Durkin, Dara Rattigan, Jamie Allen, John McDonagh, Simon McDonagh, Cian Burke, Aidan Sloyan. Management: Paul Webb and Brian Murray.

### Under-14 Boys Football

Ballyhaunis capture County Under-14 Football Championship - Ballyhaunis 4-5, Aghamore 1-12.

Ballyhaunis Under-14 footballers captured the County Title by defeating near neighbours Aghamore in a close and exciting encounter played at McHale Park on Friday, Aug. 1st. Three early goals by Darren Mór Maughan, Cormac Phillips and Uneeb Naseer put the Red and Black in the driving seat and a further point by Patrick Caulfield saw Ballyhaunis lead by 3-1 to 1-4 at the interval. A second Darren Mór goal shortly after the restart ensured that the Ballyhaunis boys remained in front despite a steady flow of Aghamore points. Further points by Phillips and Naseer ensured a two point winning margin for the Ballyhaunis side which was managed and coached by the Caulfield brothers Tommy and Seamus.

Panel: Neil Carney, Barry Cribbin, Aidan Byrne, Darren

Óg Maughan, Ethan Keane, Jack Coyne, Pierce Nestor, Conal Caulfield, Cormac Phillips (Capt.), James McDonagh, Patrick Caulfield, Uneeb Naseer, Conor Keane, Darren Mór Maughan, Joshua Webb. Subs: Alex Peter, Daniel Murray, Luke Walsh, Dara Healy, Jack McGoldrick, Simon McDonagh, Owen McDonagh, Haroon Shabbir.

Captain Cormac Phillips accepted the trophy on behalf of the victorious team amidst scenes of great jubilation from the large attendance of Ballyhaunis faithful. The victorious cavalcade returned to blazing bonfires on the approach roads and was feted in Supermacs following a victory lap.



Féile Peil 2014 was a huge success.

### Féile Peil 2014

Connacht GAA in conjunction with 92 GAA and Ladies Football clubs hosted, on June 27th - 29th, the largest Féile Peil organised since the inception of the competition. 64 Under-14 Boys teams and 28 Under-14 Ladies Football sides hosted a like number from the other three provinces as well as teams from England, Scotland and the USA. This is the first year that the competition has been run on a province wide basis allowing a wider expanse of teams to partake. The 184 teams in action made Connacht GAA Féile 2014 the largest Féile held in either hurling or football. In total 184 teams competed in 26 central venues, with 24 finals played in the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in Began. With 736 mentors and 4416 players participating, Féile Peil 2014 was the largest single sporting event for any age group at any level in the country over the year. An estimated 10,000 family, friends and supporters





travelled with the teams ensuring a busy and bountiful weekend for businesses in 92 different parishes, towns and hotels.

On the weekend of June 20th to 22nd, our Under-14 hurlers mentors and supporters departed from the GAA pitch bright and early on the long journey to our host club Lámh Dhearg in Belfast. On Friday evening we took part in the opening ceremony and parade in Armagh and played our games on Saturday at the Shamrocks club in Newry. Our hosts couldn't have been more generous or welcoming and the boys returned home on Sunday evening wrecked but with many happy memories of a wonderful weekend. Thanks to hurling mentors David McConn, J.P. Coen, Kieran Kiely, John Joe Hoban and Shane Healy for preparing the lads and organising the event. Thanks to all the parents who made the long journey North to support the team, and most importantly a big go raibh míle agaibh to the Lámh Dhearg club and host families for their warm welcome and generosity. The guided tour of the hill country just outside Belfast and tour of the city have made a lasting impression on all who travelled.

Ballyhaunis' involvement in Féile Peil 2014 was a huge success and a memorable occasion for all taking part. We hosted the Under-14 team from the aptly named club from Mayobridge, Co. Down. It was a pleasure to meet such a fine bunch of young men, their mentors, families and supporters. Their passion for the game along with their behaviour both on and off the field is a credit to their club and county. Both the Ballyhaunis and Mayobridge teams did very well to reach the semi-final stages of the competition and enjoyed a weekend of fun and action that they will cherish for many years to come.

We would like to thank all the people who so generously gave of their time to ensure the success of the visit. Attempting to thank so many wonderful people is a risky business as some names of people very deserving of thanks will inevitably be unintentionally omitted, so apologies in advance if this is the case.

Obviously, participating in Féile involves an amount of fundraising. Thanks to Féile Co-ordinator Laura Burke and Finance Chairman Robbie Herr and his committee for all their hard work, and a big thank you to all the local businesses and people who contributed. The fabulous condition of the clubhouse and grounds over the weekend has also drawn favourable comment from visitors and locals alike. Again, a big thank you to all who helped out decking the grounds and clubhouse in the colours of the competing teams.

The catering and hospitality on the Saturday morning of the game between hosts and visitors was of the highest standard. Thanks to Laura Burke, Helen Healy, Orla Moran Loftus, Tina McGoldrick, Stella Morley, Marie

Brennan, Noreen Coyne, Carol Keane, Tommie Glynn, Vinnie Caulfield, Tommie Caulfield, Seamus Caulfield, Robbie Herr and Marty Keane who had the place looking so well, and thanks to all parents who supplied sandwiches, buns, cakes, tarts, biscuits, scones, doughnuts etc. ensuring that nobody went hungry. There was even food left over for a picnic on Sunday morning at The Centre of Excellence. Thanks to James Reidy, Michael Gallagher, Cathal Carroll and Gary Conway and all others who helped out with the Disco in Epic on Saturday night. Paul Donnellan and crew who volunteered to look after the semi-finals and run the shop at Ballyhaunis GAA on the Sunday morning.

Míle Buíochas to our host families who looked after the visiting players so well. In particular we would like to thank Rose and Joe Freeley, Anna and Kevin Henry, Michael and Marie Brennan, Orla and Donal Moran who generously offered to act as hosts even though they had no direct involvement in Under-14 football.

Thanks to Martin Fitzmaurice who organised the playing of the National Anthem prior to throw-in of the meeting of hosts and guests. For many of our County Down visitors this was the high point of the weekend and added to the sense of occasion for the young footballers.

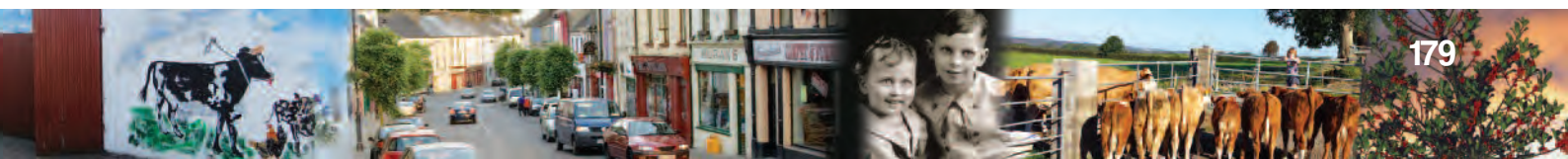
A big thank you to our Under-14 team mentors Tommy and Seamus Caulfield who had the boys so smartly turned out in their Féile tracksuits sponsored by Caulfield's, and so well prepared in terms of performance and behaviour. And finally thank you to our supporters who attended games in all three venues over the weekend. Their cheering and encouragement meant so much to the young footballers, future stars of club and county.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club is one of the oldest clubs in the county with a proud tradition of participation in Gaelic Games. The way the Club rose to the occasion and the way club members pulled together last weekend demonstrates clearly that the future of our Club is bright and in very good hands.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir. Béal Átha hAmhnais Abú!!

### **Under-16 Football**

At the start of the season the players were given the opportunity to select a captain for the year, and John Cunnane was the unanimous choice of the squad members. As expected, John turned out to be an excellent captain, leading by example both on and off the field. Our first outing offered great hope for the season ahead as we defeated the previous year's county Under-15 champions, Westport, in our opening league game. Alas, it proved to be a false dawn, as injuries to key players Brian O'Neill and John Cunnane and the





unavailability of other players for various reasons meant we finished near the foot of the table but managed to retain our Division 1 status for the championship. We performed much better in that campaign, finishing as runners-up to Castlebar in our section, which qualified us for a semi-final away to our local rivals Aghamore. A poor start saw us trailing by eight points at half-time before a spirited fight-back got us within two points of the lead. Unfortunately, despite some sustained late pressure, we failed to bridge the gap and Aghamore ran out winners. They ultimately went on to win the county title, defeating Castlebar in a thriller. The curtain came down on the season with the East Mayo championship. A comprehensive victory over Swinford in the semi-final set us up for a final meeting with our old nemesis Aghamore, but on this occasion a depleted Ballyhaunis team suffered a comprehensive defeat – a disappointing way to end a long campaign for this group of lads. On reflection, they should realise that they were not far off the pace when at full strength, and that with serious commitment and an improved attitude they could very well contend for honours at minor level in the seasons ahead. Well done to Brian O'Neill, John Cunnane and Cathal Carney who helped East Mayo advance to the latter stages in the Ted Webb Tournament in 2014. A special word of thanks goes to Paul Webb for all his help in preparing the team.

Panel: Cathal Carney, Piarais Caulfield, Darren Coyne, Jack Coyne, John Cunnane, David Cunnane, Calum Gardiner, Oisín Henry, Liam Herr, Sean Herr, Adam Hickey, Andrew Hickey, Gary Higgins, Glenn Lynch, Callyn Murphy, Dylan Maughan, Thomas Maughan, Brian O'Neill, Peace Omatayo, Cormac Phillips, Eamonn Phillips, James Reynolds, Conor Sloyan.

Team management: Tony Waldron, Paddy Phillips, Kevin Henry.

### Minor (Under-18) Football

Playing underage football represents the longest time a team will spend together and while there were some changes in personnel over the years the Minor team brought ten years of playing together to a close in 2014. The season did not bring the end for this particular group that they hoped for, but nor was it reflective of the effort made by the lads or the potential within the team. More important than that, the years spent playing football together played a significant part in cementing friendships, some of which will be life-long. Despite being ravaged by injuries in the early part of the season with up to seven players missing from some of the games, the league was (needless to say) played under duress, but the lads managed a mid-table position. One of the most encouraging features of the panel during the difficult league encounters was their strength of

personality and character to keep staying in the game when it would have been easier to capitulate – a characteristic that will stand to them both on and off the field in the years ahead. In the Summer League, with a full complement of players, the lads enjoyed a good campaign but, while appearing comfortable they lost out at the semi-final stage to a late goal blitz from Ardmoy McHales (Ardmoy and Lahardane). In the Championship Kilmovee reversed a one point Summer league defeat by the same margin. On the day the team played good football and after a game of 37 scores (2-17 – 2-16) it would be futile to speculate on the deciding factor; the actual score being a last kick of the game well taken free.

Panel: Piarais Caulfield, Thomas Connell, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, John Cunnane, Damien Egan, Callum Gardner, Cian Henry, Oisín Henry, Sean Herr, Adam Hickey, Ryan Kilbane, Glen Lynch, James Lyons, Joe Lyons, Rob McCormack, Rory Nestor, Stephen Nolan, Brian O'Neill, Mark Phillips, Cormac Reidy, Wacqas Rehmon, Steven Ryan, Sean Sutton, David Webb, Hamza Yousef.

### Senior Football

2014 has turned out to be an historic one for the Senior Footballers from Ballyhaunis. The appointment of a new management team under Manager Tomás Morley and selectors John Collins and John Prenty brought a new emphasis to the preparation of the team. Training commenced in January under a Strength and Conditioning Coach Conor Finn and a huge commitment was given by the players from the start.

The timing of the Michael Walsh League always causes difficulties for us due to the large number of players that are tied to county teams at this time of the year. This competition was used to look at players in different positions and situations with a view to building a team that would be competitive in the business end of the year. We had no success in this competition and were defeated by Hollymount/Carramore and Kilmaine to end our interest.

The Centenary Cup saw the team begin to show promise and victories over Kiltimagh by 3-10 to 0-13, and Ballaghaderreen 0-12 to 1-7 brought renewed confidence which stood us in good stead for the remainder of the year. Unfortunately, the inability of Charlestown to field in the Final meant that we took the East Mayo title by default.

From day one the main goal of the team and management has been to gain promotion from Division 1C. We started our campaign with a tough away game against Ballintubber in Clogher and emerged with a well-deserved 0-14 to 0-6 victory. This was followed by victories over Cill Chomáin 3-15 to 0-4; Lahardane 2-13 to 0-7; Mayo Gaels 1-10 to 0-8; Parke Keellogues-Crimlin



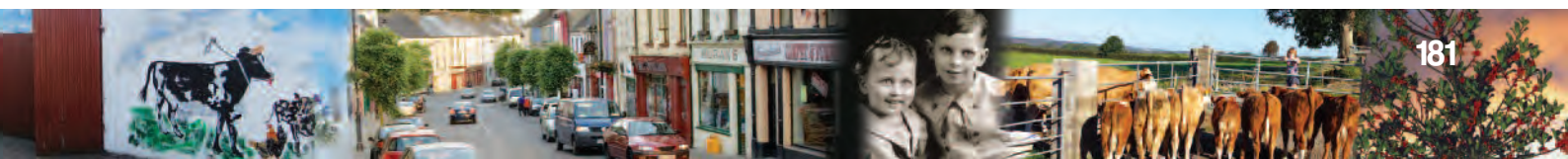




**Ballyhaunis, Mayo County Intermediate Football Champions 2014. McHale Park, Castlebar.**

Back, L-R: John Gallagher, Stephen Hoban, Tadhg Morley, Stephen Shanaghy, Declan Doyle, Brian Mulrennan, Fergal Kelly, Paul Jordan, Austin Lyons, Kevin Byrne, Kurt Reinhardt, Jarlath Carney, Sean Hunt, Stephen Nolan, Jason Coyne, David McNamara, Kevin Nestor, Isaac Carroll.

Front, L-R: Conor Freeley, Enda Griffin, Ciarán Griffin, Keith Higgins, Adrian Phillips, Morgan Lyons, Liam Lyons (Capt.), Eoghan Collins, Brian Hunt, Niall Prenty, Kevin Gallagher, Cyril Collins, James Cribbin, Joe Sutton, Christy McCrudden.





6-12 to 1-6; and Louisburgh 3-9 to 1-7. Our sole defeat was to the Neale in Cong on a 0-20- to 0-11 scoreline. Going to print we still have two games away against Killala and Kiltimagh and two homes against Swinford and Islandeady to complete the programme and are on target achieve our goal.

## Championship

Every year since 1988 we have hoped that “this will be our year in the Championship”. The records show that we have regularly been defeated by the team that ultimately goes on to win the County title. We had a tough group draw and commenced the championship at home against Mayo Gaels. A more determined Mayo Gaels took the honours on a 0-13 to 2-12 scoreline. The following week we travelled to Tuar Mhic Éadaigh to play the local side. This was a do-or-die effort with the losers guaranteed to be in the relegation battle. This was the day that our team came of age and were victorious 1-14 to 1-13, following a last minute point. Our final game, at home, to Burrishoole was a winner-take-all contest. Again the game went down to the wire before we qualified for the Quarter Final by 0-16 to 1-12. The Quarter Final against Kiltimagh saw the team give a tremendous display when winning by 2-13 to 0-10.

The semi-final saw us pitted against the Neale, who had defeated us in the League a few weeks previously. This was our best display of the year and we easily defeated them by 3-12 to 0-7 to qualify for the county final.

The preparations for the final were measured and focussed. Hollymount/Carramore were favourites to take the Intermediate title from the beginning of the year and we were seen as a team that had done well to improve so much during the year. The final was to see one of the greatest displays of character and commitment ever given by a Ballyhaunis team. Before a huge crowd of Ballyhaunis supporters, many of whom had travelled from abroad and the four corners of Ireland, we took the County title by the narrowest of margins 0-12 to 0-11. The scenes of unbridled joy at the final whistle were a joy to behold as those who had wondered whether we would ever see such an occasion danced with joy on McHale Park.

The journey has now advanced to Connacht and the first hurdle has been cleared following a victory over Leitrim champions Dromohair by 3-13 to 0-6. The semi final against Roscommon champions, St. Croan's beckons.

The players and management have given a huge commitment during the year and have been ably assisted by a backroom team of John Higgins, Conor Finn, Ryan Worden and Frank Roebuck (Stats) whose

contribution has been invaluable and much appreciated. We also wish to thank Seamus Brown and the officers of Maryland Club in Westmeath who have been our regular mid-week hosts throughout the season. Their hospitality is much appreciated and contributed, in no small measure, to our County Championship success.

Panel: Paul Jordan, Brian Hunt, Declan Doyle, Conor Freeley, Eoghan Collins, Keith Higgins, Kevin Nestor, Liam Lyons (Capt.), Stephen Shanaghy, Kevin Gallagher, Fergal Kelly, Isaac Carroll, Kevin Byrne, Morgan Lyons, Niall Prenty, Jarlath Carney, Kurt Reinhardt, Adrian Phillips, Sean Hunt, Stephen Nolan, Stephen Hoban, David McNamara, Ciaran Griffin, Austin Lyons, Jason Coyne, Christy McCrudden, Brian Mulrennan, Joe Sutton, Cyril Collins, Jimmy Cribbin, Tadhg Morley, John Gallagher, Enda Griffin.

## Under-14 Hurling

We commenced training in March. We trained on Wednesday and Saturday. This year's championship was done on a league format. We defeated Caiseal Gaels, Ballina and Castlebar. Unfortunately on the day Tooreen were the better team against us. This meant we qualified for the B final. We came agonisingly close but just lost by a point against Caiseal Gaels in the B final. 2014 was a very special year for Ballyhaunis hurling as our Under-14 hurlers qualified for Féile Na nGael in Ulster we were hosted by the Lámh Dearg club in Belfast. We played three group games first defeating our host team 2-7 to 2-5. We then defeated Newry Shamrocks 0-7 to 1-2 and in our final group game we were defeated by St. Dominic's of Roscommon 1-5 to 0-6. This meant that we qualified for the Cup semi-final against Easkey from Sligo. The long journey and this being their fourth game in two days had an obvious effect on our lads as they just lost out to Easkey 2-7 to 1-6. A great experience was had by all members of the team at Féile. Special mention must go to the Lámh Dearg club in Belfast who could not do enough to accommodate us. Also a big thank you to the many parents who travelled the long distance to support our 'Heroes'.

Panel: John Reidy, Diarmaid Phillips, Neil Carney, Niall Coffey, Jack Ronayne, Jack Coyne, Evan Godfrey, Cormac Phillips, Dara Healy, Ryan Keadin, Danny Hill Conal Caulfield, Ronan Swanick, Patrick Caulfield, Darren Maughan, Matthew Mullarkey, Jamie McGovern, Barry Cribbin, Uneeb Nasser. Management: Dave McConn, John Joe Hoban, Shane Healy, Kieran Kiely.

## Under-21 Hurling

Our Under-21 hurlers achieved the top prize this season for only the first time in our history. It was a great evening in McHale Park, Castlebar which ended with Captain Eoghan Collins lifting the Cup after an exciting



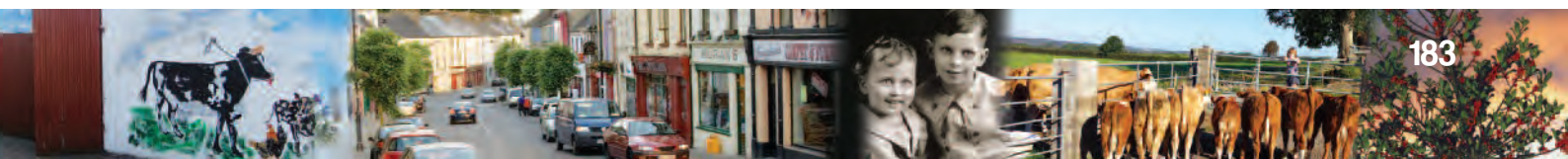




### **Ballyhaunis, Mayo County Senior Hurling Champions 2014.**

Back, L-R: Jason Powers, James Lyons, Pierce Higgins, Hughie McKermitt, Tadhg Buckley, Stephen Hoban, Stephen Carney, Cyril Collins, Kieran Kiely, Ryan Kilbane, Luke Cribbin, Austin Lyons, Ciarán McDermott, Fergal Lyons, Patrick Kiely, Shane Healy, James Cribbin, Christy McCrudden, John Joe Hoban.

Front, L-R: Tadhg Morley, Jason Coyne, Morgan Lyons, Peter Healy, Mark Phillips, Kevin Morley, Damien Keadin, Adrian Phillips, Adrian Brennan (Capt.), Eoghan Collins, Keith Higgins, Micheál Walsh, Dónal O'Brien, Brian Hunt.







#### **Ballyhaunis Under 21 Hurlers, Mayo County Champions 2014.**

Back L-R: John Flynn, Oisín Coffey, Conor Nolan, Ryan Kilbane, Mark Phillips, Seán Griffin, James Cribbin, Kieren McDermott, Stephen Ryan, Pat Kiely, Mark Sutton.  
Front L-R: Hannan Iqbar, Shane Healy, Jason Coyne, James Lyons, Eoghan Collins (Capt.), Cyril Collins, Seán Gildea, Andrew Cunnane, Morgan Lyons, Adrian Phillips.

contest. The path to the final was secured by beating Ballyvary in the first round in Tooreen, then a home match to holders Tooreen in which Ballyhaunis were never behind. This win was a huge boost for our lads as we had struggled to beat Tooreen before. Goals in the final against Castlebar by John Flynn and Morgan Lyons in either half helped Ballyhaunis to maintain the lead for most of the match. A strong fight back by Castlebar in the third quarter of the match was resisted by the Ballyhaunis defence with players like Shane Healy, Jason Coyne and James Cribbin all to the fore. The Ballyhaunis management: J. P. Coen and Peter Higgins.

#### **County Hurling Representatives**

Ballyhaunis were represented well at county level yet again this season: At Minor level they won another All Ireland C final in which James Lyons from Ballyhaunis was Captain. Also on the panel were Jason Coyne and Mark Phillips. At Under-21 level we also had players involved: Paddy Kiely, Shane Healy and Adrian Phillips. Congratulations to our senior hurler Donal O'Brien who took part in the All-Ireland Puck Fada in the Cooley Mountains earlier this summer and did club and county proud.

#### **Senior Hurling**

At the end of the 2013 season, J. P. Coen, with his backroom team of David McConn and Mark Deeley, stepped down after five successful years as Manager of Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling team to focus on underage development. Peter Higgins was appointed Manager for 2014 with a backroom panel of Darren Conlon and Gary

Conway to draw up a fitness programme, and Derek Walsh, John Joe Hoban, and Frank Browne to train the team. Around the middle of January, 2014, the full panel met in the GAA Clubhouse and a commitment was given that no stone would be left unturned to get the panel to achieve its true potential. Around the same time Tomás Morley was appointed to the Football management and both managers met and agreed a structure to facilitate the dual players. Our first competition was the Táin League. We were in a group comprising Oran, Abbeyknockmoy, Tooreen and Padraic Pearse's. In the first game Abbeyknockmoy requested a deferral due to a clash of fixtures which was granted, so our next round was against Tooreen in The Connaught Centre of Excellence during a gale force storm on the 1st February – a game which we lost by a couple of points. Our game against Oran was conceded to us, the re-fixture against Abbeyknockmoy ended in a draw, so the points were stacked against us and Abbeyknockmoy won the tournament by beating Tooreen in the Final. On the 16th May 2014, the Club was presented with a letter about Christy McCrudden, stating, "This is to certify that Christopher may return to playing Hurling and football from today". In the Genfitt game against Westport Christy led the Ballyhaunis team out to tremendous applause.

In the Genfitt League we beat Castlebar and Westport to reach the final against Tooreen which was played in Ballyhaunis on the 27th June. Despite scoring 2-11 and playing quite well, we lost by a margin of one point. In the T. J. Tyrrell Cup again we beat Castlebar, drew with Tooreen and got the game against Westport as they





failed to show. After a toss of the coin Tooreen got a direct bye to the final and Ballyhaunis played Westport in Tooreen, which Ballyhaunis won by 1-20 to 0-03, to earn a right to play Tooreen in the final, fixed for 12th October.

A game that started poorly in the first half for Ballyhaunis, leaving Tooreen ahead by double scores 1-5 to 0-4 halfway through the first half, was turned on its head as for the next 30 minutes Ballyhaunis outscored Tooreen by a margin of 1-08 to 0-1 to leave Ballyhaunis ahead by six points with ten minutes left on the clock. Tooreen threw the proverbial 'Kitchen Sink' at Ballyhaunis but were unable to break down a resolute defence of Ballyhaunis in the final ten minutes and so the 'Red and Black', captained by Adrian Brennan, collected the tenth T. J. Tyrrell trophy in thirteen years on a score line of 1-12 to 1-10. Richly deserved 'Man of the Match' went to Damien Keadin, who is now heading off to pursue a career in the Irish Army. Good wishes to him and another of our panellists, Sean Griffin, who enlisted two months ago.

Every year Ballyhaunis make a huge contribution to the County panel, and this year, we wish to congratulate Donal O'Brien, Kieran Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Eoghan Collins and Keith Higgins for their part in maintaining Mayo's place at the Christy Ring Competition.

I would like at this stage to thank all the club officers for their co-operation during the year, the senior players for their commitment, especially their efforts in a very successful fund raising race night. I would like to thank especially our selectors John Joe Hoban, Derek Walsh, Darren Conlon, Frank Brown and Gary Conway, as people of this calibre make team management such a pleasure.

Panel: John Brady, Adrian Brennan, Tadhg Buckley, Stephen Carney, Cyril Collins, Eoghan Collins, Jason Coyne, James Cribbin, Luke Cribbin, Sean Griffin, Peter Healy, Shane Healy, Keith Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Damien Keadin, Kieran Kiely, Patrick Kiely, Ryan Kilbane, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, James Lyons, Liam Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Christy McCrudden, Kieran McDermott, Hugh McKermitt, Kevin Morley, Tadhg Morley, Donal O'Brien, Adrian Phillips, Mark Phillips, Micheál Walsh. Management: Peter Higgins, John Joe Hoban, Derek Walsh, Darren Conlon, Frank Browne, Gary Conway.

## **GIRLS FOOTBALL**

### **Under-10 Girls Football**

The girls trained on a Friday evening and as this is their first introduction to Ladies Football emphasis is on basic skills and co-ordination. Competition was kept to a minimum and at the end of the season the girls played

a number of friendly games against Saint Mary's and Kilmovee. Trainers: Ann Cunnane Marques, Christina Henry, Leanne Henry.

### **Under-12 Girls**

There's a great future ahead for these girls with such a range in ages and skills. With the support and backing of their coaches and the Club they will continue to battle hard and improve. Best of luck girls! Thanks to all the parents for their help and support this year. Mentors: Paul Smith, Justin McDonagh and Mary Duffy.

Panel: Hannah Clarke, Orla Coffey, Laura Godfrey, Leah Johnston, Kate Mannion, Erin Murray, Rachel Cleary, Eilish Duffy, Kyah Legg, Laura Madden, Amy Gildea, Áine Phillips, Eva Henry, Chanel Marques, Jessica Henry, Aoife Hughes, Rosie Ganley.

### **Under-13 Girls**

It was great to see the girls return this year to face new challenges with the same strength and determination as last year. Having gotten underway they settled in well winning all games apart from only one defeat thus qualifying for Division 1 of the Championship. We defeated Knockmore in the quarter final and now meet Swinford in the County semi-final. Mentors: Paul Smith, Justin McDonagh and Mary Duffy. Good luck to the team for the future. Thanks to all the parents for their help and support this year and we wish the girl's the best of luck in their semi-final!

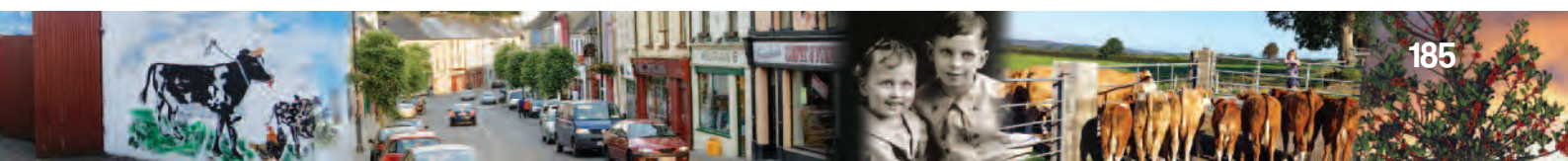
Panel: Holly Browne (Capt.), Rachel Cleary, Eilis Duffy, Lauren Golden, Kyah Legg, Laura Madden, Erin Murray, Amy Gildea, Laura O'Boyle, Niamh O'Neill, Áine Phillips, Katie Ronayne, Rachel Dillon, Laura Godfrey, Leah Johnston, Kate Mannion, Siofra Murray, Allanah Nolan, Ciara O'Grady, Sheena Roddy (Vice Capt.), Niamh Smith, Olivia Klimczyk, Rebecca Vahey Brennan.

### **Under-14 Girls**

Training began indoors in February for what was going to be the first season of Division 1 football for a Girls team from Ballyhaunis. The girls played seven games in the league. They played some excellent football against the best teams in the county and won five of their seven league games. This qualified them for the league semi-final. In the semi they played Knockmore. Unfortunately, Knockmore proved too strong. In the 'A' championship the girls beat St. Brigid's in the quarter finals. Kilmoremy, the eventual champions, were waiting in the semi-final and with four county players on their panel they were not going to be stopped. Team trainers: Gary Conway, Jason Foody and Liam Lyons.

### **Under-16 Girls**

This was our first season at this age group. The girls were







### **Ballyhaunis U-16 Girls County League Football Champions**

Back L-R: Aoife Nolan, Aoife Conway, Olivia Cleary, Laura O'Connell, Siofra Murray, Megan Regan, Marina Carney, Róisín Lyons, Jade Cunnane, Laura Regan, Shauna Lyons, Cáit Phillips, Sheena Roddy.  
Front L-R: Gemma Foody, Lauren Walsh, Niamh O'Neill, Niamh Foody, Rebecca Finn, Aibhinn Herr, Katelyn Concannon (Captain), Chloe Ryan, Helen Gallagher, Aoibheann Gallagher.

placed in Division 3. They played seven games in the league winning them all! They beat Cill Chomáin in the semi-final and faced Breafehy in the league final. After an edgy start with both teams exchanging points Ballyhaunis took control of the match. A flurry of goals saw the girls clinch victory 5-7 to 0-6. In the 'B' Championship, consisting of the 16 teams from Div. 2 and 3 we have, to date, put in two great performances and have progressed to the semi-final which is to be played on Oct 25th. The team's achievement at this age group is quite remarkable when you consider they are all Under-15 and eligible for next year's Under-16 competitions! Michael Gallagher was team manager assisted by Gerry O'Connell and Michael Cleary as selectors.

Girls football in Ballyhaunis continues to grow and we believe there are still girls around the Ballyhaunis area who would benefit from playing football and help us improve. Any parents who would like to get involved are more than welcome to help out.

### **Ballyhaunis Community Socials**

The GAA national programme to combat rural isolation, which follows from an initiative by former President McAleese, is being implemented by clubs throughout Ireland. Ballyhaunis GAA Club has come up with a unique and very successful community based response: all of the community are invited to come together for a very enjoyable night out – a 'Community Celebration' – which takes place every month. Entertainment is top class with

up to fifteen musicians and a queue of entertainers to sing a song or a recitation. It's all voluntary community based talent and it creates a tremendous atmosphere.

On a Sunday night at the end of each month Ballyhaunis comes alive to the sounds of traditional music, music not so traditional, stories, comedy acts, songs, dance, general craic and great fun and entertainment. The entertainment moves around each month sharing the fun with the town's many pubs, and the crowds follow.

Well known musician Johnny McGarry and family are central to the regular line-up of talent which includes: Moira Delaney, Ann-Marie Foody, Fiona Lavin, Paddy Joe Tighe, Paddy Lyons, Michael Walsh, Richard Waldron, Paul Waldron, Tom Jennings, Michael Nolan, Michael Walsh, Tom Kelly and Anthony Jordan.

### **Grounds**

We continue to maintain and improve our Grounds and Club house. This year the Club is very proud to have provided a fully equipped gym and weights room for our members. Thanks are due to Gary Conway for his help in the upkeep of the gym and equipment. Our pitch continues to be one of the finest playing surfaces in the country. This is in no small way due to the efforts of Peter Higgins and the grounds committee. The Club is also indebted to Tomás Lilly, Eugene Freeley and Pat Regan for all their work during the year. Pitches have been sanded and spiked and new drainage systems have been installed demonstrating the commitment of the Club to





continue to improve on our grounds. Next year we hope to continue with this good work to start developing a new training area and to continue to refurbish the gym meeting rooms.

### Lotto/Finance

The weekly Club Lotto continues to be the main source of finance for the day to day running of the club. For this we are very thankful to the supporters who contribute to the weekly and annual lotto.

You can also purchase your tickets online at [www.lotto.ie/ballyhaunis](http://www.lotto.ie/ballyhaunis). The club owe a deep debt of gratitude to our club sellers who, 52 weeks of the year, hail, rain or snow, head out to sell the weekly lotto. Thanks also goes to the local businesses who allow us the use of their premises to sell our tickets and to host our weekly draws.

### Kelloggs Cúl Camp

Ballyhaunis GAA Cúl Camp commenced on the 20th July for five days. Over 80 children attended. Activities for the week included mini-games, blitzes, fun games and skills training in Football, Hurling and Rounders.

### 2014 Football All-Star Award

Congratulations to Keith Higgins on being the recipient of a 2014 Football All-Star Award. Keith has been a regular on the County Senior Football team since 2005 and has nailed down the number 4 jersey for himself. This is Keith's third All-Star award, a testament to the level he has played at and the performances he has put in over the years. Keith showed signs of huge potential and ability at an early age in both football and hurling. A natural athlete, Keith has dedicated himself to the GAA for the majority of his life for both club and county. Currently he is an established player on both Mayo Senior Hurling and Football teams. His commitment to Ballyhaunis GAA is unwavering right through his underage years to the present day.

He has won many awards throughout his eventful career and has the ability to play numerous positions for the both club and county. Keith captained Mayo to All Ireland Under-21 Football in 2006. That year he received the Cadbury 'Young Player of the Year' award. In 2005 he helped Sligo IT to capture the Sigerson Cup. He has also represented his county in the 2006, 2012 and 2013 All Ireland Senior Football Finals. A bank official, Keith has also represented Connacht in both football and hurling and this year became the first player to from Connacht to win Inter provincial titles in both football and hurling. Keith has donned the national jersey when he played Shinty for Ireland against Scotland. Keith is a proud Ballyhaunis man and Ballyhaunis people are justly proud of Keith.



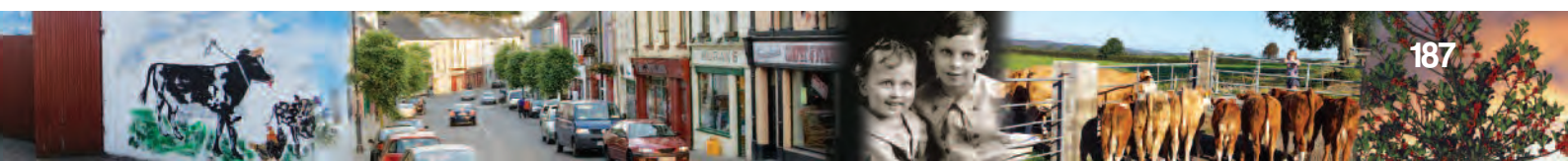
Presentation of Training Tops to Ballyhaunis Intermediate Footballers. L-R: Eoghan Collins, Liam Rochford (Sponsor), Liam Lyons (Capt.), Mike Webb (Chairman), Paul Jordan.



Presentation of Jerseys to Ballyhaunis Intermediate Footballers. L-R: Eoghan Collins, Tommy Grogan (Sponsor), Liam Lyons (Capt.), Vinnie Caulfield (Sec.), Paul Jordan.



Cormac Phillips, Captain of the Ballyhaunis U-14 County Football Champions, celebrating their win.







Members of the 1988 Ballyhaunis team that won the County Intermediate Championship title at this year's County Final in McHale Park, Castlebar. Back, L-R: Brian Phillips, Richard Phillips, Tommy Caulfield, Ivan Freeley, Paddy Phillips, Billy Phillips, Seamus Caulfield, Eamon Cunnane, James Reidy, Liam Lyons. Front: Gerry Lyons, Tom McGuire, Brian Murray, Tommy Moran, Val Byrne, Johnny Cribbin.



Under-21 Captain Eoghan Collins receiving the County Cup from Luke Fitzmaurice (Mayo County Board).



Ballyhaunis supporters on the pitch following the Mayo Intermediate Championship County Final 2014, against Hollymount-Carramore, at McHale Park, Castlebar.

GAA Photographs courtesy of Fr. Stephen Farragher.







The three men who captained Ballyhaunis to the Intermediate County title in 1967, 1988 and 2014. L-R: Tommy Moran (1988), Liam Lyons (2014) and Thomas Lyons (1967).



Annagh native Nathan Murphy holds the Ryder Cup following Europe's victory over the USA at Gleneagles in Scotland. Nathan was working at the Ryder Cup for Newstalk where he works as a commentator for the station's 'Off The Ball' programme.



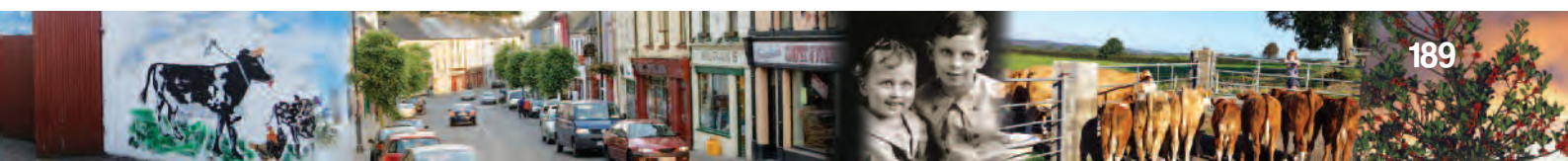
Celebrating Mayo's win over New York in the opening game of the Connacht Football Championship, May 2014, at Rory Dolan's Bar, Yonkers, Michael Walsh, Breda Ryan, Evan O'Dwyer, Bernard McHugh, Brian Freyne, Vincent Keane and Fintan Keane.



Fitness instructor Tracy Cunnane of Devlis, receiving her Kids Krav Maga Instructor Diploma from Krav Maga Master Zeve Cohen. Tracy runs many classes in the town for children, teens and adults. She has 18 years experience in Martial Arts including Aikido Ninjutsu and Krav Maga. Tracy can be contacted on 086 0618126 or on her Facebook page TCS Fitness for further details.



Connacht Final, Castlebar 2014. Aisling, Joseph, Marita, Teddie, Eavan, Sean and Joanna Webb, Devlis, watch Mayo make it four Connacht titles in a row.





# PATRONS

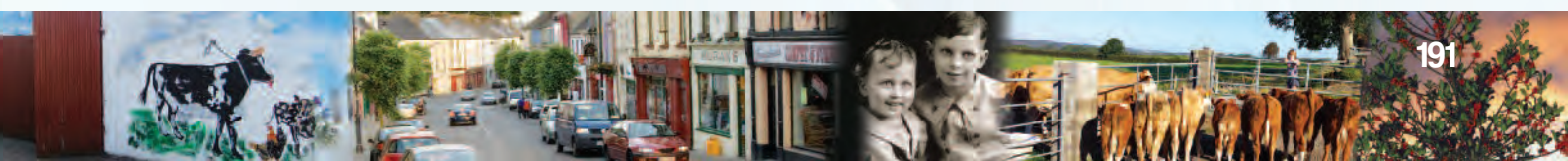
*Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please Support Local Business and Industry.  
All numbers are 094 code unless otherwise stated.*

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<b>Ballyhaunis Family &amp; Community Resource Centre</b> , The Friary House, St. Mary's Abbey.	Tel: 9630031
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<b>Byrne, Pat</b> , Knox St.	Tel: 9630283
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<b>Cold Call Refrigeration</b> , Seamus Coffey, Carrowkeel.	Mob: 086 7282800, Fax: 9631058
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<b>Gavin, Martin, Undertakers</b> , Funeral Home, Headstones & Grave Care, Knox St.	Mob: 087 6324586, Tel: 9633448
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<b>Greene, Tony &amp; Pauline</b> , 106 Green Drive, Shohola, PA 18458, U.S.A.	Tel: 0015705597079
<b>Griffin, John, Orthodontist</b> , Upper Main St.	Tel: 9630534
<b>Griffin, Mike, Taxi Service</b> , Clare St. / Devlis.	Tel: 9630213, Mob: 0879047466
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<b>Waldron, Pearse &amp; Paula</b> , Vermont, USA.	
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You can contact Annagh Magazine at the following email address: [info@annaghmag.ie](mailto: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](mailto:info@annaghmag.ie), or visit our website [www.annaghmag.ie](http://www.annaghmag.ie)

**Deadline:** The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2015 is Friday, 16th October 2015. 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.

### Cover Photographs

**Front Cover:** Clockwise: Liam Lyons, Captain of the Ballyhaunis Intermediate County Champions, holds the Sweeney Cup aloft; The Man of the Match Trophy being presented to Niall Prenty by Mayo GAA County Board P.R.O., Aiden McLoughlin; Players, Eoghan Collins, Brian Hunt and Stephen Hoban; Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Captain, Adrian Brennan with the T.J. Tyrrell Cup; Three times GAA All-Star Keith Higgins in action; Jumping high for the ball are Morgan Lyons, Liam Lyons, Andrew Shanaghy and Isaac Carroll.

**Back Cover:** Clockwise: Tadhg Buckley grabs the sliotar in the air, Keith Higgins and Dónal O'Brien in action against Tooreen, Damien Keadin receives the Man of the Match Award from Jim Hogan (Sponsor) Bottom Pics: Adrian Brennan, Captain, displays the T.J. Tyrrell Cup to the Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Panel and supporters after the County Final in Tooreen; Brian Hunt, sliotar in hand, heads for goal.

Photographs by Fr. Stephen Farragher.







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Ballyhaunis Parish Magazine

Magazine layout and design: SineadMallee@gmail.com | Printed by KPS Colour Print, Knock.

