



ANNAGH 2015

Foreword



When Catherine McCauley founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in 1831, it was to serve the poor, the sick, and educationally disadvantaged. Initially the focus of the new congregation was the people of Dublin, but in time it grew to become one of the largest congregations, not just in Ireland, but in the world.

When in 1898, the first sisters arrived here from Westport, they were fired by the same vision of Catherine McCauley and set about ministering to the needs of the people here in Ballyhaunis. Earlier this summer Sr. Rosario Waldron moved from the new convent in Upper Main St. to Knock, thus ending a 117 year presence of the Sisters of Mercy in our parish. In the intervening years the sisters made a tremendous contribution to the quality of life of the people of the parish and locality, most notably in the area of primary and secondary education. However, true to the charism of their foundress and to the message of Jesus Christ, their mission extended well beyond the walls of the classroom through their care for the poor and the sick. They carried out their work with the utmost discretion and without seeking any acknowledgement or personal gain. As a parish we wish to express our gratitude to them for their presence among us. A special Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated on November 8th last and most of the sisters who spent time here in Ballyhaunis returned for the Mass. A special commemorative book outlining the history of the Mercy sisters, along with tributes from parishioners and past pupils, has been published for the occasion.

On the national economic front there are positive signs of growth and hopefully many of our young people, who have had to emigrate in recent years as a result of the economic downturn, may soon be able to consider returning as more jobs become available as a result of more favourable economic conditions. In the meantime we hope that you will be able to keep up to date with what is happening at home via social media, and that this particular issue of the Annagh magazine will give you a snapshot of what has been happening here in Ballyhaunis during the past year.

I want to commend the Annagh committee on their continued commitment to producing an annual of such high quality year after year. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

At the time of writing, the clocks have just gone back one hour and there is a heavy carpet of leaves on the driveway between the church and parochial house. It's also that time of year when we remember our deceased loved ones who have gone before us on the journey of life. The voices of the market place are already reminding us that Christmas is not far away.

On a personal note I want to express my gratitude to the people of the parish and further afield for your prayers and good wishes during my recent illness when I had to undergo back surgery. I want to say a special word of thanks to Fr. Conal O'Connell SSC who supplied for me for the months of June and July. He settled in well and felt very much at home here.

I wish to avail of this opportunity to wish all our parishioners at home and abroad a happy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing in 2016.

Stephen Farragher

Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.

Editorial

The Annagh Magazine Society is delighted to present Annagh 2015, the thirty-eighth issue of the Ballyhaunis parish magazine.

Over the years, in Annagh Magazine, we have recalled past events in the parish, recorded the events of the year gone-by, and have looked forward to the future of our town and parish with hope and confidence. We hope this issue of the magazine will fulfil all of these functions.

The Sisters of Mercy came to this town in 1898 and, a few short weeks ago, departed from Ballyhaunis for the last time. Over the past 117 years over sixty nuns served in Ballyhaunis providing Primary and Secondary education, helping the needy and bereaved, and providing comfort and solace to many people in our parish. In this issue we cover this historic event with a mixture of sadness for the end of an era, and gratitude for the work of the Mercy Sisters amongst us.

This year again we look back at World War One and feature stories of some Ballyhaunis soldiers who fought in 'The War to end all Wars'.

As we approach the centenary of the 1916 Rising, we remember it and the half decade that followed which brought about Irish Freedom. In the coming years we hope to include stories of the Fight for Independence in our own locality. Our cover shows part of the fiftieth anniversary Commemorative Parade of 1966 in Ballyhaunis.

Looking forward, it is nice to see that the new Postal Sorting Office of An Post is and will be located in Ballyhaunis – having moved from the Post Office to a state-of-the-art premises in Clare St. Again, our senior hurlers, captained by Brian Hunt, won the T.J. Tyrrell Cup for the eleventh time. Congratulations to all concerned.

Annagh Magazine continues to focus on our parish, but we would like to acknowledge submissions from adjoining parishes – from people who regard Ballyhaunis as their local town.

We try to include as many articles and photographs as possible, but inevitably some have to be left out due to lack of space or, occasionally, poor photograph quality which leave them unsuitable for printing.

As you can see from the statistics below, over 6,000 photographs have appeared in Annagh over the past 37

years. These include many old, historic photographs which were, unfortunately, not always published clearly or large enough, due to the limited technology available at the time. Equipment for scanning and printing has improved immensely in recent years, and the Editorial Committee would welcome if those who submitted such photographs would consider submitting them again, so that could be published more clearly, bigger, or with a more complete caption. They can be scanned to a high resolution and returned immediately.

For some readers 2015 will have been a sad one as they may have lost a close family member, relative or friend. For other readers, the birth of a child, an engagement, wedding, Communion or Confirmation in 2015 will evoke happy memories.

In this, our thirty-eighth edition, we thank you, the readers, patrons, contributors of articles, photographs and poems for making this magazine possible. Thanks also to all those who helped get photographs named or provided assistance in any other way. A special Thanks to all our sales outlets for selling the magazine.

We hope that, wherever you are reading Annagh 2015, you will 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 2015

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

Deadline

The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2016 is Friday, 14th October 2016.

Some Annagh Statistics

The thirty-eight issues of the Annagh Magazine so far – up to and including this 2015 issue – have featured:

- 4,121 pages
- 2,299 articles and reports
- 6,581 photographs of all kinds, including 746 wedding photographs and 232 photographs on covers.

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Review of the Year

MIKE BYRNE

NOVEMBER 2014

Garda Tom Howley retires from Ballyhaunis Station where he has served for the past 32 years. A special presentation ceremony is held in The Hazel to mark his retirement. Ballyhaunis singer/songwriter, Brian Flanagan is chosen to compose a special song for Childline. RTÉ TV presenter Síle Seoige asked Brian to compose a tune for the charity and, with the help of a whole host of Irish stars, the song 'Make A Wish For Christmas', is recorded in Windmill Lane Studios in Dublin and is an instant chart topper. Archbishop Michael Neary presents John Paul II Merit Awards to students from across the archdiocese at a special ceremony in Tuam Cathedral; among the recipients were Ballyhaunis Community School students Matthew Grogan, Aoife Nolan, Aoife Coffey, James Reynolds, John Cunnane, Oisín Henry, Catherine Quinn, Sarah Skeffington and Roisín Ní Shúilleabháin.

DECEMBER 2014

In the month of December the Ballyhaunis community bade farewell to two well-known and dearly loved musicians when Paddy Lyons from Gurrane and Johnny McGarry from Drimbane passed to their eternal reward. Both Paddy and Johnny left a great store of musical memories in their legacy.



Musicians and long-time friends Johnny McGarry, Drimbane (left) and Paddy Lyons, Gurrane.

News came this month of the allocation of €7 million in funding for refurbishment and extension works at Ballyhaunis Community School. News of the massive investment in the infrastructure of the school was warmly welcomed by local Fine Gael Councillor John Cribbin and Deputy John O'Mahoney T.D., who have been long time campaigners for investment in the school. Erica Byrne, Gurteen, wins the Under 8 Connacht Championship Irish Dancing competition in Sligo for the second year in a row. "After much soul searching, it's

with a heavy heart that I wish to announce my retirement from inter county football", and so went the tweet from Keith Higgins twitter account. Turns out it was all a prank by his Ballyhaunis club mates on their end of season mystery tour party. The tweet went viral and the prank sparks GAA panic albeit for a couple of hours. Commentators called it the shortest retirement in history! Brackloon North's Raymond Sloyan was honoured at the Horse Sport Ireland 2014 Breeders Awards, which took place in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles. He received the award for the breeder of the top Irish Draught showing mare for the second year in a row. Elm View scored a rare hat trick in the RDS Irish Draught broodmare championship at the Dublin Horse Show when she added this year to her 2013 and 2010 titles.

JANUARY 2015

Great celebrations at Beech Lawn as John and Anne O'Shaughnessy celebrate the wonderful occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. John and Anne celebrated with family and friends at a special reception in The Clock, Knox Street. John and Anne (née Nolan from Mountain, Ballyhaunis), lived in Dublin where they raised their family before retiring to Ballyhaunis 15 years ago.

Keith Higgins in the news again as he is appointed Captain of the Mayo Senior Football Team for 2015. The news of his appointment has been widely welcomed around the county with Pat Holmes commenting that "Keith stands out a mile above anybody else; he gives you that 100 percent commitment every day he goes out and that's what we were looking for, somebody to lead on the field." Well known Ballyhaunis GAA referee Mike Daly has been appointed as the new Mayo GAA Referees Co-ordinator.

FEBRUARY

Up and coming singing star Keith Plunkett from Forthill signs a recording contract which sees him perform on RTE television in the New Year. Keith is son of Patricia and Gerard Plunkett, Forthill. Sue McMillan is appointed President of Ballyhaunis Chamber at their annual general meeting. Great sadness throughout the local community following the very sudden death of community worker Pat O'Connor. The County Meath native was among the founding members of Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union 30 years ago and was very much involved in parish initiatives since coming here to Ballyhaunis in 1979. Former teacher at St. Mary's Boys national school in Ballyhaunis, Peggy Cruise passes to

her eternal reward at the Claremont Nursing Home in Claremorris. Investiture of Ballyhaunis 4th Mayo Scout Troop takes place in The Friary. The movement is up and running now after a lapse of some 20 years. John Durkan is the Scouts leader. Tooreen's Tom Waldron retires from his role as bus driver at Ballyhaunis Community School where he has served for the past 35 years. J.P. Coen was ratified as the new Mayo Senior Hurling Team manager with his management team including fellow Ballyhaunis man Dave McConn and Tommy Feeney.

MARCH

Ballyhaunis based company EPS, headed by Knock Road resident Tadhg Buckley, wins prestigious award, the Deloitte Best Managed Company for 2015. Founded in Cork in 1968, the EPS company was launched in Ballyhaunis in 1984. Mr. Buckley receives his award on behalf of the company at a special ceremony in the RDS, Dublin.



Tadhg Buckley (centre), Managing Director of EPS Ltd., receives his award at the RDS, Dublin from Sasha Wiggins, CEO, Barclay's Bank Ltd., and Brendan Jennings, Director at Deloitte.

Aghamore native Joe Byrne is the special guest of the Ballyhaunis Historical Society for a history talk at the Credit Union centre. Joe's talk is entitled 'Achadh Mór and surrounding areas - 1830-1930. Ballyhaunis Community Council elects new members for the forthcoming year, the officers elected are: Chairman: Michael Kelly; Secretary: Mary Donnelly; Treasurer: Marie Cribbin; PRO: Paula Grogan. Ballyhaunis Community School's Junior Girls team qualify for the Connacht Football Final when they defeat Dunmore in the semi-final. BCS Senior Hurlers make history by winning the Connacht Post Primary 'C' Hurling Championship on their first time playing in the competition and also being the first Mayo school to win a Connacht hurling title. They beat Woodford Mercy College, Galway in the Connacht Final but lose in the All-Ireland semi-final to Cistercian College, Roscrea with a full time score of 0-15 to 2-06.

APRIL

The Easter Parade is relaunched in Ballyhaunis after a lapse of 15 years and what a great success it turned out to be with a total of 45 floats taking part in the parade. Tom Colleran, as cage fighter Conor McGregor wins the prize for best float. Alannah Dennehy, Gemma Foody and Niamh Foody of BCS win the Under 15 Girls Connacht Schools Squash Final which was held in Claremorris over the Easter period. Marian Biesty from Pattenspark is nominated as Young Mayo Person of the Year in recognition of her outstanding work at the animal rescue centre at her home in Pattenspark. Marian is one of 10 young people from around the county picked to receive the prestigious award. Keith Plunkett puts on a five star performance on TG4 talent show, Buscar Abú. Budding young soccer player John Joe Finn, whose grandfather Michael lives in Devlis, is reported to be making magnificent progress with Spanish club Real Madrid. John Joe, who signed for Real three years ago, is now 12 years old and beginning to make the breakthrough into the junior side. The Credit Union begins a process of 'Transfer of Engagement' with Castlebar Credit Union. According to an information leaflet issued jointly by the two credit unions, a transfer of engagement means that Ballyhaunis and District Credit Union will cease to exist as a standalone entity and will transfer its assets and liabilities to Castlebar Credit Union. The process is due to be completed in May. Minister Ring was in town to officially open Mayo County Council's new children's playground at Bracklaghboy Village on the Knock Road. Peter Maughan and Eoghan Lavin from Ballyhaunis Boxing Club returned from the National Stadium in Dublin with two National titles.

MAY

Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council has made contact with Chief Superintendent Pat Diskin in Castlebar regarding the frequency in which church gate collection permits are awarded. Following lengthy discussions by council members it has been decided to restrict collections to weekend Masses at one entrance only. Ballyhaunis Under-14 Gaelic footballers win the Division Four Mayo County Championship with a great win over Ardmoy McHales. The Ballyhaunis team is captained by Aiden Byrne (son of Val and Samantha, Doctor's Road). This makes it extra special for Aiden and the Byrne family: his father Val, was a member of the Ballyhaunis Intermediate team which won the County Championship in 1988 while granddad, Val (Snr.), was a member of the Ballyhaunis senior side which won the Mayo Senior County Title with a famous victory over Ballina, back in 1958. Popular Clare Street publican Anne Curley celebrates her 50th birthday with a big party bash in the

family pub on Clare Street. Monica Morley from Midwest Radio gives a most interesting talk at the Credit Union centre on the life of James Cavanagh from Cloonbulban. The talk was entitled 'The Bekan Man who became Duke of Swaziland'. On the last day of May, Liam Lynskey's President's Prize is played for at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. After an exciting climax to the two day contest, it is Emmett Keane (Jnr.) from Knock Road who comes in ahead of the chasing pack, winning his first 'major' at the Coolnaha course. Ballyhaunis Community School first year student Niamh O'Neill wins an All-Ireland medal when she comes first in the Minor Long Jump event at the National Athletics Games in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Niamh is daughter of Stella (née Morley) and George O'Neill, Woodpark. The Credit Union merger between Ballyhaunis and Castlebar is completed and a special reception is held at the Clare Street office to mark the occasion. Combined, they are now one of the largest credit unions in the west of Ireland. The month ends with a fantastic programme of events including the Ballyhaunis GAA Family Fun and Community Integration Day and the Summer Festival of events including the Traditional Fair Day. At the GAA day the weather may have been unkind, but it failed to dampen the atmosphere and community spirit that prevailed at the beautifully maintained Ballyhaunis GAA grounds on the Knock Road. Over 100 children demonstrated their skills throughout the many games they played.

JUNE

One of the oldest residents of the parish, Sean Jordan of Johnstown celebrates his 99th birthday on June 4th with wife Nancy and their eight children and families including twenty grandchildren. Former parish priest of Foxford, Canon Andrew Johnston passes to his eternal reward. A native of Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis, Fr. Andy (as he was affectionately known), was a former President of St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen. He was son of the late Arthur and Mary Johnston, Abbeyquarter. Jimmy Duggan retires from Scoil Íosa National School where he has served with distinction for 35 years. Jimmy, from Knock, was the subject of glowing tributes from



Fr. Conal O'Connell offering Benediction at this year's Corpus Christi Procession in Clare Court, Ballyhaunis. Fr. O'Connell, a Columban Father and native of Tuam, has worked on the Missions in the Philippines for many years. He ministered in Annagh parish during Fr. Farragher's time in hospital earlier this year.



This year's Corpus Christi Procession took the route down Main Street, along Clare Street and into Clare Court.

Principal Kenneth Dennedy and from former Principal Jim Lunden at the end of year Graduation Mass in Scoil Íosa on June 16th. The Gem newsagents on Bridge Street strikes it lucky for the second time in as many years when a lucky customer wins almost €320,000 in the Euromillions Jackpot draw. June 17th is a red letter day for Ballyhaunis Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher when he undergoes a serious back operation in Galway. Fr. Stephen is replaced by an old friend from his Tuam days, Fr. Conal O'Connell, who is on vacation from his base in the Philippines. A successful open day takes place at the farm of Ruairí Delaney and family in Coolnaha to

showcase two Levy Astronaut Milking Robots in operation on the farm as well as an automatic slat scraper. Hundreds of people from the area and further afield visited the farm. Cormac Phillips wins the 2015 Mayo Poc Fada final in the Under-16 category. Dónall O'Brien, Scoil Íosa teacher, wins the senior event for the second year in a row. Both now go forward to the Connacht finals. Andrew Hickey, a member of Ballyhaunis Golf Club, plays in the Irish Boys Amateur Open Championships which was held over a four day period at Tuam Golf Club.

JULY

Clare Street native Mike Griffin is appointed Caretaker of the Parochial Hall. He succeeds Pat Divine, who retires after serving in the position for a number of years. The Hazel Bar and Restaurant on Main Street ceased trading and news of the announcement comes as a major shock to the community. Cormac Phillips wins the Connacht Puc Fada competition in the GAA Centre of Excellence. Cormac beat off a strong challenge from competitors from Galway, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim to claim the title. Ballyhaunis young golfer Andrew Hickey is selected for the Connaught Under-15 Boys squad. Local hero, Keith Higgins captains Mayo senior team to win the Connacht Football Final at Dr. Hyde Park, Roscommon, for a fifth year in a row, with a resounding victory over Sligo on a score line of 6-25 to 2-11. Friday, July 24th marks a sad day and the end of an era for the Sisters of Mercy in Ballyhaunis when Sr. Rosario Waldron leaves the Ballyhaunis convent to take up residence in Knock. Sr. Rosario has been the last nun living in Ballyhaunis for the past number of years.

The sisters first took up residence here in 1898. History was made at Milebush Park in Castlebar as Ballyhaunis Town FC win back-to-back Tonra Cup titles at the expense of Achill Rovers. Final score is 2 goals to 1. The two scorers are Jarlath Carney and Jamil Kezze and the team captain is Kevin Byrne Jnr. The USS Patrick Gallagher Petition receives a major boost with the news



Cormac Phillips, who represented Connacht GAA at U-16 level at the All-Ireland Poc Fada on 1st August in the Cooley Mountains. Cormac is son of Paddy and Anne Phillips, Gurteen, Ballyhaunis.

that Dublin Airport is providing four internal billboards for the campaign which are displayed in very prominent positions over the months of July and August. Ballinlough native Lt. Col. Mary Carroll becomes the first female Officer Commanding at Renmore Military Barracks in Galway. She has responsibility for almost 500 troops stationed in Renmore. She is married to Tooreen native Vincent Henry and has many relatives in the Ballyhaunis area. Lady Captain Ita Fahey's prize at the Golf Club is won by Mariette Potgieter. The tragic death of a four year old little boy on a farm in North Mayo brings great sadness to the community as they learn that Declan Donohoe Jnr. of Knocknacarra, Galway is the son of Declan Donohoe formerly of Scrigg, Ballyhaunis, and wife Geraldine. He is the grandson of Martin and the late Julia Donohoe.

AUGUST

Dr. Caroline Noone joins the practice of her father Dr. Patrick Noone, at the Hazelhill Family Practice and will specialise in women's health, dermatology and pediatrics as well as general practice. Under-12 footballers perform in Croke Park at the interval of the Mayo-Donegal All-Ireland Quarter Final. The young guns are coached by former Gaelic football greats Tommy Caulfield and David Burke. Drimbane native Frank Greally, well known editor of The Irish Runner, attracts a large crowd to the Morton Stadium in Dublin, for the 45th anniversary of his record breaking run at the same stadium in 1970. The time Frank set in that great win in 1970 (30m 17sec), still stands as an Irish record. The month of August follows the same weather pattern as July (and June), staying cool, dull and no shortage of rain. Substantial funding of €78,000 for the fledgling Ballyhaunis Cricket Club is announced by Minister Ring when he visits town for the national launch of the Dormant Account Funding programme. Minister Ring was in town for a second time in the one week, when he paid a visit to one of the many Western Care units in Ballyhaunis to officially deliver a cheque for €20,000. The money will enable the Association to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle to support the individuals using the day services. David Burke proved a popular winner in Alan Henry's Captain's prize at the Golf Club after a keenly contested competition played over the bank holiday weekend. The Caldragh celebration is a great community success in Forthill, Ballyhaunis, on August 22nd. The day includes the celebration of Holy Mass at the children's burial ground in Forthill, with chief celebrant Fr. Stephen Farragher, PP. Cormac Phillips narrowly misses out on the top prize at the All Ireland Under-16 Poc Fada final which is held in the scenic setting of the Cooley Mountains in Co. Louth. He comes second this year but is still young enough to enter

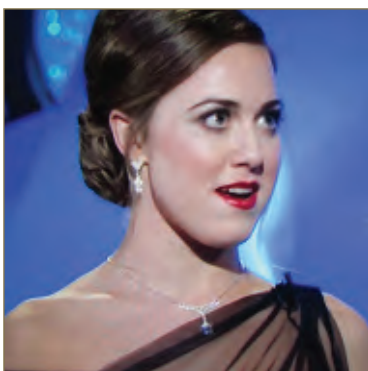
the same category again next year. Tooreen born Niamh Healy is a contestant in the famous Rose of Tralee contest. Niamh is daughter of Eleanor Healy of Cumber, Tooreen, and a niece of Anne Feeney, proprietor of The Avé Maria Nursing Home in Tooreen.

Ballyhaunis Post Office begins offering certain banking services to Ulster Bank customers. Great sadness abounds throughout Ballyhaunis and in Knock following the news of the sad passing of Deirdre Dennedy (51), formerly Durkan from Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis. Deirdre was wife of Kenneth Dennedy, principal of Scoil Íosa NS, Ballyhaunis. Paddy Kelly from Island retires from his position as caretaker at Ballyhaunis Community School. Paddy, who began at BCS as caretaker when the school opened its doors in 1977 previously worked as caretaker at the old Technical School.

An Post's new sorting office relocates to a new premises at the Enterprise Centre off Clare Street. Members of the public will no longer be able to collect items of post at the post office on Bridge Street. Neenan brothers of Coolnafarna claim the AIB National Livestock Show Simmental Female Champion at the Tullamore show with Fearna Destiny. This is Fearna Destiny's second national title and this summer already she has won 'Overall Champion' at the Claremorris show and Ballina Agricultural Shows.

SEPTEMBER

Margaret Finnegan, Bohogue, the most senior citizen living in the area, passes to her eternal reward in her 103rd year. Great sadness in the village of Carrowkeel as Sean Biesty dies suddenly at his residence at the age of 61. Sean worked in the Irish Ale Breweries depot for many years until the closure of the brewery some years ago. Following the departure of Sr. Rosario Waldron from the Sisters of Mercy convent in Ballyhaunis in July, arrangements are being put in place for the holding of a special Mass of Remembrance in the parish church on Sunday, November 8th, to mark the outstanding contribution to the local community by the sisters since first coming to Ballyhaunis in 1898. Archbishop Neary will be chief celebrant at the Mass. Jim and Mary Donnelly (née Boyle) from Ballinphuill celebrate 40 years of wedded bliss at the family home with family and friends. As part of the Abbey Pattern celebrations, rousing evening of traditional Irish music is held in Gareth Delaney's to honour the memory and pay a musical tribute to three very popular musicians from the area who died recently, Pake Dyer (Clare Court), Johnny



Rose of Tralee 2015 Finalist, Niamh Healy. Niamh is daughter of Eleanor Healy, a native of Cumber in Tooreen.

McGarry (Drimbane), and Paddy Lyons from Gurrane.

Two minutes into injury time in the Mayo Senior Football Championship relegation playoff, Niall Prenty writes his name into Ballyhaunis GAA folklore as he guides over a superlative 55 yard free and snatches a dramatic victory for his team mates. The dramatic showdown between Ballyhaunis and Shrul/Glencorrib in Claremorris ensured Ballyhaunis senior championship football for 2016. The final score is 0-11 to 0-10. TV personality Baz Ashmawy is spotted out and about in

Ballyhaunis with a cameraman as he spends a few days in the town filming for a future programme. Granlahan native Paul Coggins steps down as manager of the London Senior Football Team. Coggins has been manager for five seasons and guided the London team to some of their greatest days. In 2011, they almost beat Mayo in a championship game in London during James Horan's first year as Mayo manager. And in the summer of 2013 they attained their first ever win since 1977 in the Connacht provincial Championship and went on to play in their first ever Connacht Final.

OCTOBER

Sean Jordan from Johnstown passes to his eternal reward in his 100th year. Ballyhaunis senior hurlers defeat neighbours Tooreen to retain the Mayo Senior Hurling Championship title. Keith Higgins is nominated for a fourth GAA All Star Award. A series of classes in the art of quilting have started at the Credit Union building on Clare Street. Classes are presented by Patricia Plunkett and Helena Byrne. Finn's Footwear on Main Street celebrates 40 years in business. Former Ballyhaunis residents Rachel Jordan (née Cleary) and Maura Kelly both compete at the North American GAA Championships which is held in Chicago's Gaelic Park. Maura plays camogie for the Hoboken Guards Senior Team that wins the North American County Board Camogie Finals beating a team from Toronto. Most of the team hail from across Ireland and live throughout the New Jersey and New York area. The team is sponsored by Willie McBride's Irish Bar Hoboken which is owned by Began native Sean Hession and his wife Maura. Meanwhile



Sean Jordan

Rachel Jordan plays for the ISSC Vancouver team who won the North American Ladies Intermediate Football Championship, beating San Francisco in the final. An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. visits Ballyhaunis Community School to perform the official sod turning on the much anticipated €7m school refurbishment and extension to the school. He is also there to cut the ribbon on the 'Development Education' Imagine Garden and met many of the students representing 28 different cultures within the school body during the school's annual multicultural day. The Taoiseach spends almost two hours touring the school.



Above: Mayo Intermediate Footballer of the Year, Niall Prenty, pictured with his parents John and Mary, at the Mayo News Club Stars Award ceremony at Knockranny Hotel, Westport. Niall was also chosen as left corner forward on the Team of the Year on the night. *Michael McLaughlin Photography.*



Private Seán Griffin, Devils, who passed out on the 19th Dec. 2014 as a Two Star Private in the Irish Army. Pvt. Griffin is part of the Infantry Battalion of the Irish Defence Forces and is currently based at Aiken Barracks in Dundalk, Co. Louth. He is pictured with his parents Mary T. and Mike Griffin.

Right: Nóirín Ní Laighin on her first day as Principal of Gaelscoil an Duinnínigh, Swords, Co. Dublin, pictured with Beth Condron who started Junior Infants on the same day. Beth's mother, Elaine Webb, Main St., Ballyhaunis, and Nóirín (from Began) went to school together in Ballyhaunis.



Left: Sunday, 8th August 2015 was a very special day in the proud history of the Béal Átha hAmhnais GAA Club. On that day our Under-12 boys became the first Ballyhaunis football team to play at Croke Park when they took to the field at half time in Mayo's All Ireland quarter final with Donegal.

The boys brought great credit to themselves, their families and club with a superb display of Gaelic Football against their counterparts from the Bray Emmetts Club of County Wicklow. The boys were accompanied by their coaches Tommy Caulfield, David Burke and John Durkan.

Ballyhaunis Delivery Services Unit (DSU)

JOE BYRNE

On Monday, 24th August 2015 An Post Collection and Delivery operatives moved from Bridge St. to their new Delivery Service Unit (DSU) at The Enterprise Centre, off Clare St., Ballyhaunis.

Having worked with An Post for thirty-nine years, I have seen the Bridge Street office undergo two refurbishments and many other changes in the postal service, however, the new DSU has been the biggest

achievement for the Ballyhaunis Postal operatives to date.

The new DSU comprises a state-of-the-art unit boasting a range of modern sortation equipment, combined with an efficient working layout for John Joe Kelly, our DSU Manager, and our fourteen Postal Operatives. The Ballyhaunis DSU serves over ten routes, sorting and delivering between 4000 and 5000 items daily, not only in the Ballyhaunis area, but also to surrounding villages including Aghamore, Kilkelly, Tooreen and Cloonfad.

The unit has a customer reception area for the general public and business boxholders to collect their mail daily, while customers can also collect parcels from reception. For the convenience of customers the new unit also has a post box located at the front of the DSU in the Enterprise courtyard where members of the public can place their letters for postage.



An Post staff, Ballyhaunis Post Office, 2015. Back, L-R: Tom Murphy, John Joe Kelly, William Broderick, Pat Kelly, Tom Cribbin, Liam Lyons. Front: Geraldine Flynn, Joe Byrne, Helen Byrne, Gerry Plunkett, Val Kenny, Alan Quinn.



Pictured are the staff of An Post's new Delivery Service Unit in Ballyhaunis. L-R: Joe Byrne, Tom Murphy, Michael Connolly, Pat Kelly, Gerry Plunkett, Tom Cribbin, Geraldine Flynn, Alan Quinn, William Broderick, Helen Byrne, Val Kenny, Liam Lyons, Padraig Hunt and John Joe Kelly.



An Post Staff and Retired Staff, Ballyhaunis Post Office, 2015, with family members.

Back, L-R: Sheila Broderick, Mary Cribbin, P. J. McGlynn, Joe Byrne, Mary Cleary, Gerard Plunkett, Kathleen Cribbin, Ann Marie Glynn, William Broderick, John Joe Kelly, Pat Kelly, Tom Murphy, Alan Quinn, John Cleary, Liam Lyons, Jimmy Flynn, Alan Hunt, Tom Cribbin, Bernard Freyne.

Seated: Amy Conroy, Geraldine Flynn, Gabrielle Lyons, Helen Byrne, Joe Fitzmaurice, Valentine Kenny, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Laura Brogan, Clare Byrne. Front: Bernie Lyons, Mairead Murphy, Shauna Lyons, James Flynn.

Rural Ireland Needs a Revamp

JAMES HUNT

It amazes me, and I feel sure many of the readers share similar views - why have successive Governments ignored the obvious solution to many of our problems?

We hear very colourful phrases being used such as 'infrastructure' and 'social inclusion', and many more, which do very little to progress the cause of rural Ireland to make it an attractive place to visit, live or work in. With a mountain of properties and houses in good habitable condition, coupled with the many unfinished 'ghost' housing estates in almost every town and village left idle. We now hear in the recent budget that more are to be built when there is no real need. Why can the Government not give a grant to people and their families to move to rural Ireland, especially the many who are currently unemployed, to seek a better way of life for themselves and their families? Of course we need people of all ages.

You may well ask, what good will this do? Well, for starters, with more young children it would boost numbers at preschools and creches, primary schools and

secondary schools, and would also provide much needed employment for people involved in providing these services. And it would give back the lifeblood of young people to be part of the community and participate in local sporting clubs, etc. With more people moving in to these areas more services are then needed and buses would be required to ferry people to various functions, pubs, football matches, etc. With more people there would be more business and more vitality in our local areas and towns. This system works in other countries; why not here in Ireland? It is simple if you are providing a service and there are 400-plus homes in an area - it is then more viable to provide that service. And when the time is right move more substantial employers into an area.

Maybe it could be given a try in the future. Leaving rural Ireland as it is spells only one answer - desolation and the death of rural Ireland.

The Flatleys of Main Street

FINTAN LYNCH

I was so fortunate to grow up in Ballyhaunis living beside the Flatley family who had a Café right next door to our shop. At the tender age of one and half, Mercy was the first of the Flatleys I got to know. I was prowling around my playpen in the kitchen when Mercy and Ann O'Brien came in the back door. They were at an age when they found young babies attractive and cuddlesome – as long as they didn't have a dirty nappy! I fell in love with Mercy that very first day when she lifted me out of the playpen and cuddled me. As I put my arms around her neck I got the most beautiful scent of Amami hair shampoo. Katie, Mercy's Mum (Maddie to relatives and friends), ran the little Café serving up the most wholesome lunches in town. There were just four or five tables in the front room and as I grew older I weaved my way around those tables, making sure not to bump my head as I headed into the kitchen through a glass paneled door. The house was immaculately clean, freshly painted and always had a most enticing smell. I just loved Maddie and Mercy's sponge cakes. At that time I really wasn't interested in their brown and soda breads.

There were two boys and three girls in the family. Seamus and Billy worked in England, as did Mary and Betty who were nursing. I know Billy worked in Altringham as I visited him many years later when my ship docked in Liverpool. Jim Flatley, their Dad, was a tailor. I didn't know much about his skills as a tailor but I did know about his great skills as a fisherman. We became great pals. Often, as I played out the back with Davie Mulligan, Val and John Byrne, Jim would open the back door and call out to me, "Fintaneen, come in a minute, I have something to show you". There were two steep steps leading down to the door, then through a turf shed and into their back yard. Here, Jim had a large galvanised bath which he uncovered to display his catch of the night before. Two large eels curved around the edge, three trout, a pike and a number of perch occupied the centre of the bath. He would tell me about the huge fish that got away and I could well believe him when I saw what he had caught. Jim was so cheerful and always smiling. He wore a tweed peaked cap festooned with fish hooks and multi-coloured bait. He died before I understood what dying meant, but I remember missing him terribly.

During the summer when Betty and Mary came home on holidays, they caused a ripple of excitement on Main Street. They were both petite, very pretty, dressed fashionably and were most friendly girls. On at least two occasions, falling on the stoney back way and cutting my knees, I would make straight for Flatley's back door knowing Betty would sit me up on the table, dry my

tears, wash my sore, bleeding knees, put plasters on them and follow it up with something delicious to eat. Betty was lovely and my brother Joe adored her. Betty was the first person I heard calling Mercy by the name of "Tom"! Mercy seemed to find boys more attractive to play with, so Betty called her "Tom"! I always called her Mercy



**Mercy Flatley,
Main Street, Summer 1954
outside her Café.
Died Sydney, Australia
June 26th 2005.**

because I thought she was beautiful. Mercy had one trick which us guys thought very cool. She had a gap between her two front teeth and filling her mouth with water, and baring her teeth she could squirt water like a jet from a fire hose through that hole. As she got older she would not perform this trick, no matter how we cajoled her!

In the summer of 1945, at the end of the war when Betty arrived home with her new husband Austin Dunne, a young handsome Australian, who was a Squadron Leader in the RAF, the street just buzzed with excitement. I was eleven years old and the envy of all my pals – imagine living beside a Squadron Leader who flew a Spitfire! Austin told exciting stories of his adventures during the war, and when I asked him "Did you ever fly close to a German plane?" He replied, "So close, I could plainly see the eyes of the pilot in the other aircraft".

As far as I remember, 1945 was a beautiful summer and as Austin cycled a ladies bike with a basket on the handlebars down the Doctor's Road to Annagh Lake he was followed by at least 30 young boys and girls with togs rolled up in towels under their arms. We had a wonderful time romping and frolicking in and out of the shallow waters of the lake and, when evening came as the sun was going down, we tiredly set out on the dusty road for home. Was I the envy of all my pals when Austin lifted me up and put me sitting into the basket on the front of his bike? I was in seventh heaven! Too soon Betty and Austin left Ballyhaunis for England on their way to Australia. Austin, returning to his home, and Betty to a new land. Shortly afterwards they were joined by Mary. They lived in Manly Vale in Sydney.

Back in Ballyhaunis we grew up enjoying the carefree freedom that only youngsters experience. Mercy blossomed into a lovely young lady, and when I heard that Albert Lyons of Knox Street was interested in her I felt the first pangs of jealousy! I don't think anything

came of it, and anyway I needn't have worried as Alfie went on to become a priest!

Mercy taught me how to dance when I was fourteen starting off with the Old Time Waltz. She loved dancing and was naturally talented, light on her feet, cheerful and no problem to chat to on the dance floor. She was never a wallflower, always in demand.

Unfortunately, our youthful days passed quickly. I went to Dublin to study, but always enjoyed the holidays in Ballyhaunis and kept up my contact with our lovely neighbours.

Another Flatley family lived next door to Mercy, but they only shared the name, there was no blood relationship. They were Joe and Rita Flatley. Joe ran a newsagents and fancy goods shop. He was a fantastic character and everybody loved him, especially us youngsters growing up. He was great to give us a chase as we passed the shop door shouting "Chyskosky" as if he was speaking a foreign language! Joe just loved movies, or 'pictures' as we called them in those days, and he volunteered his spare time as cashier at the cinema in the Parochial Hall. I think he volunteered so he could see all the movies shown there! The Parochial usually ran the same movie for two nights. Some of them were awful. I always asked Joe after the first showing, "What were the pictures like last night Joe?" His usual answer was, "It was a fantastic show, everyone was delighted when it was over!" Or more seriously, "A really good movie, except that Bette Davis with her googly eyes was in it!" He couldn't stand Bette. In the summer Joe would take off (before he married!) on a 'World Tour!' He packed his bags into a hackney car, headed for the station and disappeared for four or five weeks. He could not be contacted and no one knew where he was. He gave the impression that he was going on a cruise.

In the summer of 1950 when my Dad passed away, Joe was on his 'World Tour'. On the evening before the funeral, as we sat around the table in the kitchen having a cup of tea, Joe arrived quietly in through the dining room and out to the kitchen to sympathise with my mother. Home, to bury his good friend B.T. Wherever he had been, he certainly wasn't on a cruise and was obviously within striking distance of Ballyhaunis!



Mai Byrne, Clare Street and Fintan Lynch, Main Street, married in St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis on 26th September 1962.

In July 1958, on a beautiful summer's morning, I leaned against our shop window and observed Mai Byrne turn the corner at Joe Regan's Pub and walk elegantly up Main Street towards Joe Flatley's shop, to buy The Independent for her Dad. My pulse quickened as she crossed the street to enter the shop. She didn't look in my direction. I strolled, as nonchalantly as I could, down to the shop and greeted Mai shyly as she stood at the counter. As we both stood there waiting to be served, fate took a hand in the form of Billy Eagney who was standing behind us. Billy, with a twinkle in his eye, put his two arms around us and crushed us together in our first embrace! He surprised and thrilled us. The rest is history. Four years later, on Wednesday, 26th September 1962, in front of Fr. Tommy

Heraghty, in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis at 11.00 a.m. in the morning, we were pronounced 'man and wife!' We, like Cinderella and the Prince, lived happily ever after.



Sisters of Mercy Commemorative Book

A beautifully produced commemorative book entitled 'Answering the Call - Sisters of Mercy, Ballyhaunis 1898-2015' is available at a cost of €5, plus €1 postage within Ireland. A DVD of the Mass of Thanksgiving is also on sale at a cost of €10. All enquiries and pre-orders to ballyhaunisparrish@gmail.com.

Reporting in the Forties

MICK O'CONNELL

The late Mick O'Connell, the doyne of reporters, contributed the following article to a commemorative issue of the 'Connaught Telegraph' in 1996. He was a member of the staff of the Connaught Telegraph from 1943 to 1964, during which time he had the distinction of covering Mayo's two All-Ireland senior football championship victories in 1950 and 1951. He joined the staff of the 'Western People' in later years.

The first instruction I received from the Connaught Telegraph shortly after joining the staff way back in 1943 was: "In future, use an indelible pencil and write on one side of the copy paper only". A far cry from the word processing technology widely in use today, and the other sophisticated techniques which now make up the modern communications system.

In the 'forties and well into the 'fifties I wrote everything by hand, and my output was such that I soon developed "writer's ball" (a hard round mound on the top joint of the index finger), and for any communication to the office other than correspondence I had to use a neighbour's telephone.

How did a man like me from a family without a trace of ink in their veins become a newspaper man? It happened by sheer chance. Being a youth of 19 years I was desperate for a job of any kind, and when Garda Martin O'Connell (no relation) told me that if I called to see Mr. Peter Hannon, Merchant, Publican and Newsagent, of Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis, he would have something that might be to my advantage.

Mr. Hannon subsequently handed me a letter from the Connaught Telegraph, the contents of which were to the effect that they were seeking a correspondent for the Ballyhaunis area. I applied and was duly accepted on a trial basis.

Eight Shillings

Knowing absolutely nothing about newspaper work, I had to learn the hard way and I remember vividly that my initial earnings from newspaper work was a Postal Order for eight shillings which gives an indication of the sign of the times and the dearth of money available.

The war was raging in Europe, there was a state of emergency in the 26 counties and there was a scarcity of nearly every commodity including newsprint, which was in short supply. Consequently the size of provincial newspapers was considerably reduced and the Connaught Telegraph for the most part was reduced to four pages (two actual pages) throughout the 'forties and into the early 'fifties.

With space so severely restricted, it goes without saying that there was little room for extended reports and brevity was the order of the day. Notwithstanding all the difficulties that existed, I received plenty of encouragement both locally and from the Connaught Telegraph office. Dick Gillespie was the person who corresponded with me at that time, and it was he who mentioned the instruction mentioned on the outset.

In the ensuing years Mary Foy, who occupied the reception cubby-hole in the downstairs office, dealt with correspondence, and proved a great assistance to me. Anytime I had a problem, I got in touch with Mary and she immediately put my mind at ease. I understand that Mary still resides in Castlebar with her husband, Joe Livingstone, and family and I would like to extend to her a belated thanks.

Experienced Colleague

During my early days as a cub-reporter I soon began to discover the many pitfalls and intricacies attached to the journalistic profession. But I was fortunate in having as a colleague at that time a wise and experience reporter in the person of the late John Anderson, Claremorris. He could best be described as a past master of the profession. I also learned many of the 'tricks of the trade' from him: how to be inventive and how to draw on your imagination and to pad your weekly column in a bad news week.

My most memorable example of this was the occasion I wrote a paragraph headed 'Mushrooms in Hazelhill' only to have an irate gentleman call to my door the morning after publication. The bottom portion of his trousers was drenched with the early morning dew as he complained that he had traipsed all over Hazelhill that morning and hadn't found even one mushroom.

I had to tell the man that the paragraph was a figment of my imagination, but he took it in good parts as he remarked: "I should have known better as I was often told never to believe everything you read in the newspapers."

Press Ball

Other reporters with whom I worked around that time included Tony Lavelle, Westport; Bernie Gillespie and P.W. Leamy, Castlebar. Later in the 'fifties there was a large smattering of journalists working in Mayo, and most of the following who attended the "Mayo Press Ball" in the Travellers Friend Hotel, Castlebar in 1964 were also around during the 'fifties.

Tony Lavelle, R.I.P., Denis Daly, Terry Reilly, Frank Courell, Liam Molloy, Jim McGuire, Eddie Harney,

R.I.P., Tom Courell, R.I.P., (Western People); Bernie Gillespie, R.I.P., Sean Staunton, Vincent Weherly and John McHale (Connaught Telegraph); Gerry Bracken, Martin Curry, David Halloran and Damien McHugh (Mayo News).

Other reporters not mentioned above who were around in my early days included Arthur Noonan of the Mayo News who travelled round on a motor bike and who later became a political correspondent for RTE. Vincent 'Danno' Halloran, Western People, who later joined RTE, and a particular good friend of mine. Pat Nolan, Mayo News, who later joined the Irish Times.

Indeed four of those who attended the 1964 Press Ball, Frank Courell, John McHale, David Halloran and Damien McHugh later moved to join Dublin newspapers. John Healy, later a political commentator and author, was my counterpart in the Western People.

District Justices

The District Justice who presided at the Ballyhaunis District Court when I first reported the proceedings was a Mr. Hamilton, who dressed in tweeds and always sported a button hole.

He was a kind and affable man who was extremely patient. Over the years District Justices came and went and most of them have now passed to their eternal reward. Those I can recall include: Alfred Rochford, John Barry, P.J. Loftus, James Gilvarry, and the now present incumbent Bernard Brennan.

At the Kiltimagh and Ballinrobe District Courts, the Justices over a long span of years included W.D. Coyne, William Sweetman, D.J. Barron, Hugh McGahon, O. Sweeney and P.J. Brennan. I understand that the term District Justice is now defunct and that a District Justice is now referred to as "Judge".

Election Counts

Because Austin Crean, solicitor, Sheriff of County Mayo, was resident in Ballyhaunis, the count following a General Election was held in the Old Boys National School in Ballyhaunis, and as a result wide public interest was generated.

There were two General Election counts held in Ballyhaunis in the 'forties. This was the decade that saw the emergence of the Clann na Talmhain party when Dominick Cafferkey and Joseph Blowick were elected, to the exclusion of James Fitzgerald Kenny and Martin Nally, both of Cumann na nGaedheal.

Later there was a major upset when Bernard Commins from Derrowel, Balla defeated Charles Gilmartin from Kiltimagh who represented Fianna Fáil, in a by-election. So the South Mayo five seat constituency was for the first time represented in Dáil



Mick O'Connell, Michael Waldron and Val Rattigan
at a GAA Function in the early 1980s.
Courtesy of Tommy Caulfield.

Eireann by three Clann na Talmhain and two Fianna Fáil T.D.s. As well as covering the election counts, and the open-air public meetings which a General Election campaign entailed, much of a reporter's time was also spent in the District Court.

The cases heard at courts today have changed dramatically since the 'forties and 'fifties when cases involving violence came on sporadically. True, there were 'fair day' brawls and dance hall rows, but for the most part they were harmless.

Hen Trespass

For the most part, the main time of the court was taken up by such cases as 'breach of warranty over the sale of beast', breaches of the licensing laws; trespass; unlighted bicycles; unlicensed dogs; rows between neighbours as well as charges under the Noxious Weeds Act.

There were also instances of farmers being prosecuted for not having their names printed on the shafts of their carts, and for being in possession of unshod donkeys. It was not unusual to see a case for hen trespass occupying the time of the Court for upwards of an hour culminating in the awarding of a decree for as little as ten shillings.

Things were rather humdrum and leisurely at that time, we not having, as yet, entered life's fast lane. True, the quality of life has greatly improved in the intervening years, but our sense of values seems to have suffered somewhat along the way.

Sports Reporting

All my life I have been closely associated with the GAA and have been a member of the Ballyhaunis GAA Club since its revival in 1948. Because of my involvement in the GAA, I was assigned to cover football matches shortly after joining the Connaught Telegraph.

Included in those were Mayo's All-Ireland victories in 1950 and 1951, but what appealed to me most strongly was the keen rivalry that existed between clubs in Mayo. One match I remember vividly was a Mayo Senior Football league game between Claremorris and Castlebar which was played in Dillon's field in Claremorris around that time.

I was fortunate enough to predict a Claremorris win, and the Claremorris lads duly obliged by recording a fine win after a thrilling game of football. Included in the Claremorris line-up were Billy Kenny, Henry and Jack Dixon, Tom and John Byrne, Pete McHugh, Martin Cunniffe, Mickey Noone, Arthur Hanley and Dermot Burke. Doing duty for Castlebar amongst others were Mick Flanagan, Josie Munnely, Sean Downes, Tommy Quigley, Patsy Horkan and Tommy O'Boyle.

I would like to thank all my colleagues who worked closely with me, for their co-operation and support over the years, but I cannot conclude without referring to the

recent death of my good friend Tom Courell, Editor of the Connaught Telegraph.

When Tom was working in the Ballaghaderreen area for the Western People, he and I became buddies and he was a frequent visitor to my house where we spend many happy hours. My sympathy to Mina and family. Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a anam.

Lastly, I would like to single out the late Tim Forde, District Court Clerk, for special mention. We travelled together to quite a number of District Courts over a long span of years and he remained a true friend to the last.

I joined the staff of the Western People in the mid-sixties through the good offices of Jim McGuire. Sometime in the future I may have an opportunity of penning some lines regarding my experiences, and the friendships made while on the Western People staff.

My congratulations to the management and staff of the Connaught Telegraph on their most recent enterprise.

Ballyhaunis Vintners on a trip to MacArdle's Brewery, Dundalk, 1970s



Back, L-R: John Forde, Paddy Phillips, John O'Brien, Joe Regan, Cyril Coyne, George Delaney, Billy Nestor. Fifth row: James Lyons, Mick Mulhern, Tom Moran, Unidentified, Sonny Phillips, Des Crawford. Fourth row: Bertie Curley, Joe Fitzmaurice, Michael Nolan, John Morley, Una Kehoe, Peter Farrell, Sean Durkan, Guinness Rep. Third row: Eamonn Horkan, John Moore, Brian Byrne, Mary Byrne, Dorothy Durkan, Breege Coyne, Dolly Moran, Denise Nolan, Teresa Crawford, Tom Murphy. Second row: Kathleen Finn, Trish Freeley, Marie Delaney, Mary Cunningham, Kathleen Mulhern, Pauline Curley, Miriam Murphy, Kathleen Ward, Annie Freeley, Lily Murphy. Front row: Des Ward, Mick Morris, Mike Byrne, John Morley.

Scoil Íosa

KENNETH DENNEDY, PRINCIPAL

Ar son chuile duine i Scoil Íosa ba mhaith liom Beannachtaí na Féile a bhronnadh chuig gach duine i bParóiste Béal Atha hAmhnais agus thar lear. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go leir ar son an méid tacaíochta a bhronntar ar ár Scoil arís i mbliana.

As another year passes we look back on what has been an eventful one at Scoil Íosa academically, and socially, in terms of sporting pursuits.

Sports News

Scoil Íosa entered teams in a number of sporting pursuits with considerable success over the course of the year. These included Gaelic Football (Boys and Girls) Hurling, Soccer, Athletics and Basketball.

Gaelic Football: 2015 proved to be a very competitive one for our various football teams. Teams competed in Mini 7s Boys and Girls and the Cumann na mBunscoil competitions. Following on from the success of our boys team in the 2014 competition, our girls team emerged as Cumann na mBunscol division 1B

champions after a hard fought campaign. After defeating St. Angela's of Castlebar in the semi-final the girls met with Scoil Raifteirí in the final where they emerged victorious to secure the school's first Girls County title.

The boys team endured a tough year with hard fought matches against Ballinrobe, Westport and a very strong Claremorris Boys National School. The team reached the senior final of the B division where they were defeated by Scoil Raifteirí Castlebar

Hurling: The Scoil Íosa hurling team once again performed extremely well this year. They played in both the seven-a-side blitz and the twelve-a-side competition. Captained by Hassan Nasseer in the seven-a-side in Claremorris the team performed admirably winning two and losing two. Best on display for Scoil Íosa were Daniel Hill and Joshua Webb. They had much of the same fortunes in the twelve-a-side narrowly losing out to near neighbours and rivals, Tooreen for progression. Notable mention must go to Shaun Morley for his displays between the posts and Erin Murray who dominated in

all games she played in, showing that she had no problems competing with the boys. The year finished on a high for two of the boys, Daniel Hill and Shaun Morley, who had the honour of being called up to represent East Mayo in a Connacht blitz. They went undefeated on the day beating competition from both Roscommon and Galway.

Girls Team: Football Panel: Tara Cullen, Teresa Cleary, Rachel Cleary, Ruth Henry, Rida Naseer, Hannah Clarke, Erin Murray, Arooj Azhar, Annie Naveed, Maeve Donnellan, Tara Squire, Martynka Ubych, Lorna Davis, Anna Cunnane, Holly Gallagher, Maia Phillips, Erica Byrne, Nikita Cleary, Tara Phillips, Chloe Henry, Noor Sharif.

Boys Team:

Football Panel: Jamie Allen, Tommy Cleary, Patrick Daly, Kevin Durkan, Daniel Hill, Peter Maughan, Simon McDonagh, Dara Rattigan, Cian Walsh, Joshua Webb, Thomas Maughan, Shaun



Boys Hurling



Scoil Íosa Girls Football Team

Morley, Sean Caulfield, Hassan Naseer.

Hurling Panel: Shaun Morley, Simon McDonagh, Mujtaba Rehman, Daniel Hill, Erin Murray, Auredas Armonavicius, Kevin Durkan, Joshua Webb, Tommy Cleary, Padraig McHugh, Umar Tarryab.

Thanks to Kevin Henry and Michelle Flatley for coaching the football teams and to Dónall O'Brien for coaching hurling.

Basketball: In 2015 the senior pupils in Scoil Íosa took part in a basketball tournament for the first time winning the Cloonfad Invitational Competition. Our thanks to our coaches Finola Mellett and Stella O'Neill for their hard work in preparing the players.

Basketball Squad: Tara Cullen, Hannah Waldron, Maeve Donnellan, Erin Murray, Lorna Davis, Hannah Clarke, Karen Morgan, Julia Grabiasz, Lana Biesty, Rachel Clarke, Arooj Azhar, Annie Naveed.

Athletics: Participation in Athletics continue to develop in the school with the holding of our Annual Sports Day and our continued participation in the Mayo Sports Partnership Athletics coaching sessions at Claremorris Indoor Athletic facility under the tutelage of international coach Jim Ryan. Competitively we continue to participate in the Mayo Schools Cross Country Competition. This year Erin Murray and Brian Sweeney qualified for the County Final in the individual competition while our Junior Girls team qualified in the team events.

Choir

The Scoil Íosa Children's Choir, under the direction of Miriam Judge, has continued to excel during the monthly participation in the Liturgy in St. Patrick's Church. The choir has enjoyed very positive feedback from the public particularly relative to the high standard of performance during the Masses broadcast by MidWest Radio.

Confirmation 2015

The following pupils received their Sacrament of Confirmation on February 14th, 2015. Thanks to Teachers Ciara Byrne and Dónall O'Brien for their work in preparing the children for the ceremony and to the parents who gave of their time willingly to facilitate the "You shall be my Witness" programme.

Children who were confirmed are: Auredas Armonivicius, Lana Biesty, Séan Caulfield, Hannah Clarke, Rachel Cleary, Lorna Davis, Maeve Donnellan, Julia Grabiasz, Chantelle Maughan, Thomas Maughan, Chloe McDonagh, Padraig McHugh, Karen Morgan, Shane Morley, Erin Murray, Nathan Noone, Ronan Byrne, Jamie Allen, Gabriella Cervenakova, Teresa Cleary, Tommy Cleary, Tara Cullen, Anna Cunnane, Partrick Daly, Kevin Durkan, Daniel Hill, Jakub Jurak Modesta Kuchinskaite, Peter Maughan, Barbara McDonagh, Simon McDonagh, Dara Rattigan, Tamara Squire-Keane, Hannah Waldron, Cian Walsh, Joshua Webb, Tamzin Whelan-Manning, Ruth Henry.

First Communion 2015

On May 16th, 2015 the following pupils received their First Communion:

Seamus McDonagh,
Paulina Korulenska,
Sarah Gill,
Nikas Aravicius,
Padraig Murphy,
Patrick Grealley,
Stanislovas Vickiekus,
Chantelle McDonagh,
Oscar Chojnachi,
Jasmine Jurakova,
Lucy Phillips,
Ben Bray,
Gabrielle Bacyte,
Oscar Dorosz,
Maeve Caulfield,
Michael McDonagh,
Ava Padfield,
Nathan O'Toole,
John McDonagh,
Feranda da Costa Maidana.



Presentation of the Tricolour to Scoil Íosa, 21st Sept. 2015.
Receiving it on behalf of the school is Lana Biesty.



Presentation of The Proclamation to Scoil Íosa, 21st Sept. 2015.
Receiving it on behalf of the school is Maeve Donnellan.



Left: Hannah Waldron, on behalf of Sixth Class, Scoil Íosa, presenting a cheque to Dónal Byrne (Aghamore) towards the Roonagh to Clare Island swim, in aid of Mayo-Roscommon Hospice and Crumlin Children's Hospital, which took place last Summer.

Staff Retirement

After thirty five years of distinguished service in St Mary's Boys National School and in Scoil Íosa. Jimmy Duggan retired from service in April 2015. The staff and pupils paid tribute to Jimmy who had served as class teacher, EAL teacher, Learning Support teacher, Assistant Principal and Deputy Principal during the course of his career. We wish Jimmy well in his retirement. We welcome Michelle Flatley to the Permanent Staff of Scoil Íosa as Jimmy's replacement. Congratulations also to Kevin Henry who has been appointed to the position of Deputy Principal.



Presentation by Principal Kenneth Dennedy and Joanne Forde to Jimmy Duggan on his Retirement

School Staff 2015/2016: Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Kevin Henry (Deputy Principal), Aisling Toal, Stella McGrath, Yvonne Tully, Anne Durkan, Olivia Burke, Sheena Flanagan, Marian Byrne, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Lisa Watchorn, Michelle Flatley, Joanne Forde, Dónall O'Brien, Ciara Byrne, Sharlene Ruane, Elaine Brady, Annie Kelly, Miriam Judge, Róisín Prendergast-Freeman (SNA), Marian Nally (SNA), Carmel Cassidy (Secretary), Mary Dillon (Secretary).

Board of Management 2015/2016: James Reidy (Chairperson, Patron's Nominee), Fr. Stephen Farragher (Patron's Nominee), Kenneth Dennedy (Principal/Secretary), Anne Phillips (Parents Nominee), Alan Henry (Parents Nominee), Sheena Flanagan (Teachers Nominee), Paula Grogan (Community Nominee/Treasurer), Tommy Caulfield (Community Nominee).



Scoil Iosa Confirmation Class 2015 with Archbishop Michael Neary DD and Fr. Stephen Farragher, PP and Teachers Ciara Byrne and Donal O'Brien.



Scoil Iosa First Holy Communion Class 2015 with Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. and Teacher Stella McGrath.

Scholarship Award for Aisling

Congratulations to **Aisling Tarpey**, Carrowkeel, Ballyhaunis, who has been awarded a Dublin City University GAA Scholarship Award. DCU's most promising GAA players across five different codes have been recognised for their efforts throughout the past year with the awarding of the university's 2015 Sports Scholarships at a presentation on the campus grounds. The scholarships were presented to students who have shown commitment to DCU's GAA teams, and they provide the recipients with subsidised campus accommodation, athlete mentoring, high performance education talks, injury management, sports nutritional advice, strength and conditioning training and access to the University's High Performance Gym.

Michael Kennedy is the Director of DCU's GAA Academy and said, "The students who have received these scholarships have shown outstanding education to both their academic studies and their commitment to the sport. We are delighted to be in a position to support such students thanks to the support we receive through the Bank of Ireland sponsorship. It is our vision that the scholarship programme will facilitate the ongoing development of these players and allow them to achieve the highest standards both in their chosen sport and their academics."



Pictured L-R, Jonny Cooper, Dublin Senior Football player and DCU GAA Recruitment Officer/Ladies Football Coach, Eithne Connolly, Bank of Ireland DCU Branch Manager, Michael Kennedy, DCU GAA Academy Director and Aisling Tarpey.

Aisling is a past pupil of Scoil Íosa Primary School and Ballyhaunis Community School, and is currently a member of the Mayo Senior Ladies Football Team. She attends Dublin University College and is pictured on the far right of the photograph being presented with her Scholarship Award.



Some Local Soldiers of the Great War

The following pages feature the stories, as contributed by their relatives, of some local men who fought in World War I

‘Their Name Liveth For Evermore’

MARTIN MEEHAN

THOMAS MEEHAN

Thomas Meehan was of Garraun, a forgotten townland adjacent to Tullaghaun, not to be mixed up with Corraun, a townland on the main **Ballyhaunis**-Cloonfad road commonly pronounced Gurrane in recent times. His genealogy can be traced back to his grandfather, also named Thomas, born circa 1812. This Thomas had a son Patrick born c.1851 who married Bridget Dyer, daughter of Pat Dyer of Brackloon. Their eldest son Thomas (our soldier in question) was born in 1885. He had three brothers, John, Patrick and Bernard, and two sisters, Margaret and Bridget. Their father died at the young age of 44 years in 1895 when Thomas, though the eldest of six children, was only ten years old. Thomas's mother re-married later that year and her second husband's name was Austin McNamara.

Thomas Meehan was one of the many locals who emigrated to northern England in the pre-war years. He joined the 10th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters, Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment. This battalion was formed in September 1914. For the next ten months they trained on English soil. In that period they were stationed at Wool, West Lulworth and Winchester. On the 10th of July 1915 they received what they thought was the magic order to prepare to move overseas. Four days later, after three days leave to say their goodbyes, they landed in France approximately 25 miles west of Calais. They marched onto the notorious and bloody Ypres Salient in Belgium, to a region 30 miles south-west of Dunkirk. In 1916 they took part in the first ten days of continuous fighting on the Somme, returning for a second time into the grim battle in August and yet a third time in October/November. In 1917 the battalion fought magnificently throughout the second Battle of Ypres suffering further heavy casualties, and they continued in the forefront of the battle throughout 1918 to the end of the war.

Thomas Meehan was with his battalion in Europe

from their landing on the 14th July 1915 to his death nearly a year later on the 4th July 1916. The men, without realising it, were still very naive as to what was required of them, and on their first march most of them insisted on marching on the left of the road from force of habit. They headed for St. Omer, then to Zudausques and then on to Caestre. They often found themselves marching in the mid-day sun, which they would have found to be infernally hot, not having had sufficient time to acclimatise to the weather conditions. By now they were coming closer to the war and the mutter of the guns could be clearly heard. They were informed they were destined for the famous Salient. For the next few weeks they were given their first taste of trench warfare. They were in and out of the trenches relieving other divisions and then being relieved themselves. They were stationed in an area known as Sanctuary Wood. As the winter drew-in the weather became their main enemy. All ranks came to know the unspeakable Flanders mud: it was scooped patiently over the sides of the trenches, but one might as well have tried to bale the ocean with a teacup, so bottomless was it. They all wore ‘gumboots thigh’ and woolly jackets and cursed the Hun and all his activities.

On 19th December 1915 the battalion suffered a gas attack by the enemy. For the rest of the winter and through the spring they were once again in and out of duty in the trenches. On 18th May 1916 they were withdrawn for an intensive period of training which lasted until 11th June. This meant hard work for all ranks – a very early breakfast, followed by a hard day's training. On 12th June 1916 the battalion moved down to the Somme area by train – they were as well trained as they really could be. Their destination was a small village called Fricourt. It was just as well that a kindly providence hid them from what was in store for them on the green slopes beyond Fricourt and under the trees of the distant Delville Wood. On arrival at the forward area on the night of 1st July 1916 it was found that the

50th Brigade had suffered very heavily indeed. However, at sunrise, it was found that the enemy had evacuated the village of Fricourt. During the following nights of the 2nd and 3rd the 10th Sherwood Foresters moved in and reinforced the area and, with the help of their bombers, cleared trenches north-east of Fricourt towards Railway Alley and Crucifix trench - two strongly defended trenches. On 3rd July these two trenches were taken successfully and about 800 prisoners captured, while casualties were reported as being comparatively light. This was of little consolation to Mrs. Bridget McNamara of Tullaghaun who would shortly hear of the death of her eldest son recorded as having taken place on the 4th July 1916. As that day was actually spent consolidating positions gained it is more than likely Thomas was killed on the 3rd.

The Battle of the Somme commenced on the 1st of July 1916. Fricourt village was heavily fortified and was a major focus of the German defences in the area. Those that took part on the first day of the assault suffered heavy losses. The 10th West Yorkshires lost 700 men that day alone. The 10th Sherwood Foresters joined the fighting on the 2nd. The advance on the 1st July had reached Fricourt Farm but the Germans still held Railway Alley and Crucifix Trench, both of which were strongly wired, and from these positions were pouring machine gun fire into the British lines at Fricourt Wood.



The view from Fricourt Farm looking along the line of Railway Alley. This terrain would have been quite familiar to any country man from Ireland.

In a letter home one of the Sherwood Foresters wrote the following account of their attack on the German trenches:

"We had spent the night in the wood crouching in shell holes to avoid snipers who were all over the place. At daybreak the birds began to sing as though nothing was wrong, but it was a sight. The wood was practically blasted

away and a village near was laid flat, when the order came. Away we went and the first soldier down was the one next to me. Then I saw Ronald Howe bleeding from the legs, but we had to push on. I don't know how I came through, but I did. When we got into the trenches the Germans surrendered in scores. They put up their hands and yelled 'Mercy! Comrades'."



This photograph was taken of the Sherwood Foresters on the 4th of July. It is unlikely Thomas Meehan was in this photo as it was taken on the day he was reported dead. Thomas Meehan is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial at the Somme, France - Pier and Face IOC IOD and IIA.

EDWARD REGAN

Edward Regan was from Ballyglass, **Ballyhaunis**. His grandfather Edmond (Ned) Regan and his wife Bridget were transplanted by Viscount Dillon's land agent Charles Strickland along with four other families - Rush, Duffy, O'Gara and Morrisroe - from Castlemore, outside Ballaghaderreen, to Ballyglass. All of these families were resident in Ballyglass in Griffith's Valuation in 1856. Ned and Bridget's eldest son Dominick married Mary Ellen Caulfield of Cullintra, Began and they had seven children: Bridget, John, Mary Ellen, Kate, Edward and Thomas. Edward's eldest sister married John Niland of Cloontawles, Cloontumper. Mary Ellen married John Guilfoyle of Moate, **Ballyhaunis**. The name of this household changed to Meehan when John and Mary Ellen's daughter Maria married Patrick Meehan from Kiltobar. Edward Regan was killed in action on the 13th April 1918.

Edward was attached to the Irish Guards Regiment. In World War 1 the Irish Guards were deployed to France and Flanders and they remained on the Western Front for the duration of the war. Edward was attached to the 2nd Battalion which was formed in July 1915 at Warley Barracks. They were given a month's training

before crossing the Channel and landing at Le Havre on the 17th August 1915. They were involved in the following battles: Loos 1916, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, Pilkem, Menin road, Poelkapelle, Passchendaele and Cambrai - all in 1917. The Battle of St. Quentin commenced in April 1918 and advanced westwards towards Albert. Incidentally, this German advance took Edward through Fricourt where his close neighbour Thomas Meehan had fallen two years earlier. The German high command had decided to make a decisive attack on the Western Front. They believed the British were exhausted after their major efforts in 1917. The attack was halted at a line between Albert and Amiens. The Germans adopted an approach that proved successful for them on the Eastern Front. Their infantry attack would be preceded by an intense barrage not on the British forces holding the forward posts but on the artillery and machine-gun positions, headquarters, telephone exchanges, railways and other centres of communications. The Germans would operate in small groups, especially trained to 'infiltrate', exploiting gaps and moving forward, not worrying about areas that were held up: these would be dealt with by follow-up units. For the British, unused to a discontinuous line and the idea of a deep zone of defended hotspots, such a tactic would spell chaos. It very nearly worked. In addition to this the British were coming to terms with the need to fight a defensive battle for the first time since 1915.

The German Army advanced some 40 miles and came within reach of the vital railway junction at Amiens. However they had not achieved any of their strategic objectives. The captured ground was hard to move over and difficult to defend, as much of it was of the shell-torn wilderness left by the 1916 Battle of the Somme. The initial German jubilation at the successful opening of the offensive soon turned to disappointment as it became clear that the attack had not been decisive. The Allies lost circa 255,000 men of which the British suffered c.178,000 killed, many with no known grave.



Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

German losses were 250,000 men, many of them irreplaceable elite troops.

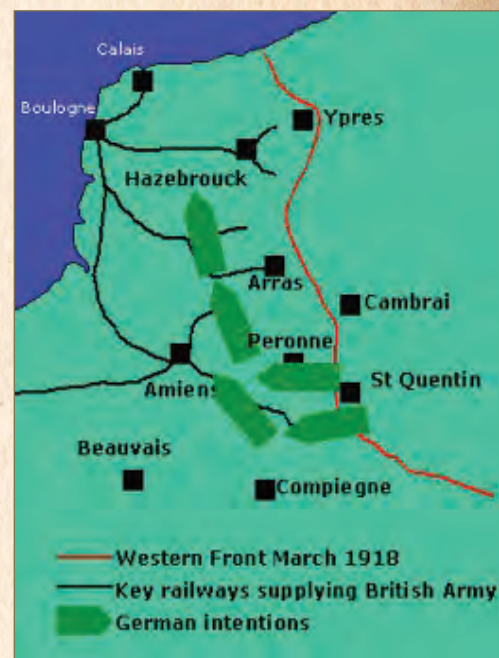
Edward Regan was killed in action. He died on the 13th April 1918. He is commemorated on the walls of Ploegsteert Memorial Cemetery in the locality of Hainaut in Belgium. His name is also included on the Irlam and Cadishead War Memorial in Prince's Park, Irlam, a short distance past Trafford Park on the road to Liverpool from Manchester. The memorial commemorates 137 men of the district who gave their lives in the First World War. "Their name liveth for evermore".

MICHAEL MEEHAN

Michael Meehan was one of a family of thirteen children of John Meehan and Bridget Neary of Kiltobar, Cloonfad, **Ballyhaunis**. He was a Private in the 8th Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. His marriage certificate gave his occupation as a 'mortar-man'. His residence at the time of his marriage in October 1915 was at Ryton, England.

In February 1916 The Irish Fusiliers mobilised for war and landed in France and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including The Battle of Guillemont and the Battle of Ginchy in 1916. In 1917 they participated in the Battle of Messines and the Battle of Langemark. In 1918, probably unknown to him, his in-law

Edward Regan was fighting alongside him in the Battle of St. Quentin. Michael survived this onslaught which was incidentally codenamed "Operation Michael" by the Germans. His regiment was disbanded in France in February 1918 and Michael returned to England. The Battle of St. Quentin was a decisive moment in World War 1. The Germans had, earlier that year, defeated the Russians and had now moved many divisions from the now collapsed Eastern Front to the West. The American forces had still not arrived in large numbers and the Germans had decided the time to strike was right: it would win the war; it was to be the "Kaiserschlacht" (Kaisers' Battle). The failure of the offensive marked the beginning of the end of the First World War. The German Army was unable to recover from its losses and



Operation Michael failed. The German advance was reversed during the Second Battle of the Somme, 1918.

What would the shape of Western Europe be today had Operation Michael achieved its objectives? We must all be indebted in some small way to these men from **Ballyhaunis** who were prepared to put their lives on the line and fight for what they believed in.

If we had a war memorial to those locals who died or participated in the various wars similar to the one in Irlam, I am sure one would require a tribute of similar size, and it would become a tourist stopping off point for visitors to our area.

Austin Murphy

Austin Murphy was born in Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis, and baptised in the old Parish Church, St. Mary's, Ballyhaunis on 26th January, 1886. He was the son of John Murphy, Lecarrow and Anne Burke, formerly of Carrowmore, Knock.

He emigrated to the United States and served in the U.S. Army in World War 1. Austin Murphy was a member of the 'Lost Battalion' of the Argonne in World War 1 on active service in France, being attached to Battery C, 305th Field Division Artillery, 77th or 'Rainbow' Division. He died at Hartford, Connecticut.

His grandnephews are John Murphy, Lecarrow, and Dom Murphy, Dublin Road, Ballyhaunis.

Photograph courtesy of Maria Dillon.



Patrick Brennan

Patrick Brennan of Carrownedan, Aghamore, Ballyhaunis is seated, front left, in this photograph of the Corps of the Royal Engineers – 'Sappers' - being multi-skilled soldiers. Originally from Mountain Common, he moved to Carrownedan with his wife Mary and two young sons Jim and Pat in 1927, where later his daughters Mary, Anne and Betty were born.

Patrick had worked as a coal miner in England before the War and was drafted into the Royal Engineers in 1916. He fought in France at the Somme and later in Ypres, Belgium. During 1918, with Germany almost beaten, he transferred to the Land Corps where he worked clearing the earlier battlefields, burying the dead in Commonwealth Cemeteries.



He died 21st May 1940 and is buried with his parents in the old part of Aghamore cemetery close to the gable end of the old church. *Photograph courtesy of Brian Jones, grandson of Patrick Brennan.*

Two Brothers in The Great War

These photographs are of two brothers, Walter and Andrew Patrick Waldron of Mount View, Aghamore. They were sons of John A. and Nora Waldron (née Drudy) and came from a family of fourteen children. Their maternal grandmother was Mary Morley from Clagnagh, Ballyhaunis.

Both Walter and Andrew fought in World War One: one in the British Army; the other a Canadian Army soldier. One was killed in action, cut down in the prime of life; the other survived to live a long, fruitful life though, no doubt, war-time memories were never too far away.

Walter was born in 1896. He joined the British Army served in the First Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, though he seems to have been a member of the Hussar Unit at an earlier stage. The handwritten war diaries of his unit, uncovered by Walter's grandnephew, document the campaigns they took part in, and give a detailed account of the action in which Walter lost his life. He is not named individually – only commissioned officers were named; ordinary enlisted men are referred to usually as ORs (other ranks) – but it is likely he was among a number of soldiers who were killed in France on 1st March 1917 by British artillery fire as they attacked German positions. Apparently, there was a lot of confusion during the attack and nineteen ORs were never seen again after the action. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, in France.

Andrew P., born 1890, was the eldest in the family. He emigrated to Canada in 1912 at the age of 22 and secured employment in railway construction. On the outbreak of the Great War, he joined the army and served with the 13th Royal Highlanders of Canada. He received a very serious head wound in the Somme in 1916 and wasn't expected to live. His father went out to France to see him. He survived against all the odds, however, and visited Aghamore in the spring of 1917. Returning to Canada he entered into journalism and had a long and distinguished career. In 1923 he co-founded of 'The Western Producer', a hugely successful newspaper for the farming community. His obituary states, "He built his reputation as a pugnacious editorial writer, one who was prepared to blast away at anything or anyone who seemed to be causing trouble for western farmers". He died in 1980 aged 90.



Walter Waldron (1896-1917)



Andrew P. Waldron (1890-1980)

From Tenants to Strong Farmers

JAMES CRIBBIN

Many people, when they put pen to paper, do so to complain about some thing or other. While some complaints were noted about the weather earlier on, that option is no longer available. It's not always we get two summers in the one year: a typical Irish summer and an Indian summer. The present spell of fine weather has brought about a flurry of activity with frantic efforts being made to catch up on work neglected earlier on. The poor summer gave many of us an excuse to do nothing, myself included. But I can report that I have caught up on the backlog and did so without doing a tap of work. This coup d'état was pulled off by the arrival on site of John Joe Lilly and large track machine which crawled around the entire farm like a primeval monster, devouring the tops of hedges with an insatiable appetite, and gobbling up silt, sedge and water cress in like manner from the bottom of streams and, as if in a final display of its power, contemptuously flattened earthen banks that no longer served a purpose as fences. While other monsters are untidy browsers this modern monster left the hedges with a neat crew-cut and 'short-back-and-sides', well up to the standards of a professional barber. In little over a week more improvements were carried out than a good man with a good slash-hook, pick and shovel would carry out in a lifetime.

As I stood idly by my mind wandered back to the men who planted the hedges, dug the drains, laid the stone shores that are still working, and built the earthen banks. Also, to a visit I had from an Englishman whom I had met in Australia. We walked around the place and he was fascinated by the earthen fences and asked had they been built by the Romans. A short lesson in history informed him that the Romans never came near this Island. Whether they knew it would mean too much trouble, or too much rain, I could not say. It is certain that the Romans never put a sod on a fence around here, but is more likely that Eoin Reilly did. He was the occupier in 1852, according to the Griffith Valuation. I am not quite sure whether my grandmother, Bridget Reilly, was an only daughter of Eoin Reilly, but she inherited the place at the end of the nineteenth century.



Bridget Cribbin, née Reilly,
died 1919.

She married my grandfather whose name I bear. He came from Togher where Oliver and Marie Cribbin now live. My grandfather arrived in Johnstown at the end of the Land War.

The Land League, under Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell, had after years of struggle been victorious. It was a time of great renewal, followed by a



James Cribbin, died 1932.

period of prosperity. I remember talking to men who were senior citizens nearly seventy years ago and remembered the time when the tenant farmers became landowners. But we do not have to rely on hearsay to find out what the results of the change-over meant. The Agricultural Censuses of the time give us the picture. The Agricultural Census of 1903 show there were 43,006 acres

of potatoes grown in Mayo. Also grown were 49,331 acres of corn. At 67,307, Mayo had the fourth highest number of pigs per county in Ireland. In a commentary on the returns it was noted, "A decrease in the number of pigs in England and Scotland – but not in Ireland – whereas in cattle and horses the growing wealth of the country was shown also in its increase in the number of pigs".

It's a cliché to say that 'it's an ill wind that blows no good', but the ill wind that was World War 1 brought increased prosperity to Irish farmers. My grandfather's accounts for the time show a level of activity and diversity that had never been seen before, and prices for livestock not realised again until forty years later. Deposits in Irish banks rose from £66,168,000 in 1914 to £136,134,000 in 1919, due mainly by increased demand for agricultural produce as a result of the war.

So much for the countryside. But it was another story in the cities. In a country with few other major industries, there was always mass unemployment. What few industries existed were controlled by a handful of capitalists who had the same regard for the welfare of their workers as many landlords had for their tenants. With strikes, lockouts and appalling living conditions, and protestors baton-charged off the streets, it is not surprising that the seeds of revolution were sown not on the land, but in city streets.

PAYMENTS.

| Date | Description | Amount | | | ANALYSIS OF PAYMENTS. | | | | | | | |
|----------|--|--------|----|----|----------------------------|--------|------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| | | f | s | d | Rent, Rates, and Insurance | Labour | Live Stock | Manures and Seeds | Feeding Stuff | Tradesmen's Bal. | Subsides | |
| 1916 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 £ year: Annuity to J. L. G. | 3 | 18 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 0 | | | | | |
| November | 8 P. Hannon Groceries 5/6 Bar 6/2 | 0 | 7 | 9 | | | | | | | | 07 9 |
| " | 10 M. Delang Leather Etc. | 0 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | 02 6 |
| " | 14 B. Henrys Drapery | 0 | 12 | 0 | | | | | | 0 10 0 | | |
| " | 20 V. Hings 1/- P. Exps 4/- | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | 0 5 0 | |
| " | 20 Fancy goods 1/- & Groceries 2/6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | 0 5 0 | |
| " | 23 P. Hannon 2 Bags Flour | 2 | 3 | 0 | | | | | 2 3 0 | | | |
| " | 23 " " 10 1/2 Bar 17/6 Bar 13/6 | 1 | 10 | 6 | | | | | 1 10 6 | | | |
| " | 23 " " 1/2 Iron 1/4 2d. V. G. 4/6 | 1 | 0 | 8 | | | | | 1 0 8 | | | |
| " | 28 " " Groceries 5/6 | 0 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | 05 6 |
| " | 28 J. Henry Drapery | 1 | 4 | 0 | | | | | | 4 0 | | |
| " | 23 P. Hannon 15 lbs Bacon 14/6 P. Exps | 0 | 16 | 8 | | | | | 0 14 8 | | | 02 0 |
| " | 28 Saddler 4/- B. Smith 2/- P. Exps | 0 | 8 | 0 | | | | | | | 0 8 0 | |
| December | 5 J. Henry Drapery | 0 | 15 | 0 | | | | | | 0 15 0 | | |
| " | 5 D. Giffin flour 1 1/2 bags 7/- | 1 | 9 | 0 | | | | | 1 9 0 | | | |
| " | 5 2 Bonham's 2 10 P. Exps 3/- | 2 | 13 | 0 | | | 2 13 0 | | | | | |
| " | 12 Laxey | 1 | 18 | 6 | 1 18 6 | | | | | | | |
| " | 13 Salt 3/6 H. of P. A. 1/- | 0 | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | 0 6 6 | |
| " | 13 Boxenow 6/- Twig 2/- | 0 | 8 | 0 | | | | | | 0 8 0 | | |
| " | 13 Stationary | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | 05 0 |
| " | 21 2 chairs 7/- G. Exps 3/- | 0 | 10 | 0 | | | | | | 0 10 0 | | |
| " | 21 Leather 4/- P. Exps 1/- | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | 0 5 0 | |
| " | 21 Tea 3/6 Sugar 3/6 Cumin 1/4 | 0 | 8 | 2 | | | | | 0 8 2 | | | |
| " | " Whiskey 5/6 G. Exps 1/4 | 0 | 6 | 10 | | | | | | | 0 6 10 | |
| " | 31 P. Hannon Groceries | 1 | 9 | 10 | | | | | | | | 19 10 |
| " | 31 " " Bar 2/4 P. Exps 4/- | 0 | 6 | 4 | | | | | | | 0 6 4 | |
| " | 31 " " Card 7/6 Groceries 5/6 | 0 | 13 | 0 | | | | | | | | 013 0 |
| " | 31 " " Senger Wine & Broom | 0 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | 0 2 3 | |
| " | 31 Priest's Drapery 3/6 Church 2/6 | 0 | 18 | 6 | | | | | | | 0 18 6 | |
| " | 31 P. Hannon Stationary for year 15/6 | 0 | 15 | 0 | | | | | | | 0 15 0 | |
| " | 31 Personal Exps 10/- | 0 | 10 | 0 | | | | | | | 0 10 0 | |
| | | 26 | 18 | 7 | | | | | | | | |

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

MARY DONNELLY

It has been a very busy year for all involved with Tidy Towns as we continue our efforts to enhance the local environment and present the best possible image of our town. In October and November 2014 we prepared a three-year plan which will provide a framework for our activities and help us to focus on specific projects over the next three years. We presented our plan to Paddy Mahon, Director of Services with Mayo Co. Council and Cllr. John Cribbin at a meeting in the Friary House on 30th January 2015, both of whom pledged their support for our aims and objectives.



An important objective of our plan is to take steps to combat illegal dumping and ensure better maintenance of housing estates. The most effective way to do this is for local people to be involved in an organised way. Thanks to Kay Curley's efforts, Residents' Associations have been set up in four estates, namely, Esker Pines, Hazelwood, Hazel Lawns and Old Racecourse. All of these Associations have been granted funding towards the maintenance of their estates under a new scheme of grants available for the first time from Mayo Co. Council.

Our AGM took place on 28th May, with Kay Curley taking on the role of Chairperson, succeeding Nell Rochford who steered the Committee with ability and efficiency for the past number of years.

Projects

Another objective of our plan is to have footpaths and lighting installed on Doctor's Road - a project recommended by the National Tidy Towns adjudicators in 2014. We received a very favourable response when

we called a meeting of residents in March; a sub-committee was formed and an application for funding was submitted to Mayo Co. Council under the Community Involvement Scheme. We are confident that work on this project will commence next year. We are leading a campaign to have footpaths and lighting installed on Knock Road as far as the GAA pitch; and we are supporting a campaign to have footpaths and lighting installed on the bypass road.

Our Good Friday clean-up on 3rd April was bigger and better than ever, inspiring many groups to carry out major clean-ups in their own local areas. Our thanks to all who took part, and to Mayo Co. Council for disposing of the vast amount of rubbish collected. Mike Griffin carried out his customary Sunday morning litter picking duty throughout the summer; thanks to Mike for a great service!

Another successful project undertaken during the year is the construction of new flower beds at the town signs on the main approach roads. Funding of €1,000 was provided by Mayo Co. Council for this project under the new scheme of grants, and we are grateful to Cllr. John Cribbin for his valuable support and assistance. Our thanks also to Dawn Meats/Western Proteins for providing the colourful flower planters on Clare Road which enhanced the area considerably.

Clare Street was selected this year for the Cleaner Community Campaign 'Sweep your Street' competition, and our members and volunteers spent several evenings sweeping and cleaning up the area. The results of the competition are awaited at the time of writing. In addition our floral displays, e.g. hanging baskets, containers etc. added colour and vibrancy to the streetscape as they bloomed throughout the summer despite the less than favourable weather! Thanks to our Rural Social Scheme team for their work in watering and feeding the flowers.

National Tidy Towns Competition 2015

Our entry to the National Tidy Towns competition was submitted in May and adjudicators visited the town on Wednesday 10th June. Ballyhaunis was awarded 263 marks - an increase of 4 marks on last year. Nationally Letterkenny won the overall award with 323 marks, and Westport came a close second with 322. The adjudicators complimented the Committee on the comprehensive entry form, back up material and photos submitted, noting in particular the three-year plan which is helping to prioritise actions. The efforts of the Committee in promoting community spirit through participation in the competition, and forging links with

outside agencies and within the community were commended.

The adjudicators noted that many residences and business premises along the town streets were freshly painted and colourful, and the terrace of period homes along Abbey St. was admired. A number of buildings and shop fronts received special mention - among them Scoil Íosa, Credit Union, Western Care Association, Ulster Bank, Post Office, Curley's Bar, Moran's shop, Paddy Phillips Bar, Gill's Bar, James Lyons shop front and Avondale B&B. Others were noted less favourably and dereliction was described as a serious challenge for Ballyhaunis as in many other towns. Some shop front signage was described as more appropriate than others in terms of reflecting the true character of the town, and tidiness issues such as wire clutter, defunct signage and weedy gutters were noted. Features such as the colourful murals at the back of Phillips Butcher shop and Finn Footwear brighten up the area, and the new stone wall at Morley's in Kilmannin helps to improve the first impression of the town.

The numerous floral displays, such as hanging baskets, planters, window boxes, throughout the town were admired, and the Friary grounds were described as a wonderful amenity for all residents to enjoy. Pretty planting and landscaping was observed in a number of areas, notably Station Rise, the Enterprise Centre, Hazelhill road junction. The church grounds were described as beautifully maintained, and the colourful flower bed at the entrance to St. Gerald's Crescent as well as the neat homes and lovely tree planting in the estate itself were noted. On a less favourable note the riverside walk (from the Post Office towards the swimming pool) is in need of a general tidy up to make it more welcoming and accessible.

Litter control was good on the day of the adjudicators' visit, but the bottle banks area was described as littered and generally untidy, and some litter bins were in poor condition.

Both the Community School and Scoil Íosa were commended for their involvement in Green Schools, and the community garden project with its surrounding native hedgerow and fruit trees drew admiration. A number of questions were posed regarding conservation of water, composting green waste and generally promoting waste prevention and resource management. The entire report can be viewed on the Tidy Towns page on Ballyhaunis Life website, or copies can be obtained from the Committee.

A Word of Thanks

We extend thanks 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. A special word of thanks to Community School students, Aoife Mulrennan and Michelle Lyons, who gave a helping hand with outdoor work as part of their John Paul II Merit Awards programme, and to Western Care service users and their helpers who pick litter on a regular basis. Thanks to Ulster Bank for donation of the proceeds of a fundraising raffle held in the bank, and to all who contribute financially either to our Church gate collection or our mite boxes in the shops.

We welcome new members and helpers who would like to become involved in any of the projects mentioned above, or maybe take an interest in improving their own local area. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Parochial Hall.

Tidy Towns Committee:

Chairperson - Kay Curley,

Hon. Secretary - Mary Donnelly,

Hon. Treasurers - Moyra Patterson
and Frances Mulhern.

Committee; Nell Rochford, Gabriel Smith,
Teresa Grogan, Mike Griffin, Michael Heffernan,
Frances May, Ann Curley, Kitty To.

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee

HELEN WALDRON

Firstly, the committee members would like to sincerely thank everyone for the generous contributions made to the Annual Collection for the maintenance of the Parish Cemetery. A special thanks to the diaspora for their generous donations this year. This continuous support ensures that the area is maintained to a high standard and is visually pleasing and acceptable to all visitors.

At the back of the Cemetery is a detailed Map with location and name of each individual grave. This might be especially useful to visitors to the area or to those interested in genealogy. It can also be viewed on-line at www.irishgraveyards.ie. A PayPal facility is also available on this site for those who wish to contribute.

The Committee Members are: John Halpin, Eddie Mulhern, Walter Cleary, Tom Finn, Seamus O'Boyle, Martin Gavin and Mary Donnelly.

Ballyhaunis Men Enjoy Success in London

SINÉAD FREYNE



An example of Cormac and Simon's contemporary design.

I happened to hear about an article in the Sunday Business Post newspaper last July, about two local men who are making a name for themselves in the world of architecture on both sides of the Irish Sea. So, because many Annagh Magazine readers may not have heard about this article, we have decided to tell our readers a little bit more about two of our own – Simon McCafferty and Cormac Cleary. Simon is the son of Peter and Helene McCafferty, Doctor's Road and nephew of John Halpin on Main Street and Dolores Murphy, Annagh. Cormac is the son of Dr. Michael and Brid Cleary, and nephew of John Cleary, all of Clare Road. Simon and Cormac are partners in their company SADA Architecture which have offices in Upper Mount Street in Dublin and St. Albans in the UK. They directly employ seven staff who are based at their Irish office, but due to the nature of their business, they employ many more indirectly through contract work. Last July I spoke by 'phone with Simon who was in London at the time, where he took time out of his busy schedule to have a chat about business and Ballyhaunis.

Both Simon and Cormac had worked in large firms during the Celtic tiger years but with the economic crash, the architecture industry was decimated almost overnight. Simon also latterly worked at Waldron & Associates in Claremorris, when in 2010 he got married. With his wife based in the East of the country, he took the opportunity to join a college friend's single practice firm SADA, in Dublin. When the firm's founder Shane Aherne moved onto development interests in 2013, Simon called on Cormac to become a partner in the company. Although the pair had gone to separate Colleges - Simon studied at UCD and Cormac at DIT - they had been in the same class at school in St. Mary's Primary School and later together in the Community School, sitting their leaving cert in 1996.

Since becoming business partners, the two have been over and back to the UK on a weekly basis, where SADA has been making its name in London's commercial sector. The UK work has also been a significant factor in the firm surviving the recession. While starts for new builds in the Dublin market are still pretty stagnant,

Simon told me that London has lots of work available, with it being an employee's market at present. Looking through their website www.sada.ie, there are many impressive images of completed projects, which they were involved in, including King's College in London, a sports centre in Hounslow and St. Columba's College in St. Albans. There are also images of commercial projects in Dublin, Cork, Wicklow and Derry.

Because their business entails all types of work including residential, commercial, educational I asked Simon if either he or Cormac specialise in any one side of the business? "No, we do everything together. If one of us is in London and the other in Dublin, we have to be able to take up any one of the projects at any given time." They work remotely a lot of the time, and as long as they have an internet connection where they can access their cloud server, they can work from a "mobile office" in the back of a car!

According to Simon, both men find being involved with private residential projects very satisfying, where they have more freedom to design. They have been getting some practise here in Ireland over the past while, where they have been turning heads with their contemporary designs of Irish homes. But the financial yield from a residential project isn't quite there yet and the red eye flights to London will have to continue for another while at least.

I jokingly asked Simon what kind of house did he live in, as I had read recently that Dermot Bannon, architect on the "Room to Improve" TV show, had said that when people come to his house, they find it "underwhelming"! Simon laughed and said that he understands where Bannon is coming from, in that they "are always busy



doing the work/design for somebody else and not their own property".

I asked him, because he travels so much, does he get time to visit Ballyhaunis much? "Definitely, I try to get down once a month", he said. His parents Helene and Peter are frequent visitors to them in Dublin and are a great help to him and his wife Rebecca with their own children. He has a great love for the West of Ireland and SADA has recently completed the design for the remodelling of a cottage in Co. Roscommon. He would love to get the opportunity to do more work here in the West, so readers keep them in mind for future projects. They can be contacted through their website sada.ie or by email to letterbox@sada-architecture.com.

On this occasion I didn't get to speak with Cormac Cleary, but hopefully that will be another story for a later date - as Cormac is the eldest of three Cleary brothers who are architects. Middle brother Diarmuid is based in Oslo and youngest brother Oisín is based in London and designs restaurant spaces worldwide for celebrity chef Jamie Oliver!

Top: Cormac Cleary and Simon McCafferty of SADA Architecture. © Maura Hickey

Below: A recently completed project.



Weddings



Louise Lilly, Johnstown and Paul Waldron, Galway
Married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis



Miriam Morris, Lissaniskea, Beken and Vincent Healy,
Ballindrehid, married in the
Church of St. Margaret Mary Alocoque, Beken.



Morgan Jennings, Knock Road and Nicola McCole,
Woodford, Co. Galway, who married in
Renmore, Galway.



Aidan Paul Kelly, Hazelhill and Sharon Conneely,
Granlahan, who married in St. Patrick's Church,
Ballyhaunis.



Aisling Finan, Brackloon North and Benjamin Thornber, Rumbling Bridge, Kinrosshire, Scotland, who married in the Chapel of Kilgraston School, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire, Scotland.



Angela Heaney, Lecarrow and Jonathan Hazlett, Ennis Road, Limerick, who married in Cratloe Church, Co. Clare.



Anna Madden, Gurteen and Andy Devane, Co. Wexford, who married in the Basilica of San Silvestro, Rome, where they live.



Audrey Keane, Doctor's Road and Jonathan Montgomery, Solihull, UK, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Brian Kilcourse, Station Rise and Sinead Tierney, Caraun, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, who married in Cloonacauneen Castle, Co. Galway.



Caitriona Fahey, Devlis and Kevin Henry, Castlereah, who married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Caroline Keane, Cloongoonagh, Tooreen and Brendan Leonard, Carrowbaun, Aghamore, who married in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore.



Trish Gaffney, Ballinphuill and Alan Grady, Gortaganny, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

Brenda Kilcourse, Station Rise
and Michal Krusina, Czech
Republic, who married in St.
Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



David Hannan, Drimbane and
Iona Cunnane, Began who
married in St. Margaret Mary
Alacoque Church, Began.

David Connolly, Lecarrow
and Anna Tighe, Aghamore,
who married in St. Joseph's
Church, Aghamore.





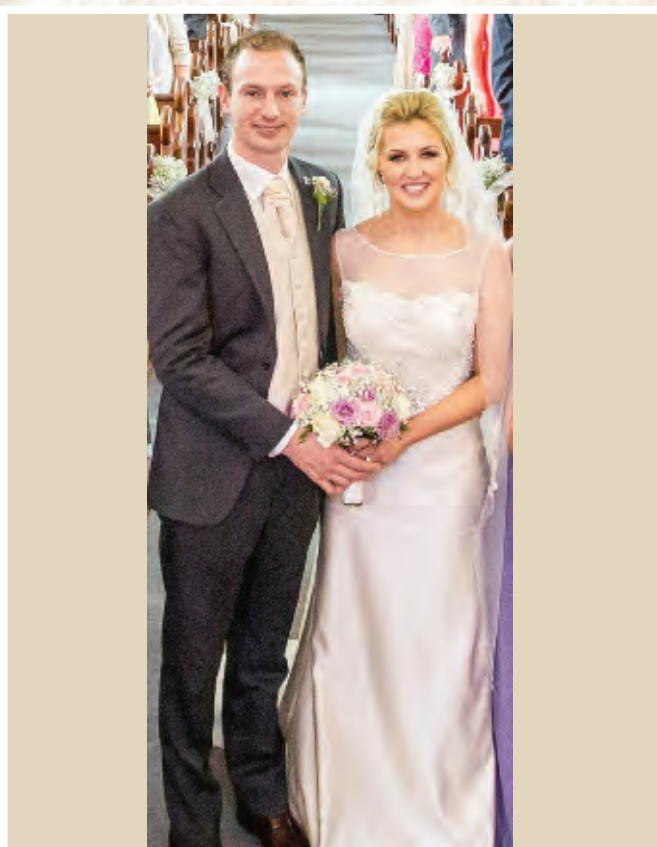
Caroline Kedian, Derrynacong and Gerry Fitzmaurice, Agloragh, married in St. Mary's Church, Logboy.



Christopher Burke, Knock Road and Linda McGrath, Lisacul, Co. Roscommon, who married in Christ the King Church, Lisacul.



Ciaran Griffin, Annagh and Sharon Healy, Tooreen, who married in the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Keadue, Co. Roscommon.



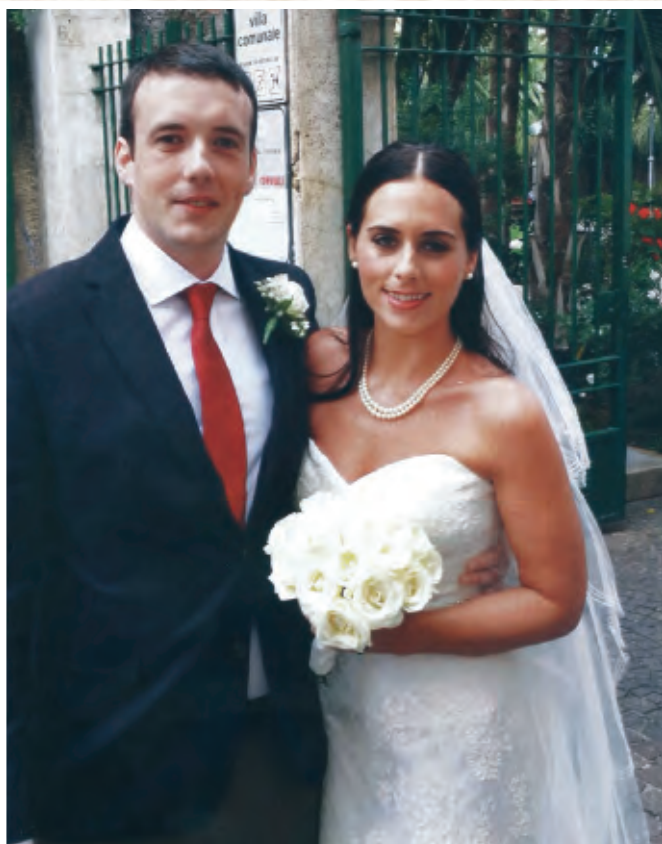
Denise Cunniffe, Tooreen and Andrew Harte, Roosky, Co. Roscommon, who married in St. Mary's Church, Tooreen



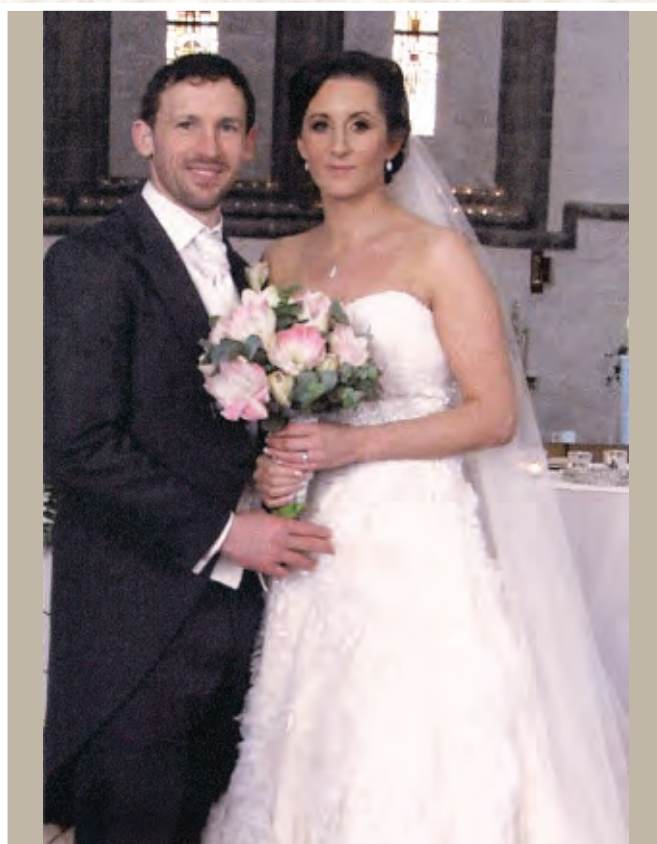
Karen Jordan, Lecarrow and Kobi Perkal, Melbourne, who married in Kilronan Castle, Ballyfarnon, Co. Roscommon. *Abaca Photography.*



Deirdre Swords, Drimaderra and Paul Healy, Cloongoonagh, Tooreen, who married in City Hall, Manhattan, New York City.



Fiona Webb McLeod and Gavin McMurray, who married in Sorrento, Italy. Fiona is daughter of the former Olive Webb, Devlis.



Kevin Shannon, Lavallyroe and Lisa McGowan, Sligo, who married in Ballintubber Abbey.

Tracey Sloyan, Greenwood
and Lorcan McDonald, Sligo
town, who married at
Temple House, Co. Sligo.
*Niall Scully Wedding
Photography*



Christina Niland, Agloragh
and Stephen Noone,
Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway,
who married in Castlebar.

Lisa O'Dowd, Station Rise and
Cormac de Róiste, Skerries,
Co. Dublin, who married in the
Church of the Holy Rosary,
Doolin, Co. Clare.





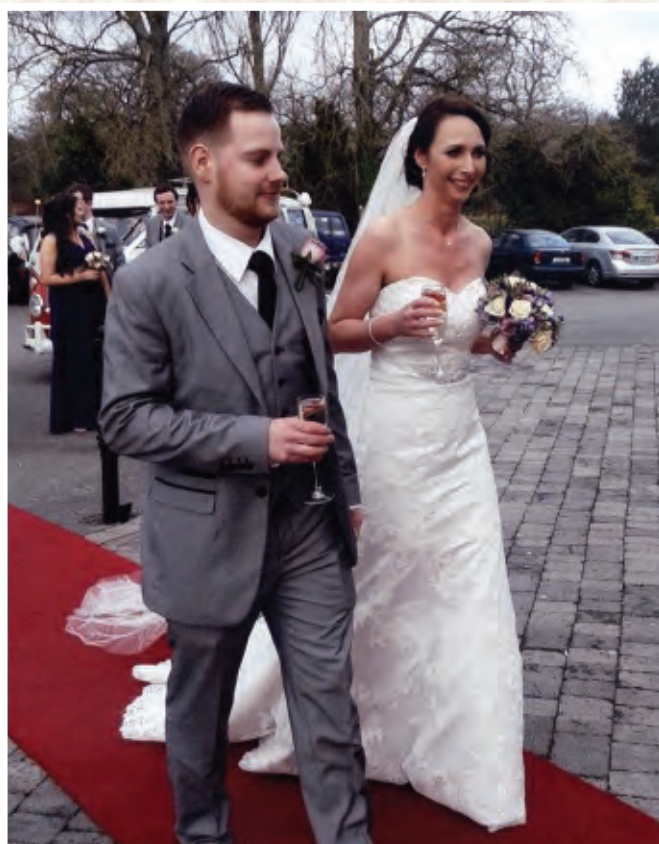
Kieran Jenkinson, Annagh and Gerard McLoughlin, Claremorris, who had their Civil Partnership Ceremony in Mount Falcon, Ballina.



Kieran Lyons, Gurrane and Karolyn Ward, Dublin, who married in The Stone House, Moyvalley, Co. Kildare.



Linda Finn, Cullintra and Declan Bermingham, Ballinross, Cloonfad, who married in the Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Began.



Mark Keane, Sallins, Co. Kildare and Josie Mahoney, Sallins, Co. Kildare, who married in Straffan, Co. Kildare. Mark is son of the former Mary Curley, Clare St. and Paddy Keane, Tooreen.



Lorraine Godfrey, Moate, Ballyhaunis and Wayne Brogan, Co. Clare, married in The Church of the Assumption and St. James, Claregalway.



Margaret Watson, Dunmore, Co. Galway and Shane Whelan, Knockananna, Co. Wicklow, who married in Ballybeg House, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. Margaret is daughter of the former Liz Griffin, Clare St.



Michael Freeley, Hazelhill and Siobhan Doyle, Lucan, Co. Dublin, who married in Ballintubber Abbey.



Michael Grogan and Sarah O'Grady who married in Ballymagarvey Village. Michael is son of Clar and Valerie Grogan, formerly of Clare Street.

Alan Morley, Lissaniska, Began
and Lucille Doherty, Clonmany,
Co. Donegal, who married in
St. Mary's Church, Clonmany.



James Quinn, Classaghroe and
Angela Lyttle, Kilkenny, who
married in St. Joseph's Church,
Foulkstown, Co. Kilkenny.

Kelly Niland, Agloragh,
Ballyhaunis and Wojciech
Lewandowski, Szczecin, Poland,
who married in St. Mary's
Church, Logboy.





Michelle Conlon, Abbey St. and James Walsh, Johnstown, who married in Cloonacauneen Castle, Galway.



Monica Tighe, Acres, Aghamore and Andrew Glynn, Granlahan, who married in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore.



Paul Squires, Crossard, Tooreen and Edel Loftus, Scrigg, Aghamore, who married in St. Joseph's Church, Aghamore



Ann Murphy, Lecarrow and Paul Cunnane, Carrowkeel, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Sarah Kelly, Kiltaboe and Gerard Mulrennan, Gorthaganny, who married in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Mountcharles, Co. Donegal.



Selina Gallagher, Knock Road and Ronan O'Connor, Dundrum, Dublin, who married in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Callow, Co. Mayo.



Sheena Flanagan, Ballindrehid and Patrick Mullen, Ballina, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. Patrick is son of Mary Grogan, Clare Street.



Robert Grogan, Knockbrack and Laura Mullins, Stonepark, Dunmore, Co. Galway, who married in Dunmore Church.

Mary Meagh, Coogue and
Raymond Jennings, Gurteen,
Cloonfad, who married in Lake
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.



Padraig Murphy, Knockbrack
and Ruth Gill, Clare Street, who
married in St. Patrick's Church
Ballyhaunis

Michelle McGuire, Ballykilleen
and Paul Cox, Omagh,
Co. Tyrone, living in
Melbourne, Australia, who
married in the Park Hotel,
Kiltimagh.

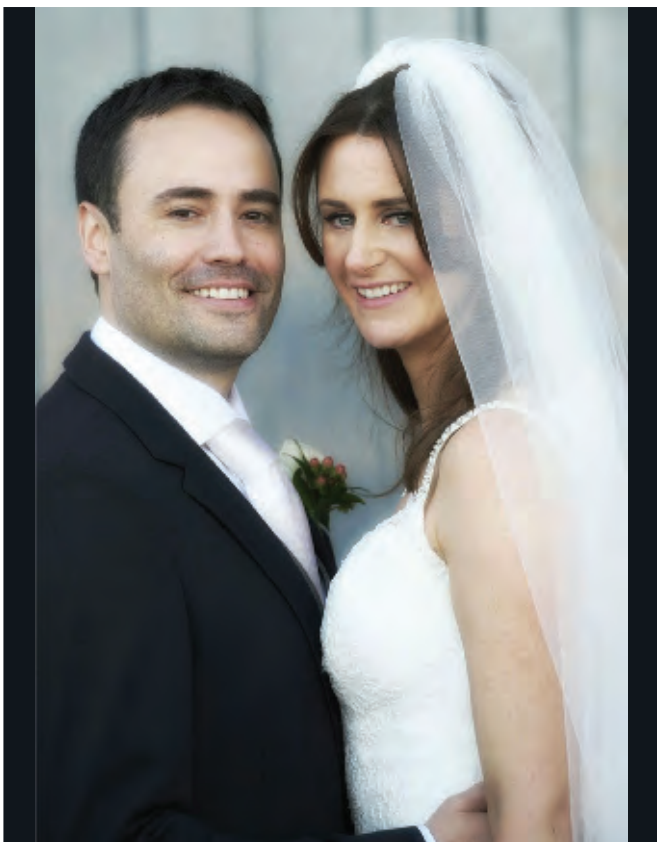




Siobhan Carey, Listowel, Co. Kerry and Fergal Hand, Rathfarnham, Dublin, who married in Dawros Church, Kenmare, Co. Kerry. Fergal is son of the former Mary Griffin, Clare St.



Vincent Kedian, Derrynacong and Laura Ireland, Renaghmore, Tipperary, who married in Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone.



Kellyanne Herr, Crossmolina and Terry Murray, Ballymacward, Co. Galway, who married in Galway. Kellyanne is daughter of Mike Herr, formerly of Knox St.



Suzanne Hannon, Devlis and Shane McKinley, who married in Positano, Italy.



Rachel Cleary, Clare Street, and Michael Jordan, Lecarrow, who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Morna Plunkett and Michael Daly, married in Christ the King Church, Salthill, Galway. Morna is daughter of Tom Plunkett, Forthill.



Michael Coen, Devlis and Sarah O'Neill, Co Clare, who married in St Senan's Church, Kilrush, Co. Clare.

Photo: Martin Murphy, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare.



Baptisms Marriages Deaths

Baptisms in the Parish – November 2014 to October 2015

Alisha Frances Valentine, Upper Main St.
Thomas Aidan Free, Essex, England
Benjamin James Jordan, Abbeyquarter
Terry Anthony McDonagh, Tooraree
Lily Frances Healy, Annagh
Mark Dermot Curley, Greenwood
Eimear Grace Freyne, Knock
Rory David Cheeseman, Surrey, England
Megan Bridget Campbell, London
Kate Mary Elizabeth O'Malley, Derrylea
Robyn Catherine Carrick, Hazelwood
Rachel Ann O'Boyle, Carrowkeel
Aaron Sean Small-McNamara, Tullaghane
Ronan John Doyle, The Maples
Santanna Maria Mongan, Station Rise
Dawid Bogdan Pietruszewski, Hazelhill Downs
Callum James McNamara, Devlis

Orla Francoise de Phily, Kilkenny
Finn Thomas Fahey, Dublin
Dareen Wang Godfrey, Holywell
Rebecca Julie Donohoe, Scrigg
Kieran Martin Webb, The Maples
Oisín Joseph Paul Sweeney, Cloonbullig
Andrew James Burke, Devlis
Candice Shontaye Maughan, Cherrivale
Jonathan Timothy Francis Powers, Devlis
Mila Mae Burke, Scrigg
Sara Claire Sharkey, Cork
Claudia Helene McCafferty, Dublin
Olivier Wojciech Mazur, Hazelwood
Grace Ann Nolan, Classaroe
Gerard Patrick Lyons, Skeghard
Nicole Gebala, Abbeyvale

Marriages in St. Patrick's Church Nov. 2014 to Oct. 2015

Rachel Cleary, Clare St.
Michael Jordan, Lecarrow

Margaret Regan, Ballagherreen
Raymond Kirrane, Moore, Castlereah

Patricia Gaffney, Ballinphuill
Alan Grady, Lisacul

Marie Cleary, Gurrane
Jack Maughan, Castlebar

Sheena Flanagan, Ballindrehid
Patrick Mullen, Ballina

Brenda Kilcourse, Station Rise
Michal Krusina, Czech Republic

Padraig Murphy, Knockbrack
Ruth Gill, Clare St.

Rachel Keaveney, Ballinlough
Jason Plunkett, Forthill

Marriages Elsewhere

Katie Cleary, Ballybane, Galway
Kieran Webb, The Maples

Roisín McDonagh, Tooraree
Thomas McDonagh, The Maples

Ann Murphy, Lecarrow
Paul Cunnane, Carrowkeel

Sharon Healy, Cloongoonagh
Ciaran Griffin, Annagh

Caroline Kedian, Derrynacong
Thomas Fitzmaurice, Agloragh

Victoria McDonagh, The Maples
Martin McDonagh, Southampton

Sharon Conneely, Granlahan
Aidan Paul Kelly, Hazelhill

Ramune-Antanina Pasukeviciute, Poland
Krzysztof Kowalski, Poland

Marlena da Silva, Clare Road
Colin Byrne, Clare Road

Linda McGrath, Lisacul
Christy Burke, Bracklaghboy

Iona Cunnane, Bekan
David Hannan, Drimbane

Caitriona Fahey, Devlis
Kevin Henry, Castlereah

Baptisms Marriages Deaths

Deceased of the Parish – November 2014 to October 2015

Micheál Donnellan, Beech Park
Patrick Dyer, Clare Court
Joe Glynn, Drimbane
Mary Kate Cosgrove, Bohogue
John McGarry, Drimbane
Kathleen Carney, Carrowkeel & Dublin
Breda Connolly, Cloonfad
Bridie McGuire, Lisbane
Kathleen Caulfield, Carrowkeel
Peggy Cruise, Knockbrack
Paddy McDonagh, Cloonfad
Pat O'Connor, Hazelhill
Carmel Waldron, Upper Main St.
Ivanka Yardinowa, Hazel Court Apartments
Tom McGrath, Larganboy & Manchester
Mary Browne, Coolnafarna

Eric Mueller, Carrowreagh
Bridie Walshe, Redford & Dublin
Edward Carroll, Drimbane
John P. Dowling, Carrowkeel & Ballyglass
Martin Nolan, Clare Court & Carrowreagh
Patrick Neary, The Maples
Mary Lyons, Annagh & Manchester
Liz O'Brien, Knox St. & London
John Conroy, Oranmore, Co. Galway
Kathleen Fulgenzi, California, USA
Joe Mulligan, Coolnafarna & London
Mary Timoney, Knock Road
Eileen Keigher, Devlis
Paul Killeen, Station Rise & Carrownedan
Sean Biesty, Carrowkeel
Sean Jordan, Johnstown

Intensive Care Fundraiser

Our mother Ann Fitzmaurice of Forthill was diagnosed with lung cancer in August 2014 and was due to begin treatment, but passed away peacefully surrounded by her family four weeks later in the Intensive Care Unit of Mayo General Hospital. As a thank you and recognition for their care and dedication,

a fundraiser was held in Fitzer's Bar on Sunday, 3rd May 2015 for the Intensive Care Unit of Mayo General Hospital in memory of Ann. The event was so well supported that €2,209 was raised from that night alone.

The Fitzmaurice family would like to kindly thank everyone for their generosity and support with a special

thank you to the following sponsors: The Billabong, Curley's Chemist, Burke & Coyne Oil, Epic, Oak Bar, Willie and Sheila Broderick and family, Hugh and Stacia Carney and family, Tooreen Taxis, Ireland West Airport Knock, JG Barbers, 4Ds Off License, Denis and Bridie Sloyan and family, Beauty for you, Hair by Noreen, Barna Waste, Major Engineering, Sean and Rose Miskell and family, The Lantern, Murphy's Garage, Heads Up and Paddy Carney.

Additional donations have increased the funds raised to €3,200. This gift was well received by the Mayo General Hospital in Ann's memory.



Paul Fitzmaurice, with his nephew Gareth Finn, making the presentation to staff of the Intensive Care Unit of Mayo General Hospital.

Fitzmaurice Family, Forthill.

‘This is Ours’

Pop Up Student Curated Art Exhibition

There was a brilliant atmosphere in the Friary in Ballyhaunis on the 14th of April last, at the pop up Art Exhibition which was curated by the fourth year art students from Ballyhaunis Community School. Students had the opportunity to work with Mayo Artist Will O’Kane to curate an exhibition of work from the Mayo County Council (MCC) Collection. This partnership project was initiated by MCC Arts Service working with Ballyhaunis Community School and Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, and was part of Mayo Arts Service’ ‘Excel 15 – Youth Arts Programme’.

Under the guidance of Public Art Co-ordinator Gaynor Seville, Artist Will O’Kane and Art Teacher Antoinette Lennon, the students selected images from the MCC Collection that they wanted in their exhibition and decided what order the images would go in. They titled the exhibition “This is Ours” to reflect how the Council’s Art Collection and all the Arts Venues in Mayo are there for all citizens in the county.

As part of this project, the fourth year art students from Ballyhaunis Community College also had a painting workshop with artist Will O’Kane in their school art room. This work also went on display at the exhibition.

During the project the students

gained an understanding of the huge amount of work that goes into curating an exhibition: from the selection, decisions about placement, the hanging of the artworks and the promotion of the exhibition. The students designed and sent out invitations for the exhibition and there was a fantastic turn out. Local artists were present, a range of enthusiastic students attended including primary school children from Scoil Íosa and secondary students from St. Louis’ Kiltimagh. There was great support from Ballyhaunis Community School at the exhibition, where Principal David McDonagh as well as the then Vice Principal Concepeta Moran (now retired), school board members, teachers and fellow students attended. As well as the feast of art on display there was a variety of very tempting food on display, including buns and sandwiches and scones, thanks to Ursula Cloonan (Home Economics teacher) and students from Ballyhaunis Community School.

Artist Will O’Kane launched the exhibition and speeches were also given by MCC Assistant Arts Officer Orlagh Heverin, fourth year Art students from Ballyhaunis Community College, Sana Almas and Abigail Adams.

Participating students from Ballyhaunis Community College were: Abigail Adams, Sana Almas, Orla Cleary, Jason Cullinane, Claudia Glavey, Jade Crosby, Emma Lyons, Patrick Niland, Dylan Noonan, Aisling O’Gara, Aimee Regan, Alice Sesiuk, Stephen Morley, Michael Tighe, Aoife Mulrennan and Brendan Waldron.

Centre photo: Antoinette Lennon and Chris Pratt, current and former Art Teachers, B.C.S., enjoying the Exhibition.



Pictured at the Pop Up student curated art exhibition at St. Mary’s Abbey at the Friary are Tracey McDermott (Family Resource Centre), Antoinette Lennon (Art Teacher, BCS), Stephen Grogan (Family Resource Centre), Orla Heverin (Assistant Arts Officer, Mayo County Council) and Will O’Kane (Artist) along with BCS students Dylan Noonan, Aimee Regan, Sana Almas, Abigail Adams, Brendan Waldron, Emma Lyons, Aoife Mulrennan, Orla Cleary, Aishling O’Gara, Paddy Niland, Alice Sesiuk, Jason Cullinane, Claudia Glavey, Stephen Morley and Michael Tighe. *Photos: Glynn’s Photography, Castlereagh/Ballyhaunis.*

Solicitors Firm Celebrates Century of Service, 1916-2016

JOHN O'DWYER

2016 is a significant year for Ireland as we celebrate a century since the 1916 Rising. A firm of solicitors in Ballyhaunis also celebrates its centenary.

The firm began with Austin J. Crean. He qualified as a solicitor in 1910 and set up practice on his own at Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis in 1916. He resided in what was then known as Windsor Villa, with his wife Eileen. Windsor Villa was subsequently purchased by the late Dr. Eamon A. Waldron and is currently occupied by Dr. Michael Brogan and his family.

The first location of the practice was above the premises now known as Eugene Carney's 'The Gem' at Bridge Street. At that time it was owned by Canon Francis McDermott, P.P., Ballinlough. His sister, Miss Bridget McDermott, lived here and operated a small shop for many years. In the late 1950s it was bought by Paddy Casserley and his wife Mary. With the assistance of Mary's sister Eileen Gilmore, they ran a newspaper shop, and those of a certain vintage will remember the dinky toys they also sold.

Austin Crean was also the Returning Officer for Elections for the County of Mayo, as well as being the County Sherriff. He remained in Bridge Street until 1937. Micheal O'Cleirigh, a native of Logboy, Ballyhaunis, joined the firm of Austin Crean in 1937. They then changed the name of the practice to Crean & O'Cleirigh, and continued to practice over The Gem. With the retirement of Austin Crean in 1938, Micheal O'Cleirigh took over the running of the practice on his own and he remained on his own until 1939 when he felt the need to expand staff.

Patrick M. (Pat) O'Dwyer answered an advert in the Irish Times in 1939. He was then living with his parents



Patrick (Pat) M. O'Dwyer

and the extended O'Dwyer Family in West Street, Tallow, Co. Waterford. Having recently qualified as a solicitor he was looking for work. He travelled from Tallow to Ballyhaunis and shortly afterwards began work in Crean & O'Cleirigh. Micheál O'Cleirigh was also a Fianna Fáil TD for South Mayo from 1927 to 1945. Micheál O'Cleirigh and Pat O'Dwyer practised together until



O'Dwyer Solicitors: Back, L-R: Evan O'Dwyer, Elaine Silke, Conor O'Dwyer. Front, L-R: Laura Glennon, John O'Dwyer.

1945 when the former was appointed County Registrar for Dublin City and County and resigned his seat as a Fianna Fáil TD. The practice was continued by Pat O'Dwyer until his untimely death in 1965.

Upon his death, there was no solicitor to run the practice. The O'Dwyer family kept the practise open with the benefit and support of colleagues and locum solicitors. There was admirable assistance from neighbouring practitioners including Gerry Gannon of Castlereagh, Frank Keating from Limerick, Kieran McDermott from Sligo as well as the late Joe Gilmartin of Balla, Castlebar, who had been an apprentice of the late Pat O'Dwyer.

In 1968, I joined the practice and have remained here since. On joining the practice in 1968 I decided to change the name to Crean, O'Cleirigh & O'Dwyer acknowledging the role of my predecessors since the foundation of the practice. In 1972, an opportunity arose in Bridge Street to move to our current premises, which was purchased from the Estate of Aggie Rattigan. She and her brother had run a licensed grocer shop. The auctioneer was Jack Halpin, of Main Street. The office was opened on the ground floor with accommodation on the first and second floor for many young people who were in the process of building their own homes at the time. Mrs. Christina Elwood, then of Leow, who had

been the secretary of the late Pat O'Dwyer, was the cornerstone of the practice having joined in 1962 and remaining until her untimely death in 1996.

Throughout the years, the office building has been rebuilt and extended. In recent years, we have been joined by Evan O'Dwyer in 2000, Laura Glennon in 2006, and Elaine Silke and Conor O'Dwyer both in 2009, raising our complement to five solicitors. Our support staff come from counties Mayo, Roscommon and Galway and we have a wide spread of representation.

In 2014, we decided that we should rebrand and call ourselves as we are known to clients - O'Dwyer. With the assistance of our clients, we have had a very successful changeover. The old name of Crean O'Cleirigh & O'Dwyer has not been consigned to history but placed to one side as we move forward.

This coming year is important for us as we celebrate our 100 years in business. We are very pleased to have reached this milestone but acknowledge that we could not have done this without

the support and friendship of all of the townspeople from Ballyhaunis and further afield. We thank you all the support which you have given us over this past 100 years and we look forward to entering into the second century in the service of our community.



O'Dwyer Staff and Baz Ashmaw who visited September 2015.
L-R: Conor O'Dwyer, John O'Dwyer, Elaine Silke, Geraldine Henry, Baz, Laura Murphy, Caroline Rattigan, Imelda O'Grady, Caroline Dillon, Grace O'Connor, Evan O'Dwyer, Laura Glennon.



The Square 1899

A view of The Square and Knox St., taken by Sergeant Patrick Lyons, on St. Patrick's Day, 17th March 1899.



Ballyhaunis 4th Mayo Troop Boy Scouts, November 1940

Back, L-R: Billy Hayden, Mickey Gavin, Eddie Phillips, Tom Hopkins.
 Fourth row: Seamus Durkan, Gussie Forry, Aiden Waldron, Donal Rafferty, Paddy Forry, George Murray.
 Third row: Joe Griffin, Tommy Donnellan, Noel Waldron, Tommy Byrne, John O'Brien.
 Second row: Kevin Greene, Paddy Mulligan, Dinny Foudy, Louis Hyland, Eamon Meath, Pat Smyth.
 Front: John Davitt, Richie Prendergast, Vincent Donnellan, Bernard Forde, Paddy Delaney, Bertie Curley.
 Taken at the front of St. Patrick's Parish Church. Halpin's Photographers, Ballyhaunis.



Above: Martin Tarmey, Holywell, with grandson Martin Whitehouse (baby in pram), late 1940s.



Right: Mick Tarmey (Holywell), Delia Brennan (Gurteen), Mary Waldron (Holywell), Nora Tarmey (Manchester) and Mike Tarmey (Holywell), on a visit to Knock, 1960.



Teachers of Ballyhaunis Community School prepare for Soccer action in 1977.

Back L-R: Mike Glynn, Matt O'Dwyer, Hugh Rudden, Vinnie Healy, Jarlath Fahey, Ray Charles.
 Front L-R: Patsy Noone, Jim Higgins, Eamon Murren, Chris Pratt, John Cleary.



St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, Sixth Year Class 1964-'65

Back, L-R: Bernadette Murphy, Gretta Fitzmaurice, Maura Conway, Breege Duffy, Brid Gilmore, Triona Mulhern.
 Front: Florrie Higgins, Christine Johnston, Philomena Biesty, Annie Adams, Ann Cribbin, Serena Connolly.

Chapel Street and Barrack Street in the late 1960s

EAMONN MURREN

Growing up in the late 1960s early 1970s there were quite a lot of people living in Chapel Street and Barrack Street. Some people would refer to Chapel Street as Church Street, however, we always called it Chapel Street.

Chapel Street was right behind where The Hazel now stands. The first house I remember was occupied by Mary Ellen Dyer who later moved to St. Gerald's Crescent. The next house was Jim and Annie Donohue and their family. Jim was a great character who did lots of odd jobs. One of these was sweeping chimneys from which he earned the nickname 'The Fluologist'. He was also very witty. I recall the guards raiding the pubs in Knox Street one night. Next day Jim quipped "I heard there was loud knocking and rapid footsteps in Knox Street last night".

Also in Chapel Street were Tom 'Stepper' Tarpey and his family. I think they used to keep lodgers and I think one of those lodgers was a man called Fred de Vere. We always called him 'Sandeman' because he always dressed in black and wore a hat like the man of the Sandeman port bottle. Sean Tarpey, a son of the house, married his neighbour Agnes Molloy. They lived in England for many years before returning to Ballyhaunis. Sadly they both passed away a few years ago.

'Jobber' Molloy and his wife, Rebecca, were also in Chapel Street in my time. Rebecca loved to have a bet on the horses. That time you could do a credit bet if you had a winner on the first bet. So she would have a shilling on a hot favourite hoping to get a return to credit money on to her next bet. The Molloy's had a son Tom who died in England. Agnes, as I said, married Sean Tarpey. Mary was married to a Waterford man, Billy Kiely, while Nora married Paddy Hollingsworth. All the Molloy's kept in touch and lived in Ballyhaunis. Alas they have all gone to their eternal resting place. It is good to see Mary's family, Rebecca and Kieran, being frequent visitors to Ballyhaunis.

As you entered Barrack Street via Curley's Chemist on the left hand side was McHugh's battery service. This was run by Eddie McHugh, assisted by his brother Jack and sister, Marcella. They ran a thriving business at the time. Eddie married Tess Kelly who had a little shop on Main Street. Their son, Peter, is a lecturer in NUIG. Across from McHugh's on the Court House side there were a number of houses. Paddy 'Bonamh' Mulligan lived in one; he had a son, Paddy, who used to drive a truck for Eddie Webb. He died a very young man.

Next door was Jimmy Kearns. Jimmy used to drive the school bus when we were in school. He was a very quiet, inoffensive man. His brother Paddy lived in Upper Main Street and was in charge of the water for Mayo County Council. There was another brother, Teddy, living in Dublin.

In the houses facing you going onto Barrack Street the first one was lived in by Molly O'Dwyer. Molly was always a person with a great smile. She was a sister of Jimmy O'Dwyer and was an aunt of Matt O'Dwyer. Next door were the O'Malley's – Brodie, Cyril, George,



Cyril O'Malley, 1983.

Bernie, Jimmy, Angela and Maureen. Cyril worked for the ESB. George was a hackney driver. Brodie used clean the Eclipse Ballroom and Star Cinema. All the O'Malley's were witty people. Brodie used to call to Curley's pub every night just as Bertie would be about to close the door. If he was asked the next day were there many in, his reply would be "The Crib – same cast".

Then came Owen Kilduff and his family and next door was Owen's sister, Teresa. The Kilduff connection with Ballyhaunis is alive and well as Owen's son, John, lives in the Brackloon area and his daughter, Mary, lives in Trim.

I think Mrs. Ronan was in the next house. She was a very pleasant lady. Her daughter, Mary, died some years ago from Motor Neurone Disease. Mary's husband, Tommy Butler, is regular visitor to Ballyhaunis from the U.S.

The last house was Mrs. Walsh. She was mother of Paddy, the well known boxer. She was always very kind to us as kids.

Other names I remember from Chapel Street and Barrack Street were Peter Ganley, Paddy Killoran and Martin Mugan. I'm told that there was a Levins family, a Phillips family and a Curtis family but there were before my time.

All in all there were some great characters and decent people living in Chapel Street and Barrack Street. May they all rest in peace.

Decades of Service

JIM LONDON

Having served as a Garda for forty years, Tom Howley retired on the 31st October 2014.

Tom joined An Garda Síochána on the 28th November 1974 and was trained at the Garda College in Templemore. His first station was in Letterkenny Garda Station where he worked for two years until 1977. In that same year, he was transferred to Lifford, Co. Donegal on the border with Strabane, which meant that in those difficult times there was a lot of border duty to be done. These were dangerous times with a lot of shooting and bombing in the area.

In August 1979 he joined the Mayo Division of the Gardaí and was stationed in Knock. It was a busy and exciting time as preparations were underway for the September visit of Pope John Paul II to Knock. It was also a busy station particularly during pilgrimage season. During his three years in Knock he met Bernie whom he married in 1983.

In 1982 Tom was transferred to Ballyhaunis where he served with Sergeant Bill Curran and five other Gardaí; John Marrinan, Pat Gaffney, Sean Barrett, Pat Powers and Martin Naughton.

It was the era in which telephone calls were made by dialling the Post Office, where dole forms had to be signed every Tuesday in the Barracks, as well as issuing and renewing gun licences and passports. There was a monthly District Court held in Ballyhaunis which Tom attended regularly. Other duties included foot patrols, Garda car patrols and crime investigation.

In the mid nineteen-eighties a large number of people from various other countries started coming to Ballyhaunis seeking work in the local meat and chicken factories. Tom was given the job of Immigration Officer in 1985 where he dealt with their regularisation and passport

control – a job he found rewarding and interesting.

During his forty year career in An Garda Síochána, Tom saw many changes including the change in uniform. In the beginning, there was the old navy blue tunic and trousers which evolved many times up to today's uniform – a fleece and shirt with epaulettes.

Communications changed from the landline automatic to the mobile phone. The computer and internet arrived and the PULSE system totally changed the Gardaí Síochána and Tom's work. Over the years Ballyhaunis Garda Station was upgraded and modernised to the state of the art station that it is today.

Tom's original colleagues worked together for many years, but change comes and is inevitable with retirements. Sergeant Bill Curran retired and the following Gardaí served as sergeants in Ballyhaunis during Tom's career: Sergeants Jack McDonnell, Tom Duffy, Mary Clarke, Denis McGreal, Martin Byrne, Martin McDermott, Mick Murray, Padraic Burke, Jim O'Toole, Barry Foley, Kieran McNicholas and Emma Kearns.

Ballyhaunis Garda Station numbers expanded from the original Gardaí that Tom started with, and the following Gardaí served in the station: Gardaí Joe Cosgrove, Pat Ryan, Eddie Rogan, Michael John O'Connor, Aiden Gaughan, John Commings and Stephen Gaughan.

In the noughties following retirements, Gardaí Alan Ryan, John O'Connor, Nicola Dolan, Tyrone Tobin, Paul Kenny, David Donnelly, John Devane, Brendan Flaherty, David Brandley, Brian Murphy and John Hughes all were stationed in Ballyhaunis in Tom's time. Garda Brian Murphy worked with Tom on his last day's duty.

Over the years Tom was involved in the indoor soccer leagues, the Summer Festival soccer leagues and squash and racquetball leagues.

Tributes were paid to Tom at a



Garda Tom Howley on duty.

Presentation to Garda Tom Howley on his retirement by Garda Alan Ryan on 31st October 2014.



function held in his honour in The Hazel by Superintendent Joe Doherty, Sergeant Kieran McNicholas and Garda Alan Ryan, who also made a presentation to him.

Tom served as a Garda in a time when Ireland changed from chalk and blackboard to computers; from phone boxes in the Square to mobile phones; and from snail mail to Facebook and Twitter. He encompassed and coped with all the changes and gave forty years of dedication to the Gardaí Síochána and the communities in which he served.

Ballyhaunis Garda Station Gardaí 2015

Sergeant Kieran McNicholas

Sergeant Emma Kearns

Garda Brian Murphy

Garda Paul Kenny

Garda Alan Ryan

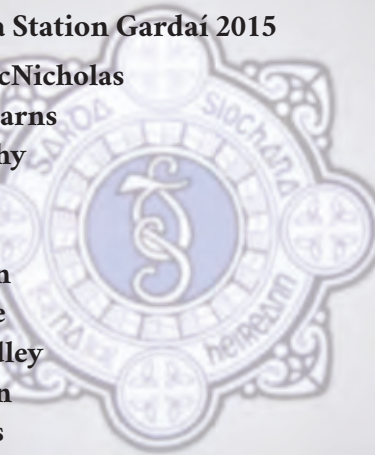
Garda Nicola Dolan

Garda John Devane

Garda David Brandley

Garda Ken Waldron

Garda John Hughes



Ballyhaunis Community Council

MARY DONNELLY

The Community Council is a legally constituted body whose remit is to establish and organise community development projects, and to act as promoters of such projects for the benefit of the local community and environs. It is overseen by a Management Board and is composed of a number of sub-committees and working groups that work on a voluntary basis on various projects, i.e. Tidy Towns, Defibrillator Group, Community Alert, Community Futures.

A key role of the Community Council is to represent the interests of Ballyhaunis community in all matters relating to the Augustinian Friary and grounds. Members of the Community Council form part of the Abbey Trust which holds the property on a 999 year lease, the other parties being Mayo Co. Council and the Augustinian Order. Members also form part of the Abbey Partnership which is responsible for the day to day management of the property. As the Abbey Partnership is ten years in existence, a review is being undertaken by the Abbey Trust, and a number of meetings have taken place during the year with a view to seeking new members and ideas for the continued development of the property.

The AGM took place on 23rd February last where representatives of the various sub-committees and working groups submitted impressive reports on their activities. Tributes were paid to all on the amount of voluntary work that is being carried out in our community by a small number of volunteers in each case. A proposal that the Community Council would become involved in the refurbishment of the Parochial Hall was accepted, and it is planned that a working group will be formed with local expertise to examine the Hall structurally, assess what needs to be done and access funding sources.

Community Futures

Following a review of the Community Futures Programme last year, a renewal of the Action Plan is now being offered to communities whose plans were prepared before 2010. The renewal process will include all aspects of the original Action Plan with additional input from the business community and youth. At the time of writing surveys are being carried out to ascertain the views and needs of people engaged in local businesses and young people, and the information gathered will be incorporated into the new Action Plan.

LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020

The Community Council took an active role in public consultation events held in Ballyhaunis in September and October, which will determine how funding under the new LEADER Programme will be allocated. A total of €11.1 million has been allocated to County Mayo, and a number of groups in the county are engaged in a bidding process for delivery of the programme. It is expected that the successful group will be announced early in 2016. It is important that Ballyhaunis gets a share of this fund, so it is up to local organisations to identify projects and prepare applications that can be submitted as soon as funding becomes available.

Membership

The Community Council is open to everyone and welcomes new members who may wish to support existing activities or have new ideas for community projects. Membership fee is a nominal €5 annually. Officers of the Management Board are: Chairman: Michael Kelly; Vice Chairperson: Manar Cherbatji; Hon. Secretary: Mary Donnelly; Hon. Treasurers: Marie Cribbin and Jarlath Fahey; P.R.O.: Paula Grogan.

A Young Golfer with a Bright Future

Andrew Hickey turned 16 this summer and, boy, what a sixteenth year he had! The Under 16 player has had a very successful year having won a number of events, including the most recent Darren Clarke Cup. He has been placed in many events and featured on the top end of the leader boards alongside some of the top players in the country; he appeared within the top 100 of the European Golf Rankings. Andrew is the son of James and Mary Hickey from Turlough/Greenwood, Ballyhaunis and is a transition year student in St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh. He is coached by Declan Cunningham of Golf Style Galway and his home club is Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Andrew sustained two separate injuries to his right hand over the winter season of 2014, but having made a good recovery he got back to practice with his coach and returned to competitive play early in the spring of 2015. On April 18th the County Cup was hosted by Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Andrew was part of the 10 man squad. Andrew won the Mayo Senior Scratch Cup in Ballyhaunis Golf Club with a score of three over par winning by two shots. He brought the cup back to Ballyhaunis after 27 years when it was last won in 1988 by Pat Curley.

Andrew was successful in making the cut to participate in the Ireland Championship Boys Faldo Series. It was played on the 28th and 29th April at Lough Erne Golf Resort. The event was run over two days and 36 holes. Andrew was positioned in fourth place going into the final round and was leading the championship with four holes to play. He fell away in the last few holes to lose by two shots and finished fourth. Andrew was up against Paddy Culhane, A.J. McCabe and Patrick Somers. The Connacht Boys U16 Open was played in Carrick-on-Shannon in June. With over 160 entrants Andrew made the cut along with 120 players to compete in the stroke play. Andrew finished joint eleventh.

On the 23rd June the Irish Boys Amateur Open Championship U18 was hosted by Tuam Golf Club. With over 200 entrants, 156 players made the cut at 4.3. It was stroke play over 72 holes over four days. The cut for the final round was made after 54 holes. Andrew was placed at 107th after the first round. He showed great confidence and determination to shoot a magnificent two under par in his second round and he shot up the leader board to 26th position. The third round saw him shoot another great round of one over par bringing him up to twelfth position. His final round was a seven over

which left Andrew in a final position of joint eleventh place. The Leinster Boys Amateur Open Championship was played in Belcarric Golf Club where Andrew played great golf along with his peers Reece Black, John Brady and Thomas Mulligan. Andrew finished in fifth place in the U16 category after four rounds of golf played.

Andrew was also honoured to be selected for the Connacht Inter Provincial U16 Team this year. The event took place at the Athlone Golf Club. Andrew was part of a six man team. He played three matches and got two halves and one loss. The final of the Connacht Close was played on the 11th August in the Galway Bay Golf Club. Andrew came in second place in this competition collecting his fourth GUI medal.

In September of this year Andrew won the Castle Dargan Darren Clarke Perpetual Cup. The competition commenced at Easter 2015 with 157 players taking part in stroke play. The top 32 scores qualified to proceed with match play. The final was played on 5th September; Andrew won on the 17th hole.



Andrew Hickey (right), being presented with the Castle Dargan Perpetual Darren Clarke Cup, by Kevin Conlon, Captain of Castle Dargan Golf Club, 5th September, 2015.

Anybody that knows Andrew is aware he absolutely loves golf and he is committed to improving his game. His continuous improvement is visible as his dedication is resolute. Andrew has improved his handicap in the last year from five to two. Looking forward for the next two years, Andrew will be eligible to compete in many of the above mentioned competitions again as they were Under 18 events. He has great potential and a bright future in golf.

1950's Postcards from Ballyhaunis

Postcards sent by Betty Brennan from Carrownedeen to her sister Mary in Manchester, where both trained and worked as nurses in the 1950s.

Returning to Carrownedeen on holiday, Betty sent the postcards back to her sister in Manchester.



Graduation



Right: Aoife McDonagh, Grallaghgarden, who graduated from IT Sligo with an Honours Degree in Business.

Frank's 45 Year Old Record Still Stands!



Frank Greally's Gratitude Run. Morton Stadium, Dublin, 18th August 2015. Frank, pictured during the final lap while running around Morton Stadium for 30mins 17sec - the record time set on the night, with his sons Tomás, left, and Conor, centre. Frank set a record for the 10,000m, 45 years ago on this day in 1970.

Picture credit: Cody Glenn / SPORTSFILE



Frank Greally's granddaughter, Hayleigh Bone (6), leads the way during Frank's Gratitude Run in Morton Stadium in Dublin.

Ray McManus, sportsfile.com



Frank Greally crosses the finish line in Morton Stadium as the clock displays his National Junior 10,000m record winning time. The record has stood for forty five years.

Ray McManus, sportsfile.com

Ballyhaunis Chamber

SUE McMILLAN, PRESIDENT

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce was constituted by Memorandum of Association on the 15th November 1983. The founding members were John Dillon Leetch, Austin Grogan (RIP), Pat Martin, Donal Ahern, Gerard McGarry, Mary Kelly and Barry Butler (RIP). The Chamber's aim was to "Promote, protect, advance and assist trade, commerce and manufacture in Ireland and in particular in the County of Mayo and town of Ballyhaunis". This ethos is the same in 2015 as it was in 1983.

However, the current Chamber is being drawn more into inward investment in to the town to assist with the growth of Ballyhaunis and attempting to re-establish the town as a solid trading centre in Mayo. The recession has hindered this process immensely, like most small towns in rural Ireland. However the people have also changed their shopping habits and now frequent out-of-town large supermarkets which have established themselves in Ireland in the last twenty years.

The Chamber is working hard to bring back a strong, thriving town centre and is actively trying to raise funds to regenerate the Square in the town. It has to be said that the Chamber can only do so much and it is down to the public to use the town. Businesses in the town compete with the larger out of town stores and need all the local support they can get.

The Chamber actively attends meetings with Mayo County Council, TDs and more recently with Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Minister Richard Bruton, and with other Mayo Chambers to look at solutions to reinvigorate small towns and increase footfall to all of Mayo's small towns. The challenge is huge, but the first challenge is to encourage people back into the town of Ballyhaunis, and have people shopping here again on a regular weekly basis. The small independent retailers will disappear if the public is not interested in supporting them.

The public will see in the not too distant future that the town centre is invaluable for retail sector. The world is changing and like so many things, the wheels move full circle. I have seen this in the UK where there is now a demise of the large European supermarkets; they are losing money and the public are going back to their own town centres and shopping locally again, using the markets in towns - and the towns are growing again. This will happen here but Ballyhaunis is in a very poor shape at present for progression in the future. The old adage "use it or lose it" applies and it is down to the public to use Ballyhaunis as much as they can, this will increase sales for retailers which in turn will drive down

costs, retailers will look at investing in the town and growth begins.

Executive

The current executive of the Chamber are: President: Sue McMillan (087) 7957190; Vice-President: Mark Curley; Hon. Secretary: Alison McDermot; Treasurer: Michael Dee; PRO: Eddie Murphy, Junior; Committee: Paul McDermot, Lisa Finn, Paul Finn, Mike Griffin, John Dillon Leetch, Margaret Byrne, Paddy Phillips and Tom Forde.

For the Chamber to progress, membership is critical to raise funds. for. Only about 20% of the current businesses in the town are members and during 2015 and 2016 new members will be sought and signed up for membership. Strength in numbers has proved itself throughout the years and new membership is critical to encourage new ideas and new thinking.

The Chamber networks and meets with other organisations in the town and helps/supports their efforts where we can, including the Summer Festival, Christmas Lights campaign, the Farmers Market. Without this networking of local groups many of the obvious town events would not happen. The Chamber is a driving force behind these yearly events in both formulating the events and raising money to stage the events. The Chamber also has a representation on many town community groups. Everything is intertwined to make things happen. We work closely with other organisations and offer our help and support and they in turn do the same.

During 2015 the Chamber was very excited to actually draw up artist impressions of what they propose for the Square in Town. It is an absolute dream of mine and the Chamber to have a "wow" factor in town. We have lobbied for funds for so long to get something done without much success. We were very disappointed when the Town was overlooked for a pilot project for the recently announced Capital Investment Fund of €30m announced recently by the Government. We try so hard to get into these schemes and now we see Castlebar has funding for their old Garda Station regeneration. We missed that but we will be bidding for funding in the eagerly awaited LEADER funding coming on stream next spring 2016. Ballyhaunis Chamber along with many of the town's organisations is building/discussing projects now to submit when the LEADER scheme comes live. The Chamber has also drawn up artist's impressions of the walking/cycle route proposed around

the town and a big 'thank you' must go to the professional support of Brendan Kelly of BK Engineering Design in his work and to the Annagh Wheelers, Ballyhaunis Fit4life, The Tidy Towns Committee and Community Council. We are all working closely together to make this happen - as we say unity and strength in numbers.

It is no secret that Rural Ireland has taken a beating over the past five years but the individual retailers who have stayed afloat and continue trading, employing and investing in the Town are a credit to the determination of the Town's businesses. It has been tough on many but Ballyhaunis has seen new businesses come into the Town.

The closure of the Court House also had a detrimental effect on the Town. When the Court was held in Ballyhaunis the cafes and eating houses in town obviously gained from this. The Chamber presented an in depth report to the Court Services showing the need for the continuation of the Court House but the decision was still made to close it. That is some 18 months ago now and The Chamber will continue to lobby for the continuation and progression of the building, to formulate a long term strategy for the building including maintenance and repair and Mayo County Council have already agreed to a preliminary Engineers appraisal of the building to identify the extent of the damp in the building and put forward a remedial work plan. The dream again is to have the building open to the public holding events, craft fairs, displays of art work, other exhibitions and the Town's "one stop shop" to have information about the Town, the businesses, the area, tourism, B&B information, etc. Again The Chamber will be making application to Leader for a feasibility study into this work and the future use of the building.

One can see from this report that the Chamber is by no means ideal. I think it is fair to say that we are very poor at advertising what we do and sometimes people think we actually do nothing. You can see that this is not true and we are so active behind the scenes. We are at fault for not telling the public what we do and I hope to correct that in the coming months. The newsletter will be launched bi-monthly to begin with and we are always seeking fresh blood to join the Chamber and bring in fresh ideas. Before you complain about things not happening for Ballyhaunis, have you volunteered yet or joined a committee to help our Community? If you are willing to do so contact us and we'll gladly welcome your help.



Top: Michael Naughton, Belisker (left) and Martin Lyons, Keebagh, pioneering Silage contractors, 1970.

Left: Jim Culliney, Lissaniska, 1947, the year he went to England.

Below: Thomas and John Finnegan, Tavnaghmore, 1935, the year they went to England.



Ballyhaunis Post Office in the 19th Century

PAUL WALDRON

This year the opening of the new Delivery Service Unit, in the Enterprise Centre off Clare St., marks a significant milestone in the history of the Post Office in Ballyhaunis. A full and complete history of the postal service in Ballyhaunis has yet to be written. In the meantime readers may be interested in the following items that throw some light on this important service in the town over the past two hundred years ago.

The earliest reference to a postal service in Ballyhaunis uncovered so far comes from a government report which makes mention of one **Peter Staunton** having charge of the post office in Ballyhaunis in 1812. In 'A Return of all Arrears due by late Deputy Postmasters in Ireland', published for the House of Commons in 1837, it is noted that there were arrears due from the Post Office in Ballyhaunis, since 5th Oct. 1812, amounting to £60.17s.7½d. Staunton was postmaster then and the post office's sureties were Peter Skerrett of Holywell and Thomas Tyrrell of Annagh, county Mayo.

Peter Staunton might very well be the man of that name who, along with a number of other Ballyhaunis men, was a member of the Loughglynn Cavalry, set up in 1796 to counter any insurgent activity inspired by the French Revolution ongoing at that time. It's possible too that he might be a relative – perhaps the deceased husband – of one Mrs. Staunton who was still living in Knox St. in 1842.

Freeman's Journal of Friday, 1st Nov. 1833 carried the following item on the opening up of a daily post service connecting Ballyhaunis with Claremorris and Frenchpark, both of which were important hubs in the national postal network at that time.

"In no part of Ireland have the improvements in the Post office department been more numerous or important than in Mayo, and its inhabitants have reason to feel grateful to W. E. Lees, Esq., the Resident Inspector of Roads, who has devoted himself most assiduously since his arrival amongst us, to the promotion of the public interests. One of the latest instances of this nature to which our attention has been directed, is the establishment of a daily post from Claremorris to **Ballyhaunis**, passing through Loughglyn, and on from Frenchpark, thus opening a more direct communication between Ballyhaunis and all the towns on the line from Westport to Ballinasloe. Under the former system it required three days to convey letters from Claremorris or Castlebar to

Ballyhaunis; whereas by Mr. Lees' improvement, letters or papers leaving this town by the morning's mail will reach Ballyhaunis the same evening. The arrangement must be advantageous to the inhabitants of both places."

In 1842, **Thomas Brennan** had the Post Office in Ballyhaunis, where Phillips' clothes shop now stands on Main Street. Valuation records from that year classified the premises as 'Post Office and yard in common', and described it as 'of medium age, slightly decayed, but still in good repair', and in common with most of the houses on that side of Main Street at that time, it had a thatched roof. Sometime in the following ten years or so he moved a couple of doors up the street to a house where McSiurtáin's and the Chinese Takeaway now stand. It's not clear if he continued to operate the Post Office, but in any case he set about re-developing the site of his old house and one beside it. Here he built two new houses but, unfortunately, these were destroyed by fire not long after. When the valuers next assessed the town in 1855 – in preparation for 'Griffith's Valuation' – they observed that Brennan "...[had] built the houses which have since been burned. [He] occupies one of the offices as a dwelling in rere temporarily." Shortly afterwards he sold this property to Peter and Owen Doyle, and moved up to an old house in a row of four that stood where the back portions of Edward Mulligan's, Phillips' butchers and Phillips' pub are now. It's not clear what became of him after that

By 1860 the Post Office was operated by **Maria B. Jordan** from the family business on Main Street, where Cribbin's is now. She lived here with at least two brothers and one sister – James, Edmond and Margaret. All were born in the 1820s. James and Margaret were shopkeepers, while Edmond (whose gravestone is one of the oldest in the New Cemetery) collected the Tolls and Customs. Their father was Valentine Jordan who died in 1852 and the family gravestone, in the small burial ground on the left hand side of the Friary church, traces the family back to his father Edmond, and grandfather, Valentine Jordan of Old Head, Louisburgh – if not the same man, then possibly a relative of the Valentine Jordan who took an active and well documented part in the 1798 rising in Mayo. Miss Jordan, as she is referred to in some sources, continued operating the Post Office through the 1860s, but it is not known exactly when she retired. By 1870 she had been succeeded by one James Delaney.

In 1855 the Valuation Office noted that **James Delaney** was then in the course of building a new

premises on the corner where McGarry's and the Corner Bar are today. Previous to this, as noted in the 1842 valuation, there was a row of six small houses here, facing onto Clare Street; and at that time Delaney had a premises further up the Main Street.

"Slater's Commercial Directory" of 1870 year lists all the business people in all the bigger towns in Ireland. For some reason Ballyhaunis and Claremorris were lumped together. Here, James Delaney is named as Postmaster in Ballyhaunis, as well as being a grocer, dealer in sundries, linen-draper, haberdasher and spirit dealer. The Post Office was also a 'Money Order Office and Savings Bank' and, it is stated, 'Letters from all parts arrive (from Claremorris) at half-past eight morning, and are despatched at five evening'.

James Delaney's property on the corner passed to his son-in-law Maurice J. Fitzgerald who continued the commercial side of the business, and, in the late 1870s built a row of houses developing the street-scape of this plot on the Clare St. side as we know it today. One of the first tenants in these new houses was one Mrs. Anne Bealin, who is described in 'Slater's Royal National Commercial Directory of Ireland' of 1881 as 'Stamp Distributor'.

Fitzgerald was succeeded as owner of this property in 1885 by Martin and Farrell McDonnell, extensive merchants from Dunmore, Co. Galway. James Delaney, however, continued as Postmaster, apparently from one of those premises on the Clare St. side, until he retired in 1891, by which time he must have been well advanced in years. He was succeeded by a local man, Edward C. Killeen.

Edward C. Killeen was one of at least three siblings who worked in the postal service. They were born in Hazelhill (possibly in the Upper Main St. area) and their father, William, worked as a nailer. At some point in the 1860s the family moved into town, living for a while on the south side of Main St. In 1891 Edward succeeded James Delaney as Postmaster, and either in that or the following year, he took up residence at the end of Main St. – where Tighes were later, and the Credit Union later still. Here he operated the post office for the next ten years. Edward's sister, Bridget M. Killeen, worked in the postal service, and their brother William M. Killeen was Postmaster in Castlebar before progressing to several important positions in the GPO, Dublin.

The initial 'C' in Edward's name, stood for 'Churchill' - this was occasionally used as an anglicised form of their surname by some Killeens in the

locality.

The town of Ballyhaunis underwent huge expansion in the 1870s and 1880s, following the arrival of the railway, and by the end of the century Killeen's house on Main Street was no deemed longer a suitable place for a post office. Starting in October 1899 tender notices appeared in the local papers over a number of weeks, such as this one from *The Western People* of 28th Oct. 1899:



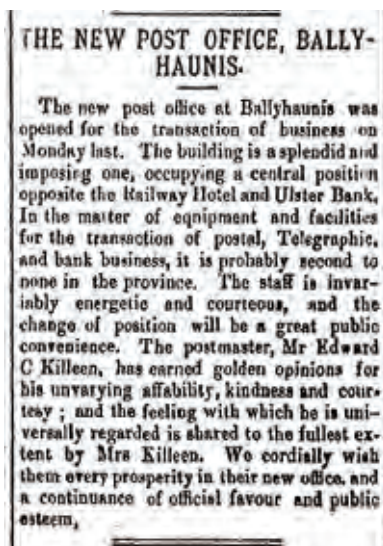
From
*The Western
People*,
Sat., 28th
Oct. 1899.

Things moved fairly swiftly and by 1901 the Post Office had acquired a site from Austin Freeley of Carrowreagh, a wealthy landowner who had amassed a fortune in the U.S.A., returning in the 1880s and building up an impressive portfolio of property in the area. The site was on land he had acquired from the McDermott family of Bridge St. some years earlier. Building got underway almost immediately and the new Post Office was open for business on Monday, 7th Apr. 1902. That week's *Connaught Telegraph*, dated 12th Apr. 1902 was able to report, "The building is a splendid and imposing one, occupying a central position opposite the Railway Hotel and Ulster Bank. In the matter of equipment and facilities for the transaction of postal, telegraphic and bank

business, it is probably second to none in the province." The Ulster Bank, at that time, and up till about 1906, had their premises in part of Railway Hotel (present day Delaney's Ltd) building.

That news item from 113 years ago concludes with a sentiment which could still apply today, particularly as full public support is still required for the continued success of the local Post Office - "We cordially wish them every prosperity in their new office, and a continuance of official favour and public esteem."

From *The Connaught Telegraph*
Sat., 12th Apr. 1902.



Ballyhaunis District Community Council

MARY DONNELLY

The Community Council is a legally constituted body whose remit is to establish and organise community development projects, and to act as promoters of such projects for the benefit of the local community and environs. It is overseen by a Management Board and is composed of a number of sub-committees and working groups that work on a voluntary basis on various projects, i.e. Tidy Towns, Defibrillator Group, Community Alert, Community Futures.

A key role of the Community Council is to represent the interests of Ballyhaunis community in all matters relating to the Augustinian Friary and grounds. Members of the Community Council form part of the Abbey Trust which holds the property on a 999 year lease, the other parties being Mayo Co. Council and the Augustinian Order. Members also form part of the Abbey Partnership which is responsible for the day to day management of the property. As the Abbey Partnership is ten years in existence, a review is being undertaken by the Abbey Trust, and a number of meetings have taken place during the year with a view to seeking new members and ideas for the continued development of the property.

The AGM took place on 23rd February last where representatives of the various sub-committees and working groups submitted impressive reports on their activities. Tributes were paid to all on the amount of voluntary work that is being carried out in our community by a small number of volunteers in each case. A proposal that the Community Council would become involved in the refurbishment of the Parochial Hall was accepted, and it is planned that a working group will be formed with local expertise to examine the Hall structurally, assess what needs to be done and access funding sources.

Community Futures

Following a review of the Community Futures Programme last year, a renewal of the Action Plan is now being offered to communities whose plans were prepared before 2010. The renewal process will include all aspects of the original Action Plan with additional input from the business community and youth. At the time of writing surveys are being carried out to ascertain the views and needs of people engaged in local businesses and young people, and the information gathered will be incorporated into the new Action Plan.

LEADER Programme 2014 - 2020

The Community Council took an active role in public consultation events held in Ballyhaunis in September and October, which will determine how funding under the new LEADER Programme will be allocated. A total of €11.1 million has been allocated to County Mayo, and a number of groups in the county are engaged in a bidding process for delivery of the programme. It is expected that the successful group will be announced early in 2016. It is important that Ballyhaunis gets a share of this fund, so it is up to local organisations to identify projects and prepare applications that can be submitted as soon as funding becomes available.

Membership

The Community Council is open to everyone and welcomes new members who may wish to support existing activities or have new ideas for community projects. Membership fee is a nominal €5 annually. Officers of the Management Board are: Chairman: Michael Kelly; Vice Chairperson: Manar Cherbatji; Hon. Secretary: Mary Donnelly; Hon. Treasurers: Marie Cribbin and Jarlath Fahey; P.R.O.: Paula Grogan.



It is hoped to organise an event in Ballyhaunis to celebrate the **Centenary of the 1916 Rising**.
Keep an eye on local media for further details.

Ballyhaunis Library

CLARE ST., BALLYHAUNIS

Opening Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 12:00pm - 7:00pm

Wednesday: 12:00pm - 7:00pm

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

USS Patrick Gallagher Petition reaches 5,000 signature milestone

The online petition to have a U.S. Navy ship named after Ballyhaunis native Patrick Gallagher reached 5,000 signatures on 11th Nov. – Veteran's Day. The campaign was launched at the end of 2013 and has highlighted Patrick's story through a dedicated website and articles in the media.

This summer four large internal billboards were placed in the departures area for American flights at Dublin airport. The billboards were seen by every passenger passing through the area. The billboards are now in the U.S. where they will be displayed at various locations throughout the country over the next few months. George Delaney will take possession of one of the banners for the New York area, Kieran Folliard will do the same in Minneapolis. A third banner will be displayed at the Trinity Hall Bar in Dallas. The Trinity Hall owner, Marius Donnelly, is the original sponsor of the petition.

The Irish Veterans Association has verified that some 31 Irish citizens were killed in Vietnam: four of the 31 were in the Australian army. Patrick Gallagher is believed to have attained the highest award of any of the Irish who served. He was awarded the Navy Cross, after jumping on a grenade to protect his colleagues.

In 2016 we will concentrate on seeking political support in the US for a cover letter which will accompany a print out of the signatures for delivery to



the Secretary of the US Navy. The Secretary of the Navy is responsible for the naming of US Navy ships.

Please read the full story at:

www.patrickgallagherusmc.info

and consider adding your name to the petition.

Should you sign then please encourage others to do the same. Signatures from the U.S. are especially welcome.

Thank you for your support and please keep the signatures coming,

Martin Durkan

Co-organiser of USS Patrick Gallagher Petition

NCF Quality Milk Awards 1994



At Claremorris NCF 21st annual social in the Belmont Hotel, Knock, Quality Milk Awards were presented to successful producers.

Winners and sponsors back L-R: Seamus Monaghan, NCF; Mary Macken, AIB Bank; Seamus Heverin, NCF; James Cleary, Logboy; Louis Dolan, Pulbawn, Hollymount; Eddie Sweeney, Ulster Bank; Gerry Dolan, NCF; Sean Mellett, Bank of Ireland.

Front L-R: Jarlath Grogan; Michael Dee; Michael G. Lyons, all from Began; Martin Waldron and Patsy Donnellan, Claremorris; Joe Sheridan, Crimlin; Frank Hanley, Claremorris.

And the Beat of Irish Dancing Goes On...

THOMAS PATRICK O'MALLEY
Fairfax, Virginia, USA. yellamo@earthlink.net

In the early 20th century, young Thomas Anthony O'Malley, born in 1882, of Upper Main Street in Ballyhaunis (brother of the late Peter O'Malley, also of Upper Main Street), set sail for America, anxious to start a new life, enamored with all the 'new world' promises that were offered to immigrants from the Emerald Isle. Joining him shortly afterwards in 1908 was his bride-to-be, Bridget Josephine Caulfield, born in Carrowkeel in 1886, later residing on Main Street in Ballyhaunis (sister of the late Patrick Caulfield of Main Street, now home to my cousins, John Halpin and family).



Bridget Caulfield O'Malley (1886-1972) with her daughter Mary Margaret (Sister Marita Dolores, IHM) and her nephew, Father Bernard J. O'Malley, son of John Malachy O'Malley. Photo taken in the early 1960s.

Shortly after Bridgie's arrival in New York City, she and Tom married and then settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, their new home in America, raising a beautiful family of five children – thankfully . . . for I am their first-born grandchild, named after Grandpop and after Grandmom's two-years'-younger brother, Patrick, whom she left in Ballyhaunis and whom she missed dearly.

During their early days in America, the couple generously provided a temporary home for Tom's two

brothers, John (Jack) and Michael, who also immigrated to America for the 'new world' promises. The three brothers all served at Smith's Emporium in Philadelphia which had - and still has - a very large Irish Catholic population. Later, Tom and Bridgie also opened their home to other immigrating relatives, including her brother, John Joe Caulfield, and her niece from Knock, Eileen Taaffe, as their temporary residence until such time as they were able to gain employment and obtain a home of their own.

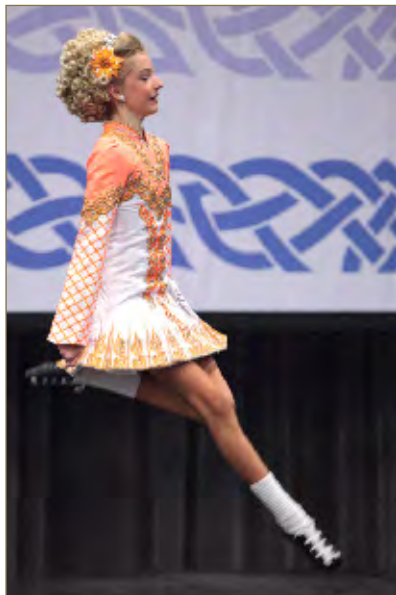
Sadly, two of Bridgie's and Tom's five children passed away before reaching the age of 21. Remaining were sons John Joseph (Jack) and Wilfrid Joseph (Bill) and daughter Mary Margaret (Mae), who became a nun – Sister Marita Dolores of the Congregation of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. My grandfather was well known for his talent as a fine tenor who performed in several venues in Philadelphia, where he arranged countless fundraising dances and concerts, sending money he raised from his singing back to Ireland, to help in the construction of Ballyhaunis' beautiful St. Patrick's Church.

While Tom returned to the Emerald Isle twice in the early 1900s (prior to Bridgie joining him in America), Bridgie and young 16-year old Mae made the pilgrimage back to Ireland in 1932 to attend celebratory events marking the 1500th Anniversary of St. Patrick's arrival in Ireland as a missionary. Some 40 years later, as a nun, Sister Mae returned to Ireland and visited Ballyhaunis to see the town where her parents hailed from and to visit her aunts, uncles and cousins on both sides of the family. Her (and my) cousin, Rena O'Malley, originally from Upper Main Street, accompanied her on this trip. Sister Mae had another visit to Ireland when she attended the wedding of her cousins, John and Breege Halpin. Sister Mae fondly remembered her other Halpin cousins, Pat, Mary, Helene, Ann and Dolores, and recounted her wonderful visits in Ireland to all her family in America.

World War II

Jack and Bill both married Pennsylvania girls and raised families in the Philadelphia area and the Washington, DC area, respectively. While Jack stayed close to his Philadelphia birth home, marrying after having served in the U.S. Army during World War II, Bill married before the War and became a defense industry worker in early 1941, in a California aircraft plant that

was producing airplanes under President Franklin Roosevelt's 'lend-lease' program that supported the European countries' war efforts against Germany. He later took a position with the United States Government, which required him to move to the nation's capital, initially residing in Washington, DC, and later in adjacent northern Virginia. Jack and his wife, Betty, raised three children and Bill and his wife, Rose, my parents, raised two. While my brother, Michael, and I, as well as our three first-cousins, Maureen, Karen, and John (Jack and Betty's children) attempted to learn more about our grandparents' rich Irish backgrounds, we never inquired whether or not they had a talent for the Irish dance. But, the beat of Irish dancing goes on . . . undoubtedly well instilled in the DNA and genes of the O'Malley-Caulfield bloodstreams, passing down four generations to my own five granddaughters.



My wife, Louise, and I raised two sons, Kevin and Sean, all of us still living in northern Virginia, a short distance from Washington, DC. My brother Mike and his wife, Beth, live in nearby Maryland, so they also remain in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Sean is single, while Kevin and his wife, Anne, are the proud parents of five daughters and one son. All five girls have taken Irish dance lessons since about the age of 5. Now ranging in age from 8 to 17, the girls practice together regularly on a special dance floor built by their father in the basement of their home in Virginia. Lessons are at least once a week, practice is every day, with 'dance camp' for some of the girls in the summertime.

Our eldest granddaughter, Meghan, has also been a student-teacher at the Boyle School of Irish Dance in Virginia, helping many younger students learn both the soft shoe and hard shoe steps. The second eldest, Bridget, now in high school, has ceased taking lessons, but the talent will remain with her for certain.

Third in birth order is Kathleen, who has excelled tremendously in Irish dance – to the extent of attaining 'show class' several years ago. She has been a feis competitor countless times for several years in the neighbouring states of Maryland and North Carolina, as

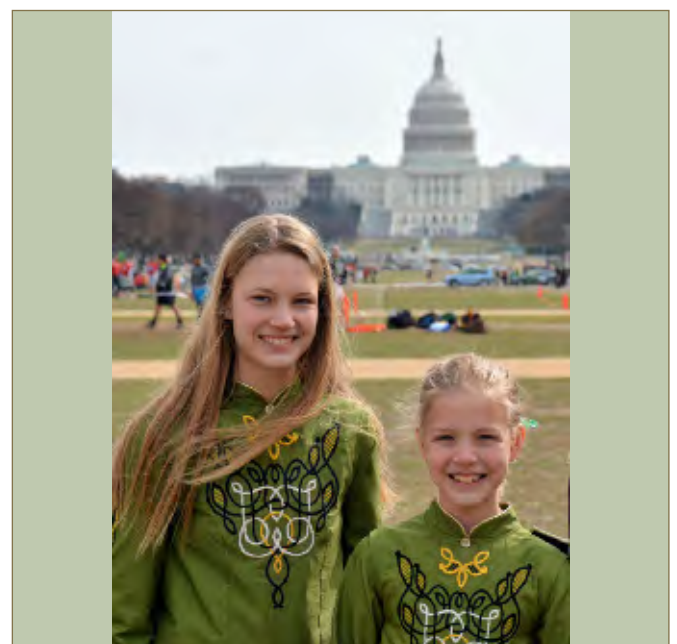
well as in Pennsylvania and throughout Virginia. In 2014 and 2015, Kathleen qualified so well in the regional USA competitions that she was honored to be able to attend the North American competitions held in Montreal, Canada, and in Providence, Rhode Island, vying with dancers from all over the United States, Canada and Mexico – some 5,000 competitors. While her evaluated scores in each year's competition were excellent, she unfortunately did not make the cut to attend the World championship competition. But now, at only age 14, there are still a number of years ahead for Kathleen to have other opportunities to excel even further and to strive to attain the coveted 'World' title in Irish dance.

Mary and Shannon, the two youngest, are also developing into superb Irish dancers as well, learning nicely from their older sisters and thoroughly enjoying the dance. Although not performing competitively yet, they attend feis events frequently as observers, to watch Kathleen compete and to learn what to expect when they attain future levels of proficiency that will permit them to participate.

While more than a century has passed since young Tom and Bridgie left their loving friends and beloved relations and the glorious green hills of County Mayo, their rich Ballyhaunis Irish heritage has not only survived, but has been strengthened, through the love of Irish dancing in the latest generation of the O'Malley clan that can claim Tom and Bridgie as their family's founders in America.

Above: Kathleen O'Malley, stepping high at the North American Competitive Feis, July 2015.

Below: Meghan and Mary O'Malley preparing to participate in the 2015 Annual St. Patrick's Parade in Washington, DC, near the U.S. Capitol Building.



When the Connaught Rangers Rebelled

THE STORY OF PRIVATE VAL DELANEY OF LOGBOY AND THE INDIAN MUTINY OF 1920

MICHAEL KELLY

*The grey dawn had crept o'er the stillness of morning,
The dew drops they glistened like icicle breath,
The sound of a bugle had issued a warning,
A young Connaught Ranger was sentenced to death.*

This is the opening verse of a ballad that my father used to sing, a lament for a young Irish soldier about to die in a foreign country. The soldier in question, 21-year-old Jim Daly, was executed as a ringleader of the so-called 'Indian mutiny' of 1920 when he, and some 350 of his fellow Irish soldiers stationed with the British Army in India, took part in a short-lived protest against Black and Tan atrocities back home. Daly, the son of a Mayo man, was born at his mother's home place near Ballymoe. In 1901 the Daly family resided at Cloonlee, Ballinlough, and later in that decade they moved to Ballyhaunis. Jim Daly attended school in Ballyhaunis for a period before 1910 when his father was employed at Morley's Bakery in Knox St. At that time the Daly family lived in one of two semi-detached houses at the rear of Main Street, facing out to The Lochán. Incidentally, their next-door neighbours were the Moogan (or Mugan) family, one of whom – Martin – will feature later in this story. By 1911 they had moved on to Glenamaddy and later settled at Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath. At age 16 Jim Daly ran away from home to join the army; his father and three brothers had already enlisted at the outbreak of the war. He joined the famous Connaught Rangers at Galway in April 1919, the year before they shipped to India. For their act of mutiny in India, young Jim Daly and his comrades would pay a very heavy price indeed. Sixty-nine were court-martialled and fourteen were sentenced to death, including a young private from the Ballyhaunis district. His name was Val Delaney.

Family tragedy

Valentine Delaney was born on 8th February 1898 in the townland of Ballynastockagh at Logboy in the parish of Began; prior to 1893 this townland and several more

around Logboy belonged to Annagh parish. Val was the fourth of seven children of John Delaney, the local schoolteacher, and his wife Julia Dillon. Tragically both parents died while Val was still a child. John died unexpectedly in December 1905 at the age of 39, probably a victim of the scarlet fever outbreak that closed Logboy School that autumn. His widow Julia and seven young children, aged from 12 years down to 2, were left without income or home (since the teacher's residence went with the job). Although Julia remarried, she too died soon afterwards and the family unit disintegrated. Some of the children were reared by aunts and uncles while two of the boys ended up in the Industrial School at Salthill, where one died within a year, aged 10.



Val Delaney, as a young private in army uniform.

To India with the Connaught Rangers

Val was reared by his uncle, John Dillon, at Rockfield near Knock. As a teenager he got a job as a shop assistant with Patrick Connaughton, a merchant in Claremorris, where he was popular with customers and employer alike. However, like many a young man of his generation, he was attracted by the opportunities for adventure that the army offered and he duly enlisted at Athlone on 15th October 1918, just a few weeks before Armistice Day. Although he was discharged only six months later when the War was over, he immediately re-joined the Connaught Rangers at Dover to serve overseas. At this time he was described as a perfectly

healthy, vigorous young man, a teetotaller, who played football and hockey. He was 5' 7" tall, of fresh complexion, with hazel eyes, and brown hair. By the autumn of 1919, Val was on his way to India with the Rangers. A colleague who met up with him again in India in February 1920 found him to be in good health, having adapted well to the harsh climate.

Mutiny breaks out

In June 1920, Val Delaney's company was stationed at Wellington Barracks in the city of Jullundur in the Punjab region, near the border with modern-day

Pakistan. There had been disorder in the region following the infamous Amritsar Massacre the previous year when British troops had opened fire on a crowd of 10,000 unarmed civilians, leaving up to 400 dead and 1,200 wounded. On a visit to Amritsar two years ago, the British Prime Minister David Cameron described the massacre as “a deeply shameful event in British history”.

On the evening of Sunday, 27th June 1920, five of Val Delaney’s comrades were chatting in the barracks canteen. They were upset at reports from home about Black and Tan activities and decided that they had to protest in some way. It was Private Joe Hawes, a Clare-born veteran of the First World War, who proposed they should refuse ‘to soldier in the service of the King’ as long as British soldiers were committing atrocities in Ireland. The others agreed. Their impromptu decision would have serious consequences for Val and many of their colleagues.

The following morning the ringleaders made their intentions known to their superiors. They ‘volunteered for the guardroom’, the traditional means in the British army of registering a protest, and they were duly locked up. This act of insubordination was considered to be a clear act of mutiny. Fearing that they might be ‘shot out of hand’, they had given their home addresses to Lance Corporal John Flannery so that he could notify their next of kin if the worst should happen. Flannery, having failed to dissuade them from their planned course of action, then threw in his lot with them and was even elected their spokesman - although they would later fall out with him.

The mutiny spread quickly and soon 35 soldiers, including Val Delaney, found themselves behind bars. Also involved were the Gogerty brothers, Patrick and Vincent, from Chapel Lane, Claremorris. Meanwhile, two other mutineers, Lance Corporal Keenan and Private Kelly, managed to slip away unnoticed to try to alert the rest of the Connaught Rangers stationed at another military outpost at Solon over 200 miles away up in the Simla hills; it was army policy to rotate the troops from the searing heat of Jullundur to the cooler climate at Solon.

Major Nolan-Ferrall

At first the Army brass tried to defuse the situation through negotiation with the mutineers. By a remarkable coincidence, one of the officers in charge at Jullundur was Major Henry James Nolan-Ferrall, whose family had been landlords at Logboy for generations. Some four decades previously, Val Delaney’s maternal grandfather, Luke Dillon, had been murdered at Logboy during the

Land War, while serving as estate bailiff for Nolan-Ferrall’s father. According to local Logboy folklore, the major – a WW1 veteran with the Rangers in France, Gallipoli and Macedonia - had somehow intervened to save Val’s life in India once he discovered the Logboy connection. Whether there is any substance to that tale or not, the evidence shows that their paths did indeed cross in India. However, the major’s entreaties were now ignored by Val Delaney and the other mutineers, and the rebellion escalated.

Disaster averted

The rebels clearly intended their protest to be one of passive resistance. They remained respectful and disciplined throughout and surrendered their arms, but all that counted for little when the crunch came. The mutineers were first herded into a temporary compound, with no shelter from the sweltering heat, and left there for two days without food or water. Val Delaney later recalled a scary incident when one Major Payne, apparently in a maverick act, lined the mutineers up against a wall and gave them five minutes to end their protest or be shot: “As we refused to surrender, the soldiers rushed towards us with fixed bayonets and revolvers, and were going to shoot us down, when our chaplain, a Belgian priest (Fr Livens), threw up his hand and said, “If you shoot the Irishmen you’ll shoot me also!” A more senior officer arrived in the nick of time to prevent bloodshed. At the subsequent court martial Major Payne identified Val Delaney as one of the men who had been insubordinate.



Dagshai Military Prison.

Locked up in Dagshai

The mutineers were then transferred by train to Dagshai Prison, located just six miles from the other military barracks at Solon. There they were joined by fellow Rangers from Solon barracks, led by Jim Daly, who had also mutinied once word reached them, through Kelly and Keenan, of the action at Jullundur.

Daly and his comrades had raised the Tricolour and tried to capture the magazine at Solon but were quickly overpowered. Two of them were killed in this incident, Private Patrick Smyth from Drogheda and Private Peter Sears from The Neale. Another Mayo soldier, Private Eugene Egan from Eskerlavalla, Claremorris, was with Jim Daly during the attack and sustained a bullet wound to the chest, but he survived and was later sentenced to death. Private Martin Moogan of Ballyhaunis was also involved in this episode and while he escaped court martial, he later served three months in prison in Jullundur.

A midnight jail-break

Conditions in Dagshai jail were primitive, to say the least. The mutineers complained of dysentery and colds. They had no soap, towels or change of clothing during the weeks they were there. An Indian barber came in once a week. Rations were miserable – black tea and dry bread for breakfast and supper, and heated bully beef for dinner. The lack of cigarettes and tobacco was a particular grievance.

Thus it was that a gang of seven, including Jim Daly, Joe Hawes and Val Delaney, engineered a daring jail break, not with the intention of escaping, which would have been fruitless anyway, but with the more modest aim of raiding the army canteen at Solon! With the connivance of the barber and an Indian lavatory cleaner, both followers of Gandhi, six of the gang broke out while the seventh distracted the guards. They walked the six miles to Solon and made off with canteen supplies, including cigarettes, matches, canned sausages, tinned fruit, sardines, biscuits, and even chewing gum. Daly wanted to burn the place down before leaving but was dissuaded by Hawes.

It was daylight when they got back to Dagshai prison where they found a sentry blocking their route. Hawes recalled what happened next: "Delaney left us, climbed nearer to the sentry, and showed himself out in the open. The sentry, on seeing him, covered him with his rifle and ordered him to advance with his hands held up. He then marched Delaney around to the front, with his hands in the air, and left our bolt hole unwatched as we wanted". Thus, with Delaney creating a diversion, the rest of the break-out gang were able to sneak back in to their cells undetected where they duly distributed their loot. Delaney never squealed and the prison authorities never found out how this night-time raid was achieved.

Delaney's incriminating letter

By August 1920, however, the reality of the mutineers' fate struck home forcibly when, following the

initial court of inquiry, a full court martial process got underway. The witnesses included Major Nolan-Ferrall. Val Delaney was charged with joining the mutiny and inciting another soldier to join. A letter that he had sent to his pal, Corporal 'Ginger' Malley, up at the Solon camp on the first day of the mutiny had been intercepted and was produced in evidence against him. It read:

Dear Ginger,

I am sending you a rosette, the colours we are flying down here at present. I hope you will act like true Irishmen, and not stand by and see your people shot down at home by English soldiers. Join the rest of C. Company and show them that we are Irishmen. Walk down, if ye can't get a train. We can hold our heads high in the air when we go home. We have done more for Ireland than if they were talking for years at home. The Seaforths are at the Station, and if they fire a shot we are willing to die to the last man, and we are doing it for a good cause. Join a Sinn Fein Battalion today and fight for your country. There was never a pin looted since we began. We are acting like true Irishmen. Read this to the boys.

– Val Delaney

P.S. We have all the N.C.O's of the regiment along with us - Corporal Davis among them.'

Delaney's message had, in fact, got through to his colleagues in Solon because another of the mutineers, John Joe Buckley from Claremorris, later recalled that Corporal Malley had read out two letters from Val Delaney 'explaining the cause of the mutiny'.

Death sentences ... and a visit from Gandhi

Fourteen of the mutineers, including Delaney, were sentenced to death, but in the end it was decided to make an example of just one. By now the British authorities were acutely aware of the backlash that followed the execution of the 1916 leaders, so the rest of the mutineers had their death sentences commuted to penal servitude. Jim Daly was the unlucky one, singled out as ringleader of the attack in which two of his comrades had died. Pleas for clemency fell on deaf ears. Reputedly one of those who visited Daly before his execution was an Indian leader whose name would become a byword for passive resistance. Mahatma Gandhi voluntarily spent a night in the jail as a token of protest, which greatly annoyed Winston Churchill, the Defence Secretary.

Eye-witness to Daly's execution

Val Delaney was among those who, from their prison cells, witnessed the execution of their comrade Jim Daly, on the morning of 2nd November 1920. Delaney gave a vivid account of it in a newspaper interview shortly after his return to Ireland. Daly, he said, "was taken to the place of execution and looked the brightest and happiest man in the place. He threw the black cap to the ground, but at the request of the priest he put it on. He stripped his chest and exposed his breast, and told the squad to aim there. To the chair on which he was seated were attached two hundred weights. A sergeant wanted to tie him to the chair, but he protested that he would not run away. He looked up in his last moments to the windows of our cells and kissed us good-bye, and we returned the salute. The order was given, the volley rang out, and poor Daly was gone before his God. His last words were: 'Good-bye, mother; we will meet in Heaven. God save Ireland!' The whole chest and back of the chair was completely blown away, and the wall behind was covered with blood, flesh, and shattered bones, and under the chair was a pool of blood."

Fr. Benjamin Baker, the Catholic chaplain who anointed Daly, heard the officer in charge of the execution say that he had witnessed several executions in France but never had he seen a man die so bravely. Afterwards, Private Hawes and six colleagues, including Val Delaney, were allowed to clean Daly's blood from the ground where he died. Delaney recalled: "We gathered up the fragments of flesh, placed them in cigarette boxes, and gave them to the priest, who had them interred in consecrated ground. Some of the chaps dipped paper in his blood and brought it with them as a souvenir".

Jim Daly was the last soldier of the British Army to suffer death in peace or war for a military offence. A week after his execution, more severe disciplinary action was taken against the rest of the prisoners, whom the authorities had decided to send back to England. Frank Kearney, one of Val Delaney's comrades, recalled that "... one morning we were attacked unexpectedly in our cells by an augmented military guard, beaten and handcuffed in our cells. This brought about a hunger strike in which one man died. Delaney took part in the hunger strike and about the fifth day he was removed to hospital".

Death warrant hidden in a scapular

Those mutineers whose death sentences were commuted were ordered to give back their death warrants to the authorities. The day after Daly's execution, soldiers entered Val Delaney's cell and demanded his warrant. He replied that that he had torn

it up and thrown it down the toilet. In fact he had sewn the folded document into the lining of the brown scapular that he always wore around his neck. When one of the soldiers asked what the scapular was, an accompanying officer remarked that it was merely 'a papist superstition'.

On hunger strike in England

On 14th December 1920, Val Delaney was in a group of 14 prisoners who were moved to the port city of Bombay for transshipment to Southampton. They arrived in Portland Convict Prison on 21st January 1921. One of the Irish political prisoners they met there was Robert Barton, later a signatory of the Treaty. After just a few weeks they were shifted to Maidstone, apparently to avoid mixing with the Republican prisoners. Incidentally, Val's first cousin, Joe Dillon, from Rockfield, was a member of the Manchester Active Service Unit of the IRA about this time.

Val Delaney's condition was a source of concern to his colleague, Frank Kearney, when they met in Portland prison at the end of February, 1921, just before Val was formally discharged from the army, 'with ignominy' as the official terminology put it. "He seemed to be affected in his chest and looked considerably deteriorated", Kearney said. Despite his weak condition Val insisted in joining the others in a protest against prison conditions, as a result of which they were sentenced to 15 days bread and water and three months solitary confinement. Kearney recalled: "At the end of that period Delaney was sent to hospital, and was practically a hospital case up to the end of that year".

In Maidstone, Delaney and Kearney joined in a further hunger strike in November, 1921. After a few days they were force-fed 'with salty milk' and not allowed water. On the eleventh day of the strike, the chaplain, Fr. Jennings prevailed on them to desist. "Delaney went back again to hospital", according to Kearney. "I was of the opinion that he was a tubercular case on account of his then condition. When I saw him last, that is January, 1923, I thought he would [only] live a few months he was so completely broken up".

Home to Heroes' Welcome, 1923

In December 1922, William T. Cosgrave, President of Dáil Éireann, had negotiated with the British War Office for the release of the mutineers. This was finally approved on 3rd January 1923 and announced by Cosgrave in the Dáil on the following day. Val Delaney and his fellow mutineers left Maidstone prison on the morning of 4th January and were greeted on arrival at Victoria Station in London by a welcoming party

including Sean McGrath (Secretary, Irish Self-Determination League) and J.R. McDonnell (Legal Representative of Dáil Éireann). They were driven to Euston Station and entertained to tea. Later, as the train steamed out for Holyhead, the men sang 'God save Ireland'.

They arrived home to an Ireland convulsed by Civil War. At Kingstown another welcoming party, including three MPs, greeted them. On arrival by the boat train at Westland Row, they were brought to the Grosvenor hotel for breakfast. Afterwards some of them boarded the train for the west of Ireland. Val Delaney and his comrades, Egan and Buckley, received a heroes' welcome on their arrival in Claremorris and were escorted by torchlight procession from the railway station and entertained at Connaughton's of The Square, Val's old workplace. His former employer had been an assiduous campaigner for Val's release.

he and his fellow mutineers were treated by the new Irish State: "We lost everything and ... we were not recognised by our own Irish Government. I did two years and seven months of cruel torture and imprisonment, and my dear comrades and I suffered more than anyone did during the Tan Terror".

A new life in New York

However, Val did not continue to dwell on the past. By 1925 he had moved to the US where romance soon blossomed and he married a Boston girl, Elizabeth (Betty) Rothwell at Whitestone, Long Island on 19th July of that year. Val worked intermittently as a grocery clerk for Joseph McCaffrey, proprietor of the Star Economy Dairy and Grocery at 784, Amsterdam Ave., New York. However, he was constantly plagued with ill-health, especially bronchial asthma, as a result of the hardship in India and the abuse he suffered in jail, and consequently he was in and out of hospital. He and Betty settled in Fulton Ave. (parish of St. Augustine) in the Bronx before moving to East 140th Street in St. Jerome's parish in the South Bronx. They raised three sons, Vincent (Val), John (Jack) and William (Bill), who are still hale and hearty in the US.

Val's exploits in India were never completely forgotten. In May 1931 his Mayo friends in New York had organised a big fundraising function to help defray his ongoing medical expenses. The event was staged in Duffy's Hall, 114th St. & Third Ave. and generated huge interest according to a newspaper report, which listed some 35 committee members, including many from the Ballyhaunis/Claremorris district.

A prize-winning adventure story

In 1935 Val's story gained widespread publicity after he encountered the famous US reporter and broadcaster, Floyd Gibbons, who wrote a colourful (and quite inaccurate!) account of the Indian mutiny. Gibbons, who had lost an eye while covering the First World War, was no stranger to Ireland, having reported from here in 1919. Earlier, in February 1917, he had survived the sinking of the RMS Laconia which was sunk by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland. His eye-witness account of that dramatic event was flashed around America and was crucial in America's decision to enter the War a month later.

Gibbons was obviously quite taken by Val Delaney and his exploits with the Connaught Rangers because he



Val Delaney's passport for immigration to U.S. from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

Emigration

After the Civil War, employment prospects at home looked bleak so, in April 1924, when he had sufficiently recovered his health, Val Delaney decided to emigrate to Canada to seek farm work there. He booked his passage through Thomas Sweeney, Claremorris and, with £5 in his possession, set off for Quebec, sailing on the Andania from Cobh. He planned to link up with a friend, Frank Tracey, in Montreal. At least three other Began men emigrated to Canada that same year, namely, Matt Cribbin (aged 30), William Comber (25) and Martin Nolan (21).

In a letter to an Irish newspaper in September 1924, Val revealed his disappointment at the manner in which

featured the story again, two years later, in his radio documentary series entitled *Your True Adventures*. Gibbons awarded a substantial monthly prize of \$250 for the best personal stories used in the series and the very first winner was Val Delaney for "his thriller about his adventures ... when he nearly met his death before an English firing squad". This was a significant income boost to the Delaney household in Depression-era America.

Belated acknowledgement

The Indian mutiny had serious economic and health consequences for the men involved. Though many of them were veterans of the First World War, they were now denied a British military pension, having been dishonourably discharged. Meanwhile, soldiers who had seen active service at home since 1916 were eligible for service pensions from June 1923 on. Another decade would go by before the campaign to extend parity of esteem to the mutineers would gain traction. When Val was alerted to this by his brother Jack at home in Logboy, he wrote to his neighbour and fellow Republican, Mícheál Ó Cléirigh TD, to start the ball rolling on his claim. Eventually, under the Connaught Rangers (Pensions) Act, 1936, he was granted a gratuity of £150 which he graciously accepted with the words: "I think it is a great thing to be recognized after all these years". In 1939 he finally gained a paltry disability pension of 18 shillings per week.

Home-coming

In 1969, Val Delaney made an emotional return to his home at Logboy, his first visit in 45 years. Back in the Bronx that Christmas, he received a letter from his old colleague, Frank Kearney, who told him of his recent visit to their 'old university' at Maidstone. He paid this glowing tribute to Val: "I always thought of you as among the bravest, noblest, truest and most patriotic of the Connaught Rangers". Kearney also mentioned the ongoing efforts to repatriate the remains of their comrades who died out in India, a process being hindered by the prevailing troubles in Northern Ireland. However, the following year, after lengthy negotiations, the bodies of Jim Daly, Patrick Smyth and Peter Sears were finally flown home.



Val Delaney (left) being interviewed by Floyd Gibbons, the colourful US reporter, 1930s.



Betty and Val Delaney on a visit to Logboy, 1969.

Val Delaney passed away in the Bronx on 2nd November 1975. He and his fellow participants in the Indian mutiny of 1920 are commemorated by an inscribed monumental sculpture in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

(I am grateful to the Delaney family for their co-operation in researching this article. My thanks also to Paul Waldron for alerting me to Jim Daly's Ballyhaunis connection, and to Joe Keane for pinpointing where the Daly and Moogan families lived.)

Rugby with the Canucks

MICHAEL JORDAN

In 2011 both Rachel and I decided to move to Vancouver with a lot of uncertainty; what were we doing? Why were leaving our jobs and moving to a city where we didn't know anybody and had no connections? Especially because we were two of the lucky ones, we had good jobs in a time where a lot of people our age were leaving the country in search of employment. Were we mad?

I was always going to play rugby wherever we went and knew from playing abroad previously in Boston and Brisbane that the rugby community is fantastic for helping you get set up when you're new to their shorelines. So in the weeks before we left, I decided to research rugby in Vancouver. I discovered that despite Canada not being a rugby stronghold of the world, it was rampant in British Columbia. The main reason is the mild weather on the west coast; unlike all the other provinces where their winters aren't quite as kind so they are restricted to playing rugby in the late spring and summer months.

I ended up contacting four clubs in and around Vancouver, all of which responded to me straight away. Each club offered to help us get set up with work and accommodation. One club even offered to come pick us up from the airport. The reason, quite possibly, was I may have over-sold myself on my rugby CV; but in fairness, I was moving to Canada and I was going to be a superstar: those Canucks knew nothing about rugby, I was the one going to show them and, after all, I was from the rugby stronghold of Connacht. Little did I know!

I decided to join the Vancouver Rowers Rugby Club (the oldest rugby club in Canada, playing in the second tier in B.C.) mainly because they offered to pick us up from the airport, which they didn't! I told myself not to worry as I knew from correspondence with Jeremy Sabell, the coach of the Rowers, that training took place every Tuesday and Thursday in Stanley Park. So I grabbed my gear together on a wet, cold, November night and headed for Brockton Oval to show these Canucks what was what. As soon as I walked into the changing sheds I knew I was not going to be the superstar of Canadian rugby I had envisaged. The first man to greet me was club captain, Duncan James, a Kiwi who had played professionally for Harlequins. I asked him what the club was like and he simply said "We're s**t on the pitch, but we're great on the p**s". I knew I was going to fit in perfectly and all those late night training sessions in Gareth Delaney's would pay off. As soon as we got on the pitch I feared I was in for a whole world



Michael Jordan, right, celebrates the British Colombia Provincial Championship with Grahame Keane, from Cork, at their club house in Stanley Park, Vancouver.

of pain as all the Canadians were massive gym monkeys and the only "GEM" (said in my finest Ballyhaunis accent) I had seen in the previous twelve months belonged to Eugene Carney.

I settled in very quickly to the Rowing Club and met a lot of really great people, who were always willing to go out of their way to make sure both Rach and I were settling in okay and had everything we needed. In my first year at the club we won the B.C. Provincial Championship. We were pretty much unstoppable. Unfortunately, we were unable to take our place in the B.C. Premier Division because, in order to enter the league, your club had to have a maximum of five foreign players in its match day squad. So it was decided by the club that we would stay down in Tier 2 and build a squad capable of competing in the B.C. Premier Division.

The Rowing Club is very much a transient club that has always attracted overseas rugby players with ten to

twenty players coming and going every year. There is an array of different accents - Irish, Welsh, English, South African, Australian, French and Kiwi - on the team. In my second season, among the new group of lads that arrived, fifteen were Irish, which was a huge jump as the previous year there was only three of us playing. Unfortunately, the team was only ever going to field five Internationals so in order to make the team, not only did you have to be in the best fifteen players in the club, you also had to be in the top five Internationals. So long eating what I wanted and 'hello gym', on the days we weren't on the field. After just squeezing into the last playoff spot on the final day of the season, we went on to put 50 points on UBC, the first place team, in the semis and we took victory 27-19 against Abbotsford in the final. B.C. Premier Division here we come.

By the time my third season came around we all had the belief that if we were with a score or two heading into the final 20 minutes no team would keep with us. We were thumped 43-10 by the Ravens in our first game. I came off the pitch a broken man in more ways than one. I had just spent three months of my life giving everything I had in the gym and on the field the only training I missed was when I came home for Adrian Lilly's wedding. It was without doubt the hardest ever defeat I've ever been involved in.

Game 2 was versus Lomas, away. We knew that if we could beat them on their home pitch it would inflict a massive psychological impact on them. With 15 minutes left we scored a penalty to move in front 13-6 and went on to win the game. We kicked on from there, winning two more games that season to secure our place in the B.C. Premier Division for a second year.

The goal for the 2014-2015 season was to make the playoffs. As we maintained our top flight position we were able to generate a lot more sponsorship for the club which helped bring in new strength and conditioning coaches and a new forwards coach - Ben Souness, an All Black 7's player who had just won the Commonwealth gold medal and world 7's series with the All Blacks but had to retire at 29 because of concussions. It was the best thing that ever happened to us, and the worst. He had our strength and condition coach add in some of his AB (All Blacks) gym fitness into our programme which mainly consisted of gruelling rowing machine workouts which never went any longer than 30 minutes. By the time I took to the field in September I was 15stone 10lbs - the strongest and, hands down, fittest I've ever been.

The season started off well. We had six points from our opening three games and were sitting fifth in the league, just one spot of playoffs. Our game against

Castaway Wanderers on Vancouver Island stands out for me. It was a trip we had made over on the ferry many times and really enjoyed as we would always stay on the island and make a mini tour of it. In their squad there were seven Canadian Internationals named to start in their forward pack alone, three more in the backs and another three on the bench. It wasn't pretty; I played number 8 that day against Adam Cleeburger, the Canadian number eight from the 2011 World Cup. He pretty much gave me the biggest physical beating of my life for a full 80 minutes, but he did buy me my first beer after the game which we eventually lost 57-14, our only big defeat of the season.

We finished our season in sixth, two spots of the playoffs. During the season we beat three of the top four teams and established ourselves as a Premier Division club. Also during the season we played against 17 Canadian players that made this year's World Cup squad, nine of which made the starting team against Ireland in Cardiff on September 19th earlier this year.

I firmly believe had it not been for the Vancouver Rowing Club I would not still be in Canada, they have been amazing to both Rachel and I, providing us with great opportunities, great experiences and, most importantly, great friends.

All of this would not have happened for me, had it not been for the dedication of a few guys from Ballyhaunis RFC. Words cannot begin to express my gratitude to all the lads who taught me this wonderful game down on Doctor's Road. Had it not been Ballyhaunis Rugby Club my life would have been a lot different. I wouldn't have had the opportunity to travel to Australia on a rugby scholarship to Queensland University, to Boston to play for the Boston Irish Wolfhounds for a season, or finally to Vancouver; and for that I will always be extremely grateful. If there is one thing I can recommend to any parent reading this, is get your son or daughter into rugby and get them down Doctor's Road and up to Ballyhaunis Rugby Club - it's a club with great facilities and a better bunch of men and women running it. Without knowing it, just like it did for me, it can open up opportunities in the future you could only ever dream about! Michael Jordan - proud member of Ballyhaunis RFC.

Annagh Magazine

If you wish to contribute an article or photograph for consideration in next year's magazine, you can contact Annagh by email at: info@annaghmag.ie, or visit our website www.annaghmag.ie. **Deadline: Friday 14th October 2016.**



Ballyhaunis Rugby Club



Ballyhaunis RFC players in action. *Photograph by Ciara Buckley.*



Left: Cup Final Trophy. Mark and Eamon Curley (President) holding the Hugh Curley Memorial Trophy.

The Abbey Male Choir

EAMONN MURREN

Our choir has now been on the go for 25 years. We had a busy year performing at a number of weddings. We also sang at the annual Carol Service in our spiritual home in the Friary. We sing twice monthly at Sunday Mass in St. Patrick's Parish, Church, Ballyhaunis.

We are greatly indebted to our Musical Director, Moira Delaney, and our Organist, Paula Donnellan, for their time and dedication.

New members always welcome.

Ballyhaunis Foróige Club 2015 Review

FRANK BROWNE

2015 was another successful and indeed extremely busy year for Ballyhaunis Foróige Club. The club undertook a number of varied activities throughout the year.

As a club we have approximately 65 members and 6 leaders. We meet each Friday night in The Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis, and also organise and participate in various activities both on and off site, all of which are done under the auspices of Foróige and in line with their recommended policies and procedures to ensure, as far as possible, our members wellbeing and enjoyment.

Some of the activities and events undertaken this year were a pizza and movie night, attendance at The Hype Festival in Longford, numerous local Foróige Discos, cinema trips and participation in Dónal Walsh #LiveLife fundraising event in Tourmakeady.

The club members also organised two Junior Discos at Halloween and Christmas. Money raised at the events was donated to the Ballyhaunis Senior Citizens Christmas Party Fund.

In October three time all-star and current Mayo Senior Football Captain Keith Higgins visited the club. He spoke about his love of both football and hurling and his local place. He also participated in a question and answer session with club members.



Members of Ballyhaunis Foróige Club presenting a cheque for €500 to Helen Meehan for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party Fund in November 2014.

- Back, L-R: Aoife Conway, Aoife Nolan, Olivia Cleary, Laura O'Connell, Marina Carney, Patrick Caulfield.
- Third Row: Matthew Walsh, David Cunnane, Joe Murphy, Áine Phillips, Siofra Murray, Shauna Lyons, Sheena Roddy, Aibhinn Herr, Helen Gallagher, Conal Caulfield, Keevan Murphy, Neil Carney, Shane McDermott, Dylan Raleigh.
- Second Row: Emma Nolan, Amy Grealley, Deirbhile Finn-Richardson, Derbhla Freeman, Ellen Phillips, Michelle Grogan, Alannah Nolan, Gillian Donnellan, Eimear Murray, Anna Naszkierska, Jack Coyne, Aoife Davis, Tara Coyne, Luke Walsh, Jacob Ubych.
- Front: Rebecca Reynolds, Holly Browne, Rachel Dillon, Aoife Carney, Cormac Phillips, Helen Meehan, Chloe Ryan, Pierce Nestor, Conor Keane, Ethan Keane, Michael Gostkowski, Jack McGoldrick, Kevin McHugh, Martynas Plekaitis.

Ballyhaunis: Egalitarianism and the Spailpínidh, Past and Present

ANTHONY J. JORDAN

In more recent times, Ballyhaunis has built a reputation for being the centre of an egalitarian society with around 40 per cent of the populace non-national. This came about due to the relative ease with which members of the Pakistani community settled in the town, initially arriving in the 1970s, to work in the Halal meat factory. The green onion-shaped dome of their mosque, within a few hundred yards of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, is a familiar sight. There is now a multi-cultural cricket team in the town and the local GAA club is to the forefront of integrating local youth. But Ballyhaunis was always a rather free and easy going place, with very few levels of social strata. This has been put down to the absence of any 'Big House', or Protestant Ascendancy in the locality. We were all mostly Catholic peasants trying to survive.

Ballyhaunis people have for long unfortunately, had a reputation of not being very proud of their Gaelic heritage. When I was researching my latest biography, on Arthur Griffith, I came across a front-page article in the *United Irishman* newspaper of the 20th of October 1900, which recognised that fact and pointed, rather harshly, to possible reasons. It reads: "We learn from Ballyhaunis that an effort is being made there to waken up the town and neighbourhood. An excellent Irish scholar has been procured and an influential committee is being formed to further the good work. The fame which the grand old song, *Máire Bhéal Átha hAmhnais*, has for ages reflected on the town, ought to inspire all the young folk to activity in an effort which is now being made. Irish is still spoken all over the district, and as it is one of the places which supplies an enormous proportion of the *Spailpínidh* who journey yearly to England, the existence of a strong Gaelic spirit in the town would do immense service to the cause. Our yearly visitors to England seldom come back improved by their visit. While they retained their Irish tongue and their native manners, the civilization of the Saxon had little effect on them: but since they have learned to despise their fathers' language and their fathers' ways, and attempted to ape the English, they have degenerated, in the great majority of cases, into mere boors: knowing nothing of the race from which they have sprung, imagining that it is a disgrace to be poor or to dress in anything but the style they see in England, they attempt the airs and accents of the British and render themselves ridiculous. It must be admitted that up to recently no attempt was ever made to show them the slavishment of such conduct. Ballyhaunis, by becoming an active Gaelic centre, has now an opportunity of bringing back its young men to their senses, and by giving them some

insight into the past of their country, showing them the littleness of Saxonism, compared with the pride of working to build up a self-supporting Ireland on Irish lines. Sonas do Bhéal Átha hAmhnais; Go n-eirighidh an obair".

Many years later when Douglas Hyde was President of Ireland, he was being driven through Ballyhaunis. As he drove down Abbey St and onto Bridge St, he noticed a group of teenagers sitting on a wall on the bridge. He instructed his driver to stop. Hyde turned down the window of the car and sought to engage the teenagers in Gaelic. They responded by mimicking and mocking him. He drove on. His secretary, who had also accompanied him, subsequently made a complaint to the local Garda Barracks. The miscreants were identified and warned as to their future conduct.

I myself was confronted with this image of Ballyhaunis later in St. Jarlath's College, when a new Irish teacher inquired as to how many students were from Connemara and how many were from Ballyhaunis. These two places were fixed in his mind, as opposite poles of fluency and interest in the Irish language. I can recall feeling offended at his explanation, though I had to admit; there was some basis to it. An earlier Irish teacher at the college from Coogue, who later became Archbishop, used to refer to boys from Ballyhaunis as the 'Ta se fears'.

The Augustinian Friary 1348-2002

The only particular claim Ballyhaunis had to distinction was the presence of an Augustinian Friary on one of the several hills that make up the town. It survived Penal Times, being founded by MacJordan Duff Costello in 1348. It contains a collection of rare chalices and crosses. The fact of its existence has paradoxically been a source for some division, since the building in 1900, of a new parish church on another hill in the town. People give allegiance to one church or the other. At times the relationship between the two sets of priests was rather poor, with parish priests seeking to insist that every parishioner had an obligation to attend Sunday Mass in their parish church. In more recent times, with the drop off in religious vocations, the Augustinians experienced difficulties in 'manning' their church. The possibility of the friary being closed and the property sold, caused consternation within the locality. This eventually occurred, in part, in 2002, when the Augustinian Order decided to cease their direct association with Ballyhaunis. They offered the church, graveyard, house and lands to the local community, if it could come up with a plan, which would be consonant with the ethos of the

Augustinians. The Order did not visualise selling the property to any commercial concern. A mutually satisfactory solution was arrived at and the Augustinian Friary, finally closed as a regularly functioning church on Sunday 16 June 2002.

The Convent of Mercy

The Convent of Mercy in Ballyhaunis stood on a hill opposite the Abbey. Patrick G. Delaney wrote a poem called, *The Convent Hill*. It read in part:

*Sweet Ballyhaunis of ancient grandeur,
all thy surroundings my memory fill,
And where e'er I wander my heart grows fonder,
of the dear old home by the Convent Hill.
I've roamed in childhood through many a wildwood,
'round "Annagh Lake" and "Hazel Hill",
But my sweetest hours among fields and flowers,
were those I spent on the Convent Hill.*

The convent too has succumbed to changing times, as the numbers of vocations to religious orders has dwindled dramatically. It was sold to commercial interests, which have developed the grounds with a house building programme ensuing. The Convent itself came to house asylum seekers, from eleven countries, including Benin, Cameroon, Kosovo, Nigeria and Serbia. As is the case with many other towns around the country, there was no prior consultation with the local community, by the Reception and Integration Agency established under the aegis of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The beautiful Convent Chapel became a kitchen. However the local Chamber of Commerce did, on receipt of official information, circulate a memo to all residents informing them of the situation. It said that, in 1991 there were 39 applications for asylum, and in 2000 this had risen to 10,938. A policy of dispersal from Dublin became essential. Asylum seekers from over 120 countries were offered voluntary health screening for TB, HIV, Hep B and C and also vaccination and were assessed for medical cards. They were entitled to full board reception accommodation. Each adult received £15 per week personal allowance, each child £7.50 plus child benefit. The memo emphasised that the Agency had no plans for further accommodation centres in Ballyhaunis. The memo also said that it was hoped to establish a support group in Ballyhaunis to help the asylum seekers become involved in the life of the town.

Emigration in the 1940s and 1950s

Four out of every five children born in Ireland between 1931 and 1941 emigrated in the 1950s. The main reason for this was that there was little for them to remain at home for. Society was stagnant. The emigrants wanted a future for themselves and their families. Strange to relate, alongside this massive haemorrhage, lived a prosperous business and professional class, who sometimes decried the action of

their fellow citizens for leaving. The well off expected the poor to be satisfied with their lot. Some, such as James Dillon T.D., from Ballaghaderreen County Mayo, even spoke about restricting emigration to those who could prove that they were going to relatives abroad. Other politicians and officials did not believe that Ireland would ever be able to cater economically for all its citizens. They thought it better that high emigration occurred, so as to preserve the quality of life for those remaining at home.

The new Inter-Party Government set up a Commission on Emigration in 1948, which reported in 1954. It found that 'the fundamental cause of emigration is economic; the search for a higher wage and better living conditions than at home'. Remittances home had positive and negative effects. Sometimes they allowed other members of the family to remain at home, but in other instances they provided the means for others to emigrate. During that first Inter-Party Government of 1948-51, Sean MacBride argued for a move towards industrialisation and the Industrial Development Authority was established and economic planning accepted as essential government policy. In the early 1950s, Ken Whittaker pointed out that even employed people were leaving their jobs, to better their prospects in Britain. Sean Lemass finally convinced the establishment that emigration was indeed caused mainly by economic forces and that Ireland must industrialize and create jobs. It has been calculated that during the 1950's-1960's Irish emigrants sent monies home to the value of 1.6 billion euro. Many of my own family from Knox St. were among those generous contributors.



Thomas Jordan's (Cummer, Tooreen) Canadian passport from 1927; the author's father.

Anthony J. Jordan's latest book is called 'Arthur Griffith with James Joyce & WB Yeats - Liberating Ireland'.

Ballyhaunis Fianna Fáil

The past year has been a busy one for Fianna Fáil in Ballyhaunis and the party continues to grow in strength and numbers. The year began with a fund raising table quiz held in March which saw over 30 teams taking part. The table quiz proved a great way for party members and supporters to meet and raise some funds for the local organisation. The Fianna Fáil Árd Fheis was held in the RDS, Dublin on the 24th and 25th of April 2015, and many members from Ballyhaunis attended. The Árd Fheis saw Leonard Ryan from Knock elected for another term on the Fianna Fáil National Executive as the Mayo Constituency Delegate.

The local organisation, under the Chairmanship of Tom Waldron, continues to meet regularly in all areas of the Michael Waldron Comhairle Ceanntair. This innovation has seen meetings revived in places like Tooreen and Began, areas where meetings hadn't been held for some time. All meetings were well attended during the year. Hot topics for discussion include the closure of local Garda stations and courthouses, the revival of Mayo's rural towns, the future of our small schools and post offices and the need for jobs and infrastructure investment in Mayo. Knock Airport and its future is a constant topic of discussion at meetings. Deputy Dara Calleary TD attends all meetings and, along with local Councillor John Caulfield, is working diligently to ensure that every corner of the Ballyhaunis area is served by Fianna Fáil.

With both the General Election and the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising in 2016, party members in the area will be even busier in the coming months. Dara Calleary and Lisa Chambers will be running for Fianna Fáil in the Mayo Constituency. Canvassing for Deputy

Dara Calleary has already begun in the area and Deputy Calleary continues to hold regular clinics in Ballyhaunis. Dara Calleary and John Caulfield are always available and have proved themselves to be dedicated to helping in all areas of the local community.

Of course at this time of year our minds turn to those who are no longer with us. Fianna Fáil in Ballyhaunis has lost some wonderful members and supporters over the course of the last year. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. As we look to the future we remember those members. They have left behind them a vibrant organisation with great public representatives in Dara Calleary and John Caulfield, and with Leonard Ryan as a voice for the future. The organisation is well primed, well organised and eagerly awaiting the upcoming General Election. To all those who supported our quiz and other activities during the year we express our thanks. Regular meetings will continue during the next year and if any readers would like to join or get involved in the activities you can contact any of the members below.

Ar Aghaidh le Fianna Fáil.



Chairperson: Tom Waldron

Secretary: Lorraine Lowry

Treasurer: Moira Noone

Cllr. John Caulfield: (087) 3134446

Dara Calleary TD: (086) 2238810.



Tom and Bernard Waldron present the Michael Waldron Perpetual Cups to the winning team at the fundraising Table Quiz held in 'Epic', Main St., Ballyhaunis on 20th Feb. 2015.

It was organised by the Michael Waldron Fianna Fáil Comhairle Ceanntair.

L-R: Tom Waldron (Chairman), Tony Waldron, Johnny Cribbin, James Reidy, Moira Noone and Bernard Waldron.

James Waldron, Designer

Interview by AOIFE DENNEDY

I think it's fair to say that the only thing Milan and Mayo have in common is that they both begin with 'M'. Milan is famous for its fashion and glamour, and Mayo ...well, Mayo is not. Milan's Fashion World is miles away from Mayo's in every sense. But the one thing Mayo and Milan have in common is James Waldron. James, originally from Devlis, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, is a successful designer in Milan and has worked with the best in the business such as Giorgio Armani and Roberto Cavalli to name a few. He told *The Look* how he managed to beat the odds and make it in Milan as a successful working designer.

I asked James to tell me how he ended up working with Giorgio Armani.

His specific goal in going to Italy was to end up working with Giorgio Armani, the person James really admired. According to James, Armani has a style, a "design language", a very important word in the fashion field. His identity was a vision that lasts a lifetime. James started working in Italy in 1989, in freelance, to get in at ground level.

James said, "My father worked hard all his life and taught me by example the importance of responsibility and routine every day." Two things that interested James were that Armani was not only a figurehead but he is also a person who works. Many designers give their name to

something but they are not actually the designers! Some cannot even draw. Having mastered Italian, James made contacts and eventually met Armani in person.

James recalled how the interview was a bit of a nightmare - "I sent my CV on a Friday and I was called for interview on Monday. It was a very quick turnaround! I was interviewed by the boss of the office. She liked my work and, half way through the interview, she called in Mr. Armani. He came in, sat down and started to grill me. He was critical of my experience and I explained to him that I came from a small town and to get on the ladder, you sometimes have to make do with what you are offered. I was of the impression that he did

not want to hire me and then suddenly he asked if I could start the next week. Naturally, I said I could! That was in November 1991."

I asked James to tell me about his experiences working with Roberto Cavalli and famous people or celebrities he had worked with.

From 2006 until 2010, James worked with Florence based Roberto Cavalli, which was an amazing experience. "Armani was all about style but Cavalli was all about celebrity, glamour and sexiness. I was a commercial designer, which meant I worked alongside the Cavalli family who did the catwalk shows, and reinterpreted their designs for the commercial collections. I was also responsible for special projects. We designed couture wedding dresses for private clients and special projects for singers etc... so a lot of the time I was doing dresses for people like Leona Lewis, The Spice Girls, Kylie Minogue ..."

Cavalli's company had an annual special project to produce dresses for Red Carpet events such as the Cannes Film Festival, the Venice Film Festival, the Oscars and the collaboration with H&M. James went on to explain that he designed the dress worn by Elisabetta Canalis, then George Clooney's new girlfriend, to the Venice Film Festival, a very important occasion as it was the first time they were seen together in public as a couple, and very important for James and Cavalli as designers.

I asked James, if he could design an outfit for anybody in the world, who it would be and why?

"Victoria Beckham!" He had previously worked with Victoria and The Spice Girls. "While working at Cavalli I was asked to do the costumes for the Spice Girls comeback tour in 2008. As project leader it was challenging. It involved designing 400 costumes for five girls, to be produced in three months. We did the project, and showed it to Victoria in New York. She was such a nice person, somebody I really admire. And of course she designs herself! Coming from singing and deciding to do fashion, people were very sceptical at first. Her celebrity status was like a barrier around her in the sense that it gave her the confidence to do what she wanted to do. She is someone I would really like to dress."



James Waldron



Did you find that college was friendly or competitive?

"There was fierce competition at college. For example, Philip Treacy was in the same year as me and so that is the kind of competition you were up against. Students at that time included Daryl Kerrigan, famous designer in New York in the 90's, Orla Kiely, Karen Brennan, who worked with Prada for a long time, Marie Dermody who worked with Moschino and Murray Scanlon, a very successful designer at Zegna. There was a great bunch of talented people there at that time - which either brought out the best, or the worst, in you. If you were not able to do stuff you wouldn't even survive the first year. But there was also great dialogue between us, and great energy. None of us had any money, especially me! However, we did have ideas."

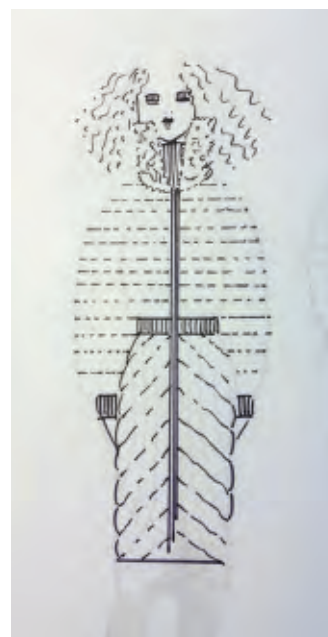
What advice have you for students or what advice would you give to yourself 25 years ago?

"Manage your time and watch your money would be two things I would advise.... and keep your ideas secret until you need to share them! Do your best in college. Focus on what you are going to do with your degree. Be the best at what you can do. Life brings challenges but it also brings experience. So be true to yourself and watch your time and your money. I didn't always do that when I was younger!

Know your strengths and weaknesses; this makes you a better person. Be humble - I have often found that the most successful people I have met have also been the humblest with a simple straightforward view of life. The best talented people never shout out who they are. I worked with Liam Neeson and Tina Turner, both very special people and both made me feel great when I was working with them. The best creative people know they have a talent, which is the reason I like working with creative people, but they are least conscious of it. They are comfortable with their abilities. Simplicity and genius is not a given, however the best are straightforward which makes you feel happy as somebody who is lucky to work with them. So I say it's extremely important to be humble, friendly, professional and a little bit distant (never too personal). That's my recipe. My success in life and my failures have taught me that my life is living in the moment. Enjoy every minute of every day, work on your relationships in your professional and your private life - THAT'S IT...learn and move on!"

Sincere thanks to James Waldron for taking time out of his busy schedule to talk to Aoife Dennedy on behalf of *The Look* magazine.

Images: Some of James Waldron's fashion design sketches



Local Heroes

SEÁN WEBB (DEVILS AND DUBLIN)

When my brother-in-law, Tom Caulfield, sent word that there was a special event in Morton Stadium in Santry on the evening of the 18th of August 2015, to honour Frank Greally, I said to myself I should be there. The reason for the “Gratitude Run” was that it was exactly forty five years since Frank set the Junior 10,000 metres record in a time of 30:17, and the record has yet to be beaten. His achievement is truly remarkable when we recall that his 30:17 was run on a cinder track and without the support of the science and coaching today’s runners have to assist them in achieving their goals.



Frank Greally (left) with Seán Webb in Morton Stadium, Santry.

Blessed with a wonderful sunny evening, Frank’s many friends and colleagues from the world of athletics joined him in a celebration of running which started with a series of paced miles. This format catered for all abilities and served as a vehicle to have multiple family members complete a paced mile with experienced pacers. Then it was time for the main event of the evening where Frank would run for exactly 30:17 and see how many laps of the magnificent track he could compete. The official starter for the race was Olympic gold medallist Ronnie Delaney; and Frank was joined on the starting line by many running legends including John Treacy, Neil Cusack, Catriona McKiernan, Fionnuala Britton and Ron Hill. Having completed one of the paced miles earlier, I was honoured to be asked by Frank to join with his elite colleagues to represent Ballyhaunis where his running career had started.

It would be safe to say that no records were broken

over the 30:17 but the banter was great and, after a few laps, all of the runners in the stands were asked to join us on the track to finish the run. Frank did a special lap with his two Tennessee State University team mates of old, Neil Cusack and Ray McBride. Neil won the Boston marathon in 1974 and the Dublin marathon in 1981 and is the only Irishman to this day to have won the Boston marathon. Ray McBride was a gifted runner, dancer, musician, writer and actor and a great friend of Frank’s. Over a decade ago, cancer came calling for Ray in a cruel way that affected his speech and balance. Frank dedicated this “Gratitude Run” to Ray to raise funds for specialist IT equipment and training to allow him reconnect on the internet with his many friends at home and abroad.

Driving home that evening after the event I reflected on the simple joy of running and how it can bring people together; I also thought about the remarkable journey which Frank Greally had made from Devils all those years ago. When I was a child growing up with my eight brothers and sisters in Devils we, like all the other kids in the street, played every game imaginable; but Frank Greally introduced us to the world of Athletics. Frank, along with Michael Joyce and Michael Curley, established the Ballyhaunis Harriers in a shed at the back of Dr. Joyce’s house in Abbey Street. In this shed we got to tog out with the big guys and run laps around the Friars’ Field. Many trips to running events followed, where we all crammed into Michael Curley’s blue Hillman Hunter or my mother’s Renault Four, and ran around fields, over ditches and vaulted felled trees in such exotic places as Aughagower or Ballinamore. It always seemed to be raining and the emphasis was on the team where everyone mattered.

Scholarship to America

Frank, at this time, was working in the Ballyhaunis Post Office and as he progressed through the running ranks his talent was rewarded with a scholarship to the East Tennessee State University. Funds would have been tight in the early 1970’s in Ireland and Ballyhaunis was no different. I am very proud that my mother Rita helped to organise a function to raise funds for Frank as he made his pioneering trip to the United States. Needless to say, the Ballyhaunis people were very generous. I still have a clear picture in my mind of Frank and his parents waiting for the bus at the top of the hill in Devils to start him on his long journey to Tennessee. Frank came back on summer trips to Ballyhaunis and always brought us out running.

During those distant summers I can remember the

excitement of the five mile run from Ballinlough to Ballyhaunis which was the main event of the Abbey Pattern. Word would come to a packed Friars' field that the runners had left Ballinlough and we would wait in anticipation for the best runners in Connaught to battle it out for the coveted prize. We could hear the loudspeaker on the lead car as it came under the railway bridge with the tension mounting. Then the familiar figure of Frank Greally with that distinctive gait, chest out and head held high, burst between the two pillars at the top of the Friars' Field. We were proud to see one of our own complete his victory lap.

Frank was a hero to us growing up, as were Ted Webb, Tom Fitzgerald, J.J. Cribbin, Eddie Campbell and many more athletes and footballers. When you are young it is great to have role models to look up to, but it is even better when they are generous with their time and supportive to all, regardless of ability. Frank has gone on to a distinguished career in journalism and, through the Irish Runner magazine, has been the voice of Irish athletics for the past thirty years. As a Ballyhaunis man I was delighted to be present on Frank's special night at Morton Stadium, Santry in August 2015 and I wish Frank and his family continued good health and happiness for the future.

Historic Local GAA Match Recalled

TOMMY CAULFIELD

August 26th, 2015 marked the seventieth anniversary of the historic meeting between the veterans of the famed Béal Átha hAmhnais 1925 team and the 1945 team of the day. Ballyhaunis GAA was delighted to mark the occasion by meeting up with two members of the 1945 team, Bert Mulligan of Hazelhill and Paul Meath of Clare Street and Dublin. Both are hale and hearty and were delighted to reminisce about the game that took place in Morley's Field in Cherryfield all those years ago. Bert is looking forward to celebrating his ninetieth birthday in March, and Paul was eagerly awaiting the All-Ireland semi-final between his native county and his adopted county. No prize for guessing which colours Paul was wearing.

Best wishes for continued good health to two of our great players of the past: Bert Mulligan and Paul Meath.



Bert Mulligan (seated) with Tommy Caulfield.



Paul Meath (right) with Tommy Caulfield.

BALLYHAUNIS G.A.A.

CAN IT BE DONE?

VETERANS BOLD CHALLENGE

TO THE JUNIORS

Sunday 26th AUGUST '45

| VETERANS TEAM 1925 | | V. | JUNIORS OF 1945 | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------------|
| George Murray | James O'Dwyer | | Vincent Caulfield | Dom Moran |
| John Henry | Eddie Blesty | | Fon Dolan | Paddy Carney |
| Gerry Dillon (The Square) | Jim Forde | | Arthur Prenty | Tom O'Boyle |
| David Morley | Johnny Byrne | | Willie Coppinger | Patsy Hannon |
| Philip Morley | Mido Cunningham | | Mchl O'Connell | Tom Gavin |
| Michael Curley | Tommy Hannon | | Jack Duffy | Walter Heneghan |
| Edward Fitzgerald | Peter Lynch | | Mchl Caulfield | M J Byrne |
| Patrick Morley | Michael Tarmey | | Noel Waldron | Cyril O'Malley |
| Larry Moran | Pat Kilroy | | Tommy Byrne | Jim Kilduff |
| Pete Hannon | Paddy Waldron (Hawker) | | Cyril Coyne | Paul Meath |
| Tom Greally | Jerry Dillon (Abbey St.) | | Jack Higgins | Bertie Curley |
| Jack Waldron | Eugene Dolan | | Dan Moran | Bert Mulligan |

Match Commences Promptly at 4p.m.

AT MORLEY'S FIELD, CHERRYFIELD

Admission: 1/-

ARE YOU COMING

Poster for the Historic Challenge Match between Ballyhaunis Veterans and Juniors, 1945



Day of Cycling 2015 – members of Annagh Wheelers who took part in the Day of Cycling in memory of Martin Connery on 5th September which raised €700 for the St. Vincent de Paul. L-R: John Concar (Donamon), Eamonn O'Malley, Cormac Cleary, Eamonn Lyons, Mike Morris, Padraic Murphy, Johnny Kelly, Ivan Freeley, David Delaney, Bernie Jennings.



Above: Ballyhaunis Active Retirement members attending the Gala Dinner Dance in the Castlecourt Hotel Westport. L-R: Maura Fitzmaurice, Connie Gildea, Celia Lyons, Angela Cribbin, Josie Garside and Mary Coffey.



Left: The Byrne sisters of Derrymore, March 2014. L-R: Josephine, Margaret, Attracta, Patricia and Della.

Ballyhaunis Fit4Life - “They are Running up Mountains”

MARTIN FITZMAURICE

We are now up and running – literally – for four years. I would now regard our group as a social club as much as a fitness club. We have kept up the same schedule of Tuesday evening at 7pm and Saturday morning at 9am continually right throughout the year, winter and summer. There is no rule to say you must attend each outing and, as a result, people come along when they can. You will find that some only attend on Tuesdays, while others only turn up on Saturdays, and this would be due to other commitments relating to family, work or just life. For me, Tuesdays and Saturdays are Sacred and, outside of something unforeseeable, I want to be there. It goes right back to the start when I decided to make a ‘Life Change’ and have committed to it for my own benefit since we started.

For anyone interested in joining our group, you can be sure you will slot in just fine. Typically, we would have a small number of walkers, followed by a group who would just like to get out for a run twice a week. Finally, there is always something coming up – a 5K, a 10K or something bigger – and there’s always a few that want to do that bit more. Anyone who joins our group is welcome to just turn up and they will be welcomed and encouraged to join one of the groups. After a few weeks you will know where you feel most comfortable and will be able to move up and down depending on your own aspirations. At one stage we were told that a person would not join us because we were ‘running up mountains’. At the time a few people were spotted running up the Friary steps and this was perceived as a very difficult training method. But in general I think we do more talking than running and for many of our members, it is now our main social outing of the week – where we make great friends and improve our general health.

What I would like to see

I always feel there has to be loads of people like me who are sitting back at home with a little tickle in the back of their brain, that they would love to just do a little running. That’s where it started for me and it is now a regular part of my life. There has to be others there with similar thoughts that just need to turn up and give it a try. The other thing I would love is to have time and the commitment to go off and do some training courses, or maybe for some of our group to do the same. I would love to have people who are trained in the sport to give some guidance. But maybe that’s for 2016.

The year 2015

We have had an incredible year in regard to participation in runs that take place all over the country. I think the first big one was the Kilmovee 10K, then the Craughwell 10 mile, Ballina Half Marathon, Achill Half, Clew Bay Half, Athlone Half, Loughlynn Half and many 5K’s and 10 k’s all across the West. I would say everyone has participated in a few of them and many of our members have completed two or more Half Marathons this year. That’s incredible considering we don’t have any training regime, a track or coaches. At the time of writing, we have one member preparing for the Dublin City Marathon, Justin McDonagh. He had a break from the group due to work commitments and just rejoined this summer with a view to preparing for the DCM on October Bank Holiday week-end. Best of luck to him.

Personally speaking, the group has brought a whole new circle of friends into my life. I hate to keep repeating this, but I have not got a cold or flu since I started four years ago and I am definitely fitter than I ever was in my life. It’s no big deal, just a personal commitment to myself to turn up twice a week and get out and have a run and a talk. Guaranteed to clear the head no matter what is bothering you and you feel great afterwards.

Give it a try

So why not make a New Year’s Resolution to give it a go for 2016? Try it out for a few weeks and we will help you to get where you want to go. Have a chat with one of our members, have a look at our facebook page or give me a call any time on (087) 245989. I made the ‘Life Change’ and I have not regretted it... maybe you can too? So, from all our group, have a lovely Christmas, enjoy the turkey and consider running him off for the New Year.

A big ‘thank you’ to all our members who have volunteered to help out running our two events this year and all the stewards involved, the Gardaí, Order of Malta, Rugby Club and sponsors who provided some spot prizes. Thanks also to Anne Cunnane in the Chamber office who has been helping out with admin all through the year.





Left: Ballyhaunis Fit4Life participants in the Kilmovee 10K. Back, L-R: Judith Davitt, Jim Donnelly, Elaine Patterson, Philip McGoldrick, Martin Fitzmaurice, Susan Hoban, Aoife Murphy, Mary Henry and Kathleen Walshe. Front: Karen Clancy, Mary Niland, Eileen Donnellan, Katie Concannon and Siobhán Conlon.
Pic: James Hunt Photography



Above: Justin McDonagh, member of the Ballyhaunis Fit4Life Group, who ran the Dublin Marathon in 4 hours, 25 minutes.



Centre left: Achill Half Marathon. Back, L-R: Ciara Fitzmaurice, Barbara Serafin (Poland), Elaine Patterson, Deirdre Geary, Mary Niland, Liz Walshe, Muirna Walsh. Front: Susan Hoban, Eileen Donnellan, Patricia Waldron, Siobhan Conlon, Karen Clancy and Katie Concannon.



Left: Ballyhaunis Road Race winners, Men. 1st Tadhg McGinty, Swinford AC (centre); 2nd Brendan Hession, Mayo AC (right); 3rd Joseph, Wagacha, Ballyhaunis (left).

Above: Ballyhaunis Road Race winners, Women. 1st Colette Tuohy, Mayo AC (centre); 2nd Kathy Gleeson, Claremorris (left); 3rd Angela O'Connor, Mayo AC (right).



Stations IN THE PARISH OF ANNAGH



Noreen and John Fahy, Holywell, 24th Oct. 2014 (Holywell, Woodpark)

Standing L-R: Mark Godfrey, Seamus Kelly, Declan Doyle, Tommy Lynch, Walter Waldron, Elaine Doyle, Louise Biesty, Vinny Biesty, Alocoque McManus, Ann Lynch, Mary Teresa Brennan, Maura O'Dowd, Sinéad Fahy, Celine Brennan, Mary Sykes, John Fahy, Phyllis Nolan, Jason Fahy, Joey Fahy. Front: Paul Sykes, Mary Waldron, Eileen Lynch, Bridie Morley, Catherine Waldron, Noreen Fahy, Claire Fahy, John Brennan, Joe Glynn, Alta Regan, Hazel Nolan, Ann Kelly, Gabriel Morley.



Bernadette and Liam Lyons, Knockbrack, 25th Oct. 2014 (Knockbrack, Skeaghard, Ballinphuill, Coolloughra)

Back L-R: Nuala Higgins, Sarah Lyons, Grace Lyons, Michelle Lyons, James Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Morgan Lyons. Second row from back: Mick Lyons, John Joe Lyons, Bernadette Lyons, Mary T. Lyons, Kathleen Egan, Ann Murphy, Joan McNamara, Agatha Higgins, Ann Killilea, Martina Lee, Anna Roche, Jimmy Donnelly, Pat Gaffney, Kevin McNamara, Patrick Higgins, John Finnegan. Third row from back: Rita Carron, Gerry Lyons, Róisín Lyons, Eadaoin Lyons, Shauna Lyons, Ciara Lyons, Orla Lyons, Gabrielle Lyons, Fr. Michael Kenny, Vincent Higgins, Tina Kirrane, Jimmy Walsh, Ann Lyons. Seated: Mary Finnegan, Frances Gaffney, Teresa Grogan, Mary Walsh, Ann Mulryan, Eithne Morley, Liam Lyons, Bernadette Lyons, Kathleen Cribbin, Michael Egan, Teresa Leonard, Mary Higgins.



Michael and the late Ann Fitzmaurice, Forthill, 27th Oct. 2014 (Forthill, Mountain, Tavnaghmore)

Standing L-R: Anthony Plunkett, Sheila Broderick, Paul Fitzmaurice, Bernie Fitzmaurice, Angela Dunne, Mary Keane, Patsy Keane, Teresa Keane, Joe Fitzmaurice, Ann Cox, Nora Whelan, Marian Fallon, Mary Fitzmaurice, John Fitzmaurice, Jason Reidy, Pat Duffy, Michael Fitzmaurice, Sharon Broderick, Emma Broderick, Michael Fitzmaurice, Annette Fitzmaurice, Maya Fitzmaurice, Lisa Fitzmaurice. Seated: Stacia Carney, Michael Connor, Mary Connor, Margaret Fitzmaurice, Mary Duffy, Maria Cox, Bridget Mary Higgins, Liam Dunne, Ann Finn, Mary Plunkett, Yvonne Finn with baby Adrian, Peter Finn, Michaela Fitzmaurice. Kneeling: Lisa Carney, Shane Reidy, Dean Reidy, Aron Reidy; Babies in carry cots: John Fitzmaurice, Gareth Finn.



Bridget and Jim McLoughlin, Carrowreagh, 31st Oct. 2014 (Cave, Togher, Carrowreagh)

Standing L-R: Cillian Byrne, Mary McBride, Oliver Cribbin, Nora Kearns, Mary Sykes, Paddy Kearns. Front: Jim McLoughlin, Ben Byrne, Seamus O'Boyle, Clara Byrne, Deirdre Byrne (kneeling), Sinead McLoughlin, Sarah Byrne, Tom Waldron, Thomas Halliwell (kneeling), Kathleen McBride, Bridget McLoughlin, Bernard Waldron, Paul Sykes.



Mary and Tommy Devane, Johnstown, 8th Nov. 2014 (Johnstown, Redford)

Standing L-R: Pat Byrne, Joe Rattigan, Una Jenkins, Dymrna Greally, Lil McGuire, Eileen Gildea, Tom Devane, Seamus McGuire, John Cleary, Laura Flynn, Breda Flynn, Sinéad Lilly, Maureen Lilly, Ann Mangan, Breda Davis. Seated: Mary Devane, Julia Mangan, Nancy Jordan, Eileen Jordan, Mary Elwood, Margaret Byrne, Bob Fahy, Carmel Higgins, Vona Walsh, Helen Byrne, Teresa Healy. Kneeling: Lorna Davis, Aoife Davis.



Frances and Pat Gaffney, Ballinphuill, 28th Feb. 2015 (Knockbrack, Skeaghard, Ballinphuill, Coolloughra)

Standing: John Joe Lyons, John Finnegan, Mary Finnegan, Ann Murphy, Bernie Lyons, Agatha Higgins, Joan McNamara, Gabrielle Lyons, Peter Higgins, Mary Donnelly, Alan Grady, Jimmy Walsh, Ger O'Connor, Kay Higgins, Liam Lyons, Vincent Higgins, Kevin McNamara. Seated: Kathleen Egan, Kathleen Cribbin, Michael Egan, Gerry Lyons, Pat Gaffney, Trish Gaffney, Lorraine O'Connor, Frances Gaffney, Ruth Burke, Teresa Grogan, Teresa Leonard, Mary Higgins, Mary Walsh. Seated on floor: Hugh O'Connor, Brian O'Connor and Vincent Burke.



Margaret Nolan, Clare Court, 25th Mar. 2015 (Clare Court)

Back L-R: Fiona Tarpey, Michael Douglas, Evelyn Douglas, Teresa Leonard, Mary Nolan, Maureen McCambridge, Liz Gough, Gerry Kilbride. Second row from back: Mary Frain, Bridget Daly, Maureen Higgins, Colm Forkan, Mary Forkan, Nuala Forkan, Dave Jordan. Third row from back: Patrick Brady, Julia Horan, Maura O'Dowd. Fourth row from back: John Graves, Ellen Graves, Martin McCarthy, Anne Flanagan, Liz Kilbride. Front: Michael Nolan, Geraldine Connolly, John Connolly, Maureen Nolan, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P.



Maureen and Billy Comer, Killinaugher, 12th Sept. 2015 (Killinaugher, Derrynacong)

Standing L-R: Kevin Diskin, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Carmel Regan, Sean Regan, Bernie Quinn, Paddy Lyons, Mary Lyons, Billy Comer, Joe Diskin, Helen Hoban, Daniela Hudson, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Michael Regan, Malcolm Hudson, John Connolly, Marian Regan, Catherine Morley, Kevin Lyons, Geraldine Connolly, Deirdre Diskin, Ann Marie Hayes. Seated: Patsy Flanagan, Carmel Derbyshire, Kathleen Cribbin, Christina Comer, Marian Lyons, Margaret Johnston, Evelyn Fitzmaurice, Maureen Comer, Judith Regan, Kyle Regan-Hayes.



Mary and John Finnegan, Ballinphuill, 26th Sept. 2015 (Knockbrack, Skeaghard, Ballinphuill, Coolloughra)

Standing L-R: Therese Dillon, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Geraldine Finnegan, Teresa Grogan, John Donegan, Marie Donegan, Bernadette Lyons, John Bailey, John Joe Lyons, Peter Higgins, Grace Lyons, Jimmy Walsh, Margaret Fitzgerald, Gabrielle Lyons, John Hurley, Mary Donnelly, Mary Hurley, Kevin McNamara, Joan McNamara, Agatha Higgins, Vincent Higgins, Mary Walsh, Gerry Lyons, Kay Higgins, Bernadette Gower, Mary T. Waldron, Anne Lyons. Seated: Monica Finnegan, Bridie Bailey, John Finnegan, Mary Finnegan, Ellen Mulkeen, Vera Waldron, Mary Higgins, Kathleen Cribbin, Ann Murphy, Kathleen Egan, Tina Kirrane, Michael Egan.



Mae and Ned Carroll, Drimbane, 28th Mar. 2015 (Drimbane)

Back L-R: Seamus Kelly, Joanne Byrne, Sean Griffin, Mike Griffin, Seamus Cribbin, Padraic Kelly, Johnny McGarry, Mairead Griffin, Gabriel Smyth, Helen Carroll, Mae Carroll, Ned Carroll. Front: Nathan Byrne, Kathleen Kelly, Mary T. Griffin, Ann Kelly, Alisha McGarry, Patsy Greally, Caroline McGarry, Stacey McGarry, Tom Carroll, Margaret Hannon, Angela Cribbin, Dympna Greally, Monica Carroll.



Bridie and Gabriel Morley, Woodpark, 23rd Oct. 2015 (Woodpark, Holywell)

Group 1

Standing, L-R: Kitty Morley, Katelyn Walsh, Louise Biesty, Orla Coffey, Doris Carney, Karen Morley, Jason Morley, Christine Morley, Noel Morley, Clodagh Morley, Aisling Tarpey, Vinny Biesty, Walter Waldron, Chelsea Parker, Dara Sloyan, David Mellett, Kevin Morley, Mark Mellett, Tadhg Morley, Eileen Lynch, Catherine Waldron. Seated, L-R: Lisa Morley, Gabriel Morley, Simon Morley, Megan Morley, Mary Waldron, Alacoque McManus, Una Caulfield, Margaret Tarpey, Bridie Morley, Noreen Caulfield, Martin Brennan, Ann Biesty (partly hidden), Helen Freyne, Julia Walsh, Ita McDonnell, Martin Caulfield, Kathleen Morley, Fionnuala Mellett.

Group 2

Back, L-R: Andy Walsh, Brian O'Neill, Ray Sloyan, Vojtech Klein, George O'Neill, John Fahy, Sean Walsh, Dan Tarpey, Simon Morley, Bernie Sloyan, Edel Kilkenny, Rachel Kilkenny. Front: Niamh O'Neill, Stella O'Neill, Lenka Slachtova, Sinéad O'Neill, Noreen Fahy, Kathleen McNamara, John Joe Walsh, Aisling Walsh.



Jerome, Maura, John, Annette and Mary, Hazel View, 24th Oct. 2015 (Knock Rd.)

Outer circle, L-R: Ella Gill, Cuán Gill, Jerome Murphy, Emer Dooley, Jenny O'Neill, Frances Mulhern, Breda Joyce, Geraldine Ronayne, Teresa Keane, Eileen Culliney, Mary Rattigan, Paddy Rattigan, Isobella, Eileen Jordan, Nana Gomez, John Healy, Ben, David Jordan, Áine Jordan, Liam Keogh, Thomas Keogh, Julia Byrne. Seated, back row: Caitlín Jennings, Moira Paterson. Second row from back: Maureen McMahon, Annette Rattigan, Dara Healy, Sinéad Healy, Faith Wairimu. Fourth row, L-R: Noreen Ruane, Noreen Lyons, Edel Moroney. Kneeling, L-R: Anne Lyons, Lucie Kavanagh, Mary Jordan, Michael Drudy, Maura Mooney (back to camera), Front: Alan Gill, Mark Mahon.



Corine Flatley,
Clare St., 30th October
2015
(Clare St.)

Stairwell, L-R: Brian Cosgrave, John Cleary, Mary Flatley, Mark Flatley, Audrey Flatley, Marie Flatley, Maeve Burke, Majella Flatley, Aoibhín Flatley, Jack Flatley, Ciara Flatley, Aidan Flatley. Standing in front of stairwell, L-R: Mae Cosgrave, Sadie Cameron, Corine Flatley, Mary Frances Cleary, (seated) Ina Freyne, Paula Donnellan, Ger Donnellan, (standing) Sean Freyne, John Flatley. Seated in front, L-R: Pauline Curley, Martha Grogan, Veronica Freyne, Martha Grogan, Bridie Levins, Sinéad Freyne, Gillian Donnellan, Maeve Donnellan, Jonathan Flatley, Maureen Burke, Padraig Flatley, Amy Lyons.



Breda and Dominic Davis, Johnstown, 31st October 2015 (Johnstown, Redford)

Standing, L-R: Tom Devane, Karen Keane, Iain Bright, Sheila Bright, Nathan Bright, Ciaran Meehan, Kate Meehan, Eimear Meehan, John Gilmore, John Joe Cleary, Helen Nicholson, Pat Byrne, Sheila Byrne, Gillian Davis, Paul Meehan, Dominic Davis. Sitting on couch: Vona Walsh, Mary Cleary, Teresa Healy, Carmel Higgins, Margaret Byrne, Nancy Jordan, Eileen Jordan, Tara Ruane, Luke Ruane. Back row, seated, L-R: Eoghan Kelly, Jamie McGuire, Tara McGuire, Conor Reynolds, Anne Marie Reynolds, Margaret Davis, Bridie Davis. Middle row seated, L-R: Sinéad Lilly, Maureen Lilly, Connie Gildea. Front row, L-R: Emma Langan, Mary Devane, Bridie Ruane, Padraig Ruane, Lorna Davis, Lilly Rabbitt, Breda Davis, Megan Bright, Aisling Kane, Aoife Davis, Orlaith Bright.

Photographs courtesy of Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P.

Ballyhaunis Parish Choir

KAY HEALY

Practices have once again commenced after the summer recess. We practice on Monday nights starting at 7pm, in our newly refurbished choir Gallery, in St. Patrick's Church. We need to put in a good practice to achieve the standard we have attained and to learn new material.

The choir sings on the first and third Sundays of every month. Choir members are available to sing at funeral Masses. We also participate in the broadcast Mass on Midwest Radio.

At the time of going to print the choir is preparing for a special Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the contribution of the Sisters of Mercy to the Ballyhaunis parish from 1898-2015. We are indeed very privileged to have Sr. Rosario Waldron as one of our very loyal members.

2015 has been a very rewarding year for the choir. In August we formed part of the Cluster Choir made up of choirs from neighbouring parishes to sing at the Annual

Knock Novena. The preparation entailed many hours of practice, but we were overwhelmed by the lovely receptive congregation in the Basilica in Knock. Sincere thanks to our Musical Director, Moira Delaney, members, musicians and soloist, for their participation in making the occasion a worthwhile experience. Our organist on the day was Mary Burke from the Cloonfad Choir. Thanks to Mary for her attention to detail at all times.

We would love to welcome new members and extend a very special welcome to our lapsed members.

Chairperson: Michael Kelly;

Secretary: Kay Healy;

Joint/Treasurers: Frances Mulhern and Maureen Thornton;

Musical Director: Moira Delaney;

Organist: Ludmelia Burcovski.

Tóstal Forthill, Brackloon

21-23 August 2015 - Cad é Bliain Eile!

MICHAEL SLOYAN AND SEAMUS KENNY

Continuing the spirit engendered by the Community Tourism Diaspora initiative, and the inspiration and encouragement of the people in the district in recent years, this Tóstal event was focussed on the official unveiling of a commemorative stone on the Caldragh in Forthill, and to celebrate the 'American Wake' - a feature of many West of Ireland districts in times past. The festivities were expertly co-ordinated by Michael Sloyan and duly assisted by Kathleen Henry, Seamus Kenny, Mary Finan, Tommy Fitzmaurice, Marion Regan, the Fitzmaurice family of Forthill and the local community.

The weekend festivities commenced on the evening of Friday, 21st August with a presentation by the acclaimed Archaeologist, Professor Seamus Caulfield, at the Ballyhaunis Abbey. Prof. Caulfield is associated with the extensive research relative to the Ceide Fields in North Mayo. The entertaining and informative presentation by Prof. Caulfield titled "Our daily bread", outlined the historical cultivation and processing of cereals in rural West of Ireland acknowledging the extensive work being carried out in his native Belderrig. His ability to relate his life experiences and local lore as a basis to the development and explanation of the use of cereals in ancient times was both intriguing and memorable. Later that evening, an entertaining 'Irish Music Night' took place in Coney Island Bar, Gorthaganny which primarily celebrated the successful launch of the Erritt Lodge Heritage publication.

Forthill Mass

On Saturday, 22nd of August 2015, the Memorial Mass was celebrated on the site of the Caldragh in Forthill, a cemetery for unbaptised and stillborn children in times past. Following commitments of the organising



Fr. Stephen Farragher addressing the congregation at the Forthill Mass.

committee, a commemorative stone was placed on the Caldragh to acknowledge those buried on the site. The afternoon weather was fine and everybody congregated on the picturesque hill. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher, Parish Priest of Annagh, who welcomed everybody for attending. He was ably assisted by Shane Reidy as altar server. The prepared Mass readings were read by Annette and Lisa Fitzmaurice while the Prayers of the Faithful were offered by Alma Broderick, Lisa Fitzmaurice, Richard Burke, Annette Fitzmaurice, Jason Reidy, Noreen Brennan and Dean Reidy. Emma Broderick presented the reading illustrating the significance of the symbolic gifts that were presented by Michael Fitzmaurice, Ellie Dunne, Joe Fitzmaurice, Michaela Fitzmaurice, Maya Fitzmaurice, Martha Dunne, Liam and Angela Dunne. The music during the moving ceremony was provided by the local



Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P., with the congregation at the Memorial Mass celebrated at the Caldragh in Forthill.



The Caldraph commemorative stone in Forthill.



The Brackloon Tóstal group at the Michael Davitt Museum, Straide.

choir and musicians under the able direction of Martin Fitzmaurice. As the ceremony concluded, a moving reflection was read by Yvonne Finn to celebrate this memorable occasion followed by a song especially prepared and sung by Mary Greally. Fr. Farragher duly blessed the commemorative Holy Water prepared for the ceremony and the proceedings were concluded by Richard Waldron on the bagpipes.

After the Mass ceremony, everybody was duly invited to the 'American Wake' which was facilitated by Michael Fitzmaurice and his family of Forthill. This celebration acknowledged the many departing people who left Ireland in times past to seek out new life in America. Like our ancestors, the re-enactment of the 'American Wake' celebrated and acknowledged these parties that were once a feature of West of Ireland communities. Just like in past times, there was music and verse to entertain the attendance in the specially prepared marquee.

Special thanks and acknowledgement is extended to Michael Fitzmaurice and extended family for allowing their home and grounds to be used to facilitate the ceremonial Mass and subsequent celebrations. It is also important to thank the Fitzmaurice family, neighbours and friends who provided drinks and refreshments on the day and all those in the district for assisting this event to mark this special occasion. Like previous Gathering events, we will remember the music, song and recitations by Michael Nolan joined by other musicians such as Paddy Joe Tighe, Billy Lyons, Richard Waldron, Patsy Finan and others. We wish to acknowledge the support of the Gorthaganny Community Development Company in providing seating for the Mass Ceremony and celebrations and to Joe Hosty for his kind assistance in providing a sound system for the day.

Day-Trip

On Sunday 23rd of August, after the moving Caldraph Mass and 'American Wake' festivity in Forthill,



Renowned archaeologist Dr. Seamus Caulfield (second from right) meets some of those who attended his presentation 'Our Daily Bread' in The Friary, as part of the Tóstal Forthill, Brackloon 2015 celebrations.

a memorable day-trip took place to some of Mayo's acclaimed heritage sites. This excursion started with a visit to Hennigan's Heritage Centre situated in the beautiful countryside overlooking Creagaballa Lake in Killasser, between Swinford and Foxford. This heritage site incorporates a vernacular thatched house and an amazing centre with a wide and varied range of exhibits. Tom Hennigan greeted everybody on arrival off the bus. On entering the thatched cottage, everyone sat down to listen to Tom explain how his family lived in a frugal self-sufficient community from the middle of the 19th century until the more recent 1950's.

After refreshments at Hennigan's Heritage centre, the tour continued to the famed Foxford Woollen Mill founded by the Irish Sisters of Charity in 1892. The tour included a one hour self-guiding, multi-media presentation about the operation and challenges faced by the Mill in recent decades. The touring party continued their

visit to the illustrious Mount Falcon Hotel for dinner. It is a Victorian manor near Ballina, on the banks of the river Moy amid a wooded area of hundred acres. The day-trip continued on to the Michael Davitt museum situated in the picturesque and historic village of Straide. The visit included a fifteen minute audio visual presentation of the life of Michael Davitt, viewing the extensive collection of historical artefacts and including a visit to the grave of Michael Davitt in the nearby Abbey.

The day concluded with a visit to Westport to attend the acclaimed 'Legend of Grainne Mhaol' show based on the life of pirate queen Grace O'Malley held at the Westport Town Hall. This fantastic show, full of energy and enthusiasm, was a wonderful and memorable way to finish the day's proceedings. Everyone arrived back in Ballyhaunis at around 1.00am with thoughts and memories that will last forever. This brilliant day would not have been such a success without the effort, work and organizational skills of Marion Regan ably assisted by Mary Finan, Patricia Plunkett and Julia Kelly.

Another memorable weekend with old friendships rekindled and memories shared of times past. 'A time is shared, a memory born, a lasting smile'.



'Emigrants leaving for foreign shores bid farewell'. Judith Davitt, Seamus Kenny and Marion Regan take part in the 'American Wake' pageant.



Photograph taken by Patsy Glynn (Snr.) at Ballyhaunis Railway Station, in the late 1960s. Second and third from left are Ballyhaunis CIE staff Con Fahy and Johnny Murren. The man on the right was a CIE train driver; while the man on the left was a CIE tradesman.



Four generations of Peter Hannon, Abbey Street and Devlis, photographed in the 1960s. Seated is Peter Hannon, Snr., a native of Togher who set up the family business in Abbey St., Ballyhaunis, around 1912. His son, Peter Hannon Jr., is pictured on the left, and grandson Peter Hannon III on the right. The baby is Peter Hannon IV, son of Martin and Máire Hannon.



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Ballyhaunis Community School

A Whole-School Evaluation of Management, Leadership and Learning (WSE-MLL) was undertaken in February 2015 at Ballyhaunis Community School. During the evaluation, the Department of Education and Skills inspection team met with the school's Board of Management, in-school management, and groups of teachers, parents and students. The inspectorate published their report in June 2015 and found "A positive school environment based on the provision of a holistic education, respectful relationships and the affirmation of students and teachers is central to the school's inclusive ethos."

From First Year to Leaving Cert and Transition Year to PLC courses, Ballyhaunis Community School has an enrolment of over 500 students, over 40 teaching staff, as well as dedicated administration and caretaker staff. In the next few pages we hope to bring to the readers of Annagh magazine a flavour of the events and achievements of the student body and their teachers over the past year, culminating in the visit of An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to the school in October to officially turn the sod on a new €7m extension and refurbishment project. This is by no means a comprehensive list, but a short collection of stories.

Artist's Impression of Extension

In December the school received the wonderful news that they were one of 70 school projects sanctioned by



Education Minister Jan O'Sullivan for 2015. It is the first major injection of funding for the school since it opened its doors in 1977. The images certainly look very impressive and everyone at the school is excited for the future. A start date has not been set but contracts are almost complete and a contractor will be announced shortly. A major extension to the front of the existing building will be completed before refurbishment starts.

School Principal David McDonagh said that "Initially there will be minimal impact on the day to day running of the school. The refurbishment will be a little more of an intrusion but there will be temporary accommodation on site and more classrooms will be coming on stream in the new extension." "It will transform the school and the town with state of the art classrooms and a gym. Our facilities will be second to none", he added. The build is expected to take two years.

Getting them to School on Time

School bus driver Tom Waldron retired after 35 years bringing children to school safely and on time. Tom, from Crossard, Tooreen, commenced driving the school bus in June 1980 on the Began/Knock route to Ballyhaunis Community School, which he continued until 1986. At the same time he was also responsible for the Brackloon and Johnstown routes for St. Mary's Primary School and St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy Primary School. From 1986 until 1990 Tom carried pupils to the Community



An artist's impression of what the extension and refurbishment of Ballyhaunis Community School will look like when completed.



School bus driver Tom Waldron (right) being wished well on his retirement by Principal David McDonagh.

School from the Logboy and Cloonfad area; and from 1990 until 2001 on the Cloonfad, Gurteen and Lavallyroe route. From 2001 to 2002 he drove the Granlahan and Ballinlough run. He also drove the children to school who were attending Began NS at this time. From September 2002 until February 2015, he faithfully carried pupils from the Aghamore, Ballinacostello and Coogue areas for the Community School and Aghamore Primary School.

During this time Tom was commended for his time keeping and having the bus arrive at school safely and on time. BCS would like to wish him health and happiness in his retirement and said Tom's "kindness and gentle nature won him the admiration and respect of all his passengers and he will be greatly missed". Tom retired from driving the school bus on Thursday, 5th February.

Scór All Ireland Set Dancers

The set dancing team of Aghamore GAA club won the 2015 All Ireland Scór na nÓg Championships which were held in the City West Hotel Dublin on Sunday, 15th February. The members of the team, who all attend BCS, are Áine Duffy, Eleanor Harrison, Orna Hession, Rachel Lyons, Thomas Doherty, Seán Frayne, James Frayne and David Hession. Liam O'Neill, President of the GAA presented the trophy to Seán Frayne, son of the dancing teacher Gráinne Kelly Frayne.

They had come through the County Finals in Breaffy and then the Provincial Finals held in Claremorris and were up against the other provincial finalists from clubs in Clare, Louth and Tyrone. A large number of supporters travelled up to watch the team perform at the final including three of the dancers' grannies – Tess



Jennings, Mary Duffy and Mrs. Conway. They were the last group to dance in their competition and also the last dancers of the day to perform. The win made up for the disappointment of two years ago in Derry when they came up short in that final.

It is also 25 years since the club last won this competition when it was held in the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin and tutor Gráinne Kelly Frayne was at the helm then also. It was about midnight before the bus with the trophy at the front, made its way back home, where they were greeted to bonfires along the way into the village.

BCS Hurlers Make History

BCS entered a Senior Hurling team in the Connacht Post Primary Senior Hurling 'C' Barry Burke Cup. After several weeks training, the team's first game was against St. Enda's of Galway on the 5th November 2014. Ballyhaunis had a comfortable win on a score line of 4-13 to 2-6.

The second round of the championship saw BCS drawn against New Inn, a secondary school located in the heartland of Galway hurling. BCS came out on top on a score line of 4-12 to 2-10. Tuam Stadium was the venue for the Connacht Semi-final where BCS were pitted against Ballygar Community School. At this stage BCS had exceeded all expectations and continued on their march to the final by winning on a score line of 3-13 to 1-10.

Training then stepped up a gear under the watchful eye of Mr. Wooley, Mr. Griffin and Manager Nicholas Freyne as the team prepared for the Connacht Final. The team was faced by Woodford Community College which is situated on the border of two strong hurling counties, Galway and Clare. This was a really close fought game and either side could have won. However, the teamwork, skill and determination of the lads, was enough to push Ballyhaunis past the winning post. When the final whistle blew Ballyhaunis emerged victorious on a full time score of 1-8 to 0-9.

The team then prepared to contest an All-Ireland Semi-final and were drawn to play Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Their team consisted of hurlers drawn from counties Galway, Roscommon, Limerick, Offaly, Laois, Kilkenny and Tipperary. It was a David vs. Goliath clash as the Mayo team faced a team drawn from the traditional hurling counties of Ireland. The Ballyhaunis lads fought tooth and nail for every ball and if heart and courage could win an All Ireland this team would now be champions. However, Roscrea's ability to take scores was the difference in the end and they were



2015 All Ireland Scór na nÓg Champions. Back, L-R: Seán Frayne, James Frayne, Gráinne Kelly Frayne (Dancing Teacher), David Hession and Thomas Doherty. Front: Eleanor Harrison, Áine Duffy, Orna Hession and Rachel Lyons.

worthy winners on a score line of Roscrea: 0-15, BCS: 2-06.

They have made history by winning the Connacht title on their first time playing in the competition and by becoming the first Mayo school to win a Connacht Hurling title. Seven students moved on this summer, while the remaining fifteen lads on the panel have another excellent chance of success in the 2016 competition.

Connacht Squash Champions

Alannah Dennehy, Gemma Foody and Niamh Foody won the Under 15 Girls Connacht Schools Squash Final which was held in Claremorris during the Easter break on 7th April last. They then qualified for the Squash National Final, which was held on 17th April. The Ladies performed very well and came very close to overall victory. They defeated the Ulster opposition, but narrowly lost out to the eventual winners Leinster, who are All-Ireland Champions. At least they have their Connaught title and will no doubt try to qualify for the final again next year.

Jack Cloney wins National Award

BCS student Jack Cloney picked up an award at the National Final of the Student Enterprise Awards held at Croke Park Conference Centre. These awards were co-ordinated by the Local Enterprise Offices around the country. Jack won the 'Intellectual Property Awareness' Award in the Intermediate category. Jack is from Ballinlough and at the time of the competition was a second year student.

On Wednesday 22nd April, 300 secondary school students representing every county in Ireland gathered in Croke Park where they built their enterprise displays and waited to hear the names of the winners announced. There was a total prize fund of €10,000 distributed.

The competition is hugely important in encouraging young people to pursue entrepreneurship as a career choice. The proof being that 17,000 students from 370 secondary schools took part in this competition, researching and running their own businesses. The Enterprise Offices throughout the country are fostering the job creators of tomorrow by supporting aspiring entrepreneurs of today. Through this hands-on programme students learn very valuable lessons about business.

Jack qualified for the final at the Mayo competition that was held in Kiltimagh on 25th February last, for his product 'Sila-Lights'. The winning entry was designed by Jack because of an awareness he had of the dangers that often occur on farms, in particular when having to transport large objects from one area to another. His Sila-Lights creation helps mitigate some of those

Jack Cloney with Teacher Ms. Bernie Osgood and Peter Hopkins of Moyvalley Resources who co-ordinated the Student Enterprise Awards for Mayo.



dangers. Sila-Light is a light, fixed on a movable bar for trailers when moving large silage bales, the light can be fitted onto the various farm trailers that will make traffic following behind the trailer more alert of the trailer and what it is carrying. The teacher who guided Jack through the competition is Ms. Bernie Osgood. Jack is known to be a very hard working student and the national win is testament to this hard work and dedication over many months.

Another entry to the Mayo heat of the competition was the Geo-Collar, which is a GPS collar that attaches to herd animals and can track the location of the animal using a mobile device such as a smart phone. Higher spec models can also give basic vital statistics to the farmer remotely. Team members included: Alan Glynn, Thomas Coffey, Niall Coffey, Dara Healy and Barry Cribbin. Geo-Collar came second in the intermediate category and won best overall business plan on the day.

BCS Girls Win Connacht

Congratulations to Mrs O'Brien (Manager) and her Junior Girls Gaelic team who lifted the Connacht Ladies Junior Title on 27th April. The girls played superb football all year and thoroughly deserved their win. The final score read Ballyhaunis Community School 2-13, Sancta Maria Louisburg 2-5. The match was played in very blustery and challenging conditions in Ballyhean.

During the competition BCS played Davitt College Castlebar, Achill Island, Coláiste Muire Tourmakeady, St. Clare's of Manorhamilton, St. Brendan's Belmullet and Dunmore Community School. Special thanks go to Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Griffin along with Seán Kenny and Eamonn Philips for all their tireless work throughout the year with this talented bunch of girls.



Some of the students involved in the development of the Imagine Garden with Art Teacher Ms. Antoinette Lennon.

The Imagine Garden

The School Garden project started five years ago as the result of an interested student in a second year CSPE class (Civic, Social and Political Education) who motivated his fellow students to transform an overgrown, ugly courtyard area into a garden full of flowers and colour. This space, through the years, has evolved and developed into what is now known as the 'Seasons' Garden. Each year a different CSPE class take charge and fundraise through bake sales and raffles for the upkeep of the garden. As the seasons change our garden is a focal point for pumpkins and broomsticks, fairy lights and tinsel. The garden also provides a space for art and metal-work projects mainly worked on by Transition Year and LCA students.

Last Year BCS was granted funding from Worldwide Global Schools and Creative Engagement, for workshops where students from different cultures worked together to create a multicultural garden in a second overgrown courtyard also overlooking the assembly area. This garden space was named Imagine. A voluntary group of twenty-nine students representing fourteen different cultures worked with the artist in residence (Tommy Casby) to clear the ground to create a sun shape symbolic of the importance of weather in everybody's life. Interesting discussions took place on the importance of weather for growth and agriculture as well as the obvious frustration at the Irish rain and the appreciation by some students of Ireland's more temperate climate.

In the centre of the garden there is a sculpture incorporating the globe and plaster casts of the students' own hands which symbolise global links and interdependence rather than pointing out differences. This

symbol is very important as the Development Education project for this year is based on the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The success of the Global Goals depends on everyone working together and taking responsibility for the world we live in.

Both gardens have brought vibrancy and interest to our central assembly area and the projects were made possible not only by the hard work of the students and teachers but also by the constant help of the caretakers and other support staff.



Pictured with Paddy Kelly are fellow staff members Justina Lyons and Siobhan Devine.

Paddy Kelly Retires

One of the longest serving members of the BCS staff, Paddy Kelly, retired last August having worked as a member of the caretaking staff at the school since it opened 38 years ago. Previous to that, Paddy worked in the old Vocational School on the Knock road. The three secondary schools in the town amalgamated and in 1977 the Community School opened. He has given well over 40 years of service to the schools of Ballyhaunis. Everyone at Ballyhaunis Community School would like to wish Paddy an enjoyable and relaxing retirement. He was always a dedicated worker and much loved by students and colleagues alike.

Deputy Principal Retires

Deputy Principal Concepta Moran also retired recently. Ms. Moran taught at BCS for a total of twenty-two years. The staff and students of BCS would like to thank her for her years of service and commitment to the school and wish her a long and happy retirement. Ms. Moran was overwhelmed with the kind wishes and the number of cards, gifts and messages which she received

from students and staff and she is looking forward to seeing everyone again when she will visit the school on the completion of their new extension. The new Deputy Principal is Ms. Majella Morrison.



Deputy Principal Ms. Concepta Moran is pictured with Student Council representatives Claudia Glavey and Padraic Duffy who made a presentation to mark her retirement.



Cathal Hosty receiving his Junior Cert Results from Principal Mr. McDonagh.

Talented Youth

Congratulations to student Cathal Hosty who achieved a remarkable 10 Higher level A's and 1 Higher level B grade in his recent Junior Certificate exams. These results placed Cathal amongst the highest achievers in the country. Cathal was also accepted into the prestigious Centre for Talented Youth Irish Summer Programme at Dublin City University. Students admitted to this programme for talented youth are among the top five percent of the population with exceptional academic ability. Cathal was able to participate in a wide range of third level courses at DCU during the summer months. He was joined by fellow BCS students Rachel Lyons and Roisín Cassidy.

An Taoiseach Visits BCS

There was great excitement on Monday, 16th October as An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. paid a visit to the school. He had two official functions to perform on the day, including officiating at the sod turning of the much anticipated €7m school refurbishment and extension to the school. He was also there to cut the ribbon on the aforementioned 'Development Education' Imagine Garden. An Taoiseach also got the opportunity to experience the wonderful and unique diversity which exists in the school during the annual Multicultural Day.



Above: An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. officiating at the sod turning ceremony for the €7m refurbishment and extension which starts shortly. Pictured (L-R) Cllr. John Cribbin, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D., Principal David McDonagh, John O'Mahony, T.D., with BCS students and teachers.

Photo by Sinéad Freyne

Students from 28 different nationalities are present in the school and they showcased a carnival of colour, cultures, music, food, sport and traditions for the Taoiseach and assembled visitors to see. Mr. Kenny also got the opportunity to meet these students and peruse the various displays.

It was wonderful to see the school looking so well and inviting. It was plain to see the pride the students and staff had for their school during An Taoiseach's almost two hour visit. Great credit is due to everyone at the school, who worked very hard to make the day a resounding success. Principal David McDonagh in his speech to the assembled audience said he was "immensely proud" of the school and the behaviour of the students during the Taoiseach's visit.

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

GERARD McLoughlin, SECRETARY

As the light begins to fade on another calendar year, 2015 has been, yet again, an enjoyable year regarding all things Bridge. The Club enjoyed a healthy membership of over fifty members, playing/competing with each other weekly on Wednesday and Thursday nights in the Clare Court Centre.

Again this year the Club is as ever deeply grateful to all of our sponsors, whose kind and generous support is greatly appreciated, and they are: Nestor & Co. Accountants, Dom Murphy & Sons Autosales, Finn's Footwear, A.I.B and Ballyhaunis Credit Union.

During the year a beautiful wooden plaque listing all Presidents, dating back to 1962 was unveiled and is hanging in the entrance hall of the Clare Court Centre. The plaque has been kindly sponsored by Donnellan's Joinery, Clare Street.

The 2014/2015 season concluded with the President's Prize. This year saw the dynamic duo Dorothy Durkan and Mary Walshe emerge as worthy winners. Ann Nestor presented her beautiful President's Prize on May 15th.

The AGM took place on Monday, May 18th and the officers for 2015/2016 are as follows:

President - Dorothy Durkan; Vice President - Rita Lundon; Secretary - Gerard McLoughlin; Treasurer - Kieran Jenkinson.

Bridge for the current season resumed on September 16th, when we welcomed new and existing members.

The winners of the President's prize, Kay Lyons and Marina Coyne, sponsored the first competition of the season.

Sadly, 2015 saw the Club lose a loyal member in Peggy Cruise (R.I.P.), who passed away in early February. To all our members who have sadly lost loved ones during 2015, we extend to you our heartfelt sympathy.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing you and yours a very Happy Christmas and may 2016 bring all of you health, happiness and prosperity. To all you Bridge players, happy Bridge playing in 2016.



Ann Nestor presenting her President's Prize to the winners Dorothy Durkan and Mary Walshe.



The plaque honouring the past Presidents of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club (1962 - 2015), sponsored by Donnellan's Joinery, Clare Street.

From Ballyhaunis to Ballybreen

MURT HUNT

I first discovered Ballybreen, a lovely little village in the midst of the Burren on the road from Kilfenora to Ennistymon, a good few years ago, and I also discovered 'Heaven' the same day. My good friend Jeanette introduced me to her two uncles who were living in a house so very high up on the top of a mountain in County Clare. The car had to travel in first gear all the way up the corkscrew boreen that seemed to go on forever and led to the summit. How did people ever manage to bring cart loads of turf and hay up this steep incline I wondered?

Martin Mac was the boss and he ran the farm, assisted by his brother Paddy whose job it was to do the odd jobs around the place, but especially to keep firewood stacked up for the cold, winter nights. Paddy could be seen daily with his beloved bow saw, and all he ever wanted, when asked, was a new blade for same. Everywhere Paddy went he was followed by his two faithful dogs. Neither brother was married and their sister Chrissie (a spinster) was the housekeeper and her chores included cooking for 'the boys' as she called them, even though they all had reached an advanced age. She was a terrific cook and 'the boys' were never hungry, as Chrissie collected green cabbage from the garden and home grown potatoes to put with their own home cured bacon for a dinner fit for a king. She would produce apple and rhubarb tart with custard for the odd treat, especially on a Sunday. Her brown bread was famous in the area and any neighbour calling for a visit never left the house hungry. Many neighbours would call, especially on a Sunday. All the local news would be discussed, tea and tart and rice pudding would be served, especially to Margaret's recipe when she was present, and Mac's was always famous as the rambling house of the area.

On entering the farmyard on my first visit I was greeted by oh so many different birds singing their hearts out in the trees around the place, and the crowing of a giant rooster who had about 15 hens in his care. Chrissie would collect the fresh eggs in her bib each day, and the family killed their own fowl for a Sunday treat, but their staple diet was cabbage and bacon. They were self sufficient, and there were also

ducks, and geese kept for Christmas. The biggest project they had was rearing their own pigs and killing them when mature. This was always done in months with an 'R' in them.

Home cured bacon

I happened to be there on a visit when the last two pigs were killed. This was because Martin and Paddy had reached an advanced age and so no more pigs were to be reared. I was enthralled to see the traditional country way of killing and curing the pig. After the pig was hung up and killed, the blood was caught in buckets to be used later in black pudding making. The pig was then shaved to remove all the hairs. Further on the meat was cut up and most of it put in barrels with layers of salt. Fitches of bacon were hung from the ceiling in the house to age and be smoked.

The pigs heads were utilised, with some of the meat (the jowl) pressed with beef to make brawn, a delicacy in those parts. Black puddings were made with Margaret's own recipe, involving oatmeal and spices. Jeanette and her mum Margaret (who also is an exceptional cook) were always there for the supervising of the killing of pigs and to help with the work that goes with it, including serving refreshments. Margaret made sure that sausages were also made and all the neighbours were looked after and rewarded with black puddings, sausages, and fillet steaks delivered to their doors. Of course the neighbours returned the compliment when they killed their own pigs.

One of my jobs was to collect casings from our very own IMAN Casing factory in Ballyhaunis for making sausages and puddings, as the traditional use of casings from your own pigs was banned in the latter years.

Whilst Paddy Mac was quiet, reserved and shy, Martin Mac was known as the Professor in his own area. This was on account of the vast knowledge he had amassed from reading the papers. He did not read the news, he swallowed it; he could relate a story he had read months later if he was asked. His favourite was the Clare Champion, and nobody was to talk when the Clare local radio news was on, or Clare was playing in hurling or football.



Murt Hunt with pigs' heads

Their annual day off was Garland Sunday (our Reek Sunday) in Lahinch when they would walk the beach and bathe their feet, and join in the carnival atmosphere with ice cream and periwinkles and dillisk.

I got to know all of the five Mac brothers including Jack, Paul, Danny and sisters, Chrissie, May, and Margaret; but I never met Dilly who had died some years previously in the U.S.A. Danny, who was the eldest, had to assume head of the household when their father died at a young age, leaving their mother with five boys and four girls to rear in hard times. Whilst the rest of the family eventually went their own ways, Danny settled in Dublin and worked as a builder. He came home every St. Patrick's Day and stayed for the summer to help with turf and hay, and to do building work around the farm.

All the brothers and two of the sisters are unfortunately now deceased, and Mac's farm is owned and run by a nephew, John, at the moment. The good news is that a grandnephew (another Paul) is to build a new house and settle there in years to come, so a new chapter will be written in the story of the Mac's of Ballybreen.

When an old man dies a library is lost: this definitely applied to Martin Mac, who certainly was a mine of information. I will leave the final words to the late Martin Mac, as he often said, when people are passing this way in years to come and look up the hill at Ballybreen to where the Mac residence stood they will say "Good people lived up there". I can certainly vouch for that as I have certainly met saints in Ballybreen, and as the song says "It's the nearest to Heaven I have seen."

Ballyhaunis Town

by Tom Waldron, Crossard

Come listen a while good people all, a song I'll sing to you,
About a town I love so well, the song I'll sing is true,
Of Ballyhaunis in olden days, those lines I have written down,
For I'll never forget some people I knew, around Ballyhaunis town.

The very first time I went to that town, a sight I did behold,
A building high upon a hill, It's the Convent I was told.
The Friary on the other hill, with steps winding down,
To the River Clare that's flowing there, through Ballyhaunis town.

Then down Knox Street you would be sure to meet, your friends and neighbours grand,
Around The Square they would be standing there, with produce from the land,
The old Fair Green where oft I have been, a place of great renown,
For I stood there, at many an old fair, in Ballyhaunis town.

Then up Main Street to the Parish Church, I sometimes went to pray,
The Parochial Hall so fine and tall, it stands across the way,
The old Race Course in Tooraree, in history will go down,
For countrywide fame and the crowds that came to Ballyhaunis town.

The Central Hotel I remember it well, for outside I often got paid,
For stock that I sold in the rain and cold, at many an old market and fair,
McGarry's Hall well known to all, a place of high renown,
Where people did meet upon Clare Street, in old Ballyhaunis town.

For people who travel away from home, in another land to stay,
It's nice to come back to the old home sod, for to spend the old holiday,
But maybe someday they might change their minds, and again settle down,
In the place we all love, beneath the stars above, it's old Ballyhaunis town.

My Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Days

ROBERT KELLY

After the disappointment of Mayo going out of the 2014 Championship I must say I was proud of the team as I thought they had played well both in the first drawn match and the second match. What disappointed me most were the way Mayo eyes were wiped and the three card trick that was played on them; having to play next door to Kerry's back yard and then having a weak referee who, at the time of writing, has yet to take charge of a match in the 2015 Championship. You would think I'd be old and wise enough to expect it but it never fails to grab me each time. This always seems to happen to the Mayo backroom staff going back years. They always remind me of a snooker player who looks to play the next ball in front of him, while his far cannier opponent is planning the next three or four moves ahead.

Then I read an article by the Claremorris man, Jimmy Duggan, who said as a young player he was waiting for word to play for Mayo. That call never came and cute Galway snapped him up. Before lining out for the Tribesmen, he recalled playing college football and the mighty tussles he had with Dermot Earley and they used to joke about how they could soon be lining up together in Mayo's midfield. What a great midfield pair to let slip through our hands. With the likes of John Morley, Ray Prendergast and John Carey in defence, these two generals in centre field and a forward line boasting the talents of Joe Langan, Joe Corcoran and Willie McGee, well surely at least one Sam would have come back to Mayo during their playing days. Then also, when I think of Mayo man John O'Mahoney, again with Galway, picking up two All Irelands, well talk about Lions led by Donkeys.

Then my disappointment lifted when Ballyhaunis became County Champions in both hurling and football. It wasn't a big surprise in hurling but the football title was a lovely bonus and it was a wonderful feeling to see my nephew, Fergal Kelly, win the title in the twilight of his playing career; the same title his father and I won in 1967. It is a great achievement for Ballyhaunis when you think of the pick that we have. When you go out the Ballinlough Road you're into Roscommon, out the Galway Road and you're in Galway and Roscommon again, whilst Aghamore and Claremorris have us boxed in by the other two roads. The only other outlet was Began but they formed their own club, Eastern Gaels, so that left only the players from the town.

When I sat down and enjoyed the proud achievement of the double, my mind wondered back in time to when I first became aware of football in Ballyhaunis. I was four years of age and I was walked from our house on Knock Road to Cherryfield by an older sister, who I now know



Action near the Ballyhaunis goal as Achill forwards try to break through. Photo: Liam Lyons.

Robert Kelly is number 3.

had a romantic reason for going there. I remember being afraid when a quarrel broke out in front of us on the pitch and then complaining about how tired I was from the long walk. My next memory is of Prenty's field and this time the short walk to it from our house on Knock Road. Ned Prenty was a good friend of my parents and as children we would call into Ned's house, now Rochford's Garage. Ned would bring us down his garden and let us through his side gate that led onto the side of the pitch. We had our very own entrance and weren't we grand, no tradesman entrance for us. Next for us was the new Town Park on Clare Road. We had watched from the Hazel Hill Road as the bulldozers worked on the site, moving the earth and shaping the park that would become home to our training sessions and our home matches. On summers' evenings the sound of the passing 10.20pm train would signal the end of our training and we'd make our way to the end of the park to where the stream flowed. On our bellies we'd slate our thirst without a thought of e-Coli, mad cow or even daft horse disease back then.

Opposite our own house we had the use of Morley's field, a lovely flat section where Dr. Noone's surgery is now. Brody Morley owned the field and he took an interest encouraging us and advising us on the right way to play and how to kick the ball in front of your team mates so they can run onto the ball in their stride. His brother Willie had nothing to do with the field but he took the opposite view and would chase us out whenever the whim came upon him, funny now but not then.

My first match was in the Town Park in a Juvenile match and my last match was many years later in Parnell Park in Dublin as captain of the Ireland team; a tale I'll save for later. In that first Juvenile match I heeded Brody's advice and placed a ball in front of Hugh Curley as I had practiced. Hugh came back to me complaining, he preferred the ball into his arms. I was deflated but it taught me early on that it's different strokes for different folks. In Prenty's field we had trials for the Ballyhaunis Minor Team which was a treat for me as I had happy memories of watching Ballyhaunis winning the Mayo Minor Title in that field. Why the trials were held in Prenty's field is a mystery to me as the Town Park was in operation at the time. I also saw my first hurling match there with a man by the name of Curtin gracing the team. He was from a hurling background and he used to take up small stones hitting them with great accuracy with his hurl, I thought he was a magician.

Now I must preface the following recollections as just that, personal recollections and they are just my opinions and what I remember happened, of course others may have differing memories and sure isn't that what makes life wonderful and unique.

Big Match Preparations

My next memory was of a Minor team where I played alongside my older brother John. We reached a Minor East Mayo Final in Bruff against Kiltimagh. The Kelly boys didn't have the best preparation on the morning of that match. As brothers can sometimes do, myself and John had a rip roaring row and I sprinted out of the house chased by John up the Knock Road. I had gained a small head start, passing Prenty's field at a fair gallop just managing to keep that small distance between us. The statue at Gurteen Cross was coming into view and the stitch in my side was killing me. I was fit to stop when I saw John was the same, leaning against the fence catching his breath. I did the same but I was on my toes in case we started again. John turned back for home and I followed suit always mindful to keep that safe margin between us. For the rest of the day we kept out of each other's way and walked in silence to the Square and then grabbed a lift onto Bruff. I played in the half back line and usually I would seek out John when I had the ball, but this day I was determined that I'd shun him, very

hard to win matches with that attitude. I needn't have worried. Kiltimagh had a great team starring John Morley and Mixie Clarke. I was marking Patrick Costello whom I'm told is now P.P. in Foxford. We had a right old battle and it was nip and tuck between us but to be fair he got more nips than I got tucks. So passing to John went out the window. The best players on our team were Anthony Jordan, John and Bertie Dillon. Bertie had gone to Dublin on the lorry that day and didn't make it back in time so he missed the match and also the delight of slipping in the souvenirs the cows had left for us, a protest of us taking over their field maybe.

A funny instance from the match concerned Tom Barry from Clare Street who was in goal because we were short a man. Now Tom was an hour or two over age and he was a knacky street player and I never recall him playing a real match. This ball went hopping towards him in the goal and Tom caught it with the tips of his fingers and proceeded to bounce it like a basketball, casually not knowing that John Morley was steamrolling towards to him, fire pouring out of each nostril. Tom sensed danger just in time and managed to get rid of the ball by a hare's breath, for the rest of the match he forgot all about street football. We were no match for Kiltimagh and they won easily.

In 1961 we won the East Mayo Minor Final but got beaten in the County Semi Final. The following year, in 1962, we went one step better and reached the Minor County Final where we were beaten by Belmullet; but we now know that it was more likely we played North Mayo as they had players from Belmullet to Ballycastle on that team. In 1963 I went to Dublin to work and I started playing with the Civil Service Club. It was a grey area because I was still playing with Ballyhaunis. There were hundreds of players all over Ireland doing the same thing, playing for a Dublin club and also their home club.

I recall playing Ballyvary in a Junior East Mayo Final on a real stormy day. We had built up a big lead by half time but in the second half Ballyvary had pegged us back to within a point. Their main man, Vitch McCoomums, kicked over what looked like the equalising score; and while our goalie Brendan Grogan looked at the ball sailing over his crossbar their corner forward buried him into the net. It could have stood on another day but the referee gave the free out and we squeezed out with the win only to be beaten in the County Semi Final.

In 1965 history repeated itself as we again got to the County Final but this time against Hollymount who, you guessed it, beat us. Doc Healey and myself had shared a car with some the Hollymount team from Dublin and back again, we were much quieter on the journey back, if not even mute.

In 1966 we got to the County Final against

Burrishoole. There was little between the sides until mid way through the second half when Burrishoole bought on this young, tall substitute with ginger hair. He started to play puck and we couldn't get near him to introduce ourselves, as he was fresh and we were tired, we consoled ourselves. He got a few points and that was it, we were beaten again. Of course this player turned out to be one of the best forwards Mayo has ever produced, Willie McGee.

County Title

In 1967 we were in the Final again, this time against Ballintubber. For some reason I really thought that this was going to be our year. I ended up marking Murt Prendergast, older brother of Ray, who was a county player and Ballintubber's main man. Murt was strong, quick over 20 yards and had a bullet of a shot. I thought I played well against him and with fifteen minutes to go he drifted out to the 40 with me in tow. We were leading at that stage and in control and word from the touchline was for me to leave him be and go back to my position. Keep our shape, keep our shape was the message. I came back and was doing nothing there, but my shape was lovely. I could see Murt getting a ball, laying it off, kicking a lovely point for himself and Ballintubber rallying. Meanwhile my shape had not altered. Suddenly Murt got a one two and only had Al Madden in front of him. Al made a great save, saved my skin and saved Ballyhaunis' skin. After that I forgot all about my shape because if a goal had gone in whilst I was doing nothing in the corner, well, that doesn't win you county finals. From then until the end of the match if I got any closer to Murt, in all decency, we would have had to get married. It was a wonderful feeling to win the County Title after so many near misses and failures.

In 1968 we were moved up to Senior and we met Ballina in the Semi Final. I was picked to play full forward on Willie Casey, a top player for Ballina and also for Mayo just a few years previously. Tom Fitzgerald, an important player for Ballyhaunis and soon to be for Mayo as well, was picked as corner forward. The plan was when the match started he would move into midfield taking his marker with him whilst I would drift into the vacated corner bringing Willie Casey with me, leaving a clear run in front of the Ballina goal. It was a clever plan but unfortunately Willie wouldn't co operate and stayed put. So there I was all alone in the corner whilst the Ballyhaunis midfield were kicking accurate balls into the full forward position that Willie gobbled up. I could've knitted a scarf out in the corner whilst Willie was running, sometimes walking out collecting easy balls and spraying passes at his leisure. I could hear calls of who is marking Casey and my name being mentioned and cries of what was I doing out there.

Meanwhile from the sidelines, the instructions were to stay where I was and keep to the plan, give it time, it will work.

Then I heard the words uttered "He's afraid of Casey". Afraid, Afraid! Me? Me, who had survived the Ballyhaunis National School System and its teachers! Well now that I was a man, there was nothing that would make me afraid ever again so I ignored the plan and went onto Casey and, if I do say so myself, I had the better of him for the rest of the match. So I should have because I was twenty four years of age, in my prime and mad for road while Willie was in his thirties. We pegged Ballina back and ended up drawing the match. It always stuck with me that, in the first fifteen minutes, if we had abandoned the plan that clearly wasn't working and not allowed Ballina the unchallenged three or four points we would have won that game. Well we will never know. I played the replay at centre half forward and in truth I didn't have a good game. Ballina had done their homework on us and won the match with ease. That really was the end of my playing days with Ballyhaunis. I was now working full time in Dublin in a job that consisted of night shifts and weekend work and it became impossible to keep all those balls juggling in the air. At this point I would like to pay tribute to Johnny Biesty who was the leader of the team, he got us playing as a unit and all pulling together in one direction and he was also a smashing player himself.

The Modern Game

Of course the game has changed utterly from when I played from the professionalism in all but name to the styles and systems of play. Some things are in fashion now such as widespread hand passing, and in some matches you're left wondering how many times the ball was kicked. You never see a back burst his way out from the defence and drive the ball long to the full forward now and even a drop kick is a rare sight now; Thomas Lyons of Clare Street was particularly good at it. Now it's back and forth, hanging onto possession patiently and slowly waiting for a slight misstep from your opponent before passing the ball forward, even passing back to the goalkeeper. Years ago if you did that, the hook would come out and you'd be warming the bench with your backside.

Speaking of goalies, their role in the team has evolved in the modern game. Not giving away any national secrets here but back then the goalkeeper's duty was to stop goals, although some people would also like them to stop points as well. His other duty back then was to place the ball for whoever was taking the kick outs, Stephen Cluxton was some time away yet. The outfield player would have come back maybe thirty feet to take the kick so he wanted everything in place for him. When

he was about ten feet from the ball he would give a buck leap in the air, legs still a moving in the air, three foot was a good height, land six feet from the ball and give the ball the almightiest root with the top of his toe, looking to get it further than his previous kick. If he kicked it shorter he'd turn his ire on the goalie and blame him for putting it in a hollow, "I told you on a daisy, on a daisy." If you gave a short kick out you'd have to leave town in the middle of the night, taking your family with you. The short kick out was forty years away.

I will give you another two changes that are absent from the modern game and I do this tongue in cheek – the first aid men and the runners-in. The first aid back then left an awful lot to be desired. Whether you got a sore finger, a bang on the leg or a blow to the most delicate part of your body, the treatment was always the same, two men would run with gusto from the sidelines onto the pitch. When they got to you, they'd line up on either side of you, place one hand on your back, the other on your front and proceed to fold you three times like you were a rusty hinge. In out, in out, in out you'd be pulled, then asked if you were now alright and you'd breathlessly answer yes, anything to get them away from you. The more senior of the two would then look into your face, slap you on the back and say "ah sure you're grand now." If Leo Varadkar could find these men, he'd shorten the hospital queues in no time.

Runners-in

The runners-in were also an entertaining addition to the game, every team seemed to have one. If something on the pitch displeased them, be it a bad tackle or a son who didn't get a free, he'd be at the ready, sprinting onto the field fist clenched although they were cute enough and always missed their target; if they connected it'd have been assault. Now these men were never alone, they always had a minder in tow. When the runner-in made his grand entrance the minder would not be far behind, his job would be to appease and cool his temper and escort the runner-in back to the sidelines. God help the minder who lost his quarry, he'd get some amount of abuse for letting him escape his clutches whilst the runner in himself would get off scot free.

Later on I worked with a man whose father was a notorious runner-in, which embarrassed this man and his two brothers, also on the team, no end. It was one match on a miserable showery dishcloth of a day when something displeased his father and as was his wont, he ran from the sidelines, fist clenched, raised above his head. He bolted onto the pitch in his Sunday best and slippery Sunday shoes when his two legs flew up in the air and sent him crashing on his back, slap bang in a puddle. He was wet from the back of his head down to his heels. His minder caught up with him and pulled him

up, linking him by his sides with everyone laughing in the ground, including his three sons. Well, that cured him from his running escapades, well, in the wet anyway. Come a heat wave when you had an auntie cycle with a phone, he'd be twitching like a greyhound in the traps with his minder on full alert. Incidentally his grandson was captain of the Dublin senior team for a few years, go figure!

I almost forgot about the honour of captaining the Irish team. Well I was gilding the lily a little there. I was captain of the Ireland Fire Brigade Team in 1981 when we played the might of the Dublin Fire Brigade in Parnell Park. Our team had comprised of fine players throughout Ireland from Cork, Limerick, Galway and Belfast. Dublin Fire Brigade had some team including the likes of Gerry Hargan, Charlie Redmond, Paul Clarke and Dave Foran, all of whom played for the Dublin Senior Team. I was marking Dave Foran and just as the ref was about to blow for full time I went up for a ball that Dave didn't contest and I went tumbling over him landing heavily on my shoulder. I went to hospital for treatment and had dislocated the shoulder. We had won the match and I received Man of the Match but that was it for me, I never played again but sure wasn't it time to stop, I was 37.

Now that was a whimsical look at the way the game has changed since my playing days, whether the game has improved, well I suppose everybody has a different view.

Dr. Michael F. Waldron's Scrapbook now online



The main scrapbook of the Ballyhaunis Historian, Dr. Michael F. Waldron (1877-1954), is now available online through the good offices of Mayo County Library.

The papers form a prodigious record of Ballyhaunis history and archaeology, and contain up to one thousand of his prolific writings which were published in various newspapers. An Index and search facility is also included.

Dr Michael also contributed some volumes of various collections of his writings to the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. Google 'Mayo County Library Local Studies'. Requires Acrobat Reader.

www.mayolibrary.ie/en/localstudies/drmmichaelwaldronpapers/



Minister of State for Tourism and Sport Michael Ring tests his cricket skills at the launch in The Friary of a €2m plus national investment package to establish community sport and physical activity hubs across the country. Watching on is Mayo Sports Partnership Co-ordinator Charlie Lambert, Warren Deutron, Chief Executive of Cricket Ireland, Pat O'Connor representing the Irish Sports Council and members of Ballyhaunis Cricket Club. *Photo by Sinead Freyne.*



Lisa Webb, BA, LLB. Graduated from Blackhall Place Law Society of Ireland, April 2015. She is daughter of Mike and Cáit Webb, Main St., Ballyhaunis. *Sarah Tracey Photography, Dublin.*



Far left: Brian McHugh enjoying a spin in a vintage car at the home of his aunt and uncle, Teresa and Kieran Fitzmaurice, Gurteenbeg. Brian is the son of Colette McHugh (née Jordan, Johnstown) and Bernard McHugh, Knock.

Erin Higgins with her granddad Pete Higgins, uncle Keith and dad Pierce after the County Final, 2015. Pete managed the victorious Ballyhaunis team, and Keith received the Man of the Match award. Keith and Pierce won their eleventh Senior Hurling Club medal that day.

Pictured at the Cois Tine Heritage Night, Kilmovee.

L-R: Billy Lyons, Celia Lyons, Paddy Joe Tighe, Connie Gildea, Sheila Hunt.

James Hunt Photography



Ballyhaunis Town Football Club

JARLATH WALSH

After a break of more than fifteen years in which there was no soccer club in the town, Ballyhaunis Town F.C. was founded at Station Rise in 2010, predominantly by Brian Kilcourse and family, friends, neighbours, Franco Marigliano and Chris Pratt.

The pitch at Station Rise was developed on an area of land that Mayo County Council owned which was surplus to requirements for housing and had laid idle for a number of years. The pitch was developed by Mayo County Council with great assistance from John Cribbin, the Mayo League and Brian, his family and friends.

Mayo County Council also provided a set of semi-detached houses that were lying unused close by the



Successful Beginnings

In 2010 the team entered League 3 in the Mayo League. With Franco Marigliano as manager, the Club won the League and the League Cup and got promoted to League 2. What a brilliant achievement for the newly formed Club.

In 2011 the Club finished second in League 2 and got promoted to League 1, another great season for the Club. In 2012 the Club had another successful season finishing third in League 1 and narrowly missing out on promotion but winning the League Cup, as Johnny Kelly took the reins as manager half way through the season.

In the 2013 season the Club appointed two new managers in Tommie Page and Karl Briem from our neighbouring town of Ballinlough. Both had extensive experience as both players and managers with Roscommon League County teams and also with the Lough Harps Club. The Club finished in third place in League 1 with Knock/Kiltimagh United winning and Glenhest Rovers getting promoted.

In 2014 in a revamped League format which saw the League reduced to 4 Divisions, Ballyhaunis was placed in the third league which was called Premier B. Ballyhaunis Town had a great year again winning the League Cup and finishing in third place in the League narrowly missing promotion to Premier A.

2015 Season

In the present season 2015, we have already won the League Cup again and we currently lie (Oct 12th) in third place, a couple of points behind league leaders Bangor Erris and Achill Rovers with 2 games remaining and still hope to get promotion this season. We are also in the Final of the Connaught Gold Premier Cup against Conn Rangers 'B' at the beginning of November in Milebush Park in Castlebar. This is one of three Cups that replaces the Connaught Gold Cup which is the knockout competition for all the Clubs in the Mayo League.

In our six seasons in Mayo football Ballyhaunis Town can look back on four League Cup wins, one League title, one League Runners-up spot, and this season the Club is still in contention for the Premier Gold Cup and chasing promotion; not a bad tally for a six year old Club.

The Club continues to be hugely successful due to a number of factors and they are the great bunch of committed and talented past and present players that are involved at the Club since it was founded and the current and previous managers, Tommie and Karl, Franco



Photo by Ciara Buckley

grounds of the Club. These were developed and transformed by Brian and his friends into changing rooms for the Club. A huge amount of voluntary work went into both the pitch development and the Clubhouse by numerous people co-ordinated by Brian. It is a great credit to Brian and all these people that in tough economic times so much was achieved by a small number of people pulling together in a community. Station Rise came second in the 32 counties 'Community Futures Competition' programme a couple of years later.

The Club colours are red and black. The Club crest was designed by students from Ballyhaunis Community School with direction by Chris Pratt. It symbolises the area the Club was founded in, close to the Friary and the river. We still use and are very grateful to Stephen and Tracey for access to Friary house for meetings and courses associated with the Club.



Ballyhaunis Town F.C. Managers and Players. Taken July 2015 at Ballyhaunis F.C. Grounds, Station Rise.
 Back L-R: T. Page (Manager), A.P. Kelly (Captain), A. McTigue, E. Roghan, O. Cherbatji, J. Carney, N. Richardson, M. Goulding, P. Nolan, J. Loughran, J. Kezze, G. McDonagh, K. Byrne, P. McGee, A. Cunnane, K. Briem (Manager).
 Front L-R: Yarik (Kit Manager), R. Peake, C. Freeley, F. Coyne, T. Kgakge, J. Cunnane, K. Carrick, D. Adex, J. Neenan, W. Wehman, R. McCormack, R. Crinnigan. Missing from photograph: C. Nolan and J. Morley.

Marigliano, Johnny Kelly, Seamus Freyne and Conor Mulrennan. The dedicated Management Committee which meets every month to run the affairs of the Club, our main sponsor Liam Folliard at Epic Bar, all the other sponsors who pay for signs at the pitch, and the kind people of Ballyhaunis, who come out every week to watch and support the team and contribute to our various fundraising efforts in the Town, all contribute to the success of the Club.

The Future

Our wish at the Club is to expand our range of football to cater for young and old, boys and girls over the coming years. With this in mind the Club hopes to start underage football next season. To do that we will need the help and co operation of more people and parents alike at the Club. We are always looking for extra committee members and people to coach our underage

teams. We would love to see a huge turnout at our next AGM which is usually held on the last Monday in January each year and will be advertised extensively in the local media beforehand.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the Club, and we love to see new people come and join us, can contact us through our Facebook page Ballyhaunis Town F.C., our website www.ballyhaunistownfc.com, any Club officer or Committee member or through our Secretary, Brenda Krusina (Kilcourse), Gurteen, Cloonfad, Co. Roscommon.

Club Officers 2015

Chairman: Jarlath Walsh, Vice Chairman: Chris Pratt, Secretary: Brenda Krusina (Kilcourse), Treasurer: Mohammad Cherbatji, PRO: Niall Richardson. Team Managers: Tommie Page and Karl Briem.



Taken in Milebush Castlebar in July 2015 after Ballyhaunis won the Tonra Cup, beating Achill 2-1.



Ballyhaunis Town F.C. Grounds at Station Rise with the Friary grounds in the background.

Big Win for Fordes'

SINEAD FREYNE

At the Mayo Business Awards, held on Friday, November 6th in the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport, family business Fordes' Ltd., The Square, Ballyhaunis, came out on top as the Retail Customer Service Business Award winners. They beat off tough competition from finalists Café Rua in Castlebar, Marrey Bikes in Ballinrobe, and Market 57 of Westport.

The Awards organised for a mystery shopper, from outside the area, to visit all of the entrants and experience firsthand the standard of care, attention and welcome given to customers on entering an individual business.

The mystery shopper must certainly have enjoyed their shopping experience at Fordes' as the independent judges awarded them the Best in the County. Tom said that he and Marie attended the awards in Westport delighted that they had been shortlisted. But it was beyond their expectation to have been named the 'Best in the County'.



Tom and Marie Forde, with their children Cathal and Siofra, with the Retail Customer Service Business Award certificate and trophy. Also pictured are staff members Breda, Seán and Florin.

Photograph by Sinead Freyne.



Tom and Marie Forde receiving the Retail Customer Service Business Award.

Photograph by Michael McLaughlin.

P. P. WALDRON, Ph.C., M.P.S.I.

Medical Hall,
BALLYHAUNIS



SEE-SAW, MARJORIE DAW
JACK SHALL HAVE A NEW MASTER,
HE SHALL HAVE BUT A PENNY A DAY
BECAUSE HE CAN'T WORK ANY FASTER.

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For Baby when Teeth Cut



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1926 Calendar

Peter Paul Waldron's Chemist shop was located in
Clare Street, Ballyhaunis and later on the corner
of Clare St. and Bridge Street.
Photo courtesy of Edward Mulhern.

Ballyhaunis Bids Farewell to Sisters of Mercy

SINEAD FREYNE

A very special Mass of thanksgiving was held in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis on Sunday, November 8th, to honour the Sisters of Mercy. Although an historic event with several hundred parishioners in attendance, this farewell Mass was also a poignant occasion. Parishioners gathered to mark the contribution and service of the Sisters of Mercy to the people of the area for 117 years.

The Chief celebrant was Archbishop Michael Neary, and as the Church bells rang out at 3pm he was joined in procession up the centre aisle by Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher, Canon Joe Cooney, Canon Kieran Waldron, Canon J. J. Cribben, Fr. Peter Waldron, Dr. Enda Lyons, Fr. John O'Connor OSA, Fr. Vincent McCarthy OSA, Fr. Matt Cooney OSA, Canon James Kelly, Fr. Des Walsh, Fr. Declan Carroll and Fr. Patrick Burke. These clergy had all served in Ballyhaunis or were native to the parish.

Archbishop Neary welcomed the Sisters and told them, they had been "at the very heart beat of this community." He outlined the story of the Mercy Sisters, starting with their arrival in Ballyhaunis on the 2pm train from Westport in 1898, and how, for the first three years, they taught in small buildings in the town until their 'academy' was opened in 1901. Their work was predominately education, but outside the classroom, they did pastoral work in the form of social work for the poor and needy. Archbishop Neary explained that the Sisters "taught by the example of what they did in their lives – love, honour and self sacrifice." During the 1900's there was a "steady, sinister haemorrhage of emigration, the people were almost without education and frighteningly vulnerable. The nuns responded to the challenge, with spiritual toughness and built up education in this town."

He spoke directly to the Sisters when he said, "on behalf of the people, Fr. Farragher and The Pastoral Council, I say a deeply felt and sincere thank you for all you have done for this area for almost 120 years. Thank you to your families and thank God who inspired your vocations."

The Ceremony was interspersed with the singing of many beautiful hymns by members of five choirs within the community, including the Abbey Male Choir, the Parish Church Choir, the Ballyhaunis Community School Choir, the Scoil Íosa Choir and the Gracenotes Choir who were directed by their conductors and

accompanied by a host of musicians. Fr. Farragher acknowledged that a lot of hard work had been undertaken by the parishioners and he thanked everyone for their contribution.

Sr. Caitlín Conneely, Provincial, Western Province Sisters of Mercy, spoke on behalf of the Sisters and said the occasion was "tinged with sadness as it was an end of an era", but they also felt "gratitude" for the "support of the people of Ballyhaunis", and gave thanks for their "warmth and hospitality", especially today. But she also wanted to say "sorry and ask pardon for any hurt" which may have occurred, or if anyone "found us demanding, please forgive us and pray for us". She thanked all those involved behind the scenes in the organisation of this Mass.

Mike Byrne, representing the Parish Pastoral Council along with Fr. Farragher made a presentation of a glass plaque to all nuns and former nuns in attendance. A full list of names of the sisters is printed with the group photo which accompanies this article.

Placed at the altar and around the Church were reminders of the Sisters' work in the Parish, including school books, musical instruments, knitting, sewing and crochet materials, a blackboard and school uniforms. Archbishop Neary also unveiled a Commemorative Plaque to the Sisters which is on permanent display in the Church.

Following the ceremony, many past pupils and friends lingered in the Church to meet the Sisters. Afterwards, the Parochial Hall was filled as the Sisters and Parishioners enjoyed refreshments and a chance to catch up on memories of school days. Class photographs and images from St. Joseph's adorned the walls of the Hall.

A beautifully produced commemorative book entitled 'Answering the Call - Sisters of Mercy, Ballyhaunis 1898-2015' has been published and is available to purchase in many of the local shops at a cost of €5. It can also be ordered directly from the parish office by emailing ballyhaunisparrish@gmail.com The cost for the book and postage within Ireland is €6. There will be a DVD of the Mass of Thanksgiving on sale shortly at a cost of €10, which would make a nice stocking-filler coming up to Christmas. All enquiries and pre-orders to the above email address.





Sisters of Mercy who served in Ballyhaunis and who were honoured at the Mass of Thanksgiving.

Standing L-R: Nora Colleran, Helen Hurley, Sr. Mary T. Ruane, Sr. Juliet Walsh, Sr. Maura Callaghan, Sr. Geraldine Farrell, Sr. Teresa Fahy, Sr. Ann O'Shaughnessy, Sr. Joan Fahey, Sr. Kathleen Hunt, Sr. Mary Concannon, Sr. Gemma Cunningham, Sr. Geraldine Costello, Sr. Pius Dyer, Sr. Teresina Daly, Sr. Rosario Waldron.
Seated: Sr. Angela Dempsey, Sr. Pauline Feely, Sr. Margaret Mary Dempsey, Sr. Eithne Nolan, Sr. Immaculata Brady, Sr. Evelyn Fahy, Sr. Dolores Bowden.

Ballyhaunis Bids Farewell to Sisters of Mercy



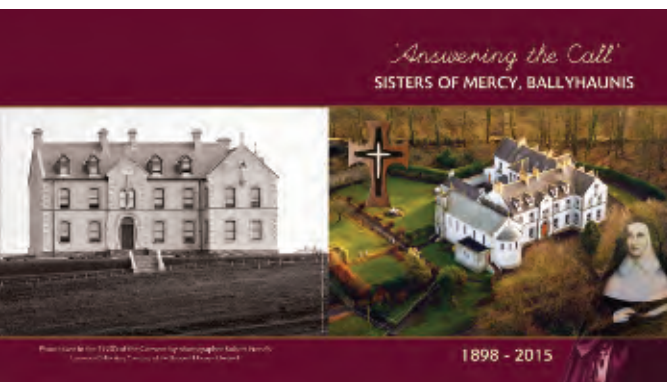
The Unveiling and Blessing of Commemorative Plaque at the entrance to St. Patrick's Church. L-R: Dr. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, Sr. Rosario Waldron, Sr. Caitlín Conneely (Provincial Western Province, Sisters of Mercy).



Sr. Eithne Nolan cuts the cake at the function in Ballyhaunis Parochial Hall following the Mass of Thanksgiving.



Margaret Kenny, Kathleen Cribbin, Sr. Immaculata Brady and Mary Donnelly, at the function in Ballyhaunis Parochial Hall following the Mass of Thanksgiving.



Left: Front and back cover of the Commemorative Booklet 'Answering the Call' Sisters of Mercy, Ballyhaunis 1898-2015'



St. Joseph's Primary School, early 60's. Back, L-R: Ann Freeley, Ursula Lawless, Evelyn Caulfield, Marie Mulrennan, Rita Barry, Anna Grogan, Elizabeth Moran, Bernadette Maguire. Centre: Cynthia Hannan, Mary Kedian, Mary Knight, Lily Geraghty, Ann Rush, Mary Hannah Regan, Dolores Melly. Front: Mary Regan, Mary Herr, Rita Lyons, Rita Forde, Joan Coyne, Phyllis Regan. *Courtesy of Margaret Bartley.*

**Golden Jubilee of
Sr Assumpta Flannery.**

Back row L-R;
Srs Angela Dempsey,
Dympna Mooney,
Joseph Gibbons,
2nd row from back:
Anne Raftery,
Eithne Nolan,
Francis Mooney,
Oliver McDonagh
Front row standing:
Paschal Newell,
Assumpta Newell,
Sr Vincent.
Seated L-R;
Magdalen Quinn,
Kevin Gibbons.



Historic photo taken in Chapel of Old Convent prior to the move to new convent in Upper Main Street, c.1995.
Present in the photo are the sisters who spent time in Ballyhaunis.

Back row, L-R: Srs Mechtilde O'Donoghue, Juliet Walsh, Joan Fahey, Kathleen Hunt, Ignatius Killeen.
3rd row: Teresa Fahy, Assumpta Moran, Máire Cahill, Rosario Waldron, Angela Dempsey,
Anne O'Shaughnessy, Margaret Mary Dempsey, Mary Concannon, Evelyn Fahy.
2nd row: Maura O'Callaghan, Teresina Daly, Assumpta Flannery, Francis Mooney, Dolores Bowden,
Pauline Feely, Oliver McDonagh, Treasa Joyce.
Front row: Maura Geraghty, Magdalen Quinn, Catherine Gibbons (visitor), Raymond Nolan (visitor),
Paschal Newell, Eithne Nolan.

N.B some of the Stained Glass windows by Michael Healy in the background, have already
been removed and sent to the National Gallery.

SISTERS OF MERCY WHO SERVED IN BALLYHAUNIS 1898 -2015

1898 and later

Mother Columba Carr
Sr. Angela
Sr. Vincent Gibbons
Sr. Baptist O'Rourke
Sr. Joseph Duane
Sr. Ignatius Cronin
Sr. Berchams O' Donnell
Sr. Michael Flynn
Sr. Evangelist Cronin

1900's and later

Sr. Scholastica O' Reilly
Sr. Aloysius Heaney
Sr. Berchmans
Sr. Ita Delaney
Sr Aloysius
Sr Laurence
Sr Oliver Byrne

1940's and later

Sr. Mechtilde O' Donoghue
Sr. de Ricci Fitzpatrick
Sr. Agnes Hoban
Sr. Aidan Diskin

1940's and later (cont.)

Sr. Borgia Henry
Sr. Benedict Farrell
Sr. Benignus McHugh
Sr. Aquin O'Dea
Sr. Ignatius Killeen
Sr. Anthony Dorr
Sr. Elizabeth Neachtan
Sr. Bridget Byrne
Sr. Dymphna Mooney
Sr. Paschal Newell
Sr. Carmel Duffy

1950's and later

Sr. Kevin Gibbons
Sr. Dolores Bowden
Sr. Assumpta Flannery
Sr. Enda O' Malley
Sr. Margaret Mary Dempsey
Sr. Oliver McDonagh
Sr. Eithne Nolan
Sr. Angela Dempsey

1960's and later

Sr. Magdalen Quinn
Sr. Rosario Waldron
Sr. Kathleen Hunt
Sr. Immaculata Brady

1970's and later

Sr. Francis Mooney
Sr. Mary Concannon
Sr. Joan Fahey
Sr. Teresina Daly
Sr. Pauline Feeley
Sr. Ann O'Shaughnessy

1980's and later

Sr. Evelyn Fahy
Sr. Mary Jo Cahill
Sr. Maura Callaghan
Sr. Geraldine Farrell
Sr. Perpetuo Walsh
Sr. Mary Kelly
Sr. Teresa Fahy
Sr. Teresa Joyce
Sr. Gemma Cunningham

Community School recipients of the John Paul II Awards.



Back, L-R: Barry Forde, Kevin Tighe, Stephen Collins, Oisín Coffey. Centre: Sharon Behan, Emer Kiely, Leanne Henry, Katie McKay, Meadhbh Glavey, Roisín Ní Shúilleabháin, John Cunnane, Padraic Duffy.
Front: Ms. Orla Macken (Teacher), Catherine Quinn, Roisín Byrne, Aoife Nolan, Archbishop Michael Neary, Claudia Glavey, Sarah Skeffington, James Reynolds, Oisín Henry, Laura Brogan (Parish Pastoral Council).

Ballyhaunis Heritage Society Year II: A Trip Down Memory Lane

ORLA PHILLIPS

Since the last edition of the Annagh Magazine, Ballyhaunis Heritage Society has hosted six talks in the Credit Union Building on Clare Street.

The first of these was given by local historian and author Fr. Kieran Waldron, entitled **'Annagh - A New Parish, a New Parish Church 1893-1918'**. In this well-researched and homely talk Fr. Kieran described to a large and appreciative audience, the expansion of the town in the second-half of the nineteenth century, the changes made to the parish boundaries (1890s) and the building of our current parish church. He highlighted the immense contribution that Canon Canning made to the town by building of the Presbytery, the Convent school and present-day Parish Church from 1893-1909. He also introduced us to some of the local people who lived at the time such as Michael F. Waldron (Knox Street), James Lyons (Main Street), Sr. Joseph Duane (Convent), Fr. John Grealy (curate in Ballyhaunis and a native of Tooreen), James Infant (Abbey Street), Peter O'Malley (Main Street) and Tom 'Nailer' Byrne. His fondness for Ballyhaunis and for the Church in particular, was evident throughout his talk.



Fr. Kieran
Waldron

Great interest in local history was again demonstrated on 13th March last when almost eighty people attended Joe Byrne's witty and eloquent talk on **'Aghamore and Surrounding Areas 1830-1930'**. As listeners to his radio programme would rightly guess, Joe entertained his audience with humorous observations about local place names, past agricultural practices and vivid recollections of Aghamore people from by-gone days. His witty musings on the names and uses of mud will remain unsurpassed!



Joe Byrne

The third talk, on Friday 17th April, was by renowned biographer Anne Chambers on the subject of **'Tibbott-ne-Long, the youngest son of Granuaile (Grace O'Malley)'**. At the beginning of her talk Anne delighted her childhood friends



Anne Chambers

and Ballyhaunis natives by fondly recalling her memories of childhood visits to her grandparents' house in Knockbrack. She then entertained her large audience with an engaging account of the struggles and achievements of Grace O'Malley and her son Tibbott-ne-Long in a time of profound political and social upheaval in Ireland. She finished on the intriguing note that the rightful heir to the discontinued title "Viscount Mayo" may have links with the Lavallyroe area. At the end of the evening Pat Higgins summed up the feeling of the audience by observing that Anne Chamber's presentation surpassed her aims of making the past accessible and of addressing gender balance in history.

Our fourth talk by Monica Morley carried the interesting title **'James A. Cavanagh, the Began man who became the Duke of Swaziland'**. According to Nollaig Ó Muraíle 'Of the many thousands of emigrants who left Began in the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, few were as colourful as James Alfred Cavanagh from Cloonbulban'.



Monica Morley

With such billing, expectations were high among the large crowd who attended and Monica did not disappoint. In her warm and articulate presentation Monica brought to life this jovial emigrant who made a fortune selling insurance in America, London and South Africa (receiving a title from King Buno of Swaziland in the process) and who went to law to regain his good name after a Ballyhaunis businessman made derogatory comments about him. By the end of her talk, it was clear that while James was small in stature (only five feet in height) he was a larger than life character ... truly someone who followed the dictum 'Carpe Diem'. Monica's **'Family Portraits: Tracing the history of the Coen and Morley Families'** is an engaging read and shows what riches can emerge from researching one's family tree.

In response to public demand, Ballyhaunis Heritage Society hosted an information evening on **'Tracing Your Mayo Ancestors'** on Friday 2nd October. Two members of the Society with a special interest in the topic, Paul Waldron and Paul Morley, presented a wide range of information to help beginners and others interested in family research. Their information sheet **'Beginning to Trace your Ancestors in the Ballyhaunis Area'** provides an invaluable list of the sources available to



Paul Morley and Paul Waldron

anyone engaging in this work. The sizeable crowd that attended their presentation highlights the large interest there is in this area of local history.

Our most recent talk was by well-known biographer, Anthony Jordan, a native of Knox Street on the theme **'Gallants of the Easter Rising: Major John McBride, Eamon De Valera and WT Cosgrave'**. Anthony has written more than twelve biographies, many of them covering the period of the War of Independence. In his well-researched and

interesting presentation Anthony vividly described the experiences of these three men during and after the Rising. He drew attention to often overlooked aspects of the Rising: de Valera's religious vocation, the personal cost of their decision to take part in the Rising and the religious devotion shown by the men of 1916. His personal stories and insights into these leaders of 1916 were appreciated by the large audience of Ballyhaunis natives and local historians who attended. For anyone wishing to read further on this area of history Anthony's books are available on Kindle.

We in Ballyhaunis Heritage Society would like to thank our speakers and all who attended their talks during the year. Thanks also to all in the Credit Union for the use of their excellent facilities. To our friends and those yet to attend, please continue to watch out for notices of upcoming events.

Lt. Col. Mary Carroll



Congratulations to Lt. Col. Mary Carroll, formerly of Ballinlough but now based in Galway. Late last year, following her return from a tour of duty in Kosovo, she became the first female OC (Officer Commanding) at Dún Uí Mhaoiliosa (Renmore Military Barracks) in Galway. She is the first woman to hold this post, following in the footsteps of seventy male predecessors. Women only make up five per cent of the Irish Army, with fewer than 500 of them in the actual force.

Mary attended secondary school in Castlerea and joined the Army Cadets in the mid 1980s after graduating from UCD, becoming just one of three women in a class of forty seven Cadets. She has served in a number of roles in the Army in infantry battalions in Collins Barracks and at Defence Forces Headquarters in Co. Kildare. She has also obtained several Masters Degrees as part of her ongoing education within the army. She has served on overseas missions to Afghanistan, Uganda and Serbia among other places, as part of UN and EU initiatives.



Lt. Col Mary Carroll, Officer Commanding An Chéad Chath, with soldiers during a weapons display at Dún Uí Mhaoiliosa.
Courtesy of Iain McDonald Photography.

She has responsibility for almost 500 troops who are stationed in Renmore and under her command. Her unit is scheduled to go overseas with the UNDOF mission to Syria in September 2016. As well as being responsible for what her troops do, she is also responsible for the barracks, which makes her role very busy and challenging.

Mary is the eldest of eight siblings. Their parents Brendan and the late Mary owned Carroll's Garage on the Ballyhaunis road in Ballinlough. She is married to Tooreen man Vincent Henry and they have two children, Conor (21) and Alannah (18). Her late mother was one of the Flatleys of Lassiney, in Began, where her uncle Pat still lives. She is also a niece to Sadie Cameron and niece-in-law to Corrine Flatley, Clare Street.

Gracenotes

LIESEL WARD

It has been a wonderful, fun-filled year with Gracenotes! And a fast year too, but that happens when there is a bunch of chatty, singing friends together every Thursday night for practice. Our rehearsals resumed in September with the focus on our first concert in St. George's Church in Carrick-on-Shannon. It was a beautiful venue with a warm reception on a blustery October evening.

The first major competition of the year was the City of Derry International Choral Festival. Competition was tough but it was a wonderful city to explore with great company. Our next competition was closer to home at the Sligo Choral Festival. We were very successful coming first in the W.B. Yeats Competition and second in the Female Voice Competition. We celebrated in style that evening with a sumptuous meal in Montemartre Restaurant before returning home.

Christmas is always a busy time with our annual festive concerts. Our first was in Ballintubber Abbey which was hosted by our friends in Cor Mhaigh Eo. The acoustics in the Abbey are outstanding and this concert is always one we look forward to. We hosted our own yearly Christmas Concert in The Friary, Ballyhaunis in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. We had the pleasure of excellent vocal company with The Abbey Male Choir. The final collaboration was the showstopper of the evening, the Tallis Canon!

We opened 2015 at the wedding of Rachel Cleary and Michael Jordan in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis. We thank them for inviting us to share in their special celebration.

We ventured to Clifden in March to perform in concert at Christ Church. The wind and rain didn't deter our evening. A wonderful invitation was extended to us to return during Clifden Arts Weeks for another concert.

The Cork International Choral Festival beckoned during the May Bank Holiday weekend. We were in fine voice and came second in the Sacred Music Competition. We faced stiff competition and were delighted with our result. Also, during May, was the Mayo International Choral Festival. Although not competing, we were invited to perform at a concert in Swinford.

Sadly, during May, we extended our sympathies to Anna Butler on the passing of her dear mother, Elizabeth Gilhawley, R.I.P. Our sympathies were also extended to Miriam Judge on the sudden passing of her beloved father, Vincent Judge in December 2014.

The event of the year was Gracenotes tour to France. The choir performed in Grasse and in Nice itself, in beautiful churches to very appreciative audiences. There were sight-seeing trips to the wonderful towns of Cannes, Villefranche-sur-mer, Eze and Monaco with stunning scenery at every turn. And glorious weather to top it all off, sure it is no wonder the Cote d'Azur is known as the playground of the rich and famous!

We finished off our choral calendar year back in the beautiful Ballintubber Abbey for the wedding of Catriona Fahy and Kevin Henry. Mother of the bride, Ita Fahy, along with Moira Delaney, played violin during the ceremony which was truly magical.

We welcome our new and very talented choristers Bernadette Fleming, Louise Holland, Sarah Lawrence, Sylvia Murphy, Margaret Monaghan and Lou Talbot Beirne who have recently joined Gracenotes.

Gracenotes members would like to extend their warmest gratitude to Laura Brogan, our esteemed Conductor, who puts in endless hours of work for us.

Gracenotes Officers:

Chairperson – Moira Stratford; **Treasurer** – Eimear Thornton; **Assistant Treasurer** – Anna Henry; **Secretary** – Laura Brogan; **PROs** – Miriam Judge and Liesel Ward; **Musical Director** – Laura Brogan

Ordinary Committee Members:

Geraldine Collins, Mary Dawson, Agatha Higgins, Martina Kelly, Maureen Thornton

www.gracenoteschoir.com



Some members of Gracenotes, pictured in Nice, during their tour to France 2015.

Mam's Recipe for Turkey Stuffing

RITA MEALLY

Christmas is a time which evokes nostalgia and wonderful childhood memories of Christmases long ago; of the Christmas turkey, stuffing, Christmas cake, plum pudding and trifle.

Mam (Lily Murphy, Main Street) had some unique recipes which I have tried to replicate for my family in my cooking at Christmas-time. One such recipe is that for the turkey stuffing.

Recipe:

Size of turkey: 8 lbs. (3.5 kgs)

POTATO STUFFING

Ingredients:

- 4 medium sized potatoes
- Pinch of pepper and salt
- 1 oz. (29 g.) butter
- 2 teasps. caraway seeds
- 2 teasps. plain flour
- 1 medium sized onion

Method:

- Peel and par boil the potatoes in a saucepan. Strain and allow to cool. Put in a bowl; do not mash them.
- Cut the potatoes in to little cubes.
- Sprinkle on a little pepper and salt
- Peel and chop the onion; add to the cubed potatoes.
- Cut up the butter and mix through the potatoes and onion.
- Mix in the flour and caraway seeds.
- Spoon the potato stuffing mixture in to the main body cavity of the turkey, but be careful not to pack it in. There must be enough room between the stuffing and the breastbone to fit the handle of a wooden spoon. Any extra potato stuffing can be placed around the turkey in the roasting tin.

BREAD STUFFING

Ingredients:

- 4 thick slices of brown slightly stale bread, crusts included.
- 1 large egg
- 2 teasps. caster sugar
- 2 teasps. mixed spice
- A little milk to bind
- 1 oz. (29 g) butter

Method:

- Make breadcrumbs.
- In a bowl, mix the breadcrumbs, sugar, mixed spice, egg and butter together.
- Add a little milk if necessary, until all the mixture comes together.
- Spoon the bread stuffing mixture in to the smaller cavity at the neck end of the turkey; again leaving a little space.
- Any bread stuffing left over can be put in tin foil and wrapped up in a little parcel and baked alongside the turkey.
- Spread softened butter all over the turkey.
- Lay about 2 – 3 slices of streaky bacon over the breast of the bird.
- Season with pepper and salt.
- Place the turkey in a pre-heated oven and cook according to the instructions for a turkey of that size.



World War I – Appeal for Material

As the hundred year commemoration of World War I continues, the Editorial Committee would appeal to readers to submit articles and photographs, or make letters, diaries, documents or other memorabilia available for photographing or copying. Anything which sheds light on the lives of any soldiers with a Ballyhaunis connection.

As the experiences and sacrifices of these soldiers a century ago have shaped the times we live in today, it is fitting that they should be remembered in future editions of Annagh Magazine. If you have any memorabilia or articles for submission, please contact a member of the Editorial Committee, or email info@annaghmag.ie



Western Care Ballyhaunis

SINEAD FREYNE

Michael Ring was in Ballyhaunis last July to pay a visit to one of the many Western Care units in the town, and he didn't come empty handed. Deputy Ring, who is Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, was on hand to officially deliver a cheque for €20,000 to the staff and service users of Ballyhaunis Day Services which is situated on Clare Street beside the Credit Union. The funding, which was approved under the Department of Health National Lottery Funding, will enable the Association to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle to support the individuals using the day services.

The Western Care Association has been providing care for many decades in Ballyhaunis. Following a search through the Annagh magazine archives, a Ballyhaunis Branch of Western Care is first mentioned in the 1980 edition of the magazine, with the committee reporting on their various fundraising activities, which culminated in the opening of a Day Centre for four adults with learning and intellectual disabilities in late 1983. It consisted of one room in the Priests' house on the Knock Road beside the Community School. It is now known as Hazel View and is a residential unit run by the association. Within a year the organisation had taken over the whole of the ground floor of the house with the number of service users rising to eight.

Today, Western Care operates numerous properties within the town, including Day Centres, Residential and Respite. There are three day centres in town - one situated at Clare Street where Minister Ring visited and which has been in use for three years, a second house at Manor Brook and a third at Beech Park. Residential properties include Hazel View, Croí Oscailte, Abbey Vale, Hazelhill Downs and Manor Brook. There are many respite houses within the community too, with a further house in Abbey Vale which opened on August 1st. The day service centres open from 9.30am to 4pm with the residential and respite centres open from 4pm to 11pm. The residential or group homes help to provide independent living for those who live there.

So Well Looked After

There are twenty two adults attending Ballyhaunis Day Services, with many of them in attendance to meet the Minister on his visit.

Some of the adults who attend Western Care in Ballyhaunis have been attending since 1983. Today the twenty two service users are: Rosemary Rogers, Nuala Kenny, Jerome Murphy, Annette Rattigan, Maura Mooney, Therese Maroney, Karen Campbell, David Donnelly, Bridget Killeen, Irma Folliard, Andrew McHale, Linda Hopkins, Julia Byrne, Carmel Delaney, Kevin Power, Michael Drudy, Delia Finn, Mary Jordan,

John Healy, Mark Mahon, Padraig Prendergast and Eric Kilcourse.

There are also many staff employed by Western Care in Ballyhaunis and they include Carmel Brady, the Day Services Line Manager, Kathleen Rochford, Frances Mulhern, Maz Gilmore, Susan Hoban, Amanda Kelly, Catherine Morley, Maeve Morley, Anna Morley, Anne Burke, Julie Horan and Ita Melia.

Along with the funding provided through Minister Ring, additional sums of money have been raised locally



Receiving €20,000 funding from Minister Michael Ring T.D., when he paid a visit to Western Care's Ballyhaunis Day Services, Clare Street, were – Back, L-R: Carmel Brady, Line Manager of Ballyhaunis Day Services, Minister Ring, Teresa Ward, Western Care Development Officer, and Padraig Prendergast. Seated, L-R: Karen Campbell, Rosemary Rogers and David Donnelly.

Photo - Glynn's Photography.

through fundraising events and, combined, this will go towards the purchase of a specially converted people carrier where wheelchair users can access the vehicle without having to be lifted from their chair. An additional substantial amount of money has also been raised by Derek Higgins and his wife Aoife, which the Association would like to acknowledge. Derek is a brother-in-law of Karen Campbell who is a service user at Ballyhaunis Day Services

Carmel Brady, Line Manager of Ballyhaunis Day Services, welcomed Minister Ring on behalf of the staff and service users. Teresa Ward, Development Manager, Western Care, said the Association was "deeply indebted to the Minister as we asked help on three different projects and he came up trumps on all three."

There was still a shortfall of funds before the vehicle could be purchased and officially arrive at its new home in Ballyhaunis. And in the last couple of weeks Minister



Above: Andrew McHale, Knock and Joseph Brennan, Ballyhaunis examining the cheque which will go towards a new wheelchair accessible vehicle for service users in Ballyhaunis. *Photo – Sinead Freyne.*

Top Right: Minister Ring with Linda Hopkins during his visit to Ballyhaunis Day Services in July. *Photo - Glynn's Photography.*

Ring allocated a further €10,000 to the organisation in order to purchase the vehicle. And again the funding was approved under the Department of Health National Lottery Funding. The vehicle is due to arrive shortly.

Job Shadow Day

The Western Care Association Ballyhaunis Branch held a presentation ceremony for service users in recognition of their participation in Job Shadow Day 2015. The presentation ceremony took place on Friday, October 16th in the Oak Cafe and Bar, Bridge St., Ballyhaunis.

Job Shadow Day, which is in its eighth year, is an initiative of the Irish Association of Supported Employment (IASE) and took place earlier in the year in April. Over 750 people with a disability shadowed a work place mentor at more than five hundred employment sites throughout Ireland, in a national day of awareness to promote equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

It is designed to give people with disabilities a unique opportunity to get a close-up look at the world of work for one day or one week each year, to discover and learn about the skills and education required to compete and succeed in the work place. Since 2008 one hundred and thirteen jobs have been secured through the initiative and permanent job placements have been secured as a result.

In attendance at the ceremony were Western Care staff and service users of the Ballyhaunis Day Centre, Greg Barry IASE National Chairman, as well as local business owners who have embraced job shadowing.

Maz Gilmore of Western Care Ballyhaunis welcomed everyone to the proceedings and introduced Greg Barry, ISAC Chairman who, in his introduction, commented: "We are proud to lead this significant and inclusive initiative to open up the world of work for many people

with disabilities throughout Ireland. We want to build on this success and continue to break down barriers to the workplace which, despite much progress in recent years, still remains a significant issue for people with disabilities."

In the Ballyhaunis area, three Western Care service users were presented with their certificates in recognition of their weekly job shadowing. They were joined on the morning by proud family members, as well as the local employers who welcomed them into their place of work. Eddie Murphy Jr. of Eddie Murphy Menswear, and Anne and Fiona McNamara from the Oak Cafe and Bar were in attendance to congratulate them.

The three men in question are: Joseph Brennan from Ballyhaunis who shadowed the staff at the Oak Cafe; David Donnelly from Kiltimagh who shadowed at Eddie Murphy's Menswear and Mark Mahon, Claremorris who shadowed at both Claremorris and Ballyhaunis Train Stations. Dolores Keaveney, Station Manager at Claremorris Station, was unable to attend the ceremony but facilitated Mark's placement.

So Much to Offer

The audience was told the value of skills that service users have to offer the community. And a job shadow one day could lead to work experience which in turn could convert into a real job. Western Care and the IASE want to engage employers with employing people with disabilities and let them know that they have a lot to offer.

Carmel Brady, Line Manager of Ballyhaunis Day Services, also thanked all the employers in attendance and told them that they had enhanced the three men's life by facilitating shadowing and work experience for them. She said the organisation hoped to continue to build good working relationships with employers. Ballyhaunis is a location with one of the largest amount of Western Care properties within Mayo.



Job Shadow Presentation Ceremony held in the Oak Café and Bar. Back L-R: Julie Byrne, Western Care, Carmel Brady, Western Care, Eddie Murphy Jr., Fiona McNamara, Anne McNamara, Greg Barry, IASE and Maz Gilmore, Western Care. Front L-R: Western Care Ballyhaunis Service Users David Donnelly, Mark Mahon and Joseph Brennan.

Photo courtesy of Western Care.

Townlands of Annagh and Began Parishes, 1842

From the Valuation Office Tenure Books

PAUL WALDRON

'Griffith's Valuation' is one of the main sources for Irish local and family history research. It lists everyone in Ireland who was liable to pay 'rates', giving a brief description of their property, the name of their landlord, the amount of land they held, and the valuation of their buildings and land. It is an almost complete list of heads-of-household in the country at a fixed point in time in the mid-nineteenth century for any particular location. The valuers did their work in Ballyhaunis in 1855, and this was published in the volume for the Poor Law Union of Claremorris, the following year. It can be viewed online at:-

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>

What is less well known is that there was an earlier valuation covering the country, and compiled for the Ballyhaunis area thirteen years earlier, in 1842. This was known as the 'Townland Valuation' or 'Government Valuation'. It was never published and, although it is not as complete as 'Griffith's Valuation', it contains a fair bit of information people and places in the area just before the Great Famine.

The National Archives in Dublin now hold the original documents associated with this 'Townland Valuation', having acquired them from the Land Valuation Office. They are available to view on microfilm, the quality of which varies from place to place. Unfortunately, some of the writing on the poorer quality images is illegible, as indicated below: in places it's obscured by the close binding of the original document. Also, the meaning of some abbreviations are not now obvious.

The valuator who collected the information and determined the valuation of properties – in this case, one James Johnston – presented their findings in a series of 'books' including Tenure Books, Land Books, House Books. What follows are the contents of the 'Tenure Books' for Annagh and Began parishes. They are a brief account of the tenure of each townland in those parishes in 1842. The landlord's name is given for each townland, and then a short comment follows about the landholding situation, which varies in length from townland to townland. There are some interesting details on leases and the rent paid for land at the time. Using the

information here it is possible for anyone interested to see if full copies of leases for a particular townland are held in the Registry of Deeds.

The entries for all townlands in the parishes of Annagh and Began are given here as they appear in the original – not in alphabetical order. Spellings are as they appear in the original, with some abbreviations expanded. Areas are given in Irish Acres. One Irish acre contained 7840 square yards, and was equal to 1.62 statute acres. The / symbol = shilling. [?] = illegible text.

Annagh parish

HOLYWELL LOWER

John Burke, Esq.

Mr. Burke resides here and has the land in his own hands, except what a few cottiers hold.

CHURCH PARK

William Higgins, Esq., a minor.

This townland is held by Austin McManus under a lease made in the year 1825 at 26/ the Irish acre.

FEAMORE

Dominick O'Reilly, Esq.

All leased.

Luke Trestan holds 60 Irish acres at £40 a year

Patrick Trestan - 60 acres - £40

Francis Trestan - 40 acres - about £40

Thos Mannion - 33 acres at 22/6 [per acre?] £37.2s.6d

Austin McManus - 50 acres at same - £56. 5s.

Tobias Mulkeen & partners - 36 acres at same - £40.10s.

POLLACAPPUL

Ed. J. Nolan, Esq.

Mr. Nolan has taken this townland into his demesne.

LARGAN

Ed. J. Nolan, Esq.

Mr. Nolan has taken this townland into his demesne.

GORTNAGEERAGH

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Middleman Mr. N. Jordan, who has it re-let to several tenants at 15/ the Irish acre for the arable and pasture or thereabouts.

DERRYLEA

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Leased in 1800 to 8 tenants at the yearly rent of £33.4s.0d.

CARROW BEG**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in the year 1834 to Pat Lyons and 3 others at the yearly rent of £19.10s.0d. except the mill holding which is set to Roger Brehany at £5.5s.0d yearly.

FRIARS GROUND**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is given free to the Convent.

ABBEYQUARTER**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

There is part of the town of Ballyhaunis in this townland and the rest is set from 20/ to 30/ the Irish acres, part for townparks and part in small holdings.

HOLYWELL UPPER**John Burke, Esq.**

There is a part of this townland taken in by Mr. Burke to his demesne, and the rest, which is the worst part, is set at 25/ and 27/ the Irish acre.

CLOONBULLIG**William Higgins, Esq., a minor.**

Held by several tenants under a lease made in the year 1826 at from 25/ to 28/ the Irish acre.

DERREENS**John Burke, Esq.**

Mr. Burke has this in his own hands except a part leased to Timothy Roy... [?] under an old lease at a low rent.

GORTEEN**Henry Edmond Taaffe, Esq. of Dublin.**

Set to several tenants under leases at 22/ the Irish acre.

ADERG**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Middleman Mr. N. Jordan, and set by him to several tenants at from 15 to 17/ the Irish acre.

KILLUNAGHER**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held under a very old lease at the yearly rent of £58 – and now occupied by 38 tenants.

DERRYNAACONG**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is let to a number of tenants at from 12/ to 15/ the Irish acre.

CURRIES**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Middleman Mr. N. Jordan who has it set to several tenants at 24/ the Irish acre.

HAZELHILL**Robert Dillon Browne, Esq. MP.**

There is a part of the town of Ballyhaunis in this townland, and a part of it set for townparks, at a high rent. There are other holdings set at from 20/ to 24/ the Irish acre.

CLASSAGHROE**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Set in the year 1800 to the present tenants under a lease at the yearly rent of £48.10s

ARDERRY**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

See Spaddagh.

LURGAN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Middleman Mr. N. Jordan whose lots 1, 2 and 3 set to John McDonnell at £40 a year, and has the rest set to a number of small tenants equally high.

DRUMBAUN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is let at 15/ for the Irish acre on average for the arable and pasture. No lease.

PATTENSPARK**William Higgins, Esq., a minor.**

Thomas Caulfield & partners – 28 acres at 28/ per acre - £39.

Martin & Michael Grogan – 20 acres at 26/ per acre - £24.

Thomas Fitzmorris – 10 acres at 16/ per acre £13.

Under a lease for 1 life or 21 years in 1834.

BARGARRIFF**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in 1810 under a lease to 28 tenants in common at the yearly rent of £101.10s.

GARRAUN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Leased in the year 1800 to Bryan Mularky & partners at the yearly rent of £71.10s.0d

COOLNAFARNA**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is set to a number of tenants from 15/ to 20/ the Irish acre, and the widow Jordan holds 4½ acres at 12/ which is the lowest.

North side of the road

Widow Jordan - 4½ acres at 12/

Andrew Burnes - 17 acres at 14/

John Laurent? & Meares - 9½ acres at 18/

Mathew Burns & Cornwall - 15 acres at 20/

John & James Moran - 27 acres 15/

Michael Brown & partners - 15 acres at 13/

South side of the road

Charles Boyd & 4 others - 54 acres at 15/

James Burns & 2 others – 44 acres at 9/6

KILTYBO**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Middleman Mr. N. Jordan – under a lease – who has it sublet to under tenants at from 15/ to 18/ the Irish acres. [No] lease to the under tenants.

SPADDAGH AND ARDERRY

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Leased those two townlands together in 1800 to 11 tenants at the yearly rent of £48.12.0.

MONEYMORE

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Let under an old lease to the present tenants at a low rent.

BARHEEN

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Middleman Mr. R. Carroll who paid a fine for this farm in 1781 and 9/ the Irish acre, and has a part in his own hands and the rest set at from 14 to 18/ the Irish acre.

LECARROW

Counsellor Graydon.

This townland is let to a number of tenants at from 18/ to 20/ the Irish acres – no lease.

KNOCKBRACK

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Let to a number of tenants at from 12/ to 15/ the Irish acre, for the arable and pasture.

SCREGG

Lord Viscount Dillon.

An old lease. Leased to 18 tenants at the yearly rent of £33.10s.0d – the lives [of] three of the Royal family.

Bekan parish

BALLINPHUILL

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Let in 1835 to 6 tenants at the yearly rent of £19 – no lease.

TOORAREE

Lord Viscount Dillon.

This townland is let from 20/ to 25/ the Irish acre. It lies near the town of Ballyhaunis and part of it in town parks.

BRACKLAGHBOY

Lord Viscount Dillon.

This townland is let from 15/ to 20/ the Irish acres to a number of tenants – no lease.

ISLAND

Knox, Esq.

Held by Messrs. Thomas and Robert Phayre at the yearly rent of £280 – under a lease.

LARGANBOY EAST

Lord Viscount Dillon.

There is a part of this townland let at 10/6 the Irish acre, and the greater part from 20/ to 27/6 the acre Irish.

LARGANBOY WEST

Lord Viscount Dillon.

There is a part of this townland let at 12/ the Irish acre and the rest, which is the greater part, at from 20/ to 27/6 the acre Irish.

BOHOGERAWER

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Let to several tenants at from 15/ to 18/ the Irish acre.

ERRIFF

George Knox, Esq., of Dublin.

This townland is set from 20/ to 30/ the Irish acre – lots 8 and 9 are set at 32/ the Irish acre.

KNOCKAUNACAT

Lord Viscount Dillon.

This townland is let to the tenants of Lassanny at from 11 to 15/ the Irish acre.

TURLOUGH

George Knox, Esq.

There are 14 tenants in this townland in common and they pay 20/ per acre, rough and smooth. No lease.

REASK

Lord Viscount Dillon.

This townland is let from 14/ to 18/ the Irish acres for the arable and pasture – no lease.

LISBAUN WEST

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Let in 1836 to Pat Finn and 3 others at £15.15s.0d yearly – no lease.

DERRYMORE

Lord Viscount Dillon.

This townland is let to several tenants in common on an average about 15/ the Irish acre, for the arable and pasture.

LASSANNY

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Let to 8 tenants in common in 1836 at the yearly rent of £32 – no lease.

FORTHILL

Lord Viscount Dillon.

Mr. R. Carroll, Middleman, who holds under a very old lease and has 12 acres in his own hands, and the rest underlet to tenants at from 18/ to 22/ the Irish acre.

GREENWOOD

George Knox, Esq.

William Murphy & partners – 20 acres at 30/ per acre
Pat Walsh – 50 acres at 25/
Pat Grogan – 23 acres at 23/
James Lyons & partners – 15 acres at 22/
No lease.

COOLLOUGHRA

Lord Viscount Dillon.

No lease. Edward Flanagan, Anthony Grogan and 10 others hold this townland at £34 a year.

CLAGNAGH

Lord Viscount Dillon.

This townland is held by a number of tenants at from 15/ to 20/ the Irish acre.

BUNNADOBER**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

No lease.

Pat Boyle & 4 others pay £16.8s.0d yearly

John Lyons & 5 others pay £16.8s.0d do.

Luke Magarry & 5 others pay £16.8.0 do

CARROWREAGH**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in the year 1837 to the present tenants at 18/6 per acre on an average. No lease.

CHERRYFIELD**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held at will by Owen Grogan & partners at 20/ the acre, rough and smooth.

MOUNTAIN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is held under a very old lease by a number of tenants.

KILMANNIN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Michael Fitzgerald, Middleman, who sold the lands to three other persons. He had a lease of it at 10/ per acre.

GORTEEN MORE**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held under a lease made in the year 1800 to Patrick Flatly and partners at the yearly rent of £30.

GORTEEN BEG**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in 1832 to several tenants at 20/ per acre. No lease.

LISBAUN EAST**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let to 8 tenants at the yearly rent of £13.10.0. No lease.

GRALLAGHGARDEN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held under an old lease at 10/ per acre for the arable and pasture.

BRACKLOON SOUTH**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is held under a lease made in the year 1787 to four tenants in common at the yearly rent of £21. There is now 8 tenants.

TAWNAGH MORE**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in the year 1800 under a lease of lives for the yearly rent of £42.10.0.

POLLNACROAGHY**George Knox, Esq.**

There is a part of the town of Ballyhaunis in this townland, and the greater part of the [rest] is held by Pat Walsh Sen^r. at 30/ the Irish acre. No lease.

DEVLIS**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Middleman Mr. Nicholson Jordan, who has lot 2 set to Martin Jeffers and charges £10 for the house[s] and ground, and from 20/ to 30/ the Irish acre for the rest.

CARRAUNLUGGAUN**Henry Edmond Taaffe, Esq., of Dublin.**

There is a part of the town of Ballyhaunis in this townland, and the rest set at a high rent for townparks.

BRACKLOON NORTH**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let under a lease made in 1780 to the tenants in common at the yearly rent of £73.0.0.

BRACKLOON EAST**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held under an old lease of 3 lives at the yearly rent of £16 [or £18].

DERRYLAHAN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is held under a lease made in the year 1796 to John Royan, Hugh Corrigan and 4 others at the yearly rent of £20.

CAVE**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held in common under a lease made in 1810 at 13/ per acre Irish.

TOGHER**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held in common at a low rent under an old lease made in 1800.

BEKAN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Miss Burke holds a part of this townland and has it let to the Revd. Patrick Duffy and other tenants at from 22/ to 27/ the Irish acre, rough and smooth. Mr. John Burke holds another division in which his house stands and which is the best part of the townland. The arable ground of lots 14, 15 & 16 pay 20/ the Irish acre to Mr. F. [?]. Lots 28 and 29 is set at 18/ the acres. Lots 35 & 36 pay [?] the Irish acre.

BRACKLOON WEST**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Middleman Mr. Ferdinand Kelly. Lots [?] 12 to 20 [?] is held by 8 tenants at 24/ the acre [?] the arable and pasture. T. Frehely holds 29 [?] at 28/ per acre and Mr. O'Grady 110 acres at 22/.

LOUGHANBOY**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Christopher Taaffe Esq., Middleman, and now the Court of Chancery, and let at 20/ per acre rough and smooth.

CLOONACURRY**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Mr. Christopher Taaffe, Middleman. This townland is set under the Court of Chancery every 7 years. The last letting was from 18/ to 20/ the Irish acre.

CLOONBULBAN**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4 of this townland is let for £56 and the rest in the same proportion. No lease.

CUILTYCREAGHAN**Thomas Palmer, Esq.**

Held under a lease of lives made in 1806 to Pat Leonard, John Magee, Austin Healy and partners at the yearly rent of £102.16.6.

BRACKLAGH**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is held by a Mr. French in his own hands under stock, but could not learn what rent he pays for it.

CUILBEG**Dominick O'Reilly, Esq.**

This townland is set at 15/ the Irish acres for the arable and pasture, or thereabouts, under a lease made many years back.

LURGAN**Thomas Palmer, Esq.**

Let in the year 1822 for 21 years at 16/ Irish acre.

CLOONBOOK OUGHTER**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in the year 1834 to John Cribbin and 10 other tenants at the yearly rent of £70 – no lease.

CLOONBOOK EIGHTER**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in the year 1834 to James and Pat Cline and 8 other tenants at the yearly rent of £63 – no lease.

BELESKER**Thomas Palmer, Esq.**

Let under a lease at from 15/ to 21/ the Irish acre.

KEEBAGH**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Held under an old lease by a Mrs. Coogan at 14/? per acre, and has it re-let at from 20/ to 25/ the Irish acre for the arable and pasture.

BALLINVILLA DEMESNE**Joseph Creane, Esq.**

Mr. Creane lives here and has the townland in his own hands.

TAWNAGH**James Browne, Esq. Claremount.**

This townland is let to several tenants at 20/ the acre, rough and smooth on an average.

LENAMORE**Joseph Creane, Esq.**

James Delany – 30 acres at 18/ per acre, by lease.

___ Kennedy & partners – 26 acres at 25/ per acres from May 1840.

James Mulloy & partners – 18 acres at 17/6 per acre.

TREANREVAGH**Joseph Creane, Esq.**

John Dempsey holds 8 acres about his house at 21/ per acres under a lease. I could not learn what the rest is set for.

DRUM**Gunne Browne, Esq.**

Let to 6 tenants in the year 1838 at 30/ the Irish acre.

BRICKEENS**Lord Viscount Dillon, Head landlord.****Joseph Creane, Esq. under a lease for [?]**

Let to:

John McDonnell & 8 others – 48 acres at £4[?]

Thomas Boyle & 3 others, 36 acres at £3[?]

John Kelly & 5 others, 24 acres at £2[?]

William Tarpay & 3 others, 16 acres at £16

LISCLUMAN**Thomas Palmer, Esq.**

This townland is let from 20/ to 30/ the Irish acre.

KILKNOCK**A Mr. Blake.**

This townland has been in the hands of several landlords and is now set to several tenants at from 20/ to 30/ the Irish acre.

CLOONLARA**Dominick O'Reilly, Esq.**

The greater part of this townland is let at 20/ the Irish acre.

The worst part from 13 to 15/.

LISSANISKA**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland is held by a number of tenants at from 15/ to 25/ the Irish acre. Pat Folliard holds the [mill?] and 8 acres at £12 yearly. No lease.

KILLYLEA**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland was let in the year 1833 as follows:

John Healy – 20 acres at 24/ the Irish acre

Pat Walsh & Eaton 16 acres at 30/ the Irish acre.

No lease.

CULLINTRAGH**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

This townland was let in the year 1825 to several tenants at from 17/ to 20/ the Irish acres. Part of this townland is let on reasonable terms. No lease.

SKEAGHARD**Lord Viscount Dillon.**

Let in 1835 to John Swift, Pat Hunt & 5 other tenants at the yearly rent of £31.12.0. No lease.

Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

STEPHEN GROGAN

2015 marked the eleventh year of 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 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 one hundred and six FRC's operating in different towns and areas throughout the country. Funding for the FRCs comes from the 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.

The last year has seen an increase in the number of Parenting Courses being run in the Centre along with other initiatives to help and support families. Funding was also secured from the Benefit Programme of the Department of Communications to run a number of digital literacy training courses. The Senior Alert Programme is also operated by the FRC.

The Family Resource Centre has played a supportive role to groups such as the Ballyhaunis Scouts Group, Men's Shed and Community Garden, as well as to those groups who are well established.

The Community Garden has continued to be a great success, building on the work carried out last year when the project first began. The garden has been developed in partnership with a number of groups, in particular the TÚS scheme and by interested volunteers. Many thanks and appreciation also goes to the TÚS scheme workers for maintaining such a wonderful garden.

Pre-School Service

2015 marked the seventh year of our Community Pre-School service which is based next to our office at St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey. The Community Pre-school caters for children aged over three years and three months, providing a free Monday to Friday childcare service during school term time under the Government's 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, which has been recognised at both county and national levels.

The Family Resource Centre also operates another childcare service in the town – with the 'Greater Tomorrow' service based in the Old Convent Asylum Accommodation Centre, funded by Tusla. Both services provide high quality childcare and employ a number of local childcare staff. The services were evaluated during the year by NUIG's Child and Family Research Centre and their report is highly anticipated.

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 which have proven popular with adults and older people and are provided free or for a small charge. The Family Resource Centre also offers a community internet service and help with printing.

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 Money Advice Bureau also provides a similar service. 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 FRC 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 classes were also held during the year.

Volunteers

A great deal of the work of the Family Resource Centre depends on the participation of volunteers in both our management committee and in the activities themselves.

The Family Resource Centre is a member of the Community Council and Abbey Pattern Committee, contributing to the work of these organisations and taking an active part in their activities held in the town. It is also interested in working with as broad a range of community groups and organisations in the town and willing to help out in as many ways as possible.

The Family Resource Centre is controlled by a board of directors made up of people living in the Ballyhaunis community. In 2015 the officers were: Seamus 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 locality 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 Siamia Amjad.

Snow Scene

SEAMUS HORA

On the third of March 2015 I reached a milestone in my life's journey: forty-five years as a staff member of Delaney's Ltd.

When I drew back the curtains on that morning it was to reveal a beautiful carpet of snow. As a customer once said to me, "I love snow because it makes everyone's garden the same".

I picked out the usual items necessary for the day ahead – pencils, biro, notebook and, of course, I couldn't forget my pocket knife. As an employee of the late George Delaney this was a must. On this occasion I decided to add my camera due to the day that was in it!

The roads were in a treacherous condition and as I passed the school cars were having great difficulty negotiating the sharp incline from the bridge.

As I emerged from the shadows of the railway bridge I decided that, if I was to take any photographs I would have to take to the beautiful Friary Walk.

On this morning it was difficult to discern the path. On my way I happily snapped a few pictures of different species of bird, and a rather slim fox. As my walk came to an end I was drawn towards the meandering snow-covered steps up to the Augustinian church, even with its closed doors it has a magnetism all its own.

I thought about all the people who visited this church steeped in history, dating back hundreds of years. As sun began to shine one knew the life of a snowman in early spring was very short. To the left of me stood the Friary house, now Family Resource Centre, and as the sun began to illuminate the snow crystals on its roof I thought what a beautiful picture. The end result is the picture enclosed, and also, thanks to Johnny O'Shaughnessy who transferred it to canvas for me in a way that only he can do.



Painting by Johnny O'Shaughnessy



Showtime

In Spring 2011 Jimmy, Colm and Lorcan Ronan started up Began Belgian Blues showing pedigree livestock. They had two calves, Spotfield Fortune and Spotfield Freddie, and under the tuition and patience of Gabriel Sloyan they started that June and went onto September showing their stock at all the local agricultural shows.

They did well in their first year and so it continued in the following years with new additions: Gaelstar Hurricane and Iker. In 2013 the boys won at Tullamore Show with Spotfield Hurricane, and she also won All-Ireland Reserve Belgian Blue Champion on the day. That year Lorcan (then aged 13) went to the Ploughing Championships to compete for the title of All-Ireland Belgian Blue Young Handler, and won. This was a fantastic win as when the youngsters arrived they were given an animal to work with that they had never shown before. They had one hour to learn all about their new charge. The Young Handler competition is based on appearance of the young person, their ability to show their animal, and their knowledge of bloodlines and feeding habits, weight, etc.

In 2015 the boys changed their name to Ronan Brothers Livestock and started to show commercial cattle as well. Their 2015 Limousin cross heifer, Ann Sophie, has been very successful for them winning many big prizes including Best Continental Heifer Mayo/Donegal, in Enniscrone and Swinford.

The show circuit is a real family affair with a lot to be organised for the day out, cattle cards, movement forms, entry forms, clean white coats and, of course, food, all looked after by mum Siobhan who goes to all the shows to mind the cheques and rosettes!

Colm (18) is currently studying agricultural science in UCD and loves the course as it is a subject close to his heart. Lorcan (16) is in Ballyhaunis Community School and sat his junior cert this past summer. The show circuit is over for now with the white coats hung up until next June and we have to wait until January to see what the Ronan brothers will have to go on tour with in 2016.



Summer 2011. Colm and Lorcan Ronan. Pedigree Belgian Blue calves, Spotfield Frederick and Spotfield Fortune.



Colm and Lorcan Ronan, with Judge, and 'Anne Sophie' at Swinford Show 2015. Commercial heifer, Champion of Show.



Conor Waldron, born 11th Oct. 2015 in Melbourne, Australia, to Janette and Damien Waldron, Holywell, Ballyhaunis.

Eamon Byrne feeds his pet robin. Eamon is the son of Brian and Ina Byrne, Dublin, and grandson of Brian and Peg Byrne, Doctor's Road.



Class of 1990 – 25 Year Reunion

The Class of 1990 who attended Ballyhaunis Community School, held their 25 year school reunion on Saturday, 11th July 2015 in Val's Bar in Ballyhaunis. Over sixty people attended the night with some classmates flying in from the South Pacific, New York and the UK.

The two deceased members of the class were remembered on the night. Caroline Caulfield and David Johnston passed away since the last reunion in 2010 and their photographs were displayed in a quiet corner of the venue, in white frames, with a vase of yellow roses and a candle.



Top: Joanne Madden, James Hunt, Mae Flatley and Louise Fitzmaurice.



Left: Back, L-R: John Caulfield, Caroline Lynskey and Catherine Fitzgerald. Front: Joanne Madden, Ann Marie Sloyan, Teresa Donnellan.

Group Back, L-R: Michael Dee, Declan Doherty, Domhnall Waldron, John Caulfield, Stephen Waldron, Francis Lyons, Richard Gallagher and Michael O'Shaughnessy. Third Row: Catherine Fitzgerald, Caroline Lynskey, Katriona Sweeney, Martin Walsh, Ann Marie Sloyan, Keith Delaney, Damien Jennings, Patricia Moran, Mary Cunniffe, Joanne Coyne, Mary Keane, Assumpta Biesty, Liesel Mooney and Patricia Waldron. Second Row: Stephanie Caulfield, Patricia Muldoon, Fiona Raftery, Michael Connell, Donal Ruane, Maura Daly, Louise Fitzmaurice, Roisin Shields, Dora Forde and Sharon Greene. Front Row: Vinny Levins, Teresa Donnellan, Joanne Madden, Declan Donohoe, Cathriona O'Malley, James Hunt and Mae Flatley.



Class of 2004 – 10 Year Reunion

ANTHONY MURPHY

Ballyhaunis Community School, Class of 2004 Ten Year Reunion was held in Gareth Delaney's over the Christmas period, 2014. The reunion was attended by past pupils from all corners of the globe. As with high emigration levels from Ireland in the mid 2000's past pupils of 2004 travelled back from the UK, Australia, New Zealand, America and even some made the long journey from Dublin and the surrounding Ballyhaunis areas!

There were lots of friendly faces, and many stories were shared amongst people who may not have seen

each other for nearly ten years. Music on the night was by Kieran Murphy and his Jig Band, and Gareth Delaney hosted the night brilliantly.

Unfortunately, two of our classmates, Adrian Freeman and Patrick Forde were unable to attend due to their lives having been cut so short at such a young age. Both were remembered on the night and special thanks go to both families who provided pictures of them for the night.

We all look forward to the 20th anniversary in 2024.



The Class of 2004 meet up after ten years. Back, L-R: Alan Fitzpatrick, Mark Conboy, Stephen Brady, John Óg Robinson, Anne Caulfield, Peter Flatley, Ciarán Waldron, Liam Burke, Paul Freeman, Bernadette Murphy, Christina Connolly, Mark O'Connell, Johnny Forde, James Leonard, Francis Cunnane, Michael Byrne, Kevin Curley, Adriana Waldron. Front, L-R: Hazel Robinson, Leona Lyons, Breda Haverty, Irma Cunnane, Louise Walshe, Brian Cunniffe, Katie O'Connor, Tracy Kirrane, Anthony Murphy, Stephen Jenkins, Leanne Murphy, Eilis Nevin, Robert Grogan, Aileen Burke.

Our Cat, Fifi

by Mary Gunnigan

She came to us, a kitten, small,
I had no time for cats at all -
But slowly round my heart she wove
A furry, purry, kind of love;
My Other Half was smitten, so
She'd up and on his shoulders go:
He'd stroke her while he read the news
And she'd reply with little 'mews':

But now she is quite a grown up cat
Who asks for food and this and that
She likes it when we're all alone
And glad to see all callers – gone!
But when we go from home a while
She greets our coming with a smile
And somehow manages to be
Inside the door for John and me!

Murt Hunt's Letters to the Sunday Independent

The following letters were published in *The Sunday Independent*

Paper Choice

Reading in *The Indo* about a forthcoming Irish Press/Sunday Press ex-staff reunion for the 20th anniversary of their dissolution, brought back memories of days long ago when I was a boy. I was often given the job of bringing *The Irish Press* or *Sunday Press* to our house on the way home from school or Mass; not that we could afford to buy a paper all the time in those days. No *Irish Independent* or *Sunday Independent* in our house, not that either was hated, but that *The Irish Press* and *Sunday Press* were deemed *Fianna Fáil*, and *The Indo* was deemed *Fine Gael*.

My dad was a staunch *Fianna Fáil* follower and a *de Valera* man, so that explained the paper choice. It went so far that an aunt of mine (his sister) and himself were not talking, all over politics. It even came to the point that I brought home *The Irish Independent* one day as *The Irish Press* was not available in the shop, and I was promptly dispatched back to the shop again with *The Indo* to return it at once, without ever opening the paper.

Things have moved on a lot since those days, and since *The Irish Press* stopped printing I had to make the change without ever having a problem buying *The Independent* and *The Sunday Independent*, though I still reminisce about winning competitions on *Captain Mac* on Saturdays; my biggest win was a budgie called Joey, which was duly dispatched to my local train station, and had me so excited at such a young age.

I did not follow my late dad's dedication to politics, but I try and vote for the best candidate whom I think will do some good, preferably a local, as a politician based a long distance away is good to neither man or beast.

So that article roused old memories for me about the olden days, and all the bitterness of politics, so now I will close and get on with my reading the sports pages and many lovely articles and features in my *Sunday Independent*.

A Load of Bull

With all the debate and confusion over the recent Marriage Referendum, all seem to have forgotten about Benjy the gay bull who hit the headlines some time ago.

Benjy was reported and deported and his only crime was that he fancied other males. He was forcibly taken from his mates and lovers, cruelly deported from these shores to foreign climes to be introduced into a herd of females, cows and heifers; and we can be sure he was not pleased in their company. We have been told he has settled in nicely but I am sure he misses his male friends back in Ireland; and anyway he cannot tell us how he feels. Where was the Department of Agriculture and I.S.P.C.A. when they were needed? They should immediately make amends and get Benjy back to where he belongs, in the lush Irish meadows cavorting with all his male friends, and swishing his tail as he goes about his business.

Rewarding Mistake

With the hullabaloo about the water issue, if my memory serves me right, was it not Mr. Phil Hogan that was responsible and started all this heartbreak of the water issue? Then he disappeared and got promoted in Europe. He would not be the first, and probably not the last, who will find themselves in similar circumstances.

A good few years ago whilst I was working for a well known drinks firm we were told about an employee at the main brewery itself that had made a major blunder. It was a funny incident to us all and a cause of much banter and laughter. However, it was not funny for the employee himself and especially for the employer. The unfortunate employee inadvertently pulled a lever that released thousands of gallons of alcoholic brew into a river flowing through said brewery. As it was coming up to Christmas time, the brew was an enormous loss of revenue to the particular company.

Did our friend get reprimanded by suspension? Did he get instant dismissal from his job? Oh no, his job was changed alright, but, believe it or not, he got promoted and went upstairs to a higher paid job altogether where he would never get the opportunity to make the same mistake again. Reminds me very much of Mr. Hogan and his water blunder and his promotion; and how he will never get the opportunity to make the same mistake again, or to rectify it either.

Niamh's Great Year

Everyone who is involved in sport dreams of winning an All Ireland medal at some stage of their life, so for someone to win four in one year is truly remarkable - but that's exactly what Niamh O'Neill did this year. Niamh is a keen sportswoman and takes part in lots of different events, but GAA, Athletics and Boxing would be her favourites and it's in these sports that 2015 has been memorable.



Niamh boxes for the Ballyhaunis Boxing Club and reached the All Ireland Final in April. She was unlucky to lose the final on a 2-1 decision, however, a silver medal was a great achievement.

In June the All Ireland Schools Athletics took place in Tullamore and Niamh took part in the long jump. She took the gold medal in this, making a remarkable jump of 5m 29cm.

Next came the All Ireland Club Track and Field Championship in July. Niamh is a member of Claremorris Athletic Club. She took part in long jump and 80m hurdles but, unfortunately, she was unable to recreate her form of the Schools Athletics and finished fifth in the long-jump, but she took the silver medal in the 80m hurdles.

Finally, in August, she represented Mayo and the Parish of Ballyhaunis in the All Ireland Community Games Finals and won the Gold medal in the 80m hurdles. What a way to end a season!



Photo credit: Seb Daly / SPORTSFILE

Swimming Pool

AGATHA HIGGINS

The start of the Summer season always means the opening of our local Swimming Pool. Thanks to the Council staff for any painting and repairs that were needed, and a big thank you to the staff of EPS Ballyhaunis for being on-hand to help us out at short notice. We organised Lifeguards and a Caretaker for the season and, despite the weather forecast doing us no favours with WET, WET, WET, weather forecast for July and August, the pool was filled and opened on the 6th of July. Thanks to Fr. Stephen Farragher for giving it his blessing.

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 Jim O'Neill from the Irish Water Safety for examining those who took part in the IWS course.

As usual we finished this year's season with the Swimming Gala and a fun filled party, and everybody had a very enjoyable day. All the gala events were organised by the lifeguards and office staff. They organised a variety of swimming and novelty events, e.g. three-legged race, obstacle course, biggest splash. It guaranteed all children went home with a medal and everybody was very happy. Our overall trophy went to Vanessa Whelan who received the Best Attendance Award.

Congratulations to all the winners. We look forward to seeing you all again in 2016 and, Please God, much better weather.

Finally, a special word of thanks to our Lifeguards and Office staff: Megan Carroll, Martin Mulkeen, Jarlath Carney, Jessica Carroll and Gary Higgins.

Outstanding Mayo Person of the Year Nomination

MIKE BYRNE

Animal welfare and rescue activist Marian Biesty from Pattenspark got a very pleasant surprise on Thursday, 9th April 2015, when she discovered that she had been nominated as an Outstanding Young Person of Mayo for 2015.



Pictured at the presentation ceremony in Castlebar for the Mayo Outstanding Young Person of the Year is recipient Marian Biesty (centre), with family members and members of the Animal Rescue Group.

Back, L-R: Neasa Ní Mheachair, Kath Forsyth, Nat Couling, Maureen Higgins, Anne Cribbin. Front: Lana Biesty, Clodagh Byrne, Marian Biesty, Emma and Aoife Biesty.

Daughter of Austin and Joan Biesty, Pattenspark, Marian has been running an Animal Rescue Centre at her home for over 15 years and what she has achieved through this voluntary and selfless work has been truly outstanding. She responds to calls at any time, day or even in the dead of night, to go to the aid of some poor, unfortunate animal which had either been abandoned or mistreated.

Marian and her team of volunteers have been doing wonderful work, mostly behind the scenes, and with great humility and love over many years. It is great to see some recognition for this very well deserving case.

Marian was joined by family members and friends and colleagues from the Rescue Centre at the special reception in the AIB centre in Castlebar on Friday, 17th April, where she was feted and praised for the outstanding work she has been doing at the Animal Welfare Centre for the past 15 years. A special presentation was made to her by the members of the Junior Chamber International during the evening.

This is the fourth year of the Young Person of the Year awards in county Mayo, but the competition has been running worldwide for some 30 years now. The organisers of the contest are JCI Mayo (Junior Chamber International), Mayo Advertiser and AIB Bank Ltd.

Macra na Feirme



In 2015 Sean Finan of Foxborough, Ballinlough, and a past pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School, was elected National President of Macra na Feirme. He is pictured standing on the extreme right, with the Ballyhaunis quiz team that won the Mayo Macra Schools Quiz Shield in 2014. **Back, L-R:** Cian Henry, Anna Henry, Oisín Henry, Piarais Caulfield, Stephen Nolan, James Lyons, Padraic Duffy, Mark Phillips, Joseph Lyons, Sean Finan (President). **Front:** Two Macra officials, James Lyons, Roisín Ní Shúilleabháin, Sarah Behan, Tom Murphy, Macra official.



The words 'Busy' and 'Exciting' would be the perfect way to describe the year the local branch of Fine Gael had in 2015. Immediately after we had finished off the turkey and celebrated the incoming New Year the branch members got involved in the preparations for the National Conference which was held in the Royal Theatre, Castlebar, on February 20th and 21st. Large crowds attended on both days with the highlight being the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny's, address on the Saturday evening.

At our April branch meeting John O'Mahony TD informed the branch that he would be moving to the new constituency of Galway West-South Mayo for the next election. He also told the meeting that he was absolutely committed to represent the people of Mayo until the next General Election. Local Councillor, John Cribbin, expressed his gratitude and thanks for all the commitment Deputy O'Mahony had shown to the Ballyhaunis area down through the years. The meeting wished him the best of luck in his quest of getting elected in the forthcoming election.

A special meeting was convened by the branch in early May at the request of Cllr. John Cribbin. He wished to explain to the members the benefit and importance of the newly launched 'Discretionary Fund'. He explained that, as the Town Councils were abolished and the four Municipal Districts were established, this fund had been set up to help local bodies and clubs in the Districts. This was the first time such discretionary funding has come to our district. The branch is happy to say that many clubs and bodies in the Ballyhaunis area have received funding from this source.

On Thursday, 30th July the branch welcomed Minister of State for Sport, Michael Ring, to the town. He toured many of the sporting venues during his visit and while meeting with the local Cricket Club he announced that he had put €78,876 in place as funding for them to go towards the setting up a cricket facility in the town.

At the August meeting Cllr. Cribbin updated the members on road work schemes and projects already completed locally and confirmed that further funding was committed for other local projects. The meeting congratulated local footballer Keith Higgins on Captaining Mayo to its fifth Connacht Title in a row and wished him and the Mayo team all the best for the rest of the Championship.

The most important item on the agenda at our September meeting was the Mayo Constituency Selection Convention which was to be held on October



Two Ballyhaunis Fine Gael Councillors, John Cribbin based in Ballyhaunis (left) and Niall Cruise based in Foxford (right), pictured with Simon Coveney Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine.

19th in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris. The chairman told the meeting that three candidates would be selected and nominations would close on Monday, October 5th. He also stressed it was important that as many branch members as possible attend this Convention.

On Monday, October 19th the branch had its busiest and most exciting day of the year. We welcomed An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, to the town. While in the town his main function was to officially turn the sod on the €7,000,000 building extension to the Community School on the Knock Road. Mr. Kenny also officially opened the 'Imagine Garden'. The Imagine Garden was designed and completed by a number of the students in conjunction with Ms. Murray, Ms. Lennon and local artist Tommy Casby to celebrate the diversity which exists in the school. Students from 28 different nationalities attend the school and a flavour of their rich heritage and culture was brought to life for all to see. An Taoiseach got the opportunity to meet these students and peruse the various displays. The Taoiseach also visited the GAA Centre of Excellence and was greatly impressed with the facilities there.

Mr. Kenny, bestowed a huge honour on our branch, and particularly on branch member Cllr. John Cribbin, when he requested that John nominate him at the Constituency Selection Convention in Claremorris. A huge honour indeed as never before was a sitting Taoiseach seeking re-election in Mayo.

A large crowd attended the Convention chaired by Galway TD Sean Kyne. Three candidates were selected: Enda Kenny, Michael Ring and Michelle Mulherin. We are looking forward to next year already and gearing up for the election.

The Ballyhaunis Branch of Fine Gael would like to wish everybody a Happy, Peaceful Christmas and Best Wishes for 2016.

Pupils Protest

3rd & 4th year pupils outside Ballyhaunis Community School during the protest organised in reaction to the drawn-out teachers' strike of 1986, in solidarity with their Leaving Cert colleagues.

L-R: Noel Phillips, Tommy Glynn, Joe Tighe, Philip McGoldrick, Joseph Bailey, Patrick Murphy, Stephen Comer, Donal Coggins, Shay Cullinane, Eddie McLoughlin, Ciarán Duffy, Alan Henry, Séamus Geraghty, Sean Coffey, Kieran Luby.



St. Patrick's College, 1973

Back, L-R: Kieran Folliard, Gerry Lyons, Terry Keenan (Knock).
Front: Eamon Murren, Anthony Hegarty, Alex Eaton.

Taken on the day Joe and Sally Regan retired as proprietors of the Corner Bar, August 1991.

L-R: Pat Doherty, Johnny McGuire, Eddie Higgins, Jimmy Connolly, Kevin Eagney, Bridget Ann Maloney, Martin Healy.



Telegraph Debut Fulfilled Childhood Dream

MIKE BYRNE

First published in a 1996 Commemorative issue of the *Connaught Telegraph*

Ten years ago this month I made my first ever contribution to the Connaught Telegraph as Correspondent for the Ballyhaunis and District area.

The year 1986 brings to mind a very special memory of a hot, sunny afternoon, Wednesday, June 11th, when sports legend Sir Matt Busby arrived in Ballyhaunis to present a bus to the Ballyhaunis Branch of the Rehabilitation Institute courtesy of Manchester Variety Club, of which Sir Matt was honorary president.



Sir Matt Busby (right) with Mike Byrne (seated), Chris Pratt and John Cleary (back, L-R), outside The Manor House Hotel 1986.

As a young fellow growing up in the Ballyhaunis of the 1960s and 70s, like many other youths of the time, I had a tremendous interest and passion for the game of Association Football across the English Channel. This was the era of George Best, 'El Beatle' as he was dubbed by the media for his mop top, similar to a group of musicians from Liverpool. Everything the football wizard from Belfast did in public was well documented on television, newspapers, soccer, pop and gossip magazines.

Yes, this was the time of the great Manchester United team, the Busby Babes, Mark II. They were English champions in 1965, 1967 and in 1968, becoming the first English club to win the European Cup, a famous night in Wembley, May 29th, 1968 – a mere ten years after the

Munich air disaster – United destroyed Portuguese champions Benfica by four goals to one (after extra time) to win the Euro Cup in a tense and exciting final.

That night people from "out the country" cycled into town, many of whom, particularly from Began, descended upon our kitchen to watch the big match live from Wembley, courtesy of Jimmy Magee and RTE, on our newly-installed black and white television.

The goals of Charlton (2), Best and Kidd were greeted with a deafening roar of excitement by the spectators lucky enough to get standing space in our kitchen.

The scenes of delight etched on the face of manager Busby – tears in his eyes as he embraced heroes Charlton, Best, Crerand and Shay Brennan – were shown on television over the following weeks and were images which were to remain a permanent fixture in the mind's eye of yours truly in subsequent years.

In the weeks afterwards we would steal into 'the pictures' in McGarry's cinema each evening during the interval when Pathé News would replay the highlights of the big match in what was described at the time as 'Amazing Technicolor' on the big screen.

This was long before the foundation of A.B.U. (Anything But United) Club, a time when most of the teenagers from the area were avid Manchester United fans. Those who weren't – the Murrens (Spurs), the Herrs (Liverpool), the Clearys (Man. City) and Alex Eaton (Chelsea) – all supported their respective teams in earnest.

Our little lock-up shop of minerals, sweets and ice cream – A.K.A. 'The Fruit and Nut Shop', run by my brother Dom – had its walls completely covered by football photos from the English League and was at that time the meeting place for local teenagers and those older from around the town where, in an environmentally-free atmosphere, the football sagas of the day were aired.

For a young fellow growing up in Clare Street in the late 1960s heading for teenage status, the weekly diet of reading consisted of 'Goal', 'Jimmy Hill's Football Weekly', 'Shoot', 'Scorcher' and 'Roy of the Rovers'. The weekly bill for the magazines would come to somewhere in the region of four to five shillings, a sizeable amount. No wonder the bar and grocery tills of my father, God be good to him, would seldom balance.

The magazine would be perused a second or maybe third time before the pages would be dissected and the photos of Busby, Best, Stepney, Law, Stiles, Kidd and the rest would be glued neatly and safely into the scrapbook.

My Dream

Night after night I would have this recurring dream of meeting Matt Busby coming off the steps of a coach somewhere on Bridge Street. The dream always seemed so real – only to be shattered by a shout by my mother calling me to get up for school. Little did I ever think that someday I would find myself chatting to Sr. Matt in Ballyhaunis (though not in Bridge Street). After clearing that enormous lump from the throat, I explained to him about the dream which used to occur to me so frequently almost twenty years previous. Also showing some emotion, the great man, holding my hand, commented:

“A dream come true.”

As a newly-appointed Correspondent for the Telegraph, I was permitted to join the gathering for the official handing over of the Sunshine Coach to the Ballyhaunis Branch of Rehab. The date, June 11th, has some significance in terms of football for this part of the world. On June 11, 1994, in New York, Ray Houghton again scored a memorable winner – this time against Italy in the World Cup Finals.

Memorable occasions indeed, but none more memorable or outstanding than that sunny day ten years ago when a childhood dream came true.

(Mike Byrne is the Ballyhaunis Correspondent of the Connaught Telegraph, 1986 to present).

Waldron and Curley Family c.1910



Mrs. Mary Waldron (née Jordan), Cave (seated second from right), pictured with her son Mark, daughters Annie, Rose, Delia and Maria; sons-in-law Walter Waldron (Carnmore and Knox St.) and Michael Curley (Crossard), grandchildren, nephew Paul Waldron and relative John Patrick Jordan.

Standing, L-R: Ann Curley, Hugh Curley, Annie Waldron, Paul Waldron (Aghamore), Rose Waldron, Mark Waldron, Mary Curley, John P. Jordan, Delia Waldron and Breege Curley. Seated: Kate Curley, Walter Waldron (Carnmore and Knox St.), Mrs. Maria Curley, Mrs. Mary Waldron, Michael Curley. Front: Anthony Curley, Michael Curley, Mary Waldron, Mark Curley. Photograph taken c.1909/10. Courtesy of Nora Brennan, from an original in the possession of the Curley family.

The Hai Life

LIAM McDERMOTT

On March 16th 2014, I touched down in China. I was in a taxi from the airport heading into downtown Shanghai having a white hot panic attack. The sweat was dripping off me and I was thinking I had made the biggest mistake of my life. This was a bigger blunder than the time I took the roof off the tractor shed or that last minute miss against Four Roads in the 2010 Connacht semi-final. What the hell am I doing here? Where did all the grass go? I hope that they at least have Heinz Baked Beans here.

Within an hour of landing, I was bringing my two bags into my apartment and questioning the wisdom of heading all the way across the world after an exchange of four emails with the school that was willing to take me on. I paced around the room for what seemed like

hours, worrying about how I would explain returning after two days to everyone in the parish, without looking like a total coward. Then, the hunger hit me and I realised that I hadn't eaten since leaving Dublin airport and I finally had some motivation to leave the relative safety of the flat. I found a tiny corner shop that wasn't mobbed with people, pointed at some pictures and I was devouring plates of Shanghai fried dumplings like I was eating them my whole life. I realised China couldn't be that bad.



Liam McDermott
on the Great Wall of China

A year and a half on, I couldn't have been happier about moving here. It isn't a perfect place by any means. The differences between Mayo and here are abundantly apparent every day but there are far more similarities than you would expect. You can't go a day without someone offering you tea. The Chinese adore tea and have it in every variety imaginable. But they don't drink it with milk or sugar and they haven't a Digestive or Rich Tea to go with it either.

At first I came out here teaching at a private English school. The students would come in after their regular day at school and weekends all to learn as much of the

language as they could. Now I am teaching in kindergarten with a class of 26 six-year-olds. They are all the sons and daughters of Shanghai's roaring middle class. Although, China's single child policy has been relaxed, the vast majority of my students are only children but they do the work of three kids. When you live in a country of a billion and a half people, where everyone has the same eye and hair colour, you need to excel to stand out. Aside from five days a week of 8am to 5pm with me, all of my students have extra English and Mathematics classes on top of weekly piano/violin lessons. This is all in the hope of getting accepted into one of the city's most elite international schools. I've been assured that the extra English classes are the norm amongst these children and not an indictment of my teaching skills.

Outside of work, Shanghai is a fantastic place to live. It has all of the nightclubs, live venues, pubs and swanky restaurants that you could ask for from a major world city. When you first arrive, your first impression is a modern metropolis swamped in skyscrapers. The Bund (Shanghai's Financial District) features the soon to be completed Shanghai tower, which will be the second tallest building in the world, and a host of extravagant bars will adorn the top floors of this high rise building. When you first arrive, you are stunned by the apparent wealth and splendour that is on display but, like any city, you have squalor as well. I was here a week before I noticed a baby with a hole cut in between the legs of his trousers. I was completely puzzled until I saw his mother hoist him above a bin as he began relieve himself. This is the Chinese solution to the price of disposable nappies.

Like every person who leaves Ireland to see a different corner of the world, one of my first places to call was the local GAA club. Despite the big pick of players available to them (26 million people), the local club is still a small, but diligent, outfit. We recently came second in the All-China games after losing a tough final to a strong outfit from Seoul. Don't ask me why the Korean team was there. It's all local politics. At the moment, we are gearing up to host the All Asia Games next month, as teams from all over the continent will be converging in the city to compete. The locals aren't as excited about it as I am. To cope with the lack of a hurling team, I've taken up Aussie football to fill the hole. AFL has plenty of skills that cross over to Gaelic football. However, there is a steep learning curve, but the Australian slang is an even greater barrier to overcome.

As I mentioned earlier, the language barrier over here is very difficult to overcome. Unlike going to a European country, the Chinese don't really use the Latin alphabet

that we do. They use our letters when typing on computers or phones in a phonetic system called pinyin. Other than that their language is composed of shapes and strokes. Eighteen months in and they still all look like the scratches of a chicken in the sand to me. It takes years of hard work to read at a mediocre level and I can safely say that I am a few decades off even that. Speaking Chinese is just as difficult. The language is made up of a fairly limited number of syllables, but how you pronounce the word decides its meaning. For example, “ma” can mean (1) mother, (2) horse, (3) that you are asking a question, or (4) that you are angry with someone. The only easy part of the language is the translation for “haven’t” which is “meiyou”, pronounced Mayo.

The Chinese are an interesting race of people. I have been confused or lost on numerous occasions around the country and each time some stranger has taken time out of their day to help me. Their patience when dealing with visitors to their country never ceases to make me feel welcome. That said, orderly queues are a pipe dream

here; it’s especially common among elderly people to just elbow you out of the way and then look shocked when you aren’t happy about it. But, in fairness, they have lived through political upheaval, poverty and famine. They have earned the right to push you out of the way to get a seat on the subway.

Apart from the kids defecating in broad daylight, the pollution, and the fact that everyone and their cat smokes, it’s a great place to live. Not a day goes by where I don’t witness something bizarre. I could write for months and only cover half of the weird stuff that I see daily. Just to illustrate some of the weirdness that goes on: if you have a cold or cough (which is fairly often with the pollution), they encourage you to drink warm water. If you are pregnant you can’t have your hair cut. The month after you give birth you are forbidden from bathing or leaving your bed. But it’s all part of the charm. I can safely say that the biggest mistake of my life, for the time being, is that bloody shed roof. Father Ted had it right. The Chinese are a great bunch of lads.

Ballyhaunis Men’s Shed Association

JOE GLYNN

It is over three years now since the establishment of the Ballyhaunis Men’s Shed Association and, 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 our 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 Shed’s are open to all men over 18 years of age and there is no upper limit.

The third AGM of the group heard the report from the outgoing committee and discussed activities for the coming year. There was a good attendance at the AGM and it was felt that good progress has been made over the last 12 months, with the transfer of our activities to a new premises in a previously abandoned building on the Friary Grounds at St. Mary’s Augustinian Abbey. The new men’s shed building has been restored, renovated and made comfortable over the summer months. The group has also continued to play an active role in wider community life taking part in the Summer Festival, the Abbey Pattern as well as providing practical support to groups like the Ballyhaunis Scouts and Family Resource Centre.

The following were elected as the Ballyhaunis Men’s Shed officers for 2014/2015. Chairperson: Joe Glynn; Treasurer: Tom Regan; Secretary: John Durkan.

The Shed is open from Monday to Fridays, from 10.00am to 2pm, is free of charge and is open to all men over 18 years to drop in and/or take part in the work going on in the Shed.



St. Mary's Boy's National School, 6th Class 1996/97

Back, L-R: Eddie Kilcourse, Alan Lyons, Padraic Carney, Patrick Waldron, Christopher Burke, Gareth Morrissey, Hazeem Kezze, Michael Kilcourse, Adam Jumail. **Centre:** Daniel McLoughlin, Shazad Javid, Paul Jordan, Adriano Lieghio, Aledin Cherbatji, Brian Mulrennan, Paul Lynch, Michael Moran, Mr. Jim Lundon. **Front:** Henry Forde, Stephen Shanaghy, William Lynskey, Christopher Kilcourse, Niall Richardson, Noel McGuire, Keith Higgins, Fergal Walsh, Keith Egan, Rory Coyne. **Missing from photo:** Jason Coffey, Martin Coffey, Simon McDonagh, Tom Maughan, Tommy O'Dowd, Padraic Korrane.



Above: Stations in Knox St. in the 1980s. Cecily Moran, Kitty Mitchell, Margaret Johnston, Maura Herr and Eileen McGuire.



Right: Seamus Grogan (ringing the Friary Bell), Seamus O'Boyle, Mary Higgins and Wictor Simeonkowski, before this year's Annual Friary Mass, Sunday, 6th Sept. 2015

The Muldoons of Annagh

ANNE DOWNER (Monmouthshire, South Wales)

My father had always wanted to visit Ireland to look up my mother's family roots and in particular the family grave and original homestead, which we had always known to be in the area around Ballyhaunis. She was Mary Muldoon and her father Michael came originally from Annagh, Ballyhaunis. Fortunately these days, a lot of information can be found through the internet and, with the help of some items found in Dad's attic in a small toffee tin, we soon started to piece things together.

The most helpful source was the Irish Census of 1901 and 1911 which informed us that members of the family name (Muldoon) lived in Annagh and that at the time, there were only a small number of households in the area. We then looked at the Griffith's Valuation website and found that in the mid 1800's there was a small group of possibly nine properties and land in Annagh which housed the Muldoon, McNamara and Lyons families, together with an Owen Rourke. The Muldoons appeared to occupy two of the houses. The map associated with the valuation indicated the properties sat on three parcels of land leading down to the Island Lake, which has now dried up, although it is shown on my ordnance survey map as "seasonal". From this map, we could identify from Google maps the group of houses today.

1911 Census

The 1911 census then allowed us to identify two properties in the area which housed the Muldoon families. House no. 20 had nine occupants and House no. 26 had five occupants. Having now seen the properties involved, it is hard to imagine how nine people could co-exist in such a small space.

It is interesting that the Lyons name and the McNamara name came up in the search, as my great-grandmother was a Mary Lyons and there is, as we later discovered, an

epitaph on another Muldoon grave from the McNamara family. My grandfather, Michael Muldoon, moved to England in his twenties for work. One of his brothers, Patrick, stayed on at the farm, whilst his other two brothers, John and Austin went to America.

A further reference to the Lyons family was noted in an obituary in a local newspaper, unfortunately not dated. The obituary noted the death of Mrs Mary Muldoon, 89, who 'belonged to an old and highly respected family – the Lyons of Annagh'. The obituary was very complimentary, referring to Mrs Muldoon as

a 'popular woman' with a 'gentle and kind disposition', the 'possessor of many noble qualities of which, perhaps charity was the most outstanding'. She was also an authority on 'local folklore'.

One other piece of information we had was a photograph of my Great Uncle Patrick sat on a wall with another relative, my uncle, Austin Muldoon and a third person. In the background is a lake which appears to resemble part of the Island lake and it looks as though the three are sat on a boundary hump between two of the parcels of land indicated on Griffith's Valuation.

The final source of immediately useful information was the Irish Graveyards website where we managed to locate a Muldoon family grave in Ballyhaunis cemetery and even a picture of the grave in which four members of the family were buried. The grave seemed to be in a slightly unusual place in the cemetery, being sited close to the boundary wall, so shouldn't be difficult to locate.

Our Irish Visit

We decided that in May of this year we would visit Ireland with my father and spend a short time looking around, searching out the area that the family had lived in and



Tom Meehan (left) shows the Muldoon relatives their old homestead in Annagh.



Patrick Muldoon (centre) with his nephew Austin Muldoon (right) and grand-nephew (left) holding a homemade fishing implement, known as a 'Gaff'. Annagh Lake (or Island Lake) is in the background.

visiting the cemetery, but we felt we had reached the limitations of how much could readily be researched from the internet and that we needed to try to find a local source to help us to make the best of our time there.

When looking on the internet under Annagh, one of the websites that popped up every time was that of the Annagh Magazine and this appeared to have a fund of information about the area. It seemed that the best we could do would be to write to them to see if they could possibly help us in our search and they certainly didn't let us down.

A short time after writing, my husband, Derek, received a phone call from John Halpin, the Treasurer for the magazine, very kindly just letting us know that the letter had been received and was being passed on to the magazine committee.

I later received an email from Committee Member, Paul Waldron, saying that he knew of a distant cousin of mine, Tom Meehan, living nearby, who may be able to help us and giving me a contact number. We had not been aware of Tom's family before, however, when we looked again in the toffee tin, we came across a sympathy card for a relative, from the Meehan family. Looking on the Census again, it emerged that there was a Meehan family living in House No. 24 in Annagh in 1911. There were six family members living there, head of the family Patrick, his wife Delia and four children.

We arranged to meet Tom and set off from Bristol Airport on Sunday 24th May, arriving at Knock Airport in the afternoon. As we had booked in to the Breaffy House Hotel, near Castlebar, we had a short drive from the airport to the hotel and were surprised at how different the roads and surroundings were to that around our home in South Wales. Three lane motorways were replaced with single lane roads and there seemed very little in the way of buildings en route. The hotel, though, was a charming building and the staff were all most helpful.

The following morning saw us travelling for forty minutes to Ballyhaunis to meet Tom at St Patrick's Church, which the family had attended. We didn't have any trouble recognising him as we had already seen his photograph on the records of the local golf club on the internet and he was already there waiting to meet us.



Left: The author with her father and husband outside St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.
L-R: Ronald Bennie, Derek Downer and Anne Downer.

It was immediately clear that Tom indeed had a knowledge of my relations and was able to tell us that both my grandfather and his brothers were known by nicknames, respectively, Dyke, Pake, The Cop and The Miner, mainly, I think to avoid the confusion of having common family names.

After a brief look at the church, Tom took us to the cemetery and showed us the family grave. The headstone showed that two Mary Muldoons and two Michael Muldoons were buried there, but Tom informed us that Patrick was also buried there, although he was not included on the headstone.

Tom then took us to see the family house in Annagh. It was in a bit of a sorry state, having not being lived in for some time. It was hard to believe that at the time of the 1911 census, 9 people ranging from the age of 10, up to 88, lived in this one-bedroom cottage.

Following a spot of lunch and more family stories in The Hazel Bar next to the church, Tom took his leave of us and we promised to keep in touch. We then decided to contact John Halpin, the magazine Treasurer who had initially contacted me following my letter to the magazine. We found him over the florists in the town and enjoyed a brief chat with him. As it turned out, John was also the Chairman of the Cemeteries Commission and he informed us that there was in fact another Muldoon grave in the cemetery, so we left him in search of this.

Fortunately, the cemetery is very well kept and there is a useful notice board listing all of the graves and from this, we were able to find the second grave. This grave listed John Muldoon, his wife Bridget and their son, Austin and also, as mentioned earlier, had the epitaph from a Lizzie McNamara.

At this point, we felt that we had taken things as far as we could on our visit, having located the family graves, seen the original family property and Tom's original family home, so we returned to our hotel for the night.

We completed our visit to Ireland with a visit to Turlough Country Life Museum, Knock and a drive down the West coast from Westport, before heading back to Knock Airport, dropping off the hire car and flying home, having had a very pleasant and informative visit.

Many thanks to the magazine committee and in particular, Paul and John who had helped us in our search, put us in touch with Tom and made us feel very welcome in Ballyhaunis. Congratulations, also, to all involved in the production of the Annagh Magazine for regularly producing such a professional and impressive document.



Ballyhaunis Under-14 team that won the Under-14 Division 4 League beating Ardmoyle McHales, 5-13 to 3-8.
 Back, L-R: Val Byrne (Manager), James McDonagh, Sean Morley, Owen McDonagh, Jack McGoldrick, Diarmuid Phillips, Daniel Murray, Cian Walsh, Danny Hill, Jamie Allen, Haroom Shabbir, Paul Webb (Manager).
 Front: Kevin Durkan, Pearse Nestor, Ethan Keane, Luke Walsh, Conor Keane, Aiden Byrne, Josh Webb, Dara Rattigan, Simon McDonagh, Darren Maughan, Mohammad Showeb.



Mayo Football star Cillian O'Connor signs a jersey for Adam Noone at Béal Átha hAmhnais GAA Cúl Camp, July 2015.



Oliver, Attracta and Mary Hannah (O'Connor) Jordan, meet up on their native Upper Main Street.



Thomas J. Carroll of Knox St., Ballyhaunis, visited the Great Wall of China, 27th September 2015.



A group of Ballyhaunis friends who met up for the Ireland versus Italy Rugby game at the Olympic Stadium London, 4th October 2015. L-R. Seamus Grogan (Doctor's Road), John Fitzgerald (Upper Main St. and Dublin), Stephen Nolan (Togher), Thomas Moran (Knox St. and New Jersey), John O'Connor (Doctor's Road and New Jersey) and John Dillon-Leetch (Doctor's Road and London).

Three Generations of Memories

Memories of the Forties and Fifties

RITA BYRNE

My sisters Noreen, Hannah and Monica (now sadly deceased) and I were reared in our family bar business in Bridge St., Ballyhaunis, in the 1940s and fifties. The Premises is now owned by the Nicholson family. Our father Eddie died suddenly at the young age of 42 and so I have no memory of him, RIP. As I begin to put pen to paper the memories come flooding back. What follows are a few of the many memories of my childhood in Ballyhaunis all those years ago.

Following the death of our father, our mother Ellen ran the business with the help of our housekeeper Mary McHugh, a loyal and wonderful friend. Mary came from the Claremorris area and came to work for the Byrne family in my grandfather's time at the age of seventeen. When Mary died in the 1950s she was buried with our family in the local cemetery.

I remember townsfolk drawing water from the town well at the post office. As children my sisters and I carried cans of water to elderly neighbours in the street. We were rewarded with pennies which we quickly spent in Miss Mac's sweet shop. Miss Mac was an eccentric lady who opened for business only one day in ten. When she did open word would spread like wildfire and all the children from the town would run to the shop for the cone shaped paper containers full of delights such as bullseyes, clove drops and other can sweets.

At the back gate of our bar, and opening onto Clare St., was a forge operated by Packie Waldron who lived in Abbey St. at the Friary gates. Each morning Packie would visit our house to get coals to start his fire for the day's work. We loved the forge and the excitement of all that went on there. We loved to hear the sounds of the horses whinnying and the hammer striking the anvil and, of course, we loved to see the sparks flying as Packie went about his work.

Our friends growing up in Ballyhaunis in those days included the Lyons family who lived across the road from us in Bridge St., as well as the Brennans, Glynns and Foudys of Clare St. During the summer holidays we set off on foot for Annagh Lake. We always brought a picnic of jam sandwiches and milk. When our mother sometimes allowed us to have lemonade from the bar we were the envy of our small group. To us the lake seemed huge as we paddled in the shallow waters. We called it swimming!

The Friary played a big part in our lives and we loved all the drama of the annual Procession down the avenue for feast of St. Augustine, scattering petals and singing hymns. There was also a parish Procession through the streets of the town for Corpus Christi and this was a big



Rita and Monica Byrne with their aunt Ena Byrne (Keaney), taken on Main Street, outside Paddy Freeley's in the 1940s.

occasion in our young lives. The businesses and houses of the town were all freshly painted and adorned with altars with garden flowers, holy pictures and statues. It was like a drama unfolding before our eyes as it wove its way from the Parish Church through the town, culminating with benediction at the Square.

In 1950 I started my post primary education in the newly opened secondary school at the convent. I made lovely friends among that small group of first year students. Thankfully, we have all survived, except for Teresa Johnson. May God have mercy on her gentle soul. The year of 1950 was the Marian Year and the year when another tragedy struck our family. Our beloved mother Ellen died and our world fell apart. Our childhood was over.

The life we lived back then is worlds apart from life in the present day. My daughter Eavan who lives in Annagh with her husband Tommy Caulfield and their boys Patrick and Seán will follow this memoir with her own recollections of childhood as will her son Seán, my grandson.

Devlis in the Seventies and Eighties

EAVAN CAULFIELD

My memories of growing up in Ballyhaunis come from the Devlis end of the town where I grew up in the 1970s and 80s.

We rarely moved outside of Devlis except when I was brought along by my older brothers and sisters to act as 'Lookout', as they raided tyres for the annual bonfire.

Occasionally I was also brought by my father Joe Webb to visit my Aunt Pauline and cousins in Curley's Pub in Clare St. The packet of Tayto crisps and bottle of Coke were a rare treat. I also accompanied my cattle-dealer father Joe around the countryside as he wheeled and dealt with local farmers. I think I was brought along to seal the deal as I always received a couple of pounds 'Lucks money'.

The railway station was our playground where we spent endless days playing with our neighbours in Devlis: Burkes, Clarkes, Webbs and Shields'. I was also very friendly with the children of Station Master Sheridan especially Patricia (RIP) who walked to Knock with us in 1979 on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II.

All of our shopping was done locally in Winston's grocery shop and I remember fondly the kindness of Gerry Winston's late father Mick. I was also fascinated by the dexterity of Gerry's uncle Martin, as he sliced through blocks of cheddar with a cheese wire. Our pet dog Jasper, a celebrity in the street, was also a discerning shopper; on each visit Martin would place a tin of peas and a tin of Pedigree Chum on the floor and Jasper invariably picked up the correct tin.

We were lucky to have the Shields children as our friends and the outdoor pool at the back of their house was the biggest attraction in Devlis for kids during the summertime. I remember hearing the sad news of Dr. Declan Shields' death while on a visit to Dublin to my sister Olive who was a trainee nurse in St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin at that time (1979). Declan was a great friend to our family and was always on call to deal with the countless emergencies that inevitably cropped up with nine children in the house.

There was lots of activity in Devlis in those days with Durkan's Bottlers directly across the road from our house. I remember on one occasion O'Neill's hauliers of Hospital, County Limerick, shedding its load of Bulmer's cider outside our door. Little did I think that twenty years later I would meet the same driver in his bar - O'Neill's of Hospital - when my husband Tommy Caulfield and I worked in Limerick in the 1990s. Coen's Motor Garage was also a hive of activity in those days of less reliable transport. Seamus was a genius at diagnosing and solving all kinds of mechanical faults and



Webb family photograph, 1975.
At back: Olive, Carol, Teddy and Sean.
Front: Marita, Aisling, Eavan, Joanne, Joseph.

problems. Seamus' mechanical genius also came in handy on numerous occasions to unblock our Nilfisk Hoover! Among the staff that I recall working for Seamus were Tom Burke of Ballinlough and Paddy Folliard from Cartron South.

Our wonderful neighbours Betty and Seamus Coen moved into the house next door after Coyne's departed for the countryside. Their son Michael replaced me as the tenth and youngest member of our family! I was delighted to attend his wedding in County Clare this October.

The world was a different and uncomplicated place back then. Most of our time was spent outdoors but when we did sit down to watch TV my favourite programmes were Young Line and Wanderley Wagon.



I owe so much to my wonderful mother Rita who did such a great job rearing nine of us. She taught us the values that we hold dear and still live by today.

Eavan Webb Caulfield
and Rita Byrne.

Three Generations of Memories

Memories for the Future

SEÁN CAULFIELD

My name is Seán Vincent Caulfield. I am twelve years and I live in Annagh with my mam Eavan and dad Tommy and brother Patrick. I am named after my uncle Sean Webb and my uncle Vincent and grandfather Vincent Caulfield. Vinnie is my Godfather and my auntie Aisling is my Godmother. I took the name Blaise for my confirmation last February.

I was born in October 2003, on the day that the Annagh Medical Centre opened. I am in sixth class at Scoil Iosa National School in Abbeyquarter. Shaun Morley, Nathan Noone and Padraic McHugh are some of my good friends and we sometimes play in the Friary Field after school. I play football for Ballyhaunis U-12 team and I am an altar boy at St. Patrick's Parish Church, and I sometimes get off school to serve weddings and funeral Masses. During the summer I like to swim in Annagh River, Erritt Lake, Urlaur Lake and in the swimming pool in Clare St.

I also have a lot of fun in Curran's wood near my house. I wish Annagh Lake was still here so I could swim in it in the summer and go ice-skating on it in winter. I like to visit my neighbours Mary and Kathleen McBride and I look after their cat James.



Sean with his dog Chocco at Annagh Lake.

On my way home from school I like to buy sweets in Cunningham's of Abbey St. and in my uncle Seamus Caulfield's shop in Upper Main St.

I hope you liked reading my article. I am the third generation of my family to write a piece about growing up in Ballyhaunis in this year's Annagh magazine. Be sure to check out mam Eavan's and Granny Rita's article too.



Lana Biesty, ONAKAI National Champion U-12 (32 kg).

Pictured in Tallaght Leisure Centre with her Sensei, Kevin Loftus. Lana is daughter of Vincent and Louise Biesty, Pattenspark, Ballyhaunis.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

MATT O'DWYER

St. Patrick's Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Ballyhaunis, carried out its work again this year in its own quiet way. We now have more people than ever calling our **Helpline at 086-2640969**. If you need help just call this number, leave your name, number and a short message, and a volunteer will call you back. Your problem will be dealt with in a sensitive and confidential manner. We usually deal with people who have problems with food, fuel, household bills and education costs. Some people who were donors in the past are now coming to us for help because they have fallen on hard times.



We would like to sincerely thank all our donors and those who fundraise on our behalf. If you wish to make a donation you can contribute to our church collection in December, give to a committee member or send it to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society, Friary House, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.**

4th Mayo Scout Troop

MARK O'MALLEY



Ballyhaunis Scout Group at their Investiture, 22nd Feb. 2015, with Leaders, from left to right - Edel Conway, Paul Carney, Maria Coll, Paul Damron, Mark O'Malley, John Durkan, John Walsh, Ursula Delaney, Susan Hill (partially hidden), Mairéad Damron and Kevin Carney.

Ballyhaunis Scout Group, the 4th Mayo, has a long history of scouting. After 30 years of absence it was reformed in September 2014 and is now into its second year. Our first year back was an eventful and memorable one. Our first public event was helping out at the Abbey Pattern in 2014, running the shop and generally helping out with anything that was required of us. We also had the help of some Ventures from the 1st Mayo (Castlebar) who built some pioneering structures and a camp fire.

We had a stall at the Christmas Fair in the old Courthouse, selling Christmas logs that were made by the Cubs. The money we raised was in aid of MSPCA and a cheque was presented to Marion Biesty. Another very big event took place on the 22nd February (founder's day in Scouting) when we had our first investiture. The adult Scouters were invested first by the County Commissioner, Tadhg Kennedy who also awarded us with our group charter. Then the Cubs and Beavers were invested by the newly invested Group Leader, John Durkan. This event took place in the old Abbey with parents and Scouters from all over the county attending. Afterwards refreshments were supplied by the parents. It was the highlight of the year.

We also had a stall in the Summer Festival selling

Paracord bracelets that the Beavers and Cubs helped to make. Also this year we played a bigger part in the running of the Abbey Pattern and hope to continue helping out in the years to come.

The 4th Mayo attended three camps in the last six months. The first camp was in Lough Key Forest Park in Boyle. This is a scout camp site in the grounds of the Forest Park and this was our first taste as a group to go off camping with great excitement from both adults and youths. We arrived at the site and unloaded the bus. There wasn't another body to be seen, only us! There was an ORANGE weather warning in place but that was not going to deter us (I wondered why the Group Leader had pulled out at the last minute, now I knew!). We got the tents out and started to arrange the layout of camp, as the wind was getting stronger and stronger we really did struggle in the high winds to erect the tents but we managed it. The next task was to get a fire on and get some food cooked for our very hungry Cubs and Beavers. Now we were told that we had facilities for cooking i.e. a half barrel, with no grill to go across the barrel and only a piece of flat thin galvanised sheet available. The only problem being that it would not support the weight of the pots. With a well placed

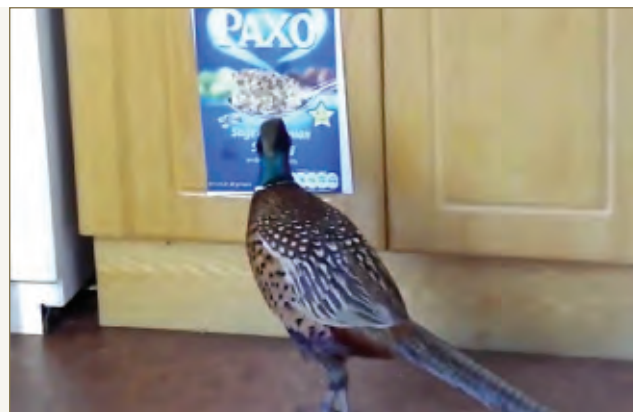
concrete block the cooking facilities were up and running. Ok it wasn't the best setup but it was ingenuity at its best. The food was cooked, warm chicken curry and rice or pasta gloop – not so easy without a knob to turn it up or down. You know you have hungry kids when they come looking for seconds!

Oh I forgot to mention this was at 11:00 at night, so you would think tired youths with a full belly would sleep like babies – not a hope. All night long, between the wind and the laughing and chatting going on, it sounded like an all night bar. And then some of the youths were up and about at 5:30 (this is insane I thought) but the youths were happy and that is what it's all about. Three of the cubs cooked their breakfast on the campfire that they had re kindled from the night before with little help from the adults. The next day we did some orienteering around Lough Key and played some games, before starting to break camp, then our Group Leader came cycling into camp, all the way from Ballyhaunis. This was a truly memorable first camp for the reformed 4th Mayo.

Our second camp was in the Castle Saunderson International Scout Centre. This is where we really started to see how things are done at a scout camp, as this time we weren't alone. We had booked a few challenges for the youths and adults. We were crate stacking, pioneering, invited to be entertained by a group from Swords, and took part in the Mission of Peace – this we had to do something for our community and leave Castle Saunderson better than we found it, as all groups are supposed to follow this rule. We also attended the camp fire with songs and entertainment. Everyone had a great time.

The next camp was a county camp and was attend by the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Mayo Scout Groups. It had been a long time since this had occurred. This was a two night camp, starting at 6:00pm on Friday, 2nd October. This time we were pitching the tents in the dark (were becoming good at this). Saturday was an action packed day from 9am to 11:30pm. We played games, cooked scones on a camp fire, made wooden whistles, made Paracord bracelets, played more games, sang campfire songs followed by a hike at 10pm. The youths were in bed at 12pm and not a peep. Then on Sunday morning there were more games and camp broke at 1pm, another truly memorable camp was had.

We started back this year on the 18th September and currently have forty five youths across three sections – Beavers, Cubs and our new section of Scouts. We have nineteen dedicated leaders and are looking to increase numbers as we continue forward. Our long term goal is to have our own Den in the Friary grounds, and we will be looking for support to make this happen.



A Pheasant Interlude

This pheasant was very happy and content to just laze about in our neighbourhood and join us for the occasional treat. Unfortunately, he must have understood what the contents of the packet was for – either this or he decided to elope with a female who joined him about the same time. That we were honoured with his presence for approximately eighteen months we owe a deep gratitude to Mother Nature. *Seamus Hora*



Back, L-R: Winnie Lyons, Coolnaha; Margaret Lyons, Carrowkeel; Noreen Lyons, Coolnaha; Kathleen McBride, Annagh. Front: Bridie Lyons, Coolnaha.



Kieran and Noreen Folliard, Upper Main Street.



L-R: Albert Lyons, Knox St, Sylvester McBride, Annagh;
and Enda Lyons, Knox St.



Noreen Folliard,
Upper Main
Street, July 1963



Mary Lyons, Annagh.



Mary Dillon-Leetch, Josie Eaton, Mollie Concannon, May Moyles and
Baby Snee, in Ballyhaunis Golf Club, 1990s.



Johnny O'Shaughnessy celebrating a big win!



John Regan, Carrowkeel; Agnes Freeley, Island; Delia Regan,
Carrowkeel, pictured at a wedding in 1975.

Annagh Magazine Society – 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.

Ballyhaunis 1916 Tribute to the Patriot Dead

MICK O'CONNELL

First published in *The Western People*, Sat., 23rd Apr. 1966.

The Ballyhaunis 1916 Commemorative Parade held in Ballyhaunis on Sunday last (Easter Sunday 10th April 1966) surpassed all expectations as upwards of a thousand people marched through streets bedecked with Tricolours which were flown from practically every building on the route and throughout the town for that matter. To say that the people of Ballyhaunis and district are truly national-minded was borne out by the size of the parade and the great feeling and fervour shown during the very impressive ceremonies and tributes to the patriot dead.

The parade, which included units of the Old I.R.A. under Comdt. Patrick McNieve, Comdt. Martin Forde and Comdt. John P. Jordan; the Swinford Company of the F.C.A. under Comdt. M. Loughnane; the 4th Mayo Troop of the Catholic Boy Scouts under Scoutmaster James Devine; the local branch of Macra na Feirme under Padraic Hughes, B.Agr. Sc.; the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. under Mr. Paddy Waldron (chairman); the local Guild of the I.C.A. under Mrs. P. Raftery (President) and members of the Fire Brigade from Ballyhaunis and Kiltimagh under Fire Officer Clarence Grogan. As well there was a very large contingent of the general public.

The parade assembled at the Scout Den in Abbey Street and marched to 11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Patrick's Church celebrated by Very Rev. Fr. T. Rushe, Adm., which was offered up for those who died in the fight for freedom. During the Mass Father Rushe preached a sermon which had as its theme patriotism, and which was a touching and moving tribute to the patriot dead.

Tributes at Graves

Afterwards the parade re-assembled and marched to the cemetery at Foxhill where honours were rendered at the graves of two local patriots – the late Michael Coen, Lecarrow, Ballyhaunis, who was killed by Crown Forces on the 1st April 1921, and the late Michael Glavey of Clooncan, Ballinlough, who was killed by Crown Forces on the 20th September 1920.

A decade of the Rosary was recited in Irish by Sean Mac Giolla Mhuire, Beal Átha h-Amhnas, and wreaths were placed on both graves by Mr. Michael A. Waldron, Hon. Sec. of Ballyhaunis 1916 Celebrations Committee, son of the late Comdt. Patrick J. Waldron, Ballyhaunis. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Mr. Seamus Coen, Lecarrow, a nephew of the deceased patriot, and also at the graveside was the late Michael Coen's brother, Mr. Luke Coen, his wife and other son Michael.

The Last Post was sounded by Corpl. Ryder of the Swinford Coy F.C.A. and John Flynn and Patrick Jones of Foxford. Other F.C.A. personnel at the parade included Capt. Eddie Boland, Sergt. P. Cahill, Sergt. J.F. Tiernan and Sergt. J. Cleary. The parade was headed by the Colour Party under Lt. Freddie McManus followed by the Foxford Brass and Reed Band and the various contingents then followed.

The Guard of Honour of F.C.A. at the Mass was under Lieut. Jack Eaton, Ballyhaunis, who also had charge of the Guard of Honour party at the graveside. The Royal Salute at the Mass was sounded by Corpl. Ryder, John Flynn and Patrick Jones. The unqualified success of the parade reflects great credit on the 1916 Celebrations Committee, but especially on the hon. Sec. Mr. Michael A. Waldron, Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis, who spared neither time nor effort in seeing to it that the parade through Ballyhaunis and the graveside ceremonies would be a fitting tribute to the patriot dead.

Footnote – The oldest man marching in the parade was 87 years old Peter Hannon, Abbey St., Ballyhaunis, who is one of the few Sinn Féin Republican Judges still alive in the area.

School Children Honour Patriots

From *The Western People*, Sat., 30th Apr. 1966

Over 2,000 school children from all the schools in the parish of Ballyhaunis made their contributions on Friday last (22nd Apr. 1966) in common with the rest of the country. All the girls from the primary schools in the parish assembled at the convent of Mercy, while all the boys attending primary schools gathered at the Boys NS, Ballyhaunis. From these points they marched to 10.30 am Mass in St. Patrick's which was celebrated in the Irish vernacular by Rev. Fr. T. Heraghty, C.C. The pupils of the Convent of Mercy Secondary School, the pupils of Saint Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis, and the pupils of the local Vocational School were also present at the Mass. After returning to the schools plaques bearing the heads of the seven signatories as well as the Proclamation in Irish and English were unveiled and the Irish and English versions of the Proclamation were read. The ceremonies concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.



A section of the Ballyhaunis 1916 Commemorative Parade which took place on Easter Sunday, 10th April, 1966. Those identified, so far, include, from Right to Left: Cyril Coyne (partly hidden), Mick O'Connell, Sean Griffin, Mick Tarmey, Paddy Waldron, Kevin Meehan, Eddie Biesty, Gerry McGarry, Tom Waldron, Joseph Conboy, Mick Keegan, Michael Swords, Joe Gilmore, Joe Hosty. Again, if you can identify anyone else here, please contact any member of the Annagh committee.

Photograph courtesy of Fr. Kieran Waldron.



Some of the members of Ballyhaunis ICA and Fire Brigade taking part in the 1916 Commemorative Parade which took place on Easter Sunday, 10th Apr. 1966.

Far row, L-R: Maura Herr, Clarence Grogan, Liam Smyth, Jim Toolan. Near row, L-R: Josie Eaton, Mary Higgins, Maria Cribbin, Jim Gilmore, Michael Mulhern, Michael Moran, John McGuire. *Photograph courtesy of Edward Mulhern.*

Class of '85 School Reunion

STELLA O'NEILL

When Michael Donnellan first mooted the idea of having a 30 year class reunion, I wasn't exactly jumping for joy; I definitely had mixed feelings about it. I knew it wasn't going to be an easy task, but now having done it, I can honestly say it was the best event I have been involved in organising for a long time. We first got together in November: Michael, Bernie Greally, and myself – Ann Cregg couldn't make the meeting but was on hand to help out in any way. As two of our classmates were deceased we decided that we would start the night with Mass and, with thanks to David McDonagh and Justina Lyons from Ballyhaunis Community School, they made sure that the library in the school was available to us.

Next we set about contacting all our past class mates, not an easy task; there were 140 students in our year so we got our hands on the 1981 school year book and found all the names of the first years. Then we had to locate all those people and get their addresses and send out the invites. This took time but we managed it and, as word got round and the replies returned, it seemed like most people were looking forward to the event; with classmates travelling from the UK, the USA and all parts of Ireland.

Then we got to grips with sourcing a venue. As we wanted someplace where we would all be together and not stuck in a few different rooms, we settled on holding it in Epic and Liam Folliard was most accommodating. He helped with organising the food, and had the place looking really well so when May 31st came round we were all ready to go.

We started the evening with Mass. We didn't remember every face or name, but when we lit two candles for our two classmates who have passed on - Thomas Moran and Jarlath Kelly - we were all touched by the reality of just how short life is. After the Mass we adjourned to Epic Nite Club for food, a time to chat and the all important '80s disco. We danced the feet off ourselves and didn't want the night to end.

Looking back, our school days were filled with emotion and excitement: the late-night parties, the boys/girls my friends and I thought we loved, the friendships we lived for, and the music we played; at our 30 year school reunion those memories were crystal-clear. The times we live in have changed, but actual things don't change that much, and people don't either. I think that's a good thing.

Reality doesn't bite as hard at the 30 year mark, despite what people may have anticipated. The most exciting thing I discovered after attending my 30 year school reunion is basically this: everyone is really nice, and everyone seemed really happy – no matter how many different choices we all made.

We were no longer judging the big things. The 30 year school reunion is just... different. It's not like the 10 year reunion, where everyone was so set on showing how the choices they made set them well on their way to a perfect marriage, fast-track career, big house or crazy adventure. It's not like the 15 year reunion when everyone is curious to see if those things from the 10 year reunion succeeded or failed. At the 30 year reunion, we are 46-47 years of



age and we respect reality. We know there's really no point in judging one another anymore – not for the big things. We've all made choices and we're living with the consequences: five kids or no kids; women and men with thriving careers or stay-at-home struggles; divorces and remarriages; failed relationships and unexpected heartbreaks, families with young children or teens (sometimes both). It's just life. Those of us who couldn't wait to move far away from our school and town may now be a bit in awe of those who never left. And those that stayed may think it sounds awfully exciting to have left.

The day after the reunion, we were all on Facebook, peeking in on each other's lives and having some sense of satisfaction that we think we know what and how everyone is doing. The reunion was nothing more than a moment in time. It's only in the days after that many of us realise what fun we had when we were in school and how much we miss those days.

A donation was made on behalf of the Class of '85 towards the refurbishment of Ballyhaunis Community School. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow classmates, Bernie Greally, Michael Donnellan and Ann Cregg who helped with organising the reunion, the staff of Ballyhaunis Community School, Fr. Brendan McGuinness for celebrating Mass, Liam Folliard and the staff of Epic and all my fellow class mates, who made the effort to travel to the reunion. Roll on the 50th year!

Facing page: Ballyhaunis Community School, Class of 1985 Reunion.

Back, L-R: Ann Joyce, Tom Burke, Susan Joyce, Paul Morley, Gerard Greally, Joe Staunton, Seamus Kenny, Sean Conway, Kieran Cunnane, Mary Walsh, Patricia Duffy, Martin Waldron, Michael Kelly, Anne Brennan, Aiden Flatley, Raymond Flanagan.

Centre: Renée Burke, Ailish O'Connor, Áine Loughran, Caroline Murphy, Annette Murphy, Mary O'Reilly, Claire Griffin, Joan Guilfoyle, Corine McGuire, Kathryn Fitzmaurice, Joan McGarry, Linda O'Boyle, Anne Marie Higgins, John Davitt, Patrick Phillips, Laura Finn, Collette Rattigan.

Seated: Alice Freeley, Frankie Leonard, Majella O'Shaughnessy, Finola Nolan, Janette Carty, Olive Biesty, Tommy Finnegan, Johnny McWalter, Tommy McDermott, Michael Hession, Stephen Hurley, Joan Frain, Mary Gannon, Mary Molloy, Michael Donnellan. Front: Stella Morley, Bernie Jordan, Anne Cregg, Fiona Thornton, Sharon Jordan.

Copyright – Philip Stratford Photography.



L-R: Bernie Greally, Stella O'Neill, Michael Donnellan and Anne Cregg.



Cheque presentation to Ballyhaunis Community School Refurbishment Fund by the Class of '85 School Reunion. L-R: Bernie Greally, David McDonagh, Principal, Ballyhaunis Community School, and Stella O'Neill.

AA Meetings (Alcoholics Anonymous)
Sundays 8.30pm:
Venue: Family Resource Centre,
Friary Grounds, Ballyhaunis.

Al-Anon (Family Support Meetings),
Sundays 8.30pm:
Venue: School Iosa Primary School.
Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis.

www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Connaught Telephone Service: 091-767777
www.al-anon-ireland.org

From Bray to Ballyhaunis

(THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY)

MIKE BYRNE

For some time now, I have been hearing little snippets of the life's history of John O'Shaughnessy, one of our most senior citizens living here in Ballyhaunis for a number of years now. These little snatches of John's life story prompted me to have a chat with the Ballyhaunis resident, and the story, as it was unfolded by John, was certainly well worth the hearing.

John O'Shaughnessy first saw the light of day in the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin, on July 24th, 1926. A native of Bray, Co. Wicklow, where he lived for the first 20 years, he married the former Anne Nolan from Mountain, Ballyhaunis, 60 years ago, in January, 1955. He later moved across the border to Dublin with his Ballyhaunis wife to Ballybough where the couple had their first two children. Later the couple settled in Coolock village where the remaining four children were born, and it was here that the O'Shaughnessys lived happily for the next 40 years.

As a youngster growing up in Bray almost 80 years ago, John spent a lot of time around the fairways of Bray Golf Club, as a caddy, where he earned his first bit of pocket money, and playing a bit the odd time as well. John was to return to the fairways many years later, this time to the game of pitch and putt. As a member of St. Brendan's Pitch & Putt Club in Santry, he has many fine trophies to display for his efforts on the Santry greens.

First job for John was as a messenger boy in a vegetable shop in Bray. After passing his driving test, he applied for a job as a chauffeur for a Tony Coughlan, undertaker and taxi firm, which he passed with flying colours. Indeed, it was as a driver/chauffeur that John worked since his retirement, in 1991. While perusing the newspaper one afternoon, he spotted an ad for a chauffeur for Bannerton's Undertakers & Taxi, Mountbellew, Co. Galway. Applying immediately for the job in the west, his application was once again successful. At the interview, John recalls, he was asked to play a tune on the fiddle. "I played 'The Old Refrain', and when I had

finished, I was told, you got the job"! Taking up an apartment in the town, Mountbellew became his home

for a little less than a year. Next interview was as chauffeur for a Lady Fitzgerald of Raglan Road in Dublin, which was again successful. With a little touch of the "Driving Miss Daisy", John's job was to drive Miss Fitzgerald here, there and everywhere: shopping and trips down the country, as well as taking the Lady's dog for a walk. He lived in-house with Lady Fitzgerald. Next stop on his employment journey was as driver for Murray's Funeral Directors

& Taxi, Baggot Street, Dublin. Among some of the more famous characters which John remembers chauffeuring during his days with Murray's were the well-known American actor Forrest Tucker (of TV shows like 'F-Troop', and many more), whom he ferried on a fare from the Gresham Hotel to the Theatre Royal. Another legendary figure whom John had the pleasure of driving was the late Sir Stanley Matthews, one of the greats of British soccer. "I carried Sir Stanley from his hotel in Dublin to The Mardyke in Cork for a football game. He was very polite, but engaged very little in conversation, only to the guy who was travelling to Cork with us. After the match in Cork, I brought him back to his Dublin base".

After two years at Murray's, John was on the road again, this time to Kirwan's Funeral Directors in Fairview Strand, one of Ireland's oldest undertaking firms. Here he served as chauffeur for some forty years. Referring to some of the more notable funerals undertaken by Kirwan's over the years, there was the late Douglas Hyde, Ireland's first President, in 1949; the late Fianna Fáil Minister George Colley, and former President Erskine Childers, as well as the late Fianna Fáil Minister and Tánaiste, Brian Lenihan (Snr). John was hearse driver for those latter two state funerals.

Life with the circus

Between the jobs mentioned above, John's life-journey took him in a rather different direction back in



Happy couple, John and Anne O'Shaughnessy, pictured on their 60th wedding anniversary at their home in Beech Lawn, in January, 2015.



John O'Shaughnessy, pictured on his last day of employment with Kirwan's Undertakers, Dublin.

1947. A New Zealand musician, juggler, entertainer and circus director by the name of Edgar Benyon took his travelling show, named 'The Great Bamboozalem', around Ireland. After applying to Edgar for a position, John duly got the job, not only as driver, but also as circus musician for the New Zealander. "I drove the lorry during the day, taking all our gear from town to town, and playing the violin in the circus act by night. I remember we played to packed houses every night. We played in Monaghan for one week, to a packed hall every night. The public loved the act so much they begged us to stay for another week, and so we did"! Well known Irish actor and fellow comedian, the late Hal Roach, once went on tour with the same 'Great Bamboozalem'.

The Seanachai, Eamon Kelly

During his years as a resident in Coolock village, among his closest friends and neighbours for many years was Eamon Kelly, Ireland's favourite and most famous traditional story teller - The Seanachai. Some 20 years ago, Eamon was invited by RTE to do a live version of his life story. Filmed in Kyle's Pub in Coolock, Eamon invited his friend John O'Shaughnessy to guest on the show and to play the violin. John played Teddy O'Neill, as requested by the Seanachai for the occasion. The result of this TV documentary can be viewed on YouTube, complete with violin music by John O'Shaughnessy.

It was in Pearson's confectionary shop in Ballsbridge that John met and fell madly in love with Ann Nolan from Ballyhaunis. "I used to go in there every day for my

packet of cigarettes and she kind of caught my eye". One day when I was buying the fags, I asked her out, and she agreed. Later on, when we went for a cycle up to Ballinteer, we stopped at a gate leading into a field. It was there, I asked her to marry me. The rest is history".

Fifteen years ago, John and Anne relocated from their Coolock home in Dublin to Beech Lawn in Ballyhaunis. "The family got together and decided that it was better for us to move to the west. Patricia and Johnny had already settled here. Anne always had a longing to come back to Ballyhaunis, so it seemed the right thing to do".

Fifteen years on living in Ballyhaunis, has John any regrets about coming west?

"No, not one bit. Sure, all my friends are dead and gone. I have the same routine every day: Mass in the morning, then down to the newsagents to pick up 'The Mirror', have a look at the horses and study the form, then down to the bookies, have a bet or two, and meet up with my friends. One of the best things about Ballyhaunis is having the shops so close, and the bookies, and the free cup of coffee as well in the bookies every day". "In the evening, I go for a walk, down to take a look at the results, to check out the ups and downs, winners and losers. After that I hit to the local for a 'Jimmy' and a bottle of stout, Fitzner's, The Clock, Corner Bar, Paddy Phillips' and Curley's, home then for the night".

"Ah, yeah, life is good here in Ballyhaunis. It's home for us now, and I wouldn't change it for the world.



Coolock neighbours. John O'Shaughnessy (centre), pictured with friends and neighbours from Coolock: Ireland's famous traditional storyteller, Seanachai Eamon Kelly (right) and Michael Houlihan, both RIP.

Ballyhaunis Farmers' Market

SUE McMILLAN

There are many Farmers' Markets around the country. Some are very successful while others are dying a death because of lack of footfall and lack of support from the local community. A dream became a reality when Ballyhaunis had a Farmers' Market in May 2014. It started well in May 2014 and progressed weekly until the Autumn. The footfall dropped off, many traders left and only a handful of stalls remained.

On 20th September 2014 the market at the Court House had to be closed as the ownership of the building wasn't in anyone's control. Eventually a caretaker's agreement with Mayo County Council was agreed. The market continued outside, but the weather beat everyone. So Christmas 2014 came, and the market was regenerated into a Christmas market and all was well. Again the public came out and supported the event, but not to the level of May 2014. We eventually got permission to go inside the building in December 2014, but it was too late then as the crafters for inside had booked other places for the Christmas period and the momentum of the market was lost for 2014.

The market will trade on 19th December 2015. It will not be a Farmers' Market but more on the likes of a Country Fair. Let's just hope that the public support the events and build up traders' confidence so that a Farmers' Market can be established from April 2016 to October 2016 next.

We hope the public will realise that without their support the market will not be a success.

We hope the public realise that the Chamber, Summer Festival and the Market have a common goal in mind: to urge people to support local traders, which will regenerate the streets of Ballyhaunis and to increase footfall to all business in the town.



Selection of cheese, jams and freshly baked goods on display at the Farmers' Market in Ballyhaunis.

Thank you to Mayo County Council and the Office of Public Works for all their assistance in trying to secure the use of the Ballyhaunis Courthouse. We have dreams for the Market and we have dreams for the Court House. Now we just need the public support and the energy to keep fighting for both and secure a regular monthly market.

Historic Photos

6,581 photographs have featured in the thirty-eight issues of Annagh Magazine so far, from 1978-2015. These include many old, historic photographs which were, unfortunately, not always published clearly or large enough, due to the limited technology available at the time.

Equipment for scanning and printing has improved immensely in recent years, and so the Editorial Committee would welcome if those who submitted such photographs would consider submitting them again, so that could be published more clearly, bigger, or with a more complete caption. They can be scanned to a high resolution and returned immediately. Contact any committee member or email info@annaghmag.ie.

North American GAA

SINEAD FREYNE

News from abroad about two Ballyhaunis ladies who in September took part in the North American GAA Championships, which were held in Chicago Gaelic Park on September 5th and 6th. Not only did these two ladies take part in the games, but their respective clubs each went home champions.

Maura Kelly, formerly of Knox Street and daughter of Sarah and John Joe Kelly, is now living in New York. She plays camogie for the Hoboken Guards Senior team and formerly played with Na Brideóga Camogie Club in Tooreen. Maura was part of the team that won the North American County Board Camogie Finals at the tournament in Chicago when they beat a team from Toronto. Most of the team hail from across Ireland, but there are also a few ladies from the United States. They live throughout New Jersey and New York City.

The Hoboken Guards are the first camogie team to be established in the metropolitan New York area in nearly twenty years. They won the championship in their first year together as a team and hope to increase the game's popularity in New York and New Jersey. The team also got a nice write up about their club in a recent edition of The New York Times newspaper. Coincidentally, another local connection is that the team are sponsored by Willie McBride's Irish Bar Hoboken, which is run by husband and wife team Sean and Maura Hession who are originally from Brickens and Ballinlough.

Rachel Cleary is daughter of John and Mary Frances Cleary, Clare Road. She got married at the beginning of the year to Michael Jordan of Lecarrow and they now reside in Vancouver, Canada. Rachel plays Gaelic football for ISSC Vancouver which is in British Columbia and her team won the North American Intermediate Ladies Football Championship at the same tournament in Chicago. They beat San Francisco in the final.

Thanks to Yvonne Byrne, who's a dab hand at the football and camogie herself, for supplying the photographs! Yvonne is the Connacht Regional Development co-ordinator for the Irish Camogie Association and attended the games in Chicago.



Rachel Jordan (née Cleary) (left) formerly Clare Road, with fellow Mayo natives Patricia Ní Chabháil and JP McLoughlin who is from Swinford, after their team ISSC Vancouver won the North American GAA Intermediate Ladies Football Championships. Rachel is pictured on the left hand side of the photograph and is wearing jersey number 3.



Neighbours from Knox Street, Yvonne Byrne and Maura Kelly enjoying the experience of the North American GAA Championships in Chicago.



Maura Kelly, originally from Knox Street is a member of the Hoboken Guards Camogie team who recently won the North American GAA County Board Camogie Finals which were held in Chicago Gaelic Park. Maura is pictured in the front row, third from the right wearing the number 4 jersey.

Transition to Domestication

MARY KILROY

Last year's contributions from the author – 'Time to Leave' and 'A Lovely Story' – told of the author's mother Delia A. McGuire's leaving Gurrane and emigrating to the U.S.A. in 1924, and dealt with the reality of emigration and how it affected more than one generation of one family. An account of Delia's younger sister May's visit home to Ireland in 1938 offers insights into the sisters' relationship with each other and their mother. The following article continues the story and shows how Delia transitioned from life in rural Ireland to life in urban U.S.A.

She wouldn't have known it at the time as she was walking forward, crossing that threshold, into a bit part on the stage of blue blooded, every-day existence that, over time, would lead to a warped sense of reality; what the real world was like for working-class people. The illusion of "playing house" continues...

The habitual ordinariness of everyday life was something that had to be accommodated, assimilated and ultimately internalised for my mother to transition into a life of domestication. Families employed the likes of my mother and those with similar aspirations who, like her, were on the lookout for a 'job.' The families were of old money, long established on the social register and oblivious to the fall de roll of what the heyday of the roaring twenties entailed. Theirs was blue-blooded stock, inhabiting the brownstones of the Back Bay and surrounding proper suburbs, as well as a rising business class who could afford the accoutrements of the more established families.

Life for ordinary, wealthy wives and mothers came with a full complement of domestic help to manage and run the house. A hierarchy existed among the downstairs staff. The brownstones of the nineteenth century may have had their basement sculleries and intrigues, but those newer homes built in the suburbs would not have been designed with that model in mind

Domestics worked in and among the family rooms according to their roles. My mother would have to make the transition from a life of physicality and drudgery to one where fragility and sparseness of space and words would have to become a priority. Imagine my mother whose entire life at home was predicated on the weather and seasonally dependent; now working in defined, enclosed spaces, inside as opposed to outside, and the weather creating the seasonal changes but having no impact on the job/task at hand inside.

Even though my mother was petite in stature, early pictures show her as strong and sturdy; she would have been used to man's work in Gurrane as a help-mate to

her mother. The crops planted, sown, and moulded; the fields cut and hay saved; the turf cut, carried home and reeked; this was labour-intensive work, not for the faint hearted. Leaving that world behind, forced to support the family, a destiny shared by her first cousins and local friends from the village; they headed off down the road. Their destiny demanded manicured finger nails, leaving the cherished mother earth, the land behind for the siblings to become the next custodians.

A radical paradigm shift in consciousness had to occur in those early days, on board the ship and post arrival. Of course, a glimmer of the good life would have been shared by the occasional Yanks home for a summer holiday that she might have met and seen their style and demeanor; but visualising her incorporation into those images would have been huge for the limited experiences and freeness of her known world.

Keen observations of nuances in behavior and the speech pattern of the lady of the house would have been the equivalent of learning a new language, and interactions with other staff would have served as her tutors and mentors during the early years. Depending on the former's experience and the part of the country the established help were from aided in making it a successful position or not.

It may have been an unwritten code that an employer would know that hiring young women from the West would make a harmonious running of the household as opposed to having, shall we say, one servant from the West and one or two from the South, and the length of time in service by a senior maid might break the experience for the novice staff member.

Since the various costumes for the different times of day would have been supplied by madam, even down to the shoes, the meager salary also included room and board. The question then became, what to do with one's pay once it was received? Well, was there really a choice, at least in my mother's case? The entire reason for her leaving was to become a beacon of light with the money that would be sent back in whatever form it took, pound notes or cheques.

Learning to set financial priorities, attaining financial literacy on the day she would have received her first pay, marking another peak experience, the reason d'être for her journey. She wouldn't know it for many years that this sheltered, privilege life she was living was pure fantasy. Not having to be adept at managing household expenses and having access to limited financial responsibilities, she was virtually clueless as regards money.

Joining her older sister in 1931, Auntie May had no



My mother, Delia McGuire's passport photo when she left Gurrane in 1924. "Many a tear had to fall..."



My mother in the early 1930s, possibly on the occasion of her 21st birthday when she received a garnet ring from my father - a friendship ring. The garnets were set in the art-deco filigree style of the period. My mother is wearing a formal back velvet dress garnished with fresh gardenias.



In this formal photograph a certain level of maturity is captured by the lens. I would suggest this sitting was on the occasion of my mother and father's engagement in late January 1934. There is less frivolity and a more seriousness of purpose that the camera picks up on. Her dress is once again black and the cut seems conservative reflecting her demeanour.

hesitation about their joint enterprise. She queried my mother in a letter when the latter was in Ireland in 1934, did she "...pay her insurance (life) and for her coat in storage?" Auntie May continues in a letter addressed to my grandmother inquiring if my mother fulfilled an obligation. "I was glad you liked the check, I told her last thing to give it to you the minute she met you. Not that one would not give one light if she could keep it from us."

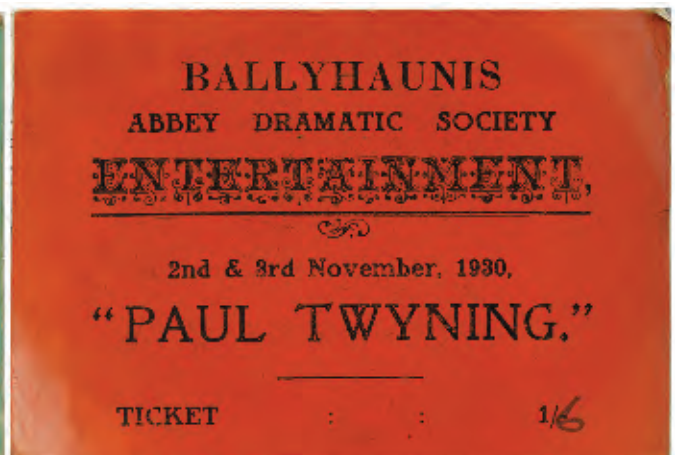
Not having a huge list of bills coupled with a very narrow rudimentary experience with cash flow, a certain portion for church contributions, car fare, clothing, and the bulk going into the savings account earmarked "for Mother," the sisters were unified in their single-minded financial focus.

This fantasy life portrayed in the old silent films first,

and later the talkies, depicted a life the sisters lived on a daily basis, not as the protagonist in a screenplay of their lives, but certainly as a comfortable existence in the backdrop of wealth and privilege. Luncheon dates, evenings out at the club, and card dates were the highlights of madam's calendar. This agenda translated into extra work or time to put one's feet up if the occasion brought the family out to socialise with friends.

Thus the rhythms of daily life took on new meaning far different from her daily chores in her former life: assisting her mother with the work needing to be done to manage the needs of the children and the chores dictated by the seasonal rhythms of the farm.

Tickets of Ballyhaunis Abbey Dramatic Society



Base Camp

KEITH DELANEY

- *I'm not going to climb it! I told you already, I don't climb, I climb out of bed in the morning and that's it. Anyway since when were you pagan?*
- *Ha?*
- *Pagans used to gather here to celebrate Lughnasa thousands of years ago. Then the Christians just like it....like they do.*
- *Don't let Fr. Moran hear you saying that!*
- *Sure he's half deaf anyway, tone deaf at least!*
- *Easy Ella! So you're sure you don't want to give it a go, for the day that's in it?*
- *Nah you go Tenzing, I'll stay in the car and count the Northface puffer jackets.*
- *You used to love climbing it with your mother?*
- *I used to love a lot of things. Don't tell me that's a golf club shaft as a stick?*
- *It's a King Cobra! 44inches, 9 degrees; Ben Crenshaw won the Masters in '95 with this club!*
- *Some Christian..., bringing a snake to Croagh Patrick! You know there'll be some smart arse saying you saw your ball up there or something?*
- *Ok enough, as your granny would say "Amn't I to be pitied?"*
- *Ok, now go Tenzing before the weather turns!*
- *You're too funny Ella*

Pat turned, took an extra breath, and starting to climb.

It was almost a year to the day. He had climbed this mountain many times, mostly with his beloved wife and family, sometimes with his friends from work and once with an American cousin called Amie who boasted all the way up about her contented life in America, and cried all the way down about her husband's infidelity, the psychological stress of belonging to her social class, and about how she used to get preferential treatment in her local 'Texas Roadhouse' because she used to know the manager, but now he's been replaced on and the new manager didn't give a damn about her anymore.

He kept on, using the EI70 X Flex Extra Stiff driver for stability. He stumbled and the scree fell fast, like the tears of a child, and he was reminded of how Ella used to dab her eyes with a handkerchief *à la* Jane Wyman from Falcon Crest; her mother's guilty pleasure.

The climb would take him, he guessed, three hours, which would give him plenty of time to think. He thought about the damned hair in his ears, and the damned hairs in his nose. He thought about people, like Audie Murphy and Oliver St. John Gogarty. He thought about the truth and about myths that needed to be

debunked, like the ones about Tutankhamen and Columbus, or more significant misconceptions, like the fact that Humphrey Bogart never said "Play it again Sam" in Casablanca. He thought about yer one with the white hair from Winning Streak, and for some reason he couldn't understand, about Billy the Kid.

He reached the chapel, couldn't be bothered going in, took a swig of water from Ellas's black *Mindless Self Indulgence* back pack and carried on down the mountain, keeping an untrained eye out for loose gold flakes.

On the way down he was too tired, too surly and too thirsty to think and just fell down the mountain slowly like a drunken goat. But mostly he thought about how what had passed, and like the Confiteor, '*what I have done and what I have failed to do.*'

He wished he could hold her in his arms right now. They had met first in the Star Cinema 30 years ago. He got kicked out of 'Company of Wolves' for 'acting the maggot' and had to go next door to watch 'Girls just want to have fun' till his friends came out. She was there with her cousin Margaret. She looked up at him and Margaret shouted in her phoney American accent "Stay away from him, he's a boy!!!" and they both collapsed in fits of laughter. He remembered he couldn't move, just kept smiling gracelessly till she slapped the dust from the seat beside her and said "Boy...walk? Boy...Sit!" She wasn't always that economical with words, he thought.

Just then a German tourist passed up behind him and greeted him with a cheerful "Hi". He was about to use Ellas's joke and reply "Yeah, it sure is" but thought better of it. They had gone to Frankfurt for their honeymoon, and as was their youthful defiance and belligerence, spent their days walking the streets eating pizzas and their nights watching French movies or *des films d'amour*, as she used to love calling them.

He started to sing that 'I won't send roses' song from Mack and Mabel to himself and it made him cry. It was both distressing and heartwarming. He still had her dresses in his bedroom wardrobe and placed flowers on her grave almost every day. Now *he* had to 'keep his head kid'.

He could just make out Ella at the foot of the mountain. Her hair was black, her shoes and jeans were black, her nails were black but her eyes were cobalt blue. Ella herself liked the colour of her eyes and the fact that blue is portrayed as an introspective colour, and that Van Gogh described it as a divine colour. His own eyes were a mongrel shade of seaweed green and camel brown.

When she saw him, haggard and decrepit, she bent

over and laughed, covered her mouth and smiled, blinking rapidly to dry her eyes.

- *I thought you got lost or something? There was something on Midwest about a madman in Murrisk; I thought it might be you!*

- *I'd keel over and die from shock if you were listening to Midwest!*

Ella threw Pat a half-full bottle of Pepsi, and took her headphones off her head. She had a bunch of St. Patrick's Cabbage flowers in her hand.

- *Hey Dad, remember these flowers? Didn't Mam use them on Granddad or something?*

Pat took the flowers tenderly in his calloused hands.

- *Yeah, for his warts I think...didn't do anything for his hay fever though.*

He wiped the sweat from his forehead, shook it from his hair and threw the car keys to Ella.

- *What! You're letting me drive? No way!*

Ella bounded and twisted around like she was bitten by a snake and hurled herself into the driver's seat. Pat sat on the passenger seat, overwhelmed and exhilarated. He clutched the flowers, the petals frenzied and chaotic after every mistimed gear change; the anthers scattering their seeds after every bump.

New Ballyhaunis G.P.



Dr. Patrick Noone is delighted to welcome his daughter Dr. Caroline Noone to his Practice at Hazelhill Family Practice, Ballyhaunis. She commenced practice in August 2015. Dr. Noone qualified at UCD in 2008, gaining experience in general practice, surgery and paediatrics before commencing training as a GP. Dr. Noone has completed a four year GP training programme in Dublin and has worked at the Mater Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, St. James' Hospital and Temple Street Hospital as part of her training. She has also worked with the addiction services in Dublin including Methadone Clinics and in the prison service.

Dr. Noone will specialise in Women's Health, Dermatology and Paediatrics as well as General Practice. Dr. Noone's qualifications include MB BCH BAO, MICGP, Diploma in Dermatology UCD and certificate in Women's Health.

Ballyhaunis, East Mayo Football Champions, 1996



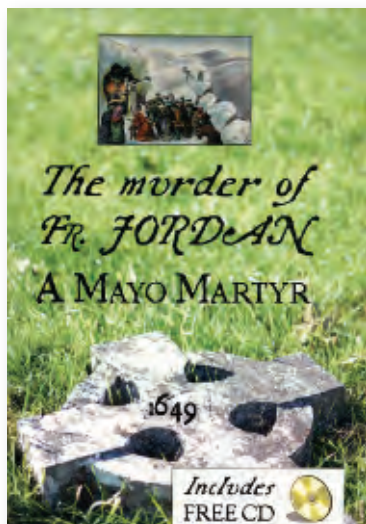
Back, L-R: Tony Morley (Manager), Patrick McGarry, Richard Phillips, Pierce Higgins, Michael Lyons, Tony Morley, Jason Morley, Brian Flanagan, Tommy Grogan, Michael Freeley, Tom Lyons, Tony Cribbin, John McQueeney, Kevin Waldron, John Joe Hoban (Mentor). Front: David Nestor, George O'Neill, Brian Phillips, Johnny Cribbin, Billy Lyons, Declan Doyle, Seamus Caulfield (Capt.), Michael Phillips, Donal Moran, John Burke, Hugh McKermitt, Eamon Murren (Mentor). Children in front: Morgan Lyons, Stephen Hoban, Kevin Moran. Nineteen years later Morgan Lyons, Stephen Hoban and Kevin Moran, pictured here as children, have played football alongside some of the members of this team. Morgan and Stephen have since won several Senior County Hurling medals with Ballyhaunis and an Intermediate County Football medal.

Martyred Ballyhaunis Friar Remembered

Earlier this year the story of the murder of Fr. Fulgentius Jordan, Prior of Ballyhaunis Augustinian Friary, was the subject of a documentary broadcast on Claremorris Community Radio 94.6 fm. Produced by Roderick McGuire, the documentary included interviews with historians both from the locality and from the academic world. It also featured a dramatisation of the events leading up to Fr. Jordan's brutal killing.

Fr. Jordan was celebrating Mass in Redpark, Cloontumper (not far from Began) when he was shot by Cromwellian soldiers in 1649. His original Christian name was Walter and it is believed he came from the same Jordan family who founded the Friary in Ballyhaunis about three hundred years earlier. As a Martyr for the Faith his name has been, for many years now, among those awaiting beatification in the process leading to canonisation.

A book based on the radio programme, entitled 'The



Murder of Fr. Jordan – A Mayo Martyr', with accompanying CD, was launched on Monday, 19th Oct. 2015 in Claremorris Library by Prof. Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin, U.C.D., one of the contributors.

The story will be known to regular Annagh readers, having been covered in many of his articles by Fr. John O'Connor, OSA, who wrote extensively about the Friary for Annagh magazine over many years. The late Gerry Cribbin too contributed a well-researched article "Fr. Fulgentius Jordan" to Annagh 2003.

This publication 'The Murder of Fr. Jordan – A Mayo Martyr' draws on research carried out locally by Fr. F. X. Martin O.S.A. and Dr. George McGuire of Claremorris in 1960, which has not been published before. Among those they spoke with at that time were Willie Kelly, Canon Moane P.P. Began, Dalgan Lyons (who had heard the story from Mrs. Culkeen), Mrs. Morley and Bartley Nolan, all now deceased. Local contributors to the documentary and publication include Michael Kelly, Fr. Kieran Waldron, Fr David Kelly OSA (Archivist of the Augustinian Order), and the late Tom Waldron, Chairman of Claremorris Historical Society.

The book with free CD can be purchased from the website of Claremorris Community Radio 946 -

www.ccr946.ie, where the original documentary can also be heard.

Peter and Helen McCafferty, Doctor's Road, who celebrated their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary on 31st March 2015. Peter, a native of Belfast, moved to the West of Ireland in 1975 where he met and married the former Helene Halpin, Main Street, Ballyhaunis, on 31st March 1975 in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, with their reception

being held in the Abbey Hotel, Roscommon.

Peter and Helene also celebrated the double Christening of their fourth and fifth grandchildren, Claudia Helene McCafferty and Sara Claire Sharkey in St. Patrick's Church on 5th Sept. 2015.





Heather Conway, Mike Cleary, John Nolan and Noreen Folliard who represented Ballyhaunis Youth Club in a debate against Castlebar Youth Club on Friday 18th April 1969, in a debate on the theme 'Romantic Ireland is Dead and Gone'. They were also modelling Aran hand-knit and crochet garments (Heather's outfit is crochet) from Fr. McDyer's Aran Handcrafted Co-op in Glencolumbkille.



L-R: Teresa Joyce, Heather Conway, Brigid Joyce, Mary Conway, Flavia Hannan, Brian Conway (front). Circa 1959.



Above: Taken in their second year in St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis. Jimmy Fleming, Micheál Webb, Ted Webb and Gerard Lyons.

Left: Taken at Mac's Hill, circa 1958.
Back L-R: Mary Brady. Centre, L-R: Heather Conway, Mary Conway, Helen Fitzgerald.
Second row: Georgie Hannan, John Conway, Denis Hannan.
Front: Brian Conway.

Ballyhaunis Golf Club



David Burke winner of the Captain's Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club receiving his prize from Alan Henry (Captain 2015).



All photographs courtesy of Glynn's Photography, Ballyhaunis/Castlerea.



Attending the President's Prize day in Ballyhaunis Golf Club were Maeve, Liam, Brigid, William and Sarah Lynskey.



Liam Lynskey (President) presenting his winning Prize to Emmett Keane.



Prizewinners in the Captain's (Alan Henry) Prize to the Ladies at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Back, L-R: Jenny Glynn, Siobhan Herr, Breege Folliard, Claire Lannon, Nuala Fitzgerald, Bernie Quinn, Fiona Prenty. Seated: Niamh Henry, Mariette Podgieter (Winner), Alan Henry (Captain), Ita Fahey (Lady Captain).



Attending the President's Prize day in Ballyhaunis Golf Club from Gurteen were Paddy Freeley, Liam Lynskey, Seamus Mulrennan, Martin Brennan and Padraig Brennan.



Lady Captain of Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Ita Fahey, presenting her prize to Mariette Potgieter (winner of the Lady Captain's Prize 2015).



Attending the President's Prize day in Ballyhaunis Golf Club were Mary Henry, Marie Brennan, Mary Mulrennan, Orla Loftus-Moran, Jacinta Flynn, Liam Lynskey (President Golf Club 2016), Olive Lyons, Pauline Henry, Mary Henry (Jnr.) and Carol Keane.



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

Standing: Breege Folliard, Claire Lannon, Joan McGuire, Anne Greenway, Fiona Prenty, Marina Coyne, Josie Folliard, Bernie Quinn, Anne Glavey.

Seated: Jenny Glynn, Anne Walsh, Mariette Potgieter (winner), Ita Fahey, Phil Glynn, Margaret Dyer and Norrie Dillon.



1993 Servers

Fr. Joseph Cooney, P.P.
with some of the first group of
Girl Altar Servers in the
Parish, 1993.

L-R: Catriona O'Dowd,
Yvonne Byrne, Anne Marie
Madden and Elizabeth Burke.

Abbey Pattern – the Tradition Continues

This year's Abbey Pattern was a great success. With the Mayo Senior team having to replay Donegal, the Pattern was delayed this year and was held on the first Sunday of September.

Regardless of this, the 2015 Pattern proved to be a great family day out which was enjoyed by the hundreds of people who attended. Over 150 medals and trophies were awarded to children and adults in almost 50 separate races and activities. The Dog Show also attracted lots of interest and, with the help and involvement of Mayo ISPCA, promoted positive messages about caring for our animals and animals that have been abandoned or mistreated.

The Ballyhaunis Scout Group were again present this year running the Pattern teas and coffee's, as well as putting on a number of displays of what being in the Scouts is all about.

While all of this was going on, the children also had a great time trying out the many bouncy castles and fun activities available on the day, including the children's puppet show and Irish dancing/music display and other events. Many thanks also to Fr. Stephen Farragher for celebrating the Pattern Mass in St. Mary's Abbey.

Finally, the Abbey Pattern Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to all those local businesses and individuals who kindly donated sponsorship for the Pattern. Also a special word of thanks goes to all the local people who helped to prepare the Friary and get the Abbey grounds ready, and to all those who helped out on the day itself. The Pattern tradition relies on the local people being willing to both help out on the day itself and in the Pattern Committee which prepares the event.

This year's organising committee - **Chairperson:** John Durkan, **Secretary:** Vinnie Caulfield, **Treasurer:** Brendan Donnellan.

Abbey Pattern Results 2015

ATHLETICS:

Toddler Boys under 4: 1st Charlie Finn, 2nd Evan Feeney, 3rd James Ó Laighin

Toddler Girls under 4: 1st Abbie Gildea, 2nd Anne Kelly, 3rd Michaela Kavanagh

Boys under 6: 1st Mike Kayange, 2nd Jack Gilmartin, 3rd Tomás Ó Laighin

Girls under 6: 1st Eileen Murphy 2nd Hanna McDonagh, 3rd Erin Higgins

Boys under 8: 1st Kyle Burke, 2nd Connor Grogan, 3rd Brendan Sweeney

Girls under 8: 1st Emma O'Brien, 2nd Maeve Caulfield, 3rd Emma Henry

Boys under 10: 1st Kyle Burke, 2nd Brian Sweeney, 3rd Clayton Nolan

Girls under 10: 1st Erica Byrne, 2nd Alannah Hession, 3rd Chantelle Maughan

Boys under 12: 1st Thomas Maughan, 2nd Nathan Hession, 3rd Kyle Burke

Girls under 12: 1st Lorna Davis, 2nd Aroog Azhar, 3rd Victoria Burcovski

Boys under 16: 1st Owen McDonagh, 2nd Kevin Durkan, 3rd Henry Concannon

Girls under 16: 1st Alanah Hession, 2nd Kaitlyn Maughan, 3rd Chantelle Maughan

THREE LEGGED RACE:

Boys under 8: 1st Brian Sweeney & Michael Monaghan, 2nd Luke & Jack Gilmartin, 3rd Seamus McDonagh & Brendan Sweeney

Girls under 8: 1st Julie Lecky & Rebekah Monaghan, 2nd Vanessa Whelan & Alanah Hession, 3rd Georgie Mae Hession & Emma Henry

Boys under 10: 1st Brian Sweeney & Michael Mongan, 2nd Evan McNamara & Mahod Masqood, 3rd Michael McDonagh & Jimmy McDonagh

Girls under 10: 1st Vanessa Whelan & Alanah Hession, 2nd AnnMarie & Gabrielle McDonagh, 3rd Maeve Donnellan & Annie Naveed

Boys under 16: 1st Kevin Durkan & Dara Rattigan, 2nd Henry Concannon & Owen McDonagh, 3rd Jack O'Malley & Jason Hession

Girls under 16: Niamh Foody & Aoife Conway, 2nd Vanessa Whelan & Alanah Hession, Emma Foody & Siofra Murray.

SACK RACE:

Boys under 8: 1st Conor Reynolds, 2nd Josh Kavanagh, 3rd Jake Powers

Girls under 8: 1st Hannah McDonagh, 2nd Julie Lecky, 3rd Ella Morley

Boys under 12: 1st Jason Hession, 2nd Dara Rattigan, Aiden Noone

Girls under 12: 1st Erin Murray, 2nd Nikita Cleary, 3rd Amanda Cleary

EGG & SPOON:

Boys under 8: 1st Mark Feeney, 2nd Jimmy Whelan, 3rd Adam Kelly

Girls under 8: 1st Hannah McDonagh, 2nd Emma Henry, 3rd Maeve Caulfield & Teresa Monaghan

Boys under 12: 1st Jason Hession, 2nd Nathan Hession, 3rd John McDonagh

Girls under 12: 1st Maeve Donnellan, Rose Margaret McDonagh, 3rd Annie Naveed & Vanessa Whelan

NOVELTY EVENTS:

Penalty Shoot Out: 1st Dean Lyons, 2nd John McDonagh

Skipathon: 1st Soheab Arshab, Joint 2nd Chloe Mulrennan & Victoria Burcovski, 3rd Sarah Morris

Spuds in the bucket: Boys: Clayton Nolan, Girls: Chloe Mulrennan

LONG JUMP:

Boys under 8: 1st Kyle Burke, 2nd Jack Gilmartin, 3rd Mike Kayange

Girls under 8: 1st Noor, 2nd Siofra Forde, 3rd Ava McCormack

Boys under 10: 1st Evan McNamara, 2nd Ahmed Naveed, 3rd Padraig Murphy

Girls under 10: 1st Alanah Hession, 2nd Sinead O'Neill, 3rd Vanessa Whelan

Boys under 12: 1st Thomas Maughan, 2nd Edward Lamanis, 3rd Brian Sweeney

Girls under 12: 1st Erin Murray, 2nd Lorna Davis, 3rd Rebecca Lyons

Longest Jump of the Day: 1st Niamh O'Neill, 2nd Thomas McDonagh, 3rd Rebecca Lyons

Abbey Pattern Photographs by Jana Jurakova



Ballyhaunis Augustinian Pattern Revival (1940)

Feast of Sport Music, Song and Dance.

The prodigious success of the Ballyhaunis Augustinian Pattern revival on Sunday last is now a matter of history. Its varied and attractive programme, in its conception and execution, revealed a marvel of organisation to which ideal weather conditions applied the crowning feature. The historic Abbey grounds, where the various events, with a few exceptions, were brought off, presented a spectacle of surpassing animation while all houses in Abbey Street were festooned with flags and bunting. The attendance, which at one stage must have reached between 5,000 and 6,000 people, was representative of every part of the Western province and included a large number of priests. It bore striking testimony to the warm place which the venerable old Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin fills in the hearts of the people from near and far. An enjoyable day crammed with entertainment of a most pleasurable and at times exciting nature, the Ballyhaunis Pattern Revival of 1940 has securely re-established this fixture for all future time and Ballyhaunis as the mecca of the provinces.

DAY OF TRIUMPH

The day was one of particular triumph for Rev. L.W. Carr, O.S.A., who, ably assisted by as fine a team of workers (both ladies and men) as could possibly be recruited in connection with any project, saw the triumphant realisation of an ambition he as cherished for some years. In expressing the hope that he will be long associated with the Abbey to continue the good work so successfully launched, we are but echoing the feelings of all Abbey lovers.

HIGH MASS

The religious ceremonies in connection with the celebration of the Feast of St. Augustine opened in the Abbey at 11.30 a.m., when Solemn

High Mass (Missa Cantata) was sung by Very Rev. Edward Anthony Mansfield, O.S.A., Ballyhaunis, in the presence of a large and representative congregation. This was followed by Papal Blessing and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament imparted by Very Rev. M. B. O'Sullivan, O.S.A., Prior, Ballyhaunis, and which concluded the devotions of the day.

CROWDS ARRIVE

From 1 p.m. onwards crowds poured into town by all roads on foot, cycle, and motor car. Soon after arrival they were wearing the 'pattern' flag, which was being sold by an army of sellers. By 1.30 the pattern grounds, to which 6d. was the nominal admission, began to fill up, the crowds being attracted to the dancing and singing stage, where the first section of the programme was put under way, and where the music was rendered by Mr. Peter Noonan's (Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon) prize ceilidhe band, was a fascinating attraction.

IRISH SINGING

The Irish singing competitions were keenly contested, and the adjudicators, Very Rev. E.A. Mansfield, O.S.A., and Mr. J. Redmond, Divisional National Schools Inspector, Kincora, Ballyhaunis, had no easy task in making final awards, as follows:

Junior Grade – 1st, Master Michael Lyons, Began, Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Miss Carmel Smyth, Ballyhaunis.

Senior Grade – 1st, Miss Imelda Tarpey, Began, Ballyhaunis; 2nd Miss Eileen Morley, do.

IRISH DANCING

Junior Competition

Adjudicators – Messrs. Pilip Ó Bháldraithe (Drimbawn, Ballyhaunis), Headmaster, Castlerea Vocational Schools; Padraig Hanley, Castlerea, and Thomas Flatley, Main St., Ballyhaunis.

Here the adjudicators were also

faced with an extremely complex duty owing to the large number of competitors and the all-round high standard of the solo and group dancing. The following were the final awards:

Hornpipe, Slip Jig and Double Jig (under 16 years) – 1st Miss Helen O'Boyle, Main St., Ballyhaunis (70%); 2nd Miss Carrie Webb, Ballyhaunis (65%).

Junior Hornpipe, Slip Jig and Double Jig (under 12 years) – 1st Miss Kathleen Maguire, Offaly and Loughglynn (65%); Misses Barbara Roden, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon and Leana Webb, Main St., Ballyhaunis, tied for 2nd place with 55%; Misses Mary Hannah Jordan, Ballyhaunis and Kathleen Morley, Kilmannin, Ballyhaunis, tied for 3rd place with 53%.

Special Competition for County Champions

Double Jig, Reel and Hornpipe – 1st Miss Helen O'Boyle, Main St., Ballyhaunis (75%); Misses Carrie Webb, Ballyhaunis and Kathleen Maguire, Offaly and Loughglynn tied for 2nd place with 73%.

Pupils of the Ballyhaunis Mercy Convent schools won first prize in group dancing.

CYCLING

The three road marathon cycle races from Ballinlough to Ballyhaunis, Aghamore to Ballyhaunis, and Began to Ballyhaunis, were run off between 2 and 3 o'clock. These were confined to novices, all starting off scratch, with ordinary bicycles. A beautiful silver cup went to each of the three winners. The competitors were started from Aghamore by Mr. John P. Jordan, N.T., and from Ballinlough by Mr. J. McCormack, N.T.; from Began by Mr. P. McDonagh, N.T. Results –

From Ballinlough – 1st, Ernie Lee, Clooncrim, Ballinlough; 2nd, J. Flanagan, Carrowbehy, Castlerea; 3rd J. Regan, Brackloon, Ballyhaunis. Thirty competed.

From Aghamore – 1st John Waldron, Carrownedan, Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Kevin Carty, Knock, Ballyhaunis; 3rd, James Loftus, Mountain, Aghamore; 4th, Michal Freeman, Cartron, do. Sixteen competed.

From Began – 1st, Thomas Forde, Bohauns, Ballyhaunis; 2nd Austin Cavanagh, Cloonbulbin, do.; 3rd Patrick Fitzmaurice, Greenwood, do.; 4th Michael Keane, Lissiniska, do.; 5th Jos. Kerrane, Cloonbulbin, do. Twenty competed.

ATHLETICS EVENTS

(Confined to radius 10 miles)

100 Yards – First Heat – 1st, J. McNicholas, Foxford (disqualified); 2nd, Michael Griffin, Ballyhaunis. Second Heat – 1st Desmond Healy, Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Tim O'Malley, do. Eleven competed. Final – 1st, Michael Griffin, Ballyhaunis; 2nd Tim O'Malley, do.; 3rd Desmond Healy, do.

440 Yards – 1st, Bernard McGovern, Holywell, Ballyhaunis; 2nd Tim O'Malley, Ballyhaunis. Six competed.

880 Yards – 1st, John Loftus, Aghamore; 2nd Chris Forrester, Claremorris; 3rd, Philip Morley, Ballyhaunis.

High Jump – 1st, John Loftus, Aghamore, Ballyhaunis (4ft 11in); 2nd Philip Morley, Ballyhaunis (4ft 9in); 3rd James Loftus, Aghamore (4ft 8in).

Long Jump – 1st, Philip Morley, Ballyhaunis (18ft 5 in); 2nd Bernard McGovern, Holywell (18ft 4in); 3rd, P. Salmon, Coogue (17ft 11in).

Putting 56lbs – 1st, Guard Glynn, Ballyhaunis; 2nd, P. McGuinness, Castlegar.

Juvenile Events

75 Yards, for boys under 12 years – 1st George Delaney, Abbey St., Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Bertie Curley, Clare St., do.

100 Yards, for boys under 16 years – 1st Denis Foudy, Clare St., Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Sean McDonagh, Began, do.

75 Yards, for girls under 12 years – 1st, Mary Tully, Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Bridie Tully, do.

100 Yards, for girls under 16 years – 1st, Nancy Smyth, Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Kathleen Murphy, do.

Sack Race, for boys – 1st, Bertie Curley, Ballyhaunis; 2nd C. Foudy, do.

Relay Race, for boys under 12 years, 100 yards – 1st, Noel Waldron, Denis Foudy, Patrick Meath.

High Jump – 1st, M. Morris; 2nd, J. Duffly.

Pensioners' Race – 1st, Peter Waldron; 2nd P. Keane.

Egg and Spoon Race, for ladies – 1st Nellie Mulligan, Ballyhaunis; 2nd, Mary Donnellan, do.

TUG-O-WAR

The tit-bit of the day was the Tug-O-War contest between ten competing teams, for the magnificent cup presented by Very Rev. J.B. O'Donohue, O.S.A., Provincial of the Irish province of the Augustinian Order. The following comprised the teams:

Carrowbehy, Co. Roscommon – Thomas Lyons (Captain), Michael Kilduff, Martin Freeman, Andrew Conroy, Patrick Flanagan, John Flanagan, P.J. Ryan and John Moran.

Johnstown (Ballyhaunis) – James Cruise (Capt.), Patrick O'Brien, Austin Delaney, Patrick Gilmore, Patrick Jordan, Hugh Jordan, Martin Comber and John Byrne.

Knock (No. 1) – B. Egan (Capt.), John J. Burke, Patrick O'Brien, Martin Curry, Patrick Kilduff, B. Sloyan, Jas. Flatley, John Flatley and Hugh Cooney.

Lecarrow (Ballyhaunis) – Austin Murphy (Capt.), Michael Lyons, Anthony Cribbin, John Jordan, Thos. Cribbin, Joe Cribbin, John Hunt, John T. Hunt and Patrick Moylett.

Knock (No. 2) – Joe Morley (Capt.), John Finn, B.J. Byrne, J. Kelly, Patrick Sweeney, Thomas Kilkenny, Thomas Egan and Mark Taaffe.

Granlahan – Stephen Rainey (Capt.), Wm. Fetherston, Bernard Fetherston, Michael Fetherston, Ml. Keane, Ml. Regan, Thos. McDermott, Tim Murray, Thos. Bailey.

Holywell (Ballyhaunis) – Michael Tarmey (Capt.), Ml. Lyons, Patrick Lyons, Anthony Waldron, Patrick Carney, Ml. Tarmey, Joe Tarmey, Bernard McGovern and John Connolly.

Coolnafarna (Ballyhaunis) – John J. Lyons (Capt.), Tim Fleming, Martin McHale, J. McMurrough, Richard Grogan, Ml. Keane, Thos. Byrne, Bryan Byrne.

Ballyhaunis – M. Hayden, B. Hayden, L. Smyth, K. Walsh, P. Ganley, S. Hannon, D. Healy and J. Keane.

Agloragh (Ballyhaunis) – Edward

Judge (Capt.), Peter Regan, James Waldron, Thomas Duggan, John Mannion, Michael McGuire, David Judge and Martin Caulfield.

Time limit – 3 minutes; best of 3 pulls.

Results

1st Round – Granlahan beat Holywell; Johnstown beat Carrowbehy; Coolnafarna beat Lecarrow; Knock No. 1 beat Knock No. 2.

2nd Round – Coolnafarna beat Johnstown; Knock No. 1 beat Granlahan; Agloragh beat Ballyhaunis.

Final – Knock No. 1 beat Coolnafarna.

The cup was later presented to B. Egan, Captain of the winning team, while in addition each member of the team received a silver medal.

The golf putting competition was won by Miss Kathleen Cassidy, Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis.

After the presentation of prizes, which was made by Very Rev. M.B. O'Sullivan, O.S.A., assisted by Rev. L.W. Carr, O.S.A., Rev. E.A. Mansfield, O.S.A., and Mr. John T. Smyth, each recipient being applauded.

Rev. Fr. Carr said that everyone connected with the Abbey was very grateful to the people of the entire district who had contributed in making the day such and outstanding success but coming there in such large numbers, and especially to those who had given of their labour. They were all thankful to St. Augustine and with his help and the help of God they would have a better pattern next year (applause).

PICTURE PROGRAMME

At night Waldron's Hall was packed when a picture programme was screened under the auspices of the pattern committee and the result of the draw for the famous Pattern Pony declared. The winner was Patrick Fleming, Levallyroe, Ballyhaunis.

SUCCESSFUL CEILIDHE MÓR

Over 400 people patronised the Pattern Ceilidhe Mór held in McGarry's Hall later, and at which the music was supplied by Noonan's Ceilidhe Band.

75 YEARS AGO



Mary Healy, Holywell, and now living in Claremont Nursing Home, Claremorris, celebrated her 95th Birthday in March. She is pictured with her grandchildren Sinead, Shane and Dara Healy, children of Helen and the late Eamon Healy.



Ballyhaunis Under-8 Hurling Team 2015



A Girl at last! Anna O'Reilly was born in November 2014 to Bobby O'Reilly and Ciara Ní Murchú in Dublin. She is the first girl in this line of the O'Reilly family of Woodpark since her great-grandaunt Margaret O'Reilly (sister of Thomas) was born over a hundred years ago on 12th February 1902. Anna was christened on 7th April 2015 in the Church of the Holy Family, Kill O'The Grange, Dublin. Also pictured is her brother Tommy, who is two and a half and comes from a long line of boys.



Finn family, Hazelhill.
L-R: Joanne Finn, Joe Finn, Oisín Finn, Siobhán Finn.



Knox Street Safari, 1990's



Three school mates enjoying the Traditional Fair Day festivities in Ballyhaunis some years ago. L-R: Bernard Waldron, Murt Hunt and Bernard Freyne.



Fred and Robert Herr, taken in Chicago in 1923.



Pictured after a performance of 'The Sound of Music' by the Ballyhaunis Musical Society, March 2000. L-R: Eileen Jordan, Brian Hunt, Moira Patterson and Nuala Fitzgerald.



Above: Tony Cribbin and Tony Greene, in the 1960s.



Left: Ballyhaunis GAA Rehab Quiz, 1985 presentation.
Back, L-R: Hugh Rudden (GAA), Mick O'Connell (GAA), Mick Murray (sponsor), Joan Flynn (winning captain), Micheál O'Grady (sponsor).
Front: Kevin Burke (Rehab), Jimmy Fleming (GAA), Tom Prenty (GAA).

Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing

The Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing teaches dancing to children from age four, in the Parochial Hall, Ballyhaunis, where all the dancers benefit from increased fitness, flexibility, co-ordination, confidence and social skills. The dancers regularly share their time and talent to perform at local events such as the Summer Festival and this year at the Ballyhaunis GAA Community and Integration Day, as well as in local nursing homes.

Here are some photos from the school over the past year.



Riverdance – here we come! Our first Feis.

The dancers below competed in their first Feis in Claremorris in September 2015 and all had a most enjoyable and very successful day! Pictured at Back - Mary Elwood (teacher), Faith Omotayo, Marissa Collins, Favour Mathew, Edel Fleming and Lisa Hunt (assistant teacher). Centre: Lauren Lyons, Alesha McGarry, Lucy Flanagan, Daragh Mulrennan, Aoibhinn Gallagher and Maeve Caulfield. Front: Eala Greally and Chloe Hurley.



Championship Dancers taking part in a Feis in Ennis in October 2015.

Left to right:
Erica Byrne
(Connacht Under 9
Champion),
Leah Elwood
(Under 9) and
Emma Colleran
(Under 10).



Alesha McGarry visiting dance class on her Communion Day

Alesha is grand-daughter of the late Johnny and Sarah McGarry.
Back: Claire Fleming, Amy Greally, Mae Hession, Edel Fleming, Leah Guilfoyle, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Derbhla Freeman, Eva Henry and Sandra Peter. Front: Leah Elwood, Maeve Flanagan, Emma Colleran, Erica Byrne, Rebecca Mulligan, Alesha McGarry (Communion girl), Niamh Donnellan and Maeve Caulfield.



Christmas Performance at Brookvale Nursing Home

The dancers enjoy performing for the residents of Brookvale Nursing Home a few times each year and this photo was taken Christmas 2014.
Back, from left: Derbhla Freeman, Aoife Lyons, Edel Fleming, Emily Coffey, Michelle Ryan, Ellen Phillips, Rebecca Mulligan and Mae Hession.
Centre: Leah Guilfoyle, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Eva Henry, Maeve Flanagan, Ellena Coffey, Cathy Greally, Morgan-Mai Slattery and Laoise Greally. Front: Edel Fleming, Lucy Phillips, Maia Phillips, Erica Byrne, Alisha McGarry, Niamh Donnellan and Emma Colleran.

80 Years of Knock Shrine Society

Knock Shrine Society celebrated the 80th Anniversary of its existence in 2015. It was founded on the 21st of August 1935 by Mrs. Judy Coyne and her husband Liam Ua Cadhain, to care for the sick, elderly and those with special needs who visit the Shrine.

A special Souvenir edition of Knock Shrine Society Annual entitled 'Milestones of Knock, Celebrating 80 years of Knock Shrine Society 1935 - 2015', compiled and edited by Tom Neary (Chief Steward), is available from the Bookshop at Knock Shrine.

www.knockshrine.ie/bookshop

Tel: +353 (0) 94 9375030

Pictured above: Three local Stewards of the Knock Shrine Society from Ballyhaunis, pictured outside the newly refurbished Basilica of Our Lady of Knock. L-R: Tom Finn, Main Street; Tony Doherty, Ballinlough; John Halpin, Main Street.

Right: John P. Jordan, Derrymore, Ballyhaunis, then Chief Steward of Knock Shrine Society pictured with Dame Judy Coyne and Knock Stewards beside the invalid shelters at the Shrine in 1966.



Photograph taken in St. Joseph's Secondary School, 1959.
L-R: Miriam Murphy, Teresa Henry, Pat Henry, Anne Barry.



"Laurel and Hardy" entertain the crowds in The Square, 1980s.

Ballyhaunis June Bank Holiday Festival

SUE McMILLEN

Well what a find! In the depths of Dillon Leetch & Comerford's archives the file containing all the organisation of the 1987 Summer Festival, the first one held for Ballyhaunis, was found this year. The President at the time was John Dillon-Leetch and his hand written draft of the Festival events is quite something. The first Festival was one of intense planning, and was held over 10 days from the 31st July to the 9th August. Ryanair, the Guinness Group and Tennents Lager were the chief sponsors. Of course all the local businesses also helped out.

A letter on that file (unfortunately undated) was circulated by the late Michael Curley, Chairman of the Traders' Committee in 1987. It stated, "this event will represent a unique occasion in the town and the objective of the Festival is twofold: firstly, to encourage exiles to return home for an enjoyable holiday and secondly, to generate a spending boom for the benefit of the businesses in town"

Well nothing changes does it? Today's event probably takes as much organising and the Festival is over a more manageable three days plus evening events. The town comes alive over the weekend of the Festival with the first event being the traditional Inter-Pub Quiz which this year was moved from the Thursday to the Friday night. A huge 'thank you' to all of the following: Paula Donnellan, the very popular and wonderful quiz presenter; Tommy Caulfield, who set the questions; Jim Lunden and Seamus Caulfield, who scored the sheets, and Mike Griffin for taking in the sheets from the runners of each participating pub. Thanks also to Michael Neary for setting up the radio station and to Tom Eagney for the use of his office and to the many other volunteers too numerous to mention. It was a very tight run contest this year with MacSiúrtáins becoming the eventual winners. There was great participation in all of the pubs and great craic had by all on the night. The Ballyhaunis & District Credit Union kindly sponsored the event and all prizes for winning teams was organised by John Gill.

Teresa Grogan, Mary T. Griffin, Elma Kilbride, Anne Cunnane and Fiona Tarpey visited each pub during the

intervals of rounds and held a raffle in aid of the Ballyhaunis Community School raising €600 towards their new refurbishment. Thanks to all who contributed on the night.

This year's Saturday Family Event was hosted by the Ballyhaunis G.A.A. at their grounds. Lots of different activities and games were held along with children's activities, DJ, face painting, BBQ, sweet shop, raffle, poc fada and penalty kicks. The effort Ballyhaunis GAA put into this event was astounding, inviting all nationalities to participate in their 'Integration Day'. They got posters made in ten different languages to encourage all living in the community to participate. The weather on the day was not so kind but it didn't dampen the atmosphere or the enjoyment of the day.

The Festival itself came to a head on the Sunday with the Traditional Fair Day. This year we had permission to close off the Main Street from Mayo County Council which made it not only safer for all, but people stayed around longer. This has taken years to achieve and a well-earned 'thank you' to Ann Cunnane for achieving this. There was a variety of stalls on the Main Street and demonstrations of traditional crafts. Lots of entertainment was held on The Square including, DJ, Irish dancing, Hip-Hop, Zumba, live traditional music, kids Krav Maga demo, Bokwa Demo, Aghamore set dancers, "Matica", cricket demo, face-painting and a



The crowds enjoying the Traditional Fair Day.

puppet show at the Courthouse. There was also the fabulous motor bike show which was excellently attended with the monies raised for charity. We also had 'Show & Shine', a modified car show in aid of Crumlin Children's Hospital in Dawn Meats Ireland car park - thanks to Dawn for their support - along with vintage tractors at The Square and the Kiltimagh Pet Farm on Clare Street. The MSPCA also held their annual Scruffs Dog Show in the Friary Field and there was an art exhibition in The Friary by PRISMA Artists. Also on display was some wonderful art from Scoil Íosa pupils upstairs in Supermacs, and well done to all the businesses who participated in the window display competition. Ballyhaunis Heritage Society also hosted a historical talk, 'James Cavanagh, 1865-1935 - A Man from Began Who Became Duke of Swaziland' which was presented by his relative, radio presenter Monica Morley. All in all there was something for everyone at the Ballyhaunis June Bank Holiday Festival. The weather for 2015 was not

kind to us and most of us were nearly swimming home, but laughter, fun and merriment was still had by all, with the smells of Asian and Indian food in the streets giving the Festival a cultural flavour.

We would like to say a massive 'Thank You' to all who participated in the Festival, volunteered, organised events, stewarded, the Gardaí, demonstrators and the Ballyhaunis community for coming out in support, and the committee for, without you, this festival would not go ahead. A huge thanks to Mayo County Council and Claremorris Municipal District Councillors for their support with funding and a special thanks to Cllr. John Cribbin and Cllr. Richard Finn for the extra funding they allocated us in order to run this year's festival. If anyone would like to join the Ballyhaunis Festival committee or indeed if you have ideas for future events please email ballyhaunischamber@gmail.com all help/ideas are truly welcome.

Restoring a Town's Great Tradition

A fortnight before Easter Sunday, a group of publicans and traders from Ballyhaunis came together to discuss the possibility of reviving one of the town's long-lost annual events: the Ballyhaunis Easter Parade. After a sprinkling of concerns which were raised that particular morning - none more so than the short timeframe to plan a successful event - there was plenty of gusto and perseverance from all around the table. It was decided that the Ballyhaunis Easter Parade 2015 was going ahead... little did the organisers know that the newly-formed Ballyhaunis Annual Events Committee (B.A.E.C.) would, in such a short period of time, achieve something very special and memorable for the entire community!

The old saying of "absence makes the heart grow fonder" could never have rang more true in the streets of Ballyhaunis on April 5th, 2015. The footpaths swelled with spectators, estimated in the region of 2,000 people. And, with more than 40 floats participating there was no shortage of entertainment and joy. It was, in a sense, a day when Ballyhaunis felt like the Ballyhaunis of old once again.

The first time the town witnessed an Easter Sunday Parade was back in 1992. At the time, it was an annual event which drew large crowds from near and far. It was a family occasion by all means which was unfortunately discontinued in 2000 when the foot and mouth disease hit Ireland, thus preventing large numbers from gathering.

Fifteen years later and, blessed with a sunny day, the

initiative and hard work of its organisers, the overwhelming response by float entrants, and the enormous number of spectators; the revival was an incredible success. The parade began on Clare Road, through the Square, down Knox Street and wrapped around the town to continue onto Main Street and over Bridge Street.

Once the dust had settled there was the small matter of judging the floats. Taking a clever and current theme for his float, Tom Colleran, a.k.a. Conor McGregor, was a massive crowd-pleaser and deservedly judged the winner. The Clock Tavern sealed second spot with their 'Frozen'-themed float and The Hazel came in third spot with a Pope-mobile float.

Given the parade's success and what was easily one of the stand-out occasions of the Ballyhaunis Social Event Calendar, plans are already afoot to make Easter Sunday 2016 even bigger and better. Details of live outdoor music, cultural events, the parade and much more will be delivered to the public earlier in the year. As it will be the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising there will be much to commemorate and celebrate.

For the record the B.A.E.C. is made up of more than twenty business folk in town and its officers are as follows: Bill Nestor (Chairman), Adrian Murray (Vice-Chairman), William Nestor (Secretary), Shay Walsh (Vice Secretary), Ann Fitzpatrick (Treasurer).



Ballyhaunis Easter Parade 2015



Ballyhaunis GAA Club

PATRICK KEANE, SECRETARY

In 2015, Ballyhaunis GAA Club began the year as both County Intermediate Football Champions and County Senior Hurling Champions following a historic double the previous year. A tall order to follow, but nonetheless the club has made progress in both codes and all grades throughout the year in various ways. We are in a fortunate position to have so many hard-working and diligent members who continually make this progress happen year on year. We would like to thank each and every one of these members for their enormous contribution and free-giving of their time. We would also like to thank our sponsors and lotto sellers, coaches, parents and, most of all, our players.



throughout the season the evidence of the continued improvement in their skills and game awareness was obvious to all involved. While the emphasis at the age group is not on winning games, we are glad to report that they put up plenty of high scores during the year. If the other areas of their games continue to mirror their scoring prowess, they will be very competitive as a team moving up through the various grades.

Team Management: David Burke, Vinnie Caulfield, Jarlath Henry, John Greally, Mike Morley.

Panel: Sylvek Ubych, Rian Maitland Murphy, Daire Caulfield, Mamoon Shabir, Kyle Burke, Ahmad Naveed, Brandon Sweeney, Mohid Shahid, Séamus McDonagh, Mohad Maqsood, PJ Greally, Colm Rattigan, Adam Walsh, Clayton Nolan, Jason Lyons, Nathan O'Toole, Oscar Chojnack, Brian Sweeney, John McDonagh, Adam Noone, Yazan Kezee, Conor Henry, Kian Morley, Michael Maughan, Tom Nestor.

Under-6 & Under-8 Football

Ballyhaunis U-6/U-8 footballers train together every Friday evening at Ballyhaunis GAA Pitch. During the summer, this is a great sight to behold as up on 35 youngsters take to the field cheered on by their parents. During the summer the teams took part in an East Mayo League playing a total of eight matches. With the interest and enthusiasm shown the future is bright for Ballyhaunis Football. The team was kindly sponsored by Ballyhaunis Bouncy Castles. Team Mentors: John Burke, Brendan Donnellan, Eamon Monaghan, Tom Lyons, Tommy Curran, Alex Tighe, Enda Caulfield and Darran Conlon.

Under-10 Football

Training commenced in April 2015 for this group of players. From the outset it was thought that this is a particularly talented group of footballers, and

Mick O'Connell Cup

Over thirty years have passed since the late Mick O'Connell presented the cup to the club for the promotion of under-age football. In those thirty years, over 800 of our young footballers have competed for the honour of taking home this much sought-after prize. All of the great players who have gone on to represent the Senior Club, and indeed the County teams, in the last twenty years have spoken of the great memories and the enjoyment that they have gained from this competition.

In 2015, we decided to move the event from October



Under-6. Tomás Uí Laighin, Jack Nolan, Jamie Nolan, Lochlainn Waldron, Zack Smith, Jack Buckley, Thomas Curran, Cian Moran, John William Burke, Alex Tighe, Cathal Conlon, with their Coach, John Burke.



Ballyhaunis Bouncy Castles, the new sponsors of the Ballyhaunis Under-8 Footballers and Hurlers. John Burke (Coach), William Nestor (Sponsor), Bill Nestor (Sponsor), Pierce Higgins (Coach).



Community Integration Day 2015.
Youth players taking part at Ballyhaunis GAA grounds.

to earlier in the season as the weather in late autumn can be severe on both players and spectators alike. We decided to hold the competition in conjunction with our Integration and Family Day in May. Typically, the Irish weather did not co-operate and in a game played in a constant downpour the team, captained by Clayton Nolan, were victorious over the team captained by John Mc Donagh.

Under-12 Football

Training for the Under-12s began in early April and although we weren't blessed with large numbers in this age group, the youngsters competed well in all competitions and showed improvement in their skills and team play.

Managers: Tommy Caulfield and David Burke. Panel: Shaun Morley, Patrick Daly, Mike Wiktor, John Francis McDonagh, John McDonagh, Kian Burke, Jamie Allen, Cian Walsh, Jason Reinhardt, Eoin Ryan, Kieran Kerrigan, Thomas Maughan, Ethan Cooke, Micheal Finn-Richardson, Kevin Durkan, Dara Rattigan, Yordan Kirchev, Aidan Sloyan, Sean Caulfield.



Ballyhaunis Under-8 Footballers with their coach Darren Conlon. Jason Powers, Josh Kavanagh, Aaron Jordan, Mateus, Darren Quinn, Liam Hill, Colin Silva-Byrne. Missing from photos: Tom Donnellan, Alex Byrne, Mark Feeney.

Under-14 Football

Ballyhaunis Under-14 Footballers captured the County League Title by comprehensively defeating Ardmoy McHales in Kiltimagh back in May. Team captain, Aidan Byrne, was a stand-out player at midfield, while Pierce Nestor and Ethan Keane impressed in defence and Joshua Webb and Conor Keane were to the fore in attack. It was a memorable for the entire panel and especially team manager, Val Byrne, who has since returned to the US. We would like to thank Val for all his hard work and dedication and the club and we wish him and his family the very best in the future.

Team managers: Val Byrne and Brian Murray. Panel: Eoin McDonagh, James McDonagh, Shaun Morley, Jack McGoldrick, Diarmuid Phillips, Daniel Murray, Cian Walsh, Danny Hill, Jamie Allen, Haroon Shabbir, Kevin Durkan, Pierce Nestor, Ethan Keane, Luke Walsh, Conor Keane, Aidan Byrne, Joshua Webb, Dara Rattigan, Simon McDonagh, Darren Maughan.

Under-16 Football

This year's Under-16 Football team was tasked with playing in a very tough division. However, they did have some nice victories in the league and should fare well next year with more experience under their belts.

Team managers: James Reidy and Johnny Cribbin. Panel: Neil Carney, David Cunnane, Evan Fitzmaurice, Evan Henry, Liam Herr, Conor Sloyan, Joseph Wagata, Jack Coyne, Eoin McDonagh, Pierce Nestor, Conal



Ballyhaunis Under-8 Footballers with their coach Eamon Monaghan. Kyle Burke, Adam Kelly, Anointed Arado, Eamon Óg Monaghan, Ethan Kilbane, Fionn Conlon, Richard Timbo.

Caulfield, Cormac Phillips, Darren Maughan, Barry Cribbin, Patrick Caulfield, Uneeb Nasseer, James McDonagh.

Minor Football

The Ballyhaunis Minor footballers competed in Division 2 of the Mayo League in 2015. We started training in February 2015 and with a panel of over twenty players who had accounted for themselves very well at U14 and U16 levels and we were hopeful that they would continue to show improvement. In the beginning it was thought we would be hampered by the loss of a number of players who had moved away from the area and a few who had decided not to commit to the panel. However, by the end of the year it was obvious the benefits of having a fully committed panel was what defined this group. The league proved to be a tough campaign and we ended up with just two points from our eight games. Despite these defeats we were competitive in all but one game as players were tried in different positions and all got plenty of playing time. We continued to show improvement in the Summer League and by the time the Championship arrived we were hopeful that we would compete well.

In our first game versus Balla things did not go well and we were well beaten by a far better team. Instead of knocking the team back, the defeat seemed to galvanise the players to redouble their efforts and in the next game against Burrishoole we were only defeated by a few late scores by this West Mayo team. This knocked us out of the championship and we now concentrated on the upcoming East Mayo Championship. The first game in the East Mayo championship was against Ballaghad-erreen in Kilmovee and this was the evening that the hard work really started to pay off. Trailing by seven points with fifteen minutes to go, we gradually clawed our way back into the game and emerged with a one point victory. This win qualified us for the East Mayo B final against Kilmovee who had defeated Moy Davitts in the other semi-final. The game was fixed for the novel venue of Tooreen hurling grounds and on an evening when we dominated play but failed to make the most of our chances against an opposition who never gave up. We were glad to hear the final whistle and come out with a one point win. This victory was nothing less than what the team deserved for their commitment and attitude during the year. Already a number of the minors have joined the Senior and U21 panels and the future of our club looks good. The vast majority of the players are again eligible for the minor grade in 2016.

On behalf of the management team of Paul Webb, George O'Neill, Robbie Herr and Vinnie Caulfield, I wish to say a sincere thank you to our players for the effort in 2015. Best of luck to the lads that are moving to adult football and we look forward to regrouping in early 2016

with the rest of the group. I also wish to thank the parents who helped out with transport to games and training and to all who helped during the year.

Panel: Callyn Maitland Murphy, Robert McCormack, John Cunnane, Sean Herr, David Cunnane, Piarais Caulfield, Darren Coyne, Daio Alex, Adam Hickey, Brian O'Neill, Cian Henry (Capt), James Cribben, Thomas Connell, Peace Omateo, Liam Herr, Oisín Henry, James Reynolds, Eamon Phillips, Ryan Kilbane, Joseph Watgacha, Damien Egan, Cormac Phillips, Sean Carrick, Cormac Reidy.

Under-21 Football

At the time of going to print, our Under-21 Footballers have played just one Championship match away to Ballinrobe and were victorious in what was an enthralling encounter. The team were down by nine points at half time but yet completely turned affairs around in the second half and came out by six points to the good. We look forward to continuing this form going into the next round of the championship and having a crack at winning a county title.

Panel: Adrian Phillips, Mark Phillips, Jimmy Cribbin, Patrick Kiely, Morgan Lyons, Brian O'Neill, Stephen Nolan, Shane Healy, Sean Gildea, Calum Gardiner, Evan Kilbane, John Cunnane, Jason Coyne.

Senior Football

For the first time in 26 years Ballyhaunis were competing at senior level in the championship and also plying their trade in Division 1B of the league. Pitted in a difficult group for the championship with Davitts, Breaffy and Knockmore it was always going to be a difficult task to compete with teams of this pedigree and experience. Looking back at the first encounter away to Knockmore, we realised we were more than capable of putting up a challenge and, had we taken a few more of our chances on the day, we could have caused an upset. Our second match against Breaffy was a one-sided affair, again away from home to one of the favourites to win the county championship. In our third game against local rivals Davitts at home, and needing a win to avoid going into a relegation battle. The lads fought to the end with Davitts drawing level with the last kick of the game. The draw meant that Davitts stayed up and we had to face Shrulue/Glencorrib in a relegation semi-final playoff which we won by the slenderest of margins thanks to a monster free-kick from Niall Prenty. Ballyhaunis Footballers now look forward to playing senior championship football for the second year in a row.

In the League, as of now, we have one remaining to fixture against local rivals Kiltimagh. A win or a draw would guarantee safety in Division 1B for next year and fingers crossed all goes to plan. A massive thanks to the management team of Tomás Morley, John Prenty and



Ballyhaunis, Mayo County Senior Hurling Champions 2015.

Back, L-R: Sean Gildea, James Cribbin, Cyril Collins, Kieran Kiely, Fergal Lyons, Donal O'Brien, Stephen Hoban, Austin Lyons, Sean Griffin, Shane Healy, Calum Gardiner, Tadhg Buckley, Stephen Carney, Ryan Kilbane, Sean Herr, Mark Phillips, Kieran McDermott.
 Front, L-R: Pierce Higgins, Peter Healy, Jason Coyne, Cormac Phillips, Kevin Morley, Morgan Lyons, Patrick Kiely, Adrian Brennan, Micheál Walsh, Brian Hunt (Capt.), Eoghan Collins, Tadhg Morley, Keith Higgins, Adrian Phillips.

Kurt Reinhardt for their persistence to keep Ballyhaunis Footballers in Senior status for another year, and for their hard work and dedication. We also acknowledge the training and commitment of all the players throughout the year. A special note of thanks to our main sponsors Grogan's Concrete and Rochford Motors for their continued support.

Panel: Adrian Phillips, Paul Jordan, Conor Freeley, Declan Doyle, Eoghan Collins, Patrick Kiely, Keith Higgins (Capt.), Stephen Nolan, Brian O'Neill, John Cunnane, Brian Mulrennan, Stephen Shanaghy, Morgan Lyons, Niall Prenty, Kevin Gallagher, Kevin Nestor, Jarlath Carney, Liam Lyons, Fergal Kelly, Sean Gildea, Isaac Carroll, Ryan Worden, Ciaran Griffin, Sean Griffin, Jason Coyne, Jimmy Cribbin, Tadhg Morley, Cyril Collins, John Prenty, Brian Hunt, Joe Sutton, Stephen Hoban.

Underage Hurling

Ballyhaunis Underage Hurlers from Under-6 to Under-10 trained every Wednesday at Ballyhaunis GAA Pitch. Throughout the summer the teams contested home and away games at each level. The coaches were Pete Higgins, Pierce Higgins, Tadhg Buckley, Sean Griffin, Eamon Phillips, Cormac Phillips, Gary Conway, Sean Herr, Brendan Donnellan, Johnny Burke, Keith Higgins, Paul Kelly and Darran Conlon. The Under-8 and Under-6 teams were kindly sponsored by Ballyhaunis Bouncy Castles.

U-10 Ballyhaunis Hurling Manager: Tadhg Buckley.
Panel: P.J. Grealley, Evan McNamara, Colm Rattigan, Ahmad Zahoor, Kian Morley, Clayton Nolan, Edward Hamanis, Jordan Kirchev.

Under-21 Hurling

Ballyhaunis won this competition in 2014 for the first time in eight years and were hoping to press on at this level. Only three teams competed in Mayo at this grade: Ballyhaunis, Castlebar and Tooreen. Ballyhaunis who were missing a few players played Tooreen in the first game and, while played gamely, were eventually overcome by a stronger Tooreen side.

Panel: Haseeb Arshad, Cyril Collins, Jason Coyne, Jimmy Cribbin, Calum Gardiner, Sean Gildea, Shane Healy, Sean Herr, Hannan Iqbal, Patrick Kiely, Ryan Kilbane, James Lyons, Morgan Lyons, Adrian Phillips, Eamonn Phillips, Mark Phillips, Waquas Rehman.

Senior Hurling

For Ballyhaunis Senior Hurlers, having won back the County Senior Hurling title in 2014 and gone on to contest the Connacht Intermediate title where they were just beaten by two points, 2015 was always going to be a hard task to follow. However, this bunch of players is nothing if not resilient, and we met in February 2015 to



Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Captain, Brian Hunt, receiving the T.J. Tyrrell Cup from Luke Fitzmaurice (Mayo County Board).

plan the forthcoming year.

In early 2015, we partook in the Connacht Tain League but as no real training was in place, it was a matter of fulfilling fixtures as required. We did not therefore make the playoffs in this competition.

For the Genfitt Competition we had commenced an intensive training regime and the results were starting to show. We reached the final, which was played in Ballyvary on 19th September. Ballyhaunis were unable to play eight of our panel who played hurling with Mayo in 2015 and end up runners-up on a score line of 2-11 to 0-14. This result was just the reality bite the team needed and so training tempo was upped for the next few weeks.

Competition for the T.J. Tyrell Cup started for Ballyhaunis in the nearby home of our friends and rivals Tooreen. While we played reasonably well, they got a few vital scores to win the contest. We faced an up-and-coming Castlebar team on the 5th August and while they proved a hard team to put away, Ballyhaunis eventually pulled away to win by six points. On 29th August we beat Westport comprehensively in Ballyhaunis to set up another County Senior Final with Tooreen. On a beautiful Sunday on 11th October in Ballyhaunis GAA Pitch both teams played with passion and skill for more than sixty minutes in a game that ebbed and flowed. Tooreen scored a goal mid-way through the first half to lead by a couple of points, however, Ballyhaunis dominated the last fifteen minutes to lead by three at half time. The second half replicated the first half with Tooreen drawing level only for Ballyhaunis to press ahead with some delightful long range scores. While Tooreen pushed hard for an equalising goal, Ballyhaunis held firm to win on a margin of 0-20 to 1-14 and so retained the Tyrell Trophy for the eleventh time in

fourteen years. Special thanks to our main sponsors EPS and Brennan Kitchens and to Conor McKeon, Westport, for taking the photographs on the day.

Management: Peter Higgins, John Joe Hoban, Derek Walsh, Frank Brown, Darran Conlon, Gary Conway.

Panel: Michéal Walsh, Adrian Brennan, Peter Healy, Austin Lyons, Kieren Kiely, Pierce Higgins, Fergal Lyons, Eoghan Collins, Sean Griffin, Brian Hunt (Capt.), Keith Higgins, Morgan Lyons, Stephen Hoban, Patrick Kiely, Donal O'Brien, Ryan Kilbane, Jimmy Cribbin, Tadhg Buckley, Adrian Phillips, Mark Phillips, Jason Coyne, Shane Healy, Tadhg Morley, Stephen Carney, Cyril Collins, Eamonn Phillips, Calum Gardiner, Sean Herr, Kevin Morley, Kieren McDermott, Sean Gildea, Luke Cribbin.

County Hurling Representatives

A special congratulations to all the Club members who represented their County in 2015.

Senior: Adrian Brennan, Eoghan Collins, Keith Higgins, Stephen Hoban, Brian Hunt, Kieren Kiely, Austin Lyons, Fergal Lyons, Kieren McDermott, Donal O'Brien.

Under-21: James Lyons.

Minor: Ryan Kilbane, Calum Gardiner.

Under-16: Cormac Phillips, Jack Coyne.

Under-14: Conor Keane, Ryan Keadin.

A very special congratulations to Cormac Phillips who won the Connacht Junior Poc Fada, and finished runner-up in the All-Ireland series.

Girls Football

Under-10

This year was spent developing the skills, teamwork and fitness of the girls to prepare them for next year's more competitive league.

Panel: T. Phillips, A. Hughes, A. Kerrigan, L. Phillips, C. Marques, L. Dillon, A. McCormack, I. Cox, E. Henry, R. Conway, L. Feeney, C. Murphy, S. O'Neill, E. Byrne, C. Reynolds. Mentors: A. Cunnane-Marques, A. Hughes.

Under-12

This is the most successful girls team in the club to date, with wonderful teamwork and spirit. They never stop trying which is evident even at training so credit to their mentors. It was no surprise to see them lift the Shield, coming third in the League Division 1.

Panel: C. Marques, R. Cleary (Captain), H. Clarke, K. Mannion, L. Godfrey, L. Johnston, E. Murray, C. Maughan, N. Tighe, J. Henry, E. Henry, K. Legg, R. Ganley, L. Davis, M. Hession, M. McGuire, A. Hughes, L. Madden, M. Donnellan. Mentors: J. McDonagh, M. Cleary, N. Murray.

Under-13

The Under-13 Girls are doing well in the League staying in the top four throughout. At the time of writing, there is one more game to go against local club St. Mary's to see if they make the playoffs. This would be a wonderful achievement seeing as many of the team have only played this season with the club.

Team: A. Philips, R. Cleary, K. Mannion, L. Godfrey, H. Clarke, L. Johnston, E. Murray, J. Henry, L. Davis, L. Madden, C. Maughan, M. Donnellan, C. Marques, N. Tighe, M. Hession, M. McGuire, A. Gildea (Joint Captain), E. Duffy (Joint Captain). Mentors: M. Cleary, P. Smith, M. Duffy

Under-14

We knew this was going to be a tough year being placed in Division 1. The girls were up for the fight and missed out on the Shield Final by scores allowed/against alone and were knocked out of the championship by a narrow margin to the eventual winners. Sadly there were no trophies for the girls but they are well within their sights.

Panel: A. Phillips, M. Morley, L. Madden, A. Gildea, R. Dillon, S. Roddy, N. O'Neill, N. Smith, R. Brennan, S. Murray, E. Murray, C. O'Grady, K. Mannion, R. Cleary, L. Godfrey, E. Duffy, L. Johnston, H. Brown (Captain), R. Kerrigan, A. Keane, A. Carney. Mentors: P. Smith, M. Duffy.

Under-16

2015 was another good year for the girls. It was great to see their teamwork which got them to the semi-final. It was no mean feat only just losing out to Knockmore, who went on to win the final. This team will only get better because of their spirit and willingness to succeed is in them and their mentors. They have the will to get better and win the trophies they deserve.

Team: A. Conway, N. Foody, G. Foody, L. O'Connell (Joint Captain), M. Carney, R. Lyons, S. Lyons, S. Roddy, N. O'Neill, L. Walsh, K. Concannon, S. Murray, C. Ryan, L. Regan, M. Regan, H. Browne, C. Philips, O. Cleary, J. Cunnane, H. Gallagher, A. Herr (Joint Captain). Mentors: M. Cleary, G. O'Connell, F. Browne, G. Conway, A. Regan, M. Gallagher.

Paul Smith, Chairperson of the Girls Football Committee, would like to thank everybody involved especially the parents who have been there with lifts, support and assistance along the way. Also the mentors who without their dedication and commitment there would be no girls teams at all.

Famous Five-in-a-Row

In many years to come Mayo GAA folk will look back on 2015 as it provided one of the most historic and momentous occasions when the Mayo Senior Football team captured the J.J. Nestor Cup for a fifth time in a

row. On that very special day, Ballyhaunis GAA club are very proud that it was our very own, three-time All-Star, Club Captain and, of course, County Captain, Keith Higgins, who raised the cup after the comprehensive defeat of Sligo in Hyde Park. Congratulations to Keith on this wonderful achievement and we hope for even better things to come in 2016!

Finance - 50/50 Draw

This year the Club took a change of direction with its fundraising initiatives. It was decided that after many a long year of our weekly lotto draw that we would switch to a different format which has proved extremely successful and popular in the community with the 50/50 draw. Envelopes for the draw are available in all pubs and local businesses. We would like to thank all sellers and members of the Finance Committee who ensure its continued success.

Grounds

Repairs to the electronic scoreboard were needed and work was completed during the summer. The club now has a state of the art scoreboard which will be used for many years to come. Many thanks to our grounds man, Pete Higgins and to all the workers, who continue to ensure the upkeep and maintenance of our pitch and grounds.



Mayo Senior Captain, Keith Higgins, pictured with Seamus Caulfield, after guiding the county to an historic five-in-a-row haul of Connacht titles.



Easter Parade 2015



Club chairman Mike Webb celebrating Mayo's win over Galway in Salthill in June with former Ballyhaunis footballers Ted, Joe and Seán Webb of Devlis.



Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camp at Béal Átha hAmhnais GAA in July 2015. Over 100 children attended.

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*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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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 consideration in next year's magazine, you can contact Annagh by email at info@annaghmag.ie, or visit our website www.annaghmag.ie

Deadline: The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2016 is Friday, 14th October 2016. The eventual inclusion of any article is subject to the discretion of the Editorial Committee.

Articles

Articles should not exceed 4000 words. Hand-written or typed submissions are acceptable. Articles submitted by email or on CD should preferably be in WORD format. We cannot accept material in Microsoft Publisher format. It is the policy of the magazine not to include obituaries or memoriam notices. Due to space constraints, not all photographs or articles can be guaranteed inclusion.

The list of baptisms, marriages and deceased comes directly from the Parish Registers. The deceased list includes everyone whose funeral Mass takes place in the Parish Church.

The earlier in the year that material is submitted, the better. All work done on Annagh Magazine is done on a voluntary basis. New members, or any help you can give, will be most welcome.

Photographs

All photographs should be fully named and dated, if possible, and the owner's name included on the back. The contributor's name will be published only if this is requested. Photographs sent digitally, by email or on CD, should be in jpeg format, and scanned at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. If they are any smaller, it may not be possible to publish them at an appropriate size. Photographs should not be imbedded in WORD documents: they can be sent separately as jpegs. Captions should be typed at the end of the article, with clear reference(s) to the relevant photo(s). Photographs will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.



Annagh 2015 Cover Photograph by Fr. Kieran Waldron

This year's cover photograph shows local veterans of the Old IRA who led the Ballyhaunis 1916 Commemorative Parade which took place on Easter Sunday, 10th April, 1966. The Parade was organised to mark the 50th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, and to commemorate the patriot dead of the years that followed. This image, and another on page 157, come from slides taken by Fr. Kieran Waldron. Also on page 157, is a photograph of part of the local ICA and Fire Brigade sections in that parade. Readers are also referred to photographs of the same parade that featured in Annagh 1991, on pages 51 and 68.

Efforts are underway to identify as many as possible in these photographs, and the Annagh Magazine Committee would like to hear from anyone who can help in this regard. If you can identify anyone, please tell any committee member or email info@annaghmag.ie. Many thanks to those who have already helped with this.

Comdt. Patrick McNieve (Brickens) and Comdt. Martin Forde (Island), who led the parade, are not in this photograph. The veterans marched in ranks of four. The front line here shows, L-R: Tom Forde (The Square), Jack Kilduff (Larganboy), Dominick Byrne (Derrymore) and John Patrick Jordan (Derrymore). Others in the group include some or all of the following: Patrick Biesty (Addergoole, Knock), John Dunleavy (Addergoole, Knock), Peter Cafferkey (Brackloon North), Jack Clarke (Hazelhill), George Delaney (Abbey St.), Mick Finn (Classaghroe), Michael Fitzmaurice (Lisbane), Tommy Flatley (Upper Main St.), Johnny Gilmore (Knox St.), Michael Freeley (Island), John Greene (Carrowreagh), Roddy Healy (Ballindrehid), Bernie Jordan (Cummer), Johnny Kenny (Brackloon North), Hubert Lyons (Knox St.), Jack Lyons (Ballindrehid), Ned McGuire (Cherryfield), Tom Murphy (Devlis), Patrick Regan (Gurteenbeg), Mick Sloyan (Forthill), Austin Tarpey (Pattenspark), Luke Waldron (Cloonbook), Patrick Waldron (Pattenspark), Patrick McLoughlin, Addergoole, Knock.

The Parade was covered in a report by the late Mick O'Connell in The Western People of Sat., 23rd Apr. 1966, which is reproduced on page 156.



www.annaghmag.ie
Ballyhaunis Parish Magazine

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