

ANNAGH

An aerial photograph of Annagh, a town in Northern Ireland. The image shows a main street running diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. On the left side of the street, there are several buildings, including a prominent light blue building with multiple windows and a yellow building. A parking lot with several cars is visible. On the right side, there are more buildings, mostly with grey roofs, and a large green field in the background. The town is surrounded by green hills and trees. The sky is overcast.

2017
40th Edition

Foreword



Recently, I had the privilege of accompanying a group of one hundred and eighty youth leaders from all over Ireland on a pilgrimage to Rome. These leaders have been involved in the John Paul II Merit Awards programme which encourages young people to become actively involved in their parishes and was founded ten years ago in the Diocese of Derry. During our time in the Eternal City we had an opportunity to visit some of the sites, churches and holy places associated with the history of Christianity. The highlight of our pilgrimage was on the Wednesday morning when we celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica where Pope Francis celebrates Mass on important occasions. A few hours later we were present in glorious sunshine in St Peter's Square when he appeared at the window overlooking the Square to recite the Angelus, offer some reflections, and to ask our prayers for an end to war and senseless killings throughout the world. As always he finished by asking: "Pray for me".

As a nation, as a diocese and as a parish we are preparing for the "World Meeting of Families" to be hosted in Dublin next year. Pope Francis has indicated his intention to attend this international event and hopes are high that he may include a visit Knock Shrine as part of his programme.

Pope Francis continues to draw our attention to many of the big issues of our day such as our treatment of migrants, war, inequality and climate change. During our recent ex-hurricane I was reminded of story that the Holy Father tells of what an Argentinian farmer said to him on one occasion: "God always forgives, human beings sometimes forgive, but nature never forgives". So many of the problems associated with climate change are the direct result of the disregard of wealthier nations for the planet that is our common home. Pope Francis continues to highlight the plight of immigrants, many of whom are driven from their homelands as the result of war or famine brought on by climate change.

As Ireland's ethnically most diverse parish, immigration is something that impacts on us as a parish community. Thankfully, so many individuals, sports clubs, schools and voluntary organisations work quietly to ensure that our community is one where every person feels welcome and included regardless of race or creed.

As always the Annagh magazine aims to capture or give a flavour of what has been happening in our community during the past year. As Christmas approaches we think especially of our emigrants in various parts of the world and hope that the Annagh will help you to experience a little bit of home away from home. We will be remembering you especially at our Masses on Christmas Day that are livestreamed on our webcam at www.ballyhaunisparish.ie

Finally I congratulate the hard working committee on another fine production and wish all our readers a happy Christmas and every blessing in 2018.

Stephen Farragher

Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.

Editorial

Welcome to the fortieth edition of Annagh Magazine. In 1978, when the members of the Junior Chamber first considered publishing a parish magazine, could they have envisioned their publication becoming so successful? Forty editions later and 'Annagh 2017' continues in the tradition of the previous magazines by highlighting a rich cross section of life in Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas.

For many readers, Christmas does not feel like Christmas unless the latest copy of Annagh is lying on the kitchen table or near the fireplace hearth. For people home on holiday, perusing the pages of Annagh is an annual Christmas pastime. Annagh also provides a tangible link to home for the many diaspora who receive a copy in the post each year. Often wrapped up in a parcel along with crisps and tea, Annagh is posted to different corners of the world with love and the hope that family members can connect to home in some small way.

After forty editions, Annagh Magazine continues to connect generations. Flicking back through past editions is in many ways more rewarding than reading the current edition. Glimpsing a photo published in the 1980's or reading an article from the early 1990's transports people back to a time that they may have forgotten about, yet has been preserved in the pages of Annagh. One of the most important aspects of Annagh is that it captures the here and now; the true value of the here and now can only be sometimes fully understood when it becomes the past. In an age where social media can provide an instantaneous fix of nostalgia, Annagh Magazine does not have the same element of surprise it once did. However, it is in many ways a more permanent record of who we are and where we've come from.

This permanent record would not have been possible without the many people behind the scenes. In the article "Annagh Magazine – forty years a growing" we pay tribute to all the past committee members who have made Annagh such a success over the years. Without their hard work there would not have been forty editions. It is sometimes easy to take the magazine for granted and accept that there will always be the latest copy sitting by the fireplace each Christmas. Annagh Magazine is bigger than any of its committee members, but it depends on people for its future and survival. New committee members are needed to continue the Annagh legacy into its fiftieth edition and beyond. Please consider getting involved in the New Year.

'Annagh 2017' features many of the things readers have come to expect over the years. A selection of historical articles document important events that

occurred locally in the past or involved local people. A number of feature articles and photos from events in 2017 capture the essence of life in our locality. Looking back on 2017 will be a bitter sweet experience for some as they remember loved ones that they may have lost throughout the year. Wedding and Stations photographs are included as ever and tend to be the first thing many readers look at on first opening the magazine.

The Annagh Magazine Society is indebted to the large number of contributors who continue to sustain the magazine year after year. A big word of thanks also goes to our patrons who, after 40 years, continue to support the magazine. Without your support there would not be a magazine.

We would like to wish our Treasurer, John Halpin, all the best in his recovery. For many people he is a pivotal point of contact for Annagh Magazine; his hard work and good humour have been greatly missed by all the committee members over the past few months. We look forward to having him back for next year's edition.

To the readers of 'Annagh 2017' the world over, we hope that in some small way this fortieth edition allows you to continue to feel part of and connected to Ballyhaunis, to the parish of Annagh and to its people. We hope you enjoy it.

Grahame Cleary



Annagh Magazine Society Members 2017

President:	Joe Keane
Chairperson:	Paul Waldron
Assistant Chairperson:	Nell Rochford
Treasurer:	John Halpin
Assistant Treasurer:	Edward Mulhern
Secretary:	Grahame Cleary
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Committee:	Ciara Buckley Mike Griffin Claire O'Malley Gabriel Smith



Deadline: The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2018 is Friday, 5th October 2018.

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INVITATION

Annagh Magazine 40th Edition Celebration

will be held in the

DALGAN RESTAURANT, BALLYHAUNIS

on

FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY 2018 @ 8.00PM

The Annagh Magazine Society wishes to invite our readers, contributors, patrons and former committee members, to share in our 40th Edition Celebrations

Come join us to celebrate and look back on the last forty years.

Light refreshments will be served on the night.

Review of the Year

MIKE BYRNE

NOVEMBER 2016

The 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising is marked in a very appropriate manner in Ballyhaunis when the local Tidy Towns committee install a Garden of Remembrance on Bridge Street, adjacent to The Dalgan River... Well known local Davy Freeley from Upper Main Street dies at the age of sixty, following a long battle with cancer... Senior students from Ballyhaunis Community School receive their John Paul II Merit Awards at a special ceremony in Knock Basilica. The awards are presented by Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary... Well known figure from Lisbaun West, Bekan, Paddy Fanning passes to his eternal reward. Paddy was a very well-known musician throughout the East Mayo district and beyond during the 1950's, 60's and 70's. His residence in Lisbaun West was the last inhabited cottage in East Mayo, until his retirement to the Queen of Peace Nursing Home in Knock a few years ago... Another noted musician from the Ballyhaunis area, Mick Hopkins from Island dies following a brief illness.

DECEMBER 2016

Ballinlough Refrigeration wins the prestigious award of the Thermo King Trailer Dealer of the Year prize for 2016. The company, established by Joe Jordan of Johnstown in 1986, has offices in Dublin, Cork, Galway as well as in Ballinlough where the company was first started thirty-one years ago... "Mayo Boy, Vietnam Hero" a documentary about Corp. Patrick Gallagher of Derrintogher, who lost his life in Vietnam fifty years ago, is broadcast on RTÉ radio 1 on 10th Dec. It is produced by Kathy Raftery of Ballinlough... The formal launch of the Jim Coffey Memorial Commemoration takes place

in Coney Island, Gorthaganny. Jim, a native of Tully, was a leading contender for the World Heavyweight boxing title between 1912 and 1921. The launch begins plans to have a memorial built to the Roscommon Giant sometime in 2017... Christmas Lights display in Ballyhaunis is the brightest and most impressive in the town for many years... Tom Forde, the Square, is elected President of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce at the Annual General Meeting on December 1st. Vice-president is Main Street pharmacist, Mark Curley... Mayo Ladies Gaelic Football star Cora Staunton presents trophies to the Ballyhaunis under 13 and under 16 girls panel members at the GAA Clubhouse on the Knock Road... The Class of 1996, Ballyhaunis Community School, holds a reunion in Epic Nightclub on 30th Dec.

JANUARY 2017

The year 2017 got off to a flying start for Ballyhaunis man Amar Morris, when he appeared on RTÉ television's Winning Streak game show. Amar, an electrician with Ballinlough Refrigeration, won a tidy sum of €23,000 during the course of the show... Biggest news by far of the New Year is the surprise (especially to the media) election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the USA. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton was the overwhelming favourite to clinch the place in the White House... Weatherwise, the first couple of weeks of January take over where 2016 left us: dry and very mild with temperatures very kind indeed, hovering around eight to thirteen degrees for the opening couple of weeks of 2017... Upper Main Street native Noreen Barrett dies in Dublin after a long illness. Formerly Noreen Folliard, daughter of the late Mick and Mary Folliard, Upper Main Street, Noreen was sister of Kieran



Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. enthraling his listeners, young and old, as he tells the Story of Christmas at the Crib in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, Christmas 2016.

Folliard, well known entrepreneur and businessman from Minneapolis, USA... Ballyhaunis native Brendan Waldron is appointed Principal of Coláiste Chiaráin, Athlone, the new secondary school which amalgamates the two former schools, St. Aloysius' College and St. Joseph's College, Summerhill. A former student of Ballyhaunis Community School, Brendan is a native of Johnstown, Ballyhaunis... Great celebrations in Ballyhaunis GAA Club as the local organisation receives the Meitheal Award from the Mayomen's Association in Dublin, for its community integration work. The award was presented to the club members at a gala dinner in Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin on Friday, March 10. Meanwhile, celebrations and presentations were also the order of the day at the end of the month for two Ballyhaunis GAA Club members, Brian Hunt and Peter Higgins. At the annual Western People Sports Awards in Ballina, Brian was awarded the Hurler of the Year trophy for his role in leading Ballyhaunis Senior Hurlers to win the All-Ireland Nicky Rackard Cup in 2016. Fellow club man, Peter Higgins was inducted into the Hall of Fame on the same evening for his outstanding contribution to hurling at club and at county level over many years.



Amar Morris being presented with a cheque for €23,000, following his appearance on RTÉ's Winning Streak, on 7th Jan. 2017.

L-R: Sinead Kennedy (Winning Streak game show co-host), Seamus Caulfield (Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis – National Lottery ticket selling agent), Amar Morris, Jenny Fisher (National Lottery), Marty Whelan (Winning Streak game show co-host).

FEBRUARY

What a great start to the 2017 year it has been for the Ballyhaunis GAA Club. Following on from their merit in January, the club is one of two organisations in Mayo to be honoured in the LAMA Community & Council awards when they are awarded the Best Local Sports Club of the Year at the awards ceremony on February 5th. This is the 11th year of these awards which recognises Communities and County Councils working together... As the rebuilding programme of Ballyhaunis

Community School continues, the new roof is placed on the building. As work is well ahead of schedule, it is anticipated that the project will be completed by August... Great sadness in Devlis and throughout Ballyhaunis as Úna Collum, formerly Cribbin from Knockanarra, dies after a brief illness... As the Archdiocese of Tuam gives the go-ahead for the introduction of the Deaconate, inviting men between the ages of thirty-five and sixty to become Deacons to help with the shortage of priests and falling vocations, Fr. Stephen Farragher, PP, is appointed Director of the project by Archbishop Michael Neary.

MARCH

Major bombshell in Ballyhaunis this month as Ulster Bank Ltd. announces that it is to close its branch here on Abbey Street. Ballyhaunis is one of twenty-two branches which are to close nationwide in June and September of this year. The announcement of the closures leaves Ulster Bank with just eighty-eight branches in the country... A new paved apron is installed at the main door of the Parish Church ... The Parochial Hall is the centre of activity when the Ballyhaunis Community Futures project (2016-2021) is launched. The plan, which is the culmination of a detailed survey carried out throughout the community over the past number of months, earmarks a number of key areas where the town can be improved during the five year action plan. The plan is co-ordinated by the combined efforts of Ballyhaunis Community Council and Ballyhaunis Chamber in conjunction with Mayo County Council... Ballyhaunis Community School host the popular game show experience 'Who Wants to be a Thousandaire' in the McWilliam Hotel, Claremorris on March 3rd to raise funds for the school's refurbishment... Margaret Keane of Coventry is rewarded for her many years of unstinting service and dedication to the GAA both in Coventry and in Warwickshire when she is presented with a special award at Croke Park. Margaret is wife of Ballyhaunis native Bernard Keane. Both Margaret and Bernard have been associated with the Roger Casements GAA Club in Coventry for over forty years... New officers for Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council (2017-2021) are elected at the group's first meeting: Chairperson: Kevin Henry; Vice-chairperson: Eileen Lynch; Secretary: Mary Greal; Assistant secretary: Mary Henry... On March 30th, fifty years to the day from when Ballyhaunis native Patrick 'Bob' Gallagher tragically lost his life while serving with the US Army in Vietnam, a special anniversary ceremony is held in Ballyhaunis to mark the event. The anniversary Mass, celebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher, assisted by Fr. Kieran Waldron and Fr. Joe Feeney, PP, Ballinlough, attracts a capacity crowd to the Parish Church. The ceremony is followed by a procession through the town

to the parish cemetery where a plaque is unveiled at his graveside to commemorate the anniversary. An exhibition of memorabilia and items relative to Corporal Gallagher's life and tragic death is held over the weekend in The Friary... The town is greatly saddened and shocked on Friday, March 31st, as news filters through of the very sudden death of Val Rattigan of Knox Street... Four transition year students of Ballyhaunis Community School set up a mini-company with their product called 'Hug Your Plug', which prevents your Apple iPhone charger from breaking.



The cast of 'The Country Boy' presented by St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, which played to full houses over four nights in the Parochial Hall, March/April 2017. L-R: Jackie Caulfield (Julia), William Nestor (Curly), Miriam Judge (Eileen Tierney), Adrian Murray (Eddie Maher), Michael Kelly (Tom Maher), Katrina Sweeney (Mary Kate Maher), Tom Colleran (Producer/Director). For a full report and more pictures, see page 64. Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher.

APRIL

The month of April sees a dream come true for one young Ballyhaunis girl, Erica Byrne, from Gurteen, who wins a gold medal at the World Under 11 Irish Dancing Championships in Dublin. Erica, aged ten, who has won Connaught and All-Ireland championship medals for dancing in recent years, saw her dream come true when she danced her way to victory. She was up against 160 dancers from all over the world. Erica is daughter of Dolores (née Waldron) and the late Declan Byrne, Gurteen... St. Patrick's Dramatic Society present 'The Country Boy', by John Murphy, to packed houses in the Parochial Hall nightly from 31st Mar. to 3rd Apr. Proceeds to the Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Association... A commemorative plaque to the late Jim Coffey, former contender for the World Boxing Heavyweight title, is unveiled in his native Tully, Gorthaganny on Easter Sunday... Fianna Fáil leader Micheál Martin is in Ballyhaunis to perform the official opening of the new Fianna Fáil office on Clare Street. The opening was attended by Dara Calleary, TD and Councillors John Caulfield and Damien Ryan. The office, formerly the residence of the late Joe and Sheila Conway, will be attended by Deputy Calleary and Councillor Caulfield on a weekly basis... Work commences this month on the extension of the Lough Mask regional water supply to Williamstown and Ballinlough. The pipeline extends from the reservoir in Gurteen, Ballyhaunis, and that stage of the project bringing it to Granlahan passed through Hazelhill, Abbeyquarter, Drimbane, Lecarrow, Curries, Bargarriff, Tullaghane and Ballybeg on its way to Granlahan.

MAY

The May sunshine beamed down on Ballyhaunis GAA grounds on what was the hottest day of the year (20 degrees), on Sunday, May 7th, when the local club honoured the Ballyhaunis county winning Junior team of 1957 and the club's county Intermediate stars of 1967. Great players of fifty and sixty years ago made a return visit to the town for the very special occasion which attracted a very large crowd to the Knock Road venue where nostalgia and memory sharing was the order of the day... 'An Evening with Michael English' in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis on Fri. 12th May draws a full house. All funds go to Western Care Association Local Services... Twenty-nine children of the parish receive their First Holy Communion on Sat. 13th May... Great sadness throughout Ballyhaunis on Friday, May 19th as news of the death of local businessman Mick Murray, from Doctor's



Members of the Gallagher family lead the procession from St. Patrick's Church to the Parish Cemetery, for the special ceremony to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Corporal Patrick Gallagher while serving with the American forces in Vietnam. For a full report and more pictures, see page 29. Photograph courtesy of GoBallyhaunis.

Road, filters through to the community. The county Galway native came to Ballyhaunis in 1973 and some years later, in 1977, established the business Connaught Scaffolding Ltd, which has been a major source of employment to so many people over the past forty years... St. Patrick's Church is packed to the rafters on Saturday evening, May 20th, for the celebration of a Mass of Hope. The celebration, co-ordinated by members of the Pastoral Council, together with students from Ballyhaunis Community School who are members of the John Paul II Merit Awards project, was held for students preparing for exams in the weeks ahead. Guest speaker at the celebration was county Tyrone native Maeve Carolan. Maeve gave a powerful personal testimony of her own faith journey which touched the heart of every person present at this most special celebration... Knox Street native Anthony Jordan published his nineteenth book, James Joyce Unplugged... At the end of the month, Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher accompanies a large group of pilgrims to Lourdes. The group is comprised of people from the St. Joseph's Cluster of Parishes (Ballyhaunis, Knock, Began, Ballinlough and Aghamore), organised by Michael Goulding of Ballyhaunis Western Care ... Enda Kenny announces his decision to step down as Taoiseach. The Castlebar native, elected to Dáil Éireann in 1975, became Taoiseach after the General Election of 2011. He became the first Fine Gael leader in history to become Taoiseach for two consecutive terms following his election as Taoiseach after the General Election of 2016... Clare Street native Mike Griffin is appointed Peace Commissioner for Mayo and surrounding counties by Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald, TD.

JUNE

The June Bank Holiday Festival certainly brings the crowds to Ballyhaunis for a weekend of much activity and entertainment. The weather is mixed indeed for the three-day festival with showers and sunshine. Met Éireann advised in the run-up to the weekend that if you are going out to bring sun cream and wellies! The Festival opened with the traditional inter-pub quiz, with this year's contest being captured by The Clock Tavern... Ballyhaunis Parish Priest, Fr. Stephen Farragher is appointed to the position of Director of Knock Marriage Introductions (formerly Knock Marriage Bureau) as the annual diocesan appointments and changes are made by Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Michael Neary. Fr. Stephen takes over this role from former Ballyhaunis P.P., Canon Joe Cooney,

who has retired having served in this capacity since 2005. In the June announcements, Fr. Stephen is also named a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter... Ballyhaunis 8k tenth anniversary run/walk talks place on Sat., June 17th... Sunday, June 18th saw the annual Eucharistic Procession, celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi, taking place. This year it proceeded through Upper Main Street, concluding with Benediction at The Maples Estate, conducted by Fr. Stephen Farragher. After the Procession, on a day which was marked by bright sunshine and temperatures around twenty-four degrees, participants repaired to the church grounds where an afternoon celebration followed with lots of refreshments, food and all kinds of everything, making the day that little bit extra special indeed. The event was co-ordinated by members of the Pastoral Council... Great shock throughout Ballyhaunis and district on Tuesday, June 20th, when well known local postman Tomás Cribbin dies suddenly in the town. A native of Knockbrack, Tomás was predeceased by his mother Kathleen by only a few short weeks... Knox Street's most senior resident Cecily Moran (née Garvey) passes to her eternal reward at the age of ninety-six... Seamus Hora of Delaney's Hardware publishes a wonderful book of



The Ballyhaunis Summer Festival took place, once again, over the June Bank Holiday weekend, and included many activities including the Traditional Fair Day. More photos on page 181. Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher.

poetry, entitled 'Memories and Reminiscences - A Collection of Poems'... Good news for Ballyhaunis on the last days of the month when Councillor John Cribbin announced that Mayo County Council have granted funding to the tune of €3.6 million for the construction of eighteen new social houses on the Council's property at Abbeyquarter.



The Eucharistic Procession, celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi, proceeded through Upper Main Street, concluding with Benediction at The Maples, conducted by Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.
Photograph by Alex Greene.

JULY

Great shock in the village of Johnstown at the sudden death of Pat Byrne, after attending Sunday Mass in his local church and the annual Cemetery Mass that same evening. Pat was a former employee of Irish Ale Breweries where he worked for many years... It's official! Ballyhaunis has the oldest cow in Ireland. Michael Mullarkey from Ballybeg is the proud owner of 'Bluebell', Ireland's oldest cow, at thirty-two years of age. Bluebell was born in December, 1984, and had her first calf in 1987. She continued to deliver a calf every year to her owner for twenty-six years. The story made international news on the world-wide web when the story appeared on the internet July 11th... Houses in Ballyhaunis and Castlerea are among the cheapest in the country, according to the latest property report from the Central Statistics Office. The report reveals that Castlerea has the cheapest houses in Ireland with house prices averaging at €69,000, while Ballyhaunis is the third cheapest with prices locally averaging at €83,860... Julia McCarthy from Beech Park dies at Ave Maria Nursing Home. The former Julia Waldron, a native of Woodpark, celebrated her 90th birthday in recent weeks... Drimbane native Fr. Austin Cribbin dies in Klamath Falls, Oregon, USA. Fr. Austin was a regular visitor to his native parish over many years... A video

documentary by The Guardian newspaper has attracted huge attention on the internet, documenting the uniqueness of Ballyhaunis as Ireland's most ethnically diverse town with a wide range of foreign nationals living here. The documentary, entitled "Pitching Up", was the winner of the Guardian Sheffield Documentary Festival last year. The documentary stemmed from an article which appeared in The Irish Times, written by Ballyhaunis native Eoin Butler, who also features in the fifteen minute video. The documentary shows Ballyhaunis as a great example of how our ancient GAA games are helping to integrate children of all nationalities and backgrounds in sport and in our community... Josie Folliard wins the Lady's Captain's Prize (Mariette Potgieter) at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... Tooreen native Michael Robinson retires from Dawn Meats where he has served for the past forty-three years. Michael, a former Tooreen hurler, took up employment at the former Halal Meat Packers plant on Clare Road in 1974. A retirement function was held to mark the occasion in Frayne's Pub, Tooreen.

AUGUST

What a great season of golf it has been for young John William Burke from Devlis... The eight year old golfing wizard has been making many seasoned golfers take note of his wonderful prowess on the fairways in Coolnaha over the recent seasons, but this August he topped all his previous achievements when he captured the All-Ireland Irish Kids Golf contest, held in Headfort, Co. Meath. A great feat for sure, but going even further afield, John William was invited to take part in the British Championships' 'Wee Wonders' Grand Finals, which were staged in the famous St. Andrew's Golf Course in Scotland on August 26th and 27th. John William did his parents very proud indeed in this highly competitive contest when he finished seventh overall at the end of the tournament, having battled against some of the hottest young golfers from the British Isles. He is son of John and Paula (née Jordan) Burke, Devlis... The Catherine Murray Vigil Walk to Knock takes place early on Tuesday morning, 15th Aug. Leaving Began cemetery at 3.30 am, the resting place of Catherine Murray, the second youngest of the Knock Visionaries, it follows her footsteps through Lissaniska, Cloonfaughna and Magheramore to Knock arriving for Mass at the Marian Shrine at 6 am... On what was certainly the wettest day of the year so far (and there were many wet ones this summer), thousands of people from all over the country flocked to Knock on August 21st, for the launch of the one year preparation of the World Meeting of Families, which takes place in Dublin in August, 2018. The official launch was performed by Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Diarmuid Martin... Huge celebrations throughout the

county on Saturday, August 26, when Mayo defeat hot favourites Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final to clinch a place against Dublin on September 19th... The petition to have a US Marine ship named after Corporal Patrick Gallagher reaches over 10,000 signatures. Corporal Gallagher died tragically during the Vietnam war in 1967... Pake Ruane from Cloonbook dies after a brief illness. Pake operated a most successful TV and electrical sales and repair shop in Knox Street for many years... Retired Main Street businessman John O'Brien celebrates his 90th birthday... Bank of Ireland launches its Enterprise Town initiative, in tandem with the businesses and all clubs and organisations of the town, in The Dalgan Restaurant, Main Street... The annual Mass in the Friary is celebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. on Sunday, 27th Aug., followed by the Abbey Pattern... The latest edition of the Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter is published detailing parish events from January to June of this year... On the last day of August, Joe Byrne from Johnstown, delivers his last sack of mail, having served with An Post for forty-one years. Joe operated the Brackloon/Tooreen route for the last twenty-eight years of his duty with An Post.

SEPTEMBER

Ballyhaunis Community School students return after the summer break to a new look and most impressive refurbished secondary school building... September 8th is a sad day for Ballyhaunis when Ulster Bank closes its branch on Abbey Street after some 100 years in operation. Staff at the bank, all of whom are now being made redundant, were greeted with lots of well-wishes, thank you and good luck cards by the many customers who dropped in to say farewell on the last day of trading. A mobile banking service is now being provided for the town by Ulster Bank, which is in operation for a number of hours two days a week... Gaelic football frenzy in Ballyhaunis as Mayo senior footballers take on Dublin in the All-Ireland final on September 17th. Meanwhile, the ladies Gaelic football team, managed by Ballyhaunis man Frank Browne, also contest the All-Ireland final this month, following a great semi-final win over Cork, who had won the title for the past six years in a row. Knox Street girl Yvonne Byrne plays a hero's part in the win. The Ballyhaunis goalkeeper saved a penalty at a crucial time in the game when a goal would have put the Rebels one point ahead. Aisling Tarpey from Carrowkeel is also prominent among the Mayo panel... And, alas, the All-Ireland final ends in disappointment again, as Mayo lose out to the Dubs, by a single point in an enthralling and highly entertaining final... and, just to make it a double disappointment for the county at the end of the season, the Mayo ladies are defeated by Dublin (again) in the All-Ireland Final at Croke Park... Scoil Íosa Primary School

is the centre of attraction on September 22nd and 23rd when the Ballyhaunis Enterprise Town initiative is held. Over 100 local businesses, sports and community groups are involved in this most successful weekend exhibition, which showcased the very best of what Ballyhaunis has to offer. Guest speaker was legendary broadcaster, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh... Ballyhaunis is awarded 279 marks in the 2017 National Tidy Towns report, an increase of nine points on last year's achievement.

OCTOBER

Phil Glynn is the popular winner of Kay Buckley's President's Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club, while former captain Alex Eaton clinches the top prize in the men's section of the competition... As the countdown continues to the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) in Dublin, August 2018, Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council begin plans to mark the event in an appropriate manner, with a special gathering for all sectors of the community sometime next summer... TV3 uses the song 'Flamin' Day', written and performed by Brian Flanagan, over its promotional piece for its Autumn schedule. Brian from Ballindrehid, recently performed live on the Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show on Today fm, which received a huge response. He also played a sell-out gig at Whelan's of Dublin last month. He now performs under the name U.M.A.N... Ballyhaunis escapes the worst effects of Hurricane Ophelia, which struck Ireland on Monday, 15th Oct. The strongest storm to hit the West of Ireland since Debbie in 1961, it caused extensive damage, lead to power outages across the country, and resulted in the deaths of three people... Michael Ring, Minister for Community and Rural Development, announces that the government has awarded €96,000 under the 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme to Ballyhaunis... The latest issue of diocesan magazine, 'New Dawn', was launched in the Credit Union on 26th Oct., by Frank Browne, Manager of the Mayo Ladies Football team. This issue includes a special feature on the parish of Annagh/Ballyhaunis... Talented local singer David Godfrey releases his third single, the Johnny McEvoy penned 'Ballad of Michael Collins', to great acclaim.

Work at the Brackloon/Spaddagh Group Water Scheme site in Togher nears completion. The scheme is in the process of installing a new Daf treatment plant to conform with current drinking water regulations, and it is hoped to be in operation before the end of the year. Established in 1973/4, the scheme is grateful to its many members for their co-operation over the past forty-five years, and looks forward to their ongoing support to ensure the best quality water supply well into the future.

“The Approach to the Stormy Ford?”

The Name *Béal Átha hAmhnais*, Ballyhaunis

NOLLAIG Ó MURAÍLE

The name of the town, *Béal Átha hAmhnais* – whose anglicised form, *Ballyhaunis*, represents an attempt to render it according to the rules of English orthography (spelling) – is one of respectable antiquity. This article is an attempt to trace its development over a period of several centuries.

The name in ‘The Mayo Táin’

The roots of the town’s name go back to the later middle ages, its first occurrence being in the Early Modern Irish version of a tale called *Táin Bó Flíodhaise* (or *Flíse*), ‘The Cattle-raid of Flís’. This is to be found in ‘The Glenmasan Manuscript’, a volume preserved in the National Library of Scotland, in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, we have no information as to where the manuscript was written – whether in Ireland or Scotland – and the date of writing is also problematical. Although a note in the manuscript appears to indicate that it was written in the year 1238, this date may be as much as two and a half centuries too early. It may, however, represent a hint of the year in which the ‘Mayo Táin’ – as it is sometimes called – was originally composed. A slightly variant version of the tale is found in a manuscript in the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin which was written in and around Shancough in south-east Sligo (not far from Boyle) in the early 1670s by a noted scribe named *Dáibhidh Bacach Ó Duibhgeannáin*. And part of the tale, virtually identical to the corresponding portions of the Glenmasan Manuscript, is preserved in a part of the Yellow Book of Lecan written at Lackan, near Enniscrone, Co. Sligo, about the year 1390.

Táin Bó Flíse tells of a purported military expedition some two millennia ago by the exiled Ulster warrior *Fearghus mac Róigh* from Cruachain (Rathcroghan, Co. Roscommon). He has fallen hopelessly in love with *Flís Fholtchaoin*, queen of a people in north-west Mayo called the *Gamhanra*, and sets out westwards to Erris to abduct her. The tale gives the army’s itinerary, listing in detail all the places it passes through, from the river Suck and north-west across Lough Conn and Nephin, to the fortress of Flís at Rathmorgan, near Bangor Erris. There a bloody battle is fought in which almost all of Fearghus’s army are wiped out.

On hearing of this disaster, Queen Méabh and her husband assemble their forces and rush to the aid of Fearghus. Further bloody battles are fought on their way from Cruachain to Tirawley and thence into Erris. Again, scores of place-names in and around north-west

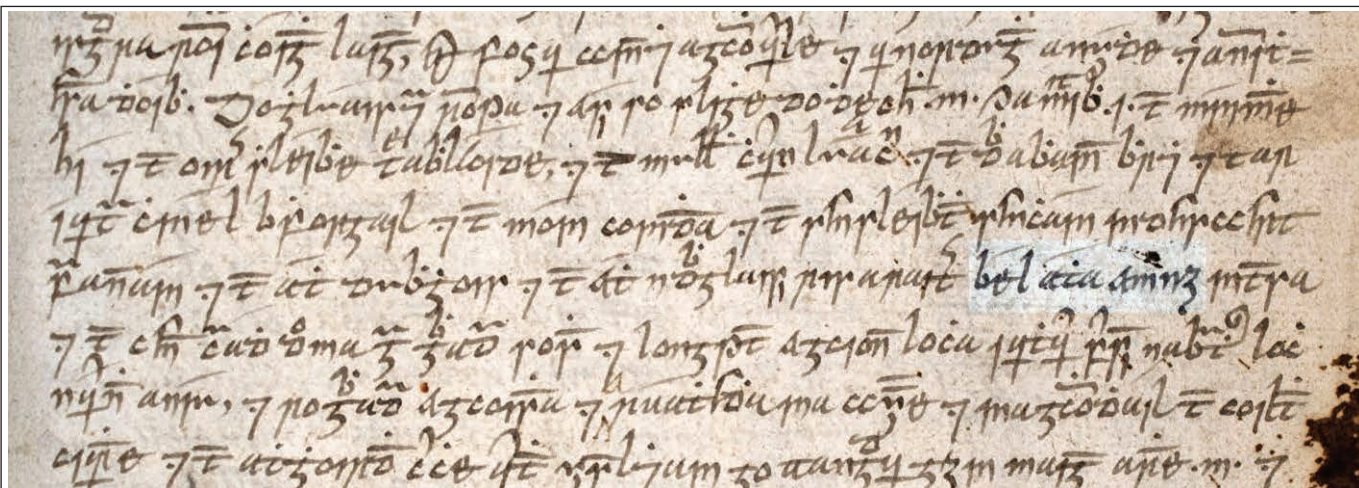
Mayo are listed. King Oilill Fionn, the tragic husband of the fickle Flís falls in battle with Méabh’s forces. When Flís sees his severed head, she is temporarily remorseful, but soon returns to Fearghus. Further battles are fought as the forces of Méabh and Fearghus return to Cruachain, driving the cattle of Erris before them. Two versions of the story end differently, but this need not concern us here.

The relevance of the tale

That, in barest outline, is the story of ‘*Táin Bó Flíse*’. Its significance in the present context is that the first of the series of battles fought by Méabh’s forces on their march westward to the rescue of Fearghus is said to have occurred in the vicinity of Ballyhaunis! Indeed, it is in this account that we see the very earliest mention of Ballyhaunis. According to the tale, the first opponent they meet on their march is a chieftain named Airne. Méabh’s forces eventually kill him and all his followers and throw their heads and legs into a lake called *Loch Uí Artair*, which is [also] called *Loch na nAirneadh* – and which is ‘today called *Loch Airne*’. (*Loch Airne*, or *Loch na nAirneadh* – earlier *Loch Nairne* – is readily identifiable as Lough Mannin or Mannin Lake, situated a few miles north-west of Ballyhaunis, on the borders of the parishes of Began, Aghamore and Knock.)

Before the confrontation with Airne, the tale tells how Méabh’s army approached the lake ‘*tar Áth nDubglaise risi n-abar Áth Amhnas*’, that is, ‘over Áth Dubhghlaise which is [now] called *Áth Amhnas*’. The first of these two names means ‘ford of [the] black stream’, while the second means ‘stormy ford’, or some variant of that. *Amhnas*, a word virtually obsolete in Modern Irish, has a range of meanings that includes ‘strong, rough, cruel, sharp, fierce, severe, irksome’, etc. (It is usually an adjective, but can also be used as a noun.) The form *Áth Amhnas*, incidentally, is what occurs in the Glenmasan Manuscript, while in the corresponding place in *Dáibhidh Ó Duibhgeannáin*’s manuscript the form of the name is the more familiar *Béal Átha Amhnais*.

Needless to remark, the story I have outlined – about Fearghus and Méabh, et al. – is not to be taken seriously. They are all utterly unhistorical – every bit as fictional as Sherlock Holmes or Superman. (Indeed, many of their deeds are quite as preposterous as anything attributed to Superman!) The point to be noted here is that the reference to *Áth Amhnas* (or *Béal Átha Amhnais*) is not to be dated to the period when Méabh and the others are purported to have lived but to around the time the story



The image of a manuscript-page carrying an early citation of the name of Ballyhaunis, in its original Irish form, is reproduced here by kind permission of the Royal Irish Academy. The page, bearing part of a copy of the tale *Táin Bó Flidhaise*, is from a paper manuscript written in south-east Co. Sligo about the year 1670 by Dáibhidh Bacach Ó Duibhgeannáin (d. 1696). It is a 17th-century copy, but the text may date back to the 13th century, or even earlier. This manuscript is one of two that preserve almost complete copies of the tale. The earlier one, apparently written in Scotland circa 1500, mentions the date 1238, which may be the date at which the tale was composed. There are some differences, usually minor, between the forms of place-names and personal names in the two manuscripts. Here, where Ó Duibhgeannáin's text refers to Béal Átha Amhnais, the Scottish version has the shorter version Áth Amhnus, perhaps the earlier form. (Note the use in this extract of numerous abbreviations – a kind of medieval shorthand often found in Irish manuscripts.) By permission of the Royal Irish Academy © RIA

Extract from Royal Irish Academy Irish Manuscript B iv 1, page 137, lines 13, 15-18:

138. Do ghlúaiseadar ... tar Móin Coindeadh agus tar sein Sléibh Seancháin i ndeisceart Forannáin agus tar Áth Dubhghois agus tar Áth nDubhghlaisi risa raitear Béal Átha Amhnais in tansa agus tar ceann Crúadh-dhroma gur ghabhadar sosadh agus longphort a gcionn Locha larthair frisi n-abarthar Loch nÁirneadh aníú ...

[138. They proceeded ... across Móin Choinneadh, and across old Sliabh Seancháin in the south of Forannán, and across Áth Dubhghois, and across Áth Dubhghlaise, which is called Béal Átha Amhnais at this time, and across the top of Cruadh-dhruim, and they set up a camp and temporary stronghold at the head of Loch larthair, which is called Loch na nAirneadh today....]

was composed – perhaps, as suggested above, sometime in the 13th century.

It is interesting to note that the earliest example of the place-name begins with the word *Áth* rather than *Béal Átha*. The former is the word for a 'ford' – a place for crossing a river before the construction of bridges – while the latter combination, denoting the entrance or approach to a ford, frequently replaces the former in later place-names. Moreover, many instances of *béal átha* (and also of *baile átha*) are disguised in present-day place-names through being anglicised as *bally* – thus confusing them with the word *baile* (a very common word in place-names, with a range of meanings that includes 'a place, piece of land, homestead, farmstead, town', etc.).

Before leaving this story, it is worth noting that Queen Méabh's forces are said to have proceeded 'across the top of Cruadh-dhruim' on their way from *Béal Átha Amhnais* to Loch na nAirneadh (Mannin Lake). In what may be a remarkable survival over millennia, this would appear to refer to the hill still known locally as 'Cruachrom', which stands on the direct route between those two places, along the borders of Larganboy East and Island.

Site of the Augustinian abbey

What seems to be the next earliest citation of Ballyhaunis is as a rather garbled entry, dated 1432, in the Roman archives of the Order of Saint Augustine. The Augustinians had founded an abbey on a hill overlooking

the Dalgan River, apparently some time prior to the year 1419 – no doubt under the patronage of Mac Siúrtáin Dubh, the local chieftain belonging to the gaelicised Norman family of Mac Goistealbha (anglicised Costello), rulers of east Mayo. The citation was turned up almost forty years ago by Fr John O'Connor, OSA, who was part of the Ballyhaunis community for many years and in 1983 published a valuable booklet, *St Mary's Abbey, Ballyhaunis*, on the history of the abbey (or 'friary', as it is known locally).

As I have mentioned, the form discovered by Fr O'Connor – *Hanahannassa* – is an especially garbled one; the original may conceivably have been written 'Ballahannassa', and the 'B' and 'll' later mistranscribed. In fact, an almost identical form occurs in the Elizabethan 'Fiants' from the year 1578 – 'the house of friars of *Ballahanassae*' (Fiant no. 3368). (Such mistranscription was far from a rare occurrence in official documents copied and recopied by clerks based far away in Rome, London or elsewhere and wholly ignorant of Ireland – personal names and place-names were particularly susceptible to such errors.) Another form of the name, *Belahaunus*, occurs in the Augustinian archives in relation to the year 1419, but this may be a later insertion.

Citations of anglicised forms, 16th to 19th centuries

Fiachra Mac Gabhann, in his encyclopedic 10-volume study of the place-names of Co. Mayo, *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo* (2014), vol. x, p. 230, cites nine examples of Béal Átha hAmhnais, in anglicised dress, from late 16th-century sources – all of them English government documents dating from 1570 to 1587. These include the following forms: *Bellahaunes*, *Beallahawnes*, *frierie of Baillahaunessa*, *Bealahawnish*, *Belaghawnis*. Despite their apparent differences, the variations in spelling are, in fact, largely insignificant – virtually all of them point to an original Irish form *Béal Átha hAmhnas*, or *hAmhnais*. (These latter variations will be discussed towards the end of this article.)

From the 17th century – between *circa* 1600 and *circa* 1684 – Mac Gabhann's work has fourteen anglicised forms, including such versions as *Bealaghavenishe* (1607), *Bealahawnisse* (1610), *Belahaughnes* (1644) and *Bella Hawnus* (1684). An early 17th-century map of Connacht has a citation, *ballahenis Ca.*, which refers to a castle no trace of which now seems to survive, and which, according to Hubert Thomas Knox, *History of the County of Mayo* (1908), p. 360, was called 'Cashlaun na Drancaddha' (*Caisleán na Dreancaide*, 'the castle of the flea')

It is worth noting that of the eight forms cited from 18th-century sources, five have the now-standard

spelling, *Ballyhaunis*, as do five of eleven forms from the early 19th century, and several others have the nearly identical spelling *Ballihaunis*.

We should remember that not all references to *Béal Átha hAmhnais* are to the town. The earliest citations obviously refer to the ford and its immediate vicinity, somewhat later to the abbey, and later still to the surrounding region – for example, a number of citations from the later 1580s refer to 'the barony of Bealahawnish', and to 'Bellahawnes Baronye, commonly called Mac Costilo his Country' (the area later named the barony of Costello). The first mention of the town appears to be in or about the year 1710 when there is record in the Crown Rentals Ledger of 'two [annual] fairs of the town of Carrowlogan otherwise Ballyhaunis & also a weekly market'. This would seem to suggest that the town may have been originally intended to bear the name *Carrownluggaun* (*Ceathrú an Logáin*, 'the quarterland of the little hollow'). That is the name of the townland – or 'village' – which lies at the head of the town, on the righthand side of Upper Main Street as one faces towards Knock, and on the east side of the Tooraree Road. It should also be noted that the town was of modest size until the very end of the 19th century; its population in 1821 was a mere 214, and in 1841 (on the eve of the Great Famine), 353. After the Famine, in 1851, it had grown slightly to 378, and by 1871 had climbed to 542, by 1891 to 911, and by 1911 to a respectable 1,149.

Occurrences of Béal Átha hAmhnais in 17-18th-century Irish sources

Regrettably, there is no mention of Ballyhaunis in such important Irish language sources as the annals and genealogies or the great body of surviving classical poetry – unlike such Mayo towns as Ballina, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Crossmolina, Foxford, Newport and Westport (and not forgetting what was formerly the principal town of east Mayo, Ballaghaderreen). As will be noted presently, the name occurs in a number of Irish songs from the 18th century. But first, mention should be made of another source in which the Irish form is found, albeit in the midst of a Latin text. This is a famous work by the Franciscan scholar Fr John Colgan, OFM, which was published in Louvain in 1647. Entitled *Triadis Thaumaturgae ... acta*, it consists of a collection of Latin lives of Sts Patrick, Brigid and Colm Cille. On page 178 (note 116) there is mention of the barony whose name is given as *Bel-ath-amhnais* and *Bel-athamnuis*.

Turning now to the songs aforementioned, we find 'Béal Átha hAmhnais' (written in the manuscript as *Beul Ath hAmhnais*) as the title of a song by the celebrated 18th-century vagabond poet, sometime Augustinian friar and sometime soldier in various Continental armies, Tomás Ó Caiside. Better-known as 'An Caisideach Bán',

this intriguing figure was born to Fermanagh parents in Drishaghaun, near Castleplunket, Co. Roscommon, about the year 1700, and is thought to have died, after an adventure-filled life, around 1749.

The town-name also features in another popular love-song (likewise attributed to Ó Caiside), which is popularly known as ‘*Máire Bhéal Átha hAmhnais*’. (The heading in the manuscript is simply ‘*Beul-ath-shamhnais*’, and this is the form that occurs in the first printed version of the song, in James Hardiman’s *Irish Minstrelsy* (1831), vol. i, pp 326-7.) It must be conceded that in neither of these songs is the reference to Ballyhaunis particularly complimentary. In the first of them we are told that the poet’s mother had given him the advice ‘*Béal Átha hAmhnais seachain trá!*’ [‘Avoid Ballyhaunis!’], while in the second the ‘last advice’ given him by his father was said to be: ‘*Tréigse Béal Átha hAmhnais!*’ [‘Forsake Ballyhaunis!’]. The latter song ends with the lines:

Óir gan grása Dé ní mhairfidh mé / Ar an tsráid seo
Bhéal Átha hAmhnais!’

[‘For without God’s grace I will not live / On this street of Ballyhaunis’]

(Almost forty years ago, I was given a handwritten note in Irish, penned many years earlier by a famous Irish scholar from the Ballyhaunis area, Pilib de Bhaldraithe (1874-1952), from Drumbaun. This contests the attribution of ‘*Máire Bhéal Átha hAmhnais*’ to Tomás Ó Caiside, arguing instead that it was the work of a Fr O’Neill, OSA, that it was composed in the Irish College, Rome, and that the *Máire* in question was none other than the Virgin Mary! Another friar, a Fr Finn, also features in the story, and Fr O’Neill is said to have later been prior of the abbey in Ballyhaunis. I must say that I find this interpretation of the song to be far from convincing.)

A third poem – of unknown authorship – also bears the title ‘*Béal Átha hAmhnais*’. It was published by the brothers Micheál and Tomás Ó Máille in their book *Amhráin Chlainne Gaedheal* in 1905, and would also appear to relate to the story of Ó Caiside, but without ever making explicit mention of him. In fact, the poem has but a single reference to Ballyhaunis, in lines that appear to be borrowed from ‘*Máire Bhéal Átha hAmhnais*’:

Ach grásta Dé, ní bráthair mé / Ar an tsráid seo Bhéal
Átha hAmhnais!’

[‘But, God’s grace! I am not a friar / On this street of Ballyhaunis’]

‘*Beul Ath hAmhnus*’ in two letters from 1640

Another reference in Irish to Ballyhaunis has only recently come to light. This is in two letters written from Nantes in western France on 6 November 1640 by an Augustinian friar from west Co. Sligo, Fr Domhnall Mac Suibhne. They are truly fascinating documents, combining personal and family details with comments on contemporary political developments (less than a year before the outbreak of the 1641 rebellion) and news of Augustinian houses in Connacht, Munster and Leinster. The longer of the two letters was addressed to another native of Co. Sligo, Fr Fearghal Dubh Ó Gadhra, OSA, alias Nicolás a Sancta Maria, who was based in Spain (apparently in Seville) but had previously been a confrère of Domhnall’s in the Augustinian house in Ardnaree (beside Ballina).

Fearghal Dubh, born near Tobercurry, is well-known to students of Irish literature as the compiler of a great manuscript *duanaire* or anthology of Irish bardic poetry, The Book of Ó Gadhra, which was written in Brussels and Lille in the years 1655-59. He later returned to Ireland and is last heard of in 1673 on his appointment as prior of the Augustinian house in Ballinrobe. Domhnall Mac Suibhne’s letter only reached Ó Gadhra indirectly, having first been intercepted by the Spanish navy. This led to Fr Nicolás being interrogated and compelled to furnish the authorities with a Spanish translation of the letter – the apparently incomprehensible document was thought to be written in code! The letter was then deposited in the Spanish National Archives (the Archivo General de Simancas) where it lay unnoticed for more than three and a half centuries, until it was discovered a few years ago by an Irish historian. (A meticulous edition has been published in the journal *Archivium Hibernicum*, vol. 68 (2015), pp 103-38.)

Among the details of local Augustinian houses (Ardnaree, Banada, Ballinrobe, Dunmore, etc.) given by Mac Suibhne is the statement (in translation): ‘*Dáibhí Mac an Chalbhaigh* is the provincial. Maol Muire [Ó hUiginn] is prior in *Beul Ath hAmhnus*’, and a few sentences later he reports on a group of novices who have all been professed, the last of whom is ‘*Aongus Rúadh* in *Beul Ath hAmhnus*’. (No indication is given of the identity of this Aonghus Rua, but he would undoubtedly have been well-known to Frs Mac Suibhne and Ó Gadhra.)

The second letter, about a third of the length of the first, was addressed by Domhnall Mac Suibhne to Fr Pádraig Mac an Chalbhaigh, a brother of the provincial above-mentioned, Fr Dáibhí. In this there is but a single reference to Ballyhaunis, and it is identical to the first one in the other letter: in reporting ‘news of the order’, Domhnall states that ‘*Maolmuire* is prior in *Beul Ath hAmhnus*’.

The form *Béal Átha hAmhnas*

What is of greatest interest to us in the foregoing material is the name-form *Béal Átha hAmhnas* (as written in standardised spelling), compared to the more usual *Béal Átha hAmhnais*. As noted above, there seems to be evidence in several citations of the name quoted in this article to support a name-form with *hAmhnas* rather than *hAmhnais* as its final element – arguably in any of the anglicised name-forms that end in ‘s’ rather than ‘sh’. But, apart from the examples in the Mac Suibhne letter of 1640, there is little support for this form in Irish language sources, at least until the early 19th century. Then, when the topographical officers of the Ordnance Survey reached the town in 1838, the Irish form recorded in pencil by Thomas O’Conor in the OS Namebook for the civil parish of Began was *Beul atha h-amhnas*. This was accepted by his senior colleague, the great scholar John O’Donovan, who added the interpretation ‘mouth of the ford of contention’. Thereafter there is a noticeable tendency among editors of Irish language material – such as the poems ascribed to or associated with Tomás Ó Caiside – to write the name as *Béal Átha hAmhnas*, but we find little to back up this form when we go back to the manuscript sources.

While there is little basis for the form *Béal Átha hAmhnas* rather than *Béal Átha hAmhnais*, it may merit some little consideration. The first thing to be said about it is that it is grammatically defensible. The form *Béal Átha hAmhnais* can be interpreted as ‘the entrance or approach to *Áth Amhnas*’ (the last two words meaning ‘strong ford’, or some variant of that, since *amhnas* has a range of meanings) – in this case the second and third words are, respectively, a noun and adjective in the genitive singular. But an alternative view is that, since *amhnas* may also be a noun, *Béal Átha hAmhnais* may be interpreted as ‘the approach to the ford of cruelty, or harm, or strife’. On the other hand, if *béal átha* is treated as a unit (as indeed it was understood to be, at least in later times), then *Béal Átha hAmhnas* would mean ‘the rough, or cruel, or stormy, ford-entrance’.

An anglicised form worth noting occurs in a list of leaseholders on Lord Dillon’s estate (covering much of east Mayo), which was compiled around 1805 and is preserved in the Oxfordshire County Record Office. This form, *Ballyhavnis*, reminds me of a neighbour of mine in Knock more than half a century ago saying from time to time that he intended going to ‘Ballyhavnes’. As I assumed that he was speaking jocosely, I never asked him where he got such a name-form. I wonder now if this might not have been a last survival of that variant form, *Béal Átha hAmhnas*, that can be traced back at least as far as the two letters penned in 1640 and now preserved in the Spanish Archives in Simancas.

In conclusion, then, it seems to me that, on balance, the long-established official form, *Béal Átha hAmhnais*, is entirely satisfactory, while there is room for some debate as to its *precise* connotation. One cause for local satisfaction may be that the name *Béal Átha hAmhnais* appears to be unique – I do not recall coming across any other Irish place-name that incorporates the now-obsolete word *amhnas*.

Nollaig Ó Muraile (Noel Morley) is a native of Wingfield, Knock. His mother was the former Kathleen Fitzmaurice from Greenwood, Began. His links with the parish of Annagh go back a generation further: his paternal grandmother was Honnie McGuire from Gurrane (officially Corraun, since transferred to Began parish); and his maternal grandfather, Martin Fitzmaurice, was a native of Derrynacong. He obtained BA, MA and PhD degrees in Irish from St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth. After twenty-one years as Placenames Officer with the Ordnance Survey he lectured in Irish for eleven years at Queen’s University, Belfast, and for ten at NUI, Galway. He has written/edited/co-edited more than two dozen books and booklets and over 200 articles in Irish and English, most notably his five-volume edition of Dubhaltach Mac Fhir Bhisigh’s Great Book of Irish Genealogies (2003-4). He was named Mayo Person of the Year 2005, and elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2009.

BALLYHAVNIS DISPENSARY.
AT a Meeting of the Subscribers to the Ballyhavnis Dispensary, the Rev. Patrick Duffy, P.P., in the Chair.
Resolved—That our Treasurer be requested to call a general meeting of the Subscribers for the 22d day of January, 1844, for the purpose of electing a Medical Attendant for the Institution, in room of the late Dr. O’Grady, and that all candidates be required to produce at said meeting their several qualifications, as we are determined to support no candidate who shall not be fully and legally qualified, and that this resolution be inserted in the MAYO TELEGRAPH, together with the requisition for calling the meeting.
PATRICK DUFFY, P.P., Chairman.
In pursuance of the foregoing resolution, I hereby request a meeting of the subscribers to the Ballyhavnis Dispensary, at Ballyhavnis Court-house, on the 22nd day of January, 1844, at 12 o’clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing a Medical Officer for the Institution according to the terms of the resolution of the subscribers as above mentioned.
JOHN FYNN, Treasurer.
Dated this 14th day of December, 1843.

A notice from *The Connaught Ranger or Telegraph*, 3rd Jan. 1844, regarding efforts to appoint a ‘Medical Attendant’ to the ‘Ballyhavnis Dispensary’ in succession to Dr. James O’Grady who died the previous year. ‘Ballyhavnis’ was a regularly occurring alternative pronunciation and spelling of the name down to relatively recent times. Patrick Duffy was P.P. Began (the dispensary was in Knox St., which was then in the parish of Began). The Treasurer John Fynn was probably John Finn O.S.A., Prior in the Abbey at the time. For the record, Dr. James Davis succeeded to the post advertised, which he held until his death in 1871.



John Francis Lyons (Leow) and Fiona Gallagher (Balla, Co. Mayo), who married in St. Peter and Paul's Church Straide.



Judith Davitt (Barna, Co. Galway) and Bill Geoghegan (Connecticut, U.S.A.), who married in Italy.



Kathryn Lenaghan (Cullintra) and Tony Flint (Boher, Co. Limerick), who married in the Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacogue, Began.
Photo courtesy of Stratford Photography



Lisa Keadin (Drumaderry) and Michael Healy (Tooreen), who married in the Church of St. Mary of the Rosary, Cong.

Michael Fitzmaurice (Forthill)
and Marie Cox (Lisacul), who
married in Christ the King
Church, Lisacul.



Joseph McQueeney (Main St.)
and Orla Lambe (Dromahaire,
Co. Leitrim), who married in
St. Patrick's Church,
Dromahaire.



Laura Freyne (Knock and
formerly Hazelhill) and
Kevin Keary (Mountbellew,
Co. Galway), who married in
the Church of the Immaculate
Conception, Mulranny,
Co. Mayo.





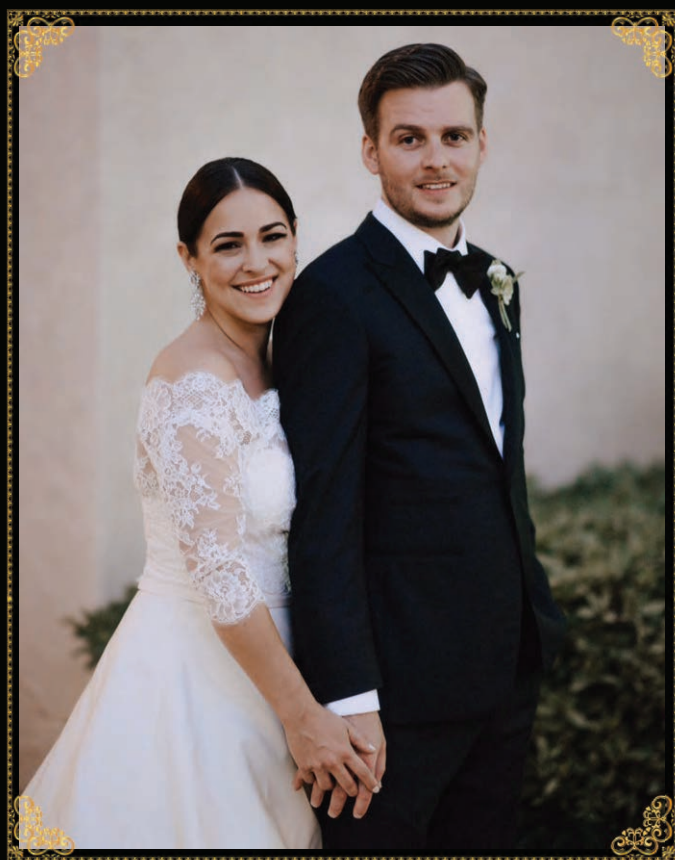
Joe Freeley (Hazelhill) and Dearbhla Murray (Lissaniskea), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



John Burke (Cornabanny, Cloonfad) and Lisa Watts (Monivea, Co. Galway), who married in the Sacred Heart Church Ryehill, Monivea.



Stephen Lowery (Lavallyroe) and Zoi Kokoti (Adelaide, South Australia), who married in Powerscourt, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.



Daniel Carroll (Carrowreagh) and Alison Bujnoch (Houston, Texas, U.S.A.), who married in St. Anne's Catholic Church, Houston.



David Lynch (Holywell) and Máire Ni Bhroín (An Cheathrú Rua), who married in Séipéal Mhic Dara, An Cheathrú Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.



Anthony Murphy (Aisling Drive) and Fay Walker (Ilkley, West Yorkshire, England), who married in St. Wallburga's Church, Shipley, West Yorkshire. Pictured with their son Austin.



Claire Lyons (Logboy) and Ruairi Fitzpatrick (Cloonfad) who married in St. Mary's Church, Logboy



Conor Freeman (Carton North) and Fiona Coffey (Newport, Co. Tipperary), who married in Tulfarris, Co. Wicklow.

Linda Hurley (Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon) and Alan Treacy (Ballintubber, Co. Roscommon), who married in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballinlough.



Honoria Lyons (Bekan) and Mark Donnery (Malahide, Co. Dublin), who married in the Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Bekan.



Declan Prendergast (Carrmack, Logboy) and Elaine Conneally (Williamstown), who married in St. Therese's Church, Williamstown



Eddie Murphy (Gurteen) and
Kirsty Alder (Blackpool,
England), who married in the
Algarve, Portugal.



Edel Feeney (Claremorris) and
David Sheehan (Crossmolina),
who married in
St. Mary's Church, Logboy.
Photo by Tuam Photo Studio.

Nadeem Cherbatji and Sara
Kezze (left), and Mohammed
Cherbatji and Busaina Kezze
(right), who married in
Westport.

Mohammed and Nadeem
(Aisling Drive) are twin
brothers. Busaina and Sara
are sisters from Spain.

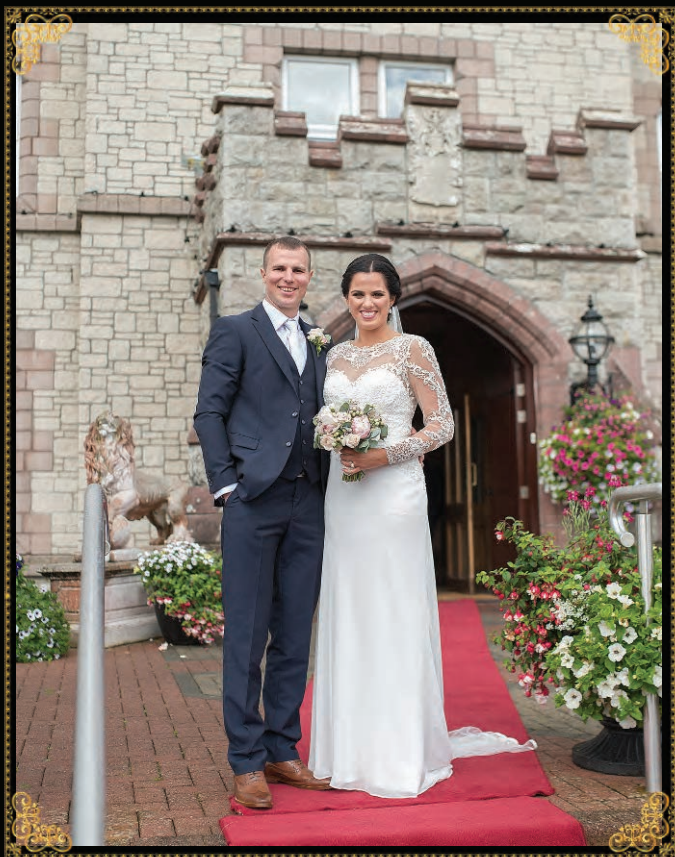




Lydia Concannon (Lecarrow) and Conor Sweeney (Newcastle, Galway), who married The Lodge at Ashford Castle.



Martina Melvin (Lurgan, Brickens) and Alan Burke (Rathesh, Kilconly, Co. Galway), who married in St. Therese's Church, Brickens. Glynn's Photography.



Margaret Stenson (Tooreen) and Darius Ivoska (Hazelhill and Lithuania), who married in St. Mary's Church, Tooreen.



Patrick Heaney (Lecarrow) and Elaine Mulkeen (Cloonbook), who married in the Church of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Began.



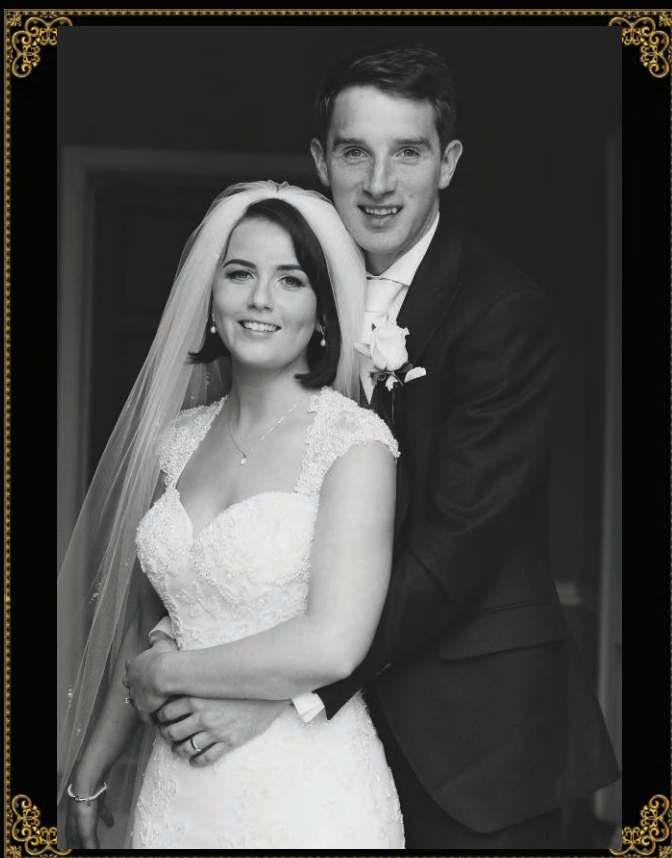
Paul Jordan (Johnstown) and Áine Connaughton (Granlahan), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Mohill, Co. Leitrim.



Samantha Gildea (Johnstown) and Niall Maughan (Corroy, Ballina) who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis



Paul Tighe (Acres, Aghamore) and Breege Dooney (Lisacul), who married in Christ the King Church, Lisacul.



Shane Buckley (Knock Road) and Olivia O'Donnell (Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh), who married in Sacred Heart Church, Irvinestown.

Caroline Noone (Knock Rd.)
and James Healy (Knocklyon,
Dublin), who married in
Ashford Castle.



Ciara Fitzmaurice (Gurteenbeg)
and Niall Richardson
(Cloonbullig), who married in
San Gennaro Church, Praiano,
Amalfi Coast, Italy.



Jonathan Freyne (Coolnaha)
and Lena Walsh (Kiltimagh),
who married in Sao Rafael,
Albufeira, Portugal.



Sandra Hora (Abbeyquarter)
and Noel Treacy (Loughrea),
who married in St. Patrick's
Church, Granlahan.



Noelle Biesty (Hazelhill) and
Damien O'Sullivan (Cork),
who married in Dublin
September 2017.



M. J. Nolan (Grallaghgarden)
and Grace Treadwell
(Castlebellingham, Co. Louth),
who married in The Cathedral
of St. Patrick and
St. Felim, Cavan.





Stephen Carney (Scrigg) and Lisa Folan (Station Rise), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Tommy Jordan (Carnbeg) and Mary Catherine Mulherrins (Mynish, Carna, Co. Galway), who married in Séipéal Mhuire, Carna, Connemara



Hazel Watson (Garrafrauns) and Crispin Alexander, (Shoreham, Kent, UK) who married in Kent. Hazel is daughter of the former Liz Griffin, Clare St.



Sean Brown (Gurteen, Cloonfad) and Rienna Henry (Sligo), who married in Vilamora, Portugal.



Tarina Sloyan (Greenwood) and Chris Lillis (Galway), who married in Dublin.



Edel Raftery (Granlahan) and Cathal Finan (Trien, Co. Roscommon), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Granlahan.



Cheryl Walsh (Knock Rd.) and Paul Greene (Ardrahan, Co. Galway), who married in the Church of St. John the Baptist, Knock.



Michael J. Morley (Lissaniskea) and Tara Brett (Ladysbridge, Co. Cork), who married in St. Mary's Church, Ladysbridge.

Baptisms Marriages Deceased

BAPTISMS in the Parish – November 2016 to October 2017

Pearse Gerard Corcoran, Australia
Victoria Gibalova, Bruach na hAbhainn, Clare St.
Nadeeha Jugoo, Old Convent
Nawaz Jugoo, Old Convent
Zabeen Jugoo, Old Convent
Naweed Jugoo, Old Convent
Daniel Patrick Allen, Hazelwood
Charlie Anthony McDonagh, The Maples
Pijus Bloze, Hazel Lawns
Leighanna Simone Burke, Woodpark
Adela Illichova, Manor Brook
Jayden John Plunkett, Forthill
Luke Michael Marigliano, Old Racecourse
Máire Áine O'Malley, Derrylea
Lee Darren Kedian, Derrynacong
Leonna Leah Mongan, Station Rise
Sean Joseph Lilly, Johnstown
Zak Andrew Kenny, Brackloon
Maya Ann Murphy, Esker Pines
David Gerard Ward, Cherrivale

Abiel Canaj, Old Convent
Elprado Canaj, Old Convent
Milana Kowalska, Hazelhill Downs
Katelyn Maughan, Station Rise
Lorcan James Waldron, Australia and Holywell
Mark Caulfield, Tooraree
Ailey Katelyn Swan, London
Daisy Mai Walsh, Curries
Abigail Sophie Ruane, Johnstown
Finín Paul McKermitt, Esker Pines
Petr Horcicko, Annagh
Tomas Horcicko, Annagh
John Adam Malone Finn, Carrowreagh
Matthew Reuben Maughan, Cherrivale
Shayne Michael McGarry, Drimbane
Charlie Christopher McDonagh, England
Ella-Mae McDonagh, Tooraree
Isla Christina Burke, Old Racecourse
Harry Conor Buckley, Annagh

MARRIAGES in St. Patrick's Church

November 2016 to October 2017

Dearbhla Murray, Began and Joseph Freeley, Hazelhill
Jennifer Cleary, Cherryfield and Michael Delaney, Galway
Samantha Gildea, Gurrane and Niall Maughan, Ballina
Lisa Folan, Station Rise and Stephen Carney, Scrigg

Marriages Elsewhere

Caroline Noone, Hazelhill and James Healy, Dublin
Marie Ann Cox, Lisacul and Michael Fitzmaurice, Forthill
Olivia O'Donnell, Fermanagh and Shane Buckley, Knock Road
Stacey Ward, Ballaghaderreen and David Cleary, Cherryfield
Ciara Fitzmaurice, Gurteenbeg and Niall Richardson, Cloonbullig
Margaret Stenson, Hazelhill Downs and Darius Ivoska, Hazelhill Downs
Áine Connaughton, Granlahan and Paul Jordan, Johnstown
Bridget Maughan, Dublin and Martin McDonagh, The Maples



DECEASED of the Parish

November 2016 to
October 2017

Willie Joe Armstrong, England and Holywell
David Freeley, Upper Main St.
Michael Hopkins, Island
Mary Kelly, Lecarrow
Mary Healy, Holywell
Ann Powers, St. Gerald's Crescent
Bohuslav Hanus, The Maples and Czech Republic
Kieran Prendergast, Knock and Aisling Drive
Una Collum, Devils
Kathleen Thompson, Aisling Drive
David Molloy, St. Gerald's Crescent and
Ballaghaderreen
Ivan Georgiev, Abbeyvale and Bulgaria
Mary Plunkett, Forthill
Val Rattigan, Knox St.
Kathleen Cribbin, Knockbrack
May Barry, Knock and Beech Park
John O'Brien, Donegal and Knox St.
Tom Connell, Redford
Gerard Cleary, Drimbane
Michael Murray, Doctor's Road
Ann McCormack, Ballindrehid
Tomás Cribbin, Claremorris and Knockbrack
Cecily Moran, Knox St.
Julia McCarthy, Beech Park
Pat Byrne, Johnstown
Jane Culliney, Leow
Michael Ruane, Manchester and Curries
Eileen Prendergast, Aisling Drive and Knock

Comdt. Caroline Burke was appointed as Aide-de-Camp to An Taoiseach in August 2017. She comes from Cornabanny, Cloonfad and joined the Defence Forces in 1995 receiving a Commission from the President in July 1997. Her postings within the Defence Forces encompassed roles as varied as Platoon Commander, Brigade Physical Education Officer, Human Resources Staff Officer and Officer Commanding McKee Barracks, Dublin.

Comdt. Burke has completed overseas tours of duty on three occasions, with the NATO-led Kosovo Force as an Operations Officer in 2003, with the United Nations Mission in Liberia in 2005 and most recently with the United Nations Mission in Lebanon in 2014 where she was Deputy Commander of the 42nd Infantry Group which formed part of the Finnish-Irish Battalion.

Comdt. Burke was educated at Cloonfad National School and Dunmore Community School and subsequently completed a BSc at the University of Limerick and MSc at the University of Chester, UK. She has a keen interest in sports of all kinds and served as President and Secretary of the Defence Forces Ladies Gaelic Football Club for a number of years having commenced her playing days with the Michael Glavey's Club. She is married to Kieran Costello and they reside in Castleknock, Dublin with their daughters Vanessa (5) and Ruth (2).

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee

MARTINA GAVIN (SECRETARY)

Firstly, the committee members would like to sincerely thank everyone for the generous contributions made to the annual collection for the maintenance of the cemetery. A special thanks to the diaspora for their generous donations this year. This continuous support ensures the maintenance of the area including new railings at the entrance which will be installed this year.

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 Irishgraveyards.ie. A PayPal facility is also available on this site for those who wish to contribute.

The committee members are John Halpin, Edward Mulhern, Walter Cleary, Tom Finn, Seamus O'Boyle, Martin Gavin and Mary Donnelly.

Comdt. Caroline Burke appointed Aide-de-Camp to An Taoiseach



Corporal Patrick Gallagher

EVAN O'DWYER

Patrick Gallagher was born on 1st February, 1944, the second oldest son to Peter and Mary Gallagher of Derrintogher, Ballyhaunis. He was educated by the Franciscan Brothers, Granlahan and in Ballyhaunis Vocational School. He served an apprenticeship in carpentry in Connell's of Devlis, Ballyhaunis. While his brother Pete and other siblings left home and went to England, he emigrated to America in the Autumn of 1963 where he took up work as a carpenter to start with. He later branched into real estate business and attended law school at night with the intention of becoming a lawyer; but he found his calling to join the US Marine Corps in 1965. He did not have to, as conscription at that time was mandatory to US citizens only. He did not volunteer to be a Staff Officer in the comfort of a Naval Base, but to take the hard choice and go to the elite branch of the United States Armed Forces, the Marine Corps. He continued to keep in contact with home. All his letters, which have been kept by the Gallagher family, show of his keen interest in the day to day running of the farm and making sure that the hay was saved. He sent money home so that an agricultural tractor could be used on the farm to make life easier for his parents. Little is actually known of his training with the US Marine Corps because he wanted to advance himself and to push himself in a way like no other, but at the same time not expose his family to worry that he may come to harm.

In February 1966, having completed his training, he returned home to Derrintogher to visit his parents and siblings staying three weeks on vacation. There he broke the news to his parents and to his brother that he was enlisted in the United States Armed Forces. In the same breath, he reassured them that he was in no danger and there was no likelihood of him ever seeing anything resembling front line action. He assured them that all



Gallagher family, 1953. Back, L-R: Peter (Sr.) holding Martin, Mary. Centre: Margaret, Patrick, Bridie. Front: Teresa, Peter.

was going well and he would be out of there by April that year. This was not true, as he knew full well, as he was about to be moved to Vietnam for his first tour of duty. His visit home was his last visit but nobody knew this at the time. His siblings tell that his mother would insist on him dressing up in his military uniform when visitors came, showing that she was still the boss even though he was a finely tuned military machine.

When he left, everybody expected him to return. He was only a young man and there was no reason why he would not. The first his parents and siblings knew of his presence in Vietnam was in January, 1967. The next few months passed and he was always keen to write home to explain the delights of Vietnam, many of which were just a show for his family. We have now learnt from comrades who were there that he was hardy, trustworthy, and loyal and these, at the same time, did not want his family to be afraid by telling them the full truth of the horrors that he saw and the inhumane conditions that he lived in.

Up to that point, he was like many Irish young men who travelled to the United States to enlist in the Armed Forces and to serve in theatres of war. What made him special, however, was his selflessness and how he considered the safety of his comrades in arms above his own. He was awarded medals for valour when his



Margaret, Bridie and Patrick Gallagher, 1947.

platoon was attacked with grenades and when he kicked a grenade out of the way and placing himself in danger, and secondly, he physically picked one up and threw same out of the way, thereby saving the lives of his comrades.

This drew the attention of the Higher Arche, who immediately recommended that he be given the Navy Cross medal for bravery. Lest the cat got out of the bag, he wrote home to say that an incident had taken place and there was a big hoopla about it, of which his family may become aware. Surely enough, Seán Duignan, then of RTÉ, called Derrintogher. At the time, he was a TV celebrity and the fact that he was arriving at the Gallagher homestead to interview Patrick Gallagher's parents about his heroic deeds seemed completely

surreal. Ever the diplomat, however, the explanation that he gave was completely understated. He had placed his own life in the line of fire to save the lives of others and for that, he was recognised.

Shortly after that, everybody in Derrintogher was expecting Patrick Gallagher to come home. Instead word filtered through that he had been killed in action. On 30th March, 1967, his platoon had been ambushed and as the machine gunner, instead of staying at the back while the ambush was taking place, he ran forward to try and fend off the enemy fire, but to no avail. He and nine of his comrades died in action.

Heart-breaking stories have been told by the Gallagher family and those who were friends and neighbours of the Gallaghers about the news filtering through and the inordinate time for his body to be returned home. Great sorrow fell on Derrintogher and across the parish. The photographs of the time show that he was given full military honours by the US Marine Corps who treated him as a hero. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. His fatigues and dress wear were returned home and still remain in Derrintogher to this day. The whole town was numb but it was only as the years passed that the true extent of his achievements became known. May he and his comrades rest in peace, Amen.



Left: Gallagher family, 1961.

*Back, L-R: Patrick, Rose Marie, Peter (Sr.), Mary, Bridie.
Front: Teresa, Martin, Peter.*

Below: The funeral cortege with the remains of Corporal Patrick Gallagher arriving at St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis in 1967.



Preparations for the Commemoration

EVAN O'DWYER

It is difficult to properly explain how the story of Corporal Patrick Gallagher has touched the lives of so many people today, fifty years after his death in Vietnam. The modern day story begins with Kathy Raftery, a native of Granlahan and working in RTÉ in Dublin. While sitting with her mother viewing old photographs, they came across a class photograph from Granlahan. As her mother pointed out who everybody was, she came across Patrick Gallagher. He looked like any other ordinary young boy in a school line-up, unremarkable from those to the left and to the right of him, yet his life would become extraordinary during his short time on this Earth. Mrs. Raftery explained to Kathy that this young boy had died in Vietnam while serving with the US Marine Corps. Kathy did not expect this. Why had she never heard of Patrick Gallagher before? What took him to serve in the Marine Corps? How did he come to be in Vietnam and how and why was he killed there? That began an obsession for Kathy Raftery as she began to research, with the assistance of the Gallagher family in Derrintogher, what happened to Patrick Gallagher.

The fruit of her endeavours was the award winning documentary, broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1 – *Mayo Boy: Vietnam Hero*. In preparing this remarkable audio work, Kathy travelled to the United States and met with those who served with Patrick Gallagher. Anybody interested in Ballyhaunis and who reads this article in our Annagh Magazine must listen to this documentary. It will bring you to a stand-still and you will shed a tear as you listen to family and friends describe Patrick Gallagher.

The next and completely distinct story comes from Patsy McGarry who has no connection with Ballyhaunis or with the Gallagher Family, or indeed with Kathy Raftery. He is a long-standing highly regarded correspondent with the *Irish Times*. He has regularly written about Patrick Gallagher as a story of interest because he was not the only young Irishman killed whilst serving with the United States Armed Forces in Vietnam. Patsy knew of the Frayne Family in Ballaghaderreen who also lost a son. Their story drew him to the story of Patrick Gallagher and he has written extensively over many years about the heroism shown by this young man from Ballyhaunis in battle.

The third part of the story then comes from Martin Durkan from Abbey Street. Martin fulfils many young boys' dreams as an Airline Pilot crossing the globe in his

Emirates Boeing jet. While based in Dallas, Texas, he, along with a number of other Irish ex-pats began to discuss the remarkable life of Patrick Gallagher. They hatched a plan that his life and achievements needed to be properly marked. The idea of beginning a petition to request the United States Government to name a naval vessel in his honour began. They set up a website and started a campaign which is gathering momentum with high profile members of the United States Congress and senior military figures supporting their efforts. Before very long we hope that Martin will be chartering one of his Emirates jets and flying us all to San Diego for the commissioning of the new naval vessel, the *SS Patrick Gallagher*. This may have seemed like a pipe-dream when it began, but as each day passes and as the numbers of the petition swell, it is becoming more of a reality.

In the lead-up to the 50th anniversary, a concerted effort was made by a number of us in town associated with the Gallagher family to celebrate Patrick Gallagher's life in a way that it could not be celebrated for his grief-stricken family and the town at the time of his death. Myself, John Higgins, Patrick Gallagher Junior, Brian Flanagan and Dónal Byrne, as the members of the GoBallyhaunis committee, worked (not all the time) towards arranging an event befitting of the man and befitting of his achievements. Cllr. John Cribbin was instrumental in securing the attendance of Defence Minister Paul Keogh and a ceremonial troupe of the Irish Defences Forces. The Gallagher family, and the efforts of Pauline Gallagher, Patrick's sister, persuaded the American Embassy, to release two serving members of the US Marine Corps to join us in Ballyhaunis. Brigadier General Mike Neel, himself a lauded war veteran and recipient of the Navy Cross and Purple Heart, also committed.

The whole town became enveloped in the preparations for the 30th March. Tom Forde ran out of stars and stripes. With the assistance of Mayo County Council, the family commissioned, together with Gavin's Memorials, a unique piece which was to be unveiled in the new cemetery, in his honour. His unique grave – similar to those in Arlington Cemetery in Washington for all war heroes – was cleaned up and reset with new stones, donated by Hill Street Quarries. All of the pomp and ceremony that is befitting of a war hero were rolled out without any limitation.



Pupils and teachers from Scoil Íosa, Ballyhaunis, form a Guard of Honour as the parade passes through Abbeyquarter. Photo courtesy of GoBallyhaunis

Ballyhaunis' 50th Anniversary Tribute

COMPILED FROM REPORTS BY MIKE BYRNE, MICHAEL COMMINS AND EVAN O'DWYER

Saint Patrick's Church in Ballyhaunis was packed to capacity on Thursday, 30th March 2017, as members of the Irish Defence Forces and the US Army joined with the local community to remember and pay tribute to Corporal Patrick 'Bob' Gallagher who lost his life in Vietnam in March 1967.



The altar and sanctuary of St. Patrick's Church, decorated appropriately with symbols from Cpl. Patrick Gallagher's life. Photo courtesy of Janapix.

The celebration, held on the anniversary of Patrick's tragic death in Vietnam fifty years ago, was one of sadness and joy, as the entire community turned out in huge numbers to remember their native son. The Mass, celebrated by Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher, assisted by Ballyhaunis native Fr. Kieran Waldron and Fr. Joe Feeney, Parish Priest, Ballinlough, also commemorated the lives of local man Private Billy Kedian, who lost his life while serving with the Irish Peace Keeping Forces in The Lebanon in 1999, as well as Corporal Brian Óg Freyne from Ballaghaderreen who died in Vietnam in early 1967, and Christopher Nevin, from Brize, Claremorris who died in action in Vietnam in February 1966. Members of all these families attended the memorial service on Thursday, 30th March.

Fr. Farragher delivered a homily which duly explained the perils of battle, the futility of war and the commitment that young men give placing their lives on the line for a cause. He portrayed Patrick Gallagher as a young man with great ambitions who was going places at a fast rate. He focused on his love of home and the farm and for his family and the burning desire to succeed and achieve things that nobody around him could possibly have imagined he could do.

The US Marines and the Irish Defence Forces, who provided full military honours, were also present for the ceremonies as well as Brigadier General Mike Neil of the US Marines Corps and Major General Kieran Brennan of the Irish Defence Forces. Present at the Mass also was the Minister for Defence, Paul Kehoe, along with other public representatives, Senator John O'Mahony, Jimmy Deenihan, former Minister of State for the Diaspora, and Councillor John Cribbin. Oliver Jordan, who sang in the choir at the Requiem Mass in 1967 and who is still a member of the choir, was also present at the Commemoration Ceremony. At the end of Mass, well known traditional singer Sean Keane rendered a beautiful tribute to the late Corporal Patrick Gallagher, "Who Knows Where", and local recording artist Brian Flanagan brought the entire congregation to their feet as he delivered his own composition, "Hero" in salute to Corporal Gallagher.

After Mass, members of the American Marine Corps, along with the Irish Defence Forces, and children from Granlahan and Cloonfad National Schools, led a parade from the Parish Church grounds down Main St., through the Square and onto Bridge St., up Abbey St., through Abbeyquarter to the Parish Cemetery. The family and friends carried the stars and stripes and the tricolour. Lone piper, Eugene Henry from the Midfield Pipe Band, played a selection of airs and laments as he led the parade. In the cemetery, a wreath was laid at the grave of Corporal Gallagher by the Minister for Defence, Paul Keogh and there was full military honours provided.



A wreath was laid at the grave of Corporal Gallagher by Minister for Defence, Paul Keogh, with full military honours provided. Photo courtesy of GoBallyhaunis

A short time later, a specially commissioned commemorative plaque to the late Corporal Gallagher was unveiled in the cemetery. On a day that turned cold, a huge amount of warmth and unity permeated through the crowd with Úna Shields beginning a rendition of Danny Boy, with everybody joining in.

Following the wreath laying ceremony and the unveiling of the commemorative plaque in the cemetery, the Patrick Gallagher Memorial Exhibition was opened in the Augustinian Abbey which displayed artefacts and memorabilia relating to Corporal Gallagher. Brigadier General Mike Neil, who travelled from San Diego, spoke at length as somebody who has seen the horrors of war and explained in real terms what type of person Patrick Gallagher was. This gave a great insight into the life of a soldier in Vietnam, which is something that none of us could ever possibly understand unless we heard it first hand from him. Peter Gallagher spoke for the family.

The poignancy of the possessions of Patrick Gallagher really brought home to all that visited over the following days the remarkable life that he lived and the tragic nature of his death. The exhibition comprised of pictures of Patrick with his parents and siblings,



Members of the Gallagher family pictured at the commemorative plaque unveiled in the Parish Cemetery. Back, L-R: Cllr. Al McDonnell (Chairman, Mayo County Council), Sarah Keegan, Brig. Gen. Mike Neil, Cllr. Teresa Gallagher Keegan, Samuel Comerford, Elizabeth Comerford, Lauren Gallagher, Maj. Gen. Kieran Brennan, Minister for Defence Paul Kehoe T.D., Pauline Gallagher, Peter Gallagher, Katie Salmon, Cllr. John Cribbin, Martha Gallagher, Rosemarie Gallagher, Colm Gallagher, Annette Gallagher, Marie Salmon, Patrick Gallagher, Michael Keegan. Front: Hannah Salmon, Patrick Gallagher, Thomas Curran, Bobby Gallagher, Ben Gallagher, Holly Gallagher. Photo courtesy of GoBallyhaunis

uniforms worn, medals of achievement and letters sent by Patrick to his parents while on duty. The exhibition also comprised of letters of sympathy sent by the then Senator Robert Kennedy, and also from the then serving President of the United States of America, Lyndon B. Johnson. The American flag, which was draped on Corporal Gallagher's casket, and pictures of the funeral were also exhibited.

Refreshments were provided by Gareth Delaney for over 400 people who turned up for the opening of the exhibition. The two US Marine Corps soldiers who had joined the day were put through their paces in trying to learn the bodhrán. Feeling under intense pressure they, together with Brigadier Neel, sang the Marine Hymn to cap the evening off. As the day concluded, everybody agreed that the celebration could and should have happened fifty years ago, had now well and truly taken place and that the memory of Patrick Gallagher could now stand on its own, fresh in the minds of a new generation. The exhibition was open to the public from Thursday 30th March to Sunday 2nd April. It was hugely successful and brought people from all around to see and to share stories of that time. Corporal Patrick Gallagher's heroics and his achievements will now not be forgotten, thanks to the work of Patsy McGarry, Kathy Raftery and Martin Durkin.

Speaking on Midwest Radio following the weekend commemoration, Peter Gallagher from Derrintogher, brother of the late US marine, said, "The celebration was something that was beyond all our expectations. Our



family was just overwhelmed with the response from the local people in Ballyhaunis. The thousands of people who came to the Friary over the few days was just unbelievable. There were queues all day long, with so many who wanted to see the exhibition that we had to extend it for another day". "It's fifty years now since the tragedy happened and we can now really tell the story and celebrate his life rather than grieve over it, especially with the amount of emotion that was in the Friary over the past four days, it was really unreal", he added. "On behalf of the Gallagher family, I would like to thank all the people of Ballyhaunis for their generous response to this anniversary celebration. To the business people who put out flags, formed a guard of honour along the streets for the parade, and to the Go Ballyhaunis committee, who organised the whole event, a very sincere thanks to all", he concluded.

Clare Higgins, a niece of Corporal Gallagher, reflecting on the four day celebration, said, "The weekend was a roller-coaster of mixed emotions, from feeling so proud to being overwhelmed, to feeling heartbroken and so honoured to have a person like that belong to our family. He died thirteen years before I was even born, but after the last couple of months of gathering all the memorabilia, all the story-telling of when he was alive, and then getting to see and touch all his belongings, from his uniforms, dog-tags, and especially the letters he wrote to my grandparents, I have the most beautiful picture and profile of the type of man and hero he was and I now feel I knew him better than someone that I've known all my life". "I can't quite put into words about how I felt about last Thursday. We never thought in our wildest dreams there was going to be the turnout there was. We were and still are totally overwhelmed. The people of Ballyhaunis should be so proud of themselves. The support which they have shown is something that we will never forget as a family", she added.

The accompanying photographs are from the Commemoration Mass, the parade to the Cemetery, the wreath-laying ceremony, the unveiling of the plaque in the cemetery and the exhibition in the Friary Church.



Dónal Byrne, Evan O'Dwyer, Brigadier General Michael Neil (U.S. Marines), Senator Jimmy Deenihan, former Minister of State for the Diaspora.
Photo courtesy of GoBallyhaunis.



Brendan Mulvey and members of the Mayo Irish Diaspora Committee (MIDC) presented a Posthumus award to members of the Gallagher family in honour of Cpl. Patrick Gallagher, during the Memorial Day. Pictured at the presentation in the Friary Church were, L-R: Kevin Bourke (MIDC), Pauline Gallagher, Rosemarie Gallagher, Teresa Gallagher, Brendan Mulvey (MIDC), Peter Gallagher, Tommy Joe Duffy (MIDC) and Marianne Staunton (MIDC). *Photo courtesy of GoBallyhaunis.*



Corporal Gallagher's uniforms and other memorabilia at the Exhibit in the Friary. *Photo courtesy of Janapix.*



Representatives from the Irish and American Armed Forces in St. Patrick's Church, during the Commemorative Mass. At front are Paul Kehoe, Minister for Defence and Major General Kieran Brennan.

Photo courtesy of the Department of Defence.



Above: Gallagher family members with dignitaries outside St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

L-R: Peter Gallagher, Tom Currvan and Eamonn Walsh (Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen), Minister for Defence, unknown, Paul Kehoe T.D., Maj. Gen. Kieran Brennan, Brig. Gen. Mike Neil, Sen. Jimmy Deenihan, Lieut. Col. Johnny Whittaker, Pauline Gallagher, Cllr. Teresa Gallagher Keegan.

Left: Memorabilia of Cpl. Patrick Gallagher on display in the Friary, including medals awarded to him.

Photo courtesy of Janapix.



A large crowd participates in the solemn parade from St. Patrick's Church to the Parish Cemetery.
Photo courtesy of GoBallyhaunis

'Hero'

Your tale began in '62 you left the land and all you knew
Another child to leave the Western shore
At just eighteen you waved goodbye to echoes of a mother's cry
A story told a thousand times before
You dreamt across Atlantic sea then heard old lady liberty say
Welcome to the land the brave call home
A handsome lad stood broad and tall though words were few you meant them all
The chance was nigh to make a life your own
With bricks at first you plied your trade discovered how this man was made
'til learning of the law your calling found
You rallied around the righteous man but fate puts paid to best laid plans
Come '65 the drums of war did sound

Chorus

You're remembered now a hero
A humble soldier how this world you cared to brave
We remember you a hero...So say the men you dared to save

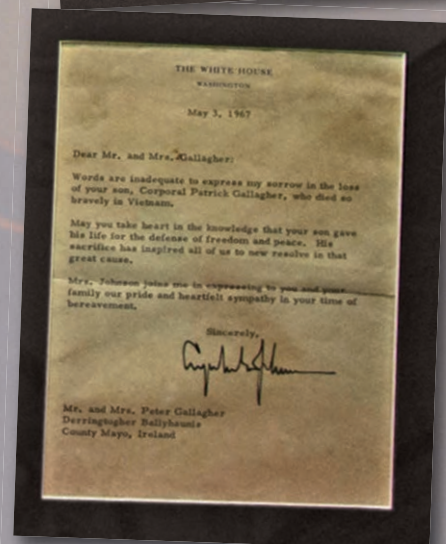
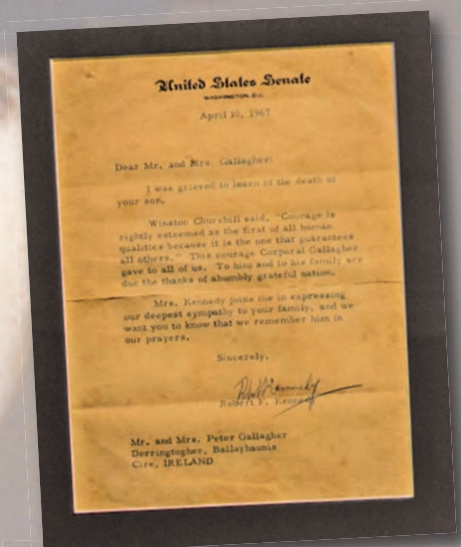
Raised to know what freedom means, you joined the boys in 4th marines and
Time would tell you'd shine amongst the crowd
With men all colours, code and creed you band of brothers soon would bleed
As one you'd stand magnificent and proud
Though soon you'd venture into hell you headed home to say farewell
Your silence left poor worry at the door
You spent some time with all you love like them you prayed to God above
You'd make it safely home from bloody war
Then to the darkest depths were flung in '66 and still so young
When straight into the devil's soul you'd stare
You sacrificed yourself to save your comrades from that cold grenade
For courage shown a cross you had to bear

Chorus

For deeds you'd done how all would hail the hero lived to tell the tale
Though lady luck would leave when spring came by
March '67 South DaNang, from out of nowhere bullets sang
For nine young men the time had come to die
When news it broke you boys had gone, the Last Post and The Soldiers Song
Were heard as nations mourned their sons in rhyme
The letters came they praised your part, forever broke your mother's heart
The stars and stripes were folded one last time
But you were meant for greater things, though time has passed yet grief she sings
Saluting you with pride our prayers we send
Your memory still held so dear you're gone but not forgotten here
A son, a loyal comrade, brother, friend

Chorus

Written & Composed by Brian Flanagan



Inset images (top): Corp. Gallagher's 'dog-tag', (identification tag worn by military personnel) bearing his name, rank, number and religion.

(centre): Letter received by Corp. Gallagher's family from Senator Robert F. Kennedy in April 1967.

(above): Letter received by Corp. Gallagher's family from President Lyndon B. Johnson in May 1967.

Photos courtesy of Janapix.

Annagh Magazine – Forty Years a-Growing

JIM LONDON

Annagh Magazine was founded as a Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber Project in the Central Hotel, Ballyhaunis in 1977 following encouragement from the Parish Priest, Fr. P. O. Costelloe.

Between 1977-1986, Ballyhaunis Junior Chamber produced the magazine and sold it after Masses and in shops, usually in the first week in December. Chris Pratt designed all the covers bar one which was designed by Paul Waldron (Devlis). Our printers were Cashin Printing Services, Castlebar.

In 1986 Annagh Magazine Society was founded. Our magazine went to A4 size page with a colour cover. Our advertisers were replaced by patrons. Our printers were the Western People. In 1995 the Magazine expanded to over one hundred pages, while in 2005 it went to full colour. In 2010 our website, annaghmag.ie, was launched where all the back issues can be downloaded. Following the Western People in 1997, our printers were KPS Knock who continue to print the magazine to the present day and our layout and design has been done by Sinéad Mallee since 2008.

Meetings

In Junior Chamber times our meetings were held in O'Malley's house, Knock Road and later in London's, Knock Road. We moved to Manor House Hotel, Knock Road when the Annagh Magazine Society started and later moved to Halpin's, Main St., then the Parochial Hall and finally to our present venue, the Friary House.

Our Committee Members over the years

Looking back over the years I have found that approx 70 people have been involved in Annagh Magazine Committees. It is a great credit to them that year after year the magazine has been produced. They are Anto O'Malley, Jim London, Chris Pratt, Fr. Des Walsh, Marian Conboy, John Higgins, Dr. Seamus Ryan, Dónal Ahern, Joe Hosty, Pat Higgins, Fr. John O'Connor O.S.A., Matt O'Dwyer, John Mooney, Joe Greene, Siobhán O'Connor, Eamon Healy, Mary Heneghan, Peggy Lyons, Rita Mooney, Mary Freeley, Paul Waldron (Devlis), Regina Hunt, Shea O'Callaghan, Kathleen Hunt, Mary Henry, Canon P. O. Costelloe, Johnny Biesty, Mary Finan, Noel Waldron, Anne Curley, Bronagh McKermitt, John Cleary, Micheál Smyth, Jack Halpin, Gerry Cribbin, Martin Forde, Mike Byrne, Peter McCafferty, Jimmy Cribbin, Máisín Meath, Paul Waldron (Cave), Agnes Heaney, Maura Griffin, John Austin Freeley, Murt Hunt, Austin Grogan, Michael Godfrey, Josephine Ganley, Séamus Mulrennan, John Halpin, Joe Keane, Siobhán Quinn, Aileen Burke, Michael Finn, Stephen Grogan, Sinéad Freyne, Emer Hill, Nell Rochford, Fergal

O'Mahony, Mike Griffin, Grahame Cleary, Edward Mulhern, Ciara Buckley, Gabriel Smith, Claire O'Malley.

Second Generation

Some families have had two generations involved including Anto O'Malley (R.I.P.) and his daughter, Claire; John Cleary and his son, Grahame; Jack Halpin (R.I.P.) and his son, John; and Maura Griffin (R.I.P.) and her son, Mike; Noel Waldron (R.I.P.) and his son Paul (Devlis).

Deceased Members

We remember fondly our deceased members and their great work for the magazine which was done in a committed and good humoured way. They include the late Anto O'Malley, Joe Greene, Eamon Healy, Matt O'Dwyer, Rita Mooney, Canon P.O. Costelloe, Noel Waldron, Máisín Meath, Agnes Heaney, Austin Grogan, Michael Godfrey, Martin Forde, Gerry Cribbin, John Austin Freeley, Maura Griffin and Jack Halpin.

Patrons

We began with advertisers and changed to patrons all of whom have provided a solid financial basis for the magazine and without whose help we could not continue. Míle Buíochas.

Our Loyal Readers

And now our best wine is kept to the end – to our faithful readers who have sent in thousands of photographs, poems, articles and who continue to buy the magazine every year – you have made the magazine what it is.

The Future

The old saying goes "life begins at forty" and so, with Annagh Magazine with the support of all the people mentioned above, we hope it continues into a ripe old age to entertain, provoke and amuse the people of Ballyhaunis, the parish of Annagh and the surrounding areas wherever and however they read it here and throughout the world.

The forty issues of the Annagh Magazine so far – up to and including the 2017 issue – have featured:

- 4,490 pages
- 2,441 articles and reports
- 7,258 photographs of all kinds have been featured, including
- 824 wedding photographs and
- 238 photographs on covers.

Growing Up with Annagh

TARA HIGGINS (WEXFORD AND FORMERLY OF DEVLIS)

I've lived away from Ballyhaunis for twenty-two years now (longer than I lived in the town, in fact) and over the years the Annagh Magazine has provided an enduring link to the town, parish and surrounding area. News of its publication would usually be imparted by my mother – a routine phone conversation suddenly punctuated with the news “Oh by the way, I nearly forgot to tell you, the Annagh is out”. There would follow a run-through of that year's highlights, just to whet my appetite.

Each Christmas the copy of the Annagh takes pride of place on the kitchen table at home, providing a great source of conversation amongst visiting family and friends – graduations and marriages of former classmates, births, sporting achievements and sporting heartbreaks – all the highs and lows of a community reflected on its glossy pages. The grainy black-and-white

photos and articles of times gone by would spark reflective conversations about neighbours and friends now passed, while pictures of the current generation of children would be closely examined for likenesses to kith and kin.

For me and many others of the Ballyhaunis diaspora, the Annagh Magazine provides an invaluable connection to the town and parish, and I hope it will continue to do so for many years to come – Christmas just wouldn't be the same without it!

Tara, together with fifty-five others, appeared on the first list of baptisms which was published in the first edition of Annagh Magazine in 1978, which can be downloaded from www.annaghmag.ie

St. Joseph's Secondary School, Ballyhaunis, 1958



Back, L-R: Patricia Waldron, Eileen Cleary, Imelda Walsh, Kathleen Costello, Kathleen Cribbin, Patricia Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Cunniffe.
Centre: Nancy Hunt, Noreen Fitzpatrick, Corrine Lyons, Anne Byrne, Mary Kearns, Alacoque Lyons, Ann Curley, Helen Waldron, Ann Kelly.
Front: Frances Morley, Mary Frances Fitzgerald, Helen Healy, Mona McGarry, Fiona Baker, Rosemary Keane, Teresa Cribbin, Mary Judge, Julia Comer, Alacoque Moran.

This is my first year as President of Ballyhaunis Chamber and I will admit I was slightly apprehensive taking on this role, but have thoroughly enjoyed it. My first year has been made easier with the great help from Anne Cunnane and all the Office Staff in the Ballyhaunis Enterprise Centre. I believe in and know that we have a wonderful town, which provides a diverse range of services and facilities as was evident in the Ballyhaunis Enterprise Town event I will talk about below. We are unique in the level of employment created and provided historically over many decades; even through the tough times a number of our businesses actually created employment in the area. I have learnt a lot over the past year about how the Ballyhaunis Chamber operates and I am delighted that we work so well alongside many other organisations in the town to improve our facilities and infrastructure e.g. Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns, Ballyhaunis GAA, Ballyhaunis Community Council, The Abbey Partnership and the Ballyhaunis Sports Hub, the last three of which we are members.

It was said to us many years ago that for anything to happen in Ballyhaunis it will take the businesses and community to work together, something we are all now doing. Ballyhaunis Chamber and Ballyhaunis Community Council worked together on the Renewal of Ballyhaunis Community Futures, which is now the blueprint or go-to document which we try to follow as this is what our community flagged as priority for our town. When we are seeking funding all relevant bodies that we apply to will want to see proof that this is what both business and community has prioritised.

Our Executive Committee is as follows: Tom Forde – President, Mark Curley – Vice President, Alison McDermott – Hon. Secretary, Mike Griffin – Treasurer, William Nestor – PRO, Eddie Murphy Jnr., John Dillon-Leetch, Paddy Phillips, Paul Finn, Sue McMillan, Tom Colleran.

Success Stories

We may seem quiet and we don't shout what we do from the rooftops, but we do work extremely hard for the town and most of our issues are long term projects which are constantly being lobbied for. In saying that, we have had, thankfully, success stories this year: funding has been secured for the proposed pedestrian crossing, build out area, new footpath, revised parking, junction realignment and suspended footbridge at Bridge St., which went on display last April. The dead trees and stonework along Clare Road have been removed, thus creating more parking spaces along this stretch. Funding has been secured towards the first phase of the revamp

of Ballyhaunis Town Square by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD. The sum €96,000 is granted under the 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. I would like to sincerely thank Minister Ring and Cllr. John Cribbin who supported our efforts for this allocation. Some may say that €96,000 is a lot of money but, unfortunately as we all know, with the works that need to be carried out this sum of money will not stretch too far. But, in saying that, we will continue to strive and lobby for further funding for the revitalisation of the Town Square. We will be meeting with Mayo County Council towards the end of November to discuss works to be carried out and these will then be carried out early in 2018.

We have submitted an application to Mayo North East Leader towards enhancement works on the by-pass which we are hoping to develop into a walking trail to encourage walking tourism in the area, and also to make safe for our community and the people from the surrounding areas who use this route for leisurely walks or as part of their exercise regime. To further develop this walking route, we continue to lobby Mayo County Council for footpaths and lighting out as far as Ballyhaunis GAA Pitch, and long term, further out to the Centre of Excellence. Some may say this is a pipe-dream but if we don't try it definitely won't happen.

Earlier on in the year rumours spread that we were to lose more Gardaí from Ballyhaunis Garda Station reducing the number eventually to two which, in effect, would have closed the station. We contacted all the relevant bodies and are thankful for all help received from Cllr. John Cribbin and Cllr. John Caulfield, Dara Calleary TD and Minister Michael Ring TD, for help in relation to this which eventually put these rumours to bed. Two new Gardaí have been secured for our station. We would like to sincerely thank also Inspector Patrick O'Shea of Claremorris Garda Division, who is always very approachable and helpful with any issues in relation to the Claremorris Municipal area.

We also, as a Chamber, help support the set-up of business in the area. We give advice where we can, provide business information for enquirers and put them in contact with relevant bodies, e.g. LEO/Enterprise Ireland. We continually strive to attract people to do business in the town – through shopping campaigns, festivals, etc., and have many social media sites in order to do this, i.e. Ballyhaunis Shoppers Guide, Summer Festival, Farmers Market, Christmas Festival, Fit-for-Life and Ballyhaunis Chamber Facebook and BallyhaunisLife Group.

We have two websites, Ballyhaunis Chamber and Ballyhaunis Life. All of this is administered and kept up to date in the Chamber office. An initiative by Ballyhaunis Chamber is the Ballyhaunis Shopping Vouchers scheme. These vouchers, in denominations of €10, €20 and €50, can be purchased at the Ballyhaunis Chamber Office (The Enterprise Centre) and used in over fifty-seven shops in the town. They are ideal Christmas or birthday gifts, for use as staff bonuses, Thank You gifts, etc., and at the same time support local business by keeping the spend in the town. So this Christmas we would encourage all to think local and to use this service where possible.

Enterprise Town

As I mentioned above, we had a very successful *Ballyhaunis Enterprise Town 2017* event held in Scoil Íosa which was an initiative of Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis.



Guest speakers, organisers and Bank of Ireland staff at the Ballyhaunis Enterprise Town Event. Back, L-R: Ciaran Gavin, Denise Clancy, Anne Phillips, Patricia Waldron (all Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis). Centre: Pádraic Heneghan (veterinary surgeon), Brendan Egan (Manager, Castlerea Livestock Mart), Joe Healy (President, I.F.A.), Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh (Special Guest), Paul Sykes (Secretary, Irish Limousin Cattle Society), Anne Marie Byrne O'Reilly (Lady Farmer of the Year, 2016), Kenneth Dennedy (Principal, Scoil Íosa Primary School, Ballyhaunis). Front: Alan Durcan (Bank of Ireland), Seamus Caulfield (Ballyhaunis Chamber), Mark Curley (Ballyhaunis Chamber), Anne Marie Beirne (Manager, Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis), Anne Cunnane (Ballyhaunis Chamber), Darran Conlon (Ballyhaunis G.A.A.).
Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.

Ballyhaunis Chamber was delighted to be involved in organising this event which was hugely successful for the town. Anne Marie Beirne, of Bank of Ireland, and her team worked tirelessly to ensure every aspect was covered for the smooth running of the event. The launch took place on Wednesday, 30th August in The Dalgan, where Bank of Ireland proudly demonstrated what the event was to entail and what it hoped to achieve: the

community focus – to bring schools, businesses, families and local communities together to support local enterprise and a range of different activities in the town. The launch was a huge success with not even standing room left such was the attendance.

The event itself was held on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd of September to packed attendances each day. Minister Michael Ring officially opened the event on Friday evening and visited each of the exhibitors of which there were over 120, all displaying their wares and services. An expert business panel, including Donal Byrne (Big Red Barn), Michael Kelly (Communicare), Claire Lannon (Western Brand Group) and Eibhlín Murphy (Major International Equipment Ltd.) – was on hand to give their perspective on running successful businesses and the commitment it takes to keep going... to keep pushing on, especially in tough times. Their input was inspirational to all. A health panel made up of Dr. Diarmuid Murray Jnr. and Dr. Caroline Noone also made contributions which were very insightful. All of this with music and dancing to entertain all present.

Saturday's Special Guest was Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh who sat and chatted with Angelina Nugent MC for the weekend. He also visited and took time to have his photograph taken with all of the exhibitors. There was also a Football Blitz for our primary schools where Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh and our very own Mayo Star, Keith Higgins, presented the teams with medals and certificates of their achievements. A very insightful panel discussion with IFA President Joe Healy, Anne Marie O'Reilly (Female Farmer of the Year 2015), Brendan Egan, Paul Sykes and Pádraic Heneghan also took place in front of a packed audience.

The feedback from the entire weekend for both businesses and community was nothing but positive. The businesses got to display their wares and the community got to see what Ballyhaunis has to offer, and significantly, some were very surprised at what services and products were readily available in Ballyhaunis.

Another initiative, on which we worked with Bank of Ireland, was the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Fashion

Show, which saw four of our businesses – McGarry's Womenswear, Phillips Menswear and Phillips Shoes, Fordes Ltd. and Finn Footwear – expertly show their fabulous attire and footwear in the McWilliam Park Hotel. Once again, it was standing room only at this show. This event was not only successful for our businesses, who got to model at the Fashion Show, but also for Mayo Roscommon Hospice.

Mayo Day was held on Saturday, 29th of April with most of the activities held in the Square. There was Irish Music and Dancing, an Activity Centre and a Face Painter along with an array of market stalls. This year, unfortunately, the weather was not very kind to us, but everyone thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. We would dearly love new ideas on what to run alongside the usual activities for Mayo Day 2018, so if you have any ideas or would like to join in please contact Ballyhaunis Chamber at the following email: ballyhaunischamber@gmail.com

Summer Festival

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival, held over the June Bank Holiday weekend, kick-started on the Friday night, as is traditional, with the Inter-Pub Quiz which saw all the pubs in Ballyhaunis take part in what was again a very exciting and tight contest on the night, with the winners securing the Perpetual Trophy. This year's winners were The Clock Bar. A fantastic night was had by all and, again, this year the competition was down to the wire with two tie-breakers: one for first and second place between The Clock and Fitzer's with the Clock winning by just one point; and one for third and fourth place between Gill's and MacSiúrtáin's, with Gill's just pipping Mac's at the post. A massive 'well done' and thanks to all the Pubs that participated; there really was nothing between them. Thanks to our sponsors, First Choice Credit Union, a fantastic night was had by all. A big 'thank you' to John Gill for again, this year, organising the prizes, and to Michael Neary, Paula Donnellan, Tommy and Seamus Caulfield, Tom Eagney, Mike Griffin, Martin Fitzmaurice, Elma Kilbride and the Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Association committee. See ye next year!

On Saturday, Ballyhaunis GAA Club kindly allowed us use of their grounds for the Come and Try Sports Day, which was a great day for not only the children but for the sporting organisations. This event was organised by Ballyhaunis Chamber alongside the Mayo Sports Partnership and Ballyhaunis Sports Hub, whom we would like to sincerely thank. Over eleven different sporting activities were sampled by all the kids, as well as orienteering, which some had never heard of, but were so excited most did the route twice! There was face painting, an activity centre and music to entertain the crowds. The weather was fabulous and a fantastic day was had by all.



A traditional kitchen scene played out at the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival, 2017. L-R: Bill Frayne, Cillian and Enda Caulfield.
Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher

Sunday was the Traditional Fair Day with face painting, acrobats, music, dancing, stalls, food, a display of vintage tractors, inflatables, a Show and Shine Modified Car Show, Mounts Fun Fair, and Scruffs Dog Show facilitated by MSPCA.

From early morning, the stalls were set up with all the fun of the fair. The wonderful demonstrators and crafts-people got organised to show their skills: from Cork, the Street Circus got into one of their many costumes; the wonderful Kiltimagh Pet Farm brought their vast array of animals into the town; the hugely talented Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancers enthralled the crowd with their skills. Music was provided by very talented local lads Matica and local DJs Evan Fitzmaurice and Martin Fitzmaurice who compered the day's activities. A fantastic Scoil Íosa Art Display was held in the Courthouse with submissions from all age groups, and not to forget the fabulous Art Exhibition by local Artists which was held in the Friary. Gracenotes' Summer Concert was a huge success, as well as the Mayo International Choral Festival 2017. Thanks again to all involved with the Fair Day, from the organisers to the volunteers – there are so many to mention, I won't name names in case I leave someone out, but you know who you are. A special thanks to all the lads that erected and dismantled over thirty stalls and ensured that the streets were cleaned after all events. Thanks also to the participants, to all who helped out in anyway in the organising and displays etc., special thanks to our sponsors: Dawn Meats Ireland/The Premium Butchers, First Choice Credit Union, Ballyhaunis, Mayo County Council, Cllr. John Cribbin, and sponsors of the prizes for our fundraising draw: The Connacht Council, Hidden Treasures, Fordes Ltd. and JGs Barbers. Thank you to all the businesses who took time out to dress their windows for the Window Display competition: it gets harder every year for the adjudicators to decide on the winners in the

various categories. We would also like to thank all the people who came along for a great day out and to support our town.

We also help organise the Mayo AC 5k Summer Series which was held in May, and the Ballyhaunis 8k which was held in June. Both of these activities bring great numbers to the town and great excitement. A big 'thank you' to the Rugby Club, Martin Fitzmaurice and his crew who always ensure two great runs for the town.

Christmas lights

I would say we were the only town in Ireland to install a completely new lighting system last Christmas. We succeeded in obtaining assistance to the tune of €10,000 from Mayo County Council, with the help of our local Councillor, John Cribbin, for which we would like to sincerely thank them. The massive decision was undertaken by Paddy Phillips and Anne Cunnane to carry out a complete overhaul of the Christmas lights, as it was felt the existing crossings were outdated, plus they were becoming very expensive to repair. With the new crossings and old features expertly and painstakingly repaired by electrician Kieran Jennings, I think it's fair to say it was the right decision. The Ballyhaunis Christmas lights were the talk of the country, with many people commenting on how well they looked and how festive the town was. We would also like to thank the business people who contribute every year towards the ongoing costs of the lighting. In conjunction with the switching on of the lights, we had the usual visit from Santa from the North Pole with goodies for all the kids. Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. kindly conducted the Blessing of the Crib, and the beautiful carol singing was provided by Grainne Glavey and Ballyhaunis Community School Choir. As ever, a fantastic Christmas Market was also held in the Square bringing a wonderful, festive feel to the town. This year promises to be just as festive and beautiful as last year with the turning on of the lights on Sunday, 26th November, and the Ballyhaunis Christmas Market in the Square on Saturday 2nd December from 1pm to 6pm.

Other Initiatives

We still actively lobby Mayo County Council on the derelict/empty buildings in the town, including the Courthouse and the former St. Joseph's Primary School. We also encourage owners of empty shop frontages to enhance the look of their property.

Parking still remains a big issue in Ballyhaunis and we would again ask all businesses to encourage staff, and they themselves, to park off Main Street freeing up parking spaces for potential customers, particularly in the run-up to Christmas.

We are still actively involved with the Mayo Chambers and through them, the AEC (Atlantic

Economic Corridor) and the Eastern Local Network. This is where a number of local towns around Ireland West Airport Knock (IWAK) come together to meet, discuss and swap ideas to try and help one another and to see what projects we can collaborate on.

We are also involved in the Mayo Business Awards. Ballyhaunis has provided some great winners over the past couple of years, and we encourage all to enter – it's free and is a pretty simple online process.

We remain affiliated to Chambers Ireland and services include: Certificates of Origin, Chamber HR, Information and Training Programmes, Chambersafe Programme, Affinity Deals, Irish Business Bureau in Brussels, Networking, Lobbying and Representation.

We also have, in conjunction with First Choice Credit Union, Ballyhaunis, run a very successful Digital Media and Marketing Campaign for businesses, and Computers for Beginners course which we hope to do again in the New Year. All businesses that attended have said how much they benefitted from the course.

With all this said, in times when everyone is struggling for the next crust, Ballyhaunis does not give up. We are still a major employer and are still open for business. We are thankful to all, you our customers, our wonderful organisations, our businesses and our communities and the surrounding areas. Without us all, where would Ballyhaunis be?

In Closing

I have to thank all the members of the Chamber and non-Chamber members who work voluntarily with me all year to bring all the events to fruition. I want to thank our council executives, our local representatives, in particular Cllr. Cribbin, and all the businesses who contribute to many of our initiatives in difficult times. Thanks to all the staff at the Enterprise Centre, with whom I am in contact daily, and who give fantastic support all year long to the businesses in the town. In particular to Anne Cunnane who goes way beyond the call of duty.

Going forward, it is by working together we will make this town a better place to work, live and do business. If you wish to make contact with the Ballyhaunis Chamber please contact The Enterprise Centre, Clare Road, Ballyhaunis on 094-9630311; email ballyhaunis-chamber@gmail.com; or log-on to the Ballyhaunis Chamber website at www.ballyhaunischamber.ie

If I have missed out anything or anyone I sincerely apologise: it is not my intent to offend so please accept my thanks and the thanks of Ballyhaunis Chamber. Without all of our efforts, none of the above would be possible. I can now only wish the readers the very best for the Festive Season and a prosperous New Year.

Chasing The Dream

"To the rest of the world we are just a team, to ourselves we are family"

FRANK BROWNE, MANAGER OF THE MAYO LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM

Sunday, September 24th, 2017, 5.35pm, Croke Park Stadium, Dublin, Ireland - the largest female sporting event on the planet with an attendance of 46,289 has just ended. Live television viewing figures have just indicated that it has been the most viewed sporting event in the history of TG4. Dublin Ladies have just beaten Mayo Ladies. I stand in the middle of the pitch with my daughter Holly, Maor Uisce on the day, and my good friend Derek Walsh, Maor Foirne, and despite the crowds and noise it's a deeply lonely and forlorn place that I find myself in. It wasn't supposed to finish like this.



Frank Browne, Manager of the Mayo Ladies football team

About 100 minutes earlier my heart had been jumping out of my chest with pride when the big screens in the stadium and the stadium announcer boomed out, "In goal from Ballyhaunis, Yvonne Byrne", the first ever female player from our Club to represent Mayo in an All-Ireland Ladies Final. Her goalkeeping colleague, Aisling Tarpey from Carrowkeel, replaced her after twenty-two minutes and saved a penalty from Dublin Captain Sinéad Ahearne which almost lifted the roof off the stadium.

Out of the corner of my eye, I notice Ger Canning and the RTÉ crew coming towards me, and from experience I know what is coming next. "A few words for RTÉ Sport, Frank?" "No problem, Ger". In my heart it's the very last thing I want to do but I know that deep under the Hogan Stand the Press Corps will be waiting to do their job and pick over the bones, and that these functions must be carried out. All I want is the familiar sanctuary of the dressing room: even in defeat it's a safe place. All around us the Dublin players are ecstatic and enjoying their deserved success. In a sporting sense, I am devastated but life has taught me that, in reality, I have simply lost a game of football, albeit a fairly significant one, and that dawn will break on a new day tomorrow morning.

The following morning we visit Temple Street Children's Hospital and get a short, sharp dose of what real pain and sorrow and suffering looks like. We again create our own little bit of history by being the first ever losing All Ireland team to visit the hospital. It is not surprising though that this group, even in the face of heart-breaking defeat, continues to carry itself with poise, grace, dignity and decency. These values have been the hallmarks of this group right the way through our amazing journey.

The Last Three Years

This has been the culmination of three years, countless miles, lots of arguments, even more laughs, some huge lows but even more highs. I wouldn't change a minute of it. During the winter we used the facilities of St. Brigid's GAA Club just outside Athlone in Co. Roscommon. Our players would travel for all over the country and it became a bit of a ritual for the Mayo-based contingent to pull in for a cup of tea in Roscommon. Invariably our thoughts were of summer evenings and September Sundays. It shortened many a long journey.

It's hard to believe that we have been chasing this dream for three years. I can truly say it has been both a remarkable and memorable journey with so many highs and so many lows that we could not do them all justice in these words, Loyalty, Decency, Respect, Ferociousness, an incredible will to win, and desire to be better people and better athletes. A full dictionary would not even start to do these people justice.

As the winter closes in and another hectic GAA year draws to a close I am so proud to say that I have been associated with this group of incredible footballers. Perhaps in hindsight, I should have titled this story "Living the Dream".



Four-times All-Ireland winner, goal-keeper Yvonne Byrne, on the pitch in Croke Park after Mayo's defeat by Dublin in the 2017 Ladies All-Ireland Football Final.

Canon J. G. McGarry

Parish Priest of Annagh 1969-77

FR. KIERAN WALDRON

We sometimes hear of members of the Gardaí and Army dying 'in the line of duty', but seldom hear of priests losing their lives in such a way. However, just forty years ago, Canon McGarry, Parish Priest of Annagh/Ballyhaunis, died in a tragic traffic accident while coming out on to the main road when returning from his First Friday calls at Scregg, Ballyhaunis. It was 4th August, 1977 - incidentally, the Feast of St. John Vianney, Patron Saint of all Priests.

Canon McGarry did not live to see the first issue of our treasured Annagh Magazine, first published in the following year of 1978 but, as he had more than a little part in sowing the seeds for its forty years of success, perhaps an article on him would not be out of place here.

J. G. McGarry, as he was officially known, was born in Claremorris on 28th January 1905, his father being a native of Clagnagh, Ballyhaunis. He was ordained for Tuam Archdiocese in Maynooth in 1930. Thereafter he completed his Doctorate in Theology (DD) in 1932 and spent just one year as a curate at Ballintubber Abbey before a teaching career in St. Jarlath's in Tuam which lasted six years. He was appointed 'Professor of Pastoral Theology and Sacred Eloquence' in Maynooth College in 1939, where he served for thirty years before being appointed Parish Priest of Annagh (Ballyhaunis) in 1969. In the National Seminary he had the task of training generations of future Irish priests on how to preach - necessitating his listening to up to nine attempted sermons from would-be preachers per week for all those thirty years, as well as lecturing on pastoral techniques. He had a national apostolate!

Parish Life

When he arrived very happily in Ballyhaunis in 1969 he was conscious that he had spent only a short time in parish work, more than thirty years earlier. This was not to daunt him, however, as he began to engage with all forms of parish life in Ballyhaunis. In a perceptive obituary after his death, the late Mick O'Connell, a reporter for *The Western People*, had this to say of him: "Canon McGarry had a deep commitment to the word 'caring' and all it meant... Despite his very high level of intellectual ability he never flaunted it or adopted a superior attitude. He was a humble man in every sense

of the word. He encouraged the Youth Club, the Junior St. Vincent de Paul Society, the parish schools, and was extremely interested in the welfare of the aged, the sick and the under-privileged". One of his early achievements was his production of an M. J. Molloy play, *The Old Road*, in 1971 by the recently revived St. Patrick's Dramatic Society.

Newsletter

Being skilled in the art of communication, soon after his arrival he began a modest 'Parish Newsletter' in 1970 - a rather unheard of venture in those times in Ireland. It was merely a stencilled A4 production of six to ten pages, printed on a school Gestetner machine, but he enlisted several parishioners to write short articles as well as recording local events through contributions from the various Station areas. Many of these nine newsletters are, luckily, still preserved in homes throughout the parish.

In his first editorial for 1970 he wrote:

"Christmas is a feast which touches the heart and brings thoughts of home to the minds of us all. It seems a good time to launch this modest Newsletter for its aim is to make us more aware of each other, to share the news, tell of our good fortunes, convey our hopes and concerns for each other. We must be talking to our friends. For that is what we are. A parish is - or ought to be - an extension of the family".

The ninth and final issue of the Newsletter was published for Christmas 1975 and this one was a printed edition by Berry Printing Works of Westport. By now the new Junior Chamber, formed in 1970, was coming to the fore in the town and had begun to prepare for the first issue of the much more ambitious Annagh Magazine which, since 1978, has given so much pleasure to thousands of readers all over the world. Jim Lundon still survives as a member of the editorial committee, its first editor being the late Anto O'Malley.

The Furrow

Throughout the rest of Ireland Canon McGarry was a national figure. The day after his funeral *The Irish Press* had as the heading to its lead story on Page One: 'Canon McGarry - Priest Who Never Grew Old'. His huge



Canon J. G. McGarry (1905-77)

national following was because of *The Furrow*, a monthly pastoral magazine which he began in 1950 and continued to edit for twenty years in Maynooth and subsequently in Ballyhaunis. The magazine is still in vigorous health!

The chosen title showed his approach to the rather settled and over-complacent Irish Church of the 1950s. The Mission Statement is still printed every month: 'Yours to drive a new furrow, nor sow any longer among the briers' (Jeremiah 4:3). It was a prophetic statement in the years before the Second Vatican Council which began many Church reforms in the 1960s. Because he anticipated that he might run into difficulties in securing the monthly approval from the then Archbishop of Dublin, he astutely had the magazine printed in Naas, in another diocese, where the more benign Bishop Tom Keogh ruled and where the journal continues to be printed. One of his comments on the Irish Church of the 1950s was: 'Reform here is a gradualism, conceived along managerial lines - we lead and you follow. The pace is too slow'.

The English Catholic magazine, *The Tablet*, said of him: "His death has deprived the Irish Church of the most powerful influence for good it has known in the past thirty years. He prepared the ground for open communication of ideas. He set the clergy to think - he grew into a prophet of the age". Archbishop Cunnane of Tuam said of him: "Much that was happening in the Catholic world would have remained unknown or unnoticed in Ireland only for *The Furrow*". Bishop Cahal Daly (later Cardinal Daly) rightly commented that he knew "... of no periodical which needed so little re-orientation in editorial policy as a result of the Second Vatican Council, fifteen years after its inception". No wonder then that no less than thirteen Irish bishops were in the congregation of people from all parts of the country at his funeral in Ballyhaunis in August 1977.

Broadcaster

Canon McGarry was a well-known figure to Irish radio listeners and later to RTÉ television viewers, especially through its Outlook programme. For this and his work in *The Furrow* he was awarded a national award by the Religious Press Association of Ireland. In an RTÉ radio broadcast of 3rd August 1978, the first anniversary of his death, two RTÉ presenters, Seán MacReamoinn and Áine McEvoy, two good friends of his, recorded tributes from all over the country. People vied to be included in the programme with their tributes. Áine McEvoy's summary of the programme was included in the first edition of *Annagh* 1978. She had been helped in her life's journey by him and this becomes clear in her sincere tribute. She especially admired his goodness to the sick. Sickness had been part of his own lifetime and



The Ballyhaunis Newsletter was published from 1970 to 1973, and ran to nine issues, appearing at Easter, Halloween and Christmas.

his visits to the sick formed a huge element in his work in the parish. The radio programme included many touching tributes from Ballyhaunis parishioners like the following: "His austere appearance was terribly false... anyone who knew him and saw him saw a much different person. He'd always be first to start a sing-song after the Stations in the houses". On his First Friday calls one parishioner recounted: "One time he went to visit an old lady who was in bed and had nobody to do anything for her, and he went out into the kitchen and made her tea and boiled an egg for her". Another said: "He'd make you cry, sitting on the bed after Holy Communion, saying beautiful prayers that he'd make up himself... the consolation I have is that he died doing the work he loved, and he didn't suffer".

Áine McEvoy told how she first came into contact with him. For years she had been writing about the sick when she came across a letter from a missionary priest who complained about the infrequency of Holy

Communion in a Dublin hospital. With some trepidation, understandable in those times, she wrote to *The Furrow* but asked to remain anonymous. The Editor, Fr. McGarry, welcomed the letter for publication but said he had 'waged a war of attrition against anonymity all his life' and would she please re-consider on that point. So began a long friendship with him. She admired especially his work for the sick at Knock and his long hours in the Confessional Chapel there.

All his life he was an encourager. This talent was especially needed in his calm treatment of the generations of student priests he helped on the way to

be preachers. He had a special facility in encouraging writers to become involved in writing for *The Furrow*, perhaps his greatest achievement. On a personal level I remember his calling on me, as a fellow Tuam diocesan in Maynooth, to compile the twice yearly Index for the magazine. He had been an inspirational teacher of English in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam and his gentle help to me in the matter of my rather careless punctuation and other inadequacies as a writer I remember with gratitude.

Canon McGarry certainly deserves to be remembered.

Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association

We are in to our third year on the grounds of St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey. Ballyhaunis Men's Shed Association has achieved much over the last year and while the group is going from strength to strength there remains a lot more to do.

The Shed is open from Monday to Friday, from 10am to 2pm and is open to all men over eighteen years to drop in and/or take part in the work going on in the Shed.

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 cup of 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, and are open to all men over eighteen years of age, and there is no upper limit.

The group has also continued to play an active role in wider community life having assisted the Hospice Shop on Abbey Street to prepare and get their shop ready. The Men's Shed painted the shop premises and helped to prepare for its opening. During the year the group also had an opportunity of visiting Castlebar Men's Shed. The Group has also restored and repaired furniture for people during the year.

The following were elected as the Ballyhaunis Men's Shed officers for 2017/2018: **Chairperson:** Joe Glynn; **Treasurer:** Aiden Gaughan; **Secretary:** Ruairí O'Brien.



Community Council

Ballyhaunis Development Priorities Unveiled in Plan

MARK GODFREY

The Community Council has had a busy year in 2017 with highlights including a town plan and an ongoing application process for renovation of the Parochial Hall.

The Council was set up as a vehicle to coordinate various local development initiatives and takes a role in the Tidy Towns as well as the Abbey Partnership and local Defibrillator Group.

A highlight of the year was the launch of the Community Futures plan in March - a plan based on research and surveys of the local population which revealed a lot of ambition but also frustration over services, traffic and social issues in the town.

The Community Council and Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce jointly oversaw the research and publication of the plan in conjunction with the Community Futures office at Mayo County Council. Those surveyed want better childcare and leisure facilities while there were suggestions for an intercultural centre which could allow better integration of the town's many ethnic groups. Several of those surveyed want the closed but purpose-built childcare facility in the Maples estate reopened as a matter of urgency.

Many locals surveyed want the completion of the long-proposed ring road which would alleviate bottlenecks of heavy vehicles in particular which currently go through the town centre. The introduction of one way systems on certain streets and tougher enforcement of traffic laws were also among the suggestions from those surveyed.

Organising a plan for each town is a key activity of Mayo Community Futures which seeks to encourage and coordinate development by communities across the county, explained Sheila Coll from Mayo Community Futures who launched the Ballyhaunis plan. The full report including survey findings and the plan is available by contacting the Community Council at ballyhaunis-communitycouncil@gmail.com.

The Community Council and Chamber are jointly responsible for guiding the implementation of the Ballyhaunis Community Action Plan 2016-2021 with periodic reviews organised through public meetings and annual progress reports filed to the Community Futures office.

One of the recommendations in the plan has progressed significantly: lobbying for the upgrade of the town square as a public space, as recommended in the plan, has yielded an announcement of significant funds from the national Department of Rural Affairs in Autumn 2017.



Ballyhaunis Community Council and Chamber with Community Futures Action Plan. L-R: Anne Cunnane, Cllr. John Cribbin, Kay Curley, Mark Godfrey, Mary Donnelly, Cllr. John Caulfield, Sheila Coll (Mayo Community Futures), Michael Kelly and Tom Forde.

Challenging goals remain ahead however, in particular maximising use of key public buildings which are no longer used: the Scout's Den, the Court House and the Convent school buildings. The Parochial Hall meanwhile is the subject of an application to the EU's LEADER programme for funding which would see the building extensively refurbished and modernised as a community facility and performance space.

The application is a lengthy and painstaking process involving detailed consultations and specifications from engineers and other structural experts. We hope to have an answer to the application in 2018.

A renewal of the Parochial Hall, which continues to be a very busy and much-loved part of the town, would be a great achievement for the Community Council and remains a priority for our members currently. We'd love to have new members join the Council and aid in our work for a better community for all.

Additionally, the Community Council meets with representatives of other towns in the region through the Eastern Local Network – another initiative of the Mayo Community Futures office – which includes Kilkelly and Charlestown as well as Carracastle. Meetings are held every two months and feature discussion of economic and social issues and potential collaboration.

Write to ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com if you'd like to attend or contribute to any of the meetings or activities of the Council.

Follow 'Ballyhaunis Community Council and Tidy Towns' on Facebook.

175 Years Ago - Ballyhaunis Town in 1842

With references to 1854 and the Present Day

PAUL WALDRON

The map published here was drawn up for the 'Townland Valuation' of 1842, and belongs to records of the Valuation Office now held in the National Archives, Dublin. This first valuation of the whole country dealt only with entire townlands and all substantial buildings. Individual farms/holdings weren't included at that time. At first only buildings with an annual valuation of £3 were included, then this threshold was raised to £5, which meant much fewer came into the net. The great majority of qualifying buildings were in the towns.

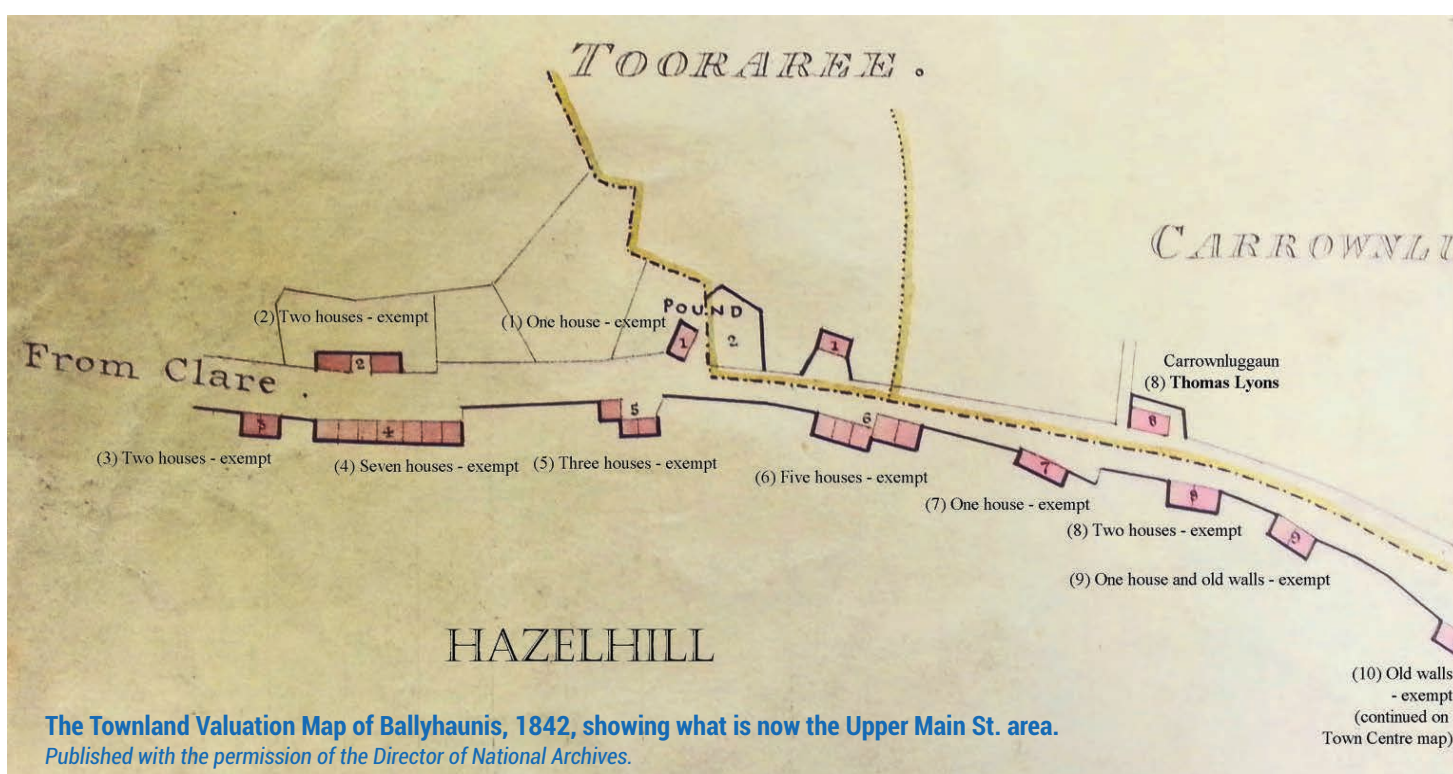
The much better known *Griffith's Valuation* was compiled, for this area, thirteen years later, through 1854 and 1855, and published in 1856. This was much more detailed and gave the rateable valuation of every parcel of ground on every holding, as well as all but the smallest of buildings, which was used to determine what rates were due on every property: something that has been updated regularly for all commercial property down to the present day.

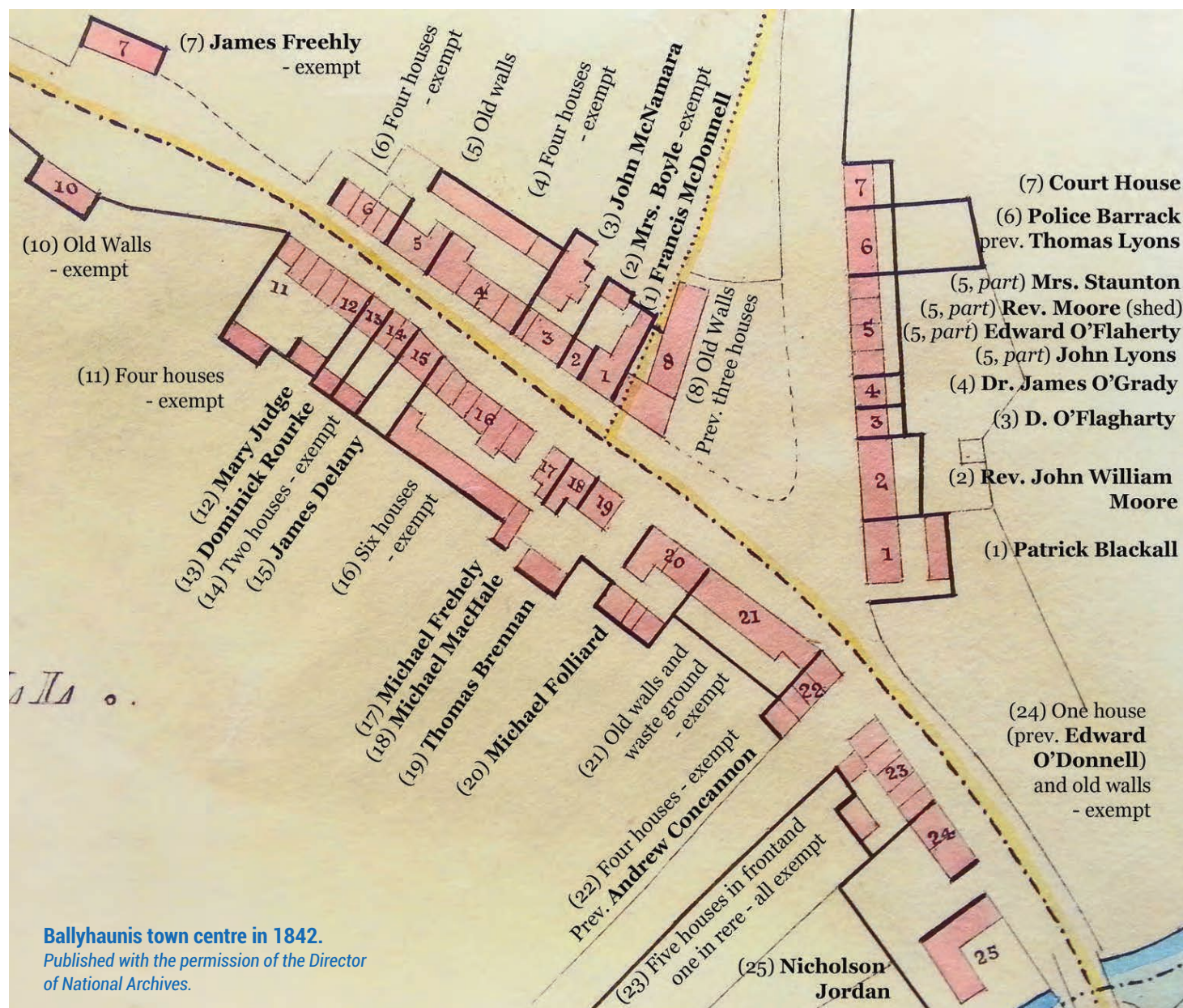
The following deals with the properties within Ballyhaunis town as shown on this 1842 map and as described in associated records. Where possible, the occupier given in *Griffith's Valuation* (1854) is also named, as is the present use/occupier, where known. The Great Famine (1845-49) ravaged the country right

between these first two valuations, but because their inclusion criteria were so different, it is difficult to appreciate, through these records alone, the changes in population, ownership and occupancy of property that took place through those desperate years.

Town Extent

Ballyhaunis town was a much smaller place in the early 1840s than today. The only public buildings were the barracks and the court-house – both at the end of Knox St. – and the Friary Church. There was as yet no parish church on Main St. The 1841 census tells us that there were then 71 houses in the town, of which 61 were occupied, and its population was 353. The 1842 valuation accounts for 113 houses in the town, but the census enumerators and valuation officials defined the town's extent differently, with the latter including houses in what is now Upper Main St. and Abbey St. as part of the town, whereas these were counted in the 1841 census with the rural parts of the townlands of Hazelhill, Carrownluggaun, Tooraree and Abbeyquarter. Unfortunately, all of the 1841 census returns for Ballyhaunis (and indeed for most of the country) were destroyed in the bombardment of the Four Courts in 1922, so it's impossible to find out who exactly was living here at that time. The 1842 valuation tells us the names





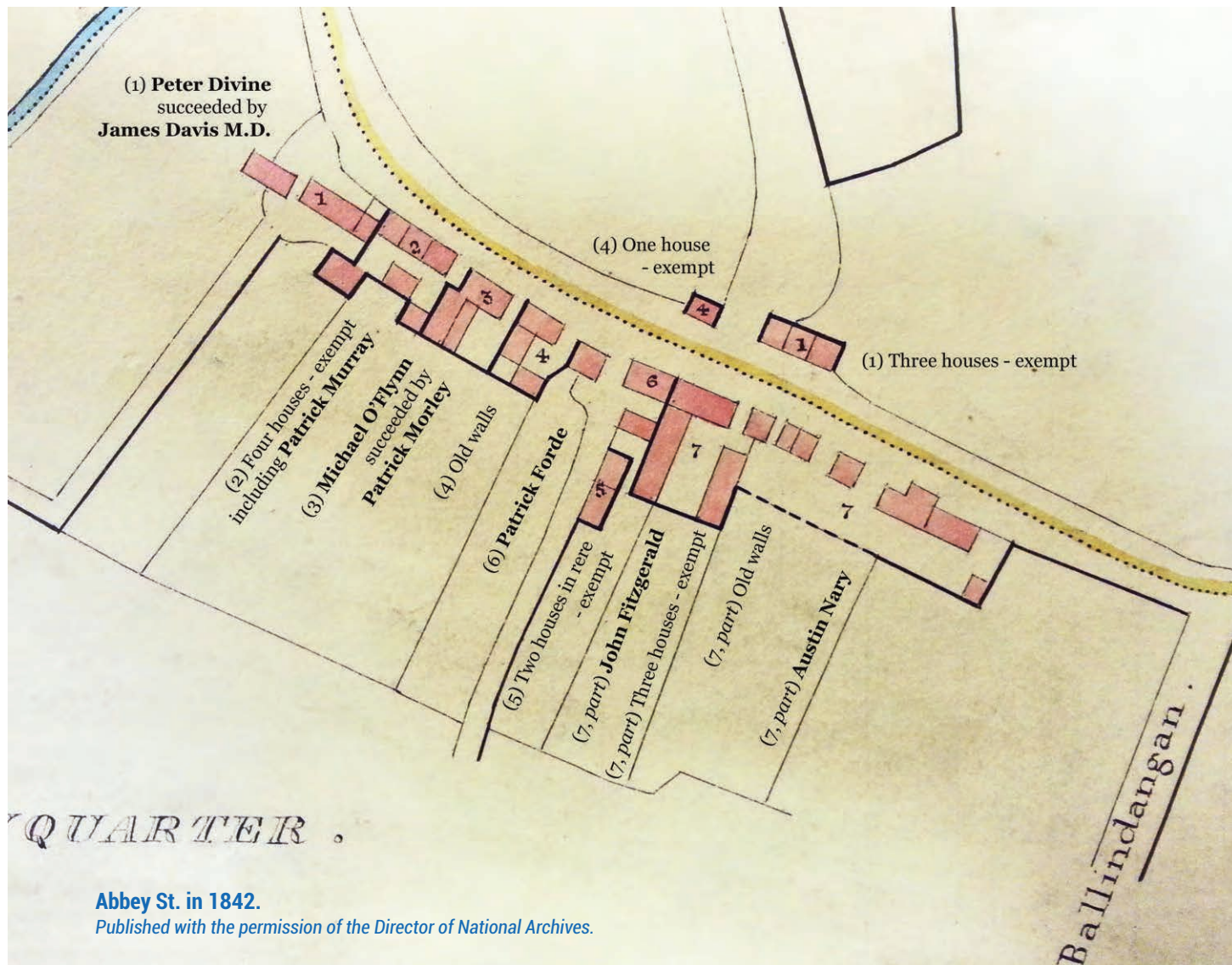
of some of those who lived and worked in the town at that time, along with details of their houses and property. Of the 113 houses accounted for, ten were unroofed or in ruins, leaving 103 habitable houses; and of these, only thirty were above the valuation threshold and had the names of their occupiers recorded. Unfortunately, these records don't tell what these people did for a living, or anything else of their circumstances - something that might eventually be found in other sources.

The Square was much bigger then as there were no buildings where Dillon's, the former Kilroy's and Webb's are today on Main St. The north side of Main St. was a continuous terrace, much as it is today (the houses then were much smaller, but), and started at what is now Asia Coiffure (formerly Waldron's Spar). Moving up the hill, both sides of Main St. ended where the two-storey part of today's Val's is on the north side, and where Curley's chemists is across the road. Above that, the Fair Green came out as far as the road on the right hand side, and then, on both sides there were small houses scattered here and there, strung along the side of the road, out as

far as 'Cnocán Hackett', about where Aisling Drive is now.

On the south side of Main St. there were several ruined buildings where McGarry's and the former Gallagher's premises are today. Progressing up the street there were two openings - where Supermac's (Central Hotel) is now, and about where MacSiúrtáin's is - allowing access to back yards. There was no church at all on this side of the town until the late 1840s when St. Mary's (the old parish church) was built. According to the detailed notes made by the valuers, every house on the south side of Main St. had a thatched roof; every house on Knox St. had a slated roof, and the other streets had a mixture of both types. As will be seen in the individual plot listings, the tallest buildings were no higher than 19 feet high, to the eaves, with some as low as 9 feet.

On Knox St. there were houses only on the eastern side. Two fairly big houses stood where Forde's and The Bank of Ireland are now; the rest was a terrace of smaller, two-storey houses down as far as present day Morley's,



Abbey St. in 1842.

Published with the permission of the Director of National Archives.

probably all built around the same time. Across the street the Lochán, and gardens belonging to some of the Main St. (north) people, came out as far as the road. There was only one side to Bridge St. too – the south side – from the corner of Clare St. about half its present length towards the bridge. The west side of Knox St. and north side of Bridge St. were not developed until the 1870s. There was nothing at all in Clare St. but open country on both sides of the road, except for a terrace of six small houses more-or-less where the Corner Bar and McGarry's office are now, and one lonesome little house just across the street.

Abbey St. was a mixture of detached and semi-detached houses along the road, with two rows of small houses running off the street, one in behind the present day Delaney's and the other at the back of what used to be Dillon's and Morley's. Across the road, the Friars' land came down to the road, though there were a few small houses either side of a then much wider entrance to the Friary avenue. There was a large house where the entrance to the former Mercy Convent stands now, but this was valued with the rural part of Hazelhill townland and not as part of the town. Before the building of the railway bridge and embankments around 1860 the

junction with the Abbeyquarter road – here shown as leading to *Ballindangan* – was much different.

The information given below is taken from the so-called House Books and Quarto Books of the Townland Valuation, sometimes also called the Government or Ordnance Valuation. The House Books, compiled by one James Johnson, give the dimensions of every building in feet, with a description of each given in a type of 'code'. The Quarto Book was put together by Robert McMicken and is dated 11th Apr. 1842. This gives details of the rent paid for each property, and its estimated value. Both books give the name of the occupier of each plot/property, and have columns for the various figures and formulae used to compute each building's valuation. They can be viewed online at <http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/vob/index.jsp>

Land and valuation records for the town of Ballyhaunis can be hard to negotiate because they are organised by townland, and the town lies in five different townlands, as well as in two different civil parishes – Annagh and Began. The original records don't give street names (only the townland) until the late nineteenth century, plot reference numbers changed over time, and it can be tricky to track down any particular property,

even with the help of maps. Street names, as well as the townlands, have been added in the following to help locate each plot.

In the heading for each plot (as given below) the dimensions of the main building – usually the dwelling-house/shop – are given in feet and inches, viz. length (i.e. street frontage) x breadth (depth) x height (to the eaves); dimensions of other buildings in each property are not given here for want of space. In the case of ruins or ‘old walls’ usually the only dimension given is the length, i.e. street frontage. The final, fixed rateable valuation is given at the end of the heading of each qualifying plot.

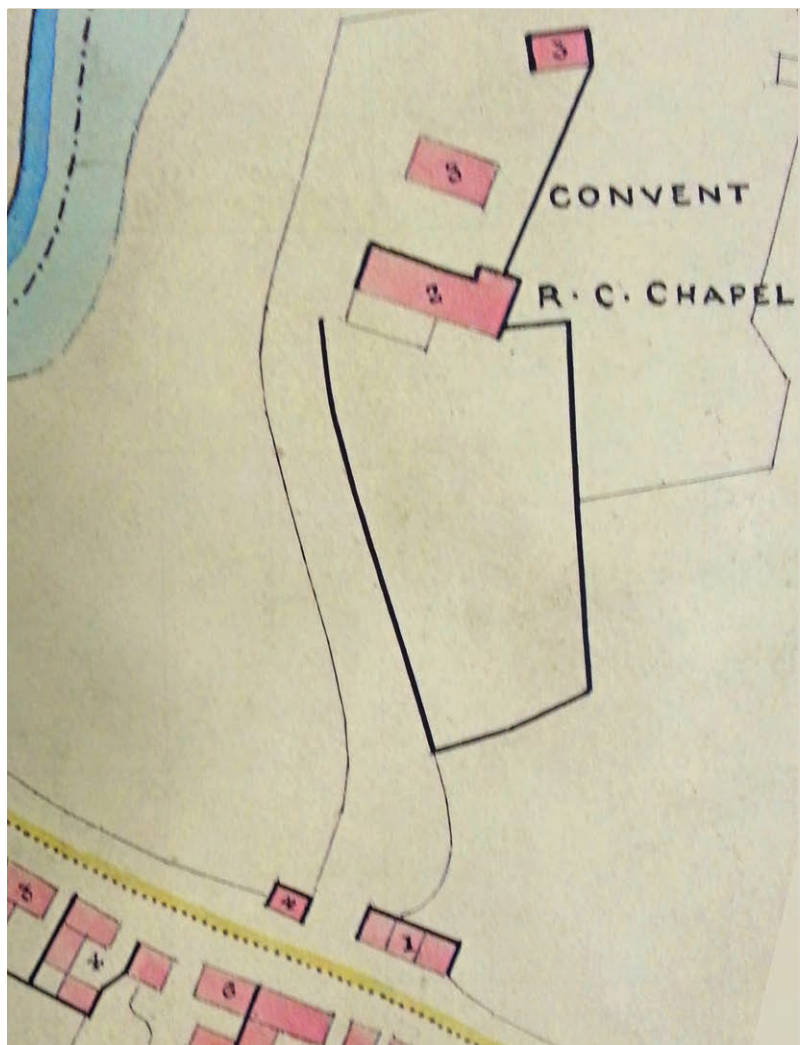
Both books contain comments, observations, revisions and corrections that give an interesting insight into the town of Ballyhaunis 175 years ago. The map, as published here, has had the names of occupiers added to make it easier to follow: only the plot numbers appear on the original.

Some of the names here occur in records from later in the nineteenth century, but of others, no further trace has been found. Maybe some readers will identify an ancestor or two amongst them?

Hazelhill

The plots here start just above where Aisling Drive is now (an area known locally as *Cnocán Hackett*) and progress down the south side of Upper Main St., Main St., across the junction with the Clare Road and along the south side of Bridge St. as far as the river.

Plots 1 to 11 comprised 28 houses and two ruins, all of which were valued at under £3 and for which no information was recorded, either about the buildings themselves – except that they were ‘exempt’ or ‘under value’ – or about the occupiers in 1842. The number of houses remained more-or-less the same through the 1840s and during the Great Famine, however, and it is possible to identify the occupiers of most of them twelve years later, in *Griffith’s Valuation*, the information for which was gathered in 1854/5. Sometimes the occupier of a house is not named in the published *Griffith’s Valuation*, but can be found in the attendant Field Books from which the published information was drawn, or early cancelled revision books. Where this is possible reference is made to ‘1854’ to avoid confusion with the 1842 valuation. Also, where possible, an attempt is made to identify the current location/occupier of each plot.



The Friary in 1842.

Published with the permission of the Director of National Archives.

UPPER MAIN ST.

1. One house, exempt

Occupier not named in 1842. In 1854 this house belonged to James Cooney and, within living memory it (or possibly a more recent house built on the same site) was occupied by Willie Morley. It stood near the roadside and faced down the town. The Pound, immediately in front of it, and also held by James Cooney, was actually in the townland of Tooraree. Two semi-detached two-storey houses stand on the site today on Upper Main St., across the road from the dispensary.

2. Two houses, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. These stood about where the Cox, Elwood and Curley families lived on Upper Main St. in recent times. In 1854 there was one cottage here, listed under James Cooney’s name in the published *Griffith’s Valuation*, but the actual occupier at the time (named in the cancelled revision books) was his tenant Bartholomew Fitzmaurice.

3. Two houses, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. There is no mention of these houses in 1854, but they stood about where the home of the late Johnny and Bridie Lyons, Upper Main St., now stands.

4. Seven houses, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. This row of houses extended along the Knock Road from where the former Melly's house is now, down to the fence adjoining Aisling Drive. In 1854 the same terrace was still here, but with only six houses (one of the end houses might have been demolished, or maybe two were knocked into one in the meantime). Patrick Cosgrave owned the land here and he occupied one of the houses. He and his neighbour Francis Maguire – who occupied another of the houses – were direct tenants of Francis R. O'Grady (Hazelhill's landlord). The other four houses were occupied by subtenants of Cosgrave's, none of whom had land and who were probably tradespeople or labourers. The occupiers of the six houses in 1854 were (in sequence from Knock direction, down as far as present day Aisling Drive) – Timothy Brennan, Owen Sullivan, Francis Maguire, Patrick Cosgrave (the landholder), *unoccupied* (but recently vacated by John Parsons), James Quinn (house and forge). Quinn's forge was directly in front of his own house and was joined to the gable of the dwelling house occupied in 1854 by Richard Jennings (see below).

5. Three houses, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. These three houses were situated about where the dispensary is now. *Griffith's Valuation* lists Patrick Cosgrave as tenant of the land here in 1854, with no mention of these houses: they may have been fallen-in or have been demolished in the intervening years. In the late 1850s, however, Cosgrave was succeeded here by John Thornton who built a new house for himself where Smyth's was later, and two other houses which were let to Edward Searson and Richard Jennings. Searson was probably the R.I.C. Policeman of that name stationed in the town at that time. Jennings' house was joined onto Quinn's forge (see above) at the gable.

6. Five houses, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. These stood where the first two houses at the town end of Waldron's Terrace, and Caulfield's flats now stand. In the published *Griffith's Valuation* they are listed as five cottages, but the Field Book (from which that information was drawn) indicates that only the centre house here (directly under the '6' on the map) was occupied in 1854 – by Daniel Feely; the other four were then unoccupied, along with a forge belonging to Thomas Waldron.

The two houses nearest the road, and nearest town, were later occupied by Darby Kenny, a carpenter (possibly as one house), while the centre house of the three set back from the road, was occupied by Patrick Cooney.

7. One house, exempt

Occupier not named in 1842. In 1854 Malachi Toole held this rent free, and valuation records name the previous occupier as Edmond Dillon. The late Peter O'Malley's and Mrs. Sheila Hoare's houses occupy this site now.

8. Two houses, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. These were where the first two houses are just above the parish church – the former Byrne's shop and the house next to it. Valuation records from 1854 show that the house on the left (as shown on the 1842 map) was then in ruins and held by Patrick Kilkenny; while that on the right was occupied by Mary Judge. She might be the Mary Judge who was living further down Main St. in 1842 (see plot 12 below). By 1854 there was a house between this plot and Toole's (plot 7), held by Peter Devine, possibly the previous occupier of Dr. Davis' house on Abbey St. (see below).

9. One house and old walls

Occupier not named in 1842. These were about where the gates are now into the Parish Church. There was no church here in 1842: the 'old' Parish Church, St. Mary's, was built later in that decade. *Griffith's Valuation* (1854) gives no 'occupier' for the church and the land along with it as they were exempt from rates, but the P.P. at the time was Fr. Patrick Horan who lived over in Abbey St. (see below). George Lyons had a house on this property in 1854, apparently at the edge of the church land, beside Mary Judge's house (see plot 8 above).

10. Old walls

These stood where Dillon-Leetch & Comerford Solicitors' office is now situated. In 1854 there was no house or building here, but Patrick Morley had the land.

MAIN ST. (South)

11. Four houses, exempt; 54' (length)

Occupiers not named in 1842. These are described in 1842 as '4 cabins, each under value', where the '4' overwrites a struck-out '3'. In 1854 there were three properties here: Bartholomew McHale occupied the end house and had a forge; next down the town belonged to Patrick Morley, and the next place was held by Darby Kenny. These three premises stood about where Curley's Chemists and the adjoining half of Heneghan's Furniture shop are today.

12. Mary Judge; house, office and yard

21'6" x 26' x 17'6"; £3.8s

In 1842 this house was stated to be an 'old take', and described as 'An old house, not in very good repair'. Mary Judge could be the woman living in Upper Main St. in 1854 (see plot 8 above). The occupier here in 1854 was Martin Duffy. In the late 1860s this place, and the plot just above it (Darby Kenny's), were acquired by the Reilly family and have been the one premises since. This site is now occupied by half of Heneghan's Furniture.

13. Dominick Rourke; house, office and yard

18'6" x 22'6" x 16'; £3.8s

Dominick Rourke's name was given originally as Dominick Griffith Senr., but the surname and suffix were crossed out, and 'Rourke' over-written. It's not clear if the surname was recorded incorrectly at first, or if two succeeding tenants both had the first name Dominick. This house was described in 1842 as 'a thatched building of medium age that had deteriorated and was not in perfect repair', and 'Small shop. Rent high'. Rourke paid a yearly rent of £8, even though the rent by his lease should have been £6. In 1854, the landlord of this plot was James Griffin (possibly of Ballinrobe) and the occupying tenant was Michael Patten. Griffin also held plot 14, below. This is where Moran's shop is today.

14. Two houses, exempt; 24'6" (length)

Occupiers not named in 1842. These two houses were both described in 1842 as 'Small houses, under value – exempt'. In 1854 John Smith had the house nearest the Square, and Michael Tarpey the other one. Later in the 19th century, the two places were joined and remained the property of the Smith family into the early 20th century. In more recent times this was Seamus Webb's, and is now Fahy's opticians.

15. James Delany; house and yard

28' x 24'6" x 18'; £4.6s

In 1842 this house was described as 'a thatched building of medium age that had deteriorated and was not in perfect repair'. The rent was £10 a year, and while the plot is listed as 'house and yard', a note added that there was also a 'small garden worth 10/ (shillings) a year. In 1854 the landlord was Walter Burke (who also had the next two houses down the street) and the occupier was Patrick Fitzmaurice, father of John Charles Fitzmaurice, carpenter, builder and chief contractor for the building of St. Patrick's Church in the early years of the 20th century. James Delany (1842) is probably the same man who, in 1854, was further down the street (see plot 21). In more recent times this was O'Brien's, and is now Kirrane's auctioneers.

16. Six houses, exempt; 46' (length)

Occupiers not named in 1842. This plot was originally given as '4 houses' – each under value and exempt – but with the '4' crossed out and replaced by '6', suggesting perhaps that two of the original houses were divided sometime around 1842. They are described as 'Old houses, under value'. *Griffith's Valuation* accounts for five houses on the same site, occupied in 1854 by the following (with more recent occupiers in brackets): Anne Prenty (former Bookies), Luke Freely (Ali's Barber Shop), *Unoccupied* (part of Phillips' shoe shop), Andrew Grogan (part of Phillips' shoe shop) and Michael Lyons (Mace). It's likely that Michael Lyons' premises (1854) was built on the site of, or was a combination of two of the earlier six houses. There was an opening between Lyons' and Michael Frehely's (plot 17), allowing access to back yards.

17. Michael Frehely; house, office and yard

12' x 26' x 19'; £3.8s

Again, this house was 'a building of medium age, that was slightly decayed, but still in good repair'. It was said to be in a 'Good situation for business', and had an annual rent of £6.10s. In 1854 this was part of Thomas Brennan's property, but there was then no building on this exact site, which is now occupied by MacSiúrtáin's and the Chinese Takeaway (see plot 19 below).

18. Michael MacHale; house and yard

19' x 29' x 19'; £5

The annual rent here was £13 in 1842, about which the valuator commented, 'Rent too high for such a place.' This and plot 19 had a yard in common. Part of Phillips' Clothes shop stands on this site today.

19. Thomas Brennan, house office and yard

25'6" x 26' x 19'; £5.4s

This house, another 'building of medium age, that had deteriorated and was not in perfect repair', was described as 'Post Office. Yard in common. Not in good repair'. There was another opening along the street between this building and plot no. 20 (see below). Michael Crawley had this property in 1854, which was later 'The Central Hotel', and is now Supermac's.

20. Michael Folliard; house, offices and yard

42' x 21' x 17'; £6

This was described in 1842 as 'An Inn. Not in good repair. Bad inside finish. Garden worth 3 shillings. Annual rent £16.' The house, stable and car shed were all thatched, and all said to be of 'medium age, slightly decayed, but still in good repair'. This was the biggest premises on Main St. at that time.

Michael Folliard was still here twelve years later (1854), and, according to *Griffith's Valuation*, held this property from John Fitzmaurice. By this time Folliard's building was free-standing with no buildings adjoining it on either side. The McNamara brothers of Annagh, who had an extensive shoe-making business, built two houses on this site in the 1880s which are now occupied by Sparky's and Ladbroke's.

21. Old walls 76'6" (length); and
waste ground 27' (length)

These ruins stood where McGarry's and the former Gallagher's premises are today. The site seems to have remained like this until 1852 when Edward Mulhern built what is now the former Gallagher's premises. In 1854 James Delany (mentioned above) was in the process of building next-door what is now McGarry's. The rateable valuation of these buildings in 1854 were £21 and £22 respectively, amongst the highest in the town at the time.

22. Four houses, exempt

(Concannon's house: 18'6" x 19'6" x 12')

Occupiers not named in 1842. The map here shows a row of four houses along the north-west side of Clare St., more-or-less on the same site as the present day Corner Bar and McGarry's Engineering Office. The valuator of 1842 recommended a deduction of one-quarter of the value for 'bad finish'. A little earlier there was just one house on this site, belonging to Andrew Concannon, described as a 'stone building, new or nearly new', for which, it was said, Concannon 'pays £5 yearly to Ed. O'Flaherty'. By 1854 there were two houses here owned by Dillon O'Flaherty (of Knox St. – see below), and occupied by Michael Killion and Roderick Judge, respectively. Judge had a highly regarded classical school here around that time. James Delany (who built what is now McGarry's) acquired these properties in the 1870s and developed that part of Clare St. from where the Corner Bar is now back as far as Griffin's.

BRIDGE ST. (South)

23. Six houses, exempt; 78' (length)

Occupiers not named in 1842, but the plot is described as, 'Six houses, three of them two-storeys high, one 10' 6", not roofed, two one-storey high, each under value', extending 78 feet along the street. Elsewhere, the six is struck out and the plot is described as 'five houses in front, and one in rere', to which is added, 'Small houses under value'. The building 'in rere', as shown on the map, looks like it faced out onto Clare St. (possibly where Healy's house was later), making it the only house on that

side of the street at that time. By 1854 it seems that four of these houses were reconstructed to make two large houses along Bridge St., and there were then three premises here occupied by Patrick Blackhall, Patrick Judge and James Kilroy, respectively. The buildings here were replaced more than once since, and property boundaries changed to allow for the development of Clare St. Blackhall's was where Curley's Jewellers and Fitzgerald's now are; Judge's was where Nicholson's are; and Kilroy's stood where present-day Eagney's Insurance stands.

24. One house and old walls, exempt

The house here belonged to Edward O'Donnell in or shortly before 1842, and measured 31'6" x 19'6" x 14'6", but his name was struck out as the house fell below the revised valuation threshold. He had no yard or garden. This is where the present-day 'Fashion Spot' stands. The 'Old walls, not roofed' adjoined O'Donnell's on part of the site now occupied by The Gem.

25. Nicholson Jordan; house, offices and yard

53' 6" x 18'6" x 9'; £3.10s

This large L-shaped premises comprised of a house (lofted) and stable, and stood on its own, back from the line of the street, about where the back of the Gem is today, near Mac's Hill. The 1842 valuator said of it, 'Not in a business situation. Getting out of repair.' (John) Nicholson Jordan was an extensive landholder and middleman/agent for the townlands of Aderg, Gortnageeragh, Curries, Lurgan, Kiltybo and Devlis which he held on lease from Lord Dillon. In 1854 there was no building here and the land was in the hands of the landlord, Francis R. O'Grady.

Tooraree

UPPER MAIN ST. (North)

1. One house, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. This house was situated about where Curran's house is, but set back further from the road. There appears not to have been a house on this site in 1854.

2. Pound, exempt

The person in charge of the Pound in 1842 is not named, but in 1854 it was James Cooney, who lived just the Knock side of it, though in the townland of Hazelhill (see plot no. 1, Hazelhill, above).

Carrownluggaun

This is the north side of Main St., from Cribbin's up. More rebuilding, subdivision and amalgamation of plots was carried out here than across the street and it is difficult to compare the premises of 1842 to those of 1854.

MAIN ST. (North)

1. Francis McDonnell; house, office, yard

31' x 24'6" x 18'; £3.8s

In 1842 this was described as 'An old house in bad repair' but in a 'Good situation for business'. This occupied most of the site of present-day Cribbin's. In 1854 this was James Jordan's premises. His sister Maria operated the Post Office here too in the 1860s, while their brother Edmond collected the Tolls and Customs of the fairs and markets. The 1842 occupier might be the same Francis McDonnell who, in 1854, had a premises further up the street, where 'The Shop' is today.

2. One house, exempt; 13' (length)

The occupier's name here was given as Mrs. Boyle although the house was under value and exempt from rates. It seems to have stood either on what is now Cribbin's or Lyons' property.

3. John McNamara; house office and yard

21'6" x 20'6" x 19'; £3.8s

This house was 'an old building, but in repair' in 1842. In 1854 it was held by Thomas Beasty, but was then unoccupied. By 1860 Michael Lyons was the tenant. This is where James Lyons' now stands.

4. Four houses, exempt; 51' 6" (length)

Occupiers not named in 1842, but they were described as 'Small houses under value'. The occupiers here in 1854 were (proceeding up the street), Thomas Crawley, Patrick Rategan and Patrick Delaney. By 1860 Delaney had moved two doors down the street succeeding to Thomas Crawley's place. Today these are (in the same order): Epic, Patterson's and McQueeney's.

5. Old walls, not roofed; 36' 6" (length)

These ruins stood where 'The Shop' and Higgins' Auctioneers now stand. In 1854 the occupiers of houses built on this site were Francis McDonnell ('The Shop') and Cormick Higgins (today's Higgins' Auctioneers). McDonnell might be the man who was further down the street in 1842. Cormick Higgins is recorded as both a teacher and process server in contemporary records.

6. Four houses, exempt; 48' (length)

Occupiers not named in 1842. On the site of today's Val's, both the two-storey and three-storey parts. This property belonged to William Flynn in 1854 and there were then three houses here: One occupied by Flynn himself (the two-storey part of Val's), with the other two adjoining it either side: one down the hill occupied by John Gormley (where Lynch's was later, now Chili Kebab Takeaway); the other up the hill by John Lavelle (on the site of which Byrne's three storey house was later built).

Main St. ended here. The Fair Green extended out as far as the road between here and the next house(s).

7. James Freely; house and office; exempt

40' x 17'6" x 10'

This house had a thatched roof and was 'of medium age, deteriorated, and not in perfect repair'. There were offices (out-buildings) attached and it was held with three acres of land. The entry in the House Book has 'Rebuilt' written opposite it. By 1854 there was a row of four houses on this site, belonging to Catherine Freely. She lived in one herself and had one each let to John McHale and Charles Stewart. According to contemporary sources Stewart was a water bailiff and also had a public house. This row of houses stood back from the road, about where the back parts of Main Street Framing, Phillips' Butchers and Phillips' Pub now are.

Ball-court

Not mentioned in the 1842 valuation records is the 'ball-court' or handball alley that stood where the Parochial Hall now stands. It is shown clearly on the 'Fair Plan' or first draft of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map surveyed in 1837, but the text was omitted from the edition finally published in 1838. It stood immediately west of building no. 7, described above and it appears the front wall was actually the gable of that house. Valuation records from 1854 describe it as 'Ball court, no value, exempt'

UPPER MAIN ST. (North)

8. Thomas Lyons; house and office; exempt

26' x 17' x 12'

This house was said to be 'of medium age, slightly decayed but still in good repair'. Patrick Kilkenny was the occupier in 1854, and it stood the town side of the entrance to Moran's Terrace.

Pollnacraoaghy

In contrast to the rest of the town, all of the houses on Knox St. had slated roofs in 1842. All were classified as 'buildings of medium age, still in sound order or slightly decayed, and in good repair'.

KNOX ST. (East)

1. Patrick Blackall; house, offices and yard

34'6" x 23'6" x 18'; £7

This was where Forde's, the Square, is today. It was described as a 'Good shop, good situation for business, no garden'. There was a bake-house out the back, with a slated roof, and a stable with a thatched roof. He paid £15 yearly rent. By 1854 Michael Grogan was here and Patrick Blackhall had moved to the corner of Bridge St. and Clare St., where Curley's and Fitzgerald's are today.

2. Rev. John William Moore; house and yard

61' x 23'6" x 18'; £12.

This was a large house occupying the site of today's Bank of Ireland. It was described as 'in pretty good repair, good garden worth £3 a year'. The annual rent was £30. A native of Dublin, Rev. Moore was the Church of Ireland curate for the Union of Kiltullagh (which included the parishes of Annagh, Began and Aghamore) at this time, and was later Rector in Kilcoleman (Claremorris), where he died in 1858. By 1854 two houses had been built on this site, occupied then by Joseph McHale (to the south) and William Meath (north).

3. D. O'Flaherty; house and yard

24'6" x 18' x 17'; £3

In 1842 this house was 'in medium order' and subject to an annual rent of £6 by lease. Dillon O'Flaherty, presumably the same man, was still here in 1854. This is where the former Tarpey's premises are today.

4. Dr. James O'Grady; house and yard

24' x 18' x 16'6"; £3.10s

Part of this house, in 1842, was 'occupied as a dispensary', and the annual rent was £7.10s. Dr. O'Grady died in or shortly before 1844, and was succeeded by Dr. James Davis, who lived where the entrance to the former Convent is now. The occupier here in 1854 was Thomas Waldron, possibly the tailor from Brackloon who later moved across the street, and was father of P.A. and Dr. Michael F. Waldron. Morley's stands on the site today.

5. Four houses, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. When the valuation threshold for houses to be rated was raised £3 to £5 this plot was returned as 'Four houses, exempt'. However, the

occupier's names had been recorded, were struck out but are still legible, as are details of the four houses:

John Lyons, house, 21' x 18' x 13'6"

He paid £4.10s annual rent. In 1854 this was occupied by Martin Devine, and is Herr's today.

Edmond O'Flaherty, house

22'6" x 18' x 13'6"

In 1854 Patrick Killeen was here. This is present-day Rattigan's.

Rev. John William Moore, office

22'6" x 18' x 11'6"

The note 'Offices in front, not lofted' implies that this was used possibly as a store or stable by Rev. Moore who lived where the Bank of Ireland is now (see above). It was unoccupied in 1854, and was Johnston's Machinery in recent times.

Mrs. Staunton, house, 23' x 18' x 11.6"

David McHale was here in 1854. Through the 1980s this was where the Vintage Inn stood.

6. Police Barracks, 47' x 18' x 8'6"; £3.8s

This building may have been a house and outbuildings previously belonging to Thomas Lyons whose name has been struck through. By 1854 the barracks had moved to Main St., across from the Parish Church, and the Knox St. premises divided into two, with one half acting as Dr. Davis' dispensary and the other occupied by Michael Mulrennan. Mulrennan's was where Morley's is now, while the dispensary (along with the court house) was where the Lantern is.

7. Court House, 32' x 18' x 8'

This building still had the same purpose in 1854 when it was listed as the Petty Sessions House. The present Court House on Main St. was built in 1861. The details are unclear, but the Knox St. premises occupied most of the site of the present day Lantern.

MAIN ST. (North)

8. Three houses and old walls, exempt,

87' (length)

Occupiers not named in 1842. These appear to have been totally demolished before 1854, and a new property developed comprising a house – facing onto Main St. – (out-offices), yard and garden. The occupier in 1854 was Terence Ronayne, possibly the man of that name who later had a public house in Began. This is where Waldron's Spar was on Main St. until the 1980s,

currently Asia Coiffure. The 87 foot width of this site (as given in 1842) seems to refer to the east side of these buildings, which were built back from Main St., but at that time faced onto a much larger Square.

Abbeyquarter

ABBEY ST. (South)

1. Peter Devine; house, office and yard

63'6" x 18' x 8'; £3.8s

In 1842 this long, single-storey private house had a thatched roof, and an extensive range of out-buildings, standing close to the road, on what was later the Mercy Convent grounds. Devine was replaced here by Dr. James Davis, probably in 1844, when the latter succeeded Dr. James O'Grady as Medical Attendant for the Ballyhaunis Dispensary. Dr. Davis was still here in 1854. Peter Devine might be the man who, by 1854, had a house in Upper Main St. (see above). This property was acquired by the Sisters of Mercy in the mid-1890s, and the house demolished to make way for the convent entrance.

2. Three houses in front, and one in rere, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. This was previously listed as three houses along with that of Patrick Murray about whose house the valuator noted he 'built himself'. Murray's house was 21'6 x 18'6" x 14'6". One of the houses was described as a 'Cabin 12 foot long, at north-east end of the above house [i.e. Devine's], let to a widow'. The other three were two stories high. These stood where O'Dwyer's and the next house on Abbey St. stand today.

3. Michael O'Flynn; house, office and yard

40' x 19' x 17'; £7.

This, large, free-standing house stood about where Laffy's and Levins' houses are today. It was, 'held with 14 acres of land in Abbeyquarter at £30 a year.' O'Flynn was succeeded here by Patrick Morley very shortly after 1842, and Morley was still here in 1854.

4. Two houses and old walls, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. The valuator noted that one of these was a 'house lately burned in front' with a frontage of 36' 6"; while the other was a 'cabin, under value' with a frontage of 28'. The former might possibly be the 'coach house and stable', belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth Irwin, which were maliciously set on fire on 25th March 1840, according to a police report. By 1854 Rev. Patrick Horan, P.P. Annagh, was living in a house on this site. This is where the previous MWR studios were in recent times.

5. Two houses in rere, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. These were in at the back of Patrick Ford's (see plot 6 below), accessed by a laneway that ran south-west all the way into rural Abbeyquarter joining the Drimbane road, until the railway was built. In 1854 there was a row of three houses here, owned by Patrick Ford and occupied by Nehemiah McGovern (rent, £1 yearly), James Moran Jnr. (£1.8s yearly) and Michael or Roger Judge (£1.2s.6d yearly). Mr. McGovern is recorded also as McGivern, and under three different Christian names – Nehemiah, Neby and Nathaniel – in various records. Shortly after 1854, Mr. Judge was succeeded here by a James Moran Snr. (who moved from further over Abbey St., see plot 7 below) and to avoid confusion 'Junior' was listed as James Moran (*Tom*) while 'Senior' became James Moran (*Ned*).

6. Patrick Ford; house, office and yard

44'6" x 21'6" x 13'; £3.8s

He held this, along with one rood of land, by lease from Lord Dillon and paid an annual rent of £5.10s for the lot. Patrick Ford was still here in 1854, by which time he and his neighbour John Fitzgerald (see plot 7, below), both tenants of Lord Dillon, were landlords in their own right, subletting houses to ten other residents of Abbey St.. By 1854 also, two semi-detached houses had been built on the site of an earlier building along the street, which were occupied by James Kiggins and Myles Fitzmaurice, respectively. Soon after, Fitzmaurice was succeeded here by Patrick Harkison (listed here in 1854). Ford's own premises was where Dillon's and Morley's were in recent decades, and where now stands a block of flats, while the other two houses were just across the entrance to the laneway described above, where Burke's and Trena's Hairdressing Salon now stand, though slightly further back from the road.

7. Five houses and old walls, exempt

Details of this large plot changed a lot around 1842, as shown in revisions and corrections in the valuation books. The first note of it gives the occupiers as John Fitzgerald and Austin Nary – each with a house, office and yard – and including six other houses ('A number of small cabins'), all exempt. On the map the building directly opposite the entrance to the Friary avenue was Fitzgerald's – where Delaney's now stands – while Nary's was the 'L' shaped building, which stood about where Cunningham's Londis is today.

John Fitzgerald; house, office and yard,

45'6" x 20'6" x 15', exempt

In 1842 he paid an annual rent of £6. 6s for his house and 30 perches of land.

Austin Nary; house, office and yard

26' x 23' x 13', exempt

In 1842 he paid £28.14s for his house and 23 acres of land.

The occupiers of the other five or six houses in 1842 were not named. By 1854 John Fitzgerald was still in the same place, and he had three houses in at the back, let to Bridget Wall (1s monthly), Edward Culliney (1s 1½d monthly) and Thomas Waldron (£1 yearly).

Austin Nary was gone by 1854, and his house appears to be where Rev. Thomas O'Dowd (C.C. Annagh) lived in that year. Fr. O'Dowd paid an annual rent of £7 for the house and garden to Patrick Ford. James Moran Snr. (who later moved further down the street, see plot 5) had a small house here too at that time, also rented from Ford for 12s yearly.

Friarsground

1. Three houses (prev. four houses), exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. Described in the House Book as '4 Cabins, each under value'. This short row of houses stood on the right hand side of the entrance to the Friary Avenue. By 1854 there was just one cottage here, occupied rent-free by Catherine Grogan. It was demolished around 1860 and no building has stood here since.

2. Roman Catholic Chapel and graveyard,

£9.10s (exempt)

The House Book gives the dimensions of the Friary church as 90'6" x 27' x 21'. It also gives those of an 'addition to chapel' and 'Lord Dillon's vault' as 14'6" x 8'6" x 6'6".

3. Rev. Walter Kelly; house and office

50' x 26' x 24'; £5.10s

Described in the House Book as 'The Convent', this was the old Friars' residence, thought to have been built in the seventeenth century. The Quarto books says of this house: 'Only half in use as dwelling; the other half as a turf house.' During the collection of valuation data in 1842, Rev. Walter Kelly was succeeded as Prior by Rev. John Finn, who was still here in 1854. A valuator's note in 1855 stated: 'House occupied by one Friar. Too Large. Take off 6s per £ off both items [house and out-offices: byre and stable] for unsuitableness'. This house was dismantled when the current residence was built beside it in 1888.

4. One house, exempt

Occupiers not named in 1842. This house, on the left hand side of the Friary avenue entrance, was occupied in 1854 by Michael Finn, who also had a garden 12 perches in extent. He paid an annual rent of £1.8s to the Prior. This was close to where now stands what was Mrs. Mai Waldron's house in recent times.



The Abbey Pattern, 1967.

Val Waldron (Cave) giving a working demonstration with three of his Border Collie sheepdogs: Rye, Linn and Jess.

An Evening with Michael English

MICHAEL GOULDING

The Western Care Association has been in existence in county Mayo for now over fifty years. It exists to empower people with a wide range of learning and associated disabilities to live full and satisfied lives as equal citizens.

Earlier this year it was decided to have a celebration to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary by having an evening of sacred music and song by Michael English in our parish church, St. Patrick's. Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. and the Pastoral Council team gave the idea their blessing. Michael English is known throughout the country to fill hotels and halls with his dance nights, however we wanted to make sure the music was appropriate for a church setting. All who attended the evening on Friday, May 12th certainly enjoyed a great evening's entertainment. Michael, a practising Catholic who is no stranger to Knock having first come as a pilgrim with this parents when he was a boy, ensured the evening was filled with uplifting music.

Gerry Glennon (Mid-West Radio) was M.C. for the evening and Fr. Stephen Farragher, welcomed everyone and commended the work being done in our community by the staff and volunteers of Western Care, by caring for those with special needs in our midst.

Michael English entertained the audience with his repertoire with a guest appearance by Fr. Stephen who gave a heartfelt rendition of the classic Phil Coulter song 'Scorn Not His Simplicity'. Phil wrote this song for his son who had Down Syndrome. The words of the song brought home to us all why we were attending the evening. Michael English and his band entertained the audience with a wide variety of music from traditional instrumentals to hymns the audience knew and loved.

It was an evening where the whole community and beyond supported in great numbers, as a tribute to an organisation based in the heart of the community. It brought out the many in support of the few. The positivity through the town still echoes as people are curious as to when the next evening will be on? Hopefully soon!

Centre: Michael English with Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. and Western Care staff members from Ballyhaunis and head office in Castlebar. L-R: Ann Lyons, Anne Marie Duffy, Jenny O'Neill, Lisa Boyle, Louise Kelly, Maureen McMahon, Joe Brett (Castlebar), Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Michael English, Michael Goulding, Alan Gill, Michael Flanagan (Castlebar).

Below right: Frances Maye, Wiktoria Siemionowska, Michael English.



Delaney's, Abbey Street

Celebrating Ninety Years in Business

GEORGE DELANEY (ABBEEY STREET & BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY)

In February 1927 my newly-married grandparents, George Delaney and Lilian Biesty, moved back to Ballyhaunis from Ballina and established a business in Abbey Street. George, who was a native of Baslick, Castlerea was no stranger to the town, having worked for fourteen years for his father's cousin, Michael Delaney in Knox Street, a well-known businessman and local politician (the premises was later owned by Thomas Johnston). Lilian, his wife, was born in Pattenspark.

After a three-year apprenticeship in Knox Street, George undertook a managerial role and developed a good rapport with the customers. His leisure time, though limited, was given to football and in later years he often regaled his family and grandchildren with tales of kicking a stuffed pig's bladder around the fields of Pollnacraoghy!



George and Lilian Delaney

In 1920 he was appointed manager of O'Connell's in Knox Street, Ballina and spent seven happy, eventful years there. His involvement with Ballina Stephenites was a source of great pleasure and he maintained a lifelong friendship with many of the team. He was, also, O/C of the First Battalion of the North Mayo Brigade of the I.R.A.

The move to Abbey St.

The new venture in 1927 was similar to many others in Ballyhaunis at that time - grocer, spirit & provision merchant, hardware, leather & shoe findings, BAKERY!

Trade was brisk and the links with former customers in Knox Street remained constant. On fair days the yard was open to accommodate cattle after they had been sold or unsold in the Fairgreen. This practice continued well into the seventies. The four biggest fairs

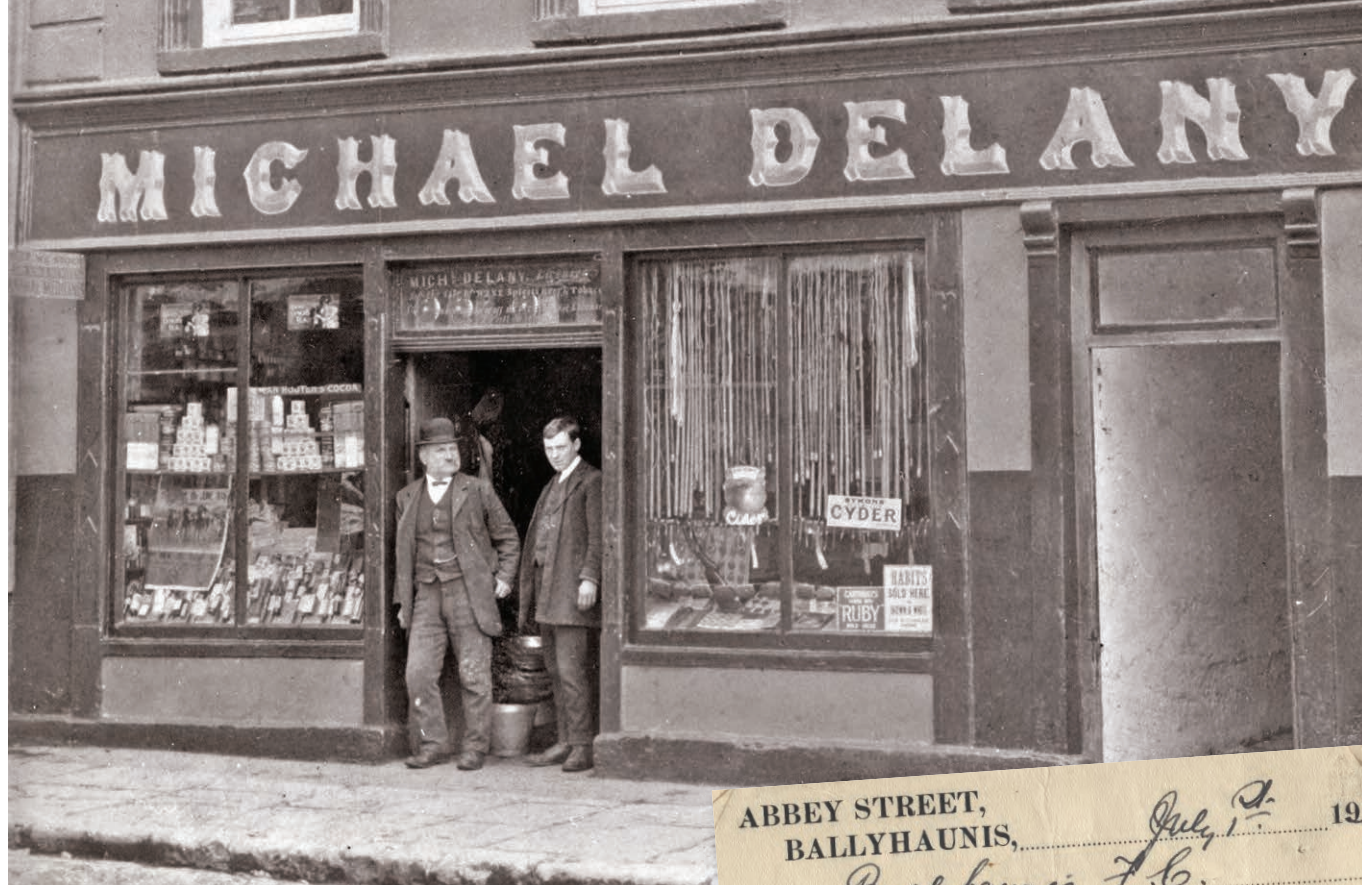
warranted days off school. On one such free day my cousin, Ray Hannan and I were "manning" the back door and became distracted. An opportunistic bullock gate-crashed and made his way upstairs to the sitting-room! It took four customers to persuade him to get down and out the front door! As the seanchaí would say "that happened".

In the early thirties the property next door, Lavins', in Abbey Street was purchased and a sweetshop was established. Two of the staff members went on to become successful businesswomen; George's first cousin, Kitty Hunt (née Beirne) later owned a



Delaney's, Abbey St., 1930s.

In due course he became a very skilful footballer, joined the local club, St. Patrick's, in 1910 and went on to win Mayo senior football titles with his home team and later with Ballina Stephenites. He was a regular member of the Mayo senior football team from 1915 until the mid- twenties, earning 5 senior Connacht football titles in that period. In December 1916 he was a member of the Mayo team which was defeated in the All Ireland Final by Wexford. The attendance at that game was only 3,000 compared with 27,000 in 1915! The reason for this was the curtailment of rail travel in the wake of the 1916 uprising.



Above: Michael (left) and George Delaney at the door of Michael's shop on Knox St., where George served his time on first coming to Ballyhaunis. Michael Delaney was a veteran of the local Land League and United Irish League.

supermarket in Cabra, Dublin with her husband Tom from Lecarrow and Sally Regan (née Quinn) owned The Corner Bar in Ballyhaunis with her husband, Joe. George's daughter, Lilian, later worked there. One of her sons, Edward Mulligan, now operates a picture-framing business in Main Street.

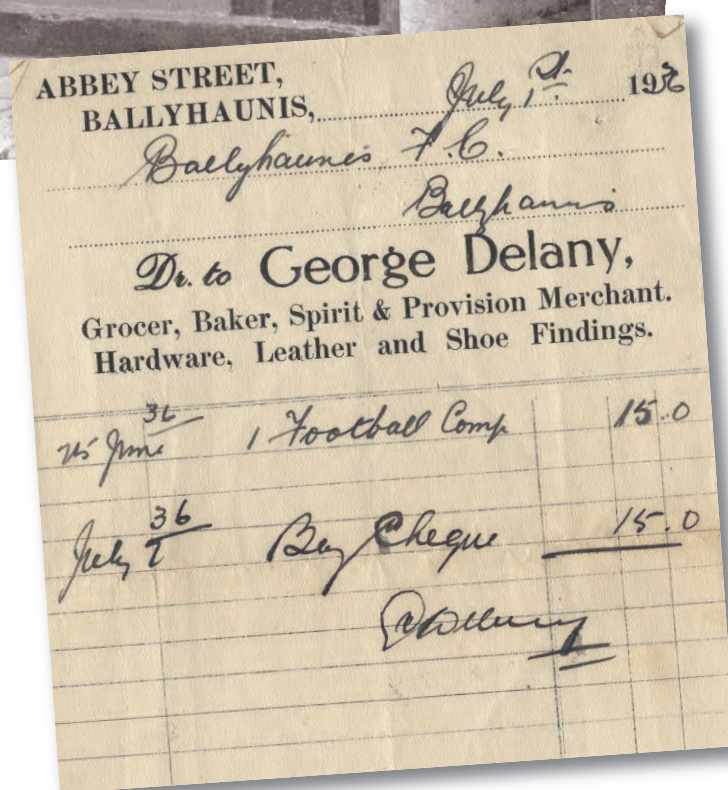
In the forties my father, Paddy, joined the business and established a firearms/sports accessories dealership. A petrol/diesel filling station was later added and this was a very successful venture until modern forecourts became the norm in the nineties.

Many late-night knocks on the door were made by people in distress seeking petrol or diesel. One such caller was a very famous singer, who after ringing the doorbell for 25 minutes, shouted up at the bedroom window "I'm Joe Dolan", to which Dad replied "and I'm Paddy Delaney. It's 4 o'clock in the morning and I'm in bed. Now, kindly let me sleep!" Well, maybe, not quite as politely as that!

Delaney's, Bridge St.

In 1952 my uncle, George, with his parents, purchased Foudy's business premises in Bridge Street. He was an astute and innovative manager and gradually expanded the operation to be the successful and thriving business it is today.

Across the street, my aunt, Ea (Mary) and her husband, Denis Hannan, operated a successful electrical



business. Tragically, they both died young, as did their son, Raymond, my best friend. R.I.P. One of their sons, George, continues in the family tradition with his son, David, from their base in Drimbane. Uncle George passed away in 2014, having spent 64 years in business R.I.P. Two of his sons, Fergal and Brian, now operate Delaneys' Home, Garden and Hardware stores in Bridge Street and Hazelhill.

Renovations in Abbey St.

As all enterprise is organic and evolutionary, the days of specialist outlets such as supermarkets, designated hardware stores and filling-station malls took over from the small mixed business.

In 1978 my parents, Paddy and Moira, undertook a major renovation of the premises in Abbey Street and a cosy new bar and lounge replaced the older more spartan structure. The remodelling process involved great banter and storytelling as the building was gutted and gradually transformed. The temporary counter was a flimsy piece of wood with kegs of Guinness underneath. Empty kegs were used for seating! At one stage the front of the bar was completely open to the elements and scrap timber was burned to keep out the winter chill.

The modern development which evolved became a very popular venue for a diverse clientele – regular customers, musicians, card players, sports enthusiasts and tourists.

My grandfather, George lived to be almost 91 and took a keen interest in the business, sporting matters and current affairs until his death in November 1982. His wife, Lilian, his daughter, Ea Hannan and her son, Raymond pre-deceased him. R.I.P.

Memories

During my childhood and later years as a student in St Jarlath's College, Tuam and UCG (NUIG) I enjoyed doing "holiday" work in the bar and filling station and it provided handy pocket money.

Indeed, one of the reasons I was sent to boarding school was to focus more on my studies and less on the bar! The older customers gave me a great insight into how Ireland had evolved since the foundation of the State. I can still picture all the old faces and recall the wit and wisdom, common sense and nonsense that crossed the eighteen inches of bar counter. The banter, storytelling and arguments were a rich source of information, inspiration and amusement!

One of the scariest memories of my childhood is of an incident which occurred in the shop one day. I took a .22 rifle in my hands and, pretending to be a cowboy, I aimed it through the window at crows in the Friary. Moments earlier I had told my mother to put her hands up! A friend, who shall remain nameless, had left

a bullet in the chamber and, suddenly, a hole appeared in the large plate-glass window! The crows flew away. The tiny hole remained there for many years, covered by a Bird's Eye sticker. An insurance claim was out of the question! Thankfully, no one was injured and the storage of firearms is highly regulated nowadays. Needless to say, I have a very healthy respect for guns ever since that episode.

A New Era

In 2002 another revamp of the premises was carried out and the comfort of the customers was, again, a major priority. At this time, Paddy's health began to decline and his condition necessitated hospitalisation and ongoing chemotherapy.

Gareth took over the business and his contemporaries and friends rallied to support him. His Dad was very pleased and proud to see the influx of young, new patrons who mingled with the many loyal friends from the past.

He died on April 10th 2003. R.I.P. We felt it was appropriate that he would be waked where he had worked all his adult life. Family and friends paid their final tributes to him in front of the bar counter. I'm sure he would have approved.

During the "Celtic Tiger" period and the subsequent recession the challenge continued and Gareth has adapted the business to the changing needs of the customers of today. The smoking ban and stricter drink-driving law enforcement have sounded the death-knell for many publicans. However, the yard expansion, live music and functions to celebrate christenings, birthdays, engagements, weddings, post-weddings, etc have greatly helped to sustain the business.

Happily, the 'G. Delaney' sign is still above the door - long may it remain there. We wish Gareth and Liz every success in the future.



Four George Delaneys, 1972
Back: George Jnr., George Sr.
Front, George (Abbey St.), George (Coolnaha).

Don't forget!

The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2018 is Friday, 5th October 2018.

The Family Resource Centre

STEPHEN GROGAN

2017 saw Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre continue its development as a community organisation, providing a range of family support activities and opportunities in the local community from its office at St. Mary's Abbey.

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

The Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre is one of seven such centres in Mayo, with over 109 FRC's operating in different towns and areas throughout the country. Funding for the FRC's comes from the Tusla the Children & Family Agency through a 3-year funding agreement, which enables Ballyhaunis FRC to continue its work with some degree of certainty into the future.

Geraldine Glacken who joined the Family Resource Centre last year as a Family Support Worker providing Individualised programmes for families has contributed greatly to the range of supports and services that the FRC can provide, ensuring that families in Ballyhaunis receive their fair share of the family support services available elsewhere in the County.

While providing help and advice to individuals remains one of our core activities the FRC continues to run and host a range of adult education courses. We continue to organise computer courses throughout the year as well as providing a venue for a number of other job skills courses that are run in partnership with outside agencies. This year the FRC has run a course for parents encouraging health eating and cooking with wholesome foods which proved to be quite a success. The Senior Alert Programme continues to be operated by the FRC.

The Family Resource Centre has worked with a number of community based groups helping them with funding applications and other types of assistance. We have also worked together with other groups to promote common and shared goals. Other more established community groups are also supported and use the Family Resource Centre office in the Friary House for their own meetings and activities.

The Community Garden has continued to be a great success building on the work carried out over the last three years when the project first began. The garden has been developed in partnership with a number of groups, in particular the East Mayo TUS scheme and by interested volunteers who are maintaining and developing such a wonderful garden.

2017 marked the Ninth year of our Community Pre-

School Service which is based next to our office at St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey. The Community Pre-school caters for children aged over 3 years and 3 months providing a free Monday to Friday childcare service during school term under the Governments National Free Preschool Year Scheme. The Community Pre-school has proven extremely popular with local parents and the quality of the service provided by its dedicated staff 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.

Some of other the activities which have taken place this year include the very popular Crochet Group who meet every Friday morning. The Family Resource Centre also offers a community internet service and help with printing. A Counselling service continued this year and we hope to maintain this into the future.

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.

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 2017 the officers were; Seamus Grogan (Chairperson), Talib Chaudhry, Manar Cherbatji, Marie Jordan, Betty Koinange, Mary Morrissey and Company Secretary Tracey McDermott.

The FRC would welcome expressions of interest from people living in the town who would like to join the FRC board.

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society

WILLIAM NESTOR

After some time in the shadows, St. Patrick's Dramatic Society made a comeback in early April of 2017 and presented 'The Country Boy', a play by John Murphy from Charlestown.

Dipping his toes in production and direction for the first time, the highly experienced thespian and local pharmacist, Tom Colleran, went about assembling a cast during the winter.

A mixture of experienced actors and newcomers to the stage came together for the comedy-drama set in the small Irish farmhouse of the Maher family near Nephin, Co. Mayo. The play reflected on the social problems of emigration and rural life in the late 1950s.

Michael Kelly played the domineering father, Tom Maher, a hard-working country man who likes things done his way. Michael is also the Chairperson of the society and has appeared in numerous plays and musicals down through the years in Ballyhaunis and further afield.

Mary Kate Maher, played by Katrina Sweeney, is Tom's wife who is the perfect foil to her strong-minded husband and often ends up acting as the mediator between husband and son. Katrina is also heavily involved in the society, currently serving as Treasurer and has a wealth of experience from previous performances.

The role of Curly, the youngest Maher son who wants some freedom and not to be stuck under his father's thumb, was played by William Nestor.

Meanwhile Curly's love interest, Eileen Tierney, was played by Miriam Judge. Miriam is a local schoolteacher and, like William, a relative newcomer to the stage.

Local publican and long-serving actor to both St. Pat's and the musical society, Adrian Murray played Eddie Maher, the brother who emigrated to the U.S.A. fifteen years before, alongside his loud and brash American wife Julia, portrayed superbly by the hugely experienced Jackie Caulfield.

'The Country Boy' was played out in front of large audiences over four nights in the Parochial Hall with the proceeds of two nights going towards very good causes. Firstly, a donation to Rock Rose House, Mayo Cancer Support, was made in memory of our dear friends Frankie O'Malley and Frank Herraghty who sadly passed away, while the opening night's proceeds went to the Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Association who



'The Country Boy' presented by St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis. Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher

provided a wonderful pre-show event and made a fantastic effort to get bums on seats!

Under the direction of Tom Colleran, the cast rehearsed relentlessly for months to give four memorable performances. However, the shows would not have been a success without our stage crew and backroom team. Many thanks to Lydia Biesty, John Caulfield, Dolores Biesty, Cian Caulfield, Mike Griffin, Aisling Caulfield, Stella O'Neill, Seamus O'Boyle, Moira Noone, Dee Moran, Ann Greally, John Mullarkey, James Colleran and Assumpta Coyle.

The society would like to thank all the local businesses for their sponsorship and support in 2017, as well as all the people who turned out to support the production. We would also like to take the opportunity to welcome new or returning members to become involved in any way they wish. We are always on the lookout for people who wish to rehearse for parts, produce, direct or even recommend a play by making contact with any member of the society.



'The Country Boy' Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher



Above: Cast of 'The Country Boy' presented by St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, Ballyhaunis, 2017.
 L-R: Jackie Caulfield (Julia), William Nestor (Curly), Miriam Judge (Eileen Tierney), Adrian Murray (Eddie Maher),
 Michael Kelly (Tom Maher), Katrina Sweeney (Mary Kate Maher), Tom Collieran (Producer/Director).
 Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.



Photo by JanaPix

York Minster Chorister Student

Olivia Frances Bryan, granddaughter of Peter James O'Malley III and Deborah (Dryburgh) O'Malley of Altoona, PA, U.S.A., is now a chorister student at the Minster in York, England. Olivia is the great-granddaughter of the late Peter and Mary O'Malley, great-niece of Tom O'Malley (R.I.P.) and Rena (O'Malley) Benedetti of Florida, and Helen (O'Malley) Unitt of Leamington Spa, UK, all formerly of Upper Main Street, Ballyhaunis. Olivia's parents, Christopher and Melissa, emigrated to the United Kingdom from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. in 2005, her grandfather Peter having himself relocated to the U.S.A. from Ballyhaunis via London in March of 1962. Her parents recognised her musical gift from an early age, and have been keen to encourage her. In particular she has always been fond of singing. When Olivia was six they arranged an audition with the choirmaster at York Minster, and she was given a place commencing the following year.



Olivia Frances Bryan

Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group

PAULA GROGAN

At our AGM during the year a new committee was elected and we are delighted to welcome Orla Moran as our group's new Chairperson, together with Paula Grogan as Secretary and Mary Sykes as Treasurer.

Our volunteer Instructors, namely, Orla Moran, Marina Coyne, Edel Conway and Darran Conlon have helped train various groups during the past year, including staff from Dawn Meats, Communicare Health and Major Equipment International Limited. Training is ongoing and new dates for classes will be announced in the coming months: details on our Facebook page, Parish Newsletter and local notes in newspapers.

Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group is currently liaising with Mark Callanan, Community Engagement Officer at the National Ambulance Service (NAS), to develop a First Responder Scheme in the Ballyhaunis area. First Responder Schemes comprise members of the public who volunteer to assist their local community by attending emergency calls within an agreed radius of where they live or work and providing basic emergency care whilst an emergency response vehicle is en-route to the patient. The National Ambulance Service has been very supportive of our local group and we plan to hold an Information Evening in the coming weeks to outline the process of setting up this community initiative.

At the recent Ballyhaunis Enterprise Event held in Scoil Íosa, Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis donated a new defibrillator to our group and this will be placed centrally in our town on the wall at 'Carry-Out' Off-Licence beside the entrance to Bank of Ireland. Many thanks to EPS Group, Ballyhaunis, for donating the outside box for this new defibrillator. This makes a total of thirteen defibrillators now available to in our community at various outside locations throughout the Parish should an emergency arise. This is a great achievement for our community.

It is important that you make yourself aware of the locations of the defibrillators in the Parish and particularly the one that is nearest to you. Each box has a 'Smash-the-Glass' container attached to it which contains a key to open the box in an emergency.

The locations of the defibrillators are set out as follows:

- **Abbeyquarter - Scoil Iosa National School**
- **Annagh - Joe & Kay Healy**
- **Brackloon - Michael & Rose Nolan**
- **Coolnaha - Ballyhaunis Golf Club**
- **Derrynacong - Helen Hoban**
- **Johnstown - James & Caitriona McGuire**
- **Kilmannin - Stephen & Nuala Nolan**
- **Kiltybo - Michael & Rosaleen Kelly**
- **Knock Road - GAA Club Gates**
- **Main Street Ballyhaunis - St. Patrick's Church**
- **Pattenspark - Austin & Dorothy Biesty**
- **The Square Ballyhaunis - 'Carry-Out' Off-Licence**
- **Tullaghaune - Shane Burke**

Our group would like to thank everyone who supported our Cycle, Walk, Run Fundraiser held in September, and especially the Annagh Wheelers who participated in the 5-County and 3-County Cycles. Thanks to Margie Phillips, Tom Phillips and to the members of our group's committee who helped out enormously on the day, and to Seamus Grogan for his culinary skills at the BBQ afterwards! A big thanks to Paddy Phillips Butchers and Caulfield's Shop for their contributions on the day and for helping our fundraiser to be so successful.



Pictured at the presentation of a new defibrillator, on behalf of Bank of Ireland, Ballyhaunis to Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group at the Enterprise Town Event. Back, L-R: Edward Mulhern, Anne Phillips, Denise Clancy, Manar Cherbatji, Deirdre Diskin. Front: Ciaran Gavin, Anne Marie Beirne (Manager, Bank of Ireland), Orla Loftus Moran (Chairperson, Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group), Patricia Waldron, Edel Conway, Mary Sykes. Photo by Janapix.

Bluebell – The Oldest Cow in Ireland

PAUL WALDRON

One of the stories from the farming world that captured the imagination over the past few months has been that of 'Bluebell', Ireland's oldest cow at thirty-three years of age. She lives on the farm of her owner and breeder, Mick Mullarkey, at Ballybeg, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, and came to prominence earlier this year through a video on the 'That's Farming' website.

She was born in December 1984, in Ballybeg, at the eastern extremity of Annagh parish, bordering on the parish of Kiltullagh and the county of Roscommon, and here she has lived all her life since. Her birth was registered a few short days after the event, on 1st Jan. 1985. She had her first calf in 1987, and produced a calf every year for twenty-six years, always in April or May: facts that are confirmed in her official Department of Agriculture records. A suckler cow will, on average, produce five calves in her lifetime, and an odd one might have up to ten. In Bluebell's case, it shows that fortuitous breeding and careful management go a long way to prolonging a cow's productive life.



Bluebell pictured some years ago with one of her calves.

Bluebell was bred out of a black-whitehead cow and an Aberdeen Angus bull and from these two traditional breeds she derives her hardiness and longevity. From her sire she inherited the hornless characteristic of his breed; and from her dam's side, the white face of the Hereford.

As she approaches her thirty-third birthday she enjoys good health, is placid and easily managed and doesn't look any older than a cow of five years. She is very alert and, like any suckler cow, is wary on first encountering strangers. She is still well able to move, despite a slight touch of arthritis developed in recent times.

The previous holder of the Irish record for Oldest Cow was 'Jenny', an Aberdeen Angus cow in Clonakilty, Co. Cork. She was bought as a calf in Skiberreen Mart by Sean Deasy in February 1984, and passed away last January aged 33 years.

The current holder of the Guinness World records for Oldest Cow in the World and Most Calves born was 'Big Bertha', of the old Irish Droimeann breed. She was born



Bluebell with her owner Mick Mullarkey, in October 2017.

on St. Patrick's Day 1945 and died on New Year's Eve, 1993, as she approached her 49th birthday. She was owned by Jerome O'Leary of Beaufort, Co. Kerry and had had a total of 39 calves in her lifetime.

It was Mick's neighbour Michael Finnegan who first posted a photograph of Bluebell on Facebook. This was spotted by Shane Ganley, founder and General Manager of the popular 'That's Farming' website. Shane, who comes from Erritt, Carrowbehy, organised a film crew to visit Ballybeg and the resulting video, narrated by Mick himself, has had many, many views since it went on-line. It can be viewed at:

<http://www.thatsfarming.com/videos/blue-bell-oldest-cow>

Of her twenty-six calves, most were by Charolais bulls, a beef-breed that usually yields big, strong calves sometimes giving rise to difficulties at birth. Bluebell, however, never had any problems and she gave birth to all of her offspring on her own and without any assistance or intervention.

She spends as much time as possible outside, grazing the verdant upland swards of Ballybeg, and her feed is supplemented with occasional quantities of meal. She is housed only in the most inclement of weather.

Mick has kept one of Bluebell's calves in the herd, and she is now a cow eight years of age. She is by a Simmental bull and has a hard act to follow if she is to emulate her mother's fantastic achievement.

Cows were very important in ancient Ireland when they were a sign of wealth and power, and a Chieftain's status was judged by the number of cows he owned. Especially valued were hornless, polled or 'maol' cows – such as 'Bluebell' – particularly if they were home-bred.

In the case of Bluebell it seems that the ancient Irish proverb holds true, which when translated states: "Never buy a maol cow; never sell a maol cow; but never be a day of your life without a maol cow."

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club...since 1962

GERARD McLOUGHLIN (CLUB PRESIDENT) AND SINEAD FREYNE

As Annagh Magazine reaches its milestone of forty years in print, we too at Ballyhaunis Bridge Club are celebrating an anniversary of our own.

The club was established fifty-five years ago. In Annagh Magazine 1987 Rita Lundon wrote comprehensively about its establishment. In the early 1960's Bridge was quite a popular pastime and there were many good players living in the area, like Jimmy Byrne, Willie Smyth, Dr. Eamon Waldron, Ned Lawless and Bob Holmes. Jimmy Byrne was persuaded to start a Bridge club in Ballyhaunis and a meeting for those interested in becoming members was held in the Parochial Hall sometime in 1962. Twenty or so people attended. Fr. Patrick Costelloe was invited to chair the meeting, and so the club was formed.

The new club members met once a week in the Central Hotel, Main Street, then owned by the Freeley family (now Supermac's). For the first few weeks the more experienced players played with, and taught the new recruits the fundamentals of the game. Only in very recent times, with the passing of Michael Cameron (Dinjo), has the link with the club's formation been broken, as he had been one of the founding members in 1962.

Dr. Eamon Waldron, who lived on Doctor's Road (where Dr. Michael and Laura Brogan now reside) was the first Captain and held this position until 1965. Ned Lawless, who worked at the National Irish Bank (now Bank of Ireland) ran the competitions. When he was transferred to another branch, Angela Joyce took over as Tournament Director.

Throughout the lifetime of the club membership numbers have fluctuated, with twenty or so at the first meeting, a peak of eighty-four members in 1995, to today where there are forty-five members. Experienced members of the club gave lessons to beginners interested in learning the game and joining the club. One of the first tutors was Mrs. Mae Murphy, Devlis, one of the club's great characters who welcomed many new members into the club. She was followed by Angela Joyce, Doctor's Road, whose classes became part of the Adult Education programme held in the Community School. Later, Dorothy Durkan and Garda Martin Naughton ran classes in the Scout Den, and journalist Aidan Henry started a beginners' club in 1986 called 'Club 52'. Another excellent player and facilitator is Corinne Flatley who also taught classes in the Community School back in the 1990s. In 2001 Donal Geraghty gave lessons on tournament directing and has held many classes for beginners. Angela Joyce was an expert on tournament directing and was elected to the position of Assistant Regional Secretary in Ireland in 2001.



Early members of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club, from left to right: May Moyles (Captain 1972-73), Mary Dillon-Leetch (Captain 1970-71 and President 1985-86), Angela Joyce (Captain 1976-77 and President 1986-87) and Baby Snee, enjoying the annual club dinner in 1997.



Michael Cameron, who was involved with the Club from the very beginning in 1962, pictured here at a Bank of Ireland Cup presentation. L-R: Chris Finn (Ballyhaunis Bridge Club President 2003-04), Susan Laffey (joint first prize winner), David McConn (Bank of Ireland) and Michael Cameron (joint first prize winner).



Mother and son, Kathleen and Tomás Cribbin – at extreme left and right of photograph – both past members who passed away within weeks of each other during Summer 2017. Kathleen held the office of president in 1995-96. Also in the photograph are Club President 2000-01 Ina Freyne, and Michael Lyons.

The following is a roll call of all those who held the office of Captain and President from 1962 to 1994.



The following is a list of past Presidents since 1994 to the present day:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>President</i>
1962-1963	Dr. Eamon A. Waldron	Rev. Fr. Thomas Rushe
1963-1964	Dr. Eamon A. Waldron	Rev. Fr. Thomas Rushe
1964-1965	Dr. Eamon A. Waldron	Rev. Fr. Thomas Rushe
1965-1966	Mr. James A. Byrne	Rev. Fr. Thomas Rushe
1966-1967	Mrs. Mae Murphy	Rev. Fr. Thomas Rushe
1967-1968	Mr. Tom Buckley	Rev. Fr. Thomas Rushe
1968-1969	Mrs. Lena Fadden	Rev. Fr. Thomas Rushe
1969-1970	Rev. Fr. Patrick Costello	Dr. Eamon A. Waldron
1970-1971	Mrs. Mary Dillon-Leetch	Mr. Tom Buckley
1971-1972	Mr. Tommy O'Malley	Mrs. Mary Hannah O'Connor
1972-1973	Miss May Moyles	Mr. Michael Cameron
1973-1974	Mr. Cyril Coyne	Mrs. Susan Laffey
1974-1975	Miss D. Dillon	Mrs. Mae Murphy
1975-1976	Mr. Frank Loughran	Mrs. M. O'Malley
1976-1977	Mrs. Angela Joyce	Mr. John Hunt
1977-1978	Mr. Jim Mulhern	Mr. Bertie Lynch
1978-1979	Mrs. Breege Coyne	Miss May Moyles
1979-1980	Dr. Tommie B. Joyce	Mrs. Iris Lynch
1980-1981	Mrs. Cáit Dillon	Mrs. Rosaleen Dwane
1981-1982	Mr. Leo Fitzpatrick	Mrs. Dolores Jordan
1982-1983	Miss Patricia Waldron	Mrs. Yvonne Loughran
1983-1984	Miss Norrie Dillon	Mrs. Teresa Conway
1984-1985	Mr. Joe Burke	Mrs. Mary Higgins
1985-1986	Mrs. Mollie Concannon	Mrs. Mary Dillon-Leetch
1986-1987	Mrs. Dorothy Durkan	Mrs. Angela Joyce
1987-1988	Mrs. Rita Lundon	Mrs. Joan Delaney
1988-1989	Mrs. Corinne Flatley	Mrs. Breege Coyne
1989-1990	Mrs. Sighle Forde	Mrs. Cait Dillon
1990-1991	Miss Marie Sharkey	Mrs. Peggy Cruise
1991-1992	Mrs. Maura Burke	Mrs. Kathleen Lyons
1992-1993	Mrs. Bridget Hanley	Mrs. Marina Coyne
1993-1994	Mr. Michael Cameron	Mrs. Peggy Henry

<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
1994-1995	Mr. Martin Winston
1995-1996	Mrs. Kathleen Cribbin
1996-1997	Mr. Donal Geraghty
1997-1998	Mrs. Mary Walshe
1998-1999	Mrs. Kay Higgins
1999-2000	Mrs. Frances Gaffney
2000-2001	Mrs. Ina Freyne
2001-2002	Mrs. Rita Lundon
2002-2003	Mr. Martin Connery
2003-2004	Mrs. Chris Finn
2004-2005	Mrs. Jean Gallagher
2005-2006	Mrs. Susan Laffey
2006-2007	Mrs. Justina Lyons
2007-2008	Mrs. Fiona Prenty
2008-2009	Mrs. Alacoque McManus
2009-2010	Mrs. Maureen Hunt
2010-2011	Mrs. Chris Jordan
2011-2012	Mrs. Eileen Carney
2012-2013	Mrs. Brid Halpin
2013-2014	Mrs. Patrician Gaughan
2014-2015	Mrs. Ann Nestor
2015-2016	Mrs. Dorothy Durkan
2016-2017	Mrs. Rita Lundon
2017-2018	Mr. Gerard McLoughlin

The Captain was supported and assisted by a President, an executive and a committee. In 1994 a new Constitution was adopted, and under it the office of captain was discontinued and the holding of the AGM was changed from September to May. The last Captain of the club was Michael Cameron.

As businesses closed or changed hands, the club moved to different establishments. In the 1980s, the club played in Freeley's, Main Street (now The Dalgan Bar and Restaurant). In the 1990s members played upstairs in Billy's, later known as Alberto's and later still as the Full Shilling, Main Street (Now Epic Night Club). Players met on Tuesday nights and predominately beginners met on the Thursday nights in The Central Hotel (then under the ownership of John and Carmel Vahey). In 1999, the club had seventy members and

made the decision to move to The Hazel, Main Street (now The Dalgan) and hold both nights there. When The Hazel closed, the club moved to the Communal House at Clare Court at the start of the Bridge year 2014-15, and now meet there every Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 8pm.

The Bridge season runs from mid-September to May. Over the decades many memorable competitions have been held - the most prestigious being the Captain's and President's Prizes. Other competitions included The Murphy Cup, The Bankers' Night, The Claffey Cup, Simultaneous Pairs, The Angela Joyce Memorial Trophy and The AIB Cup. In 2014, it was decided that the club would no longer have a memorial night for any one individual but instead have a memorial night for all deceased members. The Murphy Cup was originally donated by Kathleen Cribbin and Shelia Duffy, nieces of Mrs. Mae Murphy, who worked tirelessly to facilitate the introduction of new members. The cup is now known as The Memorial Cup. Other more recent sponsors include the Credit Union, and Murphy's Top Oil, Devlis, and Flanagan's Bar and Restaurant, Brickens. In 2014, Ann Nestor and committee commissioned a memorial plaque, designed by Helena Caulfield, recording the names of all deceased members of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club since its foundation. This plaque is displayed in the Communal House at the Clare Court Centre, as is the plaque that records all the people who have held the office of President of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club. This plaque was sponsored by Donnellan's, Clare St.

Event nights this year will include the Christmas Dinner and Prizes night, the Easter Prizes night, the Finn's Footwear and the Credit Union Prizes nights, culminating in Mr. Gerard McLoughlin's President's Prize which will be held over two evenings in April 2018. Presentation of prizes takes place at the end-of-year dinner. The AGM, with the election of new officers for the incoming year, denotes the end of the club season for another year. However, this year to celebrate fifty-five years of weekly efforts to "outwit and outbid their opponents", a special club evening, sponsored by businessman Joe Kennedy, will be held early in 2018. The competition is open to all current members. Mr. Kennedy is based in Manchester, but is a native of Co. Mayo and is one of the most successful Irish business people in the UK. He is also Chairman of Ireland West Airport Knock, and became aware of the fifty-fifth anniversary of the club and kindly agreed to sponsor the night, for which the club is very grateful. Indeed, we are

very grateful to all our sponsors this year and over the last half century.

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club is about more than just playing a game of cards. It is a very enjoyable social evening with male and female members who play one or both nights a week, and where all members are valued and all new comers will be made feel welcome. In the last few years Summer Bridge has taken place for those who like to play all year round!

At the AGM held last May, the following officers were elected for the 2017-2018 season: President - Gerard McLoughlin; Joint Treasurers - Mary Walshe and Leona Connery. Rita Lundon's 2017 President's Prize, was won by Mary Walshe and Dorothy Durkan.

With the passing of time, it is important for us to record and remember the passing of former members of our club. On May 1st last, news reached us of the passing of Kathleen Cribbin, Knockbrack, who was a long standing member of the club and served as Club President in 1995-96. A few weeks later that her son Tomás Cribbin, another prominent member of the Club, died suddenly during the course of his work as postman. Former member Marie Sharkey from Urlaur passed away the day before, on June 19th. Marie held the office of Club Captain in 1990-91. The club members extend our condolences to the family and friends of Kathleen, Tomás and Marie, and all other past members.



President's Prize 2017

Club President Rita Lundon (centre) presenting the President's Prize to Mary Walshe (second from right) and Dorothy Durkan (second from left). Also pictured are Kieran Jenkinson, Treasurer (left) and Gerard McLoughlin, Club Secretary (right).

The Club would also like to extend best wishes to our good friend and member John Halpin, who took ill recently. We miss his presence and good company and wish him well.

Finally, new members are always welcome to our club, to one or both nights and any enquires can be made to Club President Gerard McLoughlin (087) 6466293.

4th Mayo Scouts 2016-2017

KEVIN CARNEY (GROUP LEADER)

The 4th Mayo Scouts had another very successful year with numerous meetings and outings. Our numbers continue to grow and at the time of writing we have a number of adults undergoing the mandatory training to become a scout leader.

There were a number of notable events which reflect the continuing development of the reformed 4th Mayo and these deserve a special mention.



Some of the 4th Mayo group paddle-boarding this summer.

At the start of the 2016/2017 year, the Leaders were conscious of the need to involve parents in activities from time to time. The first of these events was a table quiz held in Fitzer's bar in February 2017. While the table numbers were small the night proved to be very successful with over €1,000 raised. A number of parents were particularly helpful in canvassing the shops for spot-prizes which were then raffled. The winning team, many of them former scouts, handed over the winning

cash prize to the group and this, combined with the money raised by Fitzer's Bar at Christmas, rounded off a very enjoyable night.

In the spring of 2017 five of our Leaders completed stage six (the highest level) of their training over a weekend in Swinford. The five leaders were Kevin Carney, Paul Carney, Marion Feeney, John Walsh and Karen Whelan. Karen Whelan also attended a course for group treasurers later in the year.

In July the group held a second event involving the parents and scouts. The venue this time was outdoors at Erritt Lake. Thanks to a nice warm day and a good turnout the barbecue and water activities allowed everybody to meet in an informal manner and exchange ideas.

The year concluded with a very successful seaside annual camp in Achill, the first such camp since the 4th Mayo Scouts reformed.

This year the group opened a separate scout section in the former Coogue School. The Beavers continue to meet in Scoil Iosa. Our administrative meetings are held in the FRC. Thanks to the continuing support of our local councillors, John Cribbin, John Caulfield and Richard Finn, and the fundraising activities of the group, we are in a healthy financial position. We hope to be in a position to build a scout den in the next few years once a suitable site can be located.

In conclusion the growing numbers of children joining our group bode well for the future and the leaders are confident that the future for the 4th Mayo is bright.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Our Society was founded in Paris in 1833 to help the less well off. We in Ballyhaunis try to continue this work in our small way. We help people who are in financial difficulties due to reduced income, unemployment, sickness or mounting debt in a sensitive and confidential manner.

We note that people are especially generous towards our local charity and we thank all who support us financially through our Church gate collection, donations and fundraising activities. A special word of thanks to Gracenotes, Annagh Wheelers and the schools who fundraise for us. Thanks also to the staff of the Friary House for their assistance.

Our confidential helpline number is 086 264 0969.



Society of
St Vincent de Paul

A Christmas Tragedy Near Ballyhaunis, 1836

MICHAEL KELLY

On Wednesday night, 28th December 1836, a group of friends and neighbours were making their way home from a funeral in Ballyhaunis. It was Christmas week and at least some of them were 'in good form', having had more than a few drinks in town earlier. Before they had travelled very far in the direction of Knock, however, a row broke out in the course of which one man sustained a head injury from which he died a few days later. Thus one funeral led to another...

This is how the Chief Constable for Mayo reported on this tragic event to his superiors in Dublin Castle in early January 1837:

On the night of 28th ultimo, and about the hour of nine o'clock, a man named Michael Grealy of Reisk, parish of Bacon [Bekan] and barony of Costello, was returning to his home from the town of Ballyhaunis in company with his wife and sister in law. When some distance from the town they were followed by a man named Patrick Ratican who, without any previous cause, struck Grealy on the head with a stick. On being asked by Grealy why he did so Ratican replied that he was a better man and challenged Grealy to fight which Grealy declined to do. Grealy then proceeded homeward with the above-mentioned persons and Ratican in company.

When they advanced about a mile and came to a place named Brackloughboy they were joined by a man named Patrick Boyle who appeared to be a friend of Ratican's. On Grealy seeing Boyle he became alarmed and thought to effect his escape and ran some distance forward pursued by Ratican and Boyle who called out to stop him when three men who were in front, namely Francis Nicholas, John Mulkeen and Edward Knavsey, did so. Grealy's wife and sister in law followed and when they came up to Grealy, found him lying on the road, bleeding profusely from a large wound on the right side of his head, and insensible, the assailants having fled. Grealy was then removed to the house of a man name Kenny, where he expired on Saturday the 31st ultimo.

An inquest was held on the body on the 2nd inst. and continued by adjournment until the five o'clock the following evening when a verdict was returned that the deceased, Michael Grealy, came by his death in consequence of a severe fracture on the right

- 2 -

side of his head and several bruises on different parts of his body and that the said fracture and bruises were inflicted by Patrick Ratican, Patrick Boyle, Francis Nicholas, John Mulkeen and Edward Knavesey, all of Aghamore, parish of Aghamore and barony of Costello. The police stationed at Ballyhaunis, on receiving information of this outrage – which was not until the morning of his decease – they immediately proceeded to the place where the body lay and from the very reluctant information obtained, proceeded in an immediate search of the above-mentioned persons who, it appears, have fled after having committed the assault; every exertion is making on the part of the Police to arrest those persons charged with the outrage.

I would have earlier made my report but waited the issue of the Inquest to enable me to obtain the fullest information and to forward the necessary descriptions of the perpetrators of this outrage.

*John S. Kelly, Chief Constable,
Ballaghaderreen,
4 January 1837*

[Note: Ballaghaderreen was in Co. Mayo until 1898]

A reward of £50, quite a substantial sum in those days, was immediately offered for information leading to the apprehension of the culprits

(Source: Outrage Papers, National Archives of Ireland).

Murder charge

Over two years elapsed before Pat Ratigan was finally indicted for having 'inflicted a mortal wound on the body of Michael Grealy, from which he languished and died.' We learn more about the events of that fateful night after Christmas 1836 from newspaper reports of his trial. For example, the following detailed account, from Saunders's News-Letter of 19th March 1839, sums up the case for both prosecution and defence:

Having been found guilty of manslaughter, Pat Ratigan was sentenced to 18 months in jail with hard labour (Mayo Constitution, 26 March 1839).

CHARGE OF MURDER.

Pat Rattigan was indicted for having, on the 28th December, 1836, inflicted a mortal wound on the body of Michael Grealy, of which he languished and died.

It appeared, from the evidence produced to sustain the prosecution, that on the evening of the day named in the indictment the prisoner, with some of his neighbours and friends, were present at an interment in Ballyhaunis, in this county, where they met the deceased and many of his acquaintances also. After the funeral they all partook somewhat freely of intoxicating liquors, and their way home being in the same direction they went for a while together. They had not proceeded far in company when Rattigan struck deceased with a switch, and being remonstrated with, he said he had known who deceased was. Upon this a quarrel arose, words were soon followed by blows, and by the time they reached a stream of water, Rattigan was joined by another boy named Boyle. Here the fight became more determined, and the deceased was compelled to run away. A cross road was shortly in advance, and when Grealy's friends had reached it they heard Boyle say to Rattigan they should go away quickly, as the man was knocked down before the party that were coming on. Grealy was found on the ground as if asleep—he died in a few hours, and the surgeon, who held a *post mortem* examination of the body, proved that the wounds inflicted upon this occasion were the cause of his death.

It was proved, on the examination of the witness for the prosecution, that the deceased and the prisoner had been always on terms of friendship. It was also shown that the deceased had first struck Rattigan, who then returned the blow.

FOR THE DEFENCE.

A witness was called who swore that, at the time the blow which caused death was given, there were several persons together at or near the cross roads, and that the deceased threw a stone at Boyle, upon which a general scuffle ensued between the parties, and in the course of it the deceased received the mortal wound.

The prisoner was stated, by several respectable witnesses, to be a person of industrious habits, and of excellent character.

The jury, after his lordship had recapitulated the evidence, returned a verdict, finding the prisoner guilty of manslaughter.

the money. Indeed in 1836, many could barely make ends meet. We know from the Poor Inquiry of the previous year that up to two and a half million Irish people were 'in severe want' for the greater part of each year. Charges of drunkenness typically arose around Christmas time or on Pattern days or Fair days, the rare occasions when people might have a few shillings to spend. For those not accustomed to drinking alcohol regularly, a one-off binge could easily be the cause of untypical behaviour. That is probably what precipitated the sad event outside Ballyhaunis in Christmas week, 181 years ago. What started out as a coming together of friends and neighbours to pay their respects to a departed relative, ended up with tragic consequences which must have traumatised those concerned for a long time afterwards.

MAN-SLAUGHTER.

Patrick Mulkeerin, Edward Lacey, Francis McNicholas and Patrick Boyle, were indicted for having aided and assisted one Patrick Rattigan, to murder Michael Grealy.

—Knew Michael Grealy; he was beaten at the cross roads near Ballyhaunis in the night time coming home from a funeral; heard some talk on the road between Michael Grealy and Rattigan; the former walked on and Rattigan followed, when Boyle came up and desired him to have nothing to do with him; Grealy still walked on and witness heard somebody say that Grealy was down; went up and found him lying stretched on the road; saw no person striking him; Rattigan was tried at a former assizes and convicted; Grealy died on the day after he was beaten; saw none of the prisoners strike the deceased, but heard Boyle say Grealy is down.

Cross-examined by Mr. Blakeney—No person struck Grealy but Rattigan.

Thomas Duffy examined by Mr. Miller—Was in company with Michael Grealy on the night he was beaten, coming from a funeral at Ballyhaunis; Rattigan and others were in his company; saw Rattigan strike the deceased across the head with a stick; Grealy threw off his coat to fight and said he was as good a man as Rattigan; when they came as far as the cross roads Rattigan caught Grealy by the coat and they had a scuffle, but separated in a short time; they then went on Boyle waking on the road by himself, Grealy took up stones, flung them at Rattigan and ran away; Rattigan pursued and Boyle and witness went on a part of the way together; witness's hat fell off and he stopped to pick it up, when Boyle went on; witness continued his journey and found deceased stretched on the road speechless, Rattigan and Boyle standing by, and Boyle said Rattigan come on don't mind him he is down; knew the other prisoners by their voice, and Rattigan wanted them to return until they would give Grealy more, they refused saying he got enough.

Cross-examined—Did not see Boyle striking the deceased at all.

Alice Grealy, wife to deceased—After leaving a house where they were Rattigan struck her husband with a stick; McNicholas and Mulkeerin knocked him dead with a stone; Rattigan called out to them to stop her husband until they'd kill him; he never spoke a word since he was knocked down; he could not be brought home from the house at which he was killed until he was brought home dead; saw no other person strike him.

Mr. Blakeney called for the inquest, and said that all this was false; witness stated that she was examined at the inquest but they told her they'd have her life as they had her husband's life, if she swore against them; she told the truth there before the coroner; was not asked about these people's names.

Mr. Blakeney read the depositions of the witness before the Coroner; she said nothing about the prisoners in those depositions.

John Seery, Constable of Police. Was stationed in Ballyhaunis in 1837, and had a warrant against Rattigan, McNicholas, Knavey, and Mulkeerin; searched for them for more than a dozen times; always when they were at home, in the winter season; the prisoners surrendered themselves.

Doctor O'Grady—Was called on to attend the inquest; the cause of Michael Grealy's death was an immense fracture of the skull; the wound was inflicted with some blunt instrument, a bludgeon or stone.

FOR THE DEFENCE.

Mr. Blakeney addressed the Jury for the prisoners, and called upon them not to place reliance upon the evidence of the wife of deceased.

The Court did not think that the Jury could conscientiously convict upon the testimony adduced. His Lordship did not take the trouble—he did not, we suppose, think it necessary—of charging the Jury. They were obedient to his directions, and acquitted the prisoners, who were ordered to be liberated.

Acquittal on aiding and abetting charges

That was not quite the end of the story. A year later four of Rattigan's companions – Patrick Mulkeen, Edward Knavey, Francis McNicholas, and Patrick Boyle – were charged with aiding and abetting him in his crime, but they were all acquitted by implicit direction of the Judge. The following report of the case, which was tried at the Mayo Assizes in Castlebar on Saturday 14th March 1840, appeared in the Mayo Constitution on 17th March 1840 (*Note: the first two names in the report heading should read Patrick Mulkeen and Edward Knavey*):

The acquittal of the four defendants brought this unfortunate case to a conclusion after four years. The sad thing is that, according to the evidence, the victim and the accused had always been on the best of terms and there was no animosity between them. Their altercation, which was to have fatal consequences, was clearly fuelled by alcohol.

Poverty and alcohol

Being 'drunk and disorderly on the public street' was one of the commonest charges brought by the police before the local courts (Petty Sessions) in the 19th century. This does not necessarily imply that alcoholism was rife, however, because people simply did not have

The General Election of 1918 in East Mayo

Was 1918 the Turning-Point in our History?

FR. KIERAN WALDRON

As we enter 2018 we might ask which year was the game-changing year in the 'Movement' towards Ireland's Independence? Many would perhaps suggest 1916 because of the Easter Rising, but this event was confined to a small minority. Others would nominate 1921 when the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed, but there are many opposed to the Treaty who would not agree that this date was worthy of recognition. Perhaps, from a democratic point of view, the real game-changer was 1918 when the General Election, held in December of that year, just one month after the end of the First World War, expressed the views of the plain people of Ireland and, thus, 1918 could be nominated as the pivotal year in our history.

If this is so, a review of the build-up to that election, specifically in East Mayo, is worthy of some consideration. A local diary kept by the late Dr. Michael F. Waldron of Knox St. has three brief entries for 1918 as follows: 'April 14 - First anti-Conscription meeting; April 21 - Great anti-Conscription demonstration and Pledge signed; Volunteers parade; National Defence Committee elected; April 23 - General suspension of business and public services'.

He gives no further details of the events but the entries set me off on an exploration of the entries in the Mayo newspapers of that year.

The Build-up to the Election of 1918

In the early months of 1918 the memory of the execution of the 1916 leaders was still raw and simmering underneath the seemingly peaceful state of the country. News of Irishmen dying in the World War, however, continued to come in. But the real bombshell was dropped in early April when the British Government of Lloyd George, recognising the shortage of troops at the front, announced its intention to legislate for compulsory Conscription throughout the whole of Ireland.

The response from the mass of Irish opinion was immediate. The proposal served to unite the various factions contending for recognition: the Irish Parliamentary Party and the opposing Sinn Féin movement which had been rejuvenated by the Government's inaccurate naming of the 1916 Rising as the 'Sinn Féin Rebellion'. But now, crucially, the Irish Catholic Church with its out-reach into every parish in the country, also swung into action. The Standing Committee of the Irish Bishops on 9th April announced: "With all the responsibility that attaches to our office we feel bound to warn the government against acting upon

a policy so disastrous to the public interest and to all order, public or private". Archbishop Edward Byrne of Dublin told a priest-colleague later that evening of his 'astonishment at the ardour and almost revolutionary sentiment of some of the bishops who spoke that day' (*Edward J. Byrne 1872-1941*, by Thomas J. Morrissey, Dublin 2010). A general meeting of the Irish Bishops was summoned for 18th April and on that same day a conference was called by the Lord Mayor of Dublin in the Mansion House. It declared that 'the passing of the Conscription Bill by the British House of Commons must be regarded as a declaration of war against the Irish nation'. A deputation from that meeting journeyed to Maynooth to meet with the Irish bishops. The bishops issued a statement that 'the Irish people have a right to resist the proposal by all means that are consonant with the law of God'.

Strong words indeed! But they went further. They also instructed their priests throughout Ireland that Mass was to be offered in every church in Ireland to avert the scourge of conscription, and that at every public Mass on the coming Sunday an announcement should be made of a public meeting to administer a pledge against compulsory military service in Ireland. The clergy were also instructed that a collection would be held outside the church gates towards supplying means to resist the imposition of compulsory military service. This combination of politicians of the two opposing political parties, the trades unions and a united Irish Hierarchy had never happened before. It was a formidable alliance.

A 'Monster Meeting' was held in the Square, Ballyhaunis on Sunday, 21st April with, allegedly, 2,000 people present. There were three priests on the platform, headed by Fr. John Grealy CC who chaired the meeting. He said the people should fight against conscription to the dead-end (*cheers*) and they should await the decision of the leaders of Ireland in Dublin and then 'let all Ireland act on that decision as one man' (*cheers*). 'Never trust an English statesman again', he said. Other speakers spoke even more aggressively than Fr. Grealy. Conor A. Maguire, the Claremorris solicitor and later Chief Justice, called this 'the gravest crisis for the last 700 years'. John Fergus Coyne (of Bridge St.) affirmed that Ireland was not 'behind the war' despite what was said in the House of Commons. Fr. Nolan OSA referred to 'the provisional government in the North', set up by Carson, who had now become a member of the British Cabinet. 'Conscription would never be accepted by the manhood of Ireland', he said (*cheers*). Thomas Dillon-Leetch,

solicitor, said 'I feel it my bounden duty to stand by the priests and that old veteran in the fight for Ireland's freedom, Mr. Michael Delaney (of Knox St. who was also on the platform) in this crisis, the most terrible that ever confronted our down-trodden persecuted nation' (*cheers*). Other speakers included Fr. MacEvilly CC, Dr. Michael F. Waldron and P.J. Waldron, both of Knox St.

Magistrates meet

The *Western People* of 4th May 1918 gives us another report on the outburst of Nationalist feeling. A meeting of the local magistrates (justices of the peace) was held on 25th April 1918 at Ballyhaunis Courthouse. These gentlemen regularly sat with an official resident magistrate at the petty sessions of the time. They represented the Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Ballindine and Kilkelly areas. Their opinions give us a flavour of the mood of the people – even among those who, as magistrates, would have been pillars of support for the British establishment.

Chairing the meeting was the local solicitor, Charles E. Crean. Attending were: E.P. Irwin, Charles Treston, Austin Freeley, James Connell and Patrick Lyons, MCC. Letters of apology were received from four magistrates who could not attend because of the short notice, including Luke Dillon, James M. Conry JP and James McGarry, Chairman of Mayo County Council. Their letters were read to the meeting. The chairman said that promptness was absolutely necessary. Mr. Crean said that while he was 'very anxious to defeat our enemies in the war' he deplored the error of enforcing conscription in this country. Martin Curran of Farnane wrote that as the second senior magistrate in the district he was totally opposed and 'always will be, to this conscription on our unfortunate nation'. While some magistrates had resigned in Cork, there was unanimity that they 'would resign nothing'. The following resolution was passed unanimously to be sent to the Lord Lieutenant in Dublin:

We the undersigned magistrates of Ballyhaunis and Kilkelly Petty Sessions hereby respectfully petition your Excellency to use your powerful influence with His Majesty's Government to withhold the application to Ireland of the Military Services Act. Its enforcement from a military point of views is, we believe, bound to



The Old and the New, united against Conscription

An historic photograph taken at an Anti-Conscription rally in Ballaghaderreen, organised under the auspices of the United Irish League and Sinn Féin, which took place on Sunday, 5th May 1918. Seated side-by-side on the platform are the two East Mayo candidates, Eamon de Valera (Sinn Féin), wearing a light-coloured suit, and John Dillon MP (Irish Parliamentary Party), with white beard and arms folded. *Courtesy of Mercier Press, Cork.*

be useless in as much as the number of men engaged in its application will probably be greater than the number they can force to training and they are determined neither to train nor to fight. The country will be deluged in blood and the after-effects will not be effaced in the lifetime of any man now living.... any such application as is now contemplated will, in our opinion, if carried out, be fraught with all-round consequences which we cannot sufficiently deprecate. Signed: C.E. Crean, Chas. G. Treston, James Connell, Austin Freeley, Edward P. Irwin.

The chairman refused to allow any discussion on the other matters like the bad faith of the Government in not implementing Home Rule, though it was on the statute books since 1914. He said he would not stand 'under a Republican flag', but he would attend any meeting against conscription and would willingly resign as magistrate if the Mansion House Conference decided to do so.

Within six weeks of the announcement the British government accepted defeat and abandoned its policy on conscription. It had been a major blunder by the Government – indeed an 'own goal' which only caused Irish nationalists to unite and feelings to rise to a fury. It electrified the country and led to the huge change in the election of the following December when Sinn Féin

swept the boards. However, it had one downside in that it further alienated Northern unionists.

The Election

Mayo's leading MP in 1918 was John Dillon. Though he lived in Dublin for most of his life, his grandfather came from Ballaghaderreen and his son James later managed the large business known as Monica Duff's. Mrs. Anne Deane (née Duff), its proprietor in 1918, was a second mother to John Dillon. He was an MP at Westminster, first for Tipperary since 1880, and later for Mayo from 1885 to 1918. He had been imprisoned twice during the Land War for supporting the campaign against high rates by absentee landlords and had a fine parliamentary career as a friend of Michael Davitt and Parnell. Known as 'Honest John Dillon' he became Leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party after the death of John Redmond in early 1918.

The General Election, which was held immediately after the end of the First World War, would be unlike all the elections which he ever fought. Now, as an elderly man, John Dillon was being opposed by none other than Éamon De Valera, recently appointed 'Leader of Sinn Féin and the Irish Volunteers'. Mr. De Valera had been elected as an MP for Clare in a by-election in July 1917 but was now nominated also as a candidate in East Mayo as well. Both had worked together earlier in the year in their opposition to Conscription but this East Mayo election was to become a catalyst, wielding a mortal blow if it could see the defeat of the leader of Irish Parliamentary Party.

Surprisingly, only the *Mayo News* among the local papers gave detailed coverage to the election campaign. The street election rallies were raucous affairs with many interruptions from the general attendance. Swinford town was bedecked with Sinn Féin flags when John Dillon's car arrived in that town, and though people 'rushed to the doors, not a single cheer or expression of welcome was given'. Not so silent however was his rally in the Town Hall later where half a dozen priests accompanied Mr. Dillon on the platform. The rally soon degenerated into a noisy affair and the police had to be called. A local solicitor, Mr. T. Campbell, had a series of hostile questions for Mr. Dillon relating to his previous support of recruitment to the army. The interventions increased the disorder, despite Fr. Denis O'Hara's attempts to come to Dillon's rescue. There were constant shouts of 'Up De Valera'. At a rally in Kilmovee Mr. Dillon had stated that only for himself and Mr. John

Redmond 'the very man who is now fighting against me in East Mayo would long ago be lying in consecrated ground' referring to Dillon's crossing to London in 1916 to prevail on Prime Minister Asquith to abandon further executions. Mr. De Valera's private secretary, however, was quick to dispute this version of events in a statement to the press.

In Ballyhaunis, Mr. William Coyne, Solicitor, presided at a meeting of the 'Sinn Féin Club' in December to arrange canvassing for the election. Sinn Féin, he said, was not a party 'because it was not a fight between one party and another – it is a fight between a party and a spirit – between the old Irish party and the young Ireland'. They must assist the great fight in East Mayo. 'If we can manage to sweep East Mayo with a figure convincing enough to prove to the world that the whole of East Mayo is true to Ireland... then the cause for which we have stood will go before the Peace Conference as sure as we are meeting assembled here to-night' (*applause*). At a meeting of another organisation, the 'National Defence Fund Committee', in Ballyhaunis, Dr. Michael F. Waldron proposed that the subscriptions of the people collected earlier in 1918 should be returned to the contributors as the 'menace of conscription has vanished'. Presumably he did not want the fund to be used to support either political party.

At the height of all this excitement, the General Election was held on 14th December 1918. In East Mayo Eamon De Valera managed to secure 8,843 votes against John Dillon's 4,451. Throughout the thirty-two counties of Ireland Sinn Féin conquered with 73 seats, against 6 for the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP). They had won in 24 of the constituencies. The old IPP was virtually defeated and became irrelevant in succeeding years. The Irish people had certainly spoken.

Six weeks later, in the Mansion House in Dublin, the victors in the election came together, except those already in prison – those 'fé ghlas ag Gallaibh' as the official roll-call recorded – to set up the breakaway Dáil Éireann. It was a powerful, world-captivating statement of intent.

But on that same day, albeit unofficially, the first shots were fired in the War of Independence through the murder of two policemen in Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary.

Another chapter had begun in the trying history of Ireland.

Hall of Fame Award for Pete Higgins

DARRAN CONLON

On the 28th January 2017, at a Gala Awards Night in Ballina, Pete Higgins was inducted into the *Western People* "Hall of Fame." Accompanied by his wife Kay, sons Pierce and Keith, his extended family and friends, his contribution to hurling over three decades was outlined and forever recorded.

It all started in 1989 with Pete being one of the driving forces behind the organisation of hurling in Ballyhaunis. Pete has given unbroken service to the development of hurling in Mayo since then.

Three decades later, Pete has become the "Grandfather" of Ballyhaunis Hurling and spends his Wednesday evening's in the nursery section of the grounds with the "tots" carrying hurls as big as themselves!

Utilising much different training methods and vocabulary he somehow manages to combine that with his role as Senior manager! He is joined by many of U-12 team of 1989, be it in a player or selector capacity! From that U-12 team of 28 years ago, Pierce Higgins, Peter Healy and Tadhg Buckley are still preforming at the highest level and are central players in the team.

2017 is the 20th anniversary of the first time Ballyhaunis entered a team in the senior hurling championship. In that time they have lifted the T.J. Tyrrell Cup on twelve occasions. Pete has led this particular team to a three-in-a-row of County Titles and two Connacht Final appearances.

The respect in which Pete is held transcends club and county borders. He enjoys being part of the local derby with near neighbours Tooreen, whom he holds in the highest regard. This mutual respect has obviously paid dividends over the years with both clubs vying it out for supremacy, raising the standards year on year. This raising of the bar has resulted in both clubs acting as feeders for the successful County and Community

School teams of late and are closing the gap on Galway for a coveted Connacht Intermediate Club Hurling Title. Tooreen and Ballyhaunis are linked through friendship, work, business, family, marriage and school. That is all forgotten for an hour or so when the County Final comes round!



Western People "Hall of Fame" recipient, Pete Higgins with his wife, Kay, and sons, Pierce (left) and Keith (right).

His name, track record and achievements are also well respected in his native Galway, showing what a great ambassador he has been for Mayo Hurling. From three to forty-three, if you picked up a hurl in Ballyhaunis you were or currently are being coached by Pete Higgins. His two sons, Pierce and Keith, are hurling stars and former recipients of *Western People* Sports Awards. This is a hurling legacy that should be acknowledged and appreciated.

It is this continuous selfless mentoring of youth and the promotion of the game which makes him a truly worthy winner of the prestigious, *Western People*, Hall of Fame Award.

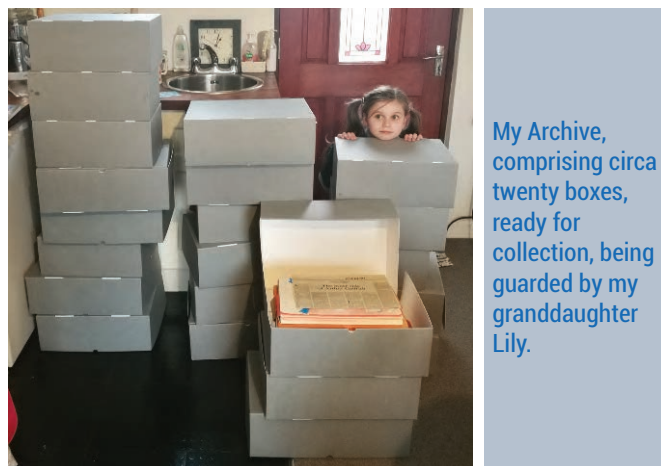


After the culmination of months of training, members of TC's Fitness embarked on running the Dublin City Marathon on a sunny October Bank Holiday, Sunday morning. Three weeks previously Tracy Cunnane ran the Galway Bay Marathon. This was all in aid of two wonderful charities, BUMBLEance and the Mayo SPCA. In excess of €2,300 was raised for these worthwhile charities. From left to right are: Patrick Groarke, Trevor Kelly, Justin McDonagh, Paul Damron, Tracy Cunnane, Karen Clancy and Natasha Kelly.

Why My Archive Goes To The National Library

ANTHONY J. JORDAN

Over the past sixty years I have been building up an archive. Some two years ago I decided it was time to secure its future. I itemised it online and approached my university alma mater and the National Library of Ireland. They both sent teams to inspect it and both sought to have it. It was not easy to make a choice. This piece explains, in as far as I can, my choice.



My Archive, comprising circa twenty boxes, ready for collection, being guarded by my granddaughter Lily.

As a youth living in Knox St., Ballyhaunis I began to collect all sorts of documents, newspaper cuttings, programmes, letters and notes. In secondary school at St. Jarlath's College I continued to collect, and at university I began to write articles about sports. Later, as a teacher, I started to write novels. I still remember the lady who was the unhappy heroine of my first novel. I still think of whatever happened to her as she walked down Dún Laoghaire Pier that evening. I could not allow it to be published after what happened earlier to John McGahern in the same parish of Clontarf. Then, through the influence of Christy Brown, I branched into the safer terrain of writing biographies. My first one was about Major John MacBride, who remains my favourite character of the sixteen I have written about.

A lot of fine people lived on our street – Knox St. – in the 1950s: Tom Forde, Tommy Johnston, Hubert Lyons, Pat Callaly, Dom Moran, Willie Murphy, Kitty Mitchell, Pat Keane, P.J. Waldron, Eddie Biesty, Phillip, Jack and Broddy Morley, Jack and Harry Dillon, Pat Kenny, Jimmy Byrne, J.T. Smith, Delia Jordan, the Grealley sisters, Mrs. Garvey, Mrs. Rattigan, Mrs. Greene, Pat Tarpey, Mrs. McGillicuddy, Mrs. Mike Waldron, Johnny Forde [Thanks to Marcella and Joe Keane]. But the most august and venerable person on our street was Dr. Michael F. Waldron. He lived with his sister Katie in a shop close to where Pat Byrne had a grocery business in recent years. He had a reputation for being a very scholarly man with a PhD and used to loan volumes of history to me.

Some years ago another Knox St. man, Johnny Biesty,

directed me to proceed to the National Library of Ireland to locate an archive, placed there by Dr. Waldron, which contained information about life in Ballyhaunis many years ago. The manuscript numbered 16,417 was described thus: *'Scrapbook of Michael F. Waldron of Ballyhaunis containing mainly cuttings from Western newspapers (early 20th c.) on political topics and local Ballyhaunis cultural activities'*. He had presided over the Mayo Feis of 1903 in Ballyhaunis, attended by Douglas Hyde, Padraic Pearse and Colonel Maurice Moore. Padraic Pearse was so impressed with the Feis that he wrote a glowing leading article in *'An Claidheamh Soluis'* on the subject.

In 1911 Michael F. wrote of Major John MacBride, whom he had met in relation to the Industrial Development of the West, as, "a thoughtful prudent gentleman, broadminded and ready to make allowances for differences of opinion... mild mannered, courteous and unassuming, the famous soldier gave the impression of having abundant force of character in reserve... he kept to the point at issue... clean-shaven, about middle height; rather sallow in complexion; a keen, dark, lively eye that seemed to penetrate one with a glance".

The Mayo Feis Committee (1903) comprised: Dr. Conor Maguire, Claremorris (President); Michael J. O'Doherty, Kiltimagh (Vice-president); James Casey, Ballyhaunis (Treasurer); John F. Coyne, Ballyhaunis (Secretary); assisted by Messrs. J. T. Smyth, P. J. Waldron, Frank Dorr, and 'the ladies and gentlemen of the Ballyhaunis Branch'. Others involved in organising it included: Johnny Lawless (Dublin), Richard Tarpey N.T. (Bekan), Thomas O'Kelly Jnr. (Ballina), Michael F. Waldron (Knox St.), Andrew Dodd (Ballina), John Fitzhenry (Gaelic League organiser), Philip Waldron (Drimbane, Ballyhaunis), P. A. McHugh, N.T. (Kiltimagh), Michael J. Waldron (Knox St., Ballyhaunis), Michael Murphy (Kiltimagh), S. O'Leary (Cork), Padraic Ó Máille (Maam), Frank Dorr (Foxford), Micheál Ó Máille N.T. (Cornamona, Co. Galway – brother of Padraic above) and Frank Swift (Abbeyquarter).

I suppose the reason, if you can describe it as such, I chose the National Library, is that there is continuity from the time of that other Knox Street man, whom I remember so clearly, together with his dear sister.

My biographies, through which much of my Archive derives, are: Major John MacBride, Sean MacBride, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Winston Churchill, Christy Brown's Women, Willie Yeats and the Gonne MacBrides, Yeats/Gonne/MacBride Triangle, W.B. Yeats, W.T. Cosgrave, John A. Costello, Autobiography - Memoir of a Biographer, Boer War to Easter Rising, Eamon de Valera, Arthur Griffith, A Jesus Biography 2015, and James Joyce Unplugged.

Fit-For-Life

Ballyhaunis 'Fit-For-Life' has been up and running now for six years. Its aim is to encourage its members to keep fit by walking or running, and to achieve the goals they set for themselves. We meet every Tuesday evening at 7pm and Saturday mornings at 9am at the Ball Court, Friary Grounds. If you have any queries or questions please contact Martin on 087-2455989. This year, for Annagh, three 'Fit-For-Life' members give a brief account of what it means to them.

Joe O'Gara

I joined Ballyhaunis Fit-For-Life after meeting Martin Fitzmaurice about five years ago. He told that a new walking and running group had started up. From the first night I knew it was for me. The group was relaxed, friendly and welcoming. I had been reasonably fit from playing soccer but had found it hard to train on my own for any period of time.

The group meets Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings at the Ballcourt in the Friary grounds. After a bit of a chat we decide on routes/distances suitable for everybody. We are very lucky in Ballyhaunis that we have so many quiet country roads and clean fresh air compared to large cities where people run through traffic fumes and noise. We vary our routes and have run in some lovely scenic places around Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Granlahan, Cloonfad and Gorthaganny.

The group organises our own annual 8k run, and it is always well supported by the people of Ballyhaunis. It is a great feeling to be part of a big crowd running down Main Street.

Many members of the group have run in events from 5ks to half marathons, and some have run marathons, but there is no pressure on anybody to do any of these. The main thing is that people come along and enjoy themselves.

There are times when it is an effort to go out on a run – it's too cold, too wet, too windy or all three. But I always feel better after a run than I did before I started.

There are many reasons why I am glad I run with Ballyhaunis Fit-For-Life, I feel healthier, it clears the head, and I get satisfaction from completing a run. But the best thing is the friends I have made in the group and the odd cup of coffee and sticky bun.

For anybody that would like to get a little bit fitter I recommend giving Ballyhaunis Fit-For-Life a try.

Siobhán Walsh

I returned to Ballyhaunis five years ago. At that time I was very busy with young children. Apart from walking, I had very little time to develop my fitness.

In January 2015 I went for my first run. That lasted ten minutes. I kept it up and gradually built on the time and distance. That April I completed my first 10k, and three months later I ran my first half marathon. I have run the Achill Half-Marathon every year since and completed numerous 10k's. I literally have gone from never having run before to running the half marathon distance of 21k.

I enjoy the Fit-For-Life group. There is no pressure or demands. It caters for all levels of fitness. There is no big expense or commitment required. I now try to run several times a week either on my own or with the group. I find it a great way of not just keeping fit but also clearing my head and it's easy to fit around a busy family schedule.

From a social aspect the Fit-For-Life group has been a great way to get out, meet new friends and reacquaint with the Ballyhaunis Community.

Mary T. Griffin

I am with Ballyhaunis Fit-For-Life for about six years. In that time I have gained such fitness that I am participating in 5k and 10k races. Some people run and we have people who walk, which I do myself.

We have a lovely bunch of people who are ready to help you out in whatever level of fitness you want. What I got out of it is achieving my own goal of being able to do a bit better in times in my 5k and 10k races. It was hard getting up on cold and wet Saturday mornings in the winter, but once you have warmed up it is fine. I have great friends and we also have a social outlet. I have done the Women's West of Ireland Mini Marathon, Castlebar, five times. It is such a good feeling when I finish in the time I wanted to achieve. I would not be where I am now if it was not for the group of people who have helped me. Thank you all.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm and Saturday mornings at 9am at the Ball Court in The Friary Grounds. If you would like to join us all you have to do is ring Martin on 087-2455989 and it would be a pleasure to meet and have you join us.



Johnny Logan once asked, "What's Another Year". 2017 wasn't just 'Another Year' for the local branch of Fine Gael. It was an extremely exciting and productive one. Branch membership is up on 2016 and this has led to increased numbers attending our regular meetings. What is most gratifying is the number of young people attending our meetings, and expressing their views on policy and the direction, in their opinion, that Fine Gael should adopt going forward.

Branch members travelled to the Dáil on 13th June to witness An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. make his farewell address on the occasion of his retirement. Although tinged with a little sadness that his term as Taoiseach was coming to an end, it is with great pride we reflect on his achievement of becoming the longest ever serving Taoiseach in the history of Fine Gael. This accolade was previously held by John A. Costello. The respect the members of the Dáil had for Enda was clearly evident by the standing ovation he received from them on the conclusion of his address. Prior to this event Branch members, on the invitation of An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D., attended a reception to mark his retirement in Government Buildings on Friday evening 9th June. This was a most enjoyable informal evening where we mingled with members of the Kenny family and Government Ministers.

The Branch would like to acknowledge and congratulate the individuals and local committees that received accolades during 2017. Ballyhaunis GAA Club for their 'Mayo Meitheal Award 2017' and 'Best Sports Club 2017'. Midwest Radio for becoming 'The Most Listened To Local Radio'. Ballyhaunis Tidy Town committee for increasing its marks in the Tidy Towns

competition for 2017. Ballyhaunis Boxing Club whose member Eoghan Lavin won a silver medal at the European Schoolboys Boxing Championships held in Valcea, Romania. A special accolade has to go to 'Annagh 2017' as this is the 40th edition of the magazine. Congratulations to all the committee members who, for the last forty years have worked so diligently to produce 'The Annagh' to such a high standard.



Cllr John Cribbin attending "Ballyhaunis Enterprise Town" event with Minister Michael Ring, Gerard Burke and Senator Michelle Mulherin.

Thanks to the tireless work of local Cllr. John Cribbin the town has benefited enormously from council and national funding. In June he announced that €3,605,862 was made available to Mayo County Council by Mr. Eoghan Murphy TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the construction of eighteen Social Housing Homes at Abbeyquarter. This news was warmly welcomed in the town because not only will it increase the social housing stock in our area, it will also provide additional construction jobs in our town. At our October Branch meeting all present congratulated Cllr. Cribbin on his recent announcement of further funding for the town. He informed the gathering that the sum €96,000 was granted to Ballyhaunis under the 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Michael Ring T.D. This funding is to be used for the first phase in the revamp of The Square.

Councillor Cribbin is available to meet constituents at his weekly clinic in the The Oak Café and Bar Bridge St., Ballyhaunis at 10am each Tuesday, and by appointment at a time and place of their convenience. He can be contacted at 087-2920368.

Ballyhaunis Fine Gael would like to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.



Cllr. John Cribbin at Government Buildings attending An Taoiseach Enda Kenny's retirement party.

Our Most Senior Reader

PATRICK McCORRY

At 103 years of age, Mary is considered to be our oldest regular reader. Born on Thursday, 30th July 1914, six days prior to the start of the First World War and before the Irish Free State was established, to Pat and Mary-Kate Glynn (Prendergast) in Cuiltycreaghan, Brickens. The eldest daughter and second child in a family of nine, Mary lived on a mixed farm with brothers and sisters Michael, Bride (Sr. Ignatius), Margaret, Nance, Nell, Teresa, Joe and Úna. From an early age she helped out with tasks such as tending the turf, or being responsible for holding the oats' heads back whilst her father scythed the crop; health and safety was no big deal in those days! Times were not easy but she enjoyed a happy upbringing with family close by. Her grandparents were from Reask and at weekends she would walk the five miles through countryside to stay with them and, though an enjoyable time, the journey left much to be desired.

Her primary school in Brickens had seven classes of mixed age girls sharing one large room. She recalls St. Theresa's Church being built next to the school in 1924/25 with pupils assisting by "chaining water" from the stream for builders to mix mortar. In 1927 she attended St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy in Ballyhaunis, a six mile journey each way. In 2012 Mary was the subject of a previous "Annagh Magazine" article, being the oldest surviving pupil - a remarkable achievement 80 plus years on. Following completion of the Primary School Certificate she went to Commercial School in Ballyhaunis to study shorthand, typing and bookkeeping and then worked with Tom Concannon in Main Street, Ballyhaunis, in millinery and drapery sales for four years; living in the town before moving to Ardee, Co. Louth prior to joining her brother Michael in Birmingham, England - the beginning of a 80 year stay... and counting!



Mary McCorry reading Annagh 2016. Her life-story, which was published in Annagh 2012, includes vivid memories of her school days in St. Joseph's Convent, Ballyhaunis, her time working as book-keeper in Concannon's, Main St., and her subsequent life in Birmingham where she still lives.

On arrival in England in 1936, she lived in various rooms around Birmingham and obtained employment as a wages clerk at a brass foundry company where she stayed for seven years until the arrival of her first child, John. Around 1940 Mary met Tom McCorry who had come to England from Northern Ireland, and in April 1942 they married in Maryvale Convent, Birmingham. Sadly, Tom passed away in November 1965 aged 49.

Five of her sisters also came to Birmingham, married and raised families, while the sixth sister, Bride (Sr. Ignatius) joined the Dominican Order in 1934 and worked in South Africa. One sister, Margaret, settled in California where she spent the rest of her life with husband Charlie; Teresa married Hugh who came from a region not far from Cuiltycreaghan; three other sisters (Nance, Nell and Úna) married three brothers (Jim, Peter and Alan) - some sort of record - and in the main settled in Birmingham. Brother Joe, also came to Birmingham in the 1950s before leaving for Canada and subsequently San Francisco, whilst eldest brother Michael settled in Cuiltycreaghan. Her holidays were often spent back home in Mayo where she enjoyed catching up with relatives and news, making regular visits until 2008.

Having reared six children herself, she was quite happy that others raised her 12 grandchildren! Subsequently, great-grandchildren arrived and she now has eleven great-grandchildren.

Also very proud to be Godmother of nine ranging from Mona Hunt (who passed away earlier this year at 92) to one aged 26. Mary found time to visit the USA a number of times and was particularly pleased that she met up with her Aunt Winnie in San Francisco before she passed away in 2002 aged 102.

Celebrations in England became more regular as the years passed, culminating in her Centenary Celebrations as reported in "Annagh Magazine" in 2014. Mary still lives at home where her daughter Marie keeps an eye on her. Mary looks forward to each new publication of the Annagh Magazine, reading the articles with relish; and though things have changed the magazine still stirs memories of bygone years. She is proud to be the oldest regular reader of the magazine.



Left: Mary McCorry, with some members of her family, on the occasion of her 103rd birthday, 30th July 2017. L-R: Brendan (son, standing) and his wife Jean; John (son); Jennifer (great-granddaughter); Mary (reading Annagh 2016); Nance (sister, aged 96); Paddy (son, standing).

Memories of Schooldays and Friendship

SR. KATHLEEN HUNT

Let me take you back to the early 1940's when I started school in St. Joseph's Convent in Ballyhaunis. Life was very primitive then when we look at it with modern eyes, but as children we were quite happy and didn't know any other way of living. Modern methods of travel and communication were light years away. Walking to school was normal for children as young as four years of age. No Pre-schools or Crèches were available so it was straight into Junior Infants.

I clearly remember my first day at school. I started before I was four as my birthday was not until November, and probably my mother was glad to get me out of the way for a few hours as she had another little one at home. My sister Margaret was already in school and in first class, so she took me in tow. I had been looking at her school book and liked the pictures so I was anxious to get my own book. We didn't have any books for children in our house. Our only reading material was from the cartoons in *The Irish Press* and later *Captain Mack's Corner* in the same paper. We also had *Pudsy Ryan's Corner* in *The Far East*.

On my first morning I met up with Kathleen Freeley at the Cross Roads in Devlis. Here children coming from the Galway Road mingled with those coming in the Dublin Road. I had met Kathleen previously as we owned land in Knockbrack across the river from Lecarrow where I lived, and this was next door to the Freeley family. I often spent time playing with Kathleen while Dad looked after cattle or saved the hay. I was taken over from my sister at Devlis as my new friend, who had been to school some weeks before me, knew the ropes.

Friends

From then on we were friends, sat next to each other in class and were quite shy in Sr. Benedict's room. At lunch break we were allowed out on the lawn in front of the school. It was a nice sunny day and we had our homemade bread and butter sandwich (wrapped in newspaper), with a little bottle of milk. As we sat on the grass we ate heartily. We played for some time until the bell rang when we returned to class for another hour or so. Then we waited for our older sisters and went home with them. When we got used to the journey I was allowed to walk home with other children from the village. Kathleen came with me as far as Devlis, and from there on we went our separate ways home.

The next vivid memory I have of Kathleen and myself is when we were in High Infants and the Doctor and Nurse came to the school on one of their regular visits. On our way home that evening Kathleen asked me why the Doctor examined our chests. "Oh", I said, showing

off my assumed knowledge, "he was examining our hearts and he told me I had a bad heart". Things rested so until Mrs. Freeley met my Mam at Mass on Sunday and enquired about my heart problem! I have no idea how I coped with my non-existent heart problem when Mam quizzed me, and I got a lecture on telling lies!.

Our years in Primary School passed quickly as I look back, and we are now in Fifth or Sixth Class. It is the month of July and coming near the Summer holiday. Freeleys had an orchard which produced nice juicy apples, a luxury in those days. We were allowed to leave our books at home coming up to holiday time as this was the time for cleaning windows and helping Mother Aiden pick blackcurrants, while we ate our share. Kathleen used these days to fill her school bag with nice sweet apples which she shared with the class. On this particular day we had windows opened to air the classroom and in came two or three wasps as they got the whiff of the ripe apples and hovered over Kathleen's bag. We cowered down shaking in fear that Sr. Ignatius would find the culprits who invited in the wasps. Lady luck was on our side as the intruders were shushed out the open windows and we sighed with relief that our cache was safe and we escaped scot free.

One sad note in our young lives was the untimely death of Mary Freeley, Kathleen's oldest sister. We can only imagine the grief of the family on the death of their first-born; the sadness was spread through the neighbourhood.

We moved on from school and this time we separated. Kathleen stayed home to help her Dad on the farm and I went to Boston to join my oldest sister who was already there and who was anxious that I come over for a few years. Kathleen and I kept in touch for a short time by writing to each other. After two or three years I came home to join the Mercy Sisters in Westport and my friend married Paddy Joe Cribbin and reared her family in her home place. Their home was a happy haven where prayer was regularly the focal point of their day. Too soon death took Paddy Joe and Kathleen was left on her own to rear her four children. Being a woman of Faith she worked hard and reared a family she was proud of.

We didn't meet up very often but when we did we had some catching up to do. Kathleen was a very special neighbour as my brother Murt tells me that in former times she cycled around to Lecarrow on many occasions to inform him that a bullock had broken out or a cow was looking sickly and needed attention. Later when phones were installed she was often on hand to report these happenings.

Kathleen went to her reward some months ago. Then a short time afterwards her beloved Tomás stole away to join her. We pray that God will give all the people I mentioned in this memory lane trip a happy home in Heaven. I thank all of them for the happy memories.

Just a word of advice before I finish. Young couples, realise that your parents were once young too, blushing brides and proud bridegrooms as they became man and wife. Grandchildren too try to realise that Granny and Grandad were little like you one time and get them to tell you their stories, they are a part of who you are.



Lorcan James Waldron, son of Damien and Janette Waldron, Holywell and Melbourne, Australia, Christened 24th July 2017 in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

A selection of vintage tractors on display during the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival, 2017. Photo by James Hunt.



The presentation of a cheque for €7125, by Seamus Staunton, Cloonfad, proceeds of his Christmas Lightling Display, to Cancer Care West. Back, L-R: Ann Burke, Kathleen Fields, Rachel Staunton, Joe Hosty, Paddy Joe Tighe, Ann Mulhall, Liam Brady, Kathy Finn, Pat Kearney, Nuala Brady, Kathleen Finn. Front: Tom Slattery, Elaine Doyle, Seamus Staunton, David O'Donnell. Photo by James Hunt.

Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. makes a presentation to Alan Harrison on behalf of Ballyhaunis parish to mark his retirement from the RSE scheme. Alan kept the grounds of St. Patrick's Church in pristine condition for the six years that he worked here. L-R: Mary Donnelly (Parish Secretary), Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Alan Harrison, Frances Maye (Sacristan) and Anne Moran (Supervisor of RSE scheme).



Postman Retires after 41 Years of Service

MIKE BYRNE

Last August, popular local postman Joe Byrne retired having given forty-one years' service to the Post Office in Ballyhaunis...

Joe Byrne from Johnstown started working with An Post back in 1976, just one year after completing his Leaving Cert in the old St. Patrick's College here in Ballyhaunis. For the first few weeks of duty, Joe was shown the ropes and tutored by the late Owen Kilduff of Barrack Street. His first route was through the Drimaderra district on bicycle and he was, in fact, the last postman to use this method of transport for mail delivery in this area. When the late Bernie Tarpey of Derrylahan died in 1977, Joe was his replacement, taking over the 'town delivery'. In those days there were two deliveries of mail in the town, morning and afternoon, all delivered on foot! The postmen who operated out of Ballyhaunis Post Office at that time, as well as Owen Kilduff, were John Cleary, Dom Murphy (RIP), Bernie Tarpey (RIP), Jimmy Byrne (RIP) and Michael Lyons (RIP). The late Jimmy O'Malley was also a relief postman for the town in those days. The late Paddy Brennan was Post Master at the time Joe applied for work in 1976, and doing the work as tellers at the counter at that time were Eamon Dwane (RIP), Johnny Henry (RIP), Donal Fitzpatrick (RIP) and Gerry Larkin.

In 1989, Joe was transferred to the delivery route of Tooreen and Brackloon, and it was this route he served for the past twenty-eight years. Over those forty-one years as local postman, Joe has been very popular indeed with both the staff in the Post Office and customers on his route. He wasn't just the man who delivered the mail from house to house, he was much more than that, as many of those who have been on his route over the years can testify. His warm personality and his endearing and caring manner made him a most welcome visitor to every home that he frequented on his daily run. Indeed, an example of this was very evident at the Avé Maria Nursing Home in Tooreen when he arrived for his daily delivery at the end of August last: the welcome generated by the residents and the proprietors (Tommy and Anne

Feeney), was one fitting for any surprise occasion, such as the esteem and love which all shared for their friendly postman!

Joe was the Union Representative for many of the years that he served with the Ballyhaunis Post Office. He attended annual general meetings of the union, always bringing the best interests of his colleagues to the negotiating table. When the Delivery Service Unit (DSU) was moved from Bridge Street to a new office on the Clare Road two years ago, Joe was at the forefront of negotiations, seeking, once again, to broker the best possible deal for all his local comrades.

The postal delivery service has been very central to the Byrne household in Johnstown now for many years: Joe's wife, the former Helen Loftus from Lavallyroe, his wife of thirty-six years, has been a staff member for many years. Helen and Joe have two daughters Laura and Clare.



Retired Postman Joe Byrne and family. L-R: Laura Brogan, Joseph Byrne, Helen Byrne, Clare Byrne. The citation reads: Presented to Joseph Byrne on retirement after forty years service.

Postal delivery staff members from Ballyhaunis pictured with their colleague Joe Byrne on the day of his retirement from An Post last August.

L-R: John Joe Kelly (Manager), Helen Byrne, Willie Broderick, Joe Byrne, Geraldine Flynn, Alan Quinn, Tom Fitzpatrick, Gerard Plunkett, David Madden, Val Kenny, Patrick Kelly, Tom Murphy. Missing from photo: Michael Connolly, Liam Lyons and Noel Heneghan.



Officially Joe's last day with An Post was Wednesday, 31st Aug. 2017. To mark the special day, a Certificate of Service and Retirement was presented to him by Seán Madden, Human Resource officer, Galway. Presentation of the famous Genesis Cúchulainn statue was made by John Joe Kelly of Ballyhaunis Post Office. The original Cúchulainn statue, which stands in the General Post Office in Dublin as the official memorial to the 1916 Rising, was first presented to the GPO by the late Éamon de Valera in 1935, in the run up to its twentieth anniversary celebrations.

On behalf of the local community in Ballyhaunis, we would like to congratulate Joe on his excellent record of service over many years with An Post, and wish him, Helen and family many years of health and happiness in the years ahead.

'The Smiling Postman'

EMILY MURPHY

Anyone that knows Joe knows that he is the happiest man around. I have known Joe most of my life as he was a colleague and, more importantly, a fantastic friend to my father. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Joe even better over the last few years since I started working in the post office.

He is the type of man who will help you with any problem you have, and if he can't solve the problem himself he will get you someone who can. Joe is very well liked around the area which was shown by the amount of times he got fed in the various houses on his run, my house being one of them. This was also shown by all the parties that were thrown for him during his last week on the job. We had a little gathering for him on his final day. All his colleagues joined him in The Oak for some food, drinks and chat. It's very obvious that Joe has made life-long friends along every path he has crossed.

Thankfully, I won't get time to miss Joe around the place as he calls in regularly to see us and make sure we are behaving at the counter.

On a personal note, 'thank you' for your friendship with my father Dom: he would have loved to have been here to celebrate your retirement with you.

From the Murphys, the staff at the Post Office counter and all your friends around, we all want to wish you many years of health during your retirement. And keep smiling. :-)



John Joe Kelly (left), Ballyhaunis Post Office, presents Joe Byrne with a bronze statue of Cúchulainn on his last day as Postman in Ballyhaunis on Wednesday, 31st Aug. 2017, having served forty-one years in the region. Also in the picture is Sean Madden, Human Resource Officer with An Post, Galway, who presented Joe with a Certificate of Service on the special occasion, which reads: *On the occasion of your retirement from the Post Office the Board of Directors and the Management wish to express their appreciation of the loyal years of service you have rendered to the State and the Company.*



Joe Byrne and Post Office colleagues. L-R: Emily Murphy, Joe Byrne, Jackie Maddern, Elizabeth Flanagan, Helen Byrne, Rosie Teatum.



Farewell Mayo

FRANK LACKNER AND PATRICIA BYRNE LACKNER

It has often been said that Ireland's greatest and most valuable export was its people, both young and old. This was especially true during the Great Irish Hunger when more than 1.5 million adults and children left Ireland between 1845 and 1855 seeking refuge in America. Many suffered from disease and starvation and extreme poverty. Emigrant ships were often referred to as "Coffin Ships" because many of the passengers did not survive a journey that sometimes took months to complete under deplorable conditions. It was believed that sharks followed the ships because of the number of dead bodies that were thrown overboard.



The Byrne children, taken in June 1953 when Della left for the U.S. Tom and Della are in the back; Josephine and Patricia are in the middle; Margaret and Attracta are in the front.

Two family members departed on an emigrant ship in the mid-nineteenth century. Below are excerpts pertaining to their journey:

Celia and Ellen Flatley were sisters of Peter Flatley, great-grandfather of Della Byrne, Derrymore. They left their home in Carramore, Co. Mayo to emigrate to the United States around 1850. Their homeland and only refuge now lacked the necessary food for survival. It was a common event that, with their departure, their parents, brothers and sisters would have a better chance of survival with fewer mouths to feed.

Pain was etched deeply on their faces. The prospect was bleak: either hunger and death at home or a journey without a return guarantee. In their hearts they knew the outcome. Either way the future was as barren as a countryside that lacked the bloom of a healthy potato crop, their stuff of life. There was no 'chemical' cure for the blight on their fields. Great hopes had gone into the planting of the 'slits' that were

stuck into the earth with a fervent prayer for their healthy growth.

It wasn't always this way. Celia dwelled on happier times as the boat pulled away from Cobh harbor in County Cork. She remembered the times when she had happily played with the neighbours' children. She had lived those times innocently unaware of the poverty that existed throughout her village and villages in the country.

Crop failure resulted in severe hunger and was due to English suppression of the country people. English landlords had reduced the Irish people to a dependence on only one food for consumption, the potato.

Irish farmers were bitterly aware of the well-stocked English barns that were full of oats and barley and kept off the Irish market in order to maintain its export price to European countries. The revenue return was maintained as the people of Ireland went hungry. A little glimpse into that time was a song titled, "The Fields of Athenry", an Irish folk ballad written by Pete St. John. It was based on a fictional Michael from Athenry, County Galway who was sent to prison in Australia for stealing food for his starving family.

Side-by-side Celia and her sister Ellen stood bravely together as they set sail for a new land. Sadly, their American destination was never reached. They became ill, died and were buried at sea. They had become two more "coffin ships" statistics.

Emigration from Ireland to the United States and elsewhere, especially by the Irish youth, continued over the years. They sought better lives in America, England, Australia and other countries. In the U.S. they helped build tunnels, skyscrapers, railroads and the Erie Canal. They became housekeepers, nurses, teachers, politicians, lawyers, policemen and firemen and with their earnings they helped support their families at home. When airline travel between the U.S. and Ireland became quicker and less costly than ocean liner travel, especially in the later half of the 20th century, many were able to return home on an annual basis to visit their families.

However, departure of a family member created much sadness and loneliness.

Leaving Derrymore

About a hundred years after Celia and Ellen Flatley's departure, Della Byrne decided to emigrate to the United States to help her parents and siblings in Derrymore, Ballyhaunis. It was June 11th, 1953 when Della left Derrymore for Cobh in Co. Cork. She departed later that

same day on the ship M.V. Georgic out of Cobh arriving at the port of New York on June 20th, 1953. When she arrived in New York, Della was greeted by her sponsors, her Aunt Agnes and Uncle Hugh Cahill, and lived with them at 10-28 East 32nd Street, Brooklyn, NY until she could afford to rent and share an apartment with a girlfriend.

Della's departure from Derrymore was sadly felt by her parents and siblings, described by her sister Patricia in the following excerpt:

The morning dew lay heavy on the grass. It shone with the previous night's rain and created a mist that glistened on the lawn.

It was June 11, 1953. On this day, Mother's usual breakfast preparations were eaten with much less enjoyment and enthusiasm.

Della had finished packing her things the previous night. She had dressed in her new navy blue suit. Mother had purchased a good suit of 100% wool in Ballyhaunis, probably at Forde's. Oh! How sad and beautiful she looked! Tommy, Jo, Attracta, Margaret and myself stood outside the kitchen door. We waited together to say our goodbyes. A picture of us was taken that reflected the sadness in Della's face and our faint smiles.

Tommy helped Dad with the suitcase to Tommy Flatley's car. Then she was gone.

Later that morning, we followed Dad to the bog below the road to help him turn and stack the turf. We did our best to concentrate quietly as we worked on the turf bank.

The quiet was broken by a new unfamiliar sound; slowly we realised that Dad was crying. It was the first time that we had seen him cry. At this unfamiliar sound we grasped and shared to some degree the enormity of his loss. His tears reflected the sadness of generations of fathers and mothers that had witnessed the departure of their daughters and sons to emigrations for, hopefully, better lives.

It was three years after leaving for America that Della had saved enough money to travel back to Ireland to visit her family. Many things had changed for her since she first left Derrymore. One year after her arrival in the United States she met Joseph Weissenberger from Ridgewood, Queens, New York and they became engaged. Joseph was serving in the U. S. Naval military at that time and corresponded often with Della. Since Della would be staying in Ireland for three months, she had to resign from her banking job and apply for a new job upon her return.

A Journey Home

Della's first return home in June 1956 was again described below in an excerpt by her sister Patricia:

It was June again, the third June since Della's departure to the United States. This June was different; she was coming home. The anticipation was unbearable. What time was the train coming? We knew already anyway; we just wanted to keep saying it over and over. Would she have changed? Would she have an American accent?

We knew she was arriving on the ocean liner "The Mauritania" and returning in October on "The Franconia." When she left in 1953 there was only well water that was carried in and no electricity, only kerosene lamps. With Della's financial help, a back kitchen and bathroom had been added. Oh, They were beautiful!

The morning wore on. Her bed was made and on the dresser the new white runner lay in sharp contrast to the dark mahogany of the polished furniture. Mirrors shone and floors had been waxed. We all helped set the dining room table with the good china. Sugar cubes filled the blue sugar bowl and fresh milk filled the creamer; they looked lovely next to the enormous teapot.

While the kettle whistled, bread was baked, chickens were fed and eggs collected from their nests. Father had milked the cows, cream had been separated from the milk and the butter was churned. Mother's brown bread, rich fruitcake, apple pie and jelly and custard were sights and smells to behold.

At last she was here. We stood at the stone wall by the road as the taxi drove up to the gate. Della was radiant as she kissed and hugged us all. It was such a thrill to see her in her new glamorous clothes. She had become so sophisticated.

It was exciting to see such a treasure of clothes, styles we had never seen, packed in her trunk; hoops and crinolines and wide skirts were popular then. It would be valuable vintage today, the coats red and black, wide-skirted and a quilted skirt with a rose print. Her short hair was set in soft waves against her cheeks and of course now she was allowed to wear makeup, rouge and lipstick! In addition there were bags of M&M's in the trunk. They were so good and still a favourite today.

During that summer she took each of us to the cinema. We saw a few films that summer, especially my favourite, "The River of No Return" starring Robert Mitchum and Marilyn Monroe.

Della spoke often of the unbearable loneliness she felt after she left home. She missed us all and loved getting our letters.

On October 4th 1956 she returned to the U.S.

Upon her return to the U.S., Della was unable to work again at Bankers Trust. She and Joe married in June 1958. She left her then banking job to raise their six children after their son, Thomas, was born on June 15th, 1959, the first of their six children. Joe would go on to become a Nassau County Police Officer and retired in 1991 after twenty-eight years of service. They celebrated their fifty-ninth anniversary in 2017. After all these years together they proudly boast of their six wonderful children, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law as well as sixteen beautiful grandchildren.

Since Della's initial return to Ireland in 1956, she continued with many annual visits, including three or more trips a year to care for mother, Mae Byrne, when she was alive. Della's sisters and families make every effort to continue to visit Ireland whenever possible.



Taken in Dublin in the late 1950s. L-R: Mary and Bridie Lyons (Redford), Deirdre Wall (Devlis), Nancy Duffy (Moate).

Family Support Service in Ballyhaunis

Last summer saw the launch of a new Community Based Family Support Service in Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, which is being funded by the Child and Family Agency (TUSLA). Geraldine Glacken has joined the Family Resource Centre as the Family Support Project Worker for the service.

This service is for parents having difficulty in managing their child's/ children's behaviours, families experiencing communications and relationship difficulties, and parents experiencing crises which impact on their children.

The aim of the Community Based Family Support Service is to work in partnership with families who are experiencing stress/difficulties at home. We work with families to develop individualised programmes to meet the needs of the family. These programmes are designed to improve the capacity of families to provide a nurturing and safe environment for their children. There are different levels of family support that Geraldine can provide: an in-home model of intensive family support, or a drop-in information and support service. Geraldine is also a trained facilitator in the Common Sense Parenting Programme, and will be rolling this programme out in the area on a regular basis. Since the



service began, ten families have availed of the intensive in-home support programme, forty-three families have used the drop-in service, and two parenting courses have been rolled out – accessing almost 100 children in total.

Geraldine is delighted to be able to be able to offer such a service in the town and its environs:

We know there is a need for a family support service in this area, as there is in all other areas in the county. We know through experience that delivering family support directly into local communities works. This service is free and confidential and we would like people to know that we are here to help.

The Community Based Family Support Service is available in other parts of the county – Ballina (Ballina Family Resource Centre), Ballinrobe (Tacú Family Resource Centre), Claremorris (Cúram Family Centre) and Westport (Sharkey Hill Community Centre).

If you would like to speak to Geraldine to find out more about the service, you can contact her on 086 047 0587, or call into the Family Resource Centre for a chat. The centre is based in the Friary House.

Birmingham Connections

JAMES CRIBBIN

The letter arrived in mid-August from Birmingham. It contained a birthday card which was a gentle reminder that another year had slipped by. It also contained a photograph with a stark reminder that nearly sixty years had also slipped by.

The sender, my sister Mary, was one of many who boarded the twenty-to-four train at Ballyhaunis railway station and headed for Birmingham many years ago. At the end of the greetings and good wishes in the Birthday card was a directive, "Keep the Mayo flag flying".

Although many years have passed since they boarded the train, they still refer to the spot where they were born as 'home', and retain great loyalty and affection for it as was shown in the instruction, "Keep the Mayo flag flying".

The Ballyhaunis residents in Birmingham form a tight-knit community who keep in touch with one another and look after one another, getting together often at religious, social and sporting events. As happens at home, they also meet in large numbers to bid a final farewell to colleagues as they pass away one by one. One such occasion was the funeral of the late Frank Lyons (R.I.P.) from Gurrane, where a group got talking which included Tom Cleary (Johnstown), John Lyons (Devlis), Mary Cribbin (Johnstown), Eamon Sullivan (Derrylea), Tom Burke (Redford), Patsy Ruane (Curries) and her husband Paddy, and Kieran Benson (Ballyhaunis).

In a conversation recalling other days back in 'The Old Country', John Lyons and Tom Cleary talked about their days in the FCA. This prompted Mary to tell them that she had a photograph of a group of the FCA men in

her album. This attracted much attention especially from Tom and John who had served in the FCA. The photograph was later shown when they met some time later at John Lyons' house. They were only able to identify the two names written on the back of the photograph: Jim Cribbin, fifth from left and John Joe Cleary, extreme right. There was general agreement when Tom Cleary said, "That's one for the Annagh". The editorial committee will, no doubt, be pleased that the readership extends to Birmingham. Many people in the



FCA Guard of Honour, St. Patrick's Day ceremonies, Swinford, 1959.
Jim Cribbin (fifth from left) and John Cleary (extreme right).

locality have a connection with the city of Birmingham because of relatives and friends who reside there. When the photograph was taken at a St. Patrick's Day parade in Swinford all of sixty years ago, none of those in uniform realised there was a connection with the same city. Some of the buttons that were shining on the day still exist, and lettering on the back clearly shows that they were 'Made in Birmingham'.

Ballyhaunis Library

CLARE ST., BALLYHAUNIS

Opening Hours

Mondays & Thursdays: Closed

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 12:00pm - 7:00pm

Fridays & Saturdays: 11:00am - 4:00pm

AA Meetings (Alcoholics Anonymous) Sun. 8.30pm
Venue: Family Resource Centre,
Friary Grounds, Ballyhaunis.

Al-Anon (Family Support Meetings), Sun. 8.30pm
Venue: School Iosa Primary School.
Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis.

www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Connaught Telephone Service: 091-767777
www.al-anon-ireland.org

Annagh Wheelers

DARRAGH DELANEY



Annagh Wheelers taking a well deserved break at Killary Harbour during the Tour of Mayo.

Our club is a small group of cyclists who like to ramble the countryside on our bikes at every opportunity. The club is in existence since 1990 and participates in leisure cycling, touring, road racing, time trials and some mountain biking. New members are always welcome. Presently we have 29 members from Ballyhaunis, Knock, Claremorris and the surrounding areas.

A regular Sunday morning group cycle starting at 9.00 am in Ballyhaunis occurs throughout the year, this is an à la carte spin with riders going for as long as their ability or time available allows. This is a sociable cycle and the group stays together, it is a good way of introducing riders to group cycling.

A mid-week evening group spin and a Friday night team time trial take place in the summer months. The time trial or T4 to give it its proper name puts teams of 4 against the clock. Generous handicaps apply which means that all teams have a chance of winning on the night.



Members who took part in the Ballinrobe Sportive
L-R: Pat Freeley, Sean Gallagher, Sean Murphy, Gerry Madden,
Johnny Kelly, Darragh Delaney.



Darragh Delaney competing in a local TT event.

2017 has been another successful year in the club. We have welcomed a few new members and existing members continue post impressive results in many sporting disciplines. Johnny Kelly was an very impressive 4th overall in the Mayo Cycling League and we had a win from Leighn Chambers at the Ballaghaderreen race.

Club members travelled abroad on multiple trips in France and Spain. The famous Mont Ventoux climb was completed by a few of our cyclists in June. Other team members participated in training camps in Spain in early February which got their year off to a good start.

In May we held our annual Tour of Mayo event and in September we had our Day of Cycling in memory of Martin Connery in which we raised money for the St. Vincent de Paul. Record numbers of cyclists participated

in each event and we would like to thank all the local cycling clubs for supporting us. Both of these events are scheduled to happen again in 2018 and we would love to see you participate in one or both of them.

Last year club members cycled a total of 145,000km and we are on track this year to hit 175,000km. There were a number of notable achievements along the way: four members of the club completed a Coast-to-Coast cycle from Westport to Dublin in July; club member Darragh Delaney recorded one of the fastest individual 40km within the club in a time of 58:51; our racing team clocked 56:51 for the same course during the Mayo

Cycling League team event; and in October a valiant solo effort to cycle from Mizen to Malin in under 24 hours was undertaken by our brave Scotsman, Leighn Chambers, who had to abandon the effort as a result of a broken gear cable and a dodgy Garmin. His attempt has only served to whet the appetite of other club members to complete this challenge in 2018.

We are always on the lookout for new members. You can get more info about joining on our website www.annaghwheelers.com. Remember, we cater for cyclists of all abilities.

Ballyhaunis Burgundy

Róisín Curley is a pharmacist, working in the family business in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. At the same time, she makes her own wines in Burgundy, one of the most prestigious French wine regions of all.

She participated in a Wine and Spirit Education Trust course, then studied for a masters (and was awarded a scholarship) in viticulture and oenology in Montpellier and Geisenheim Universities in France and Germany. This was followed by a year at Château Latour in Bordeaux, comparing standard and organic viticulture for her thesis, and then a vintage in Château Grillet in the northern Rhône.

She chose Burgundy as her winemaking home through a series of coincidences. She had friends and contacts in Burgundy, and was introduced to the owner of a winemaking facility, who rents out space to small winemakers. "I don't need to be in Beaune all the time. Obviously, I have to be there for the harvest and winemaking, but I have a space that is fully staffed, a whole support system that I can call on anytime I want," she said.

Her first two releases, a white St. Romain and a red Beaune Clos des Rouards, both from the 2015 vintage, are excellent, superior to many more expensive wines from better-known producers in the region. Anyone interested in trying Ballyhaunis Burgundy will need to buy quickly as mere 300 bottles of the white and 1,500 bottles of red have been produced.

The above is an extract from an article 'Wine, Women... and Mayo' by John Wilson, which appeared in the Irish Times Winter Food and Drink Guide.



Róisín Curley



Ulster Bank Closes

After over 100 years in Ballyhaunis

MIKE BYRNE

It wasn't quite business as usual at Ulster Bank in Ballyhaunis on Friday, September 8th. On the final day of trading at the Abbey Street bank, after over 100 years of service in the town, it was a day of sadness; a day also of goodwill and good wishes between staff and customers, and also a day in which memories of past managers and former staff were remembered and called to mind by the many people who came in to do business on that day. Indeed, not every visitor to the bank on September 8th came in for business transactions: many were they who just dropped in to say farewell and to thank the staff for their courtesy and assistance over the past years.

The impressive Ulster Bank building was originally used as a private dwelling and its residents kept farm animals at the rear of the premises. Ulster Bank first started out as a financial service to the town on Bridge Street, in a small office behind what is now Delaney's Hardware. When the three-story dwelling across from Delaney's was vacated by its owners, Ulster Bank took up residence.

Sadly, all the staff at Ulster Bank in Ballyhaunis who finished work on Friday had their contracts terminated too, so it was an extra sad day for those young people.

Clients who had been dealing with Ulster Bank for many, many years – some of them of the third generation of banking at the Abbey Street office – certainly felt it was a cruel blow and a very sad day for the town and for the wider community. However, despite the disappointment of losing a valuable asset in the town after so many decades, there was also a sense of optimism and good humour as farewell hugs, thank-you cards and other items were exchanged as the final farewell day came to a close at the end of business when the clock struck 4.30 p.m., bringing down the final curtain on an institution which has served the community so well for a century and more.

Below: A line drawing of the Ulster Bank, Ballyhaunis, by Paul Waldron (Devlis), which featured on the back cover of Annagh 1984.



Pic 1 (top): The last group of staff members of Ulster Bank, pictured at the Ballyhaunis branch on the last day of business on Friday, 8th Sept. 2017, after over 100 years of service in the town. L-R: Aidan Benson (Tuam branch), Deirdre Hynes (Branch Manager), Ann McNamara, Kevin Walsh, Christina Murray and Barbara Duffy.

Pic 2 (centre): Ballyhaunis pharmacist Tom Colleran, doing his last business transaction at Ulster Bank shortly before the bank closed for the last time.

Pic 3 (above): Ulster Bank customers, Carmel Higgins, Pauline McGarry and Liam Rochford, pictured at the Abbey Street office on last day of business, 8th Sept. 2017.



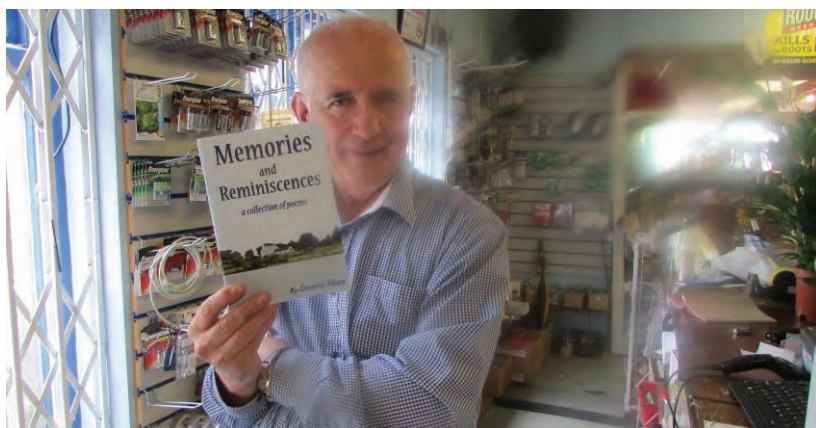


Ballyhaunis friends meet in Sydney

L-R: Sinéad Mulrennan (Gurteen), Thomas Melvin (Brickens), Robert Grogan (Knockbrack), Leanne Murphy (Annagh).



Sandra Lyons, who graduated this year from UCD with a Bachelor of Nursing with first Degree Honours. Sandra, a former pupil of Ballyhaunis Community School, is daughter of Maura Hunt and Declan Lyons (Ballyhaunis) and granddaughter of Breda and John Hunt (Cloonfad) and Celia and the late Paddy Lyons (Gurrane).



Memories and Reminiscences

Earlier this year, Seamus Hora published 'Memories and Reminiscences', a collection of poems which he put together during the course of the past number of years. Seamus' book is a fine collection of poetic memories, recalling some of the memorable moments of his life in Ballyhaunis over the years. Seamus, a native of Gorthaganny, has been a well known face behind the counter at Delaney's Hardware and Garden Centre on Bridge Street for the past forty-eight years.

Upper Main Street natives pictured outside Caulfield's Shop on the morning of the **Eucharistic Procession**, Sunday, June 18th; left to right: Ned Murren, Mary Teresa Judge (Hopkins), Seamus Caulfield, Tommy Caulfield and Mary-Hannah O'Connor (Jordan).



Jenny Lyons pictured at her salon '**Infinity Hair**' which opened on Main St. earlier this year. Jenny is daughter of Michael and Bridie Lyons, Spaddagh, Ballyhaunis.



Karl O'Connor, pictured here with his wife Karen (nee Henry), was appointed a **Notary Public** by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in January last (2017). Having lived in Dublin and U.S.A. for some time, they have returned to the West and now live in Greenwood.



Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebrations

Tom and Christina Finn, Main St., on their Wedding Day in 1967



Tom and Christina Finn, Main St., celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 29th Apr. 2017, with family here in Ireland and in Australia.



Family Celebrations in Australia.

L-R: Tom and Chris Finn, Keely Finn, Jolice Finn, Tara Finn, Rob Finn, Laura and Dom Grealley. Front: Sean Finn and James Grealley.

Family Celebrations in Ireland.

Back, L-R: Lisa Finn, Paul Finn holding Chloe Finn, Austin Finn, Maggie Finn, Gerry Burke, Dom Grealley. Front: Trisha Burke, Tom and Chris Finn, Izabelle Finn, James Grealley, Charlie Finn, Laura Grealley.



From a newspaper cutting taken from *The Western People*, 17th October, 1964.

Tom Lyons of Clare St., pictured in action for Ballyhaunis during the County Junior Football Championship semi-final against Ardnaree, played at McHale Park, Castlebar the previous Sunday (11th October). Ballyhaunis were victorious on that occasion, beating Ardnaree 1-4 to 0-3.



It's Hard To Believe We Lived in A World Like This

JAMES HUNT

Some of my earliest memories are of times when people had very little by way of earthly goods and possessions. Maybe we should reflect on how times were 60 years ago?

In the late 1950s and early 1960s there was no electric light or running water; housing was poor; there were very few cars and there was no machinery to speak of. Everything was done the hard way because there was no easy way, and yet people were very content and happy with their lot. They had little money back then, but then little was needed as there were no bills – everything you had you owned and if you could not afford it you did not have it. The other side of that coin was that few others had much either, and yet they were happy. There was no pressure back then because everyone was laid back and there was plenty of help in rural Ireland. People then worked very hard for little gain.

If you can just imagine, there was no hospital bed crisis as very few were sent to hospital, because almost everything was taken care of in the doctor's surgery. If you needed hospital back then you stood a very poor chance of recovery. Just imagine – there were no 'flu vaccines, no antibiotics and people were given very few tablets as they were oft-times told they did not need them. People smoked (many were chain smokers) and many had a night-cap of brandy or whiskey punch at bedtime. They ate lots of fatty foods and plenty of salt and yet we are told nowadays that such things are very bad for you. There was no word of cholesterol; high blood pressure and viruses were unheard of, not to mention depression and being stressed out. People worked long hours saving hay, saving turf and carrying out all the other household and farm chores, and yet Sunday was a day of complete rest when they visited their neighbours, family and friends. They walked to Mass and everywhere else indeed, in hail, rain or shine.

People back then served their time to whatever trade they chose and they knew that trade inside out. Serving your time was very important and you did not set up in your trade until you knew your trade. Sons learned from their fathers how to sow, mow, reap and harvest crops; the ladies in the house learned to bake and cook, sew, knit,

crochet, darn socks and deal with linens and all house chores. The older generation had lots of cures for different ailments of their people and livestock. If you think of it there were no computers, mobile phones, very few radios, no TVs or all that we have today. How did they manage? And yet they had time for everyone and time to relax.

Nowadays, despite all we have, we are not content and we have so much – maybe too much. How much do we really need? We have washing machines and launderettes and all kinds of gadgets and are we any better off? In those days there seem to have been fewer regulations, no penalty points and very few of the laws we have today. Maybe it is backwards we are going instead of forwards? Think about it: there were no answering machines or world-wide web, no this, that or the other, just people with pen and paper anxious to help out.

We heard so much from cousins who visited from the UK and the USA, about all the mod cons they had and we wondered what they were like. And then we heard of them finishing work at 5pm, taking the weekend off to go to a football or soccer match or the cinema, and going on a sunshine holiday to places we had never heard of. And yet, at that time we had our summer holidays in the bog or the hayfield and plenty of work looking after livestock, etc. And yet we were still quite content with what we had and, as the generations changed, we slowly left that world of hard work and little rest behind, and now that we have all the mod cons of our day are we any better off or any happier? One thing, we have more murders (almost on a daily basis), more crime, more laws and much more confusion; more loneliness, often in the midst of crowds. We rarely meet our neighbours, and are less connected despite all our communication gadgets. We have more people sick and hospital queues getting longer by the week. Were we just as far ahead to stay where we were happy, content and at peace? So many people refer to the days back then as the happy days and that they surely were, when we could laugh at everything and see the lighter side of life. But sadly there is no way back.

*"You can boast about your turnip
And most men surely would
But no way can you compare it
To Mick Mullarkey's spud!"*

—Seamus Hora



The seed for this Maris Piper potato was purchased from Delaney's, Bridge St., in Spring 2013. It was on display in the shop from October 2013 to Spring of 2014. It was then returned to Michael Mullarkey of Ballybeg who planted it. It produced a massive crop of sixty-two potatoes when harvested later that year.

Ballyhaunis and District Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2017

MURT HUNT

It was over a pint (after Saturday evening Mass) in Phillips' bar in early May that Michael Goulding first put the idea of going to Lourdes on a pilgrimage to me. At first I was a bit hesitant with the idea, but realised that Michael would be the perfect host on the trip with his organising skills, work with local radio, charitable work, and music and drama experience etc., so I gave him the go-ahead to include me in the party. It would not be new to me as I had been there approximately twelve times: three times with my late wife Anne (RIP), 1991-93 when she was diagnosed with cancer, and nine times on my own afterwards. Indeed, Michael proved to be the perfect facilitator on the trip and was always there at our beck and call every day, to fill us out on the next day's activities and solve any problems we may have had. Michael organised a few get-togethers in the Parochial Hall to get us acquainted, and get our tickets organised, and partake of his mother Mary's welcome tea, coffee, scones and biscuits.

So we all arrived in a downpour of rain in the early morning at Knock airport on 27th May and soon were queueing to check-in for our flight, some of us having installed inner central heating to give us courage for the flight. The group was quite small as a pilgrimage had departed to The Holy Land around the same time, and Our Lady could not perform the miracle of people going on both trips at the same time. Most of the group were women and it was evident many of them were from the Ballinlough area, with none of us foreseeing what was to unfold at home in the coming weeks with the Roscommon v Mayo scenario.

We had a comfortable flight, and soon arrived at Lourdes airport and were bussed to our hotel, had a meal and got set up in our rooms, whilst some of the party went down to the grotto, and others just relaxed. The weather was quite a change from the weather we had experienced at Knock and was very warm.



St. Joseph's Cluster Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 2017.

Back, L-R: Anne Lyons, Bridie McDermott, Mary Devane, Michael Goulding, Fr. Stephen Farragher and Jim Goulding.
Centre: Anne Kelly, Mary Goulding, Frances Murphy, Peggy Flaherty, Maureen Behan, John Behan, Joan McDermott, Breda Grogan,
Sr. Maud Cunniffe, Ann Murphy, Noreen Gallagher, Janette McCormack and Murt Hunt.
Front row: Pat Flynn, Bobby McDermott, Dolores Carney, Mary Naughton, Nancy Flynn and Mary Gormley.

Pilgrims

We got the hardest task out of the way the next morning with the High Stations of the Cross. Some did the Low Stations on the flat, by the banks of the river Gave, whilst the rest of us brave pilgrims did the steep ascent of the High Stations, and were we glad that we had our bottles of water to cool down, and that Fr. Stephen took it nice and steady with time to rest between stations. After the last station it was all downhill and I was happy to show Fr. Stephen the headstone at the base in memory of Fr. Horan who had actually passed away on a trip to Lourdes in 1986.

We got our group photo taken at the Crown Virgin statue at the entrance to the demesne grounds, and it was so amazing to see the hundreds of flowers and bouquets left by pilgrims on the railings around the statue in honour of Our Lady, some with written requests for cures from various ailments.

All of our group wished to do the baths where one is immersed in the cold water with the aid of two helpers, and where one dries instantly without the aid of towels. Men had not much difficulty in getting their baths, but the queues for the ladies were very long with the result that a few of our group never got into the baths at all.

We had Mass every morning at a different location, and I was privileged to do the reading in the chapel built directly over the Grotto. The highlight Mass would be in the Poor Clares Convent where the Mass was said for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Cribbin (RIP), recently deceased, and for the recovery of Tom Finn who had been admitted to hospital. We also had Mass in the massive underground cathedral which is used for the processions if the weather is wet.

Other Sites

We visited the City of the Poor built by Fr. Rouen to facilitate the poor who could not afford the cost of accommodation in Lourdes. They are fed and housed at no cost to themselves and are looked after by volunteers from all over the world. There we had Mass in the sheepfold, an exact replica of the sheepfold in Bartres where St. Bernadette looked after the sheep when she was fostered out there as a young girl, but from where she later returned to her family in Lourdes.

We also visited Bartres and prayed at the grave of Marie Aravant, Bernadette's foster mother, and kissed a relic of Bernadette in the local church where she went to Mass whilst she was in Bartres. We went on a walking tour of Lourdes and visited the church containing the Baptismal font she was baptised in, and the Boley mill where her father worked and where Bernadette was born and lived with her family for a time. We also visited the Cachot or old prison cell where the family lived in a

single room when they hit on hard times. It was from here that Bernadette went collecting sticks for the fire when Our Lady appeared to her for the first time at the grotto.

We participated in the candlelight procession a few times and I was so proud to carry our beautiful Ballyhaunis banner with John from Ballinlough. It was presented to me on our Lourdes pilgrimage in 1993 by Fr. Costello when we brought himself and Sr. Assumpta with us when they celebrated their respective Golden Jubilees. It drew so many favourable comments from people of all nationalities with its picture of St. Patrick and Pobail Eannaigh on one side, and Lourdes 2017 with the Ballyhaunis GAA colours on the other.

We only had one wet day out of five, and on that day we were scheduled to visit Gavarnie, a nice town high up in the Pyrenees on the Spanish border, and where the highlight is the snow-clad mountain with the melted snow running down as rivulets of water on the lower part. Because of the rain we had to cancel that excursion, but got chance to do some errands like buying presents and filling our containers with holy water down at the grotto.

Revelation

The daily procession of the sick makes anyone with slight illnesses stop feeling sorry for themselves, as the hundreds of wheelchairs with severely handicapped people of every description would bring tears to one's eyes. These handicapped people are accommodated in the hospital across the river from the grotto and are looked after by volunteer nurses and doctors, and their wheelchairs are pushed by volunteer boys and girls from many countries including Ireland.

We had a concelebrated Mass at the grotto itself very early in the morning, with priests from all over the world, and we were so proud to see our own Fr. Stephen concelebrating, also Bishop O'Reilly from Longford, uncle of Mike and John Griffin. We got the chance to leave our petitions at the grotto and retrace the steps taken by Bernadette so long ago, and see the enclosed, never-ending flow of water from the spot where she scraped the gravel.

On the final day we brought our large group candle down to a place across the river from the grotto and it would burn for many weeks after we had gone home. We all lit candles of our own and for the many people who had sent money with us to do so. Then it was time to go back to the hotel to get our bags packed for the return journey home. The hotel needs a special mention for the wonderful meals and accommodation and friendly staff, and despite the heat I think a lot of us put on a few pounds whilst in Lourdes.

Home again

Of course it was not all about praying as we had a drink and a good sing-song every night in the hotel, and a good few hidden talents were discovered, and a few crows were forgiven. The old cliché stating that drink can loosen tongues was never more true; the same with, “brandy when you’re sick makes you better, but brandy when you are better makes you sick”.

So then it was time to be off home again, sad to be leaving the group but happy to get home to our own families, and with the resolution to meet up again and go again to Lourdes as soon as possible. Overall, it was a lovely experience and trip, and thanks to Fr. Stephen and to the Goulding family Jim, Mary and Michael, for all their help and consideration to one and all.

P.S. The Kathleen Cribbin mentioned was a wonderful neighbour of mine in Knockbrack who always let me know if there was anything wrong with my stock down there: she was as good as any vet. Sadly her son Tomás also passed away six weeks afterwards whilst doing his postal round in Ballyhaunis and to whom I was talking late on the evening before he passed away to his eternal reward, when he invited me in for a cup of tea. God grant them eternal happiness: you both are so missed in Knockbrack by all and sundry.



Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. (right) and Murt Hunt hold the Ballyhaunis Lourdes 2017 Banner.

Where Have The Old Ways Gone?

JAMES HUNT

I have noticed now for some time (and I feel you have too, especially if you are of a certain age group) how things have changed over the years. Many things have, no doubt, but the way we prepare for work and trades is, for me, the most striking of all.

In my youth people went on to serve an apprenticeship in whatever trade they fancied. You spent four, five or maybe more years learning about the trade whatever it might be. Carpenters went onto building sites, cabinet makers went to furniture-makers, mechanics went into garages and panel-beaters went to serve their apprenticeships with the relevant personnel. And before that, if you go back further in time, young men learned their trade from their fathers, e.g. blacksmiths, carpenters, undertakers and such like. Amongst these there were many gifted people who were self-taught and were very good at their jobs.

There were basket-makers, shoemakers and many others besides who learned their trade from people who were in the trade. There was very little notice taken of qualifications or papers for any trade. An employer just wanted to know: “can you do the job”. “If you can, start right away”. If you served your trade with a reputable person then that was your reference.

But nowadays that has all changed. Our young people

are all going to college and university to learn all kinds of trades and professions. And it is not just one trade: you start at this, you can move into that, and it can lead you on to something else not necessarily related to your first choice. This struck me lately I met this young lady who had just finished secondary school and I asked her what she had in mind. She said, “I am going to do nursing”. And I said, “What hospital are you going to?” And she replied, “No, I am not going to a hospital, I am going to college.” I thought at first she was messing and I thought, “Where are you going to learn about drugs, diseases and where are you going to meet patients in University?”

For me the same applies to carpentry, mechanics and many other trades taught in third-level. When you look for work you are asked, “Have you practical experience?” And if you don’t have, well you are not top of the list. And then you qualify, get your degree in a trade that you have little or no experience in. Maybe I am just old-fashioned and maybe it is the way it is done nowadays but if I was an employer I would like to think that someone coming to me as a qualified person would have a good knowledge of the trade. This is just my take on the way things have changed. And please note I am not suggesting that the way it is done nowadays is wrong: it is just different as I feel sure many of my vintage will agree.

Do You Remember?

JAMES HUNT

Way back in the early 1960s there was no electric light and the people of the time had paraffin lamps to light their houses, and storm lamps for use in the outhouses to care for the stock. The mode of transport was a bicycle, for those lucky enough to have one, and it would not always be a new one either.

The routine of the farm was: in early January, spreading farmyard manure on the meadow lands, and in February it was time to get the kitchen garden ready to sow. And when that was done the main crop tillage was next, making sure, if you could, to sow the crops on Good Friday.

Next, in April it was bog time. Cutting turf with the sléan and all the work that went with it. And then late April or early May it was time to turn out the stock to grass. June saw the haymaking season with fork and rake. Then in July and August, put out the turf and later, in September, bring it home by donkey or horse and cart; later it was by tractor and trailer.

Then it was harvest time – oats and barley, the threshing machine and all of that. Then it was digging potatoes and all the root crops. In November they thatched the houses and sheds, and remembered their loved ones who had died.

And finally it was December with Christmas and

Santa Claus, all the parcels, letters and cards, and all the emigrants coming home to spend the holy season with their loved ones. Fine warm fires, houses whitewashed inside, everything shining. Turkeys, geese and ducks, and livestock sold at the fairs. And some coming home from Lincolnshire, England having completed the harvest there.

Then in 1962 we moved away from all that when electricity came to rural Ireland and with it came radio, TVs, cars and all the rest. We moved from the sheltered lifestyle, from the local clubs and dances, to showbands and larger dancehalls. And then the singing pub and the drain-pipes, pointed shoes, miniskirts and hot pants, high heels and all the rages of fashion. It was an era when the big crimes were cycling three-abreast, having no light on your bike, not having a dog licence, allowing thistles and ragwort grow on your lands, and not having your name on the donkey or horse cart. Later in the 1960s we had our first man on the moon, and we moved on to joining Europe in 1973, and changing the money. Then petrol and diesel rose in price and were scarce for a while, and also a bank strike which made everything in the business line more difficult.

I hope you enjoyed reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it. God Bless.



Aoife McDonagh, Grallaghgarden, who graduated from IT Sligo with a Masters Degree in Marketing.



Three Generations

Kathleen Hickey (nee Fitzmaurice of Mountain, Forthill), with her daughter Sheila and granddaughter Sandra. They all reside in Dunmanway, Co. Cork.



Above right: Calli Layton, who graduated from Central Saint Martin's, London, July 2017, with an upper second class honours BA in Culture, Criticism and Curation. Whilst at Central Saint Martin's she curated a TED satellite conference, co-produced a radio programme and participated in a number of exhibitions across London. She will be remaining in London for the time being pursuing her career in the arts. She is daughter of Gerard Culliney, Arizona, U.S.A. and formerly of Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis.

Barred

JAMES CRIBBIN

"If everything was done twice nothing would be done wrong." That was a regular saying of my Mother's. She had a great reserve of those sayings. Some, however, could be challenged. Experience has shown that doing a thing twice will always result in getting it right. Mistakes have more lives than a black cat: they can roll over and be repeated over and over again.

My train of thought is moving along this line at present as I am returning to a sentence I wrote in this magazine thirty-five years ago with a view to amending it and expanding on it. As far as I can recall the sentence read, "An acquaintance of mine was barred for ninety-nine years from a premises in Melbourne". This was misleading in that it implied that only one individual was involved in the incident. In fact, a large contingent of our fellow countrymen was involved, all being barred for ninety-nine years.

I am returning to the subject now as I feel more qualified because I have upstaged the boys in Melbourne by being barred myself for an unending length of time. Things were going well for a big get-together down under where beer was served up in big jugs and drunk from 'pots'. Songs were sung including, *The Old Bog Road*, *That Little Old Mud Cabin on the Hill*, and the usual selection of rebel songs. Toasts were made to comrades far away, friendships renewed, old enemies avoided and care taken not to make new ones.

Things were going peaceful enough until someone took exception to a portrait of a lady hanging on the wall. Not everybody approved as he went and took it down and, with the flick of a wrist, sent it spinning out through an open window like a frisbee. The incident would be long forgotten were it not for the fact that the lady in the picture had many titles, one of them being 'Her Majesty Head of State of the Commonwealth of Australia'. The gesture was not appreciated by management or other customers, which resulted in the Irish Party, innocent and guilty alike, being barred for the aforesaid period of time. 'Laughing Con', who came from the Rebel County, convinced the others that ninety-nine years was disproportionate and cited a precedent set in the English Courts where the great train robbers were barred from robbing trains for a mere thirty years. Leave to appeal was sought and granted. The result of the appeal was that the order was reduced to seventy-five years which meant that some may be able to limp back when boyhood fire is no longer in the blood and the inclinations for and the ability to engage in antisocial behaviour is greatly reduced.

This telling of misdemeanours in Melbourne recalls to mind another of my Mother's sayings when speaking of another's faults, "Pray don't forget your own, remember those with homes of glass should never throw a stone".

It being St. Patrick's weekend, I had visitors including my sisters Margaret and Kitty, and Kevin Doyle. Kevin, a Wicklow man, had taken me on a tour around his native county, the highlights being Glendalough and the Military Road, built in an attempt to defeat Michael Dwyer who, with his band of United Irishmen, fought on amongst the Wicklow hills long after the rebellion of '98 had ended.

In an attempt to say thanks for the hospitality shown I took my visitors into Ballyhaunis. At our first port of call, while waiting for a table, we decided to order a drink. A mistake was highlighted involving my sister's wine. When attention was drawn to the mistake, a brief altercation ensued which resulted in a request to leave. As I waited outside I realised that I had been short-changed. If the request to leave had been accompanied by just another day, I would have been able to claim a National or maybe an International record: there is no data in the Central Statistics Office or in the Guinness Book of Records of a person being barred from licensed premises for forever-and-a-day.

As I waited on the footpath I began to ponder over something that is in mind for some time: taking early retirement when I reach four-score or maybe a little more, and what to do with my spare time. One option would be to do as a lot of people do when they retire – nothing, and write a book. There must be a reason for it but I feel I have a central character in my head for a novel.

An aside

A young university student from the inner city visits the countryside for the first time and finds everything new and inspiring, greatly different from the rat-race, house congestion and having to watch your back every move you make. Watching the farmer's way of life he thought it was a great way of life. No need to get into a car, drive through snarling traffic watching the lights, the road signs, the roundabouts and the fellow in front of you, and finding no parking space when you arrive at your place of work. He watched farmers come out the back door at the crack of dawn, ramble down the fields, stroll at a leisurely pace amongst the cattle and sheep. Returning to the farmyard he watched them climb into

a four wheel drive tractor that had all the mod cons, heating, radios, satnavs, remote controls, etc., starting on the short journey to work.

When he dropped into the local pub for a bottle of Britvic he eavesdropped on farmers talking about and comparing the prices they got for bullocks and sheep, and the crop sown that attracted a EU subsidy with nothing else to be done, just sit and let wild birds do the harvesting. He had worked as a barman during holidays in a city pub.

When he got back to the B&B that evening he took his pocket calculator and totted up the number of pints he would have to pull for the price of one bullock. That was it, he needed no career guidance, he would become a farmer when he finished university!

He finished university without being taught a single thing about the difference between arable land and horrible land. Neither was he taught anything about buying property and the golden rule, "Buyer Beware". On his second visit to the countryside he scanned the property pages of the local papers, and one farm was advertised as being reasonably priced with potential – potential for what, it did not say. It being the one that attracted his attention, he rang the phone number given. He would have to make an appointment. Auctioneers were flat out at this time. On meeting the auctioneer (who could read him like an open book) he was taken to view the property. In one field was a fine display of tall yellow plants. The potential buyer asked what crop it was? The auctioneer was speechless, a rare occurrence among auctioneers. He could not jeopardise a sale by telling him that it was ragwort, a deadly poisonous plant; he just told him the Irish name buachalán and left it at that. Hands were shaken and a friendly bank manager advanced a 100% loan with a generous overdraft thrown in to get the enterprise moving. Everything looks easy until you start doing it.

When he made enquiries about buying cattle he found out that he could not do so without a herd number. When he applied for a herd number he found out he could not get one without a cattle crush; when he applied for a grant to build a cattle crush he was informed that no agricultural grants could be paid to anybody without a herd number.

With plenty of money available, and believing there was plenty more where it came from, he said, "stuff the grant, I'll build one without it". He bought a top-of-the-range crush and erected it himself. He was happy how things worked out until one day an official from the planning section of the County Council told him it would have to be pulled down as it had been built

without planning permission. He applied for planning permission to re-build his dismantled crush and was told that planning permission had been refused on the grounds that the area had been designated by the EU to be an area of Natural Constraint which is a Shakespearean way of saying that it was bad land. Furthermore, it had also been designated as a habitat for the rare, protected and endangered Natterjack Toad. Every turn he took he was trapped in a tangle of red tape. A farm without livestock is a farm that reflects badly on the farmer.

Then, overnight, the farm was stocked to its full potential by an opportunist who was not averse to claiming squatter's rights on plots of land that became vacant or idle. Despite numerous requests made by the owner, in a polite manner and with impeccable diction, the trespassing animals were not removed. The young owner considered litigation but was advised not to proceed. He was told that if he went to court the first question asked by the trespasser's lawyer would be, "What is the condition of your fences?" If he swore they were OK he would be guilty of perjury. The young fellow spent the next year and every cent of his overdraft making his fences stock-proof – not to keep cattle inside but to keep cattle outside. His financial advisor advised him that this was not cost effective farming. Before long, unfriendly letters began to arrive from the once friendly bank manager. He ignored them, but found them useful for kindling the fire, until one arrived advising him of a visit from the bank. He thought it would be his old ex-buddy, the manager. What scrambled in across the fallen entrance gate but a tall blonde. She introduced herself as the bank's Agricultural Advisor, a shrewd operator. She told him she was a country girl herself and understood the problems young farmers were having at this time. She did not tell him how well she understood the problems, whether they were real, imaginary, due to incompetence, reckless borrowing, and trouble with in-laws or neighbouring outlaws or sheer downright laziness. She too could read farmers like an open book. She had a number of options for him to consider. They talked about them for a while. Looking at her watch she excused herself and scrambled out across the fallen gate. None of the options she mentioned would work without a lot of lottery money. It's no use dreaming about winning the lottery when we have no money to buy a lottery ticket.

University of Life

He could see just one speck of light at the end of the tunnel. His oldest brother had left home before he was born. The brother had left home shortly after he had put on his first pair of long trousers and went to America,

arriving there with little in his head by way of a useful education or a trade, and little in his pocket by way of useful money, and a small bottle of Knock Holy Water his mother had given him to bring him back and keep him safe. It brought him back and kept him safe: he prospered and became a wealthy man and a pillar in his community. He received a letter from his youngest brother – a rare piece of correspondence – well written in a good hand, but it did not make inspiring reading. Blood being thicker than water he took a trip back to the old sod to see what he could do for his beloved brother. By now the bank has taken possession of the farm. He will settle with the bank, or so he thought. The bank had done a deal with NAMA. A carefully worded letter written on good quality paper from a legal firm to NAMA. Reply: NAMA had sold to a vulture fund. Another letter to the vulture fund people. The vulture fund would do business. The man from the U.S.A. could do no legal business in Ireland without a PPS Number. To get a PPS number he would have to have a passport, driving licence, a DOB Cert, an ESB bill or phone bill and a tax clearance certificate, or so he was told. He had a trunk full of these or similar documents back in the U.S.A., but they were not acceptable. They had to be an Irish edition, preferably written in English. All this was very time consuming and when he found out that the legal bills had by now exceeded the value of the bloody bit of land it put him thinking: this was not the country he left over fifty years ago. He was now a man that did not fit in, alone on a wild goose chase, down a winding road to nowhere.

He had a call from the good lady who was keeping an eye on things while he was away, and who advised him to return, reminding him of an old proverb, “While the cat is away mice can play”. He booked the fastest flight he could back to Chicago, Illinois. Before he left he had

a chat with the younger brother and reminded him that the first terms in the university of life was seldom a bed of roses. He was to look at it as a toughening-up course, or what it would be called in the army ‘basic training’. He had made mistakes but the man who never made a mistake never made anything. He advised him that during his next term in the university of life two questions would go up in the blackboard: “What job was he best suited for” and “What job was he most likely to be happy at.”

And finally...

You must excuse me now. I have reached a stop sign in this flight-of-fancy down fantasy freeway. I am no longer alone on the footpath, my guests have joined me. In two shakes of a lamb’s tail we are studying the menu at another venue. No need to go into further details as to how well the evening went. I was relieved that the reputation of Ballyhaunis as a friendly and welcoming place had been reclaimed after the hiccup that had affected it earlier on.

Summer had passed by when two bona fide travellers met on Abbey Street. Both had been barred from licensed premises twelve thousand miles apart. To renew old acquaintance they decided to “have one”. In the past one often led to two or three and on into the early hours of the morning ending with one for the road. Of course nowadays the strict edict is none for the road. They reminisced that there were six licensed premises in Abbey Street at one time.

One of the travellers claimed to have been in five of the six, explaining that he had not been to the sixth as it had gone into liquidation before he had learned how to drink. Four others went the same route and now Gareth Delaney is the last man standing.



A group of past pupils of St Joseph's Girls Secondary school, Ballyhaunis 1963-68, recently visited Sr Dolores Bowden in Galway and presented her with a bouquet of flowers as a token of their gratitude for her kindness and dedication in her role as Teaching Principal. Lots of fond memories were shared on the occasion.

L-R: Frances Cunniffe Murphy, Maureen Tighe Reilly, Sr. Dolores, Cora Hussey Barrett and Monica Cribbin.



TOM WALDRON (CHAIRPERSON)

The past year has been another in which the consolidation and further renewal of the Fianna Fáil party has continued unabated nationwide. In the Ballyhaunis area the organisation has continued to develop under the stewardship of the present committee. It is noteworthy that Fianna Fáil now has the dominant presence in the local area with the prominence of Deputy Dara Calleary and Councillor John Caulfield underlined in the district through the opening of Deputy Calleary's constituency office in Ballyhaunis town. If any confirmation were needed of the Fianna Fáil party's commitment to the area, or of the realisation of the importance of Ballyhaunis town to the East Mayo region, then the presence of the local office is fitting proof of this. While the party has remained very active in the locality through regular meetings and social events such as the Annual Michael Waldron quiz, perhaps the major event in this year's calendar was the visit of Uachtaráin Fianna Fáil, Mícheál Martin TD, to the area to perform the official opening of the local constituency office. A large crowd gathered for the occasion where Deputy Martin outlined the efforts of the party on a local and national level. Central to the message was the conditional support of government budgets over a three year period which allows stability and certainty to the country while ensuring that Fianna Fáil economic policy forms an integral part of any recovery due to the Confidence and Supply agreement. This has allowed for effective, constructive opposition which, under the guise of 'New

Politics', gives Fianna Fáil, as the main opposition party, unprecedented influence in national economic policy whilst allowing the party to hold the government in check for their many wayward policies. On the occasion, Mr. Martin was accompanied on a walkabout in Ballyhaunis town by senior party members including Chairperson Tom Waldron, Deputy Calleary and Councillor Caulfield. The welcome received on the walkabout underlined the public perception of the party and especially illustrated the magnitude of the recovery under Deputy Martin's leadership since the dark days of the 2011 General election.

The party congratulates Kilkelly native Peter Caulfield on his election to the party Ard Comhairle as Constituency Delegate and his elevation within Ógra Fianna Fáil.



(Above) Senior Party member Jimmy Sloyan presents Deputy Martin with a framed picture of Eamon De Valera addressing the party faithful at a rally in Clare St., Ballyhaunis in 1927, adjacent to the present location of Deputy Calleary's office.



(Left) Local activists with Party Leader Mícheál Martin TD, Deputy Dara Calleary TD and Cllr. John Caulfield at the official opening of Deputy Calleary's office.

L-R: Cllr. John Caulfield, Seamus O'Boyle, Marion Maloney, Sean Waldron, Tom Molloy (back), Moira Noone, Tom Waldron (Chairperson), Deputy Mícheál Martin, Mary Caulfield, Jimmy Waldron, Margaret Tarpey, Rosaleen Harrison, Deputy Dara Calleary, Jimmy Maloney, Bernard Waldron.



Enjoying the festivities at the Traditional Fair Day, Ballyhaunis Summer Festival. L-R: Willie Broderick, Emma Broderick, Sheila Broderick, Cathi McKessy, Bill McKessy. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher*



Pictured during the Traditional Fair Day, Ballyhaunis Summer Festival. L-R: Sergeant Kieran McNicholas, Garda John Hughes, Mary McNicholas, John Joe Hughes and John Clancy.



Neighbours meet at the Festival. L-R: Anne Cleary, Mary Cleary, John Cleary, Eileen Rattigan, Tommy Cleary, Liam Gildea, Teresa Brogan and Tom Rattigan. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



Meeting up at the Summer Festival. L-R: Philomena McDonagh, Gabrielle McDonagh, Cathriona Cleary, Mary McDonagh and Margaret Cleary. *Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



A family day out at the Pattern. Liam Molloy, Tony Cribbin, Áine Cribbin, Fr. J.J. Cribbin, Roisín Molloy, Cliona Molloy (Cribbin), Caoimhe Molloy. Fr. J.J. and Tony's mother Mrs. Maria Cribbin was closely associated with the Abbey Pattern all her life, and operated the 'Wheel of Fortune' for many years. *Photo by Janapix.*



Clare Doyle, formerly Lowery of Lavallyroe, Ballyhaunis, who was conferred with a M.A. in Local History in Limerick University in 2016. In early 2017 Clare established Wild Atlantic Family Research. Her experience as an archivist and interest in local history providing a resource for those who would like to learn about their Irish ancestors. Clare is a member of the Archives and Records Association and an AGI affiliate.



Abbey Pattern 2017. Photos by JanaPix



Ballyhaunis Community School

Global Goals Day

As part of our Education Development subject in Transition Year, we held a 'Global Goals Day' in the study hall with the help of Ms. Murray. In the weeks building up to the event, we all spent time deciding on our topics and organising our stalls. We also decided to include other attractions such as a 'Global Goals Wheel', a food stall, a mini gardening workshop and a comments board. Each member of the TY class spent a lot of time preparing each of these elements to ensure the Global Goals Day was as interesting, engaging and informative as possible for the people who visited the event.

We assigned four people the job of being group mentors for the day. These mentors had to make sure their groups got to spend 3-4 minutes at each of our stalls within the thirty minutes provided for each class. After much deliberation, we chose first and second years to attend our showcase. We made out a timetable for each of the classes, which was then emailed to all the teachers and we were officially ready to go.



Some TY students promoting Global Goals Day

When the morning of the 4th of April arrived, each member of TY began setting up as soon as they arrived in the school. Due to a parent teacher meeting the evening before, the study hall had been cleared of all tables and this made it much easier for us to begin laying out our stalls. In total, we had eight presentation tables on show. These tables included Gender Equality, Good Health and Well-Being, Zero Hunger, No Poverty, Food Waste and 'What to do with Leftovers'. Each of these tables was presented by a different member of the TY class. Each member of first and second year got to listen

in on the presentations at each table.

Along with this, we had the four 'interactive' stalls. Christopher and Sophie took charge of the Global Goal Wheel. At this stall, a member of each class who attended our showcase got to spin the wheel and whichever goal the wheel's arrow landed on was the goal Sophie and Christopher had to talk about and this brought a new way of learning about the 17 different goals to our

event.

Our second interactive stall was the Food Stall. Rebecca and Roisín were in charge of this stall and spent the morning preparing food that they later distributed to all the students who attended. These foods included banana buns, chicken skewers and smoothies which were all made from foods that would otherwise have been wasted. Our third interactive stall was the mini gardening workshop fronted by Patrick, Oisín, Niall and Thomas. They gave a five minute gardening workshop to each group and allowed some members to get hands on experience - sowing bulbs and watering the plants on display.

Finally, just before the classes left, each member of the first and second year classes got an opportunity to comment on what they thought about the Global Goals Day showcase. Eimear and James then took each comment and stuck it up on a comments board. Some of these comments were later chosen and drawn onto a large canvas to make a big graffiti board which now serves as a memoir of our Global Goals Day. All in all, Global Goals Day was a great success and a massive part of our promotion of the 17 Global Goals. Because of all our work this year in Education Development, we also achieved the schools very first Global Passport from World Wide Schools.

On behalf of the Transition Year class, I would like to thank Gerry Glavey for all his help with setting up and I would like to particularly thank Ms. Murray for all her help and support in organising this day.

Katie Ronayne

Siobhán Devine Tribute

In late November 2015 I sat down with Ms. Devine to review what was then our recent show; "Popstars, The Musical." I congratulated her on what was a wonderful success and I was struck by her energy and enthusiasm as we discussed the possibilities our newly refurbished school would afford us for our next musical some two years away at that stage. So, as you can imagine, it came as a great surprise to me when Siobhan told me in June



Siobhán Devine (right) with Justina Lyons.

of last year of her decision to retire. However as I thought about it, it seemed entirely appropriate. All great performers leave the stage at the height of their powers. The same can be said of great teachers.

The Music teacher in a school must be a hybrid of two elements; a teacher and a performer. It is essential that you both inform and inspire. Here in Ballyhaunis CS we are fortunate that we had the services of someone of Siobhan's talents for so long who more than ticked these two boxes. As an Irish and Music teacher Siobhan inspired and informed generations of students. Her gentle manner and infectious enthusiasm ensured Siobhan's popularity with both students and staff alike. Students naturally gravitated towards her as they saw in her someone that always had their interests foremost in her mind.

On a personal level Siobhan was a wonderful support to me when I assumed the role of Principal. Whether it was a quiet word of encouragement or some wise and insightful advice I always knew I had her full support. I also had numerous invitations to the Music Room to enjoy a musical interlude and to observe firsthand Siobhan's skills as a communicator and a teacher.

Siobhan's association with the school musical for so many years ensured countless generations of students have left BCS with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime. I have no doubt that Siobhan leaves with equally fond memories. I would like to wish her, her husband Michael, children Shane and Suzanne, many years of health and happiness in her retirement.

Mr. David McDonagh

Thousandaire Fundraiser

One of the highlights of the year was the success of our fundraiser "Who wants to be a Thousandaire". We were bowled over by the tremendous support we received from the local community. The money generated, over €40,000, will be used to enhance the facilities for students for many years to come. I would like to thank Pallas Marketing for their professionalism and hard work throughout this process. I particularly would



Launch of "Who wants to be Thousandaire"

Back L-R: Keith Higgins (Mayo Senior Footballer, 3 time All-Star, Past Pupil of BCS) Tom Collieran (Collieran's Pharmacy, Major Sponsor), Seamus Caulfied, (Advertiser & Member of Fundraising Committee), Pat Ryan (Supervalu - Major Sponsor), Kevin Henry (Hazel Hill Timber, Major Sponsor), Emmet Keane (Keane's Kitchens, Major Sponsor), Liam Rochford (Rochford's Garage, Major Sponsor), Fergal Delaney (Delaney's Ltd, Major Sponsor), Ramze Rahmani (Aleppo Foods, Advertiser).

Front row: L-r: Nour Cherbatji (Member of Fundraising Committee), David McDonagh (Principal BCS), Catriona Murphy (Dalgan Bar & Restaurant Major Sponsor), Janine Gallagher (Manager, Dalgan Bar & Restaurant Major Sponsor), Rouaa Rahmani (Aleppo Foods, Advertiser).



Launch of "Who wants to be Thousandaire"

Back L-R: Keith Higgins (Mayo Senior Footballer), Justina Lyons, (Member of Staff BCS and Fundraising Committee), Seamus Caulfied, (Advertiser & Member of Fundraising Committee), Roula, - Sponsor), David McDonagh (Principal BCS), Majella Morrison, (Deputy Principal BCS), Sean McHugh (Member of staff BCS & Fundraising Committee), Paul Curran (Member of Parents' Association and Fundraising Committee), Kevin Henry (Hazel Hill Timber, Major Sponsor), Emmet Keane (Keane's Kitchens, Major Sponsor), Seated L-R: Bernie Osgood (Member of Staff BCS and Fundraising Committee), Manan Kezze (Iman Casing Major Sponsor), Anna Henry (BCS staff & Fundraising Committee), Nour Cherbatji (Nour Foods, Advertiser & member of Fundraising Committee), Orla Phillips (BCS staff & member of Fundraising Committee), Aoife Keane (Staff & Fundraising Committee).

like to thank our sponsors and advertisers who were so generous to us. A full list of those is contained within and I would ask everyone to support these businesses in the years ahead. **Mr. David McDonagh**



Construction and refurbishment

These are terrifically exciting times for BCS. Work on the extension and refurbishment of the school has been underway for well over a year now. It is expected that work will be completed in March 2018. We will then have a state of the art building which will be in keeping with the standards of excellence in teaching and learning that have become synonymous with the school over the years. The refurbishment works in the A Area has discommoded both students and staff since last October and I would like to congratulate everyone for going about their business with the minimum of fuss and in ensuring that disruptions were kept to a minimum.

Mr. David McDonagh

Flying the flag for Mental Health

“Mental illness shouldn’t have a black cloud put over it...people who suffer from mental illness will emerge from it much stronger” (B.C.S. Student)

The Amber Flag project was created by the charity “Suicide Aware”. This initiative encourages schools and all organisations working with young people to promote and actively bring about a culture of change in attitudes towards positive mental health.

Ballyhaunis Community School launched their Amber Flag campaign last autumn. A student committee



Top: New extension and refurbishment works at Ballyhaunis Community School.

Above: Front facade near completion, September 2017. Photo by Sinéad Mallee

was assembled with the help of co-ordinating teachers, Ms. Orla Phillips and Ms. Vivian Cuddy. The committee quickly established their aims: to promote positive mental health, to deepen students’ understanding of mental health, and to create a sense of belonging for all.

What is special about this initiative is that it is about students identifying their needs in relation to mental health and taking steps to address them. Most of our committee is composed of students drawn from each of the different years. At our first meeting the student members identified what they saw as the significant challenges to student mental health. These were: not fitting in, poor body image, exam stress, coping with rejection, anxiety, bullying and navigating social media. Helping students work through these challenges is the goal of our project.

The Amber Flag notice board was created and is used to educate and update the student body on the work of the Amber Flag committee and all upcoming events. Furthermore, a poster competition was organised whereby all students were invited to create a motif with an uplifting image and motto.

The winning entry was designed by fifth year student Colleen Manning and is now on display in all areas of BCS to encourage positivity among the school community.

Launched by Andy Moran, “Wellness Week” took place during the week of March 6th and was the pinnacle of this year’s work. We are delighted that Andy was part of our week, he feels passionately about physical and mental well-being stating “Sport and exercise is to me the single most important aspect in modern society...it creates a platform for young people to deal with stressful situations. These experiences can be called upon when dealing with stressful situations in the real world”.



Some students participating in “Wellness Week”

This exciting workshop-based week gave an opportunity to all students to participate and engage in various wellness activities. Dance and fitness workshops include Humourfit, laughter and bodywork yoga, zumba, social dancing, hip-hop and self-defence. There were also art and music workshops.

Additionally there was a variety of guest speakers; Peadar Gardiner and Niall Dunne spoke to students in relation to self-esteem and self-respect. Tom Coleman and Ann Caulfield also presented workshops to students in the areas of body image and managing stress. Jeremy Pagden spoke to students about internet and cyber bullying. He also presented an evening talk to parents and the wider community regarding this topic.

All of various aspects of the Amber Flag initiative would not be possible without funding from Catherine McCloskey of South West Mayo Development Company through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation



Andy Moran addressing students during “Wellness Week”

Programme. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015- 2017 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund and includes a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative.

The School’s first “Wellness Week” was regarded by all as a huge success. It was evident through the level of participation and engagement that all students really enjoyed and benefited from this week. Our aim was to ensure that all students got a chance to take a step away from the classroom, study and books. We wanted students to take a little time for themselves, to experience new activities and gain new insights. We hope that this year’s “Wellness Week” marks the first of many in the life of the school.

Inspirational Mass of Hope

St. Patrick’s Church was packed to capacity on Saturday evening, 20th May, as students from the parish and surrounding districts turned out in great number for the celebration of a Mass of Hope, a celebration for students preparing for important examinations in the weeks ahead.

The Mass celebration was coordinated by members of the local Pastoral Council in conjunction with members of the John Paul II Merit Awards group from Ballyhaunis Community School, and also supported by students from Scoil Íosa primary school. Readings and prayers of the faithful were delivered by students from the local area while the music for the occasion was provided by the Ballyhaunis Community School folk group, led by their teacher Anna Henry.

A feature of this celebration was a most powerful and moving personal testimony delivered by Tyrone native Méabh Carlin. Méabh, aged 25, a teacher based in Belfast, shared her own faith journey, in a very powerful manner, which certainly inspired and touched the hearts of all the congregation, both young and the not so young,

Méabh Carlin
(centre, in red dress),
with pupils from
Ballyhaunis Community
School, following her
inspirational talk at the
Mass of Hope,
St. Patrick's Church,
Ballyhaunis.



who were present on the evening. Méabh's was a story of faith and hope, as she related how, at 19 years of age, she was seriously injured in a hit-and-run accident, which left her hospitalised for some six months. "I was lying in a hospital in intensive care, getting anointed with the Last Rites... The last thing I remember doing was praying the Hail Mary at the top of my voice. I felt this unbelievable peace wash over my body and fill my heart. In that moment, I knew God was real. I knew all the fulfilment I had been searching for could be found in Him, and I made a promise, that if I opened my eyes the following day, every blink of my eyes would be a prayer of thanks to God."

Méabh made a full recovery, initially in a wheelchair for three months, then crutches for a year, and now living life to the full! Her inspiring story, told in such a beautiful manner, left the congregation in silence, as she finished her testimony, requesting those present not to applaud when she concluded.

Celebrant for the occasion was Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P., and the evening's ceremony was introduced by BCS students Áine Duffy and Séan Óg Freyne. Refreshments were provided for all students in the Parochial Hall afterwards.

Mike Byrne

Staff of Ballyhaunis Community School Reunion 2016



Staff of Ballyhaunis Community School Past and Present at a Reunion evening, June 8th, 2016.

- Front L-R:** Aoife Keane, Mary Neenan, Jim Higgins, David McDonagh, Brid Whyte, Christy Ruane, Justina Lyons, Teresa Lynskey, Siobhán Devine.
- Middle L-R:** Patricia Hardigan Whyte, Orla Phillips, Orla Macken, Eva Brogan, Jarlath Fahey, Concepta Moran, Sr. Teresina Daly, Aine Whelan, Rena Burke, Imelda McGreal, Sr. Joan Fahy, Helen Hurley, Tom Grogan, Sr. Evelyn Fahy, Sr. Maura Callaghan, Peggy Egan, Mary Frances Cleary, John Cleary, Majella Morrison, Fr. Des Walsh.
- Back L-R:** Patrick Noone, Olive Lyons, Pat McHugh, Fr. James O'Grady, Chris Pratt, Terry Coleman, Aidan Kelly, Vinny Healy, Cait Webb, Matt O'Dwyer, Morgan Jennings, Con Boyle, Eileen Jennings, Hugh Rudden, Patsy Noone, Eileen Byrne.



Benediction at the Square, sometime in the 1940s. The Stewards are wearing white armbands. During the annual Corpus Christi Procession Benediction was offered/celebrated three times as it made its way throughout the town: at the Square, in the Convent grounds, and last of all when the procession returned to the parish church. The iconic advertisement on the gable of Dillon's, complete with its fondly remembered airplane logo, is clearly shown. It was the work of master painter Tom Barry of Ballyhaunis. *Courtesy of Seamus Durkan collection.*



CLARIFICATION

Left: Thomas Biesty, Pattenspark
Last year's Annagh magazine featured a photograph on page 30 of a group of East Mayo IRA Volunteers, 1921. It has come to the attention of the editorial committee that the man identified therein as P. Kenny was actually Thomas Biesty of Pattenspark. The names as published were those given when the photograph was first published in Annagh 1981. Further enquiries have led to the possibility that P. Kenny is not included in this photograph at all. The Annagh Magazine Society is pleased to clarify this and apologise for the error.

Right: Curley's Chemists, late 1970s. L-R: Vona Waldron, Roisin Curley, Mary Waldron and Sinéad Curley.



This photograph, supplied by Liam Connell, was taken by Joe Greene outside the Parish Church in Knock in May 1953 or 1954. L-R: Unknown (visiting Boy Scout), Columba Jordan, Unknown (visiting boy scout), Paddy McGuire, Kevin Greene, Jim Connell. Pilgrimage season opened in Knock on the first Sunday in May with the annual Tuam Archdiocese Pilgrimage. This was always the tradition from pre-war, war-time and post-war times. The choir was always the Ballyhaunis Parish Choir under the direction of Miss Dil Eaton, later to become Mrs. Hughes. It was an all male choir with boy sopranos and altos. Eddie Fitzgerald's lorry was the transport. Recollections by Columba Jordan; embellishment by Oliver Jordan.



Ballyhaunis Town Football Club

JARLATH WALSH AND BRENDA KRUSINA

The 2017 season AGM of the club was held on the 30th of January at Friary House and the following officers were elected. Chairman: Jarlath Walsh, Vice-chairman: Chris Pratt, Secretary: Elaine Carney, Treasurer: Linda Page, PRO: Richie Crinnigan. Committee members: Tommie Page, Karl Briem, Ken Carrick, Brenda Krusina, Paul Nolan, Michal Krusina and James Clarke.

Tommie Page and Karl Briem were re-appointed Managers for the season at the first meeting of the new committee. This is our eighth season in the Mayo League since the Club was reformed. Ballyhaunis played in the Premier Division after winning League 1 last season.

There were ten teams in our division: Ballyhaunis Town, Crossmolina, Conn Rangers, Killala, Fahy Rovers, Swinford, Bangor Hibs, Westport Utd. B, Iorras Aontaithe and Kiltimagh/Knock United.

Iorras Aontaithe won the League without being beaten all season and Kiltimagh/Knock United were runners up. Crossmolina were relegated and it's a play off between Fahy Rovers and Killala to see who joins them in League 1 next season. We were beaten at the semi-final stage in the three cup competitions namely the Connaught Shield, The Premier Gold Cup and also the Divisional Cup.

We had to play some of our early home games in Urlaur due to our pitch being unplayable and we are very grateful to Mick Carroll for his co-operation and help for that.

We had a challenging season overall but managed to hold on to our Premier League status for next season finishing seventh in the League. A huge thanks to Tommie Page and Karl Briem our two managers and all the squad once again for all their hard work all season

Underage

We have successfully expanded our underage during the season with both U10 and U12 teams competing in the Mayo Youths and Schoolboys League. Our U10 team enjoyed success in both the League and also Kiltimagh/Knock United Annual blitz where they were runners up in the Shield Competition on both occasions. Ballyhaunis Town hope to further develop the underage year-on-year. The U12 team was managed by Paul Nolan and Jonathan Powers and the U10 team by Brenda and Michal Krusina. They usually train once a week on Thursday evenings from March until September.

We are always looking for more parents/children to get involved in the underage at the Club and if anyone needs to do this they can contact Brenda on 086-3950743, Michal on 086-3726779 and Paul on 086-2071765.

Thanks

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the pubs who facilitate our 50/50 draw. To all the businesses who have advertising hoardings at the pitch and to all the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas who



Ballyhaunis Town F.C. Under-10 team at the Kiltimagh/Knock Utd. Blitz in August 2017 (Courtesy of Brenda Krusina).



Ballyhaunis Town FC Under-12 team photographed at the Station Rise grounds during the 2017 season (Courtesy of Brenda Krusina).

support our church gate collections and our various other fundraising events throughout the year. Also thanks to our loyal supporters who come out every week to support the lads.

A big thank you to Yarek, our Physio, and to Kaitlyn Clarke, our First Aider, for keeping the lads in great shape all season. Thanks Stephen Grogan and Tracey at the Friary House for the use of it for our meetings and courses throughout the season. Thanks to Yarek and Eugene Freeley who have done great work at the pitch all season.

Our wish at the Club is to expand our range of football further to cater for young and old, boys and girls over the coming years. To do that we will need the help

and co-operation of more people from the area. We are always looking for extra committee members and people to coach our underage teams.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the Club in any capacity, and we love to see new people come and join us, can come to our AGM at the end of January 2018, or contact us through our facebook page – Ballyhaunis Town F.C. – our Website www.ballyhaunistownfc.com, or any club officer or committee member or our Secretary, Elaine Carney, Classaghroe, Ballyhaunis.

We wish all at the Club, our supporters, sponsors and all the people of the Ballyhaunis area a very Happy Christmas and good health and prosperity for the year ahead.

Ballyhaunis Parish Choir

KAY HEALY

We have commenced our practices on Monday nights at 7 o'clock in the choir gallery of St. Patrick's Church. Please come and join us and you will be afforded a very warm welcome.

At these practices we learn new material and air them when the choir sings on the first and third Sundays of each month. We also enjoy singing the traditional hymns and would love the congregation to join in. We participate in the broadcast Mass on MidWest Radio, and are available when requested to sing at Funeral Masses.

On Saturday 23rd September 2017 the choir took part in the 'Showcasing our Community' event in Scoil Iosa Ballyhaunis. This was a great occasion and, in keeping with the theme, our choir gave a rousing

rendition of 'The West Awake', ably assisted by soloists on the day.

Sincere thanks to our Musical Director Moira Delaney who never fails in her endeavours to bring out the best in all of us.

To our organist, musicians, and soloists, who enhance our performances with their musical talents, we say a big 'Thank You'.

The following Officers were elected at our recent AGM for the year 2017/2018. Musical Director: Moira Delaney; Assistant Musical Director: Ita Fahey; Chairperson: Michael Kelly; Secretary: Martina Kelly; Joint Treasurers: Frances Mulhern and Ann Curley; P.R.O. Ann Curley Organist: Ludmelia Burcovski.

Some History of the 4th Mayo Troop

Extracts from The Connaught Telegraph

JOHN DURKAN

What follows are extracts from *Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland Mayo 1930-1961* compiled by Colm Dunne of the 1st Mayo Troop in Castlebar in September 2016. The history is drawn from reports of Scouting in Mayo as published in *The Connaught Telegraph* at the time. The reports are preceded by an account of the early years of the 4th Mayo Troop.

Early Scouting in Ballyhaunis

The Ballyhaunis Troop, known as the 4th Mayo Troop Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland, was founded in March 1931, by Very Rev. Canon P. Moane, P.P., Bekan, then C.C. at Ballyhaunis, who became the first Troop Chaplain.

Mr. J. W. Mulligan, N.T., was the first Scoutmaster, and Mr. M. O'Malley, Knox St., was the first Assistant Scoutmaster. The first Investiture Ceremony was held 1st June 1931, when the following seventeen were enrolled as the first members of the troop: Edward Fitzgerald, Joe Cooney, Jack Halpin, John Henry, Joe Smyth, Tommy and Peter Hannon, Willie Murphy, Billy and Seamus Flatley, George Fitzmaurice, John Buckley, Tim O'Malley, Desmond Fitzgerald, George Murray, Mickey Griffin and Jack Ganley.

Amongst the first activities of the troop was a weekend spent at the Reek in July 1931, and a weekend under canvas at Churchfield, Knock.

In 1932 the troop attended the Eucharistic Congress



The original Scout Den.

Photograph taken from the railway embankment.

in Dublin and assisted in stewarding and first aid. They were encamped in the grounds of Terenure College, Dublin, along with hundreds of scouts from all parts of the country. There were about thirty in the Ballyhaunis Troop at this time.

In 1933 the troop held their annual camp at Mulranny, and in the following year members of the troop, together with Fr. Moane and scoutmaster Mulligan, took part in the scout pilgrimage to Rome. The following scouts took part: Desmond Fitzgerald, Dermot Waldron, Jack Halpin, Mickey Griffin and Eddie Webb.

In 1934 the colours of the 4th Mayo Troop were blessed at the Convent grounds, Ballyhaunis. The ceremony of Blessing of the Colours was performed by Ven. Archdeacon Prendergast, P.P., Diocesan Chaplain. The Chief Scout Mr. J. J. Whelehan was present at the ceremony.

Over 300 scouts from Robeen, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Ballina, Swinford, Tuam and Westport as well as Ballyhaunis, paraded to the Convent grounds for the ceremony led by bands. Later, the same year, the Ballyhaunis Troop attended the diocesan camp at Cloona (Co. Mayo), together with scouts from Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Westport and Ballina.



Ballyhaunis Scouts and friends on a trip to London, 1950.

Back, L-R: Seamus Durkan, P. Cullivan, R. McKillian, Joe Greene, E. Cullivan, John Morley.

Front: M. Joyce, Frank Webb, Johnny Biesty, Bertie Curley, John Waldron.

Saturday, May 4th 1957 - Ballyhaunis Boy Scout Investiture Ceremony

"A very impressive ceremony took place at the reconstructed Scout Den, Ballyhaunis, last week when Scoutmaster John Morley presented ten new members for enrolment into the 4th Mayo Troop, C.B.S.I.

The investiture ceremony was performed by Rev. T. Rushe, C.C., Troop Chaplain, and Mr. Seamus Durkan Chairman of the Troop Committee. Also present were Rev. M. B. O'Sullivan, O.S.A., Prior, St. Mary's Augustinian Abbey; Rev. Fr. McGarry, C.C., Troop Chaplain, Swinford; Assistant Scoutmaster, Johnny Biesty, Ballyhaunis; Padraic Gavin, Scoutmaster of the recently-formed Swinford Troop, and members of his troop; Ballyhaunis Troop Committee, members present included: Messrs. W. J. Mulligan N.T., Paddy Waldron and Bertie Curley, and there was also a large gathering of local boy scouts and their parents present.

The Scout Den was tastefully decorated for the occasion and afterwards the guests were entertained to tea by the local troop.

The following new members were invested: Patsy Keane, Sean Mulhern, Sean Freyne, Paddy Dillon, Andrew Egan, Christy Freeman, Jimmy Jordan, Bertie Keane, J. J. Cribben and Aiden Kelly.

In a brief address the Troop Chaplain, Rev. T. Rushe, C.C., congratulated the new members on having successfully passed the Rawly Tests and explained to them that they had been initiated into the Catholic Boy Scout movement. He exhorted them to be at all times faithful to their scout laws and promises and commented on the advantages they held over other boys in being members of such a fine Catholic action group as the Boy Scouts."

Saturday, July 6th 1957 - Ballyhaunis Scout Den Blessed

"On Sunday last Ballyhaunis saw one of the most spectacular and lavish parades ever witnessed in the town on the occasion of the blessing and formal opening of the new Scout Den. It was the biggest hosting of Scouts in Ballyhaunis since the blessing of the troop twenty-five years ago when troops from all parts of Mayo and the Archdiocese took part in the ceremonies.

At 3p.m. Ven. Archdeacon G. J. Prendergast blessed the Den. The Chief Scout, Professor J. B. Whelehan was in attendance, as were many other well-known personalities in the Boy Scout organisation."

Saturday, June 14th 1958 - Eucharistic Procession

"A guard of honour was provided by the local Boy Scout Troop under Scoutmaster John Morley."

Saturday, May 7th 1960 - Ballyhaunis Scouts were Active

"Active during the week were members of the Ballyhaunis troop of Catholic Boy Scouts as they performed many tasks for the townspeople under the "bob-job" scheme sponsored by the National Executive. The Ballyhaunis 4th Mayo Troop is now nearly thirty years in existence."

Saturday, August 6th 1960 - Ballyhaunis Scouts Annual Camp in Cong

"A party of over twenty scouts from the 4th Mayo Troop, Ballyhaunis, are at present enjoying their annual holidays under canvas at Cong, Co Mayo. They are under the supervision of Scoutmaster, John Morley."



A view of the Guard of Honour formed by the 4th Mayo Troop on the day of the official opening of the Scout Den, 5th May 1946. Taken from an upper window of the Vocational School.

**Saturday, June 10th 1961 -
Ballyhaunis Scouts**

"The Ballyhaunis troop of Catholic Boy Scouts, which is in existence for over thirty years, and which for a long period was the only troop in the county, was in danger of being wound up last week. Over the past few years membership has fallen and there was general lack of interest in the welfare of the troop by young and old alike.

A special meeting of the ex-scouts considered the position on Friday night after being told that the present strength of the troop was eight members. The meeting appointed Mr. Bertie Curley as Scoutmaster and Mr. Val Byrne as assistant Scoutmaster.

A re-organising and recruitment programme was then drawn up and this will be put into effect immediately. Present at the meeting were Very Rev. T. Rushe, Adm., Rev. J. Buckley, O.S.A., Mr. J. W. Mulligan, N.T. former Scoutmaster, Mr. D. Fitzgerald, Mr. R. Holmes, Chairman of the Troop Committee, Mr. Peter Hannon, Jnr., Mr. Thos. Hopkins, Mr. Bertie Curley, Mr. J. Healy, Mr. Michael O'Connell, Mr. Joe Greene, Mr. Liam Smith, Mr. Val Byrne, Mr. C. Coyne."



(Above): Chief Scout Prof. J.B. Whelehan and Very Rev. Chancellor Geoffrey Prendergast, Diocesan Chaplain, pass through a Guard of Honour following the formal opening of the Scout Den, Sun., 5th May 1946.

(Below): The Scout Den Ballyhaunis in the 1980s.



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CATHOLIC BOY SCOUTS OF IRELAND.

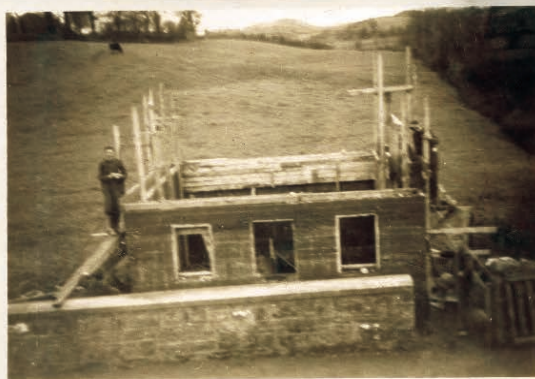


4TH MAYO, ST. PATRICK'S, UNIT



THE SCOUTMASTER
TURNS THE FIRST
SOD

FRAME WORK
ERECTED



SIDE WALL
HIGH

SCOUTMASTER
INSPECTS
PROGRESS



ROOFING



COLLAGE OF PHOTOGRAPHS DOCUMENTING THE BUILDING OF THE
ORIGINAL SCOUT DEN IN 1946

Letters to *The Sunday Independent*

MURT HUNT

Scenic Route to Knock

SIR, Reading about the forthcoming Novena in Knock (14th-22nd August), and all the wonderful speakers that are engaged this year, brought me back to my first visit to the Holy Shrine. It was a school tour and although Knock is only 5 miles from my hometown, we were sent on the scenic route to get there. My classmates and I had to assemble at the train station, get the train to Claremorris (12 miles), a bus from there to Knock (5 miles), and repeat the procedure in the evening.

I had very little to spend but my mother had instructed me to go to a local café, get a cup of tea to go with the brown bread egg sandwich she had carefully wrapped in newspaper and not to be wasting my few pence on buying silly ornaments.

However, I did manage to buy a water globe that, when shook, depicted snow falling on Our Lady's grotto. I was so proud of it and had this souvenir of Knock for many years and took great care of it.

Of course, we all did a certain amount of praying but the highlight of my day was listening in the café to the All Ireland Hurling final between Cork and Wexford, with my heroes of the time, the three Rackard brothers, playing for Wexford.

To this day I cannot fathom out why we did not get a bus from my home town direct to Knock; maybe that was our teachers way of giving us a sense of adventure early in our lives, after all we were big lads (8 years old).

A Croker Booby

SIR, What a bitter disappointment the way the GAA treated various groups last Sunday at the Kerry v Galway and Mayo v Roscommon matches in Croke Park. My friend and I travelled with 30 plus people on a coach, some of whom had arranged to meet with friends from Australia, USA, and the UK outside Croke Park, which they duly did. Many of us were standing outside the Hogan Stand entrance at 12.30pm with the intention of having a cup of tea when we got inside. Unfortunately the barriers were closed and we were saturated by a complete downpour of rain. We tried to talk to an official to be told that the turnstiles would not open until 1pm, so we were left there to suffer the consequences.

Some of us dashed across to the Croke Park hotel with the intention of having a cup of tea or a drink or using the toilet, but here we hit on another obstacle. The hotel was full and there were hundreds in the queue and the doormen only let in 10-15 people at a time as others vacated the premises, so the saturation continued. We went back to the rest of our gang outside the Hogan entrance and by now the crowd had swelled by several

hundred. When the barriers were eventually opened there was a mad rush and several women and children were practically walked on, and then there was more panic inside with the rush for hot food etc.

My friend, being a wise and practical lady, had the good sense to bring a spare change of clothes but the rest of us had to grin and bear the wetting. Why, oh why, with a double header of matches starting at 2pm, could the gates not have been opened earlier than 1pm, especially with the deluge of rain? Then the crowd could have entered at their leisure and got their refreshments with comfort, under cover from the elements.

There were nearly 66,000 in attendance on the day and the Croke Park authorities knew that practically thousands of Connacht supporters would be there, with three Western counties involved in the two matches, as well as the many Kerry supporters, so they should have been prepared for any emergency. With all the money generated last Saturday and Sunday, were the GAA skimping on paying staff or why were the turnstiles not open earlier?

I have supported the GAA practically all my life (club and county) and anyone that knows me understands my allegiance but I was so disgusted at the carry on last Sunday. The GAA unfortunately has boosted the sales of lemon and honey and cough bottles and doctors' fees after the drenching so many people suffered through the carelessness in not opening up in time. They have no control over the weather but should have control over opening up early and preventing so many people from getting soaked to the skin.

Addiction

SIR, What a wonderful article in *The Sunday Indo* 2nd July by Declan Lynch on gambling and the problems that lie therein, especially the ravages it has created amongst sportsmen including GAA players. Many of these sportsmen have gone to great lengths on TV, radio and in newspapers to describe their addiction and their attempts to get the message across to others who may be sucked into the web.

Of course it is not confined to the GAA, as gambling exists amongst many both high and low profile sportsmen playing soccer, rugby and golf and those in the racing fraternity of owners, trainers and jockeys. The odd flutter is no harm but when it takes over one's life, it can be quite as addictive as drink and drugs.

We have read about Wayne Rooney for example, who strode into a particular casino and blew thousands in the matter of seconds; maybe just a drop in the ocean for him, but a very bad example to fans young and old who

idolise him. Of course he is not the only high profile player who does that, many are paid too much wages in the first place and when they are out of action through injury, boredom can persuade them to let off steam.

Our GAA players who train so strenuously get very

little bonus for doing so and may not have the same resources for gambling. We know that it exists in certain instances; so it is a welcome breakthrough that so many are passing on advice to the younger generation coming up on the pitfalls that are waiting in the wings.

Fanning Family Photographs

CONTRIBUTED BY MARY CUNNANE



Rita Fanning and her mother, at their home, Lisbaun West.



Noreen Fanning Walsh, Lisbaun West and U.S.A. (fourth from left), on her 80th birthday with her seven children (L-R) Sheila, Maureen, Michael, Danny, Ann Marie, Pat and Eileen.



Paddy Fanning's cottage, Lisbaun West.

Paddy Fanning with his dog Jasper



Right: Noreen Fanning, Francie Comer, Summer 1948



Francie (Comer) Feeney and Noreen (Fanning) Walsh.

“One of the most Handsome Buildings in the Province”

JOAN FLANAGAN

Anyone who has passed through Ballyhaunis in recent months will have noticed the new look of Forde's on the Square. The white and red colour scheme and the new signage have brought a new lease of life to the centre of the town.

Tom Forde decided on this facelift in 2016. What began as a fairly minor job to fix a broken window developed into a bigger renovation project. And in the process, Tom unearthed an 87-year-old piece of town and family history.

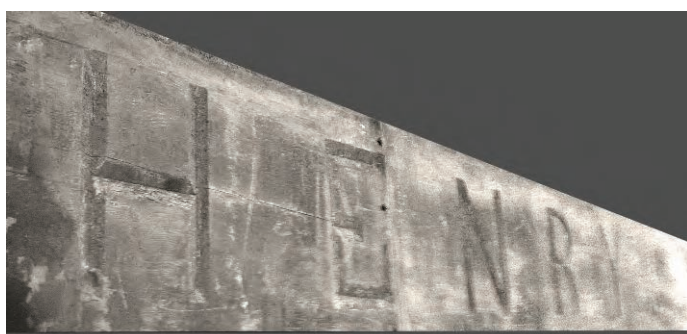
The Lawrence Collection image here shows the building as it was shortly after it was built in the late nineteenth century. At the time, the tenant was Richard Henry (1849-1920). Henry came here in 1870 and built up an extensive business during the economic boom following the arrival of the railway in the early 1860s. *Slater's Commercial Directories* of 1881 and 1894 listed him under several headings including emigration agent, grocer, dealer in sundries, ironmonger, hardware-man, seed and guano merchant, spirit dealer, linen draper and haberdasher. The Lawrence Collection photograph shows Henry's display of clothing, hardware and advertising posters for the Cunard Line.

He built the present Forde's premises in 1897/8, replacing a much smaller two-storey building. In 1898 the valuation office, having noted “additions in progress” the previous year, recommended an increase in the rateable valuation to £34. 5s (an increase of £26) showing that the premises had been substantially rebuilt. The following year (1899) it was further increased to £43.10s as construction and decoration was completed, but this was reduced on appeal to £37.10s. The *Western People* of 15th Nov. 1902, which is about the time the Lawrence Photographs of Ballyhaunis were taken, said of Henry's that: “The premises have been rebuilt to meet the demands of a continually increasing trade, and is now one of the most handsome buildings in the province.

Richard Henry died in 1920 and his obituary in *The Western People* of 20th March stated that, “From small beginnings, through sheer industry, honesty and force of character, he built up a trade unequalled in the previous history of the town”. The business closed following his death but the family retained ownership for several years: the next revision of valuations (1926) gives the ratepayer on this property as ‘Reps. of Richard Henry’. In 1927 the lessor's name



Henry's as it was in 1903. An enlargement of the Lawrence Collection photograph of Knox Street and The Square.
Image Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



Top: Forde's name-board, dismantled, before restoration.

Above: The "Henry's" name-board, as revealed during recent renovations.

Below: Forde's drapery shop on Main Street, in the early 1920s before Tom Forde purchased the premises at the Square. L-R: Seán Lavan, Thomas Forde, Unknown, Paddy Forde and Eddie Forde.

changed from William Knox to James Byrne, and the occupier/ratepayer's to Sarah McNelis (one of Richard Henry's daughters). James Byrne was listed as occupier/ratepayer in the revision of 1928, and in 1930 Thomas Forde's name appears for the first time.

Thomas Forde took over the premises in 1929, having previously operated a drapery shop in Main Street, in one half of what is now The Shop (formerly Newsround). Thomas' grandson Tom (the current proprietor) had always heard that his grandfather, on moving to the premises on the Square, had simply taken down the Henry's name-board, painted the Forde name on the back and reinstated it. And sure enough when the board was removed for repairs in November 2016, Tom found the Henry name on the reverse. The original was in perfect condition. It had withstood exposure to the elements for more than 120 years. This was due to the quality of the cedar wood used, a timber known for its exceptional durability. Other evidence of the quality of the original construction are two steel lintels over the shopfront held up by two pillars welded into place and visible in the shop window.

Thomas Forde passed away in February 1979. In his will, he stipulated that the original appearance of the shopfront be retained as much as possible. The colour scheme has changed with the generations, from the grey and black of Thomas Forde, to John Forde's blue, through to today's white and red. But the Henry's/Forde's name-board has been a constant presence on the Square since the late nineteenth century. Following a brief spell in Donnellan's on Clare Street last winter, it is now back in its original location.



Knox Street and The Square, 1903

The photograph of Richard Henry's shop (present-day Forde's), published on the previous page, comes from the Lawrence Collection of photographs held in the National Library.

These were taken in the year 1903 and the originals have a spectacularly high clarity, which means that an amazing amount of detail can be seen when zoomed into. The photograph which includes The Square, Knox St., and part of Bridge St., is titled 'Knox St. Ballyhaunis. Co. Mayo. 8079. W.L.'

Here are a number of other enlarged portions of that same photograph shown below (inset).



Lower Knox Street, Ballyhaunis. On this side of Knox St. there were houses only down as far as the former Mitchell's shop. The man with the moustache looks like Michael Delaney (other photographs of him exist), standing outside his own premises (later Johnston's). *Image Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*



Original image of Knox Street and The Square from the Lawrence Collection, courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

A group of children at the corner outside The Central Bar (today's Corner Bar).

Some are out of focus due to the camera's slow shutter speed.

Notice the crane in the Square for weighing produce.

Image Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.



Left: From left to right: Murphy's (Herr's), Morley's, Gilmore's (later Tarpey's), Fitzmaurice's and Mary McConville's in 1903.

The last two named were demolished to make way for the National Bank (now Bank of Ireland) in the early 1920s.

McConville's just had a load of turf delivered.

Image Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

Below: David Morley's, later Coyne's, and later still the Allied Irish Bank, on Bridge Street.

The young lad on the right must be coming from the town well, while the man at Morley's window eyes the photographer warily.

Image Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.



Abbey Partnership Moves Ahead

MARK GODFREY

Overseeing the town's most historic building, the Abbey Partnership is now up and running and meeting on a monthly basis to make decisions on the upkeep and use of the property. Representatives of Ballyhaunis Community Council and Mayo County Council sit on the partnership alongside representatives of various local organisations who use St Mary's Abbey, also known as the Friary.

Monthly Partnership meetings are held in the former residence of the Augustinian Order, which is currently used by the Family Resource Centre while outbuildings are used by the Men's Shed and Ballyhaunis Scouts.

Built in 1432, the historic Abbey and grounds are held in trust by the Abbey Trust, which is the formal leasee of the property on a 999 year lease from the Augustinian order. In turn the Partnership meets on a regular basis to oversee the practical issues in managing the property and ensuring its use meets the goals intended by the Trust. These goals include promoting the social, cultural, educational and environmental welfare of the surrounding area.

It is in that spirit that the Partnership has been organising events at the Abbey. This summer saw two important discussions: in July Mick Kane, community water officer at Mayo County Council outlined the challenges facing our waters, including the Dalgan river, and how pressure on water and habitats such as pollution are managed.

In August meanwhile we hosted a lively discussion of the sustainability of Irish agriculture with the national agricultural spokesperson of the Green Party, Pippa Hackett. That talk drew attendees from all over Mayo and many compliments were paid on the charm of the Abbey, with its stained glass windows by renowned artist Harry Clarke.

To further understand the potential preservation and use of the buildings and grounds, the Partnership invited the respected retired head of parks at the Office of Public Works, John McCullen, to visit the property and address a public meeting on its potential.

The Abbey hosted other key events during the year, including a series of events to commemorate the death of local man Corporal Patrick Gallagher during the Vietnam War. Likewise, the annual Ballyhaunis Art Exhibition and several choral events were held. In July meanwhile a concert of traditional Irish music was organised at the Abbey by Mayo Intercultural Action Group.



One of the highlights of the year was the Abbey Pattern, an end of summer celebration of sports and traditional pastimes which drew a large crowd of young and old. There will be further such events and lectures through the Autumn/Winter. Plans are currently advancing for a monthly film night as well as more frequent music events.

The Partnership is chaired by Neil Sheridan from Mayo County Council assisted by Secretary Mark Godfrey from the Community Council and Treasurer Anne Cunnane from the Chamber of Commerce. Groups on the Partnership include the Men's Shed, the Scouts and the Abbey Pattern as well as local art and choral groups.

Anyone seeking to use the Abbey for an event or who'd like to make a query/suggestion about visiting or assisting us should contact administrator Carla Allen at ballyhaunisabbey@gmail.com

Abbey Partnership:

Joe Glynn - Men's shed; Kay Curley - Tidy Towns; Mark Godfrey - Community Council; Mike Griffin - Community Council; Nell Rochford - Community Council; J.T. Smyth - Community Council; Margie Phillips - Ballyhaunis Heritage Society; Anne Cunnane - Ballyhaunis Chamber; Peter Cunnane - Ballyhaunis Chamber; Kevin Carney - Scout Group; Grahame Cleary - Annagh Magazine; Xanthe Pratt - Ballyhaunis Artists Group; Carol Keane - Abbey Pattern Committee; Brendan Donnellan - Ballyhaunis Male Choir; Cllr. John Caulfield - Mayo County Council; Cllr. John Cribbin - Mayo County Council; Neil Sheridan - Mayo County Council; A.N. Other - Mayo County Council.



Family fun at the Abbey Pattern. Photo by JanaPix

Ballyhaunis Twins Celebrate 90th Birthday in U.S.A.

BARTLEY BOYLE

Bridie and Mary Teresa Judge were born on the 5th of November 1927 in Agloragh, Ballyhaunis, twin daughters of Patrick and Catherine Judge (nee Flynn). They had one brother Patrick, who played in a band before emigrating to the U.S. in 1927, and who is now deceased. Their sisters were Eileen Harrington (U.S.A.), Noreen Doherty (Drogheda) and Brenda Forkin (Dublin).

Both of their parents were blessed with long lives: their father Patrick died in 1979 aged 92, and their mother died in 1981 aged 90.

The Judge family is one of considerable antiquity in the locality, and they operated the Corn Mill in Agloragh over many generations.

Bridie and Mary Teresa left Ireland and sailed from Cobh on 17th Dec. 1948, arriving in New York on the day before Christmas Eve, 23rd Dec. They moved onto Washington D.C. to stay with their uncle Mike Flynn. The Judge and

Flynn families were instrumental in establishing the "Irish American Cultural Club" in Washington, DC.

The twins soon settled into life in their adopted country, and have lived there ever since. It would be twenty years before Mary Teresa returned to visit Ballyhaunis and twenty-six years before Bridie returned home on holidays. Bridie has returned five times with husband Buddy and son Kevin, her last visit being in 2007.

Bridie married Roland (Buddy) Howes in 1954, and were married for fifty-one years till Buddy died in 2005. They had two sons David and Kevin. Mary Teresa married William King and they had Patricia, Mary, James and Michael.

Both Bridie and Mary Teresa still live in Maryland, not far from Washington D.C., and all their friends in Ballyhaunis and further afield wish them a happy birthday.



Bridie Judge Howes with family members, on the occasion of her ninetieth birthday. Standing, L-R: Kevin Barry Howes Jr. (grandson), Alexis Howes (granddaughter), Bridie Judge Howes, Marcia Howes (daughter-in-law), Sadie Howes (granddaughter), Zac Howes (grandson) and Natalie Howes (Zac's wife). Seated: Kevin Barry Howes Sr. (son).



Mary Teresa Judge King, taken on Mother's Day 2017 at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, Maryland, U.S.A.



Abbey Male Choir

EAMON MURREN

A busy year again for our choir. We sing twice a month at Parish Masses. This year we also took part in the Annual Carol Service in the Friary. We also sang at the Abbey Pattern Mass in the Friary as well as singing at a number of weddings. As always we are indebted to our musical Director Moira Delaney, and our Organist Paula Donnellan for their wonderful work and dedication.

New members are always welcome.

Is This Mayo's First All-Ireland Football Medallist?

PAUL WALDRON

The man pictured here is Jack Flynn, the first Ballyhaunis man, and almost certainly the first Mayo man, to win an All-Ireland Football Championship medal. This assertion is based on details in his obituary, and on team listings in contemporary newspapers, which conclude that he played on the Dublin team that won the 1897 All-Ireland Football Final.

He was born in Abbey St., Ballyhaunis, on 21st July 1877, son of William and Bridget (Tarpey) Flynn, and baptised five days later, in the old parish church (St. Mary's). Though Christened John, he was known to family and friends as Jack.

His parents had a thriving grocery, provisions and spirit merchants' business on Abbey Street (where *The Horseshoe Inn* operated in recent times), and also farmed about thirty acres of land in Abbeyquarter. A spur of the Westport railway line lead into the yard behind their premises, and the Flynns were involved in large-scale shipping of produce to merchants in Dublin and overseas.

Jack was the seventh child in a family of fifteen – seven boys and eight girls – all of whom went on to gain distinction in their own chosen professions in Ireland and Australia. It was laid out that Jack would eventually take-over the family business, but unfortunately fate intervened and that was not to be.

He served his time to the retailing business and worked in Dublin, latterly in Clery's Department Store, where he attained a senior staff position. He joined the 'C.J. Kickhams', a prominent Dublin G.A.A. club which drew its players from all over the country, the majority of them – like Jack – employees in the big drapery houses in the city.

In the late nineteenth century, and into the twentieth, counties were represented in the All-Ireland Championship by their winning clubs, and so Dublin was represented by 'Kickhams' in 1897. It was not uncommon in those early days of the G.A.A. for the championship to be delayed and run somewhat over time, with lengthy intervals between matches. In fact the 1897 championship reached its final stages only through



Jack Flynn (1877-1908)

the second half of 1898, with the Final itself taking place in February 1899.

All-Ireland Final

Dublin had beaten Wicklow in the 1897 Leinster Final played just before Christmas 1898, and their opponents in the All-Ireland Final were Cork, represented by 'Dohenys' club of Dunmanway. The match was played on Sunday, 5th Feb. 1899 at Jones's Road (later Croke Park), with throw-in at 12.30. The attendance of 4,500 was reported to be one of the largest ever seen at that venue and, according to one newspaper, "Among the spectators were the majority of the Irish and English Rugby teams". The referee was Mr. Spencer Lyons of Limerick.

The following day some of the Dublin newspapers reported on the match, though not in the same detail as would be expected nowadays. Dublin won by ten points on a final score of 2-6 to Cork's 0-2. According to *The Freeman's Journal*, "The game, on the whole, was only moderate, but was relieved by splendid bits of individual play. Probably the dark, dirty day, with the ground, slushy and heavy, may be responsible for a lot... The Kickhams played well, and to their superior skill and perfect condition their splendid victory is to be attributed, their opponents being much their superiors physically."

While *The Dublin Daily Nation* named 'Flynn, Murphy and J. Delaney' as three subs, *The Freeman's Journal* included 'J. Flynn' with the starting seventeen of the Dublin side. One line in the body of the Freeman's match report appears to confirm that Flynn played from the start: "The Kickhams were compelled to play without Mike Byrne, but his place was well taken by J. Flynn." (Mike Byrne was one of the top Gaelic footballers in the country at that time.) Raymond Smith's *The Football Immortals* (Dublin, 1968) and *A Century of Gaelic Games* (Dublin, 1987) both give a slightly different team listing which includes 'W. Flynn', but this appears to be one of a number of small deviations from those published in contemporary newspaper reports.

Little else is known of Jack Flynn's footballing career.

An appreciation of his skill on the field of play passed down in family lore, and it is believed he played soccer as well as Gaelic Football (indeed, there was an Association Football club in Ballyhaunis for a short number of years around the turn of the twentieth century). His favoured position on the field of play is not apparent from team listings or match reports, nor is it known how long he continued to line-out for Kickhams or indeed any other club, though he certainly featured with Kickhams all through 1898 and up to the end of 1899. That 1897 victory was the beginning of Dublin's first three-in-a-row: they won again in 1898 and 1899, though represented on these occasions by the Geraldines club.

Untimely death

Jack Flynn was in his twenties when he became seriously ill, was compelled to leave Dublin and his position in Clery's, and return to Ballyhaunis, where he was cared for in his parents' home, May Grove, Abbeyquarter. The country air seems to have helped his recuperation for a while, but sadly his health deteriorated once again and he died on 18th June 1908. He was 30 years of age. He was buried in the family plot in the New Cemetery, and his name is on one of the two gravestones there commemorating the related Tarpey, Flynn, Flanagan and Buckley families.

His lengthy obituary, in *The Western People* of 27th June 1908 (page 6), gives the following relative to his sporting distinction:

'Jack', as he was affectionately known to his companions, had the proud distinction of being one of the famous Kickham football team, which won the All-Ireland championship a few years ago. The medal which he was presented with on that occasion was the most prized of the many tributes which fell to his share during the numerous battles he fought and helped to win under the rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association. A finer type of manhood could scarcely be seen on any athletic field, and his loss will be deeply deplored by all the followers of our National games.

None of his siblings were in a position to continue running the business on Abbey St. following his untimely death, and so his parents retired and the Abbey St. premises was sold to one Michael M. Fahy. William and Bridget Flynn lived the remainder of their lives in 'May Grove', where she died two years later, in 1910, and her husband in 1914, at the age of eighty.

Michael M. Fahy continued trading on Abbey St. for a few short years and, in 1912, the place was purchased by Peter Hannon of Togher. The Hannon family continued in business here for just over fifty years, until 1973, when they were succeeded by Michael and Mary Morris, proprietors of the Horse Shoe Inn.

Unfortunately, the whereabouts of his All-Ireland medal is not now known, but if it is ever found, it will confirm beyond doubt Jack Flynn's place in history as the first Mayo footballer to win All-Ireland honours, albeit with a team other than Mayo.

Many thanks to Jim Callery of Elphin, Co. Roscommon, nephew of Jack Flynn, for his help in compiling this piece, and for providing the accompanying photograph. Jim's mother Gertie was Jack's youngest sister.

Admiring his Grandfather's Craftsmanship

On 14th June 2017 John Fitzmaurice, a grandson of John Charles Fitzmaurice, the contractor, clerk of works and main builder of our Parish Church, visited Ballyhaunis with his wife, Christine. He was born in Staten Island, New York, but now lives in London. He is an accomplished artist, his paintings being exhibited in various galleries in the US, the UK, France, Germany and Ireland (Sligo). In earlier life he worked for many years in stained glass studios and in art education. John is a cousin of Fr. Kieran Waldron who gave him an historical tour of the church and the town.

His celebrated grandfather, John Charles Fitzmaurice, was born on Main St., Ballyhaunis in 1850. A ships' carpenter by trade, he and his wife, Mary Waldron ran a small hotel in Bridge St., as well as being a builder of the church and of rows of houses on Main St. and Knox St. Dr. Michael F. Waldron writes of him: "John Charles Fitzmaurice was worth more to Ballyhaunis than all the landlords that ever drained the purse of the poor or swept them out on the roadside when they were unable to meet their calls". He died one hundred years ago, on 11th May 1917.



John Fitzmaurice, his wife Christine and Fr Kieran Waldron. Photo courtesy of Henry Madden.

Ballyhaunis Golf Club



Lady Captain Mariette Potgieter presenting her First Prize (Gents competition) to Hans Van De Put (23 pts.). *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



Martin McDermott (Captain) presenting his winning prize to the Ladies to Anne Hussey (winning score of 65) at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



Josie Folliard, winner of the Lady Captain's Prize, receiving her prize from Mariette Potgieter (Lady Captain). *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



Shane Freeman, winner of the Captain's Prize being congratulated by Martin McDermott (Captain). Shane's Handicap is five. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



Kay Buckley (President) presenting her winning prize to Alex Eaton. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



Gracenotes

MIRIAM JUDGE AND LIESEL WARD

'Oh, all the money that e'er I spent, I spent it in good company' – and good company we had singing together every Thursday evening! We have had a fun filled year with a mix of competition and enjoyable concerts. In September, we welcomed Leanne Walsh to Gracenotes and set to serious rehearsals for two competitions – The Derry International Choral Festival and The Sligo International Choral festival. Our hard work and dedication paid off as we were awarded 1st place in Derry in the Female Competition.

After our competitions, it was great to get into the festive spirit with our various Christmas pieces. We were delighted to be invited back to The Thatch Cottage in Kilmovee for an intimate festive evening with local participation and a glass of mulled wine and mince pies!

One of the highlights of our year is our local Friary Christmas Concert in aid of St. Vincent de Paul. We had the wonderful company of The Ballyhaunis Parish Choir and The Abbey Male Choir. This included the spectacular performance of 'Mary, Did you Know?' sung by Brian Flanagan and accompanied by Vincent Kelly on guitar. A spine tingling moment!

Gracenotes members finished off the festive season and successful year with our Christmas party night in The Dalgan.

Next on our agenda was a request to sing at the

wedding of Marie Dawson and Robert Gleeson in Ballintubber Abbey. Marie is the niece of our own Mary Dawson!

Another important date in our choral calendar is the Cork International Choral Festival during the May Bank Holiday. While we didn't scoop any top prizes, we had a wonderful stay in The Imperial Hotel and dined in Jacobs Restaurant.

On entering the Mayo International Choral Festival in May, we were invited to host one of their numerous concerts in our Parish Church here in Ballyhaunis. Many other choirs joined us for an evening of music. They included Sweet Tunes from Mullingar, a mixed voice choir from Sweden, the Cill Aodáin Choir and The Mayo School of Music Youth Choir from Kiltimagh!

The Newstead Singers from UK and Gracenotes had a Summer Concert in the Friary at the end of May. It was a great way to end our choral year. Finally, we had a summer fete in August – a great gathering with lots of chatter and a glass of wine too, of course!

We would like to extend our sympathies to Ita Fahey on the loss of her brother Micheál Ryan, RIP.

Lastly, we sincerely thank our Choral Director, Laura Brogan, for her immense work throughout the year. We all truly appreciate her dedication to Gracenotes! Thanks Laura! *'Goodnight and joy be with you all!'*



Gracenotes 2017. Back, L-R: Leanne Walsh, Agatha Higgins, Bernie Fleming, Miriam Winston, Martina Kelly, Xanthe Pratt, Sr. Margaret O'Grady, Mairéad Reidy, Helen White, Paula Walsh, Mary Lyons, Eimear Thornton, Moira Delaney, Maureen Thornton, Liesel Ward, Geraldine Collins. Front: Anna Henry, Moira Stratford, Tina Kirrane, Miriam Judge, Grainne Hambly, Bridie Giblin, Mary Dawson, Mary Hannah O'Connor, Margaret Monaghan, Laura Brogan.

Who Was She?

My Maternal Grandmother...who were her People?

MARY KILROY

Honorina Waldron was born on a small farm in the village of Reask (Reisk), Ballyhaunis, County Mayo on December 28th, 1880. She was the eleventh of thirteen children born to Nora (nee Prendergast, b. 1842) from the village of Greenwood, and Michael Waldron (b. 1835). Her parents would have lived through and been survivors of the Great Famine.

My grandmother was part of that next generation born following the devastation wrought by the consecutive potato famines that occurred during the 1840s. She would have been cared for and nourished as one of thirteen children; her fate would have been sealed by the timing of her birth. Those born earlier in the marriage got the travelling urge shortly after she was born. None of the brood died in childbirth, all surviving to adulthood, but one. The first John lived four years, passing in 1874. The next son, born in that same year as his brother died, was given the name John as well. Named after her mother, my grandmother would be called 'Onnie', a derivative of Honorina and Nora.

The Reask couple were married on April 2nd, 1865 in Began Parish Church. The gene pool created by my maternal grandmother's parents, survivors of the Great Famine that devastated Mayo and most of the country, were viable enough to bring to life the thirteen children. The strength of my great-grandmother – to survive the birthing of those children over the course of her child-bearing years between 1866, at the birth of her first son, through to the birth of her twin daughters in 1883, and to live on until 1925 – is a testament to those like herself who were able to find nourishment during the years of devastation, without resorting to becoming 'souters.' Good stock!

Despite the financial difficulties and hardships endured in rearing the children, including the inconvenience of accommodating them in the small farm house where there were none of today's amenities, society in general looked kindly and sometimes enviously on large families. There is an inherent sense



Michael and Honorina Waldron (nee Prendergast), Reask. This photograph was taken sometime after 1900 when their daughter Rose emigrated. Her family hoped having the photo would ease Rose's homesickness. Photographer: Edward A. Biesty, Ballyhaunis.

of poverty as there seems to be the inevitable presence of a babe at the breast. As soon as the older young men and women reached the age of sixteen, beginning in and around the year 1882, they began thinking of greener pastures. Once the money for passage was borrowed or collected, off they went to Iowa.

There is a genealogist, Anne C. Robb, in the extended Iowa branch of the family who documents Patrick Waldron, my great-grandfather's brother, as being born in Ireland in 1826 and whose emigration is recorded in the year 1855. His passage was booked to the States, to Iowa. Another sibling of my great-grandfather's, Martin (b. 1832), emigrated three years later in 1858 and settled in Kentucky for a very short time before moving on to Cincinnati, Ohio, from where he enlisted in

the Union Army in 1861, at the opening of the Civil War. The extensive research completed by my first cousin John P. McGuire, validates the work of Ann C. Robb and confirms my great-grandfather's older brothers' – Patrick and Martin's – mid-nineteenth century emigration to the States.

All but two of my grandmother's older brothers and sisters emigrated to the heartland – Cumming, Iowa – where their uncles Patrick and Martin had established themselves. Onnie's four oldest brothers and three older sisters emigrated to an area referred to as the Irish





Sons and daughters of Michael and Honoria (nee Prendergast) Waldron, Reask. Back, L-R: Mary (Mrs. Collins), Tom and Pat Waldron. Seated: Kate (Mrs. Tiernan), Margaret (Mrs. McCarthy) and Michael Waldron. Photograph taken Des Moines, Iowa, about 1898.

Settlement in Iowa. And so the Reask family farm in this instance fell to the fourth son, John. In this period, with the oldest members of the family having emigrated, money would be sent home to lessen the strain on the remaining family members, and to continue the cycle of emigration by allowing the next sibling to embark on the journey. In pre-famine days the land would have been subdivided, providing for each son to be able to marry and have a small homestead.

Twin sisters Julia and Rose, the youngest children of the family, followed along to Cumming to join their older brothers and sisters. Rose became a nun when she was thirty-eight years old. A teacher first, she joined the order of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and took the name Sr. Mary Olivia. At that time a young woman entering a convent would have had to present a dowry. Her Iowa family must have set up such a fund for her; in addition to her own savings it would have made her vocation possible. My mother had a longstanding correspondence with Aunt Rose until my Mother passed in 1974. In total, eight of the twelve emigrated, all ultimately settling in and around Cumming, Iowa.



Above: Front seat: Rose Waldron (Sister M. Olivia) with Joe Harkin and Joe McCarthy
Back seat: Margaret Waldron McCarthy, Margaret Murphy Waldron, Julia Waldron Harkins and Frances McCarthy.

Below: Waldron Family Reunion 1927, Greenwood Park, Madison County, Iowa, U.S.A. Descendants of Martin Waldron and Bridget Kelley, and Michael Waldron and Honora Prendergast.

Back, L-R: Francis Ford, Francis McCarthy, John Ford, Marcus McCusker, Elizabeth Laughlin, Russell Meehan, Gertrude Laughlin, Frances Laughlin, Martin McCarthy, Margaret Laughlin, Louis McCusker, Anne Collins, Margaret Murphy Waldron, Leota Collins, Mabel Laughlin, Ned Collins, Joe Harkin, Martin Laughlin, Jim McCarthy, Leonard McNamara, Leo Miller, Martin McNamara, Alice McNamara.

Centre (seated): Mary Waldron Collins, Julia Waldron Harkin, Agnes Waldron McNamara, Clarence Graham, Dan Harkin (with Gene Harkin), Michael Waldron (with Robert Waldron), Julia Waldron Laughlin, Anna Waldron McCusker, Patrick Ford, Margaret Ford (with Francis Ford), James Waldron, Margaret Waldron McCarthy, Kathryn Collins Graham, Kathryn Laughlin, Frances Waldron Miller.

Front: Pete Harkin, Madonna O'Connell (Smith), Frances Waldron (Robb), Lola Miller (Morris), Mary Waldron (Croskey), Mary Ford, Gertrude Ford, Mary McCarthy (Ralston), Mary Margaret Graham (Flannigan), Eleanor Collins.





The author with her grand-aunt Sr. Mary Olivia BVM (Rose Waldron), at St. Philip Convent, Pasadena, California, Winter 1961.

Small Community

At the time of the earlier Reask emigration Cumming comprised an area of 2.75 square miles. What was it about that small community in Iowa that would become the home for the émigrés from Reask? Clearly the message to those who left their homeland was to make their fortune, but more immediately to find work to be able to send money home. Those sons and daughters who were 'waked' before they left must have made good on their promises.

Our story now takes us back to the Emerald Isle in general and Reask, in particular. John, the second youngest son, was left the farm and his two sisters Bridget (b. 1871) and Honoria (b. 1880) remained at home with him. Was this by design? By all accounts my great-grandmother was a sturdy formidable woman! After all, she brought to life thirteen children capping off her last delivery with a set of twin girls at the age of forty-two. Also, she would have been the 'manager' of the money sent home by the eight who left, parceling out what was to be saved for future transatlantic crossings and what meager amount might be spent. As I reflect on what would become a growing nest egg and a sense of being totally immersed in the narrative, I am just beginning to wonder if my great-grandmother would have been the financier of my own mother's crossing in 1924? Who else would there be for my mother to turn to?

The 1901 Irish Census listed my grandmother Onnie as being twenty years old, and her occupation a housekeeper. Now that could be interpreted as her taking care of the family home in Reask as her mother would have been at an age of sixty-seven or so; or she might have worked for another family in the village.

What intrigues me at this point in my writing was why my grandmother was selected to stay at home in Reask while the twins Rose and Julia, who were younger than her, were selected or were game enough for the adventure of the journey. And/or was there a strong bond existing between my grandmother and her older sister Delia who had also stayed at home and had married a Waldron from Derrymore in 1892, and who had already started her family by the time the twin sisters left home?

Whether my grandmother's marriage was an

arranged marriage or not is unknown, though this practice still happened at that time. What we do know is that the marriage took place in the Parish Church at Knock on Sunday, March 11th, 1906. An early photograph of the young bride captures the image of a young woman who appears quite beautiful, blue-eyed, and tall with her brown hair parted down the middle. The photo reveals that she had high cheek bones, a serene look, and a prominent jaw. The couple were born just six miles apart: most people back then married someone who lived about as far as they could walk... or perhaps they met at a house party, a 'spree' that was held locally? As far as I know, it was not an arranged marriage.

Following the acceptance of my grandmother's 'fortune' and her marriage to William P. McGuire in March 1906, she would have moved in with her dowry to the thatched cottage in Gurrane, Ballyhaunis. Already living there as well as her husband were his parents Martin and Bridget. It is obvious then that, upon the marriage (and coincidentally, with an older son Luke's leaving) the family farm was signed over to the youngest son William, my grandfather.

Thus the three-room cottage with 'a room above and one below', with the kitchen and hearth being the central gathering place was stretched at the seams to accommodate the young couple!

Children born to Honoria (nee Prendergast) and Michael Waldron of Reask, Ballyhaunis, giving their vital dates and where they died (IA = Iowa)

Patrick (1866-1926), Cumming, IA
 Mary (1867-1934), Des Moines, IA
 Thomas (1868-1953), Cumming, IA
 John (1870-74), Reask, Ballyhaunis
 Bridget (Delia) (1871-1960), Derrymore, Ballyhaunis
 Michael (1873-1958), Des Moines, IA
 John (1874-1959), Reask, Ballyhaunis
 Katherine (1876-1944), Winterset, IA
 Margaret (1877-1929), Des Moines, IA
 James (1879-1969), Des Moines, IA
 Honoria (1880-1967), Gurrane, Ballyhaunis
 Rose (1883-1980), Dubuque, IA
 Julia (1883-1966), Cumming, IA



The author with grand-uncle James and Margaret Waldron, Cumming, Iowa, on a road-trip back to Boston, 1962.

THE MARY ELWOOD SCHOOL OF DANCING

The Mary Elwood Dancing School performed at local events including the June Bank Holiday Weekend Festival on the Square, the Easter parade, and the Abbey Pattern as well as dancing to entertain the residents in Brookvale Nursing home.

The Dancing School was privileged to perform at the Business and Community Enterprise Town Event that was held in Scoil Íosa in September and hosted by Bank of Ireland. The dancers were especially delighted to meet the famous Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh who took time to talk to each of them individually and even did a bit of a step with them! Micheál has always taken an interest in Irish Dancing and now has grandchildren who are Irish dancers. Our dancing school performed for him a few years back in the Parochial Hall and he was just as affable and interested at that time.



At the Town Enterprise Day dancing a step with Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh were Maia Phillips, Erica Byrne, Leah Guilfoyle, Emma Colleran, Morgan-Mai Slattery, Lucy Phillips.

Erica Byrne (under 11) dancing at the All Scotland Championships in Glasgow in Feb. 2017. Erica has been Connacht Champion for three consecutive years and has been placed top ten in other majors including All Irelands, All Scotlands and Great Britains. This year Erica got a World Medal at her first CLRG World Championships. This was a huge achievement.

Photo by Professional Event Photography.



Dancers from the Mary Elwood school of Irish Dancing: Emily Coffey, Erica Byrne, Ciara Dooney, Cathy Greally, Leah Guilfoyle, Morgan-Mai Slattery, Laoise Greally, Siofra Forde, Eala Greally, Daragh Mulrennan, Lucy Flanagan, Lauren Lyons, Aoibhinn Gallagher.

(Right)
Daragh Mulrennan,
Third at
Connacht
Championships
in Leisureland,
Galway.

(Centre)
Amy Greally,
Winner of
Prelim U-16 at
the Connacht
Championships.



Class day-trip to see *Riverdance* at the Gaiety Theatre. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. They even got to meet some of the stars afterwards. Derbhla Freeman, Emily Coffey, Emma Colleran, Lisa Hunt (Assistant Teacher), Amy Greally, Claire Fleming, Erica Byrne, Lucy Phillips, Maia Phillips, Leah Elwood, Leah Guilfoyle, Morgan-Mai Slattery, Cillian Caulfield, Maeve Caulfield, Lauren Lyons, Aoibhinn Gallagher, Lucy Flanagan.

The Blow-in's Blowing Idea for Ballyhaunis

DAVID CONNOLLY (ORIGINALLY FROM LECARROW)

It was a bit of a shock when I received an email from the University of Limerick at the start of this year inviting me to a 'Ten Year Reunion'. As the saying goes, the years fly by and it was something which became a recurring theme for me in 2017.



The author visiting a community owned wind farm off the coast of Copenhagen, Denmark

When I received this email at the start of 2017, I was still living in Denmark, but since then I have made the big move back to Ireland, started a new job, bought a house in Dublin, and slowly but surely started to build a life back on 'The Island'. It is still not quite Mayo, but one of the benefits of being in Dublin is that the visits back to

Mayo (and to Croker) have certainly become a lot shorter. However, like my surprise from the UL letter, it hit me over the course of 2017 just how long I've been away from Ballyhaunis.

I haven't actually lived in Mayo since August 2003 which is just over fourteen years now. It seems like a long time ago when I say it to myself, and as I started to visit Ballyhaunis more frequently over the last few months, I must say I have started to notice it. My neighbours have started to refer to me as the 'Blow-In' due to the strange habits that I've brought back to Ballyhaunis, the most obvious being my desire to run for 'fun' on the roads of Lecarrow, or my unusual mode of transport to the farm these days i.e. my Danish bike. I have also started to promote some weird concepts like higher taxes and free healthcare, all consequences of the socialist brainwashing I endured in liberal Denmark. However, despite all the running, biking, socialism, and each of fourteen years away, there is still very much a Ballyhaunis boy underneath it all. There have been many occasions over the last fourteen years when I have stared into the distance and thought of life back "where the ocean kisses Ireland" and I can say, hand on heart, that on every one of the hundreds of drives I've made back to Mayo, there has always been a sense of relief and comfort as I pass the "Welcome to Mayo" sign on the Ballinlough road: it's good to be home!

It was during one of these recent drives home that I came to realise that my current job may have something to offer Ballyhaunis. I previously worked as an Associate Professor in Renewable Energy in Denmark, but after moving back to Ireland, I started a new job in May of this year, as Head of Policy with the Irish Wind Energy Association. I have effectively moved from the innocence of academia to the darkness of lobbying, although I take great comfort from the fact that I am, at least, lobbying for something I believe in i.e. wind energy. One of the main parts of my new job is to figure out how wind farms can provide more benefits to the local communities where they are developed and this is where I believe many towns, like Ballyhaunis, may have more to gain than they realise.

Wind Farms

I am sure many people have seen the protests against wind farms, but like many aspects of Irish life, bad news tends to fill more pages than good news. So what is the good news? Well, the good news is that everyone wants to see communities benefit from wind energy, including developers and the government. Why? Simply put, because everyone will benefit if we build more in the future, and central to that is making sure that the people who live nearby are happy to do so. To make this happen, there have been a lot of changes in recent years to make sure that local communities get more from wind energy development. For example, many wind developers now offer a minimum of approximately €60,000 per turbine to a local community when they develop a wind farm, which is usually paid over the twenty-year lifetime of the project. Therefore, if ten wind turbines are developed in the local area, then the community receives approximately €600,000. Typically, a local community group is set up to decide how this money should be spent, primarily on common projects for the area such as playgrounds, sports facilities, or schools. However, under new rules that are currently being proposed by the Irish government, the benefits for local communities is likely to improve.

Under the new rules, wind farm developers will need to involve communities more in the design of the wind farm, they will need to offer local citizens the opportunity to own some of the project, and the community benefit contribution will likely increase for new wind farms to over €200,000 per turbine. Therefore, a new wind farm with ten turbines could bring over €2 million to the local community nearby, which I expect would provide a major boost to Ballyhaunis. For example, we could put a roof on the local swimming pool, modernise public buildings, offer

free training programmes in the town using the funding available, or many other things that could improve life for everyone in the area.

These new rules are not only important due to the amount of funding available, they are also important due to the new 'priority' being introduced. Wind farm projects that can demonstrate a significant engagement with a local community should be put to the 'top of the queue' under these new proposals. They hope to create an 'express lane' for planning permission and when getting connected to the national electricity grid. The details are still not clear, but the overall aim is to ensure that projects which demonstrate a strong engagement with the local community have the best chance possible to develop wind farms. It means that if Ballyhaunis can come together and show that people want a wind farm, then there should be a good chance to get one.

Although these new rules are not common knowledge for many people, they are not a secret either, so if you would like to find out more, then you can read the document released by the government in September describing these proposals. It is on the website of the "Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment" and it is called the "Public Consultation on the Design of a new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme in Ireland" or follow this link -

<http://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/energy/consultations/Pages/Renewable-Electricity-Support-Scheme-Design-Consultation.aspx>

I expect there are some people in Ballyhaunis who do not like wind turbines, but like any infrastructure, wind farms do not cause major issues if they are built the 'right way' and in line with the regulations in place (unless you don't like the look of them: unfortunately the regulations can't do anything for that one). Some wind farms in Ireland are open to the public, such as Sliabh Bawn in Roscommon or Mount Lucas in Offaly, so if you have any concerns about wind turbines, then I think the best thing to do is go and visit these places for yourself.

As I don't live in Ballyhaunis at present, it will not be for me to decide if this is something that Ballyhaunis as a community should do. However, Ballyhaunis is a place I still very much consider home, so I wanted to share the opportunity so that people know it is coming. It is not often that rural Ireland has a multi-million euro opportunity knocking at the door and it is now up to each rural community in Ireland to decide if it is something they want to accommodate. With this article, I simply want to make sure that Ballyhaunis hears the knock, it will be up to you to decide if you would like to answer the call.

Lana Biesty - A Rising Karate Star



This year Lana Biesty, of Holywell Lower, Ballyhaunis, competed in the IKKU Open held in Tallaght Leisure Centre and won a bronze medal in Kumite. In April she travelled to Scotland to compete in the Scottish Open and won a silver medal in team Kata, a silver medal in team Kumite, and a bronze medal in her individual Kumite. In May she competed in the Recchia-Smaal International Cup, held at the Citywest Hotel in Dublin, and won the gold medal in Kata, bronze in team Kumite and gold in the Recchia-Smaal International Cup in which she was selected to compete on Alexandra Recchia's Kumite team, a five times World Champion and European Champion. In September Lana won a silver medal at the ONAKAI Karate Ireland National Junior Kata Championships held in Ballinasloe. She also competed at the Irish Open in September, held in the National Indoor Arena, and won bronze in Kumite. In October she travelled to Berlin to compete in the Banzai International Cup and won a bronze trophy in Kumite. She also won a National title for the third year in a row in October at the ONAKAI Karate Ireland National Junior Championships.

Next stop for Lana is the Belgian International Open in November. Lana is daughter of Vinnie and Louise Biesty, Holywell Lower, and granddaughter of Austin and Joan Biesty, Pattenspark.

'The Clare Street I Knew'

EAMON MURREN

I decided this year to write about the Clare Street I knew in the sixties and seventies. Starting at the corner, I don't remember Paul Waldron but I do remember Brendan Byrne having a Chemist shop. This is now occupied by Curley's Jewellery Shop. Next door was Joe and Sheila Conway. They had a little shop and Joe was a wholesaler for various grocery items. This is now the Fianna Fáil Constituency Office. Next was Curley's Bar. Founded in 1927 by Michael Curley, it was later run by his son Bertie. The licensee is now Ann Curley assisted by her mother Pauline. Curley's that time was also the bus stop and I remember as a young lad going down to collect Tom Hopkins' parcels which contained all the comics we loved to read.

Kitty Healy's was the next house. Kitty was a hairdresser. I recall she had an uncle a Monsignor Healy who used to come on holidays from the U.S.A. Dom and Mike Byrne would get out from school every day to serve Mass for him and would get paid as well. Meath's was next. Pat Meath was a barber and a great character. His son Eamon did some barbering as well until his untimely death in 1994. Máisín worked in Freyne's Garage and later Gallagher's Hardware as a book-keeper. Paul Meath, I am delighted to say, is still hale and hearty and living in Dublin. Like the rest of us he is waiting for Sam to come to Mayo. Paul is the last surviving member of the famous Ballyhaunis GAA football match that took place in Morley's field, Cherryfield, on 26th Aug. 1945. Next to Meath's was Mrs. Smith's. Her husband Willie was a teacher in Brackloon. Mrs. Smith kept a number of boarders in her time, among them Annie Kennedy, Teresa Lynskey and Eileen O'Dwyer. Micheál her son lives in Galway.

Then came the Hunts. We used to call them Mammy and Daddy Hunt. They ran the Library for a good few years. They were a lovely couple. Mulhern's Pub was next door, ran by Mick and his good wife. Their son Eddie and his wife Frances ran the pub in later years. It had the nickname 'Dunkirk' because if the Guards raided there was no back way out. It is now J.P. Bookmakers. Frank and Delia Glynn came next. I remember Frank having a butcher shop here but later it was converted to a chip shop. I have written in the past about Mrs. Glynn's lovely chips. My good friend Robbie Herr tells me it was the first time he ever tasted brown vinegar. It is now an office for Tynan Dillon Accountants. The next house, I am told, an Eileen Crean and later Rosaleen Snee lived in. Brian and Peg Byrne lived in this house when they got married. Next is Bridie Levins' Guest House. I remember this being two houses. The first was lived in by the Morrison family. There was a Martin, Jimmy and

Anthony and a number of girls as well. They emigrated to England in the mid to late 1960s. The other house was lived in by Johnny and Maureen McGuire. Johnny has a barber shop for a number of years before the family moved back to Ballindrehid.

John and Sighle Forde lived in the next house. Their son Henry is now the owner of the house. Then came the Clearys, Seán and Maureen. Their sons John and Mike still live in Clare Street, and their brother Gerard is in London. Next was the Freyne family home. John Freyne ran a garage business across the road. His sons Sean and Vincent still live on Clare Street. Next door was Barry's. Tom Barry was a gifted painter. He painted the aeroplane on Dillon's gable in the Square. Shortly after his death the family moved to Upper Main Street. Kevin passed away some years ago. Rita, I think, lives in Scotland. The rest of the family I have lost track of. This house is now occupied by Vincent and Veronica Freyne. Dwane's was next. Eamon worked in the Post Office. He was a very good table tennis and badminton player. Rosaleen, his wife, was formerly Garvey. David, their son, works for *The Western People*. Eamonn, Garvan and Jacqueline are frequent visitors to Ballyhaunis. Next was Tommy and Corrine Flatley. Tommy died all too young a number of years ago. Corrine still lives in Clare Street. Donnellan's was next. The late Tommy and his wife Ger built up a very successful joinery and undertaking business. Paul their son now runs the joinery while Pat runs the undertaking. The next house was occupied by Jimmy O'Brien. Jimmy was a jovial character. I recall when we were lads he used to run the roulette table at the carnivals. I can still remember even money, black 2/1, red 5/1, blue 8/1, yellow 12/1. Pluto, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck. The last house on this side of Clare Street was a shop ran by Paddy and Teresa O'Brien. Paddy also had a travelling shop and was involved in the egg trade. Sadly, the O'Brien family have all passed to their eternal reward with the death in the past three years of Pat, Elizabeth and John. This house is now owned by a Syrian family.

Other side of the Street

Across the road we'll start at the Corner Bar. Joe and Sally Regan ran a thriving business here for many years. Billy Nestor is now the licensee. Next came Clarence and Delia Grogan. Clarence was a gifted tradesman and was also the Fire Chief in that time. Delia ran a successful grocery business. Their daughter Martha now lives in the house. Next door was Griffin's. This too was a shop. The late Sean Griffin, who died a very young man, was a rep for Coca Cola. Maura, his wife, was a school teacher. Their son Mike is now the owner of this house.

Then came Bernie Byrne's pub. This he ran with his wife Peg. There was also a grocery shop at the front. Their son Mike completely refurbished the pub in the early nineties. It is now owned and run by John and Bernie Gill. Next door was Eddie and Eileen Fitzgerald's. Eddie ran a haulage business and was also big into greyhounds. Their son Tom won a National League medal with Mayo in 1970. Next was Dillon's Hardware. At the front of this was 'The Fruit and Nut Shop' run by Dom and Mike Byrne. This was where we spent a lot of our teen years hanging around the shop listening to music. On a Saturday night the lads sold legs of chicken to the many dance goers who passed by. No health and safety nonsense in those days! MidWest Radio Station now occupies this site.

Next door were was the D'Altons. I just remember the name. They emigrated to the U.S.A. in the 1960s. The Central Hotel used to use this house for keeping guests when the hotel itself was full. Later this building was home to Connacht GAA Council. Lorcan Higgins is now the occupier for his physio and sports injuries clinic. Mrs. Murray was next. She had a bicycle shop, but also sold lovely can sweet as well as some groceries. Her shop was always packed with all kinds of bits and pieces. This is now a beauty and hairdressing salon.

The Eagney Family lived next door, Bill and Rosaleen. Bill ran a taxi business and also had a minibus. Many's the match he drove us to in our underage football days. Their sons Dermot and Niall live in Dublin and Galway respectively. Alice Lyons was next. She ran a very busy shop. We would always call there on our way to the pictures for sweets and maybe a few fags. Thomas her son lives there now. Next door was Brod 'Tucker' Byrne. I remember he used to do the milk run for Jack Morley if Jack was away at some race meeting. Pake Ruane ran a radio and TV repairs shop on this premises before he moved to Knox Street. Martin and Una Crehan lived there later and ran successful businesses for many years. Later it was a Chinese Restaurant.

Then came Freyne's Garage. The Credit Union is now built on this site. Next was The Eclipse Ballroom and Star Cinema. Sadly, these are no longer in business. The last house in Clare Street was the home of Tim Robinson and his family. Tim operated a mill. This house is now the home of Paul and Paula Donnellan.

These are just a few of the memories I have of the houses and people of Clare Street in the Sixties and Seventies. I hope I have jogged a few memories for you all... No doubt I have left some out.



Cian Moran with Liverpool Manager, Jurgen Klopp, at Anfield.

AISLING EGAN

Cian Moran (8) from Hazelhill, became an overnight celebrity earlier this year after being chosen to become a mascot for his favourite Premier League football club, Liverpool. He got the chance to meet his heroes, the Liverpool team and their manager Jurgen Klopp. Cian had his jersey autographed before walking out hand in hand with Liverpool's captain Jordan Henderson.

Cian's uncle, Tommy Moran, had accompanied his nephew to many Liverpool games in the past and, when he renewed Cian's membership card, he entered him in a lottery to become a mascot. The young fan was lucky enough to be the only mascot chosen for the Premier League encounter against Sunderland.

One of the highlights of Cian's visit to the Stadium of Light was a kick around with the Liverpool players, shortly before the game began. Tommy filmed Cian's encounter with the Liverpool team which became viral on social media. The third class Scoil Íosa pupil featured on Joe.ie, The Independent, The Daily Mail and many more national and international sites and newspapers. Cian's viral video also featured on the Ray Darcy Show.

Cian and his uncle Tommy are already planning their next excursion to see their favourite Premier League team. He is hoping to line out for the Reds one day.

The Splash and Gasp of Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool

EVELYN O'CONNOR

When I climb inside my childhood, my heart resounds to the sounds of Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool. The splash and gasp of the first kids to 'break the ice'; the slap of bare knees on water as we bombshell into the deep end; the raucous laughter and singing from the changing rooms once the lifeguards yell 'ALL OUT'. I remember sensations too: the bliss of a hot shower on really cold days; the opulence of ice-cream after a hot day at the pool; the ache of tired arms as we complete our water safety exams, one after another after another, until we become the next generation of lifeguards keeping the kids safe and teaching them to swim.

I cycle forward in my brain and find myself here again, except it is 2016 and I am now the mother at the door, shaking my head with a wry smile as my daughter begs for one more shower before she gets dressed. She loves the water as I once did, immune to the cold and indifferent to the vagaries of our Irish summer weather. So when I read on Facebook in March that the pool will not open this summer if a new committee is not formed, I'm horrified at the thought and it's the most obvious step in the world to volunteer. Thankfully, I'm not the first person to think this way and slowly a new committee forms.

The outgoing committee, once-upon-a-time ten strong, over the years has dwindled to two. Marie Jordan and Agatha Higgins have given half of their lives to this pool, volunteering year after year so that the children in our community have the same opportunities throughout the noughties that we had in the eighties. A significant injection of state funds in 2013, backed by further investment by Mayo County Council means that the facility is in good condition but we nonetheless rely heavily on the expertise and assistance of the outgoing committee as we struggle to get our heads around all that needs to be done before the pool can open.

Insurance is hard to secure. As a new committee, we must read, analyse and update all of our policy



Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool in use. Summer swimmers!

documents – our Safety Statement and Child Protection procedures; our Normal Operating Plan and Emergency Action Plan. We need to create an updated map of the facility; need more safety signs, an extra life buoy, visible depth measurements around the pool. We need to advertise for, interview, hire and train lifeguards. We need a caretaker but we have extremely limited funds; we need to figure out how to operate the pump house; we need to organise for a risk assessment to be carried out by Irish Water Safety. For large local clubs, this no doubt sounds par for the course. For our tiny new clueless committee, it is completely overwhelming and we start to doubt that the pool will open at all.

Open Doors

We meet with Mayo County Council, who own the facility, and they help us by painting the walls, cleaning and filling the pool and generally staying calm whilst we scramble to get everything we need in place. When it looks like we will actually be able to open, finally, we open the doors and roster our lifeguards and office staff and a committee member to visit the pool every day to ensure that everything is running smoothly. We have not yet figured out a permanent solution to the caretaker

issue and this problem dogs us all summer. Lots of hard work still lies ahead: the plant room needs constant attention to maintain water quality; the lifeguards need to be paid; keys and cleaning supplies and first aid kits need replenishing; daily lodgements need to be made. The probes in the plant room malfunction and must be replaced. We meet with HSE inspectors to discuss safety and water quality – thankfully they are more than satisfied with our record thus far!

It amazes us how much needs to happen behind the scenes just so the pool can open for a few hours each day. It amazes us even more that two people managed all of this on their own for so long. Yet it is so worth it. On the sunniest day of the summer, the pool once again resounds to the splash and gasp, laughter and singing we remember from our childhoods.

The question for us now is what next? Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool will celebrate 50 years in 2021 but what do we hope to have achieved by then? Here are just a few of our ideas:

1. **Heat the pool.** Charlestown, Castlerea and Kilmovee have managed it. We know it's possible in theory. We also know it didn't happen for lots of reasons in 2013 when the pool was refurbished, so how do we remove those roadblocks and crucially, raise the money we need to make it happen now?

2. **Train the next generation of lifeguards.** Water Safety classes haven't happened at the pool for a few years, due to lack of people signing up to do them. Perhaps we need to link in with local schools to promote the benefits of water safety classes for all, irrespective of whether or not these kids see themselves as future lifeguards. Anyone can be called on to save a life when they see someone in difficulty in water. Wouldn't it be great to know how?

3. **Create a community hub.** On quiet days we might only have 4 or 5 swimmers in the pool. We know that revitalising the pool hinges on more people using it. Now we just need to figure out how to make that happen.

We're a new committee, still finding our feet. If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch by emailing ballyhaunisswimmingpool@gmail.com and you can also find us on facebook. Finally, we'd like to thank the outgoing committee Marie Jordan and Agatha Higgins; Mayo County Council personnel Padraig Flanagan, Kieran Joyce and Tom Feerick; our lifeguards Cian, Briona, Niall, William and Jamie; our groundskeeper Petr Horcicko; everyone on the new committee and a special thanks to all in the community who supported us this summer.



Ballyhaunis Swimming Pool - outgoing and current committee.
 Back, L-R: Mary Tighe-McCormack, Noreen Whelan, Anne Cunnane-Marques, Breda Caulfield, Dymphna Flanagan, Pat McCormack, Evelyn O'Connor, Patricia Mulhern-Murphy.
 Front row: Marie Jordan, Agatha Higgins. Missing from photo: Lorcan Higgins.



First Communion triplets – Mark, Catherine and James Kelly, 27th May 2017. Children of Margaret Healy Kelly, Ballindrehid and Seamus Kelly, Marree, Oranmore, Co. Galway.



(Below left:) Taken at the "Aragh Go On" Festival for Active Retirement in Ennistymon, Co. Clare, September 2017. Back, L-R: Maura Fitzmaurice, Connie Gildea. Front: Celia Lyons, Rosaleen Finnegan, Kathleen Healy.



Some of the staff at Gallagher & Sons Ltd., from l. to r., front row: Gerald Quinn, Michael Winston, Joseph Grogan. Kevin McNamara. Back row: Joe Fitzharris, Michael Waldron and Gerald Cribbin.

Staff of Gallagher & Sons, Main St., Ballyhaunis, from *The Western People*, 30th Oct., 1976.



Fr. Enda Lyons, Knox St. marked the occasion of his 85th birthday by celebrating Mass with family and friends in the home of his cousins Mary and Kathleen McBride of Annagh.

(Right) Tommy O'Reilly on his first day of primary school. Tommy is grandson of Ann O'Reilly (nee Lyons of Brackloon) and Eamon O'Reilly, Woodpark (RIP).



(Far right) The O'Reilly family – Bobby, Ciara, Tommy and Anna.





(Above) Lifelong friends, John O'Brien and Milo Henry on the occasion of John's 90th Birthday.



(Right) John O'Brien pictured with family members as he celebrated his 90th Birthday in Phillips' Bar in August 2017. L-R: Kevin Casey, Michael Waldron, Colette Waldron, Pat Waldron, John O'Brien and Brendan Waldron. Photos by Fr. Stephen Farragher



(Left) Bernedeta and Andrzej Siemionkowski with Seamus Mulrennan at Corpus Christi Procession, June 2017.



Presenting a cheque for €1,800 to Western Care Centre were members of the St. Brigid's Crosses Group, from left, Patricia Murphy, Frances Mulhern, Bríd Nolan, Carmel Brady, (Manager, Western Care, Ballyhaunis), Joe Nolan and Mary Murphy. The cheque represents monies collected through the sale of St. Brigid's Crosses in the parish on St. Brigid's Day, 1st February, 2017.



(Left) Pictured at the Ballyhaunis Enterprise Town event on 23rd of September 2017. L-R: Paul Damron, Anne Marie Beirne (Bank of Ireland), Keith Higgins, Orla Loftus-Moran, Dr. Diarmuid Murray Jr., Tom Forde, Gary Conway, Denise Clancy (Bank of Ireland). Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.

Na Brideoga Camogie Club

Féile na nGael 2017

KITTY MORLEY

It's difficult to define when the Féile Journey began for this group of camogie players. For many it began on the 'old pitch' on a Thursday evening – practicing to “pull hard” on a tyre with Geraldine Delaney at U-6, learning to pick the ball with Peter Cassidy, Kitty Morley at U-8, working together as a team with David Klein, Elaine Tener at U-10 or for some, learning the more intricate art of how to “hurl hard” with Gerry Glavey and Niall Delaney at U-12s. Some team members have only recently taken to the camogie pitch and very quickly developed under the guidance of Fergal Delaney, Frank Burke and Gerry O'Brien.

Na Brideoga Camogie Club draws players from the surrounding parishes and this was represented by this team whose members are from the parishes of Tooreen, Ballyhaunis, Aghamore, Began and Gorthaganny.

Let the Féile Experience Begin, Friday 16th June

After a huge amount of training, organising (undertaken by Geraldine Delaney and to the relief of all the parents), fundraising and sponsorship from our main sponsor, Fastway Couriers (thanks to Frank Burke) and our other sponsors, Allergan, (thanks to Gerry O'Brien) and Agri-spread (thanks to Christine Keane), Na Brideoga were ready to hit the road and head to Kilkenny/Carlow where they were to be hosted by Ballinkillen Camogie Club.

A wonderful warm welcome was given to us by Ballinkillen and was a sign of things to come as their

hospitality spread throughout the weekend, ending with them giving their support to Na Brideoga as they played in the cup final.

Once the initial introductions had taken place it was time to get down to business with the first match where Na Brideoga took on the Kilkenny club, Danesfort.



Na Brideoga in their first game v Danesfort of Kilkenny

Na Brideoga defeated Danesfort on a score line of 2-6 to 1-1 in a match where the Na Brideoga girls played a brand of camogie that shocked their Kilkenny counterparts, pulling away in the closing stages of the contest to secure their first victory.

The second contest of the competition saw Na Brideoga come up against their Roscommon neighbours



The Na Brideoga U-14s before their departure to Carlow with management team of Fergal Delaney, Frankie Burke, Gerry O'Brien, Elaine Tenor and Kitty Morley.

Four Roads - who play strong, competitive and challenging camogie. However the Na Brideoga team played with determination and cohesiveness, overcoming the Roscommon rivals by 6-4 to 0-1.

With the evening's camogie successfully completed the players departed with their hosts. Meanwhile the management and supporters retreated to the hotel to recharge and talk camogie into the early hours – analysing the matches played and planning for the following day's camogie.

The Battle of the Ash – Saturday 17th June

On Saturday morning, the team, management and supporters came together as Na Brideoga played their host club Ballinkillen. It was a tight, enthralling contest and would decide which team finished top of the group. In an open, engaging and hard fought contest, Na Brideoga eventually pulled away from their hosts in the final stages of the match with a final score of 3-2 to 1-1. Victory ensured that they would meet the Kerry team, Causeway, in the quarter final of the cup competition. At this stage momentum was building both on and off the pitch. The Na Brideoga side line was beginning to heat up in response to the team's efforts and success on the pitch.

The quarter final against Causeway was the fourth match in a 24 hour period and the Na Brideoga girls dug deep to produce a strong performance overcoming Causeway by 2 points with a final score of 1-3 to 0-4. The game was a gripping contest with both sides pushing hard for a win. However, sheer determination from the squad meant Na Brideoga emerged victorious claiming a place in the semi-final against St. Dominic's of Roscommon on the Sunday morning.

The No Nonsense Phase – Sunday 18th June

The day of the semi finals and finals arrived. There was an air of anticipation, determination and a sense of focus amongst the team, management and supporters. Task one of the day – the semi-final versus St. Dominic's.

Our Roscommon neighbours provided a tough challenge but as the match moved into the second half Na Brideoga looked to be the stronger team – of course it's never over until the final whistle is blown. Stress levels and the collective blood pressure on the side line were steadily rising as we had the final in our sights. In the closing stages Na Brideoga once again pulled out all the stops and came out on top with the score of 2-4 to 1-1.

The supporting families are known to be passionate when on the side-line, often becoming so engrossed not one picture of the action gets snapped. However, this year this was not the case due to our own rolling paparazzi in the form of Gerry Madden (on his bike),



In action against Four Roads, Roscommon

joined by fellow photographers Victor Tener and Brendan and Marianne Crawley. There is still an ongoing debate within the gang on who covered more miles – Gerry pedalling match to match on the bike or the girls competing on the pitch.

At this point – almost 48 hours into the competition signs of fatigue could be seen. It was evident that the tense matches and late nights talking tactics had taken their toll - on the parents! Thankfully the Na Brideoga Camogie team appeared to be made of sterner stuff.

There was a break before the Final and it was time to bring out the 'holy water', anti-blister powder and all the other lotions and potions. Those who have been on the Na Brideoga Féile circuit over the last few years are familiar with the specially blended massage oil that comes on tour- transported in a holy water bottle!

The team retreated to the assigned porta cabin. Food and fluids were taken on board, and leg massages took place in what resembled a scene from M.A.S.H. The management and parents came together in a seamless way to support the girls as they prepared for the final.

At this stage the Tooreen hurling team who had also qualified for their final had arrived adding to the occasion. Some families had players on both the camogie and hurling teams so it was very special for us all to come together at this point.

The Final – let the battle commence

The players huddled around the managers for pre-match talks -forming their circle and listening to what needed to be done and how it was to be done, they were noticeably focused and calm. It was fascinating to watch as a second 'outer' circle was formed by the players' siblings. For some of them this was only the first or second time they were not competing themselves; while others await to compete in future years. They were hands on providing support throughout the competition. They remarked how stressful the role is compared to playing - at times finding it difficult to contain their frustration and passion whilst on the side line and on several occasions failing to contain it!!!

The final battle saw Na Brideoga play Rathgarogue/Cushinstown of Wexford in a game that could not be decided in ordinary time so required extra time to determine. The crown seemed destined to go to the Wexford team when they were 4 points up with only 4 minutes left. However this team of Na Brideoga players were not finished yet. They contested every ball with every ounce of energy they had left. Na Brideoga yet again fought back to equalise in the dying moments of the encounter, to leave both teams level on 1-3 apiece at full time.

The tension and passion on the side line was clear for all to see. The Na Brideoga Féile tribe was in full flight – it has been said that the passion they bring to the side line has to be seen to be believed. Along with the Tooreen and Ballinkillen contingents, support poured onto the pitch towards the team in the hope it would help them find what was needed to claim victory in extra time.

True to their form for the weekend, the Na Brideoga fought with all their hearts. They dug deep into their reserves to give everything they had in the extra time period. They're were far too many heart stopping moments in what can only be described as a battle to the final whistle. Determination, along with the players unwavering commitment to each other and their team, led to them scoring the only point in extra time, and this would prove to be the winning point. Many neutrals commented that this game was the game of the weekend and that the skill level, determination and pace of play could have graced any venue in the country.

The celebrations commenced with the same level of

passion that had previously been reserved for the pitch and sideline and was followed by a victorious journey back to Mayo. It won't surprise many to hear that we were barely out of Kilkenny and conversations/phone calls had commenced about the plans for 2018!

Na Brideoga and Tooreen travelled home in convoy and received a wonderful welcome in both Tooreen and Ballyhaunis. The home fires were burning brightly in Tooreen, as always manned by John Joyce. Of course, this meant another late night but thankfully the management and parents managed to dig deep after their long weekend and support the team as they enjoyed a fabulous night of celebrations.

What a very proud weekend for all the parishes represented by the Na Brideoga camogie players on this camogie team. This is the second Féile na nGael cup title for the club in their 11-year history and all of the panel contributed to the success over the weekend including our walking wounded.

The panel were led all weekend by their captain Aoibheann Crawley and included Roisin Lynskey, Caragh Burke, Saoirse Delaney, Niamh Greally, Caoimhe Delaney, Laura Madden, Aoife Doherty, Geri-Maye Henry, Rebecca Klein, Lilian Keane, Erin Murray, Aoibhin Lynskey, Ellen Tener, Emer Delaney, Niamh Mooney, Claire Flanagan, Emily Coffey, Niamh Duffy, Alice Curran, Meadh Monaghan, Caoimhe Moran, Kate Doyle and Eilis O'Brien. The club would like to thank the management team, all those who helped in any way with the team over the weekend and the parents and families of the players for all their help throughout the year.



The Tidy Towns Committee continues its work enhancing the appearance of our town and surrounding area, creating environmental awareness and attempting to deal with the constant problem of littering on our streets. At the AGM held on 14th June last, Chairperson Kay Curley, in her address, acknowledged the support of so many people for the endeavours of Tidy Towns; members and volunteers who took part in National Spring Clean on Good Friday, and also in 'Sweep your Street' competition where Knox St. was awarded second prize; the Rural Social Scheme team who look after grass cutting on the approach roads, watering the hanging baskets and, this year, working on the construction of a stone wall on Doctor's Road.

The 1916 Garden of Remembrance has proved to be a very popular attraction right in the heart of the town at Bridge St. This year our focus has shifted across the road to the riverside walk and planted area which runs along by the river Dalgan from the Post Office to the swimming pool. On a Saturday in April the local fire brigade crew turned up in numbers and worked hard cutting back and removing all the overgrown shrubs, weeds, etc. New planting and, hopefully, new wire fencing along the path will make a huge difference to this area and enhance the view of the river.

Youth Environmental Leadership Programme

A group of approximately twenty-five transition year and fifth year Community School students took part in a very successful Youth Environmental Leadership Programme which began in March of this year and ran for ten weeks. The programme was co-ordinated by Ballyhaunis Community School and Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns with funding being provided by Mayo County Council. The students subsequently spent an evening with the Beaver Scouts passing on some of the skills and knowledge they acquired on the programme, and our hope is that this will lead to stronger links between Tidy Towns, BCS and the younger generation.

National Tidy Towns Competition 2017

In the National Tidy Towns Competition 2017 Ballyhaunis was awarded 279 marks, an increase of nine marks on last year. Adjudicators visited the town on 20th July and their report contains many favourable comments along with recommendations for improvements.

The Tidy Towns Committee was commended on its engagement with relevant agencies and groups who are willing to provide assistance and support with projects and activities, and also on its use of local and social media to communicate with the wider community. A good working relationship with the youth of the town was applauded.

A number of buildings caught the eye of the adjudicators; St. Patrick's Church, the Courthouse, the Garda

Station, Val's Bar & Bistro, Credit Union, Fire Station and Library, while MacSiurtáin's was admired on its presentation and use of the Irish language. The 1916 Garden was admired for its planting and landscaping making it a focal point for the community to visit, and the graveyard was visited and admired for its presentation indicating a town that has pride.

Many areas of fine landscaping were noted - among them the grounds of St. Patrick's Church and colourful areas on the approach roads, also the green area and mature trees in the Friary grounds. Hanging baskets and planted containers at various locations brightened up the streetscape for the adjudicators, while the splendid landscaping at Brookvale Manor Nursing Home enhanced this road.



Noel McGuire, Mark Connery, Enda Caulfield, Gabriel Smith, Padraic Murphy, Tony Waldron and John Finnegan, pictured during the Tidy Towns' cleanup of the river pathway earlier this year.

The Friary grounds with its trees, hedging and the river Dalgan provide natural habitats for wildlife, and leaving a corridor for wildlife along the approach roads while still maintaining a neat verge was encouraged. The work of beekeepers was commended for its interest and importance for pollination and provision of local honey. Working with the local schools in the Green Schools Initiative was encouraged for the importance of the knowledge gained by the students.

The Tidy Towns Committee was commended for its efforts in creating an awareness among the wider community of the importance of combating litter and keeping the town tidy, e.g. taking part in National Spring Clean Campaign, the County Litter League and Adopt aRoad. Bins for dog fouling should encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. Unfortunately, the recycling banks area was visited and looked untidy.

Housing estates visited by the adjudicators have nice green areas and good landscaping, and the importance

of Residents' Associations was emphasised to help with local maintenance. Many houses on approach roads and along the streetscape were described as well presented with neat gardens and floral displays. Ballyhaunis is similar to most towns and villages with unoccupied buildings, but the work of the Committee with Mayo County Council in trying to improve the streetscape was noted.

The adjudicators advise the planting of native hedges and trees, and ground planting of perennial plants that provide year round colour and interest. They also recommend visiting www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan for advice on planting suitable for wildlife, and information on the overuse of herbicides that are harmful to pollinators and wildlife habitats.

The importance of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill was emphasised, and the Men's Shed was described as a good resource for reusing waste materials that can be used in the community. Another recommendation is better management of resources such as harvesting rainwater, using low energy bulbs, composting and walking/cycling where feasible.

Cleaner Community Campaign 2017

We participated in the Community Litter League and Adopt a Road during the summer and Abbey Street was our chosen entry in this year's 'Sweep your Street' competition. We spent several evenings sweeping and picking litter throughout the town with special attention being given to Abbey St., and Mike Griffin and Brian Alves carried out their now customary street cleaning

early on Sunday mornings. We await the announcement of the results at the time of writing.

New members

We welcome new members who might join us for an hour on one or two evenings per week during the summer and attend monthly meetings throughout the year. In the past year we extended a Céad Míle Fáilte to Jacinta, Christina, Falilat, Nozipho, Tryphine and Vivian from the Asylum Seeker community who have been regular helpers with the task of keeping Ballyhaunis clean and tidy.

Thanks

In conclusion we extend sincere thanks to all who support the work of Tidy Towns in numerous ways - our sponsors this year, Ryan's Super Valu and O'Dwyer Solicitors; Cllr. John Cribbin for allocation of funding and constant support; Mayo County Council staff; our voluntary helpers and all who contribute financially to our church gate collection or drop their loose change into our mite boxes in the business premises in town.

Tidy Towns Committee:

Chairperson - Kay Curley, Hon. Secretary - Mary Donnelly, Hon. Treasurers - Moyra Patterson and Frances Mulhern, P.R.O. - Teresa Grogan. Committee: Ann Curley, Carmel Delaney, Mike Griffin, Frances Maye, Nell Rochford, Gabriel Smith, J. T. Smyth, Jacinta Ezeokafor, Christina Mkwanda, Falilat Oladibubo, Nozipho Shange, Tryphine Madoda, Vivian Fasanmi.



Ballyhaunis Community School students who received their St. John Paul II Merit Awards, pictured with their teachers Orla Macken, Catriona Murphy and Fr Joe Feeney (PP Ballinlough) and local members of the Knights of Columbanus who sponsor the awards. Photo Fr. Stephen Farragher



1967 Intermediate Title winners

Members of the Ballyhaunis Gaelic football team, winners of the County Intermediate honours in 1967, at the anniversary presentation day on 7th May 2017. Back, L-R: Val Byrne, Tom Fitzgerald, Tony Cribbin, Al Madden, Tony Morley, P.J. Morley representing his brother Noel Morley (R.I.P), John Costello, Aiden Kelly, Robert Kelly, Gerard McGarry. Front: Johnny Biesty, Adam Cribbin Noone (representing his granduncle Tom Cribbin, R.I.P), Fr. J.J. Cribbin, Tom Lyons, Jim Higgins, Pat Curley, John Cleary, Vincent Healy. *Photo: Mike Byrne.*



1957 Championship winners

Members of the Ballyhaunis Gaelic football team who captured the County Junior title back in 1957, pictured at the anniversary presentation day on 7th May 2017, with Club President Willie Ryan (left), who presented the trophies. L-R: Willie Ryan (President Ballyhaunis GAA Club), John Dillon, Johnny Biesty, Val Byrne, Frank Webb, Paddy Waldron, Tom McCormack. *Photo: Mike Byrne.*



Sporting fans: Pictured at the 1957 and 1967 anniversary presentations of the Ballyhaunis Gaelic Football County winning teams last May were supporters, Mary Frances Cleary (left) and Kay Curley, whose respective husbands, John and Pat, were recipients of the 50th anniversary Intermediate commemorative trophies.



Conor Murray, son of Kellyanne Herr and Terry Murray, grandchild of Michael and Christine Herr, Crossmolina, watching Andy Moran in action for Mayo.

Jim Coffey Commemorative Celebrations

SEAMUS KENNY

On Easter Sunday, 16th April 2017, as part of the celebratory weekend, a commemorative monument was unveiled in Tully, Carrowbehy, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, to celebrate the life and boxing career of the great Jim Coffey. A great attendance on this cool Sunday afternoon witnessed the unveiling of the impressive monument by Jim Coffey's great-granddaughter Daisy Coffey.

Jim Coffey was a world rated heavyweight boxer of the early twentieth century and arguably one on Ireland's greatest born heavyweight boxers of all time. He was born in Tully, Carrowbehy in 1890 and, like a lot of his family and friends, emigrated to America in 1910. After a few short years in America, Coffey was recorded as one the 'great white hopes' and prospective world heavyweight boxing champion. His boxing career was recorded and feted by a global audience interested in the fistic profession, and especially lauded by the extensive Irish American diaspora. From a totally professional sporting perspective, Jim Coffey was one of Ireland's most successful professional sportspeople of the early years of the twentieth century.

The commemorative weekend commenced on Saturday 15th April with a visit to the final resting place of Jim Coffey in Loughglynn Cemetery. It was followed by visits to the Glebe House and farm, which he purchased while still a young aspiring boxer, and to his family homestead in Tully where he was born. This was followed by a visit to Knock and later that afternoon by food and refreshments facilitated and organised by Kathleen Henry. The evening concluded with a 'Gathering' in Fitzer's Bar, Knox St., Ballyhaunis, where there was music, song, chat and refreshments on a night to remember.

Ceremony

On Sunday afternoon, 16th of April, the commemorative ceremony commenced with a message of welcome by Seamus Crawley. This was followed by a presentation celebrating the global fame and significance of the boxing career of Jim Coffey, by Seamus Kenny. Mary

Coffey, a granddaughter of Jim Coffey who travelled from London, made a memorable presentation highlighting the efforts of the local committee in preparing the monument and acknowledging the influence her famed grandfather had on her family's later

lives. Michael Coffey, a grandnephew of Jim Coffey, who had travelled to Ireland with his brother Jim and nephews David and John from the U.S.A., spoke of their happiness to be present at the unveiling ceremony for their illustrious relative. The presentations were completed by Fr. Donal Morris, Parish Priest of Loughglynn, who duly blessed the monument. On completion of the presentations, Paddy Joe Tighe and Terry McGowan paid a musical tribute to Jim Coffey with a special rendition of 'The Woodlands of Loughglynn'. As the event concluded, many pictures were taken by family, friends and visitors on this memorable day.

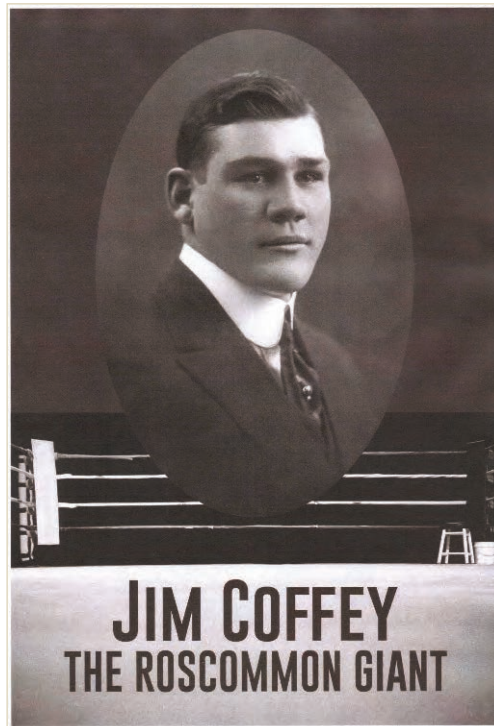
The festive celebrations continued later in the evening with music and refreshments at The Coney Island Bar. A commemorative publication celebrating the life and boxing exploits of Jim Coffey 'The Roscommon Giant'

was launched. This was followed by the presentation by John Joe Fitzmaurice of a picture specially prepared by the family of Jim Coffey, to the Loughglynn Boxing Club who organised the Jim Coffey Boxing Event earlier this year in the Marian Hall, Gorthaganny.

It was a memorable evening where family, friends, neighbours and visitors relaxed in the homely atmosphere of the Coney Island Bar ably facilitated by owners Ann and Richard Gallagher. The musical entertainment in Coney Island bar was provided by Paddy Joe Tighe, Terry McGowan, Rebecca McGowan, Patrick Egan and Eleanor Egan, and included a special performance of Irish dancing by the Mary Elwood School of Dancing based in Ballyhaunis.

Thanks

This event could not have taken place without the valued support, patronage and sponsorship needed to prepare the monument and facilitate the celebratory



The Jim Coffey commemorative booklet, which can be purchased locally in The Coney Island Bar, Gorthaganny; Creaton's Bar, Loughglynn; The Gem, Fitzer's Bar and Murphy's Service Station, Ballyhaunis, or on-line from www.mayobooks.ie.

weekend. The organising committee wishes to thank and acknowledge the support of all those who assisted and volunteered in making preparations for the occasion: Martin Gavin for preparing the monument; and John Nolan for designing the commemorative publication. The committee also wishes to thank the Coffey family, relatives and friends whose tremendous support helped in making this a memorable occasion. A special thanks is extended to the family and relatives of Jim Coffey who travelled to the festivity from other parts of Ireland, from America and England to be part of the celebrations. Go raibh a maith agaibh go léir.

The committee is happy to advise that the Jim Coffey publication is on sale for €5.00 locally in The Coney Island Bar, Gorthaganny; Creaton's Bar, Loughglynn; The Gem, Fitzer's Bar and Murphy's Service Station, Ballyhaunis. It can also be purchased on-line from www.mayobooks.ie. The DVD, especially prepared by Tom Coppinger, of the Jim Coffey Commemorative Boxing Tournament in February, and the Commemorative Weekend at Easter, is also available. If you require any further details, please feel free to contact Seamus Crawley at (087) 8048853, Kathleen Henry at (087) 6572864, or any committee member.

The hardworking organising committee and activists comprised of Kathleen Henry, Seamus Crawley, Frances Mulhern, John Joe Fitzmaurice, Kathleen Fitzmaurice, JT Smyth, Michael Nolan, Liam Smyth, Martin Gavin, Seamus Kenny and Frank Ward.



Pictured at the Jim Coffey commemoration unveiling ceremony. L-R: John Joe Hoban, Mary Finan, Martin Finan, Marion Regan, Padraig Regan, Jimmy Hunt, Michael Nolan, Brian Hunt, Mick McDonagh, Frances Mulhern, Thomas Fitzmaurice, John Hoban and Kathleen Henry.



Above: Some members of the committee that organised the Jim Coffey Memorial Tournament on 18th Feb. 2017. L-R: J.T. Smyth, Liam Smyth, Kathleen Henry, Gerry Sharkey, Seamus Kenny, Frank Ward, Frances Mulhern, Seamus Crawley and Kathleen Fitzmaurice.

Below left: Jim Coffey's granddaughter Mary and great-granddaughter Daisy who unveiled the commemorative monument in Tully.



Frances Mulhern and Kathleen Henry, grandnieces of Jim Coffey, presenting the Jim Coffey Memorial Boxing Tournament Best Female Boxer award to Lisa O'Rourke of the Castlerea Boxing Club.



Left: John Joe Fitzmaurice presenting the Austin Mahon Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Best Overall Boxer of the Tournament to Cian Mullan of the Ardagh/Cross Boxing Club.



Right: J.T. Smyth, grandnephew of Jim Coffey, presenting the Jim Coffey Memorial Boxing Tournament Best Male Boxer award to Les Darcy of the Ballaghaderreen Boxing Club.

Below: A poster for the visit of the Jim Coffey Carnival to Ballyhaunis in 1913.

Diamond Wedding Celebrations



Michael and Denise Nolan, Togher, on the occasion of their Sixtieth (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated on December 1st, 2016, with family and friends. Michael and Denise married in St. Wilfrid's Church, Manchester, on 1st December 1956. On returning to Ballyhaunis in the 1970s, they ran a very successful bar business at Knox Street for many years.

A historical poster for the Jim Coffey Carnival. The poster has an ornate, decorative border. The text reads: "Jim Coffey CARNIVAL", "—ON—", "3rd August, 1913,", "—AT—", "BALLYHAUNIS." Below this, a note states: "NOTE : The Committee of the Jim Coffey Carnival desire it to be understood that the Programme has been arranged with the view of illustrating the possibilities of physical training and development from the standpoint of activity, skill, prowess, endurance and self-control, and that, just as in the case of all other forms of Athletics and physical culture, superiority is to be noted and judged by these standards." Another note follows: "It is not, of course, to be expected or feared those participating in the Demonstrations will inflict any serious bodily injury, pain, or hurt on one another." At the bottom, it says "Printed at the 'Mayo News' Office, Westport."



St. Joseph's Primary School, Senior Infants 1983-'84

Back, L-R: Miss Mary Staunton (teacher), Imelda Flynn, Maree Healy, Sarah Naughton, Sorcha Hannon, Patrick Keane, Bill Flynn, Brendan Waldron, Hilary Mooney, David Laffey. Centre: Shane Hanley, Simon Webb, John Tighe, Sharon Murphy, Stephen Glynn, Brian Flanagan, Pat Frayne, John Burke, Edward Webb, Caroline McNamara, Tara Higgins. Front: Denis Moroney, Mario Pelecchia, Maria McGarry, Alma Gallagher,, Regina Moran, Tommy Curran, P.C. Curley, Sean Fitzmaurice, Fergus McGuire. *(Courtesy of Kay Curley).*



Centre left image: Sighle and John Forde enjoying the President's Night in Ballyhaunis Golf Club where John was President that year.

Above: John Forde and Sighle Forde (nee Garavan) signing the Marriage Register on their Wedding Day, 5th Jan. 1967, fifty years ago.



A group of ladies from the adjoining townlands of Scrigg, Coolloughra and Kiltaboe.

Back, L-R: Mary Finnegan (McHale), Eileen Grogan (Folliard), Anne Plunkett (Fleming), Mary O'Connor (Maguire). Front: Ann Murphy (Kelly), Rosaleen Kelly (Keane), Eileen Lyons (Freeley), Noreen Gallagher (McHale). *Photo courtesy of Eileen Grogan.*

Scoil Íosa

KENNETH DENNEDY (PRINCIPAL)

Ar son chuile duine í 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 léir ar son an méid tacaíochta a bhronnadh ar ár Scoil arís í mbliana.

As we come to the end of another calendar year we take a look back on what has been an eventful one at Scoil Íosa academically, socially, and in terms of sporting pursuits.

Sports News

Sport continues to form a very important facet of life at Scoil Íosa with, as ever, the emphasis being put on accessibility for all pupils and mass participation. As well as taking part in a number of coaching initiatives over the course of the year including Basketball, Football, Cricket and Soccer and Dance, Scoil Íosa entered teams in a number of sporting competitions with varying degrees of success over the course of the year. These included Gaelic Football (Boys and Girls) Hurling, Camogie, Soccer, Athletics and Basketball.

Athletics: Once again the school entered teams in both the Junior and Senior sections of the Mayo Schools Cross Country competition. At the East Mayo heats, our junior boys' team of Kyle Burke, Brandon Sweeney, Mark Feeney, Josh Kavanagh, Jake Powers and Tom Donnellan qualified for the county final in the team event in spectacular style occupying four of the top twelve finishing places for first place overall, in the team event. Our senior girls' team consisting of Lucy Phillips, Maia Phillips, Austeja Armonaviciute, Erica Byrne, Laura May Allen and Sarah Gill also performed well in qualifying for the County Final

Gaelic Football: 2017 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. This year the main Cumann na mBunscoil competition was played as a blitz format in The Connacht Centre of Excellence, Began. Our team played three close matches meeting Ballinrobe NS, Claremorris Boys NS and St. Patrick's NS Westport, eventually losing out at the last hurdle. The girls' team endured a tough year

with hard fought matches against Ballinrobe, Westport and Scoil Muire Gan Smál, Claremorris. Despite some fine individual performances this was not to be our year.

Girls Football Panel: Holly Gallagher, Lorna Higgins, Sofia Hopkova, Bisma Maqsood, Martynka Ubych, Kamile Aleksionaite, Austeya Armonaviciute, Erica Byrne, Alicia Cleary, Nikita Cleary, Maia Phillips, Tara Phillips, Noor Ul-Huda Sharif, Sarah Gill, Lucy Phillips.

Boys Football Panel: P.J. Greally, Nathan O'Toole, Oskar Chojnacki, Seamus McDonagh, Adam Walsh, Michael Maughan, Evan McNamara, Kian Morley, Ahmed Naveed, Adam Noone, Colm Rattigan, Mamoon Shabbir, Brian Sweeney, Daire Caulfield, Jason Lyons, Clayton Nolan, Yazan Rahmani, Eoin Ryan, Muhammad Saad, Mohid Shahid, Ahmed Tayyab, Mike Wiktor, Kian Burke, Ethan Cooke, Brendan Cullen, Micheál Finn-Richardson, Bader Kezze, Yordan Kirchev.

Hurling: The boys kicked off the year with training starting the second week in September. There was huge interest and optimism for the year ahead with a large number of 6th class children involved, many of whom were in their third and final year playing primary school hurling. Competition time started on the 6th of March with the Mini-7's. The boys were in a strong group with Tooreen, Aughamore, Knock and a Carracastle/Derrynabrock combination. The boys were caught cold in the first game and lost by a narrow margin to



Scoil Íosa Junior Hurling team.

Carracastle/Derrynabrock. The team rallied and picked up wins against Tooreen and Knock before a showdown with Aughamore with a place in the final of the group up for grabs. Aughamore produced a tremendous display and defeated the Scoil Íosa boys by a single score.

After this competition, there was real hope for the boys, knowing what they were capable of and confident in the strength of what was in reserve for the 7's. So, they prepared for the 11-a-side competition. With eight of the starting team in 6th class, the boys took to the competition on the 8th May. They played some wonderful hurling when defeating Claremorris but again fell just short to an outstanding Aughamore team. To finish the year the boys played in the inaugural Vinnie Judge Memorial Cup competition and played some superb hurling on their way to winning the shield. This brought an end to the year for the boys and for many, an end to hurling in primary school. They gave outstanding service to the Scoil Íosa jersey once again with Micheál Finn-Richardson, Eoin Ryan (both selected to represent Mayo) and Kian Burke standing a class apart in every game. They were ably assisted by Brian McHugh, Clayton Nolan, Saad Asif. Special mention to newcomers Ethan Cooke and Bader Kezze who showed all to see the progress that can be made in a single year with the right attitude.

Camogie: For only the second year, Scoil Íosa entered a camogie team once again into the Mini-7's. Having also started training in September, the girls always showed great enthusiasm and interest in improving and excelling. Thanks to the Camogie Association, Michael Raleigh was entrusted to come in for a block of six weeks to assist in their training and the extra time really showed. After all the training the girls were primed for action on the 15th of March for the Mini-7s. The girls tried their best on the day and never gave up hope but unfortunately they were defeated in all three games with Laura Dillon excelling in the goals. All of the panel are again available for next year and will hope to make more progress.

This year Scoil Íosa entered a team in Cumann na mBunscoil Camogie competition. This was a new departure for the school and one in which they performed exceptionally well. We look forward to the further development of the game in the coming years.

Team: Rachel Cleary, Hannah Clarke, Erin Murray, Arooj Azhar, Annie Naveed, Maeve Donnellan, Martynka Ubych, Lorna Davis, Holly Gallagher, Maia Phillips, Erica Byrne, Nikita Cleary, Tara Phillips, Chloe Henry, Noor Sharif.

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



Confirmation Class 2017

Pupils of Scoil Íosa who were Confirmed in 2017, pictured with teachers Dónal O'Brien, Ciara Byrne and Michelle Flatley, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Archbishop Michael Neary and Fr. J.J. Cribbin P.P. Milltown, Co. Galway
(Courtesy of Glynn's Photography, Castlerea).



First Communion Class 2017

Pupils of Scoil Íosa who received their First Communion in 2017, with their teachers Ciara Fitzmaurice and Sheena Flanagan and Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. (Courtesy of Glynn's Photography, Castlerea).

Confirmation 2017

Confirmation this year took place on Wednesday, February 8th, and the following received were confirmed: Pijus Bloze, Kian Burke, Ethan Cooke, Micheál Finn-Richardson, Aoife Gill, Holly Gallagher, Lorna Higgins, Kaitlyn Maughan, Patrick McDonagh, Brian McHugh, Shauna McNamara-Small, Clayton Nolan, Eoin Ryan, Martynka Ubych, Darijus Valciukas, Vakarís Vaitekúš, Mike Wiktor, Erica Byrne, Daire Caulfield, Alicia Cleary, Laura Dillon, Chloe Henry, Isabelle Henry, Ivan Iliev, Viktoria Lavrovikova, Jason Lyons, Martin McDonagh, Michael Maughan, Kian Morley, Adam Noone, Maia Phillips, Tara Phillips, Adam Walsh, Kamile Aleksunaite, Laura May Allen, Austėja Armonaviciute, Nikita Cleary, Roisín Conway, Isabelle Cox, Katelyn Coyne, Annie McDonagh, Evan McNamara-Small, Shannon Morgan, Colm Rattigan, Ciara Reynolds, Serena Squires, Katarina Strapkova, Brian Sweeney, Igor Posoric. The group were prepared by their teachers Ciara Byrne, Dónal O'Brien and Michelle Flatley.

First Communion 2017

On Saturday, May 13th 2017 the following pupils received their First Communion: Nicole Allen Forde, Lukas Bacys, Viktoria Balik Nowak, John William Burke, Cillian Caulfield, Emma Caulfield, Fionn Conlon, Tom Donnellan, Amelia Gryczuk, Liam Hill, Aaron Jordan, Cristiano Manke, Patryk Manke, Eamon Óg Monaghan, Alannah Mongan, Cian Moran, Ellen Murphy, Jack Nolan, Jamie Nolan, Jason Powers, Conor Reynolds, Bridget Louise Allen, Gustas Lukosevicius, Naomi McDonagh, Ana Posaric, Luka Posaric, Brandon Sweeney, Kamile Ziziunaite, Klaudia Kozłowska. The group was prepared by their teachers, Ciara Fitzmaurice and Sheena Flanagan assisted by Sharlene Ruane and Miriam Judge.

Choir

The Scoil Íosa Children's Choir, under the direction of Miriam Judge, has continued to excel during their 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.

Bizworld

In the run up to the very successful Enterprise Town exhibition which was held in Scoil Íosa over the weekend of September 22nd and 23rd, the children in Fifth Class undertook the Bizworld initiative under the auspices of Bank of Ireland. As part of this project all children had to engage in a co-operative learning activity based around a business premise. This innovative project taught the children about formulating an idea, forming their own companies, and coming up with a marketing strategy. The highlight of the initiative was the 'Dragon's Den' scenario where the children were interviewed by an external panel about their idea. Thanks to Bank of Ireland and to class teacher Michelle Flatley for their assistance with the programme.



School Staff 2016/2017

Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Kevin Henry (Deputy Principal), Geraldine Fahy, Anne Durkan, Olivia Burke, Sheena Flanagan, Marian Byrne, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Lisa Watchorn, Michelle Flatley, Joanne Forde, Dónal O'Brien, Ciara Byrne, Sharlene Ruane, Elaine Brady, Annie Kelly, Miriam Judge, Samantha Cleary, Emily Worden, Diane Marigliano, Aisling Toal, Roisín Prendergast-Freeman (SNA), Marian Nally (SNA), Marina Coyne (SNA), Carmel Cassidy (Secretary), Mary Dillon (Secretary).

Board of Management 2017/2018

James Reidy (Chairperson – Patron's Nominee), Fr. Stephen Farragher (Patron's Nominee), Kenneth Dennedy (Principal/Secretary), Anne Phillips (Community Nominee), Alan Henry (Community Nominee), Ciara Fitzmaurice (Teachers' Nominee), Eddie Murphy (Parents' Nominee/Treasurer), Eileen Donnellan (Parents' Nominee).



Scoil Íosa Bizworld Fifth Class

Fifth Class pupils of Scoil Íosa who participated in the Bank of Ireland Bizworld project, accompanied by their teacher Michelle Flatley and personnel from Bank of Ireland
(Photo courtesy of Janapix).

'Pitching-Up'

Shining a light on integration in Ballyhaunis

GRAHAME CLEARY

Like many of you reading this article, I was proud to be from Ballyhaunis after I watched The Guardian documentary "Pitching Up" online for the first time last July. My brother, Jonathan, who lives in Malaysia, sent me the link and over breakfast I watched it, twice. Directed by Maurice O'Brien, the documentary shone a light where many people refuse to go and what it found is that Ballyhaunis epitomises the changing face of Ireland. Rather than turn its back on change, "Pitching Up" highlights how Ballyhaunis is attempting to embrace change through the efforts of members of the GAA club and of the local schools.

The documentary gave a voice to people who, like me, call Ballyhaunis home; although some of them were not born in Ireland. Many of us have family and friends living overseas and we'd like to think that wherever they've decided to settle, the local people there are making efforts to integrate them into their culture and society.

People often say to me that if it doesn't appear in 'the Annagh' it didn't happen. "Pitching Up" was too big a story to ignore. In order to capture the spirit of the documentary, we asked some of those people who contributed to "Pitching Up" to write about their experiences of life in Ballyhaunis and of the reaction to the documentary. Here are their voices.



Hannan Iqbal

My name is Hannan Iqbal and I was born in Pakistan. I originated to Ireland in 2000, at that time I was only six years old and I didn't have much of an understanding of where I was going and who I was going to meet. Ballyhaunis has been my hometown since 2000. Ballyhaunis has been so good to me over the years and I have met so many great people who have helped me create such great memories.

My cousin Arslan introduced me to GAA; initially I was very nervous regarding the sports, as I had

never seen or played them before, both hurling and Gaelic. I started to play hurling and then after two year I started playing Gaelic as it was mostly the same lads at under age level playing both codes of the game. The thing I love about the GAA is the amount of people I have met and the friends I have made, it is basically like your second family, everyone is there for you and everyone looks out for each other.

This is one of the main reasons when anyone ever asks me to give a hand or help in making or doing any interviews or documentaries about the town or the GAA, I am always happy to help. I feel Ballyhaunis and the GAA have given me a lot over the years, therefore I feel that I am only returning the favour.

I was overwhelmed at the response I got for the documentary about Ballyhaunis as I didn't think, so many people would have watched it. When I went into town to hang out with my friends or to shop, after the documentary was released the shop owners would be like, 'Are you the guy from the documentary?' Everyone was full of praise and very happy at how the documentary turned out. For me, that is the main reason why I like helping, as you are giving back something to the town that has given you a sense of belonging.



Faith Kayange

My motivation to take part in the Guardian's documentary was based on the wonderful experience we have had as a family with our son Mike's involvement in the GAA.

Like many of his classmates Mike started in Junior Infants and has been a regular at GAA training on Friday evenings ever since. Now in Third Class, Mike has over the last 5 years had the opportunity of learning the game, playing for Ballyhaunis against the neighbouring parishes and has been fortunate enough to have also attended matches as far away as Croke Park and Semple Stadium.

But most importantly it has allowed him to train and play with his friends and build up his understanding of sportsmanship – qualities such as fairness, self-control, courage, and persistence.

So when I was approached by the GAA Club to speak with Maurice, I was quite happy to explain our experience and encourage others to take part. In particular, we wanted to express our appreciation for the tremendous hard work put in by the volunteer adult coaches and the supportive and friendly environment that the Ballyhaunis GAA club itself provides.

I felt that the Guardian documentary really captured what the GAA has to offer to children and families. The popularity of the documentary really took us by surprise but it was very nice to see all positive remarks on Facebook about Ballyhaunis and the GAA from our friends from far and wide.



Francisca Yobouet

My name is Francisca Yobouet and I am from the Ivory Coast French speaking country. Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire) is bordered by the Gulf of Guinea, Liberia and Guinea to the west, Mali and Burkina Faso to the north, and Ghana to the southern east. My father is from Dimbokro, a town in south-central of Ivory Coast. It is the seat of both Laccs District and N'Zi Region and my mother is from the south-eastern of Ivory Coast "Grand-Bassm" which was the French colonial capital city from 1893 to 1896. The town remained a key seaport until the growth of Abidjan from the 1930s.

I was born and studied in the southern of the capital Abidjan. It's the economic capital and is one of the most populous French-speaking cities in Africa. According to the 2014 Côte d'Ivoire census, Abidjan's population was 4.7 million, which is 20 percent of the overall population of the country, and this also makes it the fourth most populous city proper in Africa. Considered the cultural crossroads of Africa, Abidjan is characterised by a high level of industrialisation and urbanisation.

I came to Ballyhaunis in May 2007; at first I was not comfortable I missed the shops, my friends in Dublin. My son, Desmond, and I feel at home but I miss my daughter back home and my weather in winter time.



Ger McGarry

The Ballyhaunis I grew up in was a wonderful place, full of characters and 'craic'; a community of about 1,000 people who all knew each other. It was a cosy, familiar existence for those who could stay, but there was also an awareness that life might be more interesting outside Ballyhaunis. Young people drifted away, full families emigrated and when they came back to visit we were enthralled by stories from far-away places. The community and Town Improvements Committee campaigned for a 'factory for Ballyhaunis'.

Then the world came to Ballyhaunis: M.J. Webb started a meat export business which was purchased by a businessman from Pakistan and the first emigrants arrived in our town about 1972. Local families established further industries and during the 1980's economic recession, Ballyhaunis was recognised as the exception, a thriving town strategically located at the 'Centre of Connacht'. The employment opportunity attracted a new wave of migrants, the convent was replaced by an asylum centre.

That success has created a new challenge. While the original native population has now fallen to 51 per cent of the total, Census 2016 describes Ballyhaunis as the most diverse town in Ireland and we have many advantages. While we no longer know everybody and some shops have closed, there is a thriving industrial sector and the population has doubled. There are now 1,600 people at work in a town with a current population of 2,338 inhabitants; a situation which must be the envy of many employment starved rural towns.

The G.A.A. club implemented a strategy to overcome the declining native population base: invite the new residents to join the club. The G.A.A. integration project has won three prestigious national awards and gained international acclaim in response to The Guardian documentary which has been seen by over 500,000 viewers. The club now invites all Ballyhaunis residents to unite and recreate a sustainable and diverse community.



Eoin Butler

I first heard about Integration Day in Ballyhaunis when Darran Conlon phoned me in May 2015 saying he had a story that might interest The Irish Times. I was on a tight deadline doing something else, so I asked him to write me an email and I'd get back to him. But I do remember thinking 'Why would a national newspaper cover a kids sports day in Ballyhaunis?'

Darran's email explained it all: the ethnic make-up in the schools, the importance of integration to the club and to the town, plans hatched for a BBQ, face painting and a marching band (his email was so good, I actually asked him if he'd had professional PR training. He hadn't.) I forwarded it to my editor in Dublin who instantly approved it.

In advance of the big day, I knew that the "foreign" kids decked out in their jerseys kicking ball and swinging hurleys were going look great in the photographs. But I wasn't going to get many usable quotes from a bunch of 8-year-old children.

So I asked the club if they could arrange for an older player, from a non-Irish background, who'd come up through the ranks at the club, to be there. Hannan Iqbal very kindly stepped in and, of course, he ended up being the star turn both in my article for the Irish Times and in Maurice O'Brien's superb video which followed this year.

My main memory of the day in 2015 was of the way everyone: parents, kids, club officials pitched in to make it a huge success. Cathal Carroll, Gerry McGarry, Faith Kayange, her son Mike and Orla McGarry each offered me their own unique perspectives for my article. It ended up being the second most read on the Irish Times website that entire year.

I would exceed my allotted word count from the Annagh Magazine if I named everyone who deserved credit here, but I think Darran Conlon deserves very special mention both for his involvement in the Integration Day and last year's White Collar Boxing Night which raised so much money for the club and good causes. He's an asset to the club and we're lucky to have him.

Ballyhaunis Population by Place of Birth

Source: Census 2016

Birthplace		
Ireland	1,201	51%
UK	114	5%
Poland	160	7%
Lithuania	69	3%
Other EU 28	295	13%
Rest of World	499	21%
Total	2,338	

© census.cso.ie

This graphic shows the breakdown of the local population by place of birth – it complements much of what is said in the article.

Maurice O'Brien - Director

I wanted to find out more about Ballyhaunis as soon as I read Eoin Butler's article about the efforts of a few local GAA volunteers in trying to integrate kids from the many different communities who live in the town.

When the Guardian newspaper announced they were looking for ideas for short documentaries which told 'surprising' stories I decided spend a weekend filming in Ballyhaunis to get some material together for a trailer.

I was immediately impressed by the diversity of the town and the efforts people such as Darran Conlon, Ger McGarry and Stephen Grogan amongst many others. At a match on my second day of filming I was lucky enough to meet the wonderful Francesca cheering on her son Desmond from the sidelines. And after a bit of hanging around outside the local mosque, I also eventually tracked down the one and only Hannan Iqbal.

I then had to pitch the idea and play the trailer to a judging panel and a packed hall at Sheffield Documentary Festival, to get a small amount of funding to go further and keep filming. Even that short clip was enough to engage people and have everyone asking questions about this place and these people. The Guardian duly gave me the commission, ahead of a few hundred other ideas which had been pitched.

From the beginning the people of Ballyhaunis were so welcoming. As someone living away from home for a very long time, it made me feel proud to be Irish.

At the same time it was also an eye-opening experience learning about life in Direct Provision. I spent time with some of the families in the Old Convent and even did some undercover filming, which I decided not to use in the final film in case it negatively affected the families who had bravely agreed to share their stories. Educated, bright people who want to contribute to society and are instead kept in limbo and treated like

children – it is an awful situation to be in.

In the end it was almost a year of filming and many trips to the town before I started editing. It was a big struggle to cut down all the footage in to a short 15-minute film. I would spend two weeks sleeping on a friend's floor in London whilst pulling 16-hour shifts in the Guardian office. Even once we finished the edit I was very worried that I hadn't done justice to either the town itself or the wonderful characters I had met.

But the reaction to 'Pitching Up' since it went online back in June took me completely by surprise. The reaction to the film immediately showed that people were inspired by the example being set by the town.

It was a surreal experience to be asked on to the RTÉ primetime radio and be interviewed by Dave Fanning about my experience of making the film. It was also debated on 'Second Captains' and shared and commented upon by numerous other websites, and is currently the third most viewed documentary that the Guardian has ever produced,

I'm well aware that the documentary is only a brief snapshot in time. But I think it should also give the people of Ballyhaunis a chance to look at the good work that has been done, and to hopefully use the reaction to the documentary to keep going and set even more of an example for other places going through similar challenges.

I've recently been filming there again on a series of shorts for UNICEF Ireland featuring some of the young people in the film, which will be used to help teach lessons on inclusion to school kids around the country.

I hope the people of Ballyhaunis will continue to inspire others to reach out and talk to their neighbours, new or otherwise.

To view the documentary, visit The Guardian website www.theguardian.com or search "Pitching Up" on YouTube.





Annagh Parish Stations 2017

PHOTOGRAPHS: FR. STEPHEN FARRAGHER, P.P.



Michael and Denise Nolan, Togher, 4th Nov. 2016 (Cave, Togher, Carrowreagh)

Standing L-R: John O'Shaughnessy, Tasha Coyne, Tom Waldron, Stephen Nolan (Jnr.), Stephen Nolan (Snr.), Paul Waldron, Tom Fitzmaurice, Tomás Concannon, Conor Nolan, Gary Nolan, Brendan Morrissey, Lee Nolan, Shane Nolan, Marie Cribbin, Jacqui Dockery, Bernard Waldron, Breda Waldron, Margaret Cribbin, Mary Morrissey, Patricia Waldron, Áine Waldron, Tony Waldron. Kneeling & seated, L-R: Conor Sweeney, Aoife Nolan, Madeline Nolan, Ryan Nolan, Michael Nolan (Jnr.), Alex Nolan, Michael Nolan (Snr.), Denise Nolan, Christina Concannon, Manar Cherbatji, Nuala Nolan, Karen Coyne, Ann Flanagan, Gerard Plunkett, Patricia Plunkett.



Nell Rochford, Knock Rd. 11th Nov. 2016 (Knock Road)

Standing, L-R: Nuala Creighton, Tom Phillips, Edward Mulhern, John Griffin, Mary Prenty, Eamonn Mulderrig, Michael Heffernan, Caitlin Jennings, Jim Lundo, Eileen Mulderrig, Phil Heffernan, Moyra Patterson, John Rochford. Seated L-R: Mark Mahon, Stacia Carney, Christy Ruane, Teresa Keane, Helen Gallagher, Aoife Keane, Amy Keane, Martina Gallagher, Bernie Lavelle, Rita Lundo, Liam Rochford, Ella Johnson, Michael Drudy, Eddie Johnson, Laura Nestor, Eileen Nestor, Conor Simpson, Riona Johnson, Margie Gallagher, Kay Buckley, Frances Mulhern, Maria Simpson, Nell Rochford.



Pat and Sheila Byrne, Johnstown, 19th Nov. 2016 (Johnstown, Redford)

Standing, L-R: Sinéad and Charlie Langan, Mary Meehan, Aoife Davis, Sinéad Lilly, Paul and Conor Concannon, Alma Concannon, Noreen Concannon, Dominic Davis, Maureen Lilly, Seamus Maguire, Noreen Ruane-Dalton, Pdraig Ruane. Seated: Karen Keane, Breda Davis, Teresa Healy, Pat Byrne, Vona Walsh, Sheila Byrne, Mary Cleary, Eileen Jordan, Connie Gildea, Joe Byrne, Margaret Byrne, Ciarán Meehan, Helen Byrne, Emer Meehan, Tommy Devane, Anne Jordan, Eoin Kelly, Kate Meehan, Lorna Davis, Helen Waldron, Ross Dalton, Nessa Dalton, Carmel Higgins, Lily Rabbitte (partly hidden) Kathleen Waldron, Tara Ruane, Bridie Ruane, John Gilmore. In front of altar: Oisín Keane, Luke Ruane, Aisling Keane, Emma Langan.



John and Bernie Gill, Clare St., 24th March (Clare St.)

Outer row, L-R: Ann Murphy, Caroline Levins, Barbara Levins, Sean Freyne, Geraldine Donnellan, Pauline Curley, Mary Byrne-Gill, Bernie Gill, Chris Jordan, John Gill, Ina Freyne, Martha Grogan, Bridie Levins, Maureen McCambridge, Pdraig Murphy, Mike Griffin. Seated on couch & seat, L-R: Errol Gill, Sr. Christina Heskin, Ruth Murphy, Maya Ann Murphy, James Heskin. Kneeling: Kyle Byrne, Conor Byrne, Julie Heskin.



Bernard and Mary Freyne, Gurteen, 25th March (Gurteen)

Back, L-R: Mary K. Phillips, Marie Brennan, Helena Byrne, Mike Byrne, Mary Rochford, Joe Rochford, Brigid Lynskey, Ann Phillips, Stacia Warde, Mary Henry, Michael Brennan, Cathal Phillips, Michael Henry, Liam Lynskey, Johnny Kelly, Martin Brennan, Seamus Mulrennan, Martin Keane. Seated, L-R: Martina Kelly, Frances Mulkeen, John Joe Mulkeen, Mary Freyne, Bernard Freyne, Anne Kelly, Mary Henry. Kneeling: Jason Kelly, Lucy Phillips, Maya Phillips, Tara Phillips.



Seamus and Angela Cribbin, Drimbane, 7th April (Drimbane)

Back, L-R: Anne Kelly, Dymphna Greally, Margaret Hannan, Seamus Cribbin, Michael Cribbin, Christopher Cadden, Anthony Cribbin. Front Rows L-R: Michael Kilkenny, Delia Cummins, Joe Curry, Tommy Kilkenny, Patrick Murphy, Sinéad Curry, Linda Kilkenny, James Curry, Seamus Kelly, James Curry, Martha Gallagher, Vivienne Cribbin, Maura Fitzmaurice, Annie Cribbin, Angela McManus, James Rafferty, Josephine Cribbin, Bernadette Cadden, Patsy Greally, Kathleen Kelly, Emma Attebury, Paddy Joe Tighe, Cathy McGlynn, Eoin McManus, Róisín Cadden, Griffin McManus, John McGarry, Christopher Cadden, Gabriel Smyth. Directly behind altar and seated: Euan Attebury, Eva Attebury, Ryan McManus, Phil Rafferty, Seamus Cribbin, Shay McManus, Angela Cribbin, Christopher Cadden.



Ger McLoughlin and Kieran Jenkinson, Clare Court, 23rd Sept. (Clare St.)

Standing L-R: Mike McNamara, Tom Smith, Ernie Hodkinson, Michael Daly, Martin McCarthy, Nell Rochford, Moira Paterson, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Tom McCormack, Pat Brady, Mary Greally, Ger McLoughlin, Maria Fitzmaurice, Nadine Fitzmaurice, Noelle Keegan.
Seated: L-R: Mary Jenkinson, Frances Griffin, Valerie Farrelly, Angela Doherty, Teresa Leonard, Maureen McCambridge, Frances Lyons, Kieran Jenkinson, Noreen Moran, Brigid Daly, Maura O'Dowd, Maureen Nolan. Seated on sofa: Phil Moran, Mary Nolan, Saoirse Delaney, Mairead Griffin.



Jim and Alacoque McManus, Churchpark, 30th Sept. (Holywell, Woodpark)

Back, L-R: Conor McManus, Bridie Morley, Toby Dreher, Maeve Dreher, Simon Morley, Catherine Waldron, Kate O'Brien, Eoin McManus, Eileen Lynch, Tony McManus, Ann Gibney, Alacoque Gibney, Karl McManus, Peter Dreher, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P.
Seated, L-R: Doris Carney, Seamus Waldron, Louis Dreher, Sean McManus, Alacoque McManus, Arthur Gibney, Jim McManus, Barry McManus, Delia Gibney, Des Gibney, James Dreher.



John A. and Eleanor Murphy, Lecarrow, 7th Oct. (Lecarrow, Curries)

Back, L-R: Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Bob Fahy, Martin Sheehan, Barbara Sheehan, Christina Concannon, Tara Lyons, Michael Regan (Snr.), Michael Regan (Jnr.), Peadar Greene, Michael G. McNerney, Helen McNerney, Diarmuid McNerney, Monie McNerney, Michael McHugh, Lorraine McNerney, Raymond McNerney, Ann Marie Greene, Catriona Moran, Claire Coggins, Graham Jenkinson. Second row, L-R: Mary Hunt, Phil Lyons, Patricia Heaney, Maureen Lilly, Mary Lyons, Dell Murphy, Maureen Coyne, Noreen Coggins, Eileen Rattigan, Tom Rattigan, Viola McHugh, Nuala Higgins, Breege Cribbin, Therese Dillon, Daisy Mae Walshe (baby) Michelle Walsh, Maria Jenkinson. Third row, seated L-R: Kieran Connolly, Rosie Connolly, Mary Greene, Sean Greene, Helen Meehan, Peggy McNerney, Kathleen Lowry, John A. Murphy, Eleanor Murphy, Niall Murphy, Brenda Murphy, John Gerard Murphy. Front row, seated L-R: Dara Jenkinson, Dylan Murphy, Elia Murphy, Lucy Jenkinson, Ross McNerney, Éabha McNerney, Leah McNerney.



Tom Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong, 20th Oct. (Derrynacong, Killinaugher)

Standing, L-R: Eric Feeney, Mark Regan, Deirdre Diskin, Geraldine Connolly, John Kilduff, Teresa McMenamon, Brian McMenamon, Brendan Regan, Veronica O'Neill, Patrick Regan, Maureen Durkan, Kevin Durkan, Joe Diskin, John Henry, Martin Fitzmaurice, Lora Regan, Patricia Fitzmaurice, John Connolly, Gerard Plunkett, Joe O'Neill. Seated, L-R: Alan Regan, Josephine Feeney, Cáit Webb, Ciara and Sinéad Regan, Noreen Kilduff, Gretta Henry, Dolores Buckley, Denis Buckley, Julia Kelly, Aoife Regan, Patricia Plunkett, Tom Fitzmaurice, Mary Hunt, Judy Regan Kevin Diskin, Evelyn Fitzmaurice.



Margaret Tarpey, Carrowkeel, 21st Oct. (Carrowkeel)

Outer row, L-R: John Murphy, Gordon Biesty & baby Ellie Biesty, Bernie Biesty & baby Eva Biesty, Simon Morley, Chloe Mulrennan, Daniel Tarpey, Thomas Byrne (child), Mick Byrne, Gabriel Morley, Mary Tarpey, Martin Cunnane, Ronán Potts, Stephanie Tarpey, Sheila Tarpey, Shirley Tarpey, Majella Coffey, Bridie Morley, Anne Ryder, Patsy Mulchrone, Aoibhe Mitchell, Cian Mitchell. Centre section, seated L-R, back row: Mary Mooney, Denise Clancy, Joanne Walshe, Helen Biesty, Lorraine Biesty, Aisling Tarpey, Josie Cunnane, Anne Biesty, Ita McDonnell. Centre row: Amy Clancy, Margaret Tarpey & Síofra Murphy, Conor Clancy, Enya Mitchell and Pauline Tarpey. Centre front: Mark Clancy, Jack Clancy, Michael Byrne, Robert Walshe, Jack Walshe, Danny Byrne, Ciaran Murphy, Sean Murphy, Niamh Mitchell.



Ann and Laura Carney, Upper Main St., 27th Oct. (Upper Main St.)

Standing, L-R: Noreen Culliney, Justina Lyons, Christina Concannon, Pat Raftery, Mary Lyons, Mary McCormick, Pat Hickey, Helen Raftery, Mary Hannah O Connor, Bridie Hickey, Teresa Cummins, Stasia Carney. Seated, L-R: Ann Carney, Nell Winston, Frances Maye, Aobha McCormick, Wiktor Siemionkowski, Regina Carney, Elizabeth Carney, Laura Carney.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club

WILLIAM NESTOR (PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER)

PATRICK KEANE (CLUB SECRETARY)

It's a rare thing for a week to pass at Ballyhaunis GAA Club in which we don't come away with some form of success. Indeed, even if competitive success doesn't come on the playing field, it is there to be seen on the training pitch as children from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds participate and learn the skills of Gaelic Games at grassroots level. However, in recent years the Club, just like so many rural GAA clubs across the country, has been greatly affected by emigration, both internal and external.

We are what one would call a 'townie' club in the countryside. No longer is the day we see young families in abundance in the town of Ballyhaunis. The lure of greener pastures and families settling on the outskirts of town has resulted in fewer youngsters running on our streets, playing in our neighbourhoods and, ultimately, toggling out in the red and black. This has been particularly apparent from the Under-12 age category and upwards over the past number of years. It's challenging for the Club. It's challenging for the coaches. But it is a challenge which we are tackling head-on.

Our players and our coaches are the backbone of Ballyhaunis GAA Club. We thank them for all their efforts, commitment and dedication during 2017 and wish them all continued success in the future. Newcomers and past servants are always welcome at Ballyhaunis GAA Club. We hold an open-door attitude



at the Club and wish to take the opportunity to welcome anyone who wishes to play, coach, fundraise or become an active member of the club in any way. Past players who may have lost touch with the club are especially welcome, as their experience and knowledge of the game is invaluable.

We would like to thank our Club Executive, Bórd na nÓg, Hurling Committee, LGFA Committee and Finance Committee for their work and dedication throughout the year. Juggling a total of 26 teams across football, hurling and ladies football can be testing on pitches, finances and resources. Thankfully, we are in a fortunate position to have some wonderful individuals working towards a common goal of putting teams on the field and developing the skills of our players.

Football

There have been many highs for many of our teams in 2017. On a wet Friday night in October, the Annagh Rovers Minor team (an amalgamation between Ballyhaunis and Aghamore) claimed the County Minor 'B' Title against Ardnaree. It was the second year in a row for Ballyhaunis to be involved in taking the Michael 'Minister' Waldron Cup home after winning it in 2016 as Ballyhaunis Gaels (an amalgamation with Eastern Gaels). Further success for Annagh Rovers came in November when they captured the Connacht Minor 'B'



Annagh Rovers: The victorious Annagh Rovers team that captured both the Minor 'B' County and Connacht Titles this season.

Back, L-R: Paddy Phillips (joint Manager), Marty Hunt (joint Manager), Thomas Horan, Barry Cribbin, Patrick Caulfield, Jason Meehan, James Freyne, Michael Freyne, Bobby Douglas, Jack Higgins, Jack Coyne, Luke Walsh, Aaron Hughes, Neil Carney.

Front, L-R: Paddy Finnegan (Trainer), Derry Óg Cox (Maor Uisce), Michael Hession (Selector), Cormac Phillips, Colm Langan, David Cunnane (joint Captain), Jack O'Connor, Sean Freyne, Conor Hunt (joint Captain), Liam Herr, Eoghan Delaney, Liam Lavin, David Hession. Photo courtesy of Fr. Stephen Farragher



The Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling Panel 2017

Back, L-R: Jack Coyne, Kieran Kiely, Austin Lyons, James Lyons, Patrick Kiely, Fergal Lyons, Eoghan Collins, Tadhg Buckley, Kieran McDermott, Sean Gildea, Shane Healy, Mark Phillips, Stephen Hoban, Jimmy Cribbin, Callum Gardiner, Ryan Kilbane, Sean Herr. Front, L-R: Adrian Phillips, Damien Keadin, Sean Griffin, Adrian Brennan, Brian Hunt, Dónal O'Brien, Keith Higgins, Luke Cribbin, Pierce Higgins, Eamon Phillips, Kevin Morley, Peter Healy.

Title with a seven-point win over Tusk Lord Edwards. This was an historic achievement and a first Connacht title for a team with Ballyhaunis involvement. We congratulate and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all the players and to Paddy Phillips in his managerial role alongside his colleagues from Aghamore.

Meanwhile, our Senior men's footballers retained their status in Intermediate Championship for 2018 by defeating Tourmakeady in a play-off. They also had a good spell in Division 3 of the league and narrowly missed out on promotion. We look forward to competing in the Intermediate Championship in 2018 with a relatively young of players with huge potential. We wish to thank the management team of Fergal Kelly, John Prenty, Frank Nolan and Shane Ganley for their time and commitment throughout the year.

At the time of writing our Under-21 team is currently in the County 'C' semi-final with a genuine chance of landing some more silverware late this year.

Inter-county Football

Congratulations once again to our clubman, Keith Higgins, on winning a fourth All-Star Award this year; a truly remarkable achievement and another wonderful year of performances in the green and red jersey. Congratulations also to Declan Doyle and Fergal Kelly on winning a second consecutive All-Ireland Masters Title with Mayo.

At underage level, Patrick Caulfield and Jack Coyne represented Mayo Under-17s. Jack also lined out for the Mayo Minors in 2017. The club are very proud of all our county representatives and wish them the best next year.

Bórd na nÓg

As alluded to previously in this article, our coaches at underage level are finding it increasingly difficult to

compete at a level which should be reflective of the club and community. However, this does not deter our coaches from offering excellent skill development on the field. One of the highlights of the year for our underage structure was when our Under-12 team got selected to play in a Connacht blitz on the hallowed ground of Croke Park. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many of these boys and we thank the coaches and parents who travelled with them on the day. Our underage coaches for 2017 were as follows; John Burke, David Burke, Trevor Kelly, Paul Webb, Brendan Donnellan, Eamon Monaghan, Tomas Murphy, Padraic Murphy, Paul Finn, Jonathan Powers, Mark Regan, Caroline Regan and Darran Conlon.

Hurling

2017 marked the 20th Anniversary of senior hurling in Ballyhaunis. The year started in celebratory mood as players, mentors and fans looked back on achievements. In that time, the club has won 12 county titles and contested five Connacht finals. Most recently the team had a hectic end to 2016, where they won their latest county title following a replay with local rivals Tooreen. The score line was 2-13 to 1-13. That was three in a row for Ballyhaunis. Three days later, Ballyhaunis defeated the Roscommon Champions Oran, in the Connacht semi-final, before a huge crowd at the Connacht Centre of Excellence. Damien Keadin was awarded man of the match. In the Connacht Intermediate Final, four days later Ballyhaunis took on the Galway Intermediate Champions Ahascragh-Fohenagh and after extra time and a score line of 19 points to Ballyhaunis' 2-13, another replay ensued. Donal O'Brien received the man of the match accolade after vital saves and scoring monster frees. This was the closest any non-Galway team had come to lifting a coveted Connacht Club Intermediate Hurling Title. In what was their fifth championship match in three weeks, a tired but valiant

Ballyhaunis lost the replay to Ahascragh who went on to contest the All Ireland Club Final.

Hall of Fame Award

On the 28th January 2017, at a Gala Awards Night in Ballina, Pete Higgins was inducted into the Western People "Hall of Fame." At the same event, Mayo Captain, Brian Hunt picked up the prestigious "Hurler of the Year" award. It was a great night with over fifty family and friends from Ballyhaunis and beyond present to see the two worthy recipients collect their awards.

Two Decades of Senior Hurling

On the 8th March 2017, The Clock Tavern was decked out in red and black to celebrate 20 years of senior hurling in Ballyhaunis GAA Club. The 2016 county medals were jointly presented by senior manager Peter Higgins and his trusted lieutenant, John Joe Hoban. For some it was for the first time and for Peter Healy, Pierce Higgins and Tadhg Buckley their twelfth county senior medal. Damien Kedian received



Ballyhaunis GAA Secretary, Patrick Keane (right) presenting Darran Conlon with the 2016 Club Person of the Year Award.

the Club Hurler of the Year award. This was in recognition of his consistent outstanding displays at number 6 throughout the 2016 season culminating in his outstanding performance in the drawn Connacht Final, where he kept Galway All Star Cathal Mannion scoreless from play. Previous Club Hurlers of the year winners were also acknowledged in Derek Walsh, Brian Hunt, Pierce Higgins, Adrian Brennan, Keith Higgins and Christopher McCrudden.

Underage Hurling

The under-age development continued and each Wednesday evening saw children ranging in ages from 3-13 years taking to the pitch. The U-8 and U-10 Teams acquitted themselves and the club proudly in matches against Castlebar, Tooreen, Caiseal Gaels, Westport, Claremorris and Ballina. The underage coaches are



Mayo Captain, Brian Hunt, picks up the Western People Hurler of the Year Award 2016. L-R: Michael Hunt, Lisa Hunt, Brian Hunt, Shauna Brennan, Mary Hunt, Maria Hunt.

Tadhg Buckley, Stephen Carney, Pierce Higgins, Darran Conlon, Trevor Kelly, Tadhg Morley, Gary Conway, Pete Higgins, Kevin Morley, Brendan Donnellan, Hugh McKermitt and John Burke, amongst others, have all been on hand throughout the year to assist in underage training.

Unfortunately, from U-12 to Minor level the Club could not field teams. The Hurling Committee met with parents and the Club officers and an arrangement was put in place for a "Permission to Play" agreement between Ballyhaunis GAA Club and Tooreen Hurling Club. At U-16 level Daniel Hill and Diarmuid Philips got game time with Daniel going on to captain the Mayo U-17 team, which were beaten in the All Ireland 'B' Final. At U-14 level Shaun Morley, Michael Finn Richardson, Conor Keane, Eoin Ryan and Kevin Durkan all won U-14 Féile medals with Tooreen. Shaun then added to this by representing Mayo in goal and winning an All-Ireland 'B' U-14 medal.

On the 5th June Cormac Phillips, despite his youth, delivered on expectation and won the Senior Puc Fada Title on his first time of asking, beating clubman, and former title holder, Donal O'Brien into second position.

Inter-county Hurling

At Inter-county level the Ballyhaunis hurlers had an input into the Mayo U-21 team that went out to the reigning All Ireland 'B' champions Meath on the 12th August. The team was coached by Adrian Brennan and Donal O'Brien and had Mark Phillips, Ryan Kilbane, Calum Gardiner, James Lyons on the field of play. At Senior inter-county level again the Club was well represented in what was their first year back at Christy Ring level having won the Nicky Rackard Cup and securing promotion in 2016. Ballyhaunis players were Mark Phillips, Adrian Phillips, Keith Higgins, Austin Lyons, Kieran McDermott and Brian Hunt, who all

played their part in securing their participation at this tier of competition in 2018. The club was also well represented on the sideline with Derek Walsh, Dave McConn and Tom Phillips all forming part of John Paul Coen's backroom team. At the end of the year J.P. stepped down after three years in charge. The highlight no doubt was seeing his team lift silverware in Croke Park in 2016.

Club Hurling

At Club level thanks to an amalgamation with Caiseal Gaels, the Club was able to field a team in the U-21 Championship. The Ballyhaunis participants included selector John Joe Hoban and players Ryan Kilbane, Jack Coyne, Cormac Phillips, James Lyons, Mark Phillips, Jason Coyne, Calum Gardiner, Brian O'Neill, Eamon Phillips and Uneeb. On the 19th August the team were beaten in the County Final by Tooreen. 2017 is ending in familiar fashion for the Senior panel with another County Final appearance against Tooreen pencilled in for Saturday the 21st October.

The Hurling Committee consists of Pete Higgins, Chairman Stephen Carney, and Secretary Darran Conlon. They wish to acknowledge the great support and interest Ballyhaunis GAA Club have provided throughout the past year, particularly John Higgins, John Collins and Patrick Keane. They also wish to acknowledge the ongoing loyalty of sponsors Tadhg Buckley of EPS and the Brennan family of Gurteen Kitchens who along with Gareth Delaney, Christy Nicholson and the Murray family of The Clock Bar are longstanding supporters.

They wish to give their sincere appreciation to Scoil Íosa Principal, Kenneth Dennedy and muinteoir Dónal O'Brien for their continued support in the development of the game. Thanks to all the coaches, mentors, helpers and parents who have come to training and matches throughout the year. There is no doubt that if the home practice is encouraged the future is bright for hurling in the club, town and county. The committee want to encourage as many children as possible and their parents to participate in the game. All coaches are vetted and qualified and the necessary safety equipment is provided. So, if you never tried before please contact one of the coaches and we hope to see this progress continued in 2018.

Darran Conlon, Secretary, Hurling Committee

Ladies Football

Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Association continued to go from strength to strength in 2017 with player's numbers increasing, teams participating at all levels in all competitions, a competitive adult team

formed, and a county U-14 Division 1 title secured. For a club of such a young age our achievements have been admirable and the future of Ladies Football in the town looks promising for years to come.

Under 12

The U-12's competed in the County League and for a group of girls who had come together for the first time they competed really well; but more importantly they really enjoyed proudly wearing the red and black for the first time. Team mentors, Anne Cunnane, Alice Hughes and Paul Smith deserve special mention for taking on the coaching and management of this group and consistently working on improving their skill levels and enjoyment of playing football.

Team Management: Anne Cunnane, Alice Hughes and Paul Smith.

Panel: Alisha Aylward, Erica Byrne, Alicia Cleary, Isabella Cox, Laura Dillon, Kate Doyle, Roisin Glynn, Geri Mae Henry, Annette Henry, Isobel Henry, Chloe Henry, Róisín Henry, Alannah Hession, Aoife Hughes, Jessalyn Jennings, Jasmine Jurak, Chanel Marques, Sophia Marques, Treasa McDermott, Sinead O'Neill, Tara Phillips, Lucy Phillips, Mia Phillips, Kelly Rowland and Grainne Waldron.

Under 13

The U-13 team participated in the county grading league throughout August and September and will participate in the Division 2 play off stages following some sterling performances throughout the campaign. At the time of going to press, this league is ongoing and hopes are high for a successful year end for this very talented and dedicated group.

Team Management: Bainisteoir: Mike Henry; Roghnóirí: Pat Tighe and Niamh O'Neill; FLO: Anne Cunnane.

Panel: Martina Ubych, Kate Doyle, Geri Mae Henry, Eva Henry, Alannah Hession, Lorna Higgins, Aoife Hughes, Rosie Ganley, Chloe Kirrane, Rebecca Lyons, Chanel Marques, Sophia Marques, Treasa McDermott, Megan McGuire, Sinead O'Neill, Sarah Ronayne, Nikita Tighe and Saoirse Waldron.

Under 14

The pressure on this group was huge as we knew that within this team we had a hugely talented group of players which had been nurtured by their management right through the ranks and we had all watched with pride as they blossomed into a fine team. Following on from their U-13 league Division 1 success last year, the club's hopes of a first ever 'A' County Championship success rested on their shoulders and like true champions they didn't fail to deliver, securing a championship title win over their nemesis Westport after extra

time in a thrilling County Final.

Team Management: Bainisteoir: Mike Henry; Roghnóirí: Pat Tighe, David Delaney and Michael Cleary; FLO: Sinead Coakley Johnston.

Panel: Chanel Marques, Hannah Clarke, Rachel Cleary, Saoirse Waldron, Nikita Tighe, Mae Hession, Kate Mannion, Laura Madden, Erin Murray, Kate Delaney, Leah Johnston, Sarah Ronayne, Maeve Donnellan, Laura Godfrey, Jessica Henry, Bernadette Staunton, Geri Mae Henry, Rebecca Lyons, Eva Henry, Chloe Kirrane, Megan McGuire, Martinka Ubych, Lorna Higgins and Rosie Ganley.

Under 16

This group of players got the worst possible start to the year when the first match of their league campaign resulted in defeat away to Westport, however, anyone who doubted their character and resolve were proved wrong when they went on to win their next five league matches on the spin before being defeated by an all conquering Swinford side in the league semi final. The group built on this league campaign and was hugely unlucky to lose to Kilmoremoy in the County 'A' semi final by two points after hitting the crossbar. The spirit and resolve that this group showed augurs well for the future of our club.

Team Management: Bainisteoir: Frank Browne; Roghnóirí: George O'Neill and Declan Doyle; FLO: Deirdre Browne.

Panel: Aíne Phillips, Hannah Clarke, Sheena Roddy, Rachel Cleary, Holly Browne, Niamh O'Neill, Niamh Smith, Erin Murray, Siofra Murray, Kate Delaney, Laura Madden, Kate Mannion, Mae Hession, Rachel Cleary, Laura Godfrey, Ruth Henry, Ciara O'Grady, Rebecca Vahey Brennan, Amy Gildea, Eilis Duffy, Nikita Tighe and Amy Keane.

Under 18

This was only the second year that we had a team at this age group and with the majority of the players qualifying to play at this grade again next year a difficult and testing year ahead lay in store for this team. But true to their character, they battled bravely throughout both league and championship before being defeated in the semi finals of each competition. No doubt this team will compete at Division 1 and 'A' championship level next year in light of their sterling performances.

Team Management: Bainisteoir: Michael Cleary; Roghnóirí: Justin McDonagh, Gerry O'Connell; FLO: Annette Regan; First Aid: Ann Marie Foody.

Panel: Laura O'Connell, Olivia Cleary, Aoife Conway, Róisín Lyons, Sheena Roddy, Megan Regan, Aoibhinn Herr, Niamh Foody, Chloe Ryan, Siofra Murray, Jade Cunnane, Marina Carney, Niamh O'Neill, Leah

Johnston, Erin Murray, Helen Gallagher, Katelyn Concannon, Rachel Cleary, Kate Delaney, Holly Browne, Laura Madden, Niamh Smith, Cait Phillips, Gemma Foody and Laura Godfrey.

Junior

This was a historic as it was the first time a team from our club had competed at adult level and considering the short length of time that our club is in existence, even fielding a team at this level was a huge achievement. This team also competed in the All-Ireland Club Sevens in September reaching the semi final stage of this competition. In addition their league campaign is continuing and the team is currently topping the table. This team will have learned so much from its first year of competition that it surely has a bright future ahead and no doubt it will not be long until they bring further glory to our club and Parish.

Team Management: Bainisteoir: Justin McDonagh. Roghnóirí: Adrian Murray, Michael Cleary; FLO: Anne Cunnane; First Aid: Ann Marie Foody; Fitness Coach: Tracey Cunnane.

Panel: Niamh Murray (Joint Captain), Aoife Murray (Joint Captain), Chloe Ryan, Laura O'Connell, Yvonne Byrne, Aisling Tarpey, Aoibhinn Herr, Helen Gallagher, Olivia Cleary, Marina Carney, Aoife Conway, Niamh Foody, Gemma Foody, Róisín Lyons, Katelyn Concannon, Fiona Freyne, Sheena Roddy, Jade Cunnane, Niamh O'Neill, Siofra Murray, Cait Phillips, Aideen Murray, Leanne Henry, Aisling Caulfield, Brigitta Burke, Mairead Horkan, Robyn Moran, Olivia Buckley, Brenda Kilcourse, Róisín Fitzmaurice, Caroline Regan, Lisa McGuire, Chloe McGuire, Erin Murray, Leah Johnson, Clare Byrne, Meghan Regan, Tracy Cunnane.

Inter-county Ladies Football

Under 14: Mae Hession, Kate Mannion, Kate Delaney, Erin Murray and Leah Johnston.

Under 16: Niamh O'Neill.

Under 18: Justin McDonagh, Selector.

Senior: Yvonne Byrne, Aisling Tarpey.
Frank Browne Bainisteoir,
Derek Walsh Maor Faoirne.

Finally we would like to thank all our club officers for their dedicated work throughout the year and wish all our members a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Deirdre Browne, Chairperson Ballyhaunis LGFA.

Ballyhaunis GAA Club Finance

Funding our club and our teams takes monumental effort 52 weeks of the year. Our main source of income at the club is our weekly 50/50 draw which is held in a different pub in the town on Sunday nights. The club

currently guarantees a minimum €800 to the lucky winner every week which is one of the highest in all of Connacht. This doesn't happen all by itself. The work of Finance Chairman, Robbie Herr, and his team of 50/50 envelope sellers is indispensable to the running of the club. They all deserve huge credit and are as follows; Tommy Glynn, Brian Murray, Ned Murren, John Joe Hoban, Mike Webb, Hugh Rudden, Pete Higgins, Gabriel Lyons, Mike Dillon, Tom Waldron, and members of the Ballyhaunis Senior Football and Hurling teams. We would also like to thank our loyal sponsors of the 50/50 draw, Rochford Motors, and a huge thanks to all the pubs, shops and outlets which allow the envelopes to be sold on their premises.

Grounds

In early 2017 the club took the decision to drain and seed both the main playing pitch and training pitch. It was a big undertaking which was overseen by our Groundskeeper, Pete Higgins. With an extraordinary number of teams operating from one club, it is a major feat to have pitches at such a high standard. This is largely down to the work and expertise of Pete who volunteers his time and energy to complete the tasks involved. We also would like to thank the members of FAS who help to maintain the pitches and clubhouse throughout the year.

Finally, we wish to thank all our club members and members of the club executive committee for all their work and support in 2017. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Lifelong Mayo supporters, Brian Hunt and Pado Cunningham, on All-Ireland Final Day 2017 in Dublin.



Above: Ballyhaunis GAA club-mates, Keith Higgins and Eoghan Collins, lined out against each other when Mayo played Clare in the All-Ireland SFC Round 3 in Cusack Park, Ennis on Saturday 8th July 2017.



Left: P. J. Greally, Drimbane, scoring a goal in Croke Park during the Ballyhaunis Under-12's visit to the 'Come and Play Day', this summer.

Summer Reading Adventure



The Presentation of Certificates to the children who participated in the Summer Reading Stars Adventure 2017 in Ballyhaunis Library. Included in photographs are Cllr. John Cribbin, Eleanor Freyne (Ballyhaunis Library), Mary Gannon and Bridie Wimsey (Kiltimagh Library). *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*





The Presentation of Certificates to the children who participated in the Summer Reading Stars Adventure 2017 in Ballyhaunis Library. Included in photographs are Cllr. John Cribbin, Eleanor Freyne (Ballyhaunis Library), Mary Gannon and Bridie Wimsey (Kiltimagh Library). *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

Gurteen Bonfire



Pictured at the 2017 Gurteen Bonfire. Back, L-R: Helena Byrne, Mary Mulrennan, Mike Henry, Pat and Valentina Tighe, Mary K. Phillips, Maud Henry, Paddy Phillips, Carol Keane, Ellen Phillips, Jarlath Henry, Brigid Lynskey, Diarmuid Keane, Eamon Phillips, Thomas Murphy, Jack Madden, Martin Brennan, Liam Lynskey, Cathal Phillips, Michael Flynn, Albert Madden, Michael Brennan, Eva Henry, Nikita Tighe, Hannah Clarke, Jessica Henry, Rachel Cleary, Ann Phillips, Martin Keane, Claire Moran, SORCHA McNamara, Katie Moran, Sarah Jane Lynskey, Kirsty Murphy. Seated: Sylvia Caulfield, Paddy Freeley, Enda Caulfield, Seamus Mulrennan, Joe Rochford, Mary Henry, Jacinta Flynn. Front: Maeve Caulfield, Harry Murphy, Alex Byrne, Cillian Caulfield, Alex Tighe, Emma Henry, Katie Madden, Roisín Henry, Lucy Phillips, Lauren Henry, Tara Phillips, Erica Byrne, Maia Phillips, Ted Murphy, Maya Murphy.

Hunt Museum Prize awarded to Ballyhaunis Artist

Sorcha McNamara from Brackloon graduated from Ballyhaunis Community School in 2015 and is currently undergoing a BA Honours degree in Fine Art - Painting at Limerick School of Art and Design. Since 1997, the second year Painting students of Limerick School of Art and Design have collaborated with the Hunt Museum in Limerick city in order to create artwork inspired by the museum's eclectic collection. This year was extra special for them as it marked the 20th anniversary of this collaboration. Prizes are awarded each year for individual students' work and this year Sorcha was honoured to receive the Hunt's purchase prize - meaning that her work will now be part of the museum's permanent collection, on display for the foreseeable future. Her work is a visual response to the limestone of the building itself - researching where it came from, observing certain carving patterns within the stone and looking further into the properties of the mineral calcite. Sorcha hopes to further develop her working practice throughout the final two years of her degree programme.



Sorcha McNamara with her mother Anne at the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival.



Medicine Counter Assistant of the Year 2017

Mary Niland (centre, above) of Curley's totalhealth Pharmacy was awarded the 'Medicine Counter Assistant of the Year 2017' at the totalhealth Pharmacy Gala Ball and Awards Ceremony which took place at The Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway on the 29th of October. The Judging Panel were looking for nominees who were qualified, knowledgeable, empathic and competent. Mary has worked at Curley's totalhealth Pharmacy for thirty years and is an excellent example of a qualified, competent Medicine Counter Assistant who really knows and understands her customers.

Left: Laura Burke of Devlis, who took part in this year's Dublin City Marathon, pictured with fellow Ballyhaunis athlete and founding Editor of *The Irish Runner*, Frank Greally.



Ballyhaunis Parish Pastoral Council, 2017-21

Standing, L-R: Fr. Pat Farragher (Facilitator of Training), Mary Mulrennan, Frank Browne, Emer Gallagher, Kevin Henry (Chairperson), Laura Brogan, Eileen Lynch, Anne Lyons, Mary Maguire, Siobhán Conlon, Lydia Biesty, Willie Ryan, Eileen Donnellan, Orla Loftus, Ruth Murphy, Marion Regan, Mike Griffin, Mary Waldron. Seated: Julia Kelly, Gabriel Smith, Mary Greal, Mary T. Griffin, Mike Byrne, Eileen McDonagh, Claire Higgins, Eileen Jordan, Mary Henry, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P.



Ted Webb (left), pictured with Tom Godfrey of IBI Corporate Finance

Ted Webb (Managing Director) and Tom Godfrey (Chief Executive) of IBI Corporate Finance approached Bank of Ireland with their €10 million Euro buyout proposal, were successful in their bid and have now completed the buyout from the Bank. Ted was educated at St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, 1972-77, where one of his class mates and close friends was our current Parish Priest, Fr. Stephen. He graduated with a commerce degree from UCG and worked as a chartered accountant with KPMG where he held various managerial positions at their Galway, Toronto and London offices. He joined IBI in 1996 after working with Fyffes PLC in London. Ted is son of the late Joe Webb (Devlis) and Rita Byrne (Abbey St.). He is married to Orla and they have four children: Ethan, Myia, Euan and Jude. He loves to come home to Ballyhaunis to visit his sisters Aisling and Eavan and their families, and to visit Curley's for a catch-up with his old friends and relations. He is very proud of his Ballyhaunis and Mayo roots and enjoys nothing better than watching the Mayo team in action.



School friends meet. L-R: Clare Butler, Laura Healy, Shirley Keane, Karen Muldowney, Jennifer McCafferty and Rachel O'Connor.



Ted and Orlagh Webb with their children Euan, Miah, Jude and Ethan.

Images from the 1966 Commemorative March in Ballyhaunis

On Easter Sunday 1966, following 11.30 Mass in St. Patrick's Church, a Commemorative Parade took place through the streets of Ballyhaunis, to the Parish Cemetery, to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Easter Rising. The parade included units of the Old I.R.A., the F.C.A., the 4th Mayo Troop of the Catholic Boy Scouts, the local branch of Macra na Feirme, Ballyhaunis G.A.A., the local Guild of the I.C.A. and members of the Fire Brigade from Ballyhaunis and Kiltimagh, along with a large contingent of the general public.

The images included below have been named as completely as possible, by the rows in which they were marching, from front to back. Many of the participants and onlookers remain unidentified. The Annagh Magazine Society would be interested to hear from anyone who can identify the others, or maybe correct a mistaken identity.



Ballyhaunis Guild of I.C.A.,
Mai Holmes, Teresa McGarry,
Katie Johnston, Lily Wilson,
Josie Eaton, Maria Cribbin,
Mary Higgins.

Jim Forde,
Jim Hopkins,
Michael Healy;
Brendan Hopkins,
Jimmy Hopkins,
Michael Freeley;
Jim Judge,
Micky Jordan,
Paddy Judge;
Joe Keane,
Peter Regan,
Paddy Casserly;
Jack Greene;
Tom Lyons,
Johnny Biesty.





Noel Mullarkey, Pado Moran; Jim Higgins, Tony Cribbin, Tony Morley; John Costello, Sean Waldron, Joe Webb; Edward Mulhern, Jarlath Moran.



Pictured outside Herr's shop, Knox St. L-R: John Fitzmaurice, Tom Fitzmaurice, John Fitzmaurice (shop), Mick Regan, Mary Herr, Tom Finn.



Background: Mrs. Carney (Holywell), Mrs. Nolan (Cloontumper), Mrs. Gallagher, Máisín Meath, Martin Mugan, Mrs. Lizzie Grogan; John Gallagher. Marching: Peter Cafferkey, Michael Fitzmaurice, Jack Clarke.

Images from the 1966 Commemorative March in Ballyhaunis

Brian Lyons, Bob Biesty;
Pat Hughes, Eddie Egan;
Tom Regan, Jimmy Egan,
Michael Moore, Pat Doyle.
Background: Eamon Meath.



Joe Gilmore; Joe Webb,
Tommy Johnston, Bertie Dillon;
Joe Conway, Joe Conboy,
Jim Fitzmaurice.
Background: Frank Connolly,
Maggie Morris.

Breeda Toolan, Pauline Connolly,
Breeda Ryan, Una Ryan;
Mary Dempsey, Monica Connolly,
Sally Barrett, Bernadette Donoghue,
Tommy Carroll; Mary McLoughlin.
Background: Tom Murphy,
Frank Connolly, Miss McNamara,
Maggie Morris.





L-R: Micheál Waldron, Tom Lyons, Paddy Waldron, Noel Mullarkey, Mick O'Connell, Johnny Biesty, Tom McCormack, Johnny Lyons.



L-R: Jim Sloyan, Tony Morley, Jim Higgins, Micheál Smyth, Michael Herr, Dan Moran, Pat Curley.



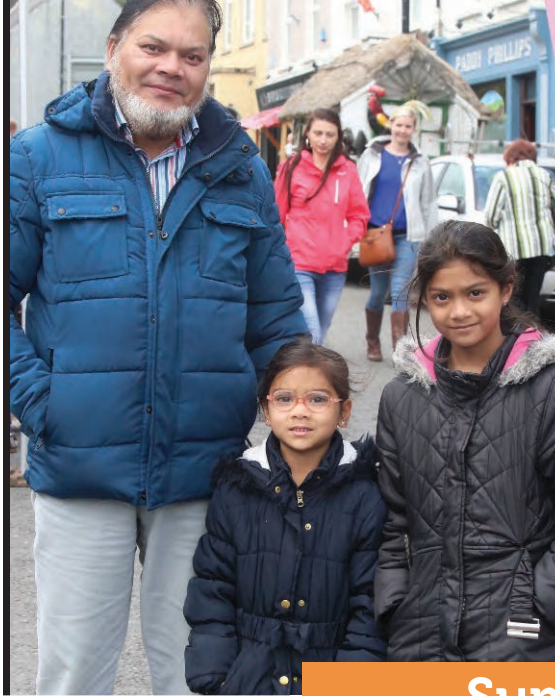
Seamus Coen reads the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, at the grave of his uncle Michael Coen in The Parish Cemetery. Michael Coen was killed by Crown Forces in Lecarrow, 1921.

Included are: Joe Hosty, Padraic Phillips, Brendan Hopkins, Frank Connolly, Martin Grogan, Junior Connolly, Mick Tarmey, Bob Biesty, Seamus Coen, Mick Keegan, Jack Greene, Michael A. Waldron, Mick O'Connell, Eamon Dwane, Tom Waldron, Martin Forde.



Enterprise Town. Photos by JanaPix





Summer Festival 2017.

Photos by Fr. Stephen Farragher



PATRONS

Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please Support Local Business and Industry.

All numbers are 094 code unless otherwise stated.

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Alma's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon , Clare St	Tel: 9630354
Annagh Animal Health Centre , Main Street. Padraig Hennigan, MVB.	Tel: 094 9630113
Annagh Medical Centre , Doctor's Road.	Tel: 9632232 / 9632322
Avondale B&B and Holiday Homes , Clare St. (Prop. Bridie Levins)	Tel: 9630345
Ballyhaunis Bouncy Castles ,	Tel: 086 2772156
Ballyhaunis Chamber , Enterprise Centre, Clare Road, www.ballyhaunischamber.ie	Tel: 9630311
Ballyhaunis Family & Community Resource Centre , The Friary House, St. Mary's Abbey.	Tel: 9630031
Ballyhaunis Life , www.ballyhaunislife.com	
Ballyhaunis Plant & Tool Hire , Abbeyquarter	Mob: 087 2548355, Tel: 9630979
Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club www.facebook.com/ballyhaunisrhc	
Ballyhaunis Sports Injury Clinic	Mob: 086 874 1107
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Bridge Club, Clare Court, Ballyhaunis... Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8.00pm	
Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Hazelhill , www.brindleyhealthcare.ie	Tel: 9631555, Fax: 9631655
Burke, John, Heating & Plumbing Ltd. , Devlis	Tel: 086 6035126
Byrne, Mike , Local Correspondent, Connaught Telegraph	Tel: 9631381
Byrne, Pat , Knox St.	Tel: 9630283
Carroll's Bus Hire (Cathal and Cathy)	Mob: 087 2042653
Caulfield's Grocery and Newsagents , Upper Main St.	Tel: 9631400
Caulfield, Cllr. John, FF , (Clinic: 12-1pm last Friday of month in Clare Street Constituency Office) johncaulfield4@gmail.com	Mob: 087 3134446
Coffey, Gerry , Auctioneer/Valuer, www.gerrycoffey.ie	Tel: 9643600
Cold Call Refrigeration Ltd. , Seamus Coffey, Station Rd., Ballindine, Co. Mayo.	Tel: 9364464 Fax: 9631058
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Community School , Knock Rd, www.ballyhauniscs.ie.	Tel: 9630238
Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence , Cloonacurry, Began. www.connachtgaa.ie	Tel: 9630335
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Curley's Jewellers , Bridge St.	Tel: 9632799
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Fahy Opticians & Contact Lens Centre , Main Street. jarlathfahy@gmail.com	Tel: 9630212
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Griffin, John, Orthodontist , Upper Main St.	Tel: 9630534
Griffin, Mike, Taxi Service , Clare St. / Devlis.	Tel: 9630213, Mob: 0879047466
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Janapix Photography, Ballyhaunis – www.janapix.com	Mob: 086 177 5352
J.G.'s Barber Shop , Barrack St.	Mob: 087 245 0079
J.P. Bookmakers , Clare St.	Tel: 9632614
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Lyons, Michael , Coach & Minibus Hire, Lecarrow, lyonsbushire@eircom.net	Tel: 9630347/086 2338419
Lyons, Tommy , Publican, Main St.	
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Post Office , Bridge Street	Tel: 9630230
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Tynan Dillon & Co, Chartered Accountants , Clare St.	Tel: 9630261
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Walsh Seamless Gutters , fascia and soffit	Tel: 087 2213553/087 2763256
Webb, M.J. , Main St.	Tel: 9630003
Weissenberger-Byrne , Della & Joe, New York, U.S.A.	Tel: 0016315433225
Western Brand Group Ltd. , Knock Rd. wbrand@iol.ie	Tel: 9630069, Fax: 9630834
Winston, Gerard (Top Oil) , Devlis	Tel: 087 6793990

Disclaimer

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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 2018 is Friday, 5th October 2018. 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 2017 Cover Photograph

An aerial view of Ballyhaunis, taken from over Bridge St., looking towards the north-north-west, including Main St., Knox St., and parts of Bridge St. and Clare St. Taken by Joe Freeley of Eagle View Aerial Photography and Videography.

www.eagleviewvideos.net

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