

ANNAGH

A photograph of a winter landscape. In the foreground, a low stone wall is covered in a thick layer of snow. To the left of the wall, a small stream flows, reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. The background is filled with numerous trees, many of which are heavily laden with snow. A wooden fence runs along the right side of the image, and a small signpost is visible near the center. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

2018

Foreword



Anyone who took notice of the clerical changes in the archdiocese of Tuam that were implemented during the month of September will probably have had their attention drawn to the names of priests from India who have come to minister in the archdiocese. Their arrival signalled something that has been coming down the tracks for some time, namely the increasing shortage of native born diocesan clergy to fill the ever growing number of vacancies in parishes. I had the opportunity to meet this new cohort of priests recently at our annual Priest's In-Service course in Westport and was impressed by their enthusiasm and faith. In the course of conversation one of the priests was asked what his mother thought about him coming to Ireland. He replied, "She was happy that I was going to work on the missions". For centuries we were the country that provided vocations for overseas missions and the thought that the tide is now turning with the advent of priests from overseas is an indicator of how much things have changed.

Each Sunday after 12 noon Mass, I meet and chat with a group of young men who have come all the way from East Timor to work in one of the factories in our town. Other migrant workers have come all the way from Brazil to work here. The presence of a Direct Provision Centre in our town highlights the issue of migrants and immigrants as one of the big issues of our time. I have had the opportunity to listen to some of the stories of the people who are presently residing in the Direct Provision Centre, to hear why they felt they had no choice but to leave their homelands and come to a country that many of them had barely heard of previously. Some of those stories are truly harrowing. Many of them are women who come from countries where violence and sexual harassment of women is sadly prevalent. Pope Francis, who graced us with his presence last August, continues to be the voice of those vulnerable people and challenges the conscience of nations regarding the treatment of migrants. For generations the Irish have been a migrant people and the Irish diaspora all over the world are testament to the contribution that Irish people have made in their adopted countries.

Each year many of our emigrants look forward to the publication of the Annagh Magazine to get a flavour of what has been happening in our community.

Once again I want to acknowledge the work done by the members of the committee in gathering the various components that contribute each year to such a wonderful production which will be a great reference book for generations to come.

Finally, as we approach the Christmas season, a time when we think of home, I wish to send Christmas and New Year's greetings to all our emigrants overseas and to all who have made Ballyhaunis their new home.

Stephen Farragher

Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.

Message from the President Michael D. Higgins



Uachtarán na hÉireann
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

I would like to congratulate all those who have been involved with Annagh Magazine as you celebrate your fortieth edition.

Local magazines like Annagh, along with local newspapers, are a vital part of a successful community, giving a voice to its people and providing an important platform on which to air issues of regional interest. Since the publication of its first edition in 1978, this magazine has provided an important platform for the residents of Annagh, reflecting their interests, views and concerns. It has also created a rich and irreplaceable history of an Ireland transitioning to a multi-cultural nation and confident members of a global community, while retaining its own individual culture and identity. The stories, articles and news reports in Annagh enable us to take a long view of that transition, through the prism of life in a dynamic East Mayo Parish. That is a unique perspective and a greatly valuable resource for all those interested in Ireland's social history.

I thank all those who work to produce Annagh magazine every year, and the many of you who have supported it across four decades of ever changing Irish life.

Go n-éirí libh ó neart go neart.

Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland

This letter was received in December 2017, in response to an invitation to President Higgins to our fortieth edition celebration, which took place in January 2018.



Annagh Magazine Society Committee 2018: **President:** Joe Keane; **Chairman:** Paul Waldron;

Asst. Chairperson: Nell Rochford; **Treasurer:** Edward Mulhern; **Secretary:** Jim Lundon;

Sales & Marketing: Seamus Mulrennan; **Committee:** Mike Griffin, Gabriel Smith, Deirdre Moran, John Kilduff.

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Review of the Year 2018

MIKE BYRNE

NOVEMBER 2017:

Murt Hunt from Lecarrow wins a nice tidy sum of €40,000 thanks to his appearance on RTÉ's Winning Streak show... Clare Street native Martin Grogan is honoured by the GAA in Great Britain for a lifetime of service to the organisation in his adopted city of Coventry and to the wider Warwickshire district. Since his arrival in Coventry in the early 1970s, Martin has served the Roger Casements GAA Club as president, chairman and secretary, as well as acting as treasurer of the Warwickshire GAA County Board for many years. Presentation to Martin takes place at a special ceremony in Croke Park. Martin is son of the late Clarence and Delia (née Morley) Grogan, Clare Street... Local singer/songwriter Brian Flanagan performs his latest single '*Flamin' Day*' on RTÉ's Late Late Show... Former Knox Street publican Peter Moran from Devlis passes to his eternal reward after a long illness... Mike Daly joins the staff of Cunningham's Londis on Abbey Street, at the meat facility. Mike, a well-known inter-county Gaelic games referee over many years, has 40 years' experience with Webb's Butchers on Lower Main Street... John Jordan from Knox Street is awarded Ballyhaunis Golfer of the Year trophy for 2017.

DECEMBER 2017:

The 40th edition of Annagh Magazine is published. The 2017 edition is another great success with a bumper edition, packed with great articles, photos and memories of times past. Former Scoil Íosa principal Jim Lundon has been involved in the editorial committee through every edition of the parish magazine since it was first published in 1978... Ballyhaunis Community School leaving cert students from 1987 celebrate their 30th anniversary with a special get together in Val's Bistro... Ballyhaunis Chamber receives government funding to the tune €2,250 to enhance the area around the Square... Upper Main Street man Ned Murren is elected president of the Ballyhaunis GAA Club at the club AGM. Ned has played at all levels of the club over the past 40 years and has served as a great ambassador for the club for many decades... Parish priest Fr. Stephen Farragher treats the younger members of the parish to a delightful telling of the Christmas Story around the Crib in the parish church. Fr. Stephen certainly got the children in Advent/festive mood with a great afternoon of interaction, mingled with fun and spiritual reflection... Ballyhaunis Under 21 footballers capture the Mayo Under 21 Championship for the first time at McHale Park in Castlebar. The East Mayo side win by 4-9 to 2-11. Management team is comprised of Paul Jordan, John Prenty, Frankie Nolan, Patrick Keane and Keith Higgins. A great way to end the 2017 season!

JANUARY 2018:

The first day of the New Year begins with a special New Year's Day Mass in St. Patrick's Church, coordinated by the five parishes of the St. Joseph's Cluster (Ballyhaunis, Ballinlough, Knock, Began and Aghamore). The main focus of the New Year's Day celebration is the World Meeting of Families, due to be held in Dublin in August. Chief celebrant and homilist is Fr. Richard Gibbons, PP, Knock, assisted by Fr. Stephen Farragher PP, Annagh, and priests from the surrounding parishes... On day two of the New Year, Ballyhaunis and the West of Ireland are hit by a ferocious storm. Storm Eleanor takes most areas by surprise, causing widespread flooding and loss of electricity in many towns and villages around the county and country... One of the area's most senior citizens, Elizabeth Carney, aged 99 years, from Classaroe, passes to her eternal reward following a brief illness. Indeed, Christmas 2017 and the early days of January 2018 sees great sadness in the area when Kathleen Webb from Station Rise, Helen Meehan from Curries and Ballyhaunis native Ina Phillips are laid to rest in the parish cemetery. Ina was born in Ballyhaunis on Christmas Day, 1932. Formerly Phillips from Main Street, her sister Bernardine Mitchell dies suddenly in Frenchpark on the morning of Ina's funeral Mass in Ballyhaunis, on January 7th... George Delaney, son of Moira and the late Paddy Delaney of Abbey Street is confirmed as Grand Master of the New York St. Patrick's Day parade in his adopted place of Bayonne, NY... Annagh Magazine Society hosts a celebration in The Dalgan marking the recent publication of their fortieth issue. Guest speaker is Frank Greally... As preparations for the World Meeting of Families continue, the Icon for WMOF 2018, visits Ballyhaunis parish church on January 25th/26th... Mary Freeley (née Curran) from Abbeyquarter dies after a brief illness. Together with her late husband, Paddy, Mary operated the family bar and gift shop on Main Street for many years.

FEBRUARY:

The month continues where January left off: cold with regular coatings of snow throughout the west... John B. Keane's play '*Big Maggie*' is staged in the Parochial Hall by the Claremorris Drama Group. A large audience attended and all proceeds went to the Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Association... Daragh Brogan, a native of Doctor's Road in Ballyhaunis, plays to a capacity crowd at the Linenhall Theatre in Castlebar. Daragh, who is an accomplished trained classical pianist, is son of Dr. Michael and Laura Brogan, Doctor's Road. He is a full time professional pianist based in London... Josie Ryan from Hazelhill passes to her eternal reward. Josie (née



Annagh Magazine Committee and former members at the 40th Edition Celebrations in the Dalgan Restaurant, Main St., Ballyhaunis, January 2018. Back, L-R: Gabriel Smith, Grahame Cleary (Sec.), Seamus Mulrennan (Sales & Marketing), Mike Byrne, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Edward Mulhern (Asst. Treasurer), Peter McCafferty (former Editor), Sinéad Mallee (magazine Layout and Design), Joe Hosty, Sinéad Freyne, (former Sec.), Murt Hunt, John Mooney (former Chairman), Mike Griffin (Patrons). Front, L-R: Jim Lundon (Asst. Sec.), Nell Rochford (Vice Chairperson), Paul Waldron (Chairman), Frank Greally (Guest Speaker), Fr. Kieran Waldron., John Cleary (former Editor). Missing from photograph: Joe Keane (President) and John Halpin (Treasurer). *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*

Carroll), together with her late husband Paddy opened the very first supermarket in Ballyhaunis when they launched Ryan's V.G. Foodstore on Main Street in 1967.

MARCH:

Ireland is on Red Alert on the first day of the month as Met Éireann are predicting exceptionally high levels of snow to fall, especially along eastern counties, but also throughout the country as well. A bitterly cold wind from the east, dubbed 'The Beast from the East', sweeps through Europe and across Ireland causing the coldest weather conditions here for over 30 years. Schools are closed and offices and shops close early on March 1st and 2nd as the country prepares for the coming of blizzard-like conditions widely predicted by the Met Office over recent days. And, indeed, it was bitterly cold for sure with heavy snow falls throughout the country. While the east and north are badly hit by the wind and snow, much of Mayo and the west escapes the worst of the dreaded weather conditions... Ballyhaunis bids farewell to two-long time dearly loved residents of the town when Flan Moroney from Abbeyquarter and Bea Marrinan from Knock Road depart to their eternal reward in the first week of the month... Ballindrehid man Brian Flanagan, now performing under the name U.M.A.N. (You Must Act Now), plays to a packed audience in The Friary on St. Patrick's Night. Backed by a full group of musicians, Brian brought the ancient

Abbey to life with a wonderful uplifting concert comprising of Soul/Gospel music, much of it composed by himself... Mayo County Council to introduce new by-laws for Ballyhaunis, which will see the banning of drinking in public places around the town, particularly in the Friary Grounds, where this practice has been a growing problem for some time now. The new by-laws were called for by Councillor John Cribbin at the March meeting of the local authority... Tadhg Morley is chosen to travel as a volunteer with the Irish athletes to Abu Dhabi for the Special Olympics to be held there in 2019. He is son of Kitty and the late Howard Morley, Derrymore... Ballyhaunis native Fr. Kieran Waldron gives a very enlightening and enjoyable talk on the history of the Augustinian Abbey in The Friary to the Transition Year students from Ballyhaunis Community School. Former BCS principal, Jarlath Fahey, a member of the Abbey Trust committee, also talks to the students on the workings of the organisation... Secretary of the US Marines, Richard V. Spencer confirms that the next US Navy destroyer is to be named in memory of Corporal Patrick 'Bob' Gallagher, the Ballyhaunis native who lost his life while serving with the US forces in Vietnam in 1967. The confirmation follows a lengthy campaign by former colleagues, friends and family to have a destroyer named in his honour. Well in excess of 100,000 signatures were gathered in Ireland and in the US to have this proposal brought to fruition... Niamh

O'Neill wins a gold medal at the All-Ireland Athletics Championships. A student of Ballyhaunis Community School, Niamh is daughter of George and Stella (née Morley) O'Neill, Woodpark... Ballyhaunis man Derek Walsh leads Mayo to victory in the Division 2B Hurling Final at Croke Park. This is Derek's first major achievement since taking over as Manager of the Mayo hurling squad. Ballyhaunis players who were part of the winning Mayo line up were: Keith Higgins, Adrian Brennan, Donal O'Brien, Patrick Kiely, Austin Lyons, Kieran McDermott, Brian Hunt, Jason Coyne and Mark Phillips... Mayo senior footballer Donal Vaughan presents the victorious Ballyhaunis Under 21 squad with their medals at a special reception in Mac Siúrtáin's.

APRIL:

Former Director of Sacred Music at Knock Shrine, John Aldridge, dies after a very brief illness. British born John spent many years of his life in Zimbabwe before coming to Ireland in 1991. He was Musical Director of the Ballyhaunis Musical Society's production of *'My Fair Lady'* in 1995... Clare Street native Margie Flanagan (née Donnellan) dies in Roscommon... Great celebrations in Val's Restaurant, Main Street, as management and staff of Keane Kitchens Ltd gather to pay tribute to Patsy Keane (Doctor's Road) and to Paddy Murphy (Knock Road) on the occasion of their retirement from the company. Patsy, son of company founder Michael A. Keane served the company for over 60 years while Paddy retired from the business on April 6th, exactly 50 years to the day after taking up employment with the Ballyhaunis company... Martin Caulfield from Carrowkeel is laid to rest after a brief illness. Martin died in the same room in the family home in Carrowkeel in which he was born 85 years ago... Ballyhaunis company Major Equipment (Coolnaha) is shortlisted for Entrepreneur of the Year award. A total of 24 companies from around the country are shortlisted for the award out of over 100 entries. Major Equipment Ltd. designs and manufactures a range of slurry handling and grass cutting equipment for agriculture and amenity applications... Former Ballyhaunis Community School student Rody Kilbride is named winner of the Irish Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. Son of Gerry and Liz Kilbride, it's good news on the double for Rody who has also been appointed Greenkeeper at the prestigious Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Club in Co. Limerick... An information evening is hosted on 20th Apr. by the Japanese Knotweed Company regarding a proposed soil recovery facility in Drimbane... Aghamore man and former Ballyhaunis Community School student Dónal Byrne opens an extensive new premises in Swinford. Dónal, who launched his most successful Big Red Barn initiative a few years ago, is now marketing

timber framed Modular Homes, an enterprising new project, with homes available for viewing at the new Swinford base... Kathleen O'Gara (92), formerly Kathleen Biesty from Pattenspark, dies in Manchester after a short illness.

MAY:

Ballyhaunis ladies choral group Gracenotes excel once again at the Mayo International Choral Festival when they carry off second prize at the prestigious event. The ladies, under the baton of conductor Laura Brogan, came joint second to the renowned Park Singers from Dublin... The weather in the month of May is very kind to Ireland and the West of Ireland as warm sunshine, coming up from the Azores, makes for a beautiful warm and sunny May... Brazilian native Irene Nunes is appointed new Sacristan in St. Patrick's Church. Irene, who has been living in Ballyhaunis for the past eight years, has been assisting Frances Maye, Sacristan here for almost 20 years, for the past number of months... Roscommon native and Ballyhaunis resident for almost 50 years Tony Flynn from Abbeyquarter passes to his eternal reward... Twenty-eight children receive their First Holy Communion in St. Patrick's Church on Sat. 12th May... On Sunday, 20th May the new, large-format Parish Newsletter is launched allowing more space for content.

JUNE:

Great celebrations for the community of Gurteen on the first day of June when the eagerly awaited *'Gurteen (An Goirtín) - A commemoration of Life in Our Village 1916-2016'*, is published. Two years of painstaking effort and much patience went into this production, co-ordinated by villagers Liam Lynskey, Orla Moran, Mary Henry and Ann Phillips. The book is launched in The Dalgan by author and poet, Greenwood native, Patricia Byrne, whose mother, the late Kit Brennan, hailed from the village of Gurteen... The 2018 Corpus Christi Procession is held on a Saturday evening this year, moving from the traditional Sunday afternoon (the June Weekend Festival Heritage Day taking place on Sunday). The Procession departs the Parish Church after the 7.30 p.m. Mass and takes the route of Bridge Street/Abbey Street and ending in the Augustinian Abbey, where Fr. Stephen Farragher presides over Benediction. Refreshments are served afterwards for young and old at the Ball Court in the Friary Field, bringing to a conclusion a most enjoyable and successful event in the best of summer weather... Great news for Knock on June 11th when the Vatican announces that Pope Francis is to visit the national Marian Shrine on Sunday, August 26th, as part of his two day visit to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, August 21st-26th. There had been much

speculation over recent weeks and months that the Holy Father would include Knock Shrine on his Irish visit, but the official confirmation brings much joy and celebration to Knock and surrounding areas... A Tea/Coffee Day is hosted in The Parochial Hall on Friday, 15th June, to raise funds for Katriona Morley, originally from Knox St., who is seriously ill. It is a great success and proceeds will help Katriona and family in the difficult times ahead... Connacht GAA hosts the 2018 Feile na nGael competition in conjunction with the National Feile Na nGael committee. The Connacht Council Centre of Excellence (Bekan) is the venue for most games, bringing many visitors to the area as local businesses benefit from the attraction... It's official: on June 26th Met Éireann confirms that Ireland is officially in the middle of a heatwave, following more than five consecutive days of temperatures over 25° celsius, the length of time and temperatures required for an official heatwave. Temperatures of over 30° celsius hits Ballyhaunis and much of the country as the island basks in brilliant sunshine. Fearing a water shortage, a blanket ban on the use of hosepipes is introduced in Dublin; other areas may follow if the heat wave continues... Great sadness in the parish in the last days of June as one of the oldest citizens of the parish, Mike Morley (94) from

Island passes to his eternal reward. While on Main Street, long time resident and business woman Phyllis Phillips (nee Neary), dies after a sudden illness. May they Rest in Peace... Work is completed on the widening of the footpath on Bridge St., the installation of a pedestrian crossing, and the realignment of the Knox St./Square junction at Forde's.

JULY:

Brackloon couple, Jimmy and Kitty Sloyan celebrate 50 years of married life together... Up to 30 budding golfers take to the fairways at Ballyhaunis Golf Club in what is the first ever Summer Camp for young golfers. PGA teaching professional Sean Whelan guided the young golfers through the three day camp... Meanwhile, as golfing begins to take hold of our younger generation, John William Burke (9) jets off to Pinehurst, North Carolina for the US Kids Golf Tournament. John William is son of Johnny and Paula (née Jordan), grandson of Breda and the late Eamon Burke, Devlis and of Columba and Elizabeth Jordan, Annagh... Erin Murray and Leah Johnston from Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Club are part of the winning Mayo Under 16 team that captured the All-Ireland title with a great win over Laois in the final... Popular Knockbrack couple Michael and



The Dog Show, held in conjunction with the Traditional Fair Day, Summer 2018. Photo by Janapix.



Ballyhaunis Eucharistic Ministers at Knock on the occasion of the Papal visit, Sunday, 26th Aug. 2018. Back, L-R: Justina Lyons, Anne Carney, Dymphna Greally, Deirdre Browne, Wiktor Siemionkowski, Irene Nunez, Marian Regan, Edivaldo Silva, Rosa Maria Silva. Centre, L-R: Seamus Mulrennan, Tim Byrne, Teresa Healy, Laura Brogan, Eileen Jordan, Mary McGuire. Front, L-R: Jenny Glynn, Marina Coyne, Geraldine Murphy, Kay Curley, Maura Fitzmaurice, Bernie Quinn, Mary Ryan.

Kathleen Egan celebrate the great occasion of their 60th (Diamond) Wedding Anniversary... A group of American students, accompanied by their professors, came to Ballyhaunis to take part in a workshop on the subject of integration in the Old Convent. The workshop was chaired by Ger McGarry. Contributors included Kay Curley, Community Council, Tommy Caulfield, Ballyhaunis GAA Club and Colin Egan of Abbey Partnership... After several weeks of abundant sunshine throughout the country, rain finally falls on the island. Never thought I would hear so many people to be so delighted with the advent of rain – heavy rain too!

AUGUST:

Fr. Stephen Farragher, PP, is among the guest speakers at this year's National Novena in Knock. Fr. Stephen's theme is: 'The Family - A Work in Progress'... Ballyhaunis GAA Club members John Cunnane and Brian O'Neill are part of the Mayo squad who contested the All-Ireland Under 20 Final in Croke Park. In what was an epic decider, it was Kildare who were victors in a close encounter, overcoming Mayo by 1-18 to 1-16 and winning the county's first All-Ireland title at any grade since 1965... Work commences on the external insulation of The Parochial Hall... Young golfer John William Burke finished in 54th place out of a field of 152 players in the US Kids Tournament. Soon after his return, the Devils golf wizard finished in first place to capture the winning prize in the Irish Kids Tour 'Munster' series, held in Fota Island, Cork, on a super score of 2 under par... A group of walkers from all over Ireland, taking part in the Mary's Meals Fundraising

Walk to Knock, reach Ballyhaunis on Tues., 14th Aug., and are hosted to a reception at the Clare Court Centre... Saturday, August 26th will be forever remembered as a great and historic day at Knock when Pope Francis touched down at the Marian centre for a very brief, but very fruitful visit. Up to nine buses left the St. Patrick's Church car park in Ballyhaunis at around 5 a.m. to ferry pilgrims from the parish to the shrine. Although the morning was rather cool and wet, the 25,000 or so people who attended certainly came away with great and treasured memories of the Pontiff's historic visit. The Knock visit was part of Pope Francis' two-day visit to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families 2018, held in Dublin... Ballinrobe lady Orla Macken is appointed Deputy Principal at Ballyhaunis Community School. Orla has been a dedicated and committed Chaplain at BCS for well over 10 years... Devils man Frank Webb passes to his eternal reward following a very brief illness. Frank, a member of a well-known and respected family through generations in Ballyhaunis, was involved, together with his brothers, in the livestock trade for many years... The death took place in Birmingham, England, on 12th August of Mrs. Mary McCorry, aged 104 years. Probably Annagh Magazine's most senior reader in recent times, and certainly their most senior contributor, the former Mary Glynn from Cuiltecreaghan was a past pupil of St. Joseph's Convent school, Ballyhaunis. She contributed three articles to the parish magazine, in 2012, 2014 and 2017, all of which made very interesting reading and offered a window on times past and on a life well lived. May she rest in peace.



Three couples from Ballyhaunis parish who attended the Marriage Anniversaries celebration in Tuam Cathedral, Sunday 7th Oct. 2018: L-R: John and Noreen Kilduff (40th Anniversary), Mary and Paul Sykes (30th Anniversary), Fiona and John Lyons (1st Anniversary), Archbishop Michael Neary. Photograph: Fr. Stephen Farragher.

SEPTEMBER:

Popular Main Street lady Una Phillips celebrates the great occasion of her 90th birthday. The former Una Donnellan from Clare Street operated the well-known hostelry, Phillips' Bar, together with her late husband, Knock native, Paddy, for many years. Happily, Una is enjoying the very best of health... The death occurs of the late Noreen Golden (née Byrne), in England. Noreen, a sister of Rita Webb, Galway was born at the family licensed premises on Bridge Street... Great sadness throughout the town and parish as news filters through of the sudden and untimely death of Brídann Halpin-Keane, Clooncrim, Ballinlough. Brídann (36), formerly of Main Street, Ballyhaunis, is daughter of John and Breege Halpin... Work concludes on the resurfacing of the N83 – the Charlestown and Dunmore roads – which has been ongoing all Summer... Ballyhaunis Under 16 ladies win the Mayo Under 16 Division Two Championship with a great win over Achill in the decider on a scoreline of 3-14 to 2-10. The management team is comprised of David Delaney and Sinéad Johnston. Erin Murray wins the Player of the Match award... Big excitement in Togher and Knox Street as on-location filming takes place for a short film which is to be screened at the Galway Film Fleadh. Knox St. is closed for much of the afternoon, while filming in Togher takes place at the late Vin Fitzmaurice's property... Members of the Ballyhaunis Pioneer Association gather in St. Patrick's Church for the wonderful celebration marking 100 years of the association's founding in Ballyhaunis... Horse racing legend J.P. McManus donates €100,000 to each of the GAA County Boards throughout the country. The €100,000 donated to the Mayo County Board is divided equally among all GAA Clubs throughout the county, including Ballyhaunis... Students at Ballyhaunis Community School return to the Knock Road academy to a fully completed and refurbished, rebuilt secondary

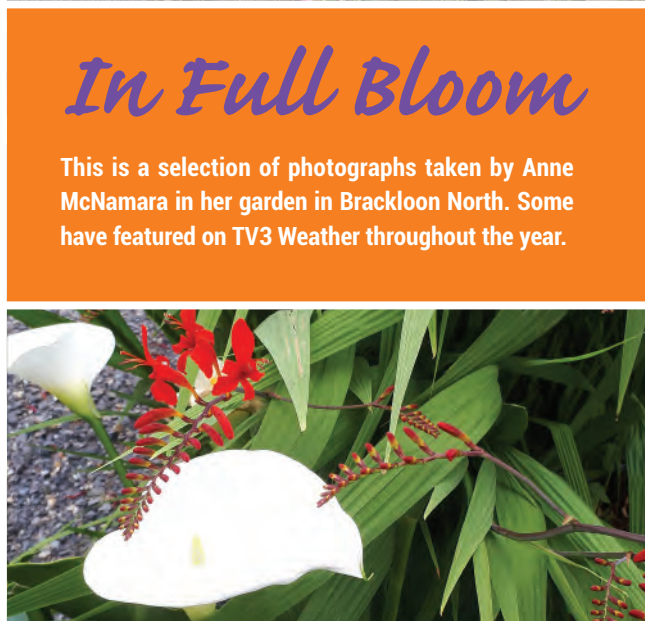
school. The work had been over two years in progress and now stands as one of the most modern secondary schools in the west of Ireland. Students also return to a new canteen facility, with all the best of home-cooked and healthy food. The canteen is operated by Food For Schools, Gormley Castle Catering, Ballinlough... September 19th shakes much of Ballyhaunis, Mayo and the country as Storm Ali hits with full power. No loss of life, but frightening wind speeds throughout the early part of that morning.

OCTOBER:

Beekeepers from all parts of Mayo gather at the GAA's Centre of Excellence for the West Awake Honey Show. The day-long event is hosted by the Ballyhaunis Beekeepers Association and includes speakers, Padraic Horkan, Horkan's Garden Centre, Philip McCabe, President of Apimondia and Roger Patterson, author and lecturer on Beekeeping. The day included honey tasting, children's activities and lots of refreshments. Beekeeping has increased immensely in Ballyhaunis parish and throughout the county in recent years, as more and more health-conscious people believe local honey to be favourable for many ailments, especially colds and flu... Ballyhaunis Community School students are busy preparing for their upcoming production of the musical, 'The Sound of Music', scheduled for the end of this month. Musical directors for the show are teachers, Anna Henry and Gráinne Glavey... Councillor John Cribbin tables a motion at the monthly meeting of Mayo County Council to have closed circuit cameras installed around Ballyhaunis. The call is made in response to a spate of house break-ins over recent times... It certainly is the year of the high winds! At the time of going to press (October 11th), The National Emergency Coordination Group are meeting to prepare for the arrival of Storm Callum. High winds of up to 130 Kilometres are expected to hit the country later tonight. Let's hope we survive the storm!



Irene Nunes, newly appointed Sacristan in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, with Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.



In Full Bloom

This is a selection of photographs taken by Anne McNamara in her garden in Brackloon North. Some have featured on TV3 Weather throughout the year.



Young Sporting Heroes of the Eighties

JIM LUNDON

1988 was the year Ray Haughton put the ball into the English net during the European Soccer Championship. *Tempus Fugit* – time flies. It's all of thirty years ago...

However, here in Ballyhaunis a group of young heroes were making their own history in Gaelic Football and Soccer by winning two County titles in two sports, and an All-Ireland title in one sport.

Gaelic Football

The Ballyhaunis U12 Gaelic Footballers were the first to win their County Championship. The panel was – Mark McCafferty, John Burke, Terry Maughan, Tom Lyons, Cormac O'Connor, Thomas Lyons, Jimmy O'Boyle, Fergal Kelly, Kevin Waldron, Simon Webb, Michael Lyons, Pierce Higgins, Hugh Curley, Shane Tighe, Derek Walsh, Daniel Tarpey, David Beirne, Michael Curley, Michael Donoghue, Tommy Moran, Ian Webb, Patrick Keane, P.C. Curley, Brian Flanagan, Shane Burke, Joseph Healy, Mark Gallagher. The team mentors were Aidan Kelly, Peter Higgins and Jim Landon.

The newly formed Cumann na mBunscoil – Mayo Primary School Championship Division One – was won by them at St. Mary's Primary School Ballyhaunis (now Scoil Iosa). In fact, it was the first of three-in-a-row County Titles. The panel was – Martin Donoghue, John Burke, Owen Maughan, Terry Maughan, Tom Lyons, Thomas Lyons, Jimmy O'Boyle, John Greally, Timothy Plunkett, Simon Webb, Michael Lyons, Kevin Waldron, Pierce Higgins, Fergal Kelly, Derek Walsh, Joseph Healy, John Costello, Thomas Heneghan, Shane Tighe, Hugh

Curley, Cormac O'Connor, Daniel Tarpey, Ronan Byrne, Michael Cameron, Mark McCafferty. Team mentors were Jimmy Walsh, Paddy Waldron and John Lyons.

Soccer

Ballyhaunis Community Games organised many different sports and activities – Athletics, Art, Draughts, Basketball, Rugby, Gaelic Football, Pitch & Putt, Cycling and Soccer. The team beat all comers to become Mayo Champions. Representing Mayo they went on to become Connacht Champions and in Mosney, Co. Meath overcame Donegal in the All Ireland U12 Community Games Final. All this was achieved without having a club, a field or jerseys of their own. The jerseys were borrowed from Ballyhaunis Community School where they also trained and only after the Connacht Final win was a set of jerseys got for them. The Ballyhaunis U12 Mayo Connacht and All Ireland winning panel was Tom Lyons (Captain), Simon Webb, Patrick Keane, Brian Flanagan, Shane Burke, P.C. Curley, Pierce Higgins, Cormac O'Connor, Mark Patterson, John Burke, Sean McNamara. Micheál Webb (Manager), Jim Landon and Jimmy Walsh (Selectors).

Many of the above players have represented Mayo at all levels right up to and including Senior Football and Hurling, with great distinction. Many have families of their own so when their sons or daughters ask them, "Dad did you ever play on a team?" I think the answers may surprise them!



Glynn's Photography, Castlerea

**St Mary's Primary School
Ballyhaunis Cumann na mBunscoil
team. Division One
County Champions 1988.**
Back, L-R: Michael Lyons,
Kevin Waldron, Ronan Byrne,
Terry Maughan, Timothy Plunkett,
Thomas Heneghan,
Joseph Costello.
Third row: John Lyons (Selector),
Paddy Waldron (Selector),
Shane Tighe, Martin Donohoe,
Mark McCafferty, Joseph Healy,
Jimmy Walsh (Manager),
Jim Landon (Principal).
Second row: Thomas Lyons,
Derek Walsh, Fergal Kelly, John
Greally, Thomas Lyons (Capt.),
Simon Webb, Michael Cameron,
John Burke, Daniel Tarpey.
Front: Pierce Higgins,
Hugh Curley, Jimmy O'Boyle,
Cormac O'Connor.



Ballyhaunis Community Games U12 Soccer Team. Mayo, Connacht and All-Ireland Champions 1988.

Back, L-R: Jimmy Walsh (Selector), Micheál Webb (Manager), Jim Landon (Selector). Centre: Patrick Keane, Brian Flanagan, Shane Burke, Michael Curley, Ian Webb, David Beirne, Derek Walsh, Jimmy O'Boyle, P.C. Curley. Front: Pierce Higgins, Cormac O'Connor, Mark Patterson, Tom Lyons (Capt.), John Burke, Simon Webb, Seán McNamara. *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*



Ballyhaunis U12 Footballers. Mayo County Champions 1988. Back, L-R: Peter Higgins (Selector) holding Keith Higgins, Aiden Kelly (Manager), Thomas Lyons, Michael Lyons, Kevin Waldron, Terry Maughan, Simon Webb, Joseph Healy, Jim Landon (Selector).

Third row: Shane Burke, Pierce Higgins, Mark McCafferty, Tommy Moran, Michael Curley, John Burke, Edward Webb, Shane Tighe.

Second row: David Beirne, Derek Walsh, Fergal Kelly (Capt.), Thomas Lyons, Jimmy O'Boyle, Cormac O'Connor, Daniel Tarpey, Michael Donohoe. Front: Mark Gallagher, Hugh Curley, Patrick Keane, Ian Webb. *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

Five Decades with Keane Kitchens

PATRICIA BYRNE

1968 was a memorable year. Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King were shot dead in America. The Beatles were at their height with songs like 'Hey Jude'. In Ireland, Pat McGeegan topped the charts with 'Chance of a Lifetime', the song that came fourth in the Eurovision Song Contest. And Galway beat Mayo by a point in the Connacht Football Final at MacHale Park.

It was also the year that Paddy Murphy started work with Keane Kitchens, Ballyhaunis, where he would work for fifty years until his recent retirement.

After his retirement, Paddy said: 'When I cycled from Greenwood to Ballyhaunis on 7th April, 1968, little did I know that I would spend fifty years working with the company and with three generations of the Keane family.'

Michael A. Keane had started the business in 1937 from a workshop in Knox Street doing joinery and school furniture. 'By the time I started work there,' said Paddy, 'Emmett and Patsy had joined their father and the main products were kitchen dressers and wardrobes, before moving into fitted furniture.' Emmett Junior and Patrick Keane are now the third generation of Keanes to work in the business.

Paddy was born in Greenwood in 1952, only son of Pake and Kit Murphy and twin brother to Noreen Dunne (Athy), with two older sisters Kathleen and Patricia. He attended Began Boys' National School and later Ballyhaunis Vocational School where Christy Ruane was his woodwork teacher.

'We started work at 8.30am,' said Paddy, 'and finished at 6. One of my memories is how few cars there were around at the time. As soon as I had saved enough I became the proud owner of a Honda 50 which was great

for getting to and from the dances.'

Kevin Barry (deceased), Seamus Mulrennan, Michael Cunnane, Liam Devaney, Sean Lyons and David Jordan are some of the colleagues he remembers working in Keane's in those early years.

'We made everything that time, like the furniture doors that we cut out, sanded, painted and put in handles.' The goods train was a big thing in Ballyhaunis that time and a pick-up truck collected the timber and



L-R: Emmet Keane, Benny McCarrick, Patsy Keane, Paddy Murphy, Seamus Mulrennan.

raw materials for the business from the train station.

The business changed a lot in the 1970s with the move to a new premises in Clare Street, the growth of fitted furniture rather than standalone units, and contracts for housing estates across the country. Paddy says there are a lot of houses around Ireland that he had a hand in making the furniture that was bought from Keane's.

1970s was also a busy time for Paddy personally. He purchased a site at Bracklaghboy on the Knock Road and, during 1977-78, was heavily involved in the building of the house which is the Murphy family home to the present day. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of his marriage to Mary MacGreal of Cloondroon, Claremorris.

'Mary and I are lucky that our four children – Padraic, David, Karen, Tara and their families – all live locally. Being able to see our three grandchildren, Cian, Hazel and Ava, often and watch them grow up is great.'

In the late 1970s, and during the Papal visit of 1979, Mary ran a B&B at their home. Paddy says that they met some great people and made good friends from the Knock visitors who came to stay during those years. He can still remember the excitement of the Papal visit and people



L-R: Emmet Keane Jnr., Patsy Keane, Paddy Murphy, Emmet Keane, Patrick Keane.

opening up their fields for car parking.

Having lived such a busy life, what will he do with himself in retirement?

'I enjoy the bits of farming and spending more time in Greenwood where I grew up and having time to chat to my neighbours there,' he says. Sport is a big interest and he has a great passion for Liverpool FC and Mayo football. 'My three grandchildren are great Mayo supporters now. I am still hoping that Mayo will land Sam before I pass on. We had great days out with them in the last few years.'

What is the secret to such a long working life?

'I enjoyed what I did, and I worked hard. I was lucky to work in Keane's and with such good colleagues over the years. I like to think that I was decent to people too.'

What are his hopes for retirement?

'I hope that I am blessed with the health to enjoy the years ahead. Both my parents reached their 90s so maybe I will have their lucky genes. I hope to slow down a bit too!'

Ballyhaunis FINE GAEL

There was a quiet start to 2018 in the political world as the Fine Gael led government went about its business in a robust and efficient manner. Brexit was the main topic of discussion with our Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney leading the negotiations in Europe on our behalf.

At a local level Sunday, March 25th was the date the party held its selection convention with the purpose of selecting three candidates to represent Fine Gael in the next general election in the constituency of Mayo. A large number of delegates from the Ballyhaunis area travelled to the Royal Hotel in Castlebar on the night to cast their vote for their chosen candidate. As there was in excess of a thousand delegates present on the night the procedure of casting and counting the votes took over two hours to complete. Minister Michael Ring, Senator Michelle Mulherin and former Mayo footballer Alan Dillon were the choice of the delegates.

Prior to the commencement of the Convention former Taoiseach, Deputy Enda Kenny, addressed the meeting. He announced that he was officially calling time on his career in the Dáil and will retire at the next election. It will be first time in six decades that the Kenny surname won't appear on the ballot paper in the constituency of Mayo.

On the 14th June Mr. John Paul Phelan T.D., Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform having received the findings and recommendations from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committees announced the changes and realignments that will come into effect in time for the next Local

elections which are due to be held in May 2019. The recommendations are based on the Census of 2016. At present Mayo County Council has thirty members elected from four local electoral areas. Whereas the number of elected members will not change the Areas

will go from four to six. Ballyhaunis will be in the new Claremorris-Swinford Municipal District. The most significant change will take place in the Ballyhaunis area of the County. The following have been moved into the Swinford area: Aghamore, Tooreen, Brackloon, Coolnaha, Kilkelly, Kilmovee, Doocastle, Charlestown, Urlaur and Loughanboy which is attached to the Ballyhaunis polling both. This matter has been discussed at great length during our recent Branch meetings. Whereas it is not an ideal

situation we find ourselves in we fully understand and accept the changes.

We also realise how important and vital it is to all the local bodies and groups to have a local Councillor represent their interests when decisions are being made in the Council Chamber. Every member of the Ballyhaunis Fine Gael Branch wish to inform the public that they have committed themselves to do their utmost to ensure that the town holds on to its long serving and dedicated Councillor, John Cribbin.

Councillor Cribbin is available to meet constituents at his weekly clinic in the The Oak Café and Bar Bridge St, Ballyhaunis @ 10.00am each Tuesday and by appointment at a time and place of their convenience. John can also be contacted @ 087-2920368.

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



Cllr John Cribbin

Ballyhaunis News... From 1973!

MIKE BYRNE

During the past year, my good friend and neighbour from Gurteen, Liam Lynskey, gave me a copy of a Parish Newsletter, from 1973. The Newsletter was compiled and edited by the late Canon J.G. McGarry. This was the Christmas edition of the Newsletter. The Newsletter was produced a number of times during the year and this one was edition number nine. Canon McGarry himself penned most of the articles with contributions from Jim Cribbin, Oliver Jordan, Jim McManus, Sister Angela, Delia Hoban and J. J. Moran.

Below are just a few extracts from the twelve page Newsletter, detailing some of the events happening in and around the parish at that time, a brief glimpse into the life of our parish, of forty-five years ago.

"Shyly, and a little guiltily, the Newsletter steals in once again to wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the joys and blessings of the Feast.

The year has seen some old friendships-not broken but suspended. Father Diskin is happy in his new work in Kilconly, but not without some regret, I imagine, from his many acquaintances in Ballyhaunis. Father Twomey of the Friary has returned to the banks of his own lovely Lee, but not without some feeling too, I would guess, for the modest stream that ran by the foot of the Friary Hill. Father Greally returned refreshed to Australia after a holiday with his parents and has recently been joined by Father John O'Sullivan, who had volunteered, his health completely restored, to undertake pastoral work in Australia.

But while not forgetting the old ones, Ballyhaunis is quick to make new friends. The new Prior, Father Carolan, and his confrere, Father Berrill, are making their first acquaintance with the people of Mayo or of the West and are very pleased with the experience. We wish them both a happy and fruitful ministry amongst us.

One could not wish for a more energetic and generous-hearted co-operator than our new curate, Father Moran. I am confident he will do great work for the Lord in our parish. His modesty has concealed the important offices that have been entrusted to him. He is the Diocesan Director of the Social Apostolate (parish-ioners have already had a taste of how he will work to build the community here).

This year, for the first time, we celebrate Christmas at midnight. It is surely a grace to walk to Bethlehem through the night 'to see this wonder'. May the midnight celebration of the Eucharist be a deeply devout and

fervent offering of the Mass in our parish, which will echo the Christmas song of the Angels: 'Glory to God on high and on earth peace to men of goodwill'.

On the move

It has been a year of houses in Ballyhaunis. Did you ever see so many go up in one year, to say nothing of the renewals? Knock Road, Devlis, Clare Road, and there are many others in the planning stage. And Mr. D. Ahern is already working on what appears to be the last site left of Mayo Homes. And a nice tidy little cluster that makes.

An encouraging sign has been the success this winter of the Adult Education Classes conducted in the Vocational School. Classes in six subjects have drawn large numbers of adults, ages sixteen to sixty. Woodwork (Mr. Rudden), Typing (Mr. Smyth), French (Mr. Jim Higgins), Crochet (the late Mrs. Ann Greene, R.I.P), Farming (Messrs. Eddie Thornton, Paddy Laffey and Tony Flynn), and Art (Mrs. X. Pratt). Evening classes have never been so well attended before in the history of Ballyhaunis and it is most encouraging, especially to see so many newly married couples following the courses. The total enrolment was 152.

We have heard of the loneliness of the long distance runner. Would George Best be able to stick the nightly drill along the roads for four or five miles to make the grade as a long distance runner? Which brings Frank Greally of Devlis to mind. Frank, a celebrated runner studying in the University of Tennessee, is a member of the university's famed 'Irish Squad'. His athletics has brought him all over the States and has run in places as far distant as Florida and Canada.

Meanwhile, the youngsters at the home base of Ballyhaunis Athletics Club are in the careful hands of Joe Webb (President), Michael Curley (Chairman), Donal Ahearn (Secretary) and Mrs. Smyth (Treasurer). In its seven years of life this club has brought much credit to our parish. One thinks of young athletes in the making as the Campbell brothers, Eamon Smyth, Teddie Webb and Tommy Moran. Thirteen of them are heading to Naas for the All-Ireland Championships.

Quietly, and observed by no one, a group of the younger women of the parish have been co-operating in providing a laundry service which is greatly appreciated by the number of people in the parish without such an amenity themselves. This is conducted by the Community Council who also co-ordinate the Meals-on-wheels service. The laundry is set up in the Parish Hall, and in the charge of Mrs. J. Webb, Mrs. T. Dillon-Leetch and Mrs. M. Smyth. A number of ladies in the parish take their turn at the work, and these include:

Mrs. N. Patterson, Mrs. A. Delaney, Mrs. Austin Grogan, Mrs. B. Lynch, Mrs. N. McDonnell, Mrs. E. Thornton, Mrs. W. Cribbin, Mrs. J. Murray, Mrs. T. Flynn, Mrs. J. Kelly and Mrs. B. Harley.

And so ends a happy year. Nothing very spectacular to report but a multitude of little events that would make no great headlines in the 'dailies'. No fabulous prizes won, no explosions, but old friendships cemented more firmly by neighbourly exchange and new ones made. When more and more people are becoming weary of the impersonal life of the great city and of the rat race, one must be thankful to live in a close and friendly community like ours".



Carlagh Mullarney.



Eoghan Lavin.

Ballyhaunis Boxing Club

The Ballyhaunis Boxing Club was re-established in 2007 in Began Community Centre. It is a family run club and Martin Peake and Sue Mullarney, along with a dedicated team of coaches, have brought the Club to fruition over the years.

Our coaches - Vinnie Moran, Ryan Peake and Peter Maughan - give freely of their time three nights a week to coach children and champions alike.

In the year 2017 the Club saw success that was only dreamed of when boxers Alannah Nolan, Carlagh Mullarney, Martin McDonagh and Eoghan Lavin brought Irish titles to the black and red of Ballyhaunis.

Alannah, a four times Irish champion, has now laid down her gloves to study but we have not seen the last of her.

Carlagh in her first year boxing secured a Mayo title, a Connaught title, and an Irish title, and at the tender age of eleven went on to win the Monkstown International Box Cup by giving her opponent a KO in the first round. An outstanding achievement for a girl her age. Her parents, Martin Peake and Sue Mullarney, are immensely proud of her.

Martin McDonagh of Ballyhaunis town has brought a steady flow of titles home also. Three times Mayo Champion, three times Connaught Champion, and with four Irish titles under his belt. Martin was selected to go abroad and represented Ireland at the Europeans last year, and fell just short of a bronze medal. Another amazing boxer Ballyhaunis has produced.

The icing on the cake, however, has to be Eoghan Lavin. A Swinford native who has been travelling to Ballyhaunis since age ten to train under the watchful eye of Vinnie Moran and Martin Peake. Eoghan has four Mayo titles, four Connaught titles, and an amazing six Irish titles. Eoghan travelled abroad last year and came home to a hero's welcome in both Ballyhaunis and Swinford after securing a European silver medal in Romania. He was earlier this year crowned Mayo's most outstanding boxer and has an amazing career ahead of him.

The Ballyhaunis Boxing Club is always on the lookout for new talent. Training is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Began Community Centre.

Martin or Sue can be contacted on the following numbers - Martin: 083 0464844; Sue: 085 8108152.

Living in Switzerland

DAVID NESTOR



L-R: Sarah, Tom, Ellen, Claire, David and Billy Nestor.

Over the years I stood behind the bar in Billy's Nite Club or the Corner Bar and witnessed many migrants return home from foreign shores. I marvelled at their adventures, but have to say I never had the grá for travel myself. After a six-week stint in boarding school I ran away from it never to return. Throughout my college years I caught the Frankie Dillon 5am express lorry back to Dublin every Monday, just to have one more night in my own bed. It's safe to say I was the ultimate Mammy's boy and a home bird. Fast forward to October 2018 and I find myself living in Unterageri in the Canton of Zug, Switzerland! To this very day I still pinch myself, wondering how did I end up here? In 2013 a great opportunity presented itself with my company so, with a lot of encouragement from my wife Ellen, a native of Limerick, we sold our home in Naas and set off with our three young children on what was then a three-year adventure.

Switzerland has half the land mass of Ireland but about twice the population, of which 25% are foreigners. The country consists of 26 Cantons or counties, has four main linguistic regions: German, French, Italian and Romansh. Although landlocked, it has more than 1,500 lakes which play a major role in the local lifestyle. We live just 100 meters from our local lake and spend the entire summer there in temperatures up to 30° celsius. The Swiss pride themselves on high quality so the lake is set up like a five-star beach resort with manicured

gardens, changing facilities, restaurant, and play areas. The Swiss Alps and ski resorts like St. Moritz, Matterhorn and Dufourspitze are an equally important part of Swiss life. In just over ten minutes we can be on our local ski slopes, a far cry from sledging down O'Connor's hill in a 10:10:20 bag stuffed with hay and wet to the bones! No matter where you go in Switzerland, be it the mountains or lakes, you are impressed by the cleanliness. There is an amazing respect for the environment and everyone plays their part to keep it that way.

Switzerland has a stable, prosperous and high-tech economy and enjoys great wealth, being ranked as one of the wealthiest countries in the world per capita. Salaries are high, personal tax is low (under 15% in our canton) although the cost of living is very high. To put this into perspective, my first visit to the local butchers resulted in a €200 bill for four T-bone steaks, a kilo of mince and five chicken breasts. I can already picture Paddy Phillips contemplating an international move! It's fair to say that everything in Switzerland works efficiently, from transport to education to the health system. There is an extremely high quality of life, but, as an ex-pat, it does take time to adjust and integrate.

Schools

One of the best decisions we made was to send our children into the local school system. Tom (12), Claire

(8) and Sarah (6) are now fluent in English, Swiss and German, while Tom is progressing nicely in French. The education system is quite intensive with continuous assessment and grading into levels of ability at a young age. Only 20% make it to university with most students taking on apprenticeships linked to full time employment. The education system is completely free, we do not pay a cent: no uniforms, no books, no fundraisers. From five years of age children walk to school and, if you decide to walk with them or hide around the corner observing, you'll get a letter home to stop tailgating (we were serial offenders!). Great credit must go to Ellen and the kids as they were thrown-in at the deep end without any knowledge of the German language. While I headed off to work in an English-speaking environment every day, Ellen had to master the language, ensure homework was completed and build a completely new network of friends. It's a testament to her that we survived and became stronger as a family.

In December 2014 our Swiss baby arrived, Billy Nestor Jr., and he completed our family. With typical Swiss efficiency the birth was uncomplicated, and soon after my wife informed me she would be glad to head home. However, after being moved into her room with double bed, sofa, flat screen TV, a la carté menu and wine list she availed of the obligatory five day stay. I kid you not. Just like his brother, Billy Jr. is Mayo mad and the Green and Red flag flies proudly every summer. The now traditional trek home nearly every recent September has been as heartbreaking as our painful defeats of the 90s. This year the Limerick flag flies highest in our house after a brilliant triumph, maybe 2019 will be our year! We continue to raise eyebrows with the locals as we kick around the O'Neill's and clash the ash in the local parks.

Just like the Irish the Swiss have many great traditions such as *Geislechlopf* (whipping) and *Fastnacht* (national carnival). The sound of bells from livestock and local



Tom and David Nestor skiing in the Mythen region of Switzerland.

churches, which chime 24/7 on the hour, are therapeutic, although the novelty soon wears off when 30 sheep reside outside your bedroom window. Each year Samichlaus (Santa) visits all households in the weeks leading up to Christmas with his helper *Schmuttli* carrying a bag with coal for any naughty children. No cutting the lawns or hanging the washing out on a Sunday; all waste is recycled correctly and no noise between 12-2pm or after 10pm are just some of the many rules in existence. These rules are all vigorously monitored, because inside every Swiss person is a policeman knocking to get out! One of my favourite parts of the week is when the bells chime at 5pm every Saturday for about 15 minutes, signaling the end of the week. All shops close and Sunday remains a rest day for all.

Although the quality of life in Switzerland is excellent there are some things that are just not replaceable. For the most part it's family and friends, the cup of tea, the visit of the next-door neighbor, the craic. While Jivus is usually faster than Sky News with the latest stories from Ballyhaunis you just can't beat being at home amongst your own. Maybe I should think about running away again!



Hannah Waldron was conferred with a Special Award from NUI Galway, in recognition of her outstanding achievement in Business Studies (Higher) in the Junior Cert 2018. She is a student of Ballyhaunis Community School. Also included is her Business Studies teacher Ms. Bernie Osgood. L-R: Prof. John McHale (Dean of Business and Economics, NUIG), Bernie Osgood (Teacher), Hannah Waldron, Margaret McDonnell (BSTAI President), Prof. Alan Ahearne (NUIG).

My Memories of Ballyhaunis

FR. JOE COONEY

It was good of the Annagh Magazine committee to remember me and invite me to put together some of my memories of Ballyhaunis. I knew it would mean some difficulty for me but I will do my best.

When I was told in 1993 by Archbishop Cassidy that I was to go to Ballyhaunis as Parish Priest, I jumped with delight, as my uncle Fr. Michael Godwin, who had been a curate in Ballyhaunis, had always thought that Ballyhaunis people were very friendly. I had many a good holiday with him there when I was a student in St. Jarlath's in the 1950s.

My first impression on coming was that I had my work set out for me. The first project I thought about was to add the spire to the Church tower to complete the work of my predecessors who built the wonderful church. I had great support in that project and was lucky to get the services of a Tom Mullarkey, an architect from Derry, who had done similar work in Enniskillen. It was duly completed in time for the Jubilee Year of 2000 with the aid of a grant from the Government Millennium Committee.

On the pastoral level, I loved the village Stations which were so well organised. I also enjoyed visitation of the Primary Schools – there were two separate schools then. Towards the end of my time the new Scoil Íosa was established. It is one of the duties of a priest to be close to families, especially at time of loss and sufferings. I can remember many such occasions both in Ballyhaunis and elsewhere.

When I came to Ballyhaunis the Augustinian Friars were still very active in the parish. They were a great support to me and we had great co-operation. I celebrated Mass in the Friary on a few occasions and a small number of weddings. Between us we re-organised the weekend Masses. There were then eight Sunday Masses in the parish each week which was unnecessary.

When we approached the year 2009 we began preparations for the celebration of the centenary of the dedication of our Parish Church in 1909. This was a memorable event for us all – priests, religious and lay-people – and a special commemorative booklet was published to mark the occasion.

I always found the people of Ballyhaunis most friendly and supportive. The founding of the first Pastoral Council was a great help to me, particularly in organising such events as the parish Mission, the re-organisation of the parish choirs and the beginning of baptism teams. I was blessed to have Mary Donnelly as my house-keeper. She became the Parish Secretary and a huge help to me, making my life much simpler.

Ballyhaunis is lucky to have Fr. Stephen Farragher as my successor. He remains a great support to me. He has much more to do than I had as I had a curate helper up to end of my time.

My best wishes to all the readers of Annagh 2018.



Fr. Joe Cooney (right of Pope) in the Apparition Chapel during the visit of Pope Francis to Knock Shrine, August 26th, 2018.

Photo © Michael McLaughlin/Knock Shrine

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee

MARTINA GAVIN (SECRETARY)

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued financial support to the upkeep and maintenance of Ballyhaunis Cemetery. This continuous support ensures the Cemetery is maintained to a high standard.

There is a detailed map at the back of the Cemetery which can also be viewed online at www.irishgraveyards.ie

There is also a donation link on this website through Paypal, giving anyone an opportunity to donate directly to Ballyhaunis Cemetery, just click on 'Donate Directly to Ballyhaunis Cemetery'.



Newhall Missile – Dream Dog

GERALDINE COLLINS

In this multi-faceted society that we now live in, I am constantly fascinated by the many 'worlds' that people are interested in. Over the past few weeks, I have met and heard of people that I am acquainted with, who are involved in many varied activities. Bee keeping is one of those activities that comes to mind. Who ever would have thought that so many people in a community would be so interested in bio diversity and learning about those wonderful little creatures that are so essential to the plant life in Ireland? I have also become aware of the popularity of rowing as a sport and the many young people who are taking up that sport mainly due to the success of the O'Donovan brothers from the Rebel County, who won medals at the recent Olympic Games and the recent World Championships. Of course, it helps to live near a large waterway to become interested in such a hobby.

Greyhound racing is another arena that I would have had no knowledge of, prior to meeting my husband in the early eighties. It wasn't a sport that was popular where I grew up although there is a track in Cork city. West Clare however was, and still is, a hotbed for that particular sport, and many farming families living in rural Clare kept a greyhound in the yard. Pre-nuptial arrangements were not the norm at the time, but I foolishly agreed to an arrangement of sorts before entering into the state of matrimony, and money had absolutely nothing to do with the said arrangement. While out walking some greyhounds one evening in the Banner County, John mentioned that it would be of paramount importance to him that any prospective wife might have to occasionally walk a few dogs. I thought little of the throwaway remark at the time, and filed it in the 'never to be mentioned again' part of my brain. Silly me!

The years rolled by and in October 1991, we found ourselves living in Ballyhaunis. We arrived with a new baby and a horse box full of our worldly possessions. We rented a house on the Knock Road and met wonderful neighbours and friends there. Indeed, they were partly responsible for our staying in Ballyhaunis as it was such a welcoming and safe environment to bring up a family. We subsequently moved to Abbeyquarter where again, we were embraced by the lovely people who live in that area. John played golf most Sundays with friends, one of whom had a farm near Ballyhaunis. Noel Patterson offered John a shed and a paddock to rear a greyhound and John duly accepted this offer with open arms. And so began the madness.

Greyhounds are like any other animal in that they

need to be fed and watered which meant early morning and late evenings. They also need to be exercised and so we were often seen walking the highways and byways of Began and specifically Loughanboy walking our stock and so fulfilling the previously mentioned prenuptial arrangement.

When we moved to our present home in Island, life was supposed to take on a more relaxed vibe but instead, our greyhound population grew and now not only were the dogs raced but a little breeding was also dabbled in.



L-R: John Browne (trainer), John Collins (breeder), Noel Coote (owner). Photograph taken on semi-final night of Irish BoyleSport's Derby 2018 in Shelbourne Park.

In Mayo, we are familiar with 'next year please God' scenario regarding the All Ireland football final and Sam Maguire. Whether it's football, hurling or greyhound racing, one aspires to reach the pinnacle of the sport, but for the majority of us, that's just a pipe dream. However, it's the expectation that we'll get a run in the Championship or win a few races on the track that drives us on each year. The greyhound breeder dreams and hopes that the next litter will produce a dog good enough to race and take part in the Irish Derby in Shelbourne Park. Most greyhound trainers and breeders are never lucky enough however.

While the kennels have had reasonable success over the years under the 'Brickhill' prefix, the derby runner dream was never realised until 2018, albeit in a roundabout manner. Much has been written about Newhall Missile during this year's Boyle Sports Irish Derby because of its human interest appeal. Newhall Missile is the son of Rathmeehan Holly who resides in Island and was one of a litter of seven. John's childhood

friend John Browne from Ballyhea, Co Clare has been steeped in greyhounds all his life. The two Johns have a 'local arrangement' regarding breeding and rearing dogs. As part of this arrangement, John gave two dogs from the litter to John Browne. He in turn gave one of the dogs to his friend Noel Coote from Ennis. Noel Coote then gave a share of the dog to his very ill friend Colin Barry who suffers from Spina Bifida. A huge sport's enthusiast, Colin celebrated his 21st birthday at Limerick greyhound track and requested a greyhound as a present from his parents. He thought it was a sport that he would be able to participate in. Needless to say, the greyhound (who Colin named Newhall Missile) has given this man a whole new lease of life.

Newhall Missile ran in Limerick in May where he won two races and was in the frame in three others. John Browne then decided to enter him in a twelve dog sweep at the mecca of Irish greyhound racing at Shelbourne Park. He qualified in third place for the final of that particular sweep on June 23rd this year but he wasn't given a chance of winning by the bookies being quoted at odds of 8/1. As John Browne always says 'the dog knows nothing about the odds' and he blasted out of traps and sailed home to win. Colin Barry was in hospital at the time and was kept up to speed by phone. In fact, Colin has spent more than half of the year in hospital. It transpired since that it was the last time that Colin needed oxygen in hospital.

A few weeks later, it was decided to enter him in the Greyhound BoyleSports Derby starting on August 18th with 138 dogs going into the draw. His odds quoted by the sponsors were 150/1 and many observers were wondering why he was entered, such was the quality of the competition. However, the shrewd trainer was of the opinion that they might never again have a dog good enough to go to post in a derby and the two owners were fully behind the decision. The Missile got through four rounds of the derby to the semi-final and was beaten by a neck for a place in the final. He qualified for the Consolation Derby and eventually won it. To put this achievement in context, it's like a small horse trainer with one or two horses taking on the Aidan O'Brien's and the Jim Bolger's of the horse world and matching them stride for stride. Newhall Missile had been a rank outsider but he confounded the experts. What Newhall Missile has done for Colin Barry and his connections has been the real fairy-tale. A huge groundswell of support built up behind the Clare contingent throughout the campaign through Facebook, Clare fm and word of mouth and Colin was determined to make the journey. He was facilitated by Enable Ireland to make the journey to Shelbourne Park by ambulance. The magnitude of the reception he received on both nights was remarkable and



Colin Barry, co-owner of Newhall Missile who won the Consolation Derby in Shelbourne Park, 2018.

those who were there were privileged to witness such a heart-warming occasion. While the greyhound industry is often maligned, it was wonderful to see it portrayed in a positive light by the media this time around.

John travelled to Shelbourne Park for the semi-final but we watched the Consolation Final in Curley's Bar and shouted the place down for the thirty seconds or so that it takes for the six greyhounds to complete the race. Anne's other patrons were somewhat surprised at the sudden change in volume but soon got into the spirit of the occasion and we were duly regaled with stories of the many greyhound people who lived in Ballyhaunis in the past. We couldn't but think of our dear, recently departed friend Tony Flynn on the night. How he would have loved to have been part of the success? Tony was an able substitute for many years and filled in while we were away on holidays and accompanied us to the track on many the night.

While Newhall Missile did not win the Derby, it's no mean achievement to have bred the seventh best dog in Ireland in 2018. We continue to dream of the Derby winner and the pre-nuptial arrangement still exists. Although it is hard to believe, not one penny changed hands between breeder, trainer or owners. True story.

My Winning Streak Week

MURT HUNT

My Winning Streak really began, I suppose, on 12th November 2017, when I won the Aghamore GAA draw after many years of playing. I won the princely sum of €660, which would come in handy, I thought, as my daughter Áine was getting married the following Friday, 17th November. Áine had come home from Boston with her boyfriend Alan and daughter Eabha to get ready for their wedding. Little did I know when I met them in Oliver's in Ballina for a suit fitting that the wedding would produce such an exciting week for one and all.

The wedding took place in a lovely little church in Aughavas in Leitrim (made famous by the wedding of Brian and Amy O'Driscoll) and when the ceremony was over, and all the handshakes, hugs and congratulations were given and received as per usual, we adjourned for a few drams to a local hostelry to give some of us inner central heating, and to loosen the tongues for the speeches that lay ahead. Fr. Stephen Farragher concelebrated the wedding ceremony in Aughavas but he had another wedding that day and so could not accompany us to the wedding reception in Lough Rynn Castle Hotel.

What a wedding it proved to be with glitz, glamour and good food, drink, dancing and craic. The party went on until the early hours and a good time was had by all and sundry. On the invitation of the Egan family it was decided the wedding parties would meet up for a meal the next night (Saturday) in a lovely bar/restaurant (Dillon's) on the quays in Ballina.

We were all seated and enjoying our drinks and meals when I got a phone call from a good friend, Mary Kenny (Ballymahon), who was also a guest at the wedding with her husband James. Not able to hear what she was saying on account of the din I went outside to get the unbelievable news that I was to be on 'Winning Streak' the following Saturday night. On going back to the restaurant with my exciting good news, I was met with a barrage of hugs and kisses and congratulations as the texts with the good news had been delivered to all the party-goers. It was so nice of the management of Dillon's to give complimentary champagne to wish me luck on the show, and also to the bride and groom on their wedding.

What a week followed with a few sleepless nights, and the phone ringing constantly from well-wishers but especially from the staff of the National Lottery, with so many questions and so much paperwork to be filled out, and instructions on how to get ready for the following Saturday. I had to be at the lottery offices at RTÉ at 11.30 am, whilst the guests had to be there at 2 pm. As I was only allowed to bring twenty-two guests there were a few people disappointed, and there were a few friends and neighbours who were not able to make it for one reason or another. My daughter Áine, new husband Alan Egan and their daughter Eabha missed the show as they had to go back to work in Boston, as had my sister Carmel and her husband Pat McDermott. They never

envisaged there would be more celebrations on the same week as the wedding. However, a lovely picture of the bride was shown on a large screen on the show as she sent her good wishes and that partially made up for the disappointment of missing the show. My son Murty Jnr., who is also based in Boston, was mentioned also as he unfortunately could not make the trip. However, it was great to have my daughters Marie, Carmel and Noelle, son Sean, sister Kathleen, daughter-in-law Alice, sons-in-law Anthony and Conor, grandchildren, brother-in-law Padraig and his wife Marion, my niece and godchild Theresa, nephew Joseph, good friends James and Mary and Maureen, and best friend Jeanette there, not forgetting the winning ticket sellers Dom and Geraldine Murphy (whose sales of lottery tickets have gone up since the win). I knew my late wife Anne (RIP) and other deceased family members would be watching down from above.



Murt Hunt receiving his cheque from Michael Hayes of The National Lottery, pictured with ticket sellers Dom and Geraldine Murphy, Murphy & Sons Autosales Ltd., Dublin Rd., Ballyhaunis, and Winning Streak presenters. L-R: Sinead Kennedy (Presenter), Dom Murphy (ticket seller), Murt Hunt, Michael Hayes (The National Lottery), Marty Whelan (Presenter), Geraldine Murphy (ticket seller).



Murt Hunt with daughters, grandchildren and sister.
Back, L-R: Noelle Hayes, Murt Hunt, Marie McGee, Carmel Hunt,
Sr. Kathleen Hunt. Front: Caoimhe Hayes, Annah Hayes,
Killian McGee, Jack Moloney.

Winning Streak

My son Sean and his wife Alice brought me to Dublin and the rest went later in M. J. Lyons' bus driven by his very efficient son-in-law, which picked up good friends Jeanette and Maureen in Strokestown, and stopped for tea and coffee on the way up in Feerick's, Rathowen (a great stopover point for Mayo supporters on their way to Croke) and for a meal and drinks (which I happily took care of) on the way home and where we watched the recorded 'Winning Streak'. I met up with the other contestants at the Lottery offices in RTÉ and we were put through our paces in a practice for the show. I won all the practice games including spinning the wheel. The contestants were all treated to a meal and drinks, were given a makeover. It would be the first time I ever had makeup put on my face. I had already gotten a free haircut from Julie at Julie's Hair Salon, on hearing of my good news, and advice on how to tog-out for the show and a free shirt from Eddie at Murphy's Menswear. As they say I was fairly well scrubbed up when I arrived at the studio.

Then it was time to go into the studio to record the show at approx. 4 pm, and to be greeted and cheered by all the relatives and friends of the five contestants with their flags and good luck banners. It was great to meet hosts Marty and Sinead and I reminded Marty that I had been with him some years previously when I won a weekend in Rome on a National Lottery ticket.

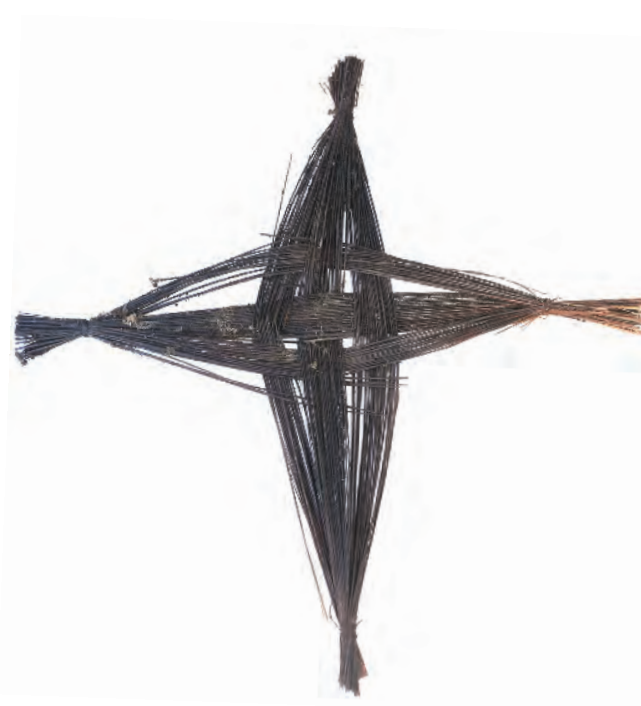
I was not one bit nervous as I took my place having got seat two as my order of play, seated between a man who had won €250,000 some years previously on the show, and a lady who had previously worked on the show. I got to mention some of my missing friends and

my three favourite pubs – Vaughan's, Kilfenora, Co. Clare; John's of Doughill (midway between Strokestown and Lanesboro) and my local, Phillips' in Ballyhaunis, and I was told by Sinead that it seemed I wanted to mention everybody I knew! I picked the same numbers that I had used in the practice round but unfortunately they did not come up trumps a second time. The group won the maximum in the high-and-low game which was €100,000, so we all won approx. the same amount. The girl who had previously worked on the show ended up spinning the wheel.

However, I was very happy to come away with €40,000 as I would be many years trying to put that amount together – especially from the proceeds of farming. I was so lucky and happy to fulfill a dream as a participant on Winning Streak. Maybe – one never knows – lightning may strike twice!

Yes indeed it was a fantastic week in my life and made all the more wonderful by my daughter Marie winning the Irish Business Person of the Year Award in Dublin on the following Monday night.

It was like a four-leafed clover: I gained a son-in-law, a small cheque, a large cheque and Marie's win all in the space of a week. Weeks like this don't come around too often.



This very old and unusual St. Brigid's Cross was recovered from the roof of Mulrennan's old house in Gurteen, Ballyhaunis, while undergoing renovations some years ago.

Fair Day Memories

PADDY CONNELL

On a recent visit to Paddy, his niece Margaret Corless (formerly Connell) encouraged him to retell some of his vivid and entertaining memories of the Fair Days. Paddy lives in Accrington in the UK and is brother of Joe, Sean, Teresa and Mai Connell who are all now deceased, natives of Drimaderra, Ballyhaunis.

"I remember clearly going to the cattle and sheep fairs with my father Mike when I was nine or ten years of age. My father was a cattle jobber and I was known as the blocker. Each of the surrounding towns had their own fair day each month. New Year's Day it was the turn of Ballindine. We walked to the fair with the cows and brought the calf (or calves) in the donkey and cart, sometimes leaving as early as 2.30am. I often remember being left on my own for the last couple of miles as my father rushed ahead to be there early to buy something.

One of the best memories is from a fair in Ballinlough. A man named Frank Clarke who was one of the biggest buyers from Claremorris bought two black heifers, but he told my father that he had nobody to bring them home for him. My father said, "this young lad will walk them home for you" namely me! This meant I had to walk them to Claremorris and make my way back to my home in Drimaderra. Although I was tired, I was delighted with myself because I earned half a crown for my effort!

On another occasion we brought a black heifer in Kiltimagh for £13 (13 pounds) and we sold her the following day in Ballyhaunis for £26!! Not a bad move, but unfortunately this wasn't always the case. Often a fine cow was bought and she died trying to calf. Farming always had its ups and down. Prices for a cow and calf ranged from £20 (twenty pounds), with £25 (twenty-five pounds) considered a good price. Breeds were mostly blacks and shorthorns.

We walked to Dunmore fair many times, where we could call into Morgan O'Brien's for tea and a sandwich.

I remember the Melvin brothers, Tom, Jim and Jack who were buyers for Seamie Webb's butcher shop in Ballyhaunis were regulars at that fair.

Often in Winter there was a flood under Ballygowan Bridge on the road to Claremorris. The cows would go through it no problem but the ass and cart was a different story.

It was much more difficult bringing the sheep and lambs to the fairs. The lambs would be jumping in and



Paddy Connell, with his nieces Anne (left) and Margaret (right).

out of fields and gardens. That's where I got my exercise! We were glad to get them onto the main road where they were easier to manage. Animals were much quieter those days and as time went on and traffic appeared on our roads, I remember the animals being very frightened. The first people I remember with trucks were Eddie Prenty and Jack Culliney.

"Those were the days" and I can safely say that my father Mike, had the gift of the gab. They were hard times. I left for Manchester in 1949, leaving the fair days behind but the memories will linger for ever.

I hope you enjoyed my memories."

Paddy lives in Accrington and is an avid reader of Annagh Magazine.

Abbey Male Choir

EAMON MURREN

Once again we had a busy year. We took part in the Annual Christmas Carol Service in the Friary. We also sang at a number of weddings. We sing twice a month in Saint Patrick's Parish Church at Sunday Masses. As always we are indebted to the work and enthusiasm of our Musical Director and Organist Paula Donnellan.

The Journey Continues

MICHAEL GOULDING



In the 2016 edition of the Annagh Magazine I submitted an article regarding my hopes, dreams and the necessary steps I am taking to pursue a career in the arts. Personally, year on year I am gaining experience and educating myself in this area, while also blending in my Social Care work and studies. I believe that my new career – Social Care Work – found me while transitioning from my previous

occupation of fourteen years as Manager in Eddie Murphy Menswear, to now, in my final year of studying Social Care – Disabilities.

Almost Coronation Street

A love of the arts has always intrigued me, both in front and behind the camera. Some years ago I blagged my way into being invited to attend a workshop in ITV Studios, Salford, Manchester – the new home of Coronation Street. Previously, it was located in Manchester city centre for over fifty years, where many famous and not so famous actors, writers and other professionals learned their trade and carved out a career – some more successfully than others, but that's showbiz. The workshop for which I was fashionably fifteen minutes late, began when I got there, luckily enough, with introductions of the writers who were and have been working on Coronation Street and Emmerdale past and future scripts. The day consisted of how, as a team, the script writers devise such storylines. 'Planting the seed' was one such term that was used throughout the day, and continuing to slowly develop characters and storylines to make compulsive viewing. Another term – 'hook' – referred to capturing the audience: reeling them in, as it were, to engage them with the story. If you analyse a half hour show it would mostly consist of opening and closing credits lasting approx. thirty seconds, followed by the introduction of possibly a mixture of stories/characters woven into the segment. The hook happens approx. ten minutes in, just before the break, where a mini cliff-hanger takes place. This leaves the viewer wanting to know what will he or she say or do, type of scenario. The day was packed with job information and opportunities, and networking with those taking part in the workshop. I was thankful for the opportunity to gain an insight into what goes on behind the camera. It was a little dream come true.

Musicals

As I said before a love of the arts has been instilled in me from watching television from an early age: everything from 'Laurel and Hardy' to 'James Bond', 'The Quiet Man' and 'The Sound of Music'. While I have the child-like humour of Stan and Ollie, I don't think I'd be tough enough to make 007, and anyone who knows me knows I am anything but a quiet man. 'The Sound of Music' is based on Maria von Trapp's memoir, 'The Story of the Trapp Family Singers'. The rest is very much history, with what has been regarded as one of the best and highly successful musical films, breaking records and winning numerous awards, with the brilliant cast led by Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. That musical could possibly have changed my life. My family owned a copy of the video and I loved watching it: it was a break away from school and brought me into a life of singing. It's still one of my favourites today.

While living in Manchester I had the opportunity to appear in some musicals and concerts, and when I moved to Mayo I also got that same opportunity starting off with the Ballyhaunis Musical Society in 2001 with 'Grease' where I played the part of 'Sonny'. That musical gave me the opportunity to meet new people and take my mind off being an outsider in town. School was an especially difficult part of my transition in moving to a different country. But I believe in Karma.

A few years passed and I found myself auditioning for Claremorris Musical Society. That was almost nine years ago and I haven't looked back. I've been lucky enough to have roles in 'Oliver', 'Me and My Girl' and 'Singing in the Rain', to name a few. It is great to be involved with a group of like-minded people who want to perform and, come-hell-or-high-water, on opening night there is a musical spectacular to be seen. The next musical production 'BIG' is planned for the end of January 2019 in the Town Hall, Claremorris.

Radio Gaga – Radio Goulding

My radio career began back in 2000. For work experience I chose to work in a hospital radio and it gave me the radio bug. I didn't need any antibiotics or anything: it started my journey into radio. The volunteers had to visit the wards of the hospital to get requests for a programme later in the evening that everyone presented. The visits to the wards reminded us that we were more than volunteers. We might have been the only person to talk to the patient that day apart from the medical staff, and if we could find a favourite song ranging from Glenn Miller to Daniel O'Donnell, then both our worlds would have been enlightened. Hospital

Radio taught me the difference that this area of the media can make and to have such a positive impact on people's lives.

Then a few years later I volunteered on Claremorris Community Radio. I presented programmes at the station for three years and was lucky enough to be able to present a 'Movies and Musicals' hour, along with numerous breakfast shows, and to record my first ever radio play.

Since April 2015 I have been truly blessed to present programmes on MidWest Radio, and since January 2016 I've presented 'Songbook' on Monday nights from 10pm. Working on MidWest has been a dream come true. I'm so thankful for the opportunity and look forward to my future broadcasting.

Extra! Extra!

Over the past two years I signed up to a television extra company that provides TV and Film companies with 'Extras' who appear in background scenes. The days started early and finished late. They were long but were



A scene from 'Striking Out' on RTÉ television, featuring Michael Golding (right).

filled with fun and food. I've been luckily enough to appear in 'Striking Out' on RTÉ and more recently in the ESB ad celebrating the power of electricity since 1927. Both pieces of work are very much blink-and-you-will-miss-me, but it's the start of something hopefully.

I gained some great experience over the years, from stage to radio and writing to television, what's next...? TBC.



Above: Knockbrack neighbours who attended the Fashion Show Fundraiser in The McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, 6th Apr. 2018. Clockwise, from left: Anne Lyons, Mary Walsh, Mary Leonard, Teresa Grogan, Joan McNamara, Agatha Higgins, Bernadette Lyons.

Right: John Morley, Island, successful recipient of kidney transplant, 2017. Picture taken at Fair Day, 2018. He was the 'Local Hero' featured on Phillips' publicans' window. Each business was asked to prepare a 'Local Hero' themed window for the Summer Festival.



Mayo SPCA

LUCIE KAVANAGH

Mayo SPCA first and foremost wants to thank the community of Ballyhaunis and surrounds for all of their support throughout the year but most especially in July when we had to announce that we were in severe financial difficulties. The locality provided us with support, both financially and emotionally. To the people who came to bring us pet food and donations, those who used our Text to Donate service, to all who offered to foster, fundraise and donate, we are truly thankful and you all lifted us up at a dark time. Most important of all, you helped us to keep helping animals in desperate need and for this, we are so grateful.

This year, we want to appeal to everyone to please, please ensure that your pets are neutered and spayed. We have seen the problem of unwanted animals, especially kittens, escalate out of all control. Feral cats are perceived as a nuisance but they are cats which have been dumped or kittens of cats that no one wants. At the moment we are working with such a colony of cats in Knox Street. Using a humane trap, we are bringing them to the vet to be neutered and spayed and then returned to their area where they can live in comfort and provide their pest control services to the people who feed them. The numbers won't keep growing. Some of the kittens that came into our care throughout this process were already very ill with diseases that can wipe out a whole cat colony and spread to pet cats in the area. Every cat we can help reduces their suffering and we are very thankful to the local vets who are helping us to provide this service.

It can't be emphasised enough how important it is to spay and neuter - even if it's a cat that just lives in your garden and comes to be fed, please ensure they can't keep having kittens. If the cat is difficult to catch, we can help provide a trap. Your cat can then live a happy and comfortable life.



As in other years, we have sadly seen some terrible cruelty cases including that of Kilroy, who came to us unable to stand up due to malnutrition and exhaustion. Months on, he is still a nervous dog but his beautiful personality shines through with the volunteers that he has come to love and trust. He is a beautiful boy who wouldn't be alive if someone hadn't spotted him lying in a ditch and brought him to us for help. Kiera is another such case. She has a lovely home lined up when she is ready and we are so glad that we were able to help her.

We rely heavily on fundraising and each year we ask the towns throughout Mayo to have a think and see who might be able to organise some fundraising events for us. Every cent raised goes directly to the animals in our care - the dogs, cats, rabbits, even a terrapin - we never know who might decide to show up!

We also have many people contacting us when their pets go missing and sometimes we are lucky enough to also be contacted by a person finding a missing pet and can link up the two. It's really lovely to have a happy ending. But we would like to remind everyone about the importance of microchipping so that if your pet goes missing, he or she can be identified and returned to you.

To use some key phrases that everyone has heard before but here at the shelter we can truly see the importance of:

SPAY THAT STRAY! DON'T SHOP - ADOPT

...and the old adage - A DOG (cat, or indeed any pet) IS FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS.

We can all play a part in helping the animals in our locality and there is no joy like the pleasure of adopting a rescued animal - we see it every day and it's the biggest privilege in what we do.

We want to offer a particular thank you to Laura Mulligan, Dog Warden, the Gardaí and Midwest Radio for their continued help and support to us.

MAYO S.P.C.A.
www.mayospca.ie
Pattenspark, Ballyhaunis

Can you help?

TEXT TO DONATE and help us to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home animals in need

Text costs €4. Mayo SPCA will receive a minimum of €3.60
Service provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline 076 6805278

The MAYO Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals CLG Charity No. 14728

Ireland's Worst Maritime Disaster

- The Sinking of the RMS *Leinster* in 1918

BALLYHAUNIS VISITOR'S ACCOUNT OF HIS LUCKY ESCAPE

MICHAEL KELLY

On the morning of Thursday, 10th October 1918 the Royal Mail Steamer *Leinster* departed Dún Laoghaire (then known as Kingstown) on its daily run to Holyhead. It was carrying 805 passengers, mostly British Army soldiers returning from leave. With the Great War then entering its fifth year, the mail boats plying this route were increasingly at risk of attack and occasionally were escorted by destroyer, seaplane or airship. Some had already encountered attacks but all got through largely unscathed. This time, however, luck would run out for the RMS *Leinster*. Shortly after passing the Kish lighthouse, and still within sight of Dún Laoghaire, the ship was hit in quick succession by two torpedoes fired by a German submarine and swiftly sank in heavy seas. A total of 569 passengers perished, making it Ireland's worst ever maritime disaster.

Missing the boat

One young man, who witnessed the rescue and recovery operations from the shore at Dún Laoghaire, could thank his lucky stars that he was not among the casualties. Having missed two earlier sailings from Dublin, he had actually embarked on the *Leinster* for that fateful voyage but, at the last minute, he and some other passengers were bumped off to make room for late-arriving soldiers who had priority. His name was John J. Lynch and he was returning to England following a visit to relatives in the Ballyhaunis area. A New York resident, he had opted to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was then based at Witley Camp in Surrey. The story of his fortuitous escape from the fate that befell the passengers of the RMS *Leinster* was relayed back home

to New York, where it received considerable press coverage. The papers noted that he was the son of John J. Lynch of 1102 Lorimer Street in the Greenpoint district of Brooklyn while his wife Anna and two young children, John Jr. and Jim, were residing at 71 South

Twentieth Street, Flushing. A letter he wrote to his wife, outlining his remarkable experiences, was reproduced in full.

An Irish welcome in war-time

John Lynch began his letter with a brief account of his visit to his Ballyhaunis relatives, including his uncle Luke, a farmer, and his cousin Nora Maguire. He doesn't give his uncle's surname or the location of the farm but if Luke and Nora were father and daughter, then it's possible that they were members of the McGuire family of Carrickacat, Logboy; the 1911 census shows a Luke McGuire there with a daughter named Nora. In any event, when John Lynch arrived at Ballyhaunis train station that autumn evening in 1918 he had hired a car and driven to his Uncle Luke's house where he received a warm welcome, and ended up spending a few days there. He writes: "It rained all that time, but I didn't care. They kept stuffing me with home-made bread and tea and bacon, ham, cabbage and eggs, and on Tuesday, October 8, I helped Uncle Luke put three pigs in his cart for the pig fair. He secured fifty-five pounds for the

three pigs which is \$267.85".

The day after the fair (Wednesday), John bade farewell to his relatives and caught the 07.50 train from Ballyhaunis to Dublin, intending to take the afternoon mail boat to Holyhead. However, he couldn't get



An American newspaper published John J. Lynch's letter to his wife, giving his account of the attack on RMS *Leinster*.



A poster publicising the 100th Anniversary of the sinking of RMS *Leinster*.

accommodation on that particular boat so he had to spend that afternoon and evening in Dublin. Early on Thursday morning he went down to the North Wall pier to try to take the 07.30 cattle boat across but it could only accommodate 150 passengers so when a batch of soldiers arrived they had priority and young Lynch was out of luck again. He describes what happened next: "I beat it across to the Westland Row station, paid two and six for a second-class accommodation on the *Leinster* (mail boat) sailing at 9:30 a.m. I went down on the boat train [to Dún Laoghaire] and gave in my embarkation card, my name was put on the ship's books and I was pleased. Before we sailed, however, along came 30 Cameron Highlanders under their officer. Of course they had to go on board so the R.T.O put 24 of us off the boat and told us to wait till the next boat and pulled out with 700 passengers aboard, three-quarters of them women and children". Lynch cursed his luck, but his main worry about missing the boat was that he would be deemed absent without leave and liable to arrest and imprisonment when he reached his base at Witley!

Solemn oath

Lynch's disappointment was soon replaced by anger when, a couple of hours later, he saw the dead and wounded passengers from the *Leinster* being taken ashore. He didn't wish to distress his wife with the gory details: "I can't describe the scenes I saw. They were too terrible to put down on paper. Someday, when I return to you and Jr. and Jim, I will tell you about it. I surely

believe that God was watching over me, that I had such a miraculous escape. It is about the closest call to death that I have ever had". However, Lynch did give vent to his anger against the Germans: "We just cursed the air blue. It was a sight that caused fiery wrath to rise up and get hold of you. The commander of that Hun submarine didn't want to sink that boat. He wanted to murder those women and children on board. And those of us who saw that sight took a solemn oath with the mutilated dead as witnesses that never during this war would we take a single German a prisoner!"

Lynch remained in Dublin that night and cabled his commanding officer at Witley to explain his absence. The following morning (Friday), he finally managed to get going on the Irish Sea: "Next morning we took the cattle boat from North Wall and I can tell you we were well escorted. On the way over we passed the wreckage floating on the sea. There were empty boats, capsized boats, trunks, rafts, lockers, planks, etc. I arrived in Holyhead at 11:30 o'clock and in London at about 6 p.m."

Censorship

It is interesting that Lynch's letter, as published, states that three-quarters of the passengers on the *Leinster* were women and children whereas most (over 500) were, in fact, military personnel. Lynch must have been aware of this since he had been aboard the *Leinster* shortly before it departed. However, with exploratory peace talks with Germany then at a delicate stage, the government deliberately suppressed information about the military presence on the *Leinster* so Lynch's letter may have been altered by the censor.

Lynch himself was aware of the peace talks. He wrote: "It looks as if we are to have peace pretty soon. I see that Germany is throwing out feelers for peace AND MURDERING WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT THE SAME TIME. Don't talk to me about the poor Germans! The more I think of the *Leinster* the wilder I get. When you just meet the boys who were over in the trenches and hear their hatred of Jerry it sounds queer, but when you've seen the things I saw you'll understand". Just nine days after the sinking of the RMS *Leinster*, the submarine that torpedoed her struck a mine in the North Sea and the entire crew perished.

Outrage

The sinking of the *Leinster* provoked outrage around the world and hastened the ending of the war. One of those who expressed his anger was the Irish singing star, John McCormack, then based in the US with his wife and two children. Among the victims were Mrs. McCormack's sister and her husband who were travelling to see her seriously-ill brother in England. They left ten children. One passenger who survived was



Lifeboats gather survivors from the stricken RMS Leinster.

Michael Joyce MP for Limerick. Remarkably, he had survived four previous shipwrecks during his career as a seaman.

John Lynch concluded his letter to his wife with further warm remarks about his visit to Ballyhaunis: "Anna, I've fallen in love with Ireland. The more I see of the country, the better I like it and the only country that I like better is the good old USA. ... I am sending you some news of Ballyhaunis and of Dublin. I wrote to Uncle Jack a card with the crest of his old regiment, the Fifth Royal Irish Lancers on it and a view of Ballyhaunis to Aunt Annie. I read from my father's letter that Dr. Dan landed safely; I don't know whether in England, France, Russia or Italy". These additional details may help to pinpoint his relatives in Ballyhaunis.

Planning a return 'home'

John Lynch was planning a return to Ballyhaunis before the end of 1918 to see the friends and relatives who clearly had made a big impression on him: "I think that Nora Maguire must think quite a little about her soldier cousin because the last time I left Ballyhaunis I found a little piece of poetry tucked away in my prayer book and this time she did the same thing - wrote some more verses in my book. I made many friends there and they all want me to come and see them again when I next get leave. I'm going to try and get a leave for Christmas time and spend it at 'home' as they and I call it, because it is truly a second home to me".

John Lynch was expecting to see action in France before Christmas and indeed he was transferred there on 30th October. However, the war ended on 11th November so he may have avoided combat. His Canadian military file indicates that he was discharged from the army at Toronto in June 1919. It also tells us that he had been born at Pendleton, Lancashire on 15th September 1889, that he was married to Anna and had two children John David (aged 4) and James Thomas (2). The fact that he was English probably explains why he had opted to enlist early in the Canadian army rather than wait to join the US forces. It is not known whether he ever got to visit Ballyhaunis again.

Commemoration

The story of the RMS *Leinster* quickly faded from memory whereas the earlier *Titanic* and *Lusitania* stories lived on. There are several possible explanations. The scale of the disaster was not widely publicised due to wartime censorship and only much later was it realised that more Irish died on the *Leinster* than either the *Titanic* or the *Lusitania*. Secondly, the War of Independence broke out just a few months later. Thirdly, the country was preoccupied by an even greater disaster – the Spanish Flu which would kill more people worldwide than both world wars combined. Centenary commemorations during this past year, such as the issuing of a special postage stamp by An Post, have served to re-focus attention on the neglected tragedy of the sinking of the RMS *Leinster*.

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

My Visit to Sierra Leone

ANN MARIE KELLY

Anne Marie Kelly (nee Cruise) comes originally from Coolnaha and now lives in Carrowbehy. She volunteered to visit Sierra Leone where she fulfilled a lifelong ambition to help children with hearing impairment using modern technology.



Carrying out a hearing test.

History of the School

St. Joseph's School for the Hearing Impaired, in Makeni, Sierra Leone (West Africa) was established in 1979 and started out with just eight students and two teachers. In 1986 the school accepted its first boarders initially taking just fifteen girls and twenty boys.

In 1998, during the Civil War (1991 to 2001), the school had to be evacuated when rebels came to Makeni. The

United Nations used the buildings to house peacekeepers until it was returned to be a school. Today, the school's enrolment has grown to an all-time high of over 250 students, over ninety of whom are boarders. The school welcomes all hearing-impaired children regardless of religion.

It can be difficult for those with hearing loss in our society, but in a society beleaguered by poverty and where disabilities are not recognised, it can prove almost impossible without help.

I always had a constant desire to help others and wanted to go further to help those who comparatively have almost nothing at all. So, a mission was begun to help get me on my journey: many months of preparation, horrible vaccinations, and planning culminated in a nine day visit on November 15th.

I did an interview on MWR appealing for whiteboards and plastic false-faces, and any unwanted hearing aids. After this interview my phone was hopping with people donating whiteboards and hearing aids. One lady left a box of false-faces into one of my clinics. She never left a name, but we were truly grateful. I was overwhelmed with the generosity of people who called to my home and often a few stopped me in shops to give me a donation.

Bonavox Hearing Specialist, along with Bloom Hearing (UK) provided me with over forty new hearing

aids along with batteries and accessories.

The generosity from local people allowed me also to give a donation of €1800, which came about from a go-fund-me page and a church gate collection. I am delighted to say every euro received was given to the school, as Bonavox hearing specialists were only too delighted to sponsor my flights.

Preparations

The week before leaving a few friends came around to mine to help me prepare for the journey. We put together 200 goodie bags, each one contained shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, along with two balloons and four sweets and one lollipop. One for each child/adult in the school.



Little things we take for granted, brought so much joy and excitement to the children and adults. They were in complete shock when they each received a bag. They were amazed and so truly thankful.

As Sierra Leone is not a safe country, I had decided I would spend the evening with family and loved ones before I took the 2 am bus on the first leg of the trip. It was a lovely evening with laughs and a few tears. They were worried about me travelling alone, however, from once I left home until my return I can honestly say not once did I feel unsafe. The security checks were daunting. However, I treated all I met with friendship, manners and respected their culture, so in return they treated me the same.

Highlights

Seeing the poverty and conditions in the area is heart-breaking but seeing the happiness in the faces of the children and staff was a true blessing. I got to test many children, however, I also got to fit hearing aids to a five year old girl for the very first time. She could then hear sounds and follow a lot of speech. This experience gave me such an amazing feeling.

I also fitted a set of hearing aids with tinnitus programmes to one teacher who had lived with what she described as a constant generator noise for many years. Over the following few days she informed me this had faded away.

I cried a lot, sometimes because of realising the situation for so many people, and sometimes with sheer joy.

I did regret not being able to stay longer and help out more.

Most of the teenagers message me every night since I returned to Ireland. This means a lot to me as I know they appreciate the little things I was able to do for them. At least once a week I will get a group message asking when I will return. All I can say is, God willing, I will make that journey again.

Sr. Mary Sweeney, originally from Dungloe, Co. Donegal, runs the school which, due to having children with a disability, is neither recognised nor government-funded and is relying totally on donations.

If you would like to help the school, you can send donations via Bonavox or through the school's website: stjosephshischool.com.



Meeting a fifteen day old baby.



Fianna Fáil in Mayo had reason to celebrate during 2018 with the elevation of our local Teachta Dála Dara Calleary to the position of Deputy Leader of Fianna Fáil following a Frontbench reshuffle at the end of March.

Deputy Calleary who was also appointed the Party's Director of Policy Development has been since getting to grips with this new role, travelling the length and breadth of the country to meet with units of the organisation, while also driving the Fianna Fáil policies that saw increased spending in the areas of Housing, Health and Agriculture in Budget 2019.

March's reshuffle also saw Lisa Chambers T.D. appointed as party spokesperson on Brexit – a very topical and important position as the UK negotiates its divorce from the European Union.

We congratulate both Dara and Lisa on their promotions and assure them of our ongoing support.

With the New Year on the horizon, all eyes will move towards the European and Local Elections that will take place in May.

At European level Ballyvary-based farmer John Comer has expressed his interest in running for Fianna Fáil in the Midlands/North/West Constituency.

Cllr. John Caulfield who has served Ballyhaunis since 2014, and who shares an office on Clare Street with Deputy Dara Calleary, will be running in the newly recreated Swinford Electoral Area. The electoral division of Loughanboy, which includes twenty-three townlands to the east and north east of Ballyhaunis, all in the parish of Annagh, along with Tooreen and Aghamore will be in that area while Ballyhaunis Town and Knock will continue in the Claremorris Electoral Area.

We look forward to continuing to work with Cllr. Caulfield and whoever will be the Fianna Fáil representative in the Claremorris Area and advise that Deputy Calleary's Office will continue to open every Friday 10.30am-1pm.

2018 was also a sad year for the Fianna Fáil family in Mayo. Former Minister of State Sean Calleary passed to his eternal reward in June while loyal party member Flan Moroney died in early March. A native of Feakle, Co. Clare, Flan faithfully served the Comhairle Cheantar for many years. May they and the souls of all the departed from our parish rest in peace. We offer of sincere condolences to all the bereaved of the parish.

Major Power with Sisters at the Wheel

From an article by Orla Dwyer, published in 'The Farmers Journal' 15th Sept. 2018

Sisters and Directors of Major Equipment International, Eibhlin Murphy and Áine Lecky speak about the machinery world and being female in a male-dominated industry. “Our hearts and our feet are here in Mayo and that won’t change anytime soon”.

Helping to run the family business may not be for everyone, but sisters Eibhlin Murphy and Áine Lecky, it brought a better quality of life and more freedom to reign.

Both sisters moved away from their native Ballyhaunis for years, but each found their way back in the mid 2000’s to join their father’s business, Major Equipment International. Áine took over as Financial Director and Eibhlin became Marketing Director. Their father John Murphy established the farm machinery manufacturing company in 1976 and it has remained in the family ever since.

“Deep down, I probably always knew I would come back. We were always involved as kids, even in the stores during the summer and the office, so we always have been in touch with what was going on”, explains Eibhlin.

The major hub and head office is in Ballyhaunis where both sisters live with their families, a mere five-minute drive from the office. No excuse for being late for work by getting stuck in traffic!

“We can afford to have a house and not be complete slaves to work. We lived in Dublin but what we see from our friends is that they are under incredible pressure between childcare fees and trying to pay a mortgage. We just have such a good quality of life here. I wouldn’t be moving away at all, it’s a great place to live”, says Eibhlin.

Machinery is a hugely male-dominated industry in Ireland, but this has never held the two sisters back. “Sometimes in sales, they are surprised when they are talking to a female but there are so many female farmers now. I think we have work to do I think, but in general, we don’t get a lot of sexism or maybe its over our heads and we don’t notice”, explains Eibhlin. “If I am at a farming

networking dinner or anything like that, I try to get a good spot at a good table to try to balance things out. I think people are conscious about having a balance at each table with females because there is not many. There could be 200 men and about 20 women”, she adds.

The sisters won the prestigious Anna May McHugh leadership award at last year’s Ploughing Championships which they enthusiastically describe as a huge honour. “It gives us a little more confidence in what we are doing, and it added creditability to what we are doing overseas as well. Anna May McHugh definitely paved the way for us in that nobody really bats an eyelid anymore seeing women at the ploughing. Anna May kind of did the hard graft 40 or 50 years ago”.

“I absolutely love getting out and about with the wellies on and seeing people and having chats. It is always interesting to see what peoples’ plans are for the winter and for spring of 2019 just with what fodder and cattle they have”.

Major sells in 20 countries across the world and employ 98 people, 88 of whom are in Ireland. Considering the UK is their largest market, will Brexit impact their business?

“We are still committed to the UK market. It is a market we have worked very hard to develop and we do employ many people full-time in the UK. We have plans in the event, which hopefully won’t be the case, of a no-deal Brexit” says Áine. They have reduced the overheads in the UK office and have a UK warehouse space waiting in case they need to start manufacturing there.

As for most of their most popular machines, cyclone mowers and customised agricultural tankers with fairly high-spec are some customers favourites. “People want anything that makes their life a little easier running the farm and value for money. They want equipment that’s going to last and do the job that it’s supposed to do” says Eibhlin.

Major runs a four-year long apprenticeship programme in the company and they would love to see more females applying. There are no women in the current programme and few female applications for the next. “Not to be sexist the other way, but we would love to see CV’s coming in from female engineers”, hints Eibhlin. “We knew that these skills are in short supply, so the apprenticeship programme is a way of attracting these people in and to train them in conjunction with Solas” says Áine.

Between reconfiguring their mowers, bringing suppliers on board and improving components of the product range, this is one majorly busy family business with two strong women at the helm.



The Major team at the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, on Thursday, 24th Oct. 2018. L-R: Martin Keane, Josephine Gallagher, Eibhlin Murphy, Kieran Finn, Áine Lecky, Martin Walsh.



Aine Hunt (Lecarrow) and Alan Egan (Bonniconlon) who married in St. Joseph's Church, Aughavas, Co. Leitrim, 2017.



Angeline Walsh (Drimaderra) and Bryan Carroll (Lucan, Co. Dublin), who married in the Church of the Assumption, Collooney, Co. Sligo.



Audrey Biesty (Carrowkeel) and Barry Brennan (Carlow), who married in the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, Keadue, Co. Roscommon.



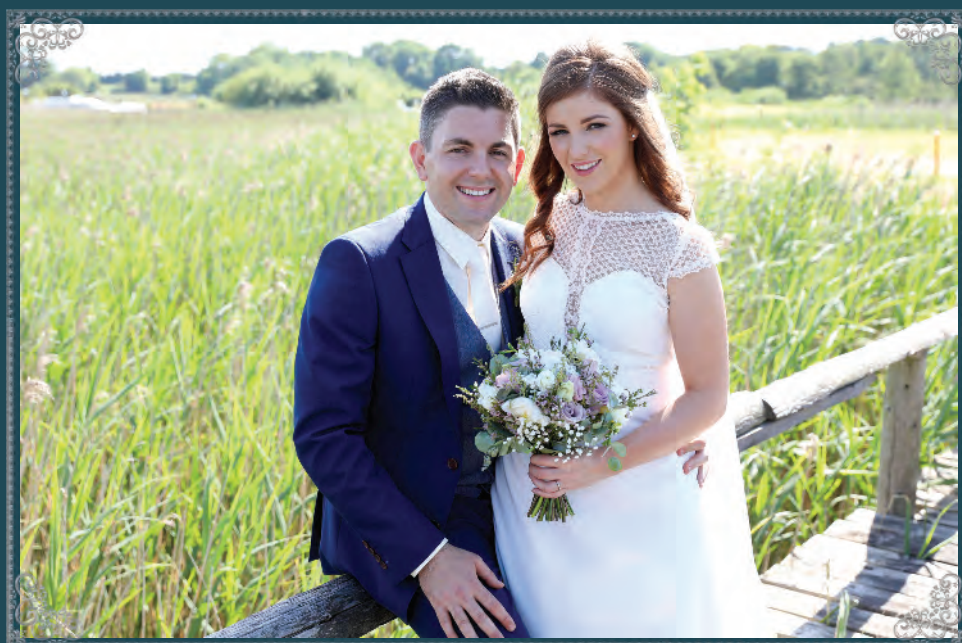
Beatrice Healy (Tooreen) and Diarmuid Carew (Dublin) who married in St. Mary's Church, Tooreen.

Amie Moran (Roscommon)
and Mark McCormack
(Streamstown, Co.
Westmeath), who married in
the Church of Our Lady of
Lourdes, Derrane,
Co. Roscommon.

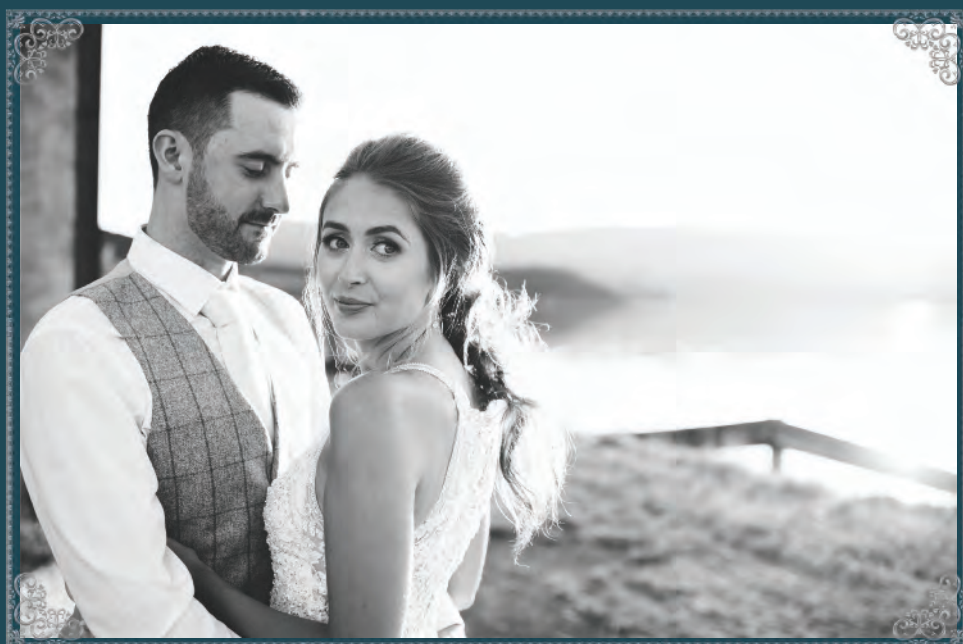
Amie is daughter of Adrian
Moran, formerly of Knox St.,
and granddaughter of the late
Peter and Breege Moran,
Devlis.



Brian Mulrennan (Gurteen)
and Cheree Gallagher
(Crossmolina), who married in
the Church of the Immaculate
Conception, Tubberclair,
Glasson, Athlone,
Co. Westmeath.



Clive Connaughton
(Carrowbehy) and Fiona
Ramsey (Milford, Co.
Donegal), who married in
Milford, Co. Donegal.





James Waldron (Crossard) and Jane Scott (Hokitika, New Zealand), who married in Swannanoa, New Zealand.



Sinéad Mulrennan (Gurteen) and Ciaran Rodgers (Arranmore Island, Co. Donegal), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Strandhill, Co. Sligo.



Emma Broderick (Brackloon) and Martin Cullen (Clooniron, Kilmovee), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Fiona Murphy (Knockbrack) and Robert Kennedy (Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan), who married 8th Dec. 2017 in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Gerry Winston (Devlis) and Joan Bourke (Irishtown) who married 2017 in Knockranny House, Westport.



Connie Kirrane (Lissaniska) and Shane Fitzpatrick (Brickens), who married in St. Therese's Church, Brickens.



Joanna Kirrane (Knockbrack) and Wade Palmer (Yarram, Victoria, Australia), who married in Swan Hill, Victoria.



Geraldine Batchelor (Cloonfad) and Talwinder Sidhu who married in 2017.

David Murphy (Ballindrehid)
and Nora Tobin (Clive, Iowa,
USA), who married in
St. Ambrose Cathedral,
Des Moines, Iowa.



Damien Byrne (Doctor's Road)
and John Costelloe
(Knocknacarra, Galway),
who married in Lisbon,
Portugal.



Edel Moroney (Abbeyquarter)
and Michael Smith (Kinvara,
Co. Galway), who married in
St. Mary's Church, Claddagh
Quay, Galway, 2017.



Eoin McManus (Churchpark)
and Katie O'Brien (Ranelagh,
Dublin), who married in
St. Patrick's Church, Kilquade,
Co. Wicklow.



Emily Hickey (Greenwood)
and Shane Ganley
(Gorthaganny), who married
in the Church of St. Margaret
Mary Alacoque, Began.

Laura Greally (Dublin) and
Ricky Shearer (Scotland), who
married in City Hall, Dublin.
Pictured with the bride's
parents Marian and
Frank Greally.





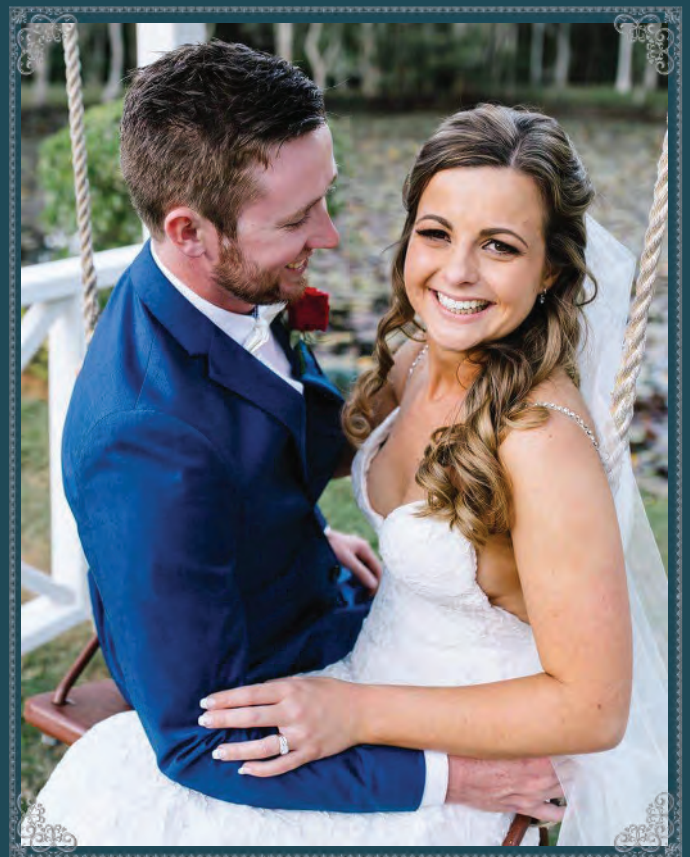
Laura Nestor (Doctor's Road) and Liam Rochford (Knock Road), who married 2017 in St. Mary of the Rosary Church, Cong.



Martina Lynch (Granlahan) and Frankie Nolan (Tully, Carrowbehy), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Granlahan.



Michael Waldron (Abbeyquarter) and Aisling Delaney (Claremorris), who married in St. Colman's Church, Claremorris.



Michael O'Rourke (Island) and Sarah Travica (Brisbane, Australia), who married in Brisbane.



Muirna Walsh (Knock Road) and John Twomey (Youghal, Co. Cork), who married in Stillorgan, Dublin.



Paul Duggan (Bekan) and Lisa Keane (Oranmore Maree, Co. Galway), who married 2016 at the Claddagh Church, Galway.



Rachel Staunton (Cloonfad) and Liam Keaveney (Arigna, Co. Roscommon), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Cloonfad.



Ronan Healy (Ballindrehid) and Vicki White (Ballygunner, Co. Waterford), who married in St. Mary's Church, Ballygunner.

Luke Cribbin (Togher) and
Maria Morley (Arderry,
Aghamore), who married in
St. Mary's Church, Tooreen.



Mary Hurley (Feamore) and
Aidan Walsh (Killenaule,
Co. Tipperary), who married
in St. Mary's Church,
The Claddagh, Galway.



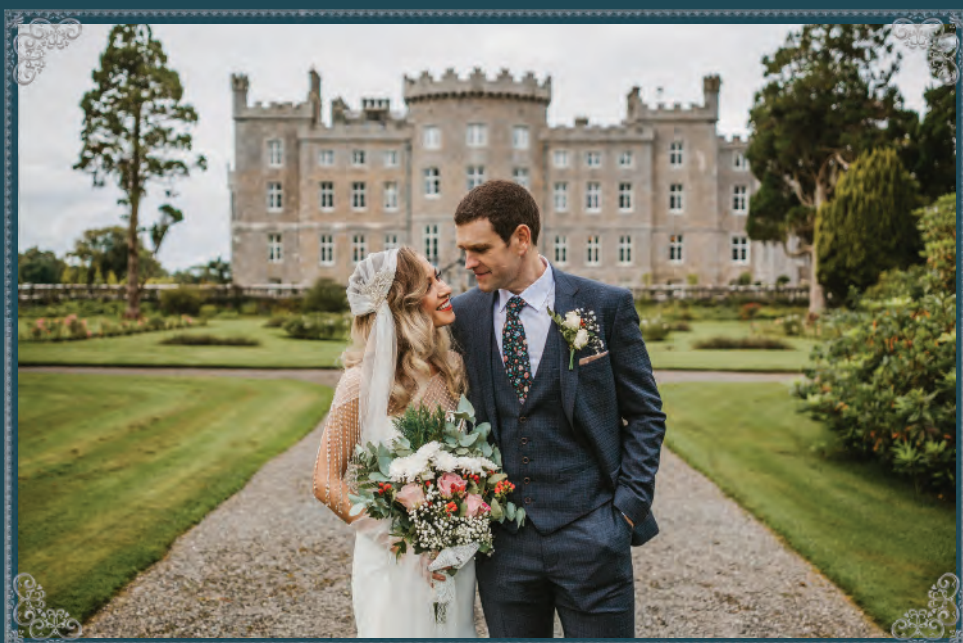
Matthew Conroy (Larganboy
East) and Denisse Alejandra
Treviño Velez (Mexico), who
married in Bray, Co. Wicklow.



Patrick Keane (Doctor's Road)
and Cora Gilligan (Taugheen,
Claremorris), who married
2017 in St. Michael's Church,
Taugheen, Claremorris.



Melissa Connaughton
(Carrowbehy) and Shane
Gilligan (Taugheen,
Claremorris), who married in
Markree Castle, Co. Sligo.



Norma Mulkeen (Brickens)
and Patrick Jennings
(Cloonfad), who married in
St. Mary's Church, Logboy
on 5th May 2018





Ruairí Hand, (Dublin) and Karen Henderson (Lacombe, Alberta, Canada), who married in Alberta. Ruairí is son of the former Mary Griffin, Clare Street.



Elaine Donnelly (Ballinphuill and Melbourne, Australia) and Liam Hodge (Ballinora, Waterfall, Co. Cork and Melbourne), who married in St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis.



Stephen Cregg (Cloonlough, Ballinlough) and Mairéad Vesey (Tully, Dromahair, Co. Leitrim), who married in St. Mary's Church, Killenummery, Dromahair.



Tara Murphy (Bracklaghboy) and Cathal McDonagh (Killedan, Kiltimagh), who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

Baptisms Marriages Deceased

BAPTISMS in the Parish – November 2017 to October 2018

Kayla Elizabeth Biesty O'Boyle, Esker Pines
Samuel Gibala, Bruach na hAbhainn, Clare St.
Ellie May Biesty and Eva Seana Biesty, Carrowkeel
Donnacha Patrick Devaney, Abbeyquarter
Niall Patrick Mullen, Cartron South
Edgaras Jonas Zajanckauskas and Kajus Matas
Zajanckauskas, Esker Pines
Luke Alexander Freeley, Oranmore, Co. Galway
Oisín John Kilcourse, Station Rise
Thomas Patrick Burke, Cheltenham, UK
Ardal Alexander Murphy, Saltaire, West Yorkshire, UK
Cody Carroll, Old Convent
Faith Gloria Connery, Old Racecourse
Helena Cala and Miguel Cala, Old Convent
Ronnie James Waldron, Bracklaghboy Village
Dylan Owen Kedian, Derrynacong

Evie Marie Dolan, Johnstown
David Connors, Aisling Drive
Sarah Kate O'Boyle, Carrowkeel
Amelia Bridget Kelly, Knox St.
Jasmina Plesa, Petar Plesa and Damir Jelinic, Main St.
Rory John Jordan, Vancouver, Canada
Lochlainn Colum Flynn, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare
Sophie Judith Regan Hayes, Old Racecourse
Holly Joanne Oliver and Grace Marion Oliver, Norwich, UK
Anna Margaret Kinsella, Station Rise
Ornagh Lillian Sweeney, The Maples
Terry Thomas Gerard Maughan and Owen James
Anthony Maughan, Cherryfield
Nathan Tighe, Manor Brook
Willow Eve Mulrennan, Kiltaboe
Declan William Higgins, Addlestone, Surrey, UK

MARRIAGES in St. Patrick's Church

November 2017 to October 2018

Fiona Murphy, Knockbrack and Robert Kennedy, Carrickmacross
Emma Broderick, Brackloon and Martin Cullen, Kilmovee
Tara Murphy, Knock Road and Cathal McDonagh, Kiltimagh
Elaine Donnelly, Ballinphuill and Liam Hodge, Cork

Marriages Elsewhere

Laura Nestor, Doctor's Road and Liam Rochford, Knock Road
Áine Hunt, Lecarrow and Alan Egan, Bonnicolton
Emer Hurst, Castlebar and Paul Kelly, Drimbane
Cora Gilligan, Crossboyne and Patrick Keane, Doctor's Road
Audrey Biesty, Carrowkeel and Barry Brennan, Carlow
Katharine O'Brien, Kilquade, Co. Wicklow and Eoin McManus, Holywell
Maria Morley, Aghamore and Luke Cribbin, Togher
Cheree Gallagher, Crossmolina and Brian Mulrennan, Gurteen
Victoria White, Waterford and Ronan Healy, Ballindrehid
Sinead Mulrennan, Gurteen and Ciarán Rodgers, Arranmore, Co. Donegal
Roisín Flanagan, Ballindrehid and Adam Campbell, Kells, Co. Meath
Aisling Delaney, Claremorris and Michael Waldron, Abbeyquarter
Lydia Leonard, Kinnity, Co. Offaly and David Gallagher, Bargariff



DECEASED of the Parish

November 2017 to October 2018

James Rynne, Tully, Carrowbehy
Michael Connolly, Island
Peter Moran, Devlis
Vera Waldron, Scrigg
Kathleen Webb, Station Rise
Elizabeth Carney, Classaroe
Ina Phillips, Chicago and Main St.
Helen Meehan, Curries
John McDonagh, Mullingar
Frank Purcell, Castlebar and Tuam
Mary Freeley, Abbeyquarter
Josie Ryan, Hazelhill
Flan Moroney, Abbeyquarter
Bea Marrinan, Knock Road
Mary Shaw, Island
David McGuire, Drimbane
Martin Caulfield, Carrowkeel
Kathleen Waldron, Johnstown
Tony Flynn, Abbeyquarter
Judith Regan, Killinaugher
Mai Barrett, Clare Court
Dermot Waldron, Island
Michael Morley, Island
Phyllis Phillips, Main St.
Kellie Noleen Burke, Aisling Drive
Bridget Regan, Beech Park
Ann O'Brien, Beech Park
Frank Webb, Devlis
Margaret Dunleavy, Coolnafarna
Ellen Graves, Clare Court
Bridann Halpin Keane, Ballinlough and Main St.

Foróige Ballyhaunis Youth Service



LAURA COX



etbi
Education & Training
Boards Ireland
Boird Oideachais &
Oiliúna Éireann

Foróige Ballyhaunis Youth Service has been recently established in Ballyhaunis town, adding to the already existing Foróige programme, 'Big Brother Big Sister' by Peter Duffy and the local Foróige Youth Club. Foróige Ballyhaunis Youth Service has introduced two youth workers, Laura Cox (senior youth worker) with another youth worker starting in the coming weeks, as well as a part time counsellor. A new Youth Space has also been developed in St. Patrick's Hall where the service is based. The Ballyhaunis Youth Service is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs through Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB). The Aim of the service is to give young people aged 10-24 years an opportunity to overcome adversity and reach their full potential in a safe and supportive environment.

Ballyhaunis Youth Service will work with young people through volunteer-led clubs and staff-led youth projects. The purpose of Foróige is to involve young people in their own development and the development of their society. Foróige encourages young people to voluntarily engage in the service based on their needs and interest. Young people are invited to be a big part of the design and delivery of the service. Foróige will deliver specific and needs-led programmes all year round including summer, Christmas, Easter, Halloween and other mid-term and bank holiday weekends. Activities will be both centre-based as well as off-site outreach and detached services.

Foróige Ballyhaunis Youth Service has already enjoyed two weeks of Summer Programmes, including art, lego, dance, team games and the Cube! The young people also took part in two day trips to Mayo Movie World and the Bowling Alley at Mayo Leisure Point. Laura would sincerely like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have already contributed to the service by welcoming and supporting the service set-up or attending programmes. Foróige Ballyhaunis Youth Service looks forward to further development of their programmes within Ballyhaunis and the surrounding areas. **For more information on what Ballyhaunis Youth Service offers please contact Laura on 0867791878 or by email laura.cox@foroige.ie**

Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group

PAULA GROGAN

The committee of Ballyhaunis Defibrillator Group during 2018 began the process of setting up a Community First Responder (CFR) scheme for the Ballyhaunis area. Community First Responders are volunteers who are trained to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work. Their aim is to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives. Their role is to help stabilise the patient and provide the appropriate care including defibrillation, until the more highly skilled ambulance crew arrives on scene to take over the treatment.

In May, we hosted a CFR Information evening which was addressed by Mark Callanan, Advanced Paramedic and Community Engagement officer with the National Ambulance Service (NAS) and members of Kiltimagh CFR group, which was the original First Responder Group to be established in Mayo. Mark spoke about the important role of local First Responders in the chain of survival of the Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest patient. Donna Michelle MacSuibhne, Chairperson of Kiltimagh CFR group, spoke about their experiences setting up the Kiltimagh group.

Some facts and figures which Mark shared during the meeting included:

- 1. In Ireland 5,000 people die each year from cardiac arrest – thirteen people every day. These people are going about their daily lives, at home, work, shopping, at sports events collapse and die without warning.**
- 2. 70% to 80% of these collapses happen in the presence of family or friends.**
- 3. After suffering a cardiac arrest, for every minute that passes, the chances of recovery are reduced by 7% to 10%.**
- 4. The current survival rate of Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OOHCA) in Ireland is 6.9%. (Source: The Irish OOHCA Register)**

We were very grateful to Donna Michelle and the Kiltimagh CFR group for sharing their insight and experiences; in particular, we are very appreciative of the ongoing support we are being given by the NAS and Mark Callanan. We hope by providing immediate CPR

and early defibrillation locally, we will increase the survival rate for cardiac arrest patients in our community. As a result of this meeting, we have now begun training with members of our community who have generously volunteered to be part of this initiative.

It is important that you are aware of the locations of the Defibrillators in our parish.

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 Íosa Primary School
Annagh	Joe & Kay Healy
Brackloon	Michael & Rose Nolan
Coolnaha	Ballyhaunis Golf Club
Derry-nacong	Hoban's gateway
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 all those who supported us in any way during the year especially those who contributed to our annual church gate collection - these funds are vital to help maintain our defibrillators and train volunteers. We would also like to thank all those who have volunteered as Community First Responders and our volunteer instructors: Marina Coyne, Edel Conway, Darran Conlon and Orla Loftus Moran. Many thanks to Frankie and Mike Dillon who donate their courier service if any of our defibrillator units need to go to Dublin for servicing during the year. Thanks also to First Choice Credit Union, Ballyhaunis for the use of their premises upstairs for our training sessions and a special mention must go to Eddie Mulhern who is always available to provide assistance to the group on our training evenings and in maintaining the outside boxes for the defibrillator units and keys.

Committee 2018

Chairperson: Orla Loftus Moran; **Secretary:** Paula Grogan; **Treasurer:** Mary Sykes

Committee Members: Rose Nolan, Deirdre Diskin, Michael Kelly, Mike Griffin, Eddie Mulhern, Alta Regan, Manar Cherbatji, Mary Donnelly, Marie Cribbin, Marina Coyne, Darran Conlon, Edel Conway.

Bayonne St. Patrick's Parade Grand Marshall 2018

GEORGE DELANEY

“You know you have made it when you are the answer to one of the questions at the Ballyhaunis GAA quiz!”

*(a text from my brother Gareth Delaney,
July 14th 2018)*

Whatever about ‘making it’ there is an element of truth in that statement, as leading the Bayonne St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 18th last was a very proud day for me and my family.

When I moved permanently to Bayonne, New Jersey back in June 1992 I could not have foreseen that I would be honoured by my adopted city as Grand Marshal of one of the largest parades in the state of New Jersey some 26 years later.

Here is a little history on how I got to Bayonne. After spending several summers working in New York while I was at college in NUIG in the late 1980s, I emigrated to the U.S. in 1992 from Ballyhaunis. Having previously lived in Queens, New York with Brickens natives Larry Warde, Padraig Warde and Joe Regan (RIP) – who very kindly allowed me to stay at their apartment for several summers – I only discovered Bayonne in 1987 when ‘the lads’ from Ballyhaunis emigrated. Junior and Tom Geraghty, Sean Hession as well as Pat and Sean Neary had recently left Ireland for greener pastures and then Thomas Moran, John Dillon-Leetch, Pat Webb, Seamus Grogan, Vinny Caulfield and John O’Connor all followed suit and settled in Bayonne. It seemed only right that I joined them in Bayonne and I have lived here ever since.

At first I lived with my future brother-in-law, John ‘Connie’ O’Connor, until his sister Louise, Doctor’s Road, joined me in 1993 and we decided to settle in Bayonne. We married in 1995 in Ballyhaunis and managed to co-ordinate a rugby tour by the Bayonne Bombers RFC to coincide with our wedding/honeymoon. Indeed, many of the tourists who came on that trip still remember their time in Ballyhaunis very fondly.

Louise and I have two daughters, Sarah (17) and Hannah (14) who have both attended elementary school in Bayonne and now Notre Dame High School in New York City. Sarah spent the summer of 2017 in Ballyhaunis working in Londis, helping her uncle Gareth at the bar in Abbey Street as well as working the various barn dances. Both girls love their annual trips back to Mayo.

During the first five years in Bayonne I had a second

job on Sunday afternoons as a bartender at The Irish Pub in NYC, which is owned by Mayo native Eugene Rooney. Since the Bayonne parade is always on a Sunday I would catch the tail end of the festivities when everybody else was ending their day and had been well served all day.

When my Sundays became free again I came to realise the importance of the parade to the whole community, especially the Irish in Bayonne. The city has a population of almost 60,000. It was around then that I became more active in the community. With two young daughters I began coaching their soccer teams, was very involved in the Bayonne Rugby Club and several other local organizations.

Circa 2011 I became a member of the St. Patrick’s Parade Committee which is made up of members of the five Irish organizations in Bayonne and in 2014 I became the Chairperson of the Parade Committee.

We meet monthly from October to April with the culmination of our efforts the first Sunday after St. Patrick’s Day. The parade is a real team effort and it is a great honour to be involved. A previous Grand Marshal was Tulrahan native, Sean Neary, who is also one of my neighbours.

Nominated

Last December I was nominated and confirmed as the 37th Grand Marshal, and then the planning really began. Coming from such a small family it was very important to me that my mother Moira, and brother Gareth and his partner Liz, would be there for the parade and festivities. Little did I know the entourage that would join them. With St. Patrick’s Day falling on a Saturday this year the plans could not have worked out much better.

Gareth had mentioned to some friends about the celebrations and it was decided that we would try to organise to have Kieran Murphy of Ballybane, Granlahan and his band ReJig come out for the weekend and play some gigs in NY/NJ. Sean Hession, formerly of Brickens, offered the band a gig at Willie McBride’s in Branchburg, NJ on Saturday the 17th and I approached some friends, owners of The Beekman Pub in downtown NY, and they offered the band a gig on Friday the 16th. Then I was able to get the Post Parade Party committee to book them for after the parade and finally got them a third gig at the go-to after parade venue in Bayonne, called Danny Boy’s Tavern, which is owned by a Donegal man and his family. The plans started to take shape nicely.

Friday night was packed at the Beekman and we had lots of familiar faces as well as out-of-towners showing up. Daithí Coyne, Bill Frayne and their families, Thomas, Pauline and their son Peter Moran, Michael Conlon, Ballybane and his wife, as well as lots of friends and family.

On Saturday morning (17th) we were up early (but not too bright) and went to the local Knights of Columbus in Bayonne to watch Ireland v England for the Six Nations Grand Slam. Sean Neary provided much appreciated Irish Breakfasts for everyone and they were well needed and appreciated. The mood was great and, with everyone in their green apparel, we celebrated Ireland's historic victory. In mid-afternoon the band and their crew headed off to Willie McBride's while the older members of the party saved our energy for what was going to be a great family occasion the following day.

Parade

Sunday morning was bright, chilly and dry and that was all we could ask for. The parade kicked off at 1pm sharp and the crowds were out in great numbers. The parade route is from 5th street to 39th street on Broadway which is the main business district in town and is approx. two miles long.

Although chilly temperatures prevailed the sun shone and the goodwill of all the participants and spectators was heart-warming. It was a great parade with multiple pipe bands, dancers and a great community spirit and was watched by thousands of viewers. On the reviewing stand where the Grand Marshal, family and aides watch the parade, we were joined by the Mayor of Bayonne, James Davis, as well as City Council members.

After the parade there was a quick turnaround to get back to the starting area for the Post- Parade Party. Here,

everyone can sit around, listen to music and have some refreshments. With ReJig playing throughout the afternoon we were all highly entertained. Several of the participating pipe bands traditionally enter the hall towards the end of the afternoon and raise the roof with tunes usually culminating with Amazing Grace. The festivities continued at Danny Boy's Tavern later that evening with ReJig belting out Irish tunes, American rock and even accompanying a local rapper as well as your's truly. We adjourned to our local Spanish restaurant 'Mediterraneo' which was walking distance from home after that.

Taking Monday the 19th of March off was a good idea. We had a good New Jersey 'diner' breakfast and passed the day showing the tourists around my hometown until it was time to drop them back to the airport. It was a good thing they left when they did because Moira, Gareth and Liz then got stranded for several days with a huge snowstorm on the Wednesday they were due to depart.

Special thanks to Louise and my girls Sarah and Hannah for all their support, my Irish family Moira, Gareth and Liz Walsh for making the trip, The ReJig lads (Kieran, Cormac, Jerome, Eamon) for the entertainment, and to their 'roadies' for the weekend Mark Kelly, Rob Lilly and Conor O'Dwyer and to Gary and Rob Duffy for supporting them night and day. To all the Ballyhaunis people and friends from far and wide who showed up over the weekend or wished me well either in person, via messages or social media, Thank You. I was very humbled.

I am very proud to be from Ballyhaunis but equally proud of where I now live in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.



The Ballyhaunis Crew at Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade, 2018

L-R: Hannah Delaney, Conor O'Dwyer, Jack O'Connor, Sarah Delaney, Niamh O'Connor, Una Hughes, Kieran Murphy, Gary Duffy, Gareth Delaney, Sean Neary, Liz Walsh, Louise O'Connor, George Delaney, Sean Hession, Moira Delaney, Mark Kelly, John O'Connor, Siobhan O'Connor, Jerome Sheerin, Cormac Sheerin, Rob Lilly, Eamon O'Toole.

Ballyhaunis Bridge Club

ELEANOR FREYNE

2017/2018 has been another successful year for Ballyhaunis Bridge Club with enthusiastic members meeting twice a week at Clare Court Centre for a challenging and enjoyable night of card playing. Since the start of the autumn season the games are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 8pm.

The AGM for the Club was held in April with a new committee elected to oversee the running of the club for 2018-2019.

The President's prize was one of the many competitions played for during the year, and this year was won by Mary Walshe and Rita London.

The Memorial Cup, sponsored by Nestor & Co., was won by Corinne Flatley and Vinny Healy.

The Credit Union, Finn's Footwear and other local businesses have been very generous in sponsorship over the years and the club is grateful for same.

In April there was a successful fundraiser organised by the President of the Club, Gerry McLoughlin, to raise funds for Cancer Care West. This game was played in April and was supported by many local clubs in the area.

If you have an interest in playing cards or think you might like to learn to play Bridge, contact any member of the club who will help you get started. New members are always welcome.



Vinny Healy and Corinne Flatley, winners of The Memorial Cup during the year.

Charity Bridge

On Sunday, 8th Apr. 2018 Charity Bridge made a welcome return to Ballyhaunis. The proceeds of the game all went to Cancer Care West in Galway. The evening was hosted by Ger and Kieran McLoughlin-Jenkinson who sponsored the first prize which was the McLoughlin-Jenkinson Perpetual cup, in conjunction with the Dalgan Bar, Western Brand, Home Instead Senior Care, Gill's Bar and the members of Ballyhaunis Bridge Club, all of whom generously gave sponsorship on the evening.

The winners of the Perpetual cup on the evening were: Rita London and Mary Walshe (Ballyhaunis); 2nd: Carmel Costello and Ita Langan (Ballinrobe); 3rd: Marina Coyne and Kay Lyons (Ballyhaunis); 4th: Jean Gallagher and Eleanor Freyne (Ballyhaunis); 5th: Flor Higgins and Frances Burke (Claremorris).

Ger and I wish to extend sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who played on the evening and to all who donated so generously. €650 was raised in total, and this was presented to Cancer Care West during the Summer.

Finally, we would both like to sincerely thank the management and staff of the Dalgan Restaurant for coming on board and for their very generous sponsorship of the evening, and for supplying a lovely buffet supper.



Gerry McLoughlin (President of the Club) and the winners of the Fundraiser Charity night, Mary Walshe and Rita London, with Kieran Jenkinson.

A Rediscovered Treasure

A small box lay unopened in my home for over twenty years. It belonged to my mother, Agnes McNicholas, nee Cribbin, late of Bushisland (near Drimbane), Ballyhaunis, and it was found at her home in Walkinstown, Dublin after she passed away in 1995. The box contained a collection of Kodak colour slides which had been taken at my parents' wedding on August 10th, 1959. For younger readers who take mobile phone photography for granted, let me remind you that colour photography would not have been common in the late 1950's/early 60's. In fact, outside of professionals I would think that most people would not have owned, or even seen, a colour camera in those days. We can only presume that a visiting Yank - most likely my Uncle Fr. Austin Cribbin, home from Oregon, U.S.A. for the wedding - was the photographer.

On rediscovering the slides a couple of years ago we set about having them transferred to my computer. As a result we opened up marvellous images of family members and their Ballyhaunis neighbours who have long since gone to their eternal reward, R.I.P. The problem then was putting names to some of the faces appearing in some of the images. I.T. again came to the rescue: pictures were emailed literally around the world asking relatives, and relatives of neighbours, to identify different individuals. And so it is time to share some of the images of long gone Ballyhaunis natives (and one or two still with us!) who were at the wedding of Agnes Cribbin and Paddy McNicholas on Monday August 10th, 1959...

– John McNicholas



Above: The wedding party and guests at the wedding of Agnes Cribbin (Bushisland, Ballyhaunis) and Paddy McNicholas (Kiltimagh), 10th Aug. 1959.

Right: Celia Horkan (Churchpark), Nora Glynn (Bushisland) and Mary Durr (Churchpark).





Seated, clockwise from front: Austin Lyons (still living in Logboy), Noreen Cribbin (later Mrs. Joe Horkan), Jack Lyons (Ballinastoka – brother of Maggie Cribbin), Maggie and Tommy Cribbin. Standing: Winnie Lyons with her and Jack's daughters Gertie, Agnes and Una. Tommy Cribbin was Ballyhaunis town postman for many years during the 1930s, 40s and 50s.



L-R: Lizzie Eagney, Margaret Hopkins, Mary Durr (all of Churchpark), Nora Glynn (Bushisland) and Celia Horkan (Churchpark).

Mick Cribbin (Drimbane) and Mick Lyons (Ballinastoka and Abbey St.), uncles of Agnes Cribbin with Paddy McNicholas.



The USS Patrick Gallagher Will Sail...

MARTIN DURKAN

The petition to have a US Navy ship named after Corporal Patrick Gallagher from Derrintogher met with success on March 12th, 2018. The petition reached its 10,000 signature goal in August of 2017, and the following six months were spent on gathering political and retired military letters of endorsements. We were extremely lucky on several counts, one being George Delaney of Abbey St. having good connections with General Michael Neil, NC PH USMC (retired) in San Diego, and with Senator Chuck Schumer's office in New York. Our luck was further enhanced by the fact that Sen. Schumer's Chief of Staff is Martin Brennan whose parents are from Kiltimagh. Gen. Neil was also in contact with Gen. Walter Boomer (ret'd.) on the issue. When he was of the rank of Captain, Gen. Boomer served with Corporal Gallagher in 1967 and had incorporated Patrick's story into many of his speeches over the last fifty years.

Despite all of the signatures and our support we encountered one obstacle. The US Navy had just one Arleigh Burke class of ship left to build and congress had yet to fund it: all it had was a future hull number of DDG127 and no name had been assigned. There was a possibility that it would never be built.

In early March we felt that there was movement as Sen. Schumer's office asked for contact numbers for the Gallagher family in Ireland. This was followed by the Senator's office announcing that they were to highlight Patrick's story at a Community Outreach event on Long Island on March 12th. Late on the night of March 11th

the Senator's office contacted everyone involved to say the venue for the "Community Event" was being switched to the *USS Intrepid* Aircraft Carrier Museum in New York and the press would be in attendance. Thirty minutes before the event started, Sen. Schumer called Patrick's surviving brother and sisters – Peter, Teresa, Rosemarie and Pauline – to inform them that DDG 127 was to be named the *USS Patrick Gallagher*. The Senator had received the good news from the Secretary of the Navy over the weekend. DDG 127 – the ship no one was sure was going to be built – would sail as the *USS Patrick Gallagher*! Later that evening the Secretary of the Navy, Richard Spencer, called Patrick's surviving siblings individually to express his congratulations on the outcome of the campaign.

Significant

The naming of this ship after Cpl. Gallagher is significant in that it has been named after a non US citizen: this is indeed a rare occurrence. 2017 was significant in other ways as well with regards to this story:

- An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar expressed his gratitude to Sen. Schumer during a St. Patrick's day visit to the Senator's office in Washington.
- This summer the Irish Navy dedicated their graduating class to Patrick Gallagher and called their class "Class Cpl. Patrick Gallagher"
- In October the Irish Outreach Centre in San Diego celebrated their 20th anniversary with a dinner and concert attended by 600 guests. The Outreach Centre dedicated the night to Cpl. Gallagher. The Irish Ambassador attended and spoke of the significance of Patrick's life.
- In early November the Lord Mayor of Dublin hosted a reception at the mansion house to mark the naming of the *USS Patrick Gallagher*. The event was attended by the Gallagher family, members of the US embassy, former colleagues of Cpl. Gallagher and General Boomer.

This US Navy official picture shows what the USS Patrick Gallagher will look like upon completion. It will be an Arleigh Burke class ship



The Gallagher family has expressed their deep appreciation to all those involved in the naming of the *USS Patrick Gallagher* and also all those involved in the separate Patrick Gallagher Memorial Day held in 2017.

Questions

I have been asked many questions regarding the ship and will try to answer them here:

When and where will the ship be built?

It will be built in the Bath Iron Works in Maine, U.S.A. Currently, there are four Navy ships in various stages of construction in the yard, with two more scheduled to start. One of these scheduled ships will be the *USS Patrick Gallagher*. Construction could start in the next year and it will take approximately three years to build.

What was the process for naming the ship and how many signatures were required?

With regards to the signatures there is no set number: there could have been a yes with five signatures or a no with five million signatures. What is clear is that the signatures collected were vital and succeeded in placing the petition onto the desk of the Navy Review Board. This body considers petitions that they feel have merit. Their work involves reviewing service records and interviewing witnesses. This work is extensive and takes many months to complete. They then send their recommendation to the Secretary of the Navy: he either acts upon the recommendation or rejects it.



Senator Chuck Schumer (*right*) of New York receiving An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in the senator's Washington office on St. Patrick's Day. Sen. Schumer was instrumental in ensuring the success of the campaign to have a US Navy ship named in Cpl. Gallagher's honour.

Why didn't they name a passenger ship after Patrick?

Patrick Gallagher served with the Marines which is part of the US Navy. The majority of passenger ships being built today are cruise ships which belong to civilian companies.

Please feel free to look for updates at www.patrick-gallagherusmc.info

Your past and future support is much appreciated.



Above: At a function in Coventry, 1970s. L-R: Ted Flannelly, Sean Waldron, John 'Doc' Healy, Martin Grogan, Denis Hannan.

Right: Ballyhaunis in Coventry, 1970s. Back, L-R: George Hannan, Martin Grogan, Tommy Moran, Mike Lyons, Sean Waldron. Front, L-R: Kieran Benson, Vincent Keane, Bernie Keane, Michael Keane, Denis Hannan.



Letters to *The Sunday Independent*

MURT HUNT

Children at Heart

Sir, Whilst some people might have bad things to say about the recent weather, what with wind, snow etc., it did my heart good to see the pictures on television and press of kids all over the country out enjoying themselves in the snow. The picture on page 3 of the *Sunday Indo* of three youngsters in their element in the snow was typical of the scenes of our youth, when we always seemed to have snow for the festive season. The children had not much of a chance over the past few Christmas seasons to enjoy themselves outdoors as there was not much snow. When we woke up during the week to a Winter Wonderland, it was for the little people the stuff of dreams. The snowmen of various sizes had to be built, complete with carrot noses, stone buttons, and twigs for hands, and with hats and scarves raided from the wardrobes of the various houses. Of course school was closed, no homework to be done, and loads of time for throwing snowballs. The red faces of the excited children is a different scenario to the pale faced youngsters on the couch watching television. Children get excited about accumulations of snow: it's part of the process of Santa and the reindeer and sleigh.

Of course adults are left with a real blanket of misery as they try to get on with the normal daily life on the back roads and bye-roads of rural Ireland. Who enjoys carrying fodder to livestock? Who enjoys driving a car through snow on roads that have not been gritted? Who enjoys the slush when the snow begins to thaw? Who enjoys shoveling snow? Despite what we think of the snow, it actually adds to the Christmas spirit, and despite the commercialism, a white Christmas can bring out the best in us. It makes us adults into children again who were so excited in our own day to wake to a blanket of snow on the ground.

A Bird is Holding me to Ransom

Sir, I could not start my tractor on Monday last week having previously used it some days before to shift some silage bales. Was the battery flat? Was the starter stuck? Had I a flat wheel? The answer to all these questions was 'no', it was due to something entirely different.

The answer was I was being held to ransom and partially blackmailed by a particular "lady". Did I have a run-in with this "lady"? Did I offend her in any way? Was she in charge of a farm or other financial body that I owed money to, or was she a member of Garda Síochána checking to see had I insurance or tax on said tractor? The answer once again was 'no' to all these questions.

In fact I had supplied this "lady" with a meal on several occasions, on her arriving at my doorstep and

looking very hungry. In fact she brought some of her cousins on occasion to be fed, and they were always given a meal as well. So why then was she stopping me from using my tractor to do my farm work?

Well, Mrs. Thrush, as I later found out to be the name of my "bird", was in fact after doing something to the starter of my tractor. She was after setting up and building her home on top of said starter. She was, of course, of the feathered variety and had laid three eggs in the nest, and this is what led to my dilemma.

On ringing the local conservation society I was informed that they usually get one similar incidence each year and perhaps I could use the tractor as long as it was left back in the same place and position. It would be better if I could just leave it until Mrs. Thrush had her family reared. So I have had to borrow another tractor to do my farm tasks, whilst Mrs. Thrush sits comfortably on her eggs in her home on my tractor, until her brood has hatched out and left their temporary home; they probably will call with her to my doorstep to be given a meal also.

I have been told since that it is a lucky omen having her build her nest in such a manner and place, but I wonder how many people would do as I have done and give up the use of their tractor for so many weeks just to accommodate a "Lady"?

Swallow our Pride

Dear Sir, What a problem with the recent few weeks of very hot temperatures, with admissions to hospitals with sunstroke, sunburn, vomiting, headaches etc. We were not prepared for the intense heat; neither were we prepared for the snow, frost and heavy rain of the last two seasons. We in Ireland never seem to be prepared for the types of weather we get in the four seasons of the year. All and sundry are suffering from the scarcity of water, affecting hospitals, hotels, restaurants, gardens, and public houses, and more especially the farming community who are badly hit with the scarcity of water for their animals and are having to feed silage and hay with the drought and scarcity of grass. As of now the over use of water from the taps and the use of water for flowers etc. is seriously curtailed.

There is however a solution to cover water use for flowers and other duties, and it was covered in Ireland years ago before people became spoiled and got running water in their houses to use for meals, flushing toilets, flowers etc.

I am talking of course about the barrel to catch rainwater that was found outside nearly every back door of houses, and which proved so helpful for the odd jobs

round the house. There were of course concrete water tanks at the back of some houses, many of which were demolished when water on tap became normal. If they were in existence today they would be well full from the torrential rains of the winter and spring gone by. The water could be used for washing clothes, flushing the toilet, and watering flowers, etc. The well was a source of drinking water and they too were made redundant with the installation of water on tap. Bought containers of drinking water from the supermarket are the norm in many households of the present generation.

So I think a barrel or more modern container outside the back door and a large container in the farmyard to catch rainwater would not go astray, and would come in handy in the present type of weather. Are we gone so proud to think that they would be unsightly at the back of the house or in the farmyard? If we had them today we could swallow our pride with the knowledge we could wash our clothes, water our flowers and have drinking water for our animals.

Retired but not Forgotten

Sir, What a dramatic and even sad weekend gone by when three of Ireland's best ever sports people all decided to retire all in the space of a few days. I am talking about the great John Muldoon of Connacht rugby fame, and the sister-in-law pairing of jockeys Nina Carberry and Katie Walsh. When I read in the Sunday Indo that Nina had retired after riding a winner at Punchestown, it was quite a shock as I could not grasp

that now three top sports persons were gone.

I was watching John playing his part in Connacht's big win on Saturday over Leinster and also Katie riding her last winner at Punchestown before retiring on Friday, and then to find out that Nina had called it a day also.

The three of them were so brave in their own particular sport. John being so brave in rescuing the ball from scrums and going highest in the lineouts on various pitches in various countries. The two ladies risking life and limb in horse racing whether it be over the jumps or on the flat. After Nina had her baby last year and came back racing again, my heart was in my mouth each time her name was down for racing. I was so afraid that she would have a fall and get injured, but thank God she came out safe each time.

Nina and Katie were born into racing and it was in their genes to become great at their professions, whereas John came from a hurling background but defied all odds to become one of the greats with the oval ball. The amount of pleasure they have given to us all whether it was on the football field or the racecourse is immense, and my wish is for the best of luck and health to them in whatever path in life they now choose. Thanks sincerely for the memories.

P.S. I called a greyhound Nina some years ago, after Nina Carberry of course, but she never possessed the same courage or determination to win on the track as her namesake, and took very early retirement.



Knox St.,
Ballyhaunis,
circa 1940.
Published
by
M. Flatley,
Ballyhaunis.

Wonderful Musical Memories – *Calamity Jane* 1994

Next March, 2019, marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the staging of 'Calamity Jane' by the Ballyhaunis Musical Society. The following is taken from a review by Musical Society member Seán Ó Domhnaill who was local correspondent for the *Western People* at that time.

Ballyhaunis compensated for the lack of a summer festival this year (1994) with a high profile week as their first musical in forty-two years, *Calamity Jane*, hit the stage earlier in the month (March). It was a highly commendable production and became a reality due to the enthusiasm of the Ballyhaunis populace and the very high level of co-operation between all concerned. Attendance-wise the show was an outstanding success, surprising many of the organisers as much as anyone else, and with the unfortunate consequence that a great number of people had to be turned away.

To the cast must go all the plaudits – a group of people determined to pull together and give of their best, putting the work in and enjoying together the social aspect of the musical, an important aspect in all such groups! Of course this first production had the invaluable backup of the Teamwork Training Scheme

under the supervision of talented designer, Mary Smyth, and all the costumes were made by these very able young ladies: Sylvia Denny, Kathy Jordan, Olivia Fleming, Noreen Fleming, Sharon Walsh and Sheila McInerney. Other professional backup came from the Chamber of Commerce/FÁS duo of Emmett Keane and Daire Loughran.

It will also have been a source of satisfaction to Ballyhaunis people that the Scout Den was used for such a popular local production in view of the fact that it was here that Seamus Durkan used to put on his very successful plays. Of course the cosy Parochial Hall is the regular venue of the productions of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, one of whose productions will soon be in the offing.

Aesthetically, 'Calamity Jane' was a great success for many people, particularly those new to the stage.



Ballyhaunis Musical Society, 1993, in preparation for 'Calamity Jane'.

Back, L-R: Nuala Fitzgerald, Aidan Kelly, Micheál Smyth, Micheál Horan, Emmet Keane, Adrian Murray, Mike Grogan, Kevin Henry, Kieran Sherry, John O'Shaughnessy, Georgie Hannan. Second row, L-R: Mike Byrne, Anna Henry, Louise Foley, Aisling Toal, Siobhán Harte, Una Shields, Ray Leonard, Jack Greene. Seated, L-R: Anne Fitzgerald, Christine Concannon, Betty Coen, Rena Burke, Daire Loughran, Elaine Walsh, Caroline Walsh. Front, L-R: Tina Kirrane, Sylvia Denny, Eileen Jordan, Celine Murray, Helen Lyons, Mary Smyth, Madeline Niland.

Michael Byrne as 'Miller' was in effervescent form; Micheál Horan as the male lead was more than impressive; Ann Fitzgerald as 'Susan' was superb; Kevin Henry as 'Francis Fryer' was hilariously funny; while hats-off to the main person in the show, Louise Foley, who showed remarkable poise as Calamity herself. Producer Ray Leonard must have been pleased with their efforts. He must also have been very happy with the successes of the other leading performers who had some previous stage experience: Anna Henry as the lovely 'Katie Brown'; Michael Grogan as the brave 'Lieutenant Danny', Aisling Toal as the enchanting 'Adelaide Adams'; Micheál Smyth in his impeccable role as 'Doc'; and of course, the redoubtable Jack Greene as stagecoach driver, the 'elegant' 'Rattlesnake'!

However, a quintessential part of the show was the spirited chorus, who showed a confidence that suggested lifetimes in show-business, and whose overall excellence must reflect great credit on chorus mistress, Nuala Fitzgerald. Their choreography must also be a tribute to Áine Whelan, who also did tremendous work with groups such as the Can-Can dancers (Sylvia Denny, Laura Finn, Patricia Fadian, Sheila McInerney, Paula Moran and Maura O'Neill); the Sweet Patootie Dancers (Loretto Carney, Karen Henry, Helen Lyons, Paula Moran, Madeleine Niland and Caroline Walsh); not to mention the Four Johnnies (Lorcan Higgins, Emmett Keane, John Leonard and Ciaran Sherry).

The excellent local orchestra was under the baton of Musical Director, Noel Henry, Michael Brogan, Moira Delaney, Ita Fahey, Alan Delaney and Anna Butler, made a superb contribution to the production.

On the final night, Musical Society Treasurer, Moira Noone, made a presentation to Chairman, John O'Neill and his wife Maura who will soon be departing Ballyhaunis as John takes up a position in Dundalk. It was fitting that it was at the end of a great week of music and stage for Ballyhaunis that John and Maura, who are both more than greatly interested in music and stage, should receive such a presentation on behalf of the Society and town.



The cast of Calamity Jane on stage in the Scout Den, March 1994.

Back, L-R: Pat Doyle, Aiden Kelly, Georgie Hannan, Luke Murray, Sean Ó Domhnaill, Adrian Murray. Centre, L-R: Caroline Walsh, Loretto Carney, Karen Henry, Madeline Niland, Helen Lyons, Brian Hunt, Emmett Keane, John Leonard, Kevin Henry, Anne Fitzgerald, Micheál Horan, Louise Foley, Michael Grogan, Anna Gillespie, Aisling Toal, Mike Byrne, Jack Greene, Micheál Smyth, Lorcan Higgins, Ciarán Sherry, Sylvia Denny, Paula Moran, Laura Finn, Patricia Fadian, Sheila McInerney, Maura O'Neill. Front, L-R: Martina Freyne, Una Shields, Rena Burke, Eileen Jordan, Patricia Grogan, Celine Murray, Tina Kirrane, Daire Loughran, Christina Nolan, Mary Lyons. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh*

Birthday Celebrations

Joe and Marcella Keane (Knox St.) with their eight children, pictured at a family gathering in August, 2018 to celebrate Joe's 95th and Marcella's 80th birthdays.

Standing, L-R: Pat, Tony, Joe, John and Robert. Seated: Gillian, Marcella, Joe, Karen and Stella.

Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher.

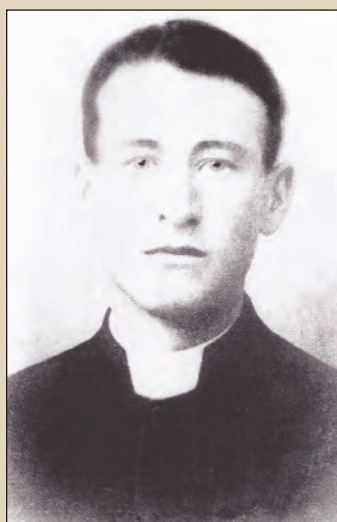


Joe and Marcella Keane and extended family at their Birthday Celebration

Back, L-R: Pat Keane, Andy Cockburn, Robert Cockburn, Robert Keane, Cillian Keane, John Keane, Helen Keane, Iain Edmondson. Centre, L-R: Tony Keane, Carol Keane, Luke Walsh, Ella Keane, Adam Walsh, Cian Walsh, Lauren Keane, Tara Keane, Joanne Keane and Joe Keane. Seated, L-R: Gillian Edmondson, Karen Cockburn, Joe Keane, Marcella Keane, Stella Keane, Louise Keane and baby Juliet Keane. Front: Joe Keane Jnr., Jamie Edmondson, Harvey Keane, Georgina Keane and Alex Edmondson. *Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher.*



Patrick Francis Moran and Mary Anne (Heneghan) Moran, Coolnafarna, Ballyhaunis.



Fr. John Thomas Heneghan.

The visit of Pope Francis to Knock on Sunday, 26th August this year reminded many of the visit to the Marian Shrine of his predecessor Pope John Paul II on 30th Sept. 1979. That grey, overcast evening thirty-nine years ago is recalled locally too for the tragic motoring accident which claimed the life of Tommy Moran of Coolnafarna. Tommy's family lived and farmed at Coolnafarna through

many generations. His grandparents Patrick Francis Moran and Mary Anne (nee Heneghan) Moran had the farm in Coolnafarna prior to Tommy's parents James and Margaret. Mary Anne was originally from Doogary, Aghamore and had a younger brother Fr. John Thomas Heneghan. He was ordained for the Missions in All Hallows in 1907 at the age of 27, and was sent on his Priestly mission to Australia. In 1915 he signed up with the Australian Army Medical Corps during World War 1. Father John returned to Europe and was killed in action whilst serving with the Australian Medical Services in France, 22nd March 1918, one-hundred years ago, and a few months before the end of 'The War to end all Wars'.



Helen Hoban (nee Carney, Mountain), Kathleen Hallinan (daughter of Eileen Finnegan, Tavnaghmore), John Finnegan (Tavnaghmore).



Jimmy Joe and Kitty Sloyan (Brackloon North) celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 1st July 2018. Pictured here with Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.

Do You Remember?

JAMES HUNT

My first and earliest memories are of rural Ireland with just one oil lamp in the kitchen with a glass globe and that was the light of the time to see you through the long winter's night. The paraffin was on sale in most local shops. The Rosary was said by all the family on bended knees, each one kneeling with a chair in front of them. The man of the house began the Rosary and each one in turn recited a decade. People walked to Mass. There were two Masses in Kilmovee on Sunday mornings, one at 9.00 and the second at 11.30. We had two priests in those days – the parish priest and the curate – and we had another curate in Kilkelly. The children walked to Mass and some of the older people did too.

There were no cars among the poorer families; only the richer families had cars mostly teachers, priests, vets and those with good incomes. The largest number of people in the parish had very little by way of earthly goods. They worked hard for little gain. Then you only had to buy very little: flour, sugar and tea. We had everything else. The only crimes were ragwort and thistles on the land, no dog licence, no shoes on your horse or donkey, and a name not written on the cart. Others were having no light on your bike or cycling two-abreast on the road. Men drove cars when they came to be a little more plentiful. Cars were all black as there were no other colours available at that time. They were all petrol cars. Radios were a rarity.

Then in 1961 there was talk of rural electrification, putting electric light in every house in the country. Some of the older people said it could not happen, but happen it did. Many of the people of the time would not take into

the house. They were afraid of it because they heard it was dangerous could kill a person. The change came and Ireland was never the same. All the mod cons that we have today came because of this.

Radio Eireann (RTE) was followed by the opening of RTE Television by President Eamon De Valera. After that televisions became more popular around the area. There was only one station, RTE1. Later RTE 2 followed. Cars became more plentiful as did tractors, such as the Ferguson 20, fuelled by TVO and later diesel. Over the years tractors got bigger to what we have today.

At that time there were very few phones, only in our post offices, and after 6.00 pm you were completely isolated from the rest of the world. I remember cycling to Ballaghaderreen to contact the doctor in the evening time from the post box in town. There were a few hackney cars that brought people to the train to go to England.

Do you remember the parcels coming from the UK and the USA? In them were clothes for the people at home. Farmers walked with their livestock to the local towns. Ration books were part of the rural scene during the War. Few people were going to the doctors and even fewer going to hospital because there was no way of going there only in an emergency. Missions were part of the religious calendar at the time. Farmers did all the work by hand and cycled everywhere. People ate plain food with plenty of salt and fat bacon and most of them smoked and took a night cap of brandy or whiskey. Hope you enjoyed this article.

A Ballyhaunis drama group in the early 1990s.

Back, L-R:
Patrick
O'Malley,
Jack Greene,
Pat Doyle,
Anna Gillespie,
Martin Forde,
Aisling Toal,
Maura O'Neill.
Front:
Moirá Noone,
Kevin Henry,
Padraic Lyons.



An Goirtín – Baile Beag le Croí Mór

MARY HENRY

In the Spring of 2016, over a cup of tea in Ann Phillips' kitchen, a discussion took place about how Gurteen could mark the centenary of the 1916 rising. The idea to document life 100 years ago and compare it to life in 2016 was first mooted. Immediately we knew for this to work it would have to involve the whole village.

Our first meeting was held in the back bar of Phillips', or 'The Cape' as it is known by the Gurteens, and as usual there was great support and enthusiasm from the people of Gurteen. We went on to have several meetings over the following three months or so and gradually the bones of what we wanted to do and achieve took shape. The next part was to put flesh on those bones in the shape of stories, photos, and reminiscences of the past. It took the best part of eighteen months to complete this part of the project.

The starting point was to take the census of 1911, as this was the one closest to 1916, and document and remember the people recorded in it. Many of the people in that census had no living relative either in Gurteen or elsewhere. In some cases, there is no trace of the houses they lived in. It was very important to everyone that these people were not forgotten. By remembering them in this publication this goal would be achieved. We wanted to give a little insight into their lives and make them real as opposed to just a line of information on a census form. One of the tasks we undertook was to look at each household in 1911 and trace each of the residents. What did they do in later life, did they emigrate, who they married, who are their descendants? This was really interesting and rewarding and by the end we felt we almost knew the people we were writing about. These people's lives were not easy. Emigration was a fact of life. Men, women and children all worked extremely hard to make a living. Housing was very basic with no modern conveniences we take for granted today. What seems to have helped them was that there was a great sense of community and working together and a strong faith.

Gurteen present

In addition to remembering the past we also felt it was important to record the present. All the children of the village were asked to tell their stories about life as a child in 2016 as well as the teenagers in secondary



Members of the Gurteen Cultural and Heritage Society, make a presentation to Patricia Byrne (Author), who launched 'An Goirtín – Baile Beag le Croí Mór' at The Dalgan, Ballyhauins on Friday night, 1st June 2018. L-R: Liam Lynskey, Anne Phillips, Patricia Byrne, Orla Moran and Mary Henry.



Jacinta Flynn, Carol Keane, Helena Byrne, pictured at the launch of the Gurteen commemorative book.



Pictured at the launch of the Gurteen commemorative book during the summer were residents of the village, from left: Paul Claffey, Mickey Brennan, Michael Flynn and Donal Moran.

school. In addition, we were lucky to get a view of life by third level students. We also received articles about growing up in Gurteen through the decades. While the core group eventually became four people this publication would not have been possible without the support of the people of Gurteen and further afield.

In the early days somebody said, "Wouldn't it be great if we could get a few old photographs?" We ended up with more than we could print, however, all of them have been scanned for posterity. Some of the most surprising photos came from Seamus Mulrennan's collection. In 1934 Seamus' aunt Helen returned from America with her husband. They brought their car with them from Boston, sailing into Galway. One can only imagine the stir it created as the car negotiated the highways and byways of Gurteen!



Pictured at the Gurteen commemorative book launch, John Morley (left) and Milo Henry.

Once all of the articles and photos were collated thoughts turned to how to fund the publication of the book. A wise person may say that we should have thought of that before we embarked on two years work, however, we had great belief in the project and knew from the support we had already received that we would be able to fund it. We set about contacting the people of Gurteen as well as the extended Gurteen family living



Attending the Gurteen book launch last June were Carol Keane, Marie Brennan and Sylvia Caulfield.

further afield and asked if they would like to become a patron. We were overwhelmed with the response we received and, after two years of work, our book titled 'An Goirtín – Baile Beag le Croí Mór' was launched at a function in the Dalgan, Main St., Ballyhaunis. We were honoured to have Patricia Byrne launch the book. Patricia was born and grew up in Greenwood. Her mother was Kit Brennan from Gurteen who married Pake Murphy. She writes narrative non-fiction. Her latest book, 'The Preacher and the Prelate: The Achill Mission Colony and the Battle for Souls in Famine Ireland', was published in April this year. Her work has features in New Hibernia Review, The Irish Times 'Irish Woman's Diary', Sunday Miscellany and a range of other outlets. Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. also attended, and we paused to remember and pray for the people of Gurteen both past and present.

We have had fantastic feedback from readers, particularly those who grew up in the village and are now living abroad but still have a strong connection with the place they call 'home'.

This publication is very much the work of the people of Gurteen both at home and away. The committee facilitated putting their stories, photos and reminiscences together. We hope it will be a valuable resource for future generations.

St. Vincent de Paul

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.



Faith and Light Community

JEAN VANIER INSPIRES THE NEWEST FAITH AND LIGHT COMMUNITY - BALLYHAUNIS

Jean Vanier is a Catholic humanitarian who was born in Geneva, Switzerland in 1928. He spent his early years between England and France, before serving with the British and Canadian navies. In 1950 he resigned his position with the Canadian Navy in order to explore his sense that Jesus was calling him to a different way of life. He met a Dominican priest, Fr. Thomas Philippe who was to have a great influence on him. Inspired by Fr. Thomas, Jean completed a Doctorate Degree in Philosophy and became a lecturer at the University of Toronto. At the end of his first term as lecturer, Jean paid a visit to his friend Fr. Thomas who was now chaplain to a home for some thirty men with intellectual disabilities in Trosly, France. His encounter with these men made a deep impact on him. Jean decided to rent a small house in the village of Trosly, and to invite two men from a nearby psychiatric hospital to live with him. For the three men it was the beginning of a totally new way of life. Raphael could barely speak and Philippe found it hard to concentrate. As Jean recalled: "Essentially, they wanted a friend. They were not very interested in my knowledge or my ability to do things, but rather they needed my heart and my being." The three men began to live as a family, carrying out the normal chores of family life together – going shopping, washing clothes, working in the garden, praying, going to Mass, etc. This home became the first L'Arche community. L'Arche is a French



Jean Vanier pictured with a member of the L'Arche Community in Trosly, France

word meaning "The Ark." Within a short time, other homes were founded, and young people from France, and other countries e.g. Canada, England and Germany, volunteered to become "assistants" living as a family with people with intellectual disabilities. What is distinctive about L'Arche is that it is based on the teachings of Jesus. Its members try to follow Jesus' teaching to "Love God and love your neighbour as yourself". Today L'Arche consists of 151 communities spread over five continents.

Jean Vanier also co-founded Faith and Light with Marie-Hélène Mathieu. In the late 1960s persons with an intellectual disability were unwelcome as participants in common pilgrimage groups. Following an appeal by parents, Jean Vanier and Marie Hélène Mathieu put plans in motion for a pilgrimage by people with intellectual disabilities to Lourdes. About 12,000 people from all over the world took part in this pilgrimage in 1971. Of these, some 4,000 were people with intellectual disabilities. After the success of the event, the participants wanted to continue to meet in small communities and so Faith and Light was born. Faith and Light creates communities where people with intellectual disabilities along with their families and friends are invited to participate in monthly meetings to share friendship, prayer and celebration. Faith and Light has nearly 1,500 such communities in 81 countries on five continents.

We are pleased to say that the newest of these communities is our Faith and Light Community in Ballyhaunis.

The Ballyhaunis Faith and Light Community was set up by the Inclusion sub-committee of the Parish Pastoral Council. In October 2017, Fr. Stephen invited Fr. Fergal Cunnane and Miriam Judge from Dunmore and Bernie Noonan from the Castlebar Faith and Light Community



Four members of Ballyhaunis Faith and Light visit Trosly, France. L-R: Geraldine O'Dwyer, Mary Judge, Orla Judge and Julia Kelly.

to share with us its history, the Irish connection and how meetings known as fiestas are organised. Filled with enthusiasm we decided to set up our own local group. In November, some members of our committee visited with the Castlebar Faith and Light group and later attended the Irish Faith and Light Annual Conference in Clarenbridge where they were welcomed with open arms. We held our inaugural meeting in the Community House in Clare Court on 15th April 2018. Twenty-six people attended, drawn not only from our own local community but also from Castlebar and Dunmore Faith and Light. It was a wonderful occasion and enjoyed by all who attended. This was followed by a number of

events including the annual Irish Faith and Light Pilgrimage to Knock and our second fiesta/barbeque in July. In September, we held a fiesta for our own local community. We plan to host a fiesta every month and to continue to link with Dunmore and Castlebar Faith and Light communities for special occasions such as Halloween and Christmas. We are delighted to have Geraldine and Noreen joining us as volunteers. Our fiestas have also benefited from the musical talents of Miriam Judge and the students from the local Community School. We are also appreciative of the support that Fr. Stephen, Fr. Fergal, Mary Donnelly, Gerry McLoughlin and Noelle Keegan provide. It is our

experience that Faith and Light has not only enhanced the lives of people with intellectual disabilities but has also enriched our own lives.

One of the highlights for four members of our community was a recent visit to Trosly, France where they met with members of other Faith and Light communities from around Ireland. They also had the privilege of meeting Jean Vanier and were invited to attend his ninetieth birthday celebration Mass. It was a memorable experience for all involved.

Anyone who would like to know more and get involved in the local Faith and Light community, please contact the names below. For us, the mission of Faith and Light is to defend the dignity of the disabled and to promote their integration into society.

We have discovered that

*“we are
more alike
than
different!”*

Julia Kelly – 0860764709,
Anne Lyons – 0876892848,
Orla Phillips – 0860858122.



Jamie and his family enjoying the summer barbecue at Clare Court with Julia Kelly, Anne Lyons and Orla Phillips.



Doing Art and Crafts is an activity we do at our Fiestas.

Film Action in Togher and Knox Street

There was great excitement in Togher and on Knox St., Ballyhaunis, on Tuesday, 11th Sept. last when on-location filming took place for a short horror-drama called 'Wrath'.

The film, produced by Bear Print Films under the direction of Suri Grennell, is funded by Screen Ireland (formerly the Irish Film Board) as part of its Short Stories Scheme.

The logline (brief plot outline) reads: "At the precipice of womanhood and plagued with foreboding dreams, Maria must confront the mistrust of her family as a strange epidemic sweeps the nation."

Sourcing of suitable locations was carried out by members of the production team led by Bjorn Gill, who lives on Clare Island. As well as Ballyhaunis, filming also took place in Belcarra and Straide, where some scenes required a large number of extras.

The scenes in Togher were shot in the morning at the home of the late Vincent Fitzmaurice (facilitated by the current owner, Oliver Cribbin), while filming in town required Knox Street to be closed for several hours in the afternoon.

The Togher scenes featured a specially trained Raven brought by its handler all the way from Co. Wicklow, and which was a star performer in 'Vikings', the highly acclaimed historical drama series filmed in Co. Wicklow screened on RTÉ television over the past few years.

Running to between five and ten minutes in length, 'Wrath' will have its first screening at the Galway Film Fleadh next July (2019), after which it will be shown at various film festivals around the country.



(Top) Filming underway at Togher. The former Fitzmaurice home is in the background.

(Above) The Raven during filming in Togher – a veteran of several films and drama series, including 'Vikings'.



The West's Awake! Upper Main Street man and former journalist, Mick O'Connell, in full flow as he renders *The West's Awake*, while Brian Byrne and Grahame Cleary enjoy the performance. 1990s.

Fit-For-Life

Back in the summer of 2011, Ann Cunnane, Martin Fitzmaurice and I, along with the Mayo Sports Partnership, set up a walk/run group in Ballyhaunis. Our first meeting took place one Saturday morning in July. As a personal trainer with TC's Fitness, I discussed the importance of exercise in one's lifestyle and showed the group how to warm up. I also did core work with some members to help them achieve their goals. Some members like to walk while others like to run.

Fast forward seven years and Fit4Life is still going strong. In 2018, a process was put in place to establish a new leader for future years. Karen Clancy was elected leader and many of the original members are still there. The group meets up on Tuesdays at 7pm and at 9am on Saturday mornings. It is a very welcoming group and whether you want to walk or run you can go at your own pace. By now we have run every road around the town of Ballyhaunis. It's good to have a goal and to work towards it. If road races interest you, the most popular races are in Craughwell, Ballina and Achill. The Park Run in Claremorris is also popular. Going to races is also great socially - meeting new and inspiring people. The T-shirts and medals at some races are a nice bonus, not to mention the food.

Some of us initially just wanted to have a comfortable run, hopefully building up to 5k. Little did

we know that a few of us would end up completing full marathons and some members have now completed three marathons. One of the girls said, "I'd love to do a marathon but I'd never manage it". But Justin said, "Yes you can, if you do the training, we can do this together", and she has now completed three marathons. You will be encouraged and helped by this great bunch, and make great friends along the way.

The Ballyhaunis 8k Run has been on the go now for eleven years and was in operation before Fit4Life. It is growing every year and is very popular on the Mayo Athletic Club calendar and draws participants from many counties. TC's Fitness sponsor medals and help promote the race.

I now look back to that summer morning in 2011 and am proud that this group is still going. Many friendships have been made in it and members have achieved so much. Personally, I remember completing my first Ballyhaunis 8k. It was hard but I was over the moon and on a high for about a month, I never thought I'd do an 8k. That feeling was equalled on completion of Galway's Marathon last year - you get such a buzz, you can't buy it. So believe and you will achieve! Registration takes place in January but you can join the Fit4Life group anytime. Check out our Facebook page, contact Karen Clancy or any of our members for information.



From Ballyhaunis to Dungar - The French connection

SEAMUS KENNY

Frenchpark

In the early seventeenth century, Patrick French, a successful merchant from the town of Galway purchased extensive landed properties in the counties of Roscommon and Sligo. He was a member of the French family who were one of the famed 'Tribes' of Galway. During the unsettled political times of seventeenth century Ireland, landed properties and vast estates changed hands depending on the political rulers of the day. In French's case, some of his newly purchased lands were initially deprived of him by the then Lord Deputy of Ireland, the Earl of Stafford, but by 1656 Patrick French had acquired 6,000 acres from the new Cromwellian commissioners in County Roscommon. After the royal restoration, the family still retained a large portion of these lands by patent from the crown with the 'Act of Settlement' in 1666.

Patrick French built his family mansion in Dungar, which was to be later renamed Frenchpark, less than eighteen miles from the town of Ballyhaunis. He died in 1669 and his acquired properties stayed in his family. Over the following years, the French estate extended their holding in the area acquiring lands of the old Irish O'Connor family from west Roscommon from the Trustees of Forfeited Estates. It is reputed that some lands of the vast Dillon estate that covered Ballyhaunis were also acquired by the French family near Loughglynn early in the eighteenth century. Indeed records in the National Library of Ireland in Dublin allude to some land border difficulties in Lisacul and Loughglynn relative to ownership and boundary lines as the eighteenth century concluded.

Early Ballyhaunis connections

As regards any direct connectivity of Ballyhaunis to the Lords of Frenchpark in the eighteenth century, the most relevant aspect was the proximity of the French estate which followed county border lines about three miles from Ballyhaunis on the old post road to Loughglynn. The Gorthaganny area of today was mainly part of the vast French estate, with parts belonging to the Brabazon and Sandford estates. Curiously, with the rise of the 'Protestant Ascendancy' in the eighteenth century, the French family and other families loyal to the crown started to build more houses and lodges on their estates as well as purchasing properties in the growing towns and cities such as Dublin and Galway which were often subsequently shared by descendant siblings. Like the old Irish landed systems of times past, many of the

recognised gentry of this era built their new houses in strategic places throughout their estates often close to the newly developed roads that they often helped to finance with government and Grand Jury support.

According to historic records, the Lords of Frenchpark built a lodge on the picturesque site of Erritt Lake in the early years of the eighteenth century, which was seen as a resting house or summer house to relax in and share with family and friends, hunting, fishing and taking boating trips at their leisure.

The French family decided to build another house about a mile from Erritt Lodge that, according to local lore, was built as the result of a chance meeting of the Lord of Frenchpark with an elderly man at the old Carrowbehy crossroads. As told by Thady Finn from Gorthaganny – on the iconic radio show 'Looking West' in 1984 – the story alludes to concerns in the French family that many children were dying at a young age. A doctor in Dublin advised the French family to move to an area of bogland that would enable them to have a healthier lifestyle. On this particular day the head of the French family noticed that the elderly man was very upset. On inquiring of the man's misfortune, the elderly man said that he had to leave his home nearby as he wished to get married but his father was against it. On further questioning, the disconsolate man said that he was seventy-five years of age and from the village of Taughnoose. On hearing the story, the master of Frenchpark decided to build a house in this area in order to afford his family a healthier lifestyle. Caher House, also referred to as Caher Hall, was duly constructed near Carrowbehy crossroads beside the village of Taughnoose.

Maps of Ireland in the eighteenth century, such as Herman Moll's map of Ireland of 1714, recognised the commercial importance of the Ballyhaunis to Frenchpark road as part of a significant route to Dublin from the west of Ireland. Later maps referred to this road as a 'coach road' or a 'post road' to Dublin when used for the national postal service. The Dublin Almanac and General Register of Ireland of 1841 outline details on the 'Penny Post' system in Ballyhaunis where the mail coach came into Ballyhaunis from Claremorris and travelled on to Frenchpark on its way to Dublin. The Ballyhaunis to Frenchpark road was also part of the primary route between Sligo and Galway for commercial travellers and any related activity.



Fitzstephen French of Erritt Lodge

With the onset of the nineteenth century, the involvement of the French family in Ballyhaunis affairs increased. Lord Arthur French, who died in 1820, was married to Margaret Costello, daughter of Edmund Costello of Edmondstown near Ballaghaderreen, a member of the former Norman lords of the barony that included Ballyhaunis. Two of their sons

took up residence four miles from Ballyhaunis. Captain Charles French, who served in the British army during the Napoleonic wars in France, occupied Caher house while their youngest child, Fitzstephen French, occupied Erritt Lodge. Their eldest son, Arthur Jnr., also gained the title of first Baron De Freyne of Artagh and Coolavin from the Peerage of the United Kingdom.

In the late 1820s Fitzstephen French of Erritt Lodge was recorded as sharing his family interest in horses and the associated sporting life. A young science graduate of Trinity College, he had not followed his elder siblings into the British army or clerical duties in the Church of Ireland, which were often the preferred occupations of young gentleman of the Irish gentry classes who were not to inherit any peerage title. However, Fitzstephen did share his family interest in local and national politics of the day. His father, his brother Arthur and many of his ancestral family served in the Irish and London Parliaments mostly representing Roscommon and local boroughs. Fitzstephen French supported Daniel O'Connell and Catholic Emancipation and was an advocate for the repeal of the union with Britain. Although a Protestant and a younger gentleman, he attended rallies and championed Catholic Emancipation throughout the west of Ireland helping it attain credibility among all classes of society. Although unsuccessful in winning a parliamentary seat in Sligo, he took the seat vacated by his elder brother Arthur in 1832 as an Irish Liberal Party member alongside the O'Connor Don of Castlerea in the Roscommon constituency.

Famine and Young Ireland movement

After Catholic emancipation had been achieved there was a growing anticipation throughout Ireland that great educational and occupational opportunities for the Catholic majority would offer greater possibility of the return of an Irish Parliament governed by an Irish people and championed by Daniel O'Connell and his followers.

However, through the 1830s and 1840s, while a majority of liberal minded Irish politicians like Fitzstephen French supported greater autonomy for Ireland, there was still much ambiguity and lack of coherence in pursuing national objectives. The country was still an impoverished land with a growing poorer class dependant on small landholdings for food and survival. With the potato crop starting to fail in the late 1840s, the onset of the 'Great hunger' and the death of the feted 'Liberator', Daniel O'Connell, the country was in turmoil. Records of this period in Ballyhaunis and surrounding hinterland reflect the great anguish and sorrow that permeated throughout Ireland. The recently released Irish Famine Papers outline the great difficulty that the Ballyhaunis Relief group had in purchasing Indian meal even at inflated prices. In a letter forwarded by relief chairman, Edward McDonnell in September 1846, it was stated that contributions were primarily received from the church and local merchants as there were no resident gentry in the town.

The lack of resident gentry was apparent two years later when a letter was published in the Freeman's Journal newspaper on the 24th of October 1848, written by John Burke a solicitor in Ballyhaunis, requesting clemency of Queen Victoria to the Young Ireland leaders who tried to orchestrate a rebellion against the crown. The revolt was prompted by the lack of progress for any type of independence and home rule, especially in a land suffering a great hunger. At the meeting held in Ballyhaunis to prepare the protest letter, Captain Charles French of Caher House was the first named advocate for clemency to be shown to the Young Ireland leaders, in a list which included local clergy, magistrates and merchants based in and around Ballyhaunis district. Indeed, another letter was prepared two years later and most of the same names were mentioned in communications advocating greater leniency and mercy to be shown to Young Ireland leader, William Gavin Duffy, who was sent to Van Diemen's land. Names also in these communications of protest from Ballyhaunis included James Dillon (Coogue), Joseph A. Crean (Ballinvilla), A.T. Crean, George Knox (Greenwood), Patrick O'Kelly (Lisduff Lodge), Fr. Eugene Coyne P.P., Dr. James Davis, Fr P. Duffy P.P., Fr. John Finn O.S.A., Thomas Tyrrell (Annagh), Nicholas Jordan, Hugh Burke from Holywell and John O'Gara (Derreens).

Fitzstephen French also promoted greater tolerance to be shown to the Young Ireland leadership at a difficult time in Ireland and was part of Irish MP deputations in London that were actively involved in the successful efforts to relax the sentence of death for sedition on leaders such as William Smith O'Brien and John Blake Dillon of Ballaghaderreen who had fled the country. (Interestingly, in later years, John Blake Dillon's daughter

Nannie Dillon married a nephew of Captain Charles and Fitzstephen French).

Fitzstephen French, the politician

Fitzstephen French, as a politician, was perceived as a master diplomat, amiable and noted for maintaining friendships with many politicians from differing political allegiances. His long political career is attributed to his ability to advocate actions and improvements associated with local issues. Records of the London parliament sessions allude to his many contributions and efforts to improve agricultural practises in the west of Ireland, especially his efforts to champion improvements in drainage, fishing and navigation around the Shannon. During the Famine period, Fitzstephen French had advocated greater work scheme opportunities for the local tenantry that proved somewhat successful in certain areas, and there are records of his vocal protestations for greater help for his starving constituents. The French family also bought grain from their own funds for their tenants and organised the cutting of trees on their estate to keep local families warm in winter.

A feature of his later political life was his continuing concerns regarding the non-appointment of Irish citizens to positions of authority in the country. In saying that, he was appointed a colonel of the local militia and a member of Queen Victoria's privy council in Ireland in 1866. In consideration of his personal popularity and gregarious nature, he was also appointed as chairman of the refreshments committee in the House of Commons where he served for many years until his death in 1873.

Fitzstephen and rail development in the west

The greatest achievement of Fitzstephen French's long political career that affected Ballyhaunis and environs was his active role in supporting rail development in Ireland where he is recorded to have lobbied English government ministers to invest in rail development in the country. Indeed records show that he was one the most active Irish parliamentarians in this venture. He was appointed chairman of the provisional committee of the Greater Western Railway Company in building a track through Athlone linking Galway to Dublin. The track to Galway was eventually completed in 1851 having been constructed during the famine period under great financial difficulties, and was completed by the Midland Great Western Rail Company.

His interest in continual rail development to the rest of the west of Ireland was recorded. On 21st January 1854, his brother Captain Charles French of Caher



Valentine and Mary Josephine O'Connor Blake (nee French). Mary was born at Caher House, Carrowbehy and was only daughter of Charles, third Baron De Freyne and Catherine Maree.

House chaired a meeting in Roscommon Court House attended by Fitzstephen, Lord Crofton and other local gentry and interested parties to try and organise and lobby for the completion of a rail line through Roscommon and continuing into Mayo. This lobby group was primarily formulated to ensure that a suitable rail line was facilitated for the west of Ireland. There were fears that any prospective railway to Mayo would be constructed and extended from the Athenry to Tuam rail track thereby bypassing most of the county of Roscommon. While the meeting aroused great interest, concerns arose as to where the rail track should be constructed. Two options were being considered relative to interest of respective rail companies and prospective investors. The first was a rail line from Longford passing through or near Strokestown, Frenchpark, Ballaghaderreen and onto Castlebar and Westport. The second option was a new longer rail track from Athlone to Roscommon and on to Castlerea. By the end of 1855, Fitzstephen French was the appointed chairperson of the Northern and Great Western Railway Company which championed a proposed rail track option from Longford to Strokestown passing by north Roscommon and into Mayo. A separate line was also to be made to Ballina from Castlebar, with more planned rail lines to other parts of southern Mayo. Interestingly, the working committee also comprised of gentry such as his brother Arthur French (Baron De Freyne), John Nolan Farrell (Logboy), Nicholas Balfe (Castlerea), Charles Strickland (Lord Dillon's agent, Loughglynn House), Oliver Grace MP (Elphin) and the Earl of Lucan (Castlebar). Conversely, Lord Crofton from Roscommon was a strong lobbyist for the Athlone option which, over the coming years, attracted greater interest from respective investors and the local gentry. By the late 1850s and after much discussion, disagreement and procrastination, the

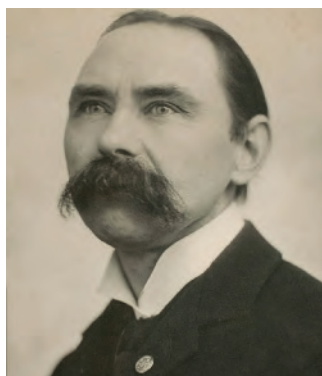
rail track from Athlone to Roscommon was approved and activated. The new rail track was eventually approved by legislators to go on to Castlerea and enter Mayo at Ballyhaunis, constructed by the Midland Great Western and Greater Northern and Western Railway Company.

When this route was approved, Fitzstephen French lauded and advanced the credentials of the preferred development via Athlone. Indeed records alluding to the planned completion of the rail track to Ballyhaunis, as noted in local newspapers of the day, recorded French's interest. *The Roscommon Messenger*, dated 11th of August 1861, proclaimed that Lord Crofton, Colonel French, associated railway engineers and officials attended a viewing by a Captain Tyler, appointed by the Rail Company, to inspect the new rail track from Castlerea to Ballyhaunis. After the inspection, a luncheon was held at the newly constructed Ballyhaunis station to celebrate the venture. On Monday, the 9th of September 1861, the railway station in Ballyhaunis was formally opened and operational for commercial travel.

A Trinity College science graduate, Fitzstephen French was a noted antiquarian who researched and collated details about the instigation and development of the Irish parliamentary system primarily orchestrated by the Norman lords of times past. He also was involved in recording details on the occupants and houses of the landed estates in the nineteenth century.

One of the most interesting stories of his scientific endeavours relates to successful efforts by his staff at Erritt Lodge to grow potatoes in Carrowbehy bog as reported in local newspapers in 1870. After the Great famine, efforts were being made to try and lessen the ravages of the dreaded blight. One of the options championed were efforts to grow potatoes in peat orientated soils which offered greater preservative properties. The stewards of Erritt Lodge achieved great success in presenting potatoes of an acceptable standard grown in bog land. This was part of a national and unheralded story to try and maintain the annual potato harvest in Ireland. Nearly 150 years later, in November 2017, George Smith, an ecologist from Blackthorn

An article from the *Roscommon Messenger* newspaper, 17th Aug. 1861, recording the completion of the rail line from Ballinlough to Ballyhaunis.



Douglas Hyde, first President of Ireland and relative of the De Freyne family. He was well known in the locality and visited Erritt Lodge especially for hunting expeditions.

Ecology, while on survey work for the national 'Living Bog' project, came across an interesting section of cut-over bog in Carrowbehy near Erritt Lodge. The area seemed to be hand-dug and not as a result of a machine. The presence of lichens and hummocks in the ridges indicated that the bog was untouched for some time. He deduced that these were ridges or lazy beds for growing potatoes. A living example of our local scientific heritage associated with Erritt Lodge.

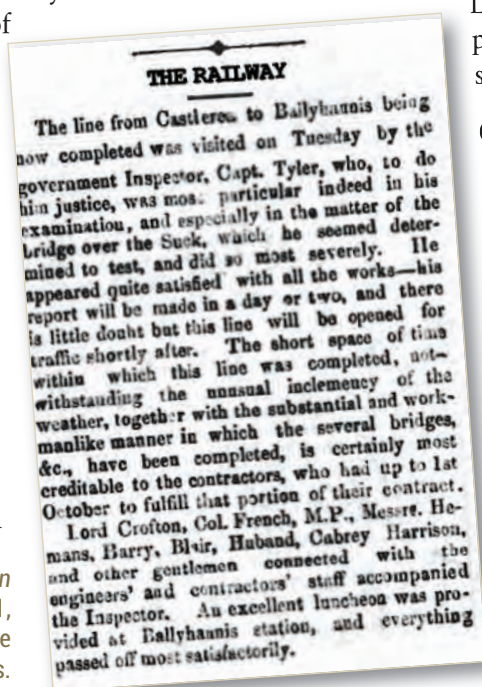
Fitzstephen French's Personal life

Fitzstephen French married Charlotte Bennett on the 24th of November 1839. She was a relative of the very politically active Russell family where her first cousin, Lord John Russell, served as Liberal prime-minister of Great Britain and Ireland. Although often frequenting Erritt Lodge, Fitzstephen French spent most of his life in London with his family. Fitzstephen and Charlotte had three children, Louisa, Augusta and a son Arthur who died at a young age.

While noting his life in London, it is recorded in local media of yesteryear that he was responsible for many improvements to Erritt Lodge inclusive of promoting the lodge as a place of leisure with organised boating trips and associated hunting and fishing activities frequently recorded. Indeed, records allude to Erritt Lodge being one of the most favoured places in the west of Ireland for grouse shooting in the nineteenth century.

Caher House

Captain Charles French of Caher house, near Carrowbehy, was deemed third Baron De Freyne of Frenchpark in 1865 on the death of his unmarried brother John. His elevation to this role was significant in that as a Protestant he had married a local Catholic girl, Catherine Maree, from a local tenant landholding near Loughglynn. Indeed, the children of Captain French and his wife were to be brought up Catholic meaning that the baronetage was to follow the religion of the Irish majority. This marriage of Captain





Erritt Lodge, Gorthaganny. A recently discovered picture of the former residence of Fitzstephen French and family.



Caher House, Carrowbehy. Picture taken circa 1970s.
Courtesy of the Flanagan family Caher, Carrowbehy.

French and his much younger wife had caused some local and national sensation. They were married in 1851 in a Catholic ceremony which was not recognised for entitlement purposes. They had to remarry in a Protestant church in Dublin on the 17th May 1854. As the new baron, Captain French and his young family duly moved to Frenchpark house. Captain French died in 1868 and his fourth son Arthur became the 4th Baron De Freyne and first Catholic heir. Arthur's three elder brothers were not recognised to the title due to the mixed religion marriage ceremony in a Catholic church and their birth prior to the second marriage ceremony. A significance of this scenario is that on the death of Fitzstephen French in 1873, Charles French, his nephew, and eldest son of Captain French and Catherine Maree became the new Master of Erritt Lodge. He was also elected MP for Roscommon in his uncle's place.

Charles French of Erritt Lodge

As a member of the London parliament, Charles French aligned himself to the liberal views of his departed uncle while also advocating greater involvement of the Catholic Church in education, social and industrial development of Ireland. Like his family, he was a supporter of the Irish Home Rule movement and of greater progression of the west of Ireland. As a young parliamentarian for Roscommon, a long political career beckoned for the young and aspiring representative from Erritt Lodge. He attended Home Rule

rallies throughout Ireland and attended rallies in the west of Ireland advocating greater logistic improvements in the district. A record of a meeting in Ballyhaunis in 1878 commented on his attendance and his expressed views for greater public work activities in the area to improve local infrastructure and employment.

In November 1879 a meeting was called in Ballyhaunis which Lord Dillon's land agent, Charles Strickland, was requested to chair. It was attended by members of the local gentry, clergy and interested parties relative to the much considered rail line connecting the towns of Tuam and Ballaghaderreen. A rail track had been progressed to these two western towns and it was seen as a viable proposition to build a new track linking these towns and passing through Dunmore, Ballyhaunis and Loughglynn. Charles French was in attendance and advocated the progression of this development. More meetings were held in the coming years in Ballyhaunis, chaired by Canon Waldron, where support was garnered from Sir Ralph Cusack, Chairman of the Midland Great Western Railway Board of Directors, and other responsible dignitaries associated with rail development. Political influence offered by the young Charles French was seen as a significant advantage and feasibility of the progression of this rail option looked promising. However, the timing of this prospective project became a problem.

By the late 1870s, the struggle for Home Rule in Ireland was not progressing and tenant land rights were not being advanced. With failing harvests, bad weather and fear of another famine, people were turning to the more radical views of feted Irish parliamentarians such as Charles Stewart Parnell and Joseph Biggar. This new group of politicians were advancing more proactive options in pushing for Home Rule and greater land reform, and had aligned themselves to influences from Michael Davitt and the Irish Republican Brotherhood.



Thomas Hora, Gamekeeper of the De Freyne estate at Erritt Lodge and Caher house. Courtesy of Hora family, Gorthaganny.

This alienated many Irish politicians who were from the landed classes. The young Charles French was unsupportive of any perceived connection between Irish politicians and the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). He saw the growing land agitation as an opportunity for extremists to spread sedition and thereby spread revolutionary ideas. Indeed the young parliamentarian had lost some of his uncle's goodwill in the west of Ireland in not supporting Issac Butt's Tenant Right bill in the London parliament in 1874. Unsurprisingly, the young Charles French was not selected to run for the

London parliament in 1880. He continued to live at Erritt Lodge with his wife Constance and family, holding office as High Sherriff of Roscommon and other administrative duties. Local lore suggests that the French family of Erritt Lodge continued to source their shopping needs from the locality and employed local people on their estate while still acting as landlords.

End of the De Freyne connection

Charles French's mother Catherine (nee Maree), now Dowager De Freyne, returned to Caher House after the death of her husband. Records relative to the restoration of the Augustinian Abbey in Ballyhaunis, advanced and organised by Fr James Anderson O.S.A in the 1870s, show that she was a contributor, with her family, to the costs of Abbey's renovation. She stayed at Caher House until her death in 1900. Her youngest child and only daughter, Mary Josephine French, married Valentine Joseph Blake of Towerhill in Mayo in 1880. They are recorded to have spent some time at Caher House, Castlemore in Ballaghaderreen and Brookhill in Claremorris before moving to Dublin.

Over the coming years, the presence of the French family in Gorthaganny and Ballyhaunis was diminishing. The De Freyne family eventually sold most of their tenant lands on their vast Frenchpark estate to the Congested District board (CDB) in 1907 after much land agitation. Charles French and his family left Erritt Lodge and moved to Somerset in England. A younger brother Richard French was recorded still residing at Caher House with his nephew Harold Blake on the 1911 census

of Ireland. Erritt Lodge and Caher House and immediate lands stayed with the French family for a few more years but were eventually sold by the 1920s. The days of landed gentry in the community were over.

French Family legacy

From a local perspective, members of the French family living at Erritt Lodge and Caher House were actively involved in efforts in the Ballyhaunis area to improve living standards and local logistics throughout the nineteenth century. Records allude to members of the French family attending meetings and rallies in Ballyhaunis throughout the nineteenth century advocating rail development, road improvements and greater religious and political freedoms. Fitzstephen French of Erritt Lodge, a long serving MP and friend of Daniel O'Connell and family, was for many years one of the leading Irish lobbyists for rail development in the West of Ireland. The family's interest, and indeed their popularity in the area, lessened as the nineteenth century concluded, influenced by the Land War and the fall from grace of the landed classes.

The French family's great interest in hunting and fishing is a lasting memory shared by residents of the surrounding localities. Stories in Brackloon and Gorthaganny still abound of local people having been employed as 'bog beaters' to assist the French family and friends on their bird shooting escapades. These shooting activities and visits to the locality continued well into the twentieth century, long after the family had left Erritt Lodge and Caher House. Many local people today still remember these shooting and hunting expeditions and also the fact that the De Freyne entourage often stayed in Ballyhaunis. Joe Freely, as a young boy, remembers Lord De Freyne and friends staying in the family's hotel (Central Hotel) on Main Street, Ballyhaunis on numerous occasions. Joe remembers that they insisted their gun dogs sleep with them in their bedrooms at night, which was not normal hotel policy. Indeed, he recalls hoping that the shooting party had a bad day in their venture and that they did not return with game as his whole evening would be spent covered in feathers plucking birds for the De Freyne party dinner! In those days snipe were apparently more plentiful but were small and hard to pluck. As Joe recalls, the bird's long beak had to be inserted a certain way into the body of the bird before cooking.

The influence of the French and De Freyne dynasty and that of the other landed classes in the district of times past are now part of local history and folklore. A past to be recorded regardless of opinion or consequence.

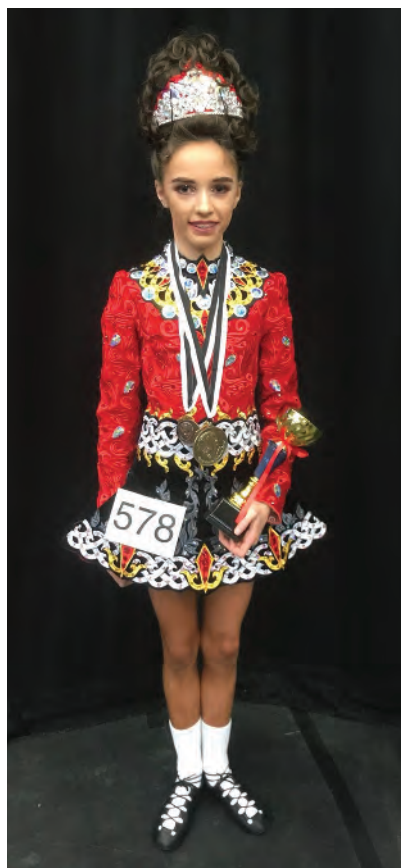


Pic 1. Old school friends meet. Ned Murren (left) and Kieran Folliard, both Upper Main St. Pic 2. School friends meet up in London. L-R: Conor Mulrennan, Kevin Higgins, Seamus O'Dwyer. Pic 3. Thomas J. Carroll, Knox St., pictured at Niagara Falls, on the border between U.S.A. and Canada. Pic 4: Maurice and Mary Healy; Kay and Joe Healy. Photo by James Hunt.

Elwood School of Dancing



Daragh Mulrennan (Under 10) and Aoibhinn Gallagher (Under 9), from the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing, who were winners at Galway City Championships 2018.



Above: Champion dancer Emma Colleran, from the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing.

Left: Leah Elwood pictured at the Yeats County Championships 2018.

Class of 1987 Reunion

BRENDAN DONNELLAN

The thirty year reunion of the Ballyhaunis Community School Class of 1987 took place on December 28th, 2017 in Val's Bar & Bistro. There was a great turnout with over fifty former classmates getting together for an evening of laughter and nostalgia. Memories of schooldays were recalled and old friendships renewed. After thirty years all present were genuinely delighted to have the opportunity to catch up.

Many people travelled from abroad especially for the occasion and despite the passing years everyone had mostly positive memories of our five years at Ballyhaunis Community School (BCS). Sadly, four of our classmates – Brendan Joyce, John Joe Keigher, Tommy Glynn and Joe Bailey – have gone to their eternal reward and four candles in their memory were lit on the night. May they Rest in Peace.

Many thanks to the organising committee for ensuring that everyone was contacted via social media and for the very dodgy photos which were uploaded on the night !!, Unfortunately the night flew and all too soon it was time to go our separate ways once again vowing to make a bigger effort to stay in touch.

- Photo 1 (top): Hilary Lynch, Mary Carney, Agnes Henry, Martin Kearns.
- Photo 2 (centre): Joanne Morley, Aisling Webb, Lorraine Hurley, Agnes Henry, Attracta Greene.
- Photo 3 (right): Maggie Finnegan, Aisling Webb, Pat Biesty, Attracta Greene, Geraldine Stacey.



Class of '87 at their Reunion: Back, L-R: Vinny Fahy, Tommy Leonard, Mary Hunt, Brendan Donnellan, Pat Biesty, Donal Delaney, Enda Caulfield, Gabriel Morley, James Forde, Paul Damron, Martin Kearns, Thomas Ruane, Eamon Gannon, Shay Cullinane, Kieran Morley, John Waldron, Enda Staunton, Barry Mulligan, Alan Henry. Centre, L-R: Seamus Caulfield, Aisling Webb, Lisanne Fitzgerald, Bridie Levins, Joanne Morley, Lorraine Hurley, Elaine O'Boyle, Seamus Geraghty, Agnes Henry, Attracta Greene, Austin Finn, Philip McGoldrick, Marian Biesty, Liam Crinnigan. Front, L-R: Caitríona Madden, Kathleen Meenan, Martina McHugh, Joanne Fitzmaurice, Colette Jordan, Maggie Finnegan, Geraldine Stacey, Denise Neary, Marie Greally, Sara Kearns, Bernie McHale, Mary Carney.

Class of 1989 Reunion

JOHN MEENAN

On the 31st March 1989, the fifth year students of Ballyhaunis Community School had their graduation ball in the Belmont Hotel, Knock. Nearly thirty years later we had a reunion on 15th Sept. 2018 in The Dalgan, Ballyhaunis. Out of a class of 110 students, we had fifty-two turn up for a fantastic night of catching up and sharing stories of past and present, while an eighties music selection played nice and low in the background from an iPod.

Many of the classmates were contacted through Facebook, email and mobile numbers passed along from contact to contact, and some even met on the street for a quick chat and "... Are ya going to reunion?" As many will know, it's hard to find a timeline to suit everyone so

you have to send on multiple messages to everyone with a few timeline suggestions and then just pick one that 'kinda' suits the biggest number. We decided to pull our thirty-year reunion in earlier than planned due to a classmate's illness.

Some classmates that turned up had not been seen since 1989 with one showing up and not seen since 1987. To us all, we were all instantly recognisable... not always visually, but sure when they opened their mouth and greeted us, sure it was the same auld...!

It was great to catch up and trade numbers and stories. Roll on the 50th in 2039!



Ballyhaunis Community School Class of '89 at their Reunion. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*

- Back row, L-R: Michelle Caulfield, Jim Clarke, Eavan Webb, Gerald McGuire, Geraldine McGuire, Marie Ruane, Deirdre Murphy, John Fitzmaurice, Morgan Jennings, Jarlath Phillips.
- Third row: (standing) John Meenan, Darren Greally, Aubrey Johnston, Claire McNulty, Eamonn Thornton (at rear), Breege McGrath, Sean Walsh (at rear), Maura Keavney, Cathy Ronan, Martina Murphy, Imelda Waldron, Michelle Smyth, Patricia Burke, Marie Elwood, Christine Gallagher, Majella Waldron, Colette Flanagan, John Munro (at rear), Edward Mulligan (rear), Naoise Davitt.
- Second row: (seated) Johnny Coggins, Margaret Gormley, Mary Tarpey, Mary Caulfield, Joanne Finn, Teresa Connolly, Katriona Morley, Vicky Fitzgerald, Anne Nolan, Olivia Higgins, Sally Higgins (Teacher).
- Front row: Leonard Connell, Pdraig Hunt, Martina Freyne, Doreen Boyle, Erin O'Brien, Regina Higgins, Liam Walsh, Eamonn Freyne. Also in attendance but just missed the photo: Colm Flynn, Michael Nolan, Thomas Greally, Deborah Biesty.

Abbey Partnership Moves Ahead

MARK GODFREY

It's been a year of transition and development for Ballyhaunis Abbey Partnership which handles the day to day running of the town's St. Mary's Abbey, the Friary. Major progress was made this summer and autumn when the Partnership engaged with Mayo Sports Partnership to apply for co-funding to establish a series of adult exercise stations in the Friary Grounds. The application was successful and the exercise stations will be installed in the New Year.

Built in 1432, the historic abbey and grounds are held in trust by the Abbey Trust, which is the formal lessee 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 that meet this remit. The Partnership's inaugural garden clinic proved a great success with locals sitting in the Community Garden on a sunny late July day to hear gardening advice from Tom and Des from Thomas O'Rourke Landscaping Co. who gave of their time freely and took questions on everything from moss control to hanging baskets to soil minerals.

Likewise, a workshop on household recycling by a representative of the recycling industry 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.

Another popular initiative by the Partnership is our monthly Film Night which features films made by Irish film makers. We have had plenty of animated discussion after films like *The Atlantic*, a comparative exploration of the use of resources in the Irish and Norwegian ocean space, and provided to us by the documentary maker, Galway based Risteard O Domhnaill.

Likewise, we marked National Tree Day with the showing of a documentary on Irish native tree species made by Eanna Ní Lamhna. A collaboration with Galway Film Centre is allowing us show several documentaries made in the West of Ireland during the course of the autumn/winter months.

This is all part of increasing awareness of the property as a community asset. The Abbey hosted other key events during the year, including a St. Patrick's night concert by local artist UMAN (Brian Flanagan) with a full band and a large audience. Likewise, the annual

Ballyhaunis Art Exhibition and several choral events. Mayo County Council's Arts Office used the Abbey this summer for its 'Bealtaine' exhibition featuring local artists.

In September, meanwhile, a Culture Night co-organised by several local groups including the Family Resource Centre and the Partnership saw performances of dance and music from Ireland and around the world, showcasing the town's ethnic diversity. Also in September, 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.

A difficulty over the past few years has been increasing awareness of the venue and increasing its potential as a cultural and heritage centre. Improving the main abbey building was highlighted this autumn as one of three priorities for the local Community Council in a 'Meet the Council' event to outline three projects of optimum importance for the town. A priority here is a rewiring of the main abbey building and works to bring it up to the standards of a cultural and heritage centre where various performances can be held.

Overseeing the town's most historic building, the current Abbey Partnership is now two years up and running. Representatives of Ballyhaunis Community Council and Mayo County Council sit on the Partnership alongside representatives of various local organisations including representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Scouts and the Abbey Pattern as well as local art and choral groups who use St. Mary's Abbey, also known as the Friary.

Monthly Partnership meetings are held in the Friary House, the former residence of the Augustinian Order, part of which is currently rented by the Family Resource Centre while outbuildings at the abbey/friary are used by the Men's Shed and Ballyhaunis Scouts.

We are very happy to see new members joining us to represent the Community Garden: Pauline and Eamon Eagan. Major kudos go to this great facility which received a Green Flag award this year, a global mark for well managed green spaces. Well done to Stephen Grogan for coordinating the application. We'd hope that the full potential of the garden can be realised, allowing locals to learn how to grow their own vegetables in a social setting.

We are grateful to our Community Employment (CE) scheme worker Carla Allen who left us for new opportunities. Also, long-time chairperson of the Partnership, Neil Sheridan, resigned as he changed roles at Mayo

County Council: he has now been replaced by his colleague Paula Geraghty.

We are sometimes frustrated by low turnout at our meetings which makes decision making slower. New blood is another priority of the Partnership: we'd like to encourage anyone who'd like to get involved in any way in meeting the cultural or community and heritage goals of the Abbey to join us. Write to us at ballyhaunisabbey@gmail.com. Meetings happen on a monthly basis, with various projects to be getting on with on an ongoing basis. We have a lot of work to do in 2019, join us!

The Abbey Partnership: Paula Geraghty, Mark Godfrey, Anne Cunnane, Kay Curley, Xanthe Pratt, Nell Rochford.

Anyone seeking to use the Abbey for an event or who'd like to make a query or suggestion about visiting or assisting us should contact us at:

ballyhaunisabbey@gmail.com

(Below) The Class of 1978 Reunion

Back, L-R: Sarah Regan, Margaret Forde, Noreen O'Reilly, Cora Travers, Maureen Ronan, Maura Coyne, Sean Cribbin, Ray Greally, Billy Phillips, Maura Gormley.

Centre, L-R: Mary Hurley, Della Garvey, Carmel McHugh, Breda Boland, Mary Flanagan, Bernadette Lyons, Maura Forde, Catherine Plunkett, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Geraldine Lyons, Teresa Regan, Jacinta Jordan, Mary Morris, Cha Jordan, John Boyle, Gerry Niland.

Front, L-R: Mary Feeney, Denis Swift, Martha Folliard, Regina Cribbin, Mary Teresa Lyons, Margaret Waldron, Anne Marie Moran, Joan Keegan, Maeve Waldron, Maura Murphy, and Mary T. Carroll.

Reunion – The Class of '78

MARY T. GRIFFIN (NEE CARROLL)

This year we decided it would be a great idea to get together to organise our forty year class reunion. With the date and venue set for the 2nd June 2018 at the McWilliam Hotel in Claremorris, we used Whatsapp and Facebook to get in touch with past pupils. It was wonderful to bring together people who hadn't seen each other in forty years, and it proved to be a great night with many memories and laughs shared! On behalf of the committee, Maeve Waldron, Noreen O'Reilly and myself, we would like to thank everyone who attended on the night. It was a great success – here's to the next forty years!

The organising committee of the 1978 Class reunion. Mary T. Carroll, Noreen O'Reilly and Maeve Waldron.



90th Birthday Celebration

It was with great joy that Declan and I (Margie), Sarah and their six children – Caoimhe, Cillian, Muireann, Aine, Laois and Cloda – had the privilege of celebrating the ninetieth birthday of our mother Una.

Una was born in (Donnellan's) Clare Street, Ballyhaunis, on the 17th of September 1928 to Patrick and Margaret Donnellan. She was the third born in a family of six – Tommy (Clare St.), Mary Donnellan (Dublin), Una Phillips (Main St.), Vincent (James St., Claremorris), Micheál (London and Beech Park, Ballyhaunis) and his twin sister Margie Flanagan (Goff St., Roscommon). Una is the last remaining member of this family.

On the 6th of February 1962, Una married my Dad, Paddy Phillips, a native of Cloonernaune, Knock. He came to Ballyhaunis in 1958, and while playing cards at



Una Phillips

Alice Lyons' kitchen table in Clare St., spotted my mother from the window! Una then made that massive move, a move to Main St. to join the Phillips's.

On Saturday, 29th of September we had a Mass at home to celebrate Una's birthday - 'A Celebration of Life'. This was truly a special occasion for our family made possible by all gathered and, of course, Fr. Stephen, with his lovely homily and attention to detail, remembering people past and present.

Afterwards we were entertained with a music and song from an old gramophone which once played in their home in Clare Street, and which has been newly restored by Mark Slade. It recalled great memories of days long ago.

We would like to thank everybody for all their good wishes extended to Una, a woman that's proud to be ninety and proud to live in Ballyhaunis.



Taken in Alice Lyons's 28th Dec. 1958. L-R: Una Donnellan (Phillips), Angela O'Malley, Alacoque Lyons, Margie Donnellan (Flanagan), Alice Lyons.

Annagh Wheelers – Mizen to Malin, Twenty years on!

DARRAGH DELANEY

2018 has been a very successful year for Annagh Wheelers. Right now, we are on target to hit a combined 225,000km of cycling amongst members in 2018.

The highlight of the year was the successful Mizen to Malin challenge which the club completed on the 3rd June. As the crow flies, the distance between Mizen and Malin is 466 km (290 miles) apart, but you end up covering around 600km sticking to the road network.

The challenge was a huge success and club members completed the 581km (360 miles) cycle in 23 hours, 23 minutes. All thirteen cyclists who started, completed the challenge which was a remarkable achievement. In addition, individual club members raised funds for several local charities.

Without the huge effort of the backup team, the challenge would not have been possible. Every 50km or so they provided much needed calories and hydration and made sure that, even at 2.30am somewhere on the outskirts of Limerick, they kept everyone's spirits high.

The challenge itself had been concocted twenty years before when a handful of club members first completed the challenge in under 24 hours. It was fitting that two of the original members, Bernie Jennings and Mike Cleary, who first completed Mizen to Malin in under 24 hours, were on hand to complete it for a second time.

Many of our members participate in bicycle racing events. This includes both Mayo league and national races. 2018 was a very successful year with

three members upgrading from A4 rank to A3: Darragh Delaney, Ger Slattery and Johnny Kelly. Darragh Delaney scored a win in the Brian McNamara Memorial A4 race in Tuam back in July, while Johnny Kelly took the win at the Westport Medio Fondo in April.

The Arctic Circle

Club member Mike Cleary took on another massive challenge in June. A few weeks after the Mizen to Malin challenge, he cycled from Oslo in Norway right up into the Arctic Circle. This involved cycling over 1,300km in a two-week period. He was joined by his son Diarmuid for a few days but then completed the challenge solo. It was also an unsupported challenge and so he had to carry all supplies on his bike. This included clothes, food, and spare parts. Only one major breakdown when his rear wheel broke but he managed to locate a bike mechanic who got him back up and running. Mike reached his target point on June 23rd and experienced the midnight sun.

We are always on the lookout for new members, so get in contact if you want to get fit and maybe even participate in one or more local charity or sporting events.

Find us on Facebook or check out our website, www.annaghwheelers.com



The group of Annagh Wheelers cyclists and the backup team in Malin Head, June 2018.

Back, L-R: Leigh Chambers, Eamonn Lyons, Mike Morris, Sean Murphy, Pat McLoughlin, John Guilfoyle, Mike Cleary, Pat Freeley, Joe Gallagher, Mick Conroy, Ivan Freeley, Alan Hunt, Darragh Delaney, Bernie Jennings, Tom McGann, Johnny Kelly, Gerry Madden, Sean Gallagher.

Front, L-R: Mary Freeley, Anne Freeley, Helen Freeley, Martina Kelly, Laurena Freeley, Grahame Cleary.

Scoil Íosa

KENNETH DENNEDY

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 bhronn sibh 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, 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, Camóige, Soccer, athletics and basketball.



Scoil Íosa Junior Boys Athletics team and supporters.

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 Tom Donnellan, John William Burke, Cillian Caulfield, Fionn Conlon, Joshua Maughan and Brandon Sweeney, qualified for the County Final in the team event in spectacular style occupying the top three positions with Tom Donnellan in first place John William Burke in second place and Cillian Caulfield in third place. Creditable performances by the other team members meant that Scoil Íosa won the team event by

some distance qualifying for the County Finals. After another fine performance in pleasant conditions in Belleek, Ballina our team finished in fourth place overall with Tom Donnellan qualifying for the Connacht finals with an excellent individual performance.

Daily Mile Initiative: In keeping with the school policy on promoting healthy lifestyles among our children, we agreed to participate in the Daily Mile initiative sponsored by Athletics Ireland. This entails the children being given the opportunity to walk or run daily for fifteen minutes. The initiative was launched by Ballyhaunis native Frank Greally, who visited the school on September 28th accompanied by Charlie Lambert and Elmer Pieterse on behalf of Mayo Sports Partnership.

Gaelic Football: 2018 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. In the Mini 7s competition we were drawn to play Began N.S. and Gaelscoil Uilig De Búrca. In the first game we were second best to a very strong Began team, the eventual competition winners. Despite beating An Ghaelscoil our team missed out on qualification for the knockout stages of the competition. 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 Muire Gan Smál, Claremorris. Despite some fine individual performances this was not to be our year.

Girls Football Panel: Kamile Aleksunaite, Austeya Armonaviciute, Erica Byrne, Alicia Cleary, Nikita Cleary, Maia Phillips, Tara Phillips, Noor Ul Huda Sharif, Sarah Gill, Lucy Phillips, Isabelle Cox, Mahreen Asif, Maeve Caulfield, Sarah Gill, Jasmine Jurakova, Paulina Koralewska, Amanda Cleary, Amanda Hamane, Amel Cherbatji, Amelia Cherbatji, Basmali Shawi, Lana Spajic, Ellen Murphy, Alanah Mongan, Marium Hamze.

Boys Football Panel: P.J. Greally, Nathan O'Toole, Oskar Chojnacki, Seamus McDonagh, Michael Maughan, Evan McNamara, Kian Morley, Adam Noone, Colm Rattigan, Brian Sweeney, Daire Caulfield, Jason Lyons, Clayton Nolan, Abdullah Ashraf, Mahad Maqsood, Rian Keane, Ahmad Naveed, Mamoon Shabbir, Alexander Leva, Stanislovas Vaitiekus, Kyle Burke, Josh Kavanagh, Jake Powers, Alex Byrne, Mark Feeney, Adam Kelly, Ethan Kilbane.



Pupils from Scoil Íosa Primary School who received their First Communion, 12th May 2018, in St. Patrick's Parish Church. Included are Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. and teachers Sharlene Ruane (left) and Ciara Fitzmaurice (right).
Glynn's Photography Castlerea

Hurling: 2018 again saw the Scoil Íosa team lining out in three competitions, namely the 7s, the 9-a-side and the Vinny Judge tournament. Due to a fall in numbers participating in older classes many of the Third class were brought on board for all competitions.

The 7-a-side took place in Aghamore GAA pitch on the 21st of March where the Ballyhaunis boys were in competition with Tooreen, Aghamore, Carracastle/Derrynabrock and Kilmovee. There were some great performances on the day. The highlights of the day included two goals from Third class boy, Tom Donnellan and a wonder-goal from the halfway line by Evan McNamara.

Due to a drop in playing numbers in the senior classes this year, Ballyhaunis competed in the 9-a-side in the Division 2 competition this year. The squad was boosted greatly by a very strong Third class who showed huge potential for the future of both the school team and club. The competition brought a mix of results where Kilmovee finished out convincing champions. Here, Rhian Keane-Higgins, a new transfer from Tooreen N.S. was a revelation in goals with both Colm Rattigan, Reliance Arku, Cillian Caulfield and Daire Caulfield doing superb work at the back. Going forward P.J. Greally and Jake Powers was always a threat, ably assisted by the Third class boys, Fionn Conlon, Éamonn Óg Monaghan, Tom Donnellan and Jason Powers. The year finished in Tooreen GAA pitch with the Vinny Judge Memorial Tournament. Again there were great displays from all involved.

Despite the lack of silverware this year, there was again significant progress made. Darran Conlon, the local Senior Hurling Manager, came in for each and every training and offered an extra set of eyes and expertise. Although there was a very small number participating in some of the senior classes there is great optimism for the future of the Third class in particular who showed they were already up to the task of competing with the 'big boys'.



Scoil Íosa Boys Hurling panel, 2018.

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.

First Communion 2018

On Saturday, 12th May 2018 the following pupils received their First Communion from Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.: Miguel Cala, Pavel Cervenak, Jack Cleary, Joe Cleary, Thomas Curran, Alex Dunkurs, Lauren Feeney, Sara Keane, Dominik Manke, Joshua Maughan, Terry Maughan, Thomas McDonagh, Ema Mesnjak, Seamus Mongan, Ciara Morley, Maya Murphy, Tomás Ó Laighin, Matei Purcarea, Igor Raczynski, Emma Richardson, Sebastian Sesaszni, Jozo Spajic, Lochlann Waldron, Bethany Ward, Edgaras Zayanckauskas and Nikodem Zborowski. The group was prepared by their teachers, Ciara Fitzmaurice and Sharlene Ruane.

School Staff 2016/2017

Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Kevin Henry (Deputy Principal), Dónall O'Brien (Assistant Principal), Geraldine Fahy, Anne Durkan, Olivia Burke, Sheena Flanagan, Marian Byrne, Ciara Fitzmaurice, Lisa Watchorn, Michelle Flatley, Joanne Forde, Ciara Byrne, Sharlene Ruane, Elaine Brady, Annie Kelly, Miriam

Judge, Samantha Cleary, Emily Worden, Diane Marigliano, Aisling Toal, Karen Boyle, John Macken, Edel Walsh, Maria Coyne, Tara Cusack, Róisín Prendergast-Freeman (SNA), Marian Nally (SNA), Marina Coyne (SNA), James Cullinane (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).



Pupils from Scoil Íosa take part in a beekeeping demonstration.



Scoil Íosa pupils take part in the Daily Mile Initiative.

Back, L-R: Charlie Lambert (Mayo Sports Partnership), Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Kevin Henry (Deputy Principal), Frank Grealley, Elmer Pieterse (Mayo Sports Initiative).

Running Full Circle

FRANK GREALLY

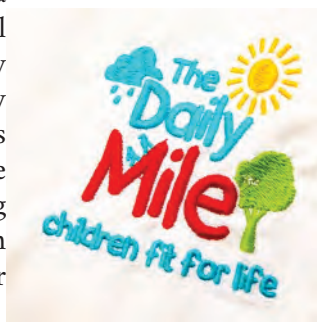
I have greatly enjoyed some visits back home to Ballyhaunis this year – starting with a night in The Dalgan when I was invited to speak at the 40th Anniversary Celebrations for Annagh Magazine. It was a privilege and a pleasure to be there and meet lots of friends and neighbours - a delightful experience.

Then in May I rolled back into town just in time to join the Procession from the Parish Church to the Augustinian Abbey, a rare treat indeed. Joining in that Procession took me back a lot of years to a time when the annual Parish Church and The Friary Processions were highlight events in the town, and a boom time for painters and decorators. Every shop-owner made sure to have their premises looking its very best for the Procession.

It was lovely to feel such a sense of welcome from so many people back in my home town. It was even more special when I discovered that I was honoured in a photographic display that had a prominent place on the front window of The Dalgan. That was enough to bring a tear to my eye and a rush of gratitude too.

I had another grand experience in September when along with John Cribbin, I ran the road circuit around Lecarrow and Curries – the proving ground of long ago when my great friend, the late Pat Cribbin, set the pace on many a winter's night. There was a night long ago when Michael Joyce ran full tilt into a stray donkey on this circuit and that memory still raises a good laugh.

Then, in late September I felt that I was indeed coming Full Circle when I introduced *The Daily Mile* to Scoil Íosa and received a great welcome from school Principal Kenneth Dennedy and Kevin Henry. I have now been appointed Athletics Ireland's Ambassador for The Daily Mile and I am looking forward to a return visit soon to Scoil Íosa and other Primary Schools in the area.



Leaving Home

Those trips back home prompted memories of the first time I left home and what that experience was like. It is an experience that I would like to share with readers of Annagh magazine. The following is an account of my search for digs in Dublin in the summer of 1970 when I was young and innocent and setting out on a road that would have many twists and turns over the years.

*And you stand there so calm and deceptively gay,
And you talk of the weather and the events of the day,
Yet your eyes tell me all that your tongue doesn't say
I'm leaving my Nancy Oh!*

(Eric Bogle)

I remember the feeling of leaving home for the first time, and I know that both my parents Tom and Kathleen were also experiencing that pit-of-the-stomach turmoil as the time neared for me to head for the railway station and board the train for Dublin. We tried to make light of it, as we would many another time of leaving. My mother was busying herself in the kitchen and making frequent trips upstairs to check if I had left anything behind in the bedroom.

Just like Nancy in Eric Bogle's song, my mother talked about the weather and the neighbours and other light-touch topics, and my father went for a walk outside, 'to see what the day is going to be like'.

I recalled again the deep anxiety and upset swirling around inside me that morning as I tried - with no great success - to keep the emotions at bay. I was in and out of the house on the pretext of looking to see if Willie Eagney and his hackney car had arrived to pick me up and ferry me to the station. There was time for another cup of tea and more meaningless talk of the weather to fill the painful silence before Willie pulled up and it was time to leave.

It was then that the dam burst, and there were tears and promises and lingering goodbyes before I ran with my bags to the waiting car and waved a final farewell to the folks. It was a horrible wrench to be leaving home, a chest-bursting, primal, inner scream that lingered all the way to Dublin and for a long time after I got there too.

Dublin

Eddie Spillane met me off the train in Dublin and drove me around the city in his little Fiat car. He talked incessantly about running and his beloved Donore Harriers, and the talk helped calm the turmoil I had felt on the train journey from Ballyhaunis. But I was still in turmoil as he checked out the various 'digs' that had been recommended by the Post Office.

There were no vacancies in the first few places we visited. I felt growing relief and was already considering returning home that same evening with a good excuse for not staying in the city. I could always go back to Durkan's Bottling Plant where I had worked for a few summers while still in college. A couple more 'full up' signs and I would be ready to bolt for home.

But persistence might well have been Eddie Spillane's middle name; eventually he found me digs in the city centre. The sealing of the deal was a daunting experience that still resonates. We arrived at the blue door on Capel Street to be confronted by an elderly grey-haired man whose name I learned was Mick Grimes. He looked me up and down, and down and up, and listened attentively as Spillane explained how this boarding house had been recommended by the Sorting Office people in Sheriff Street, where I was due to start work the following day.

"I'll have to go in and ask Mammy," was the astonishing reply to Eddie's thorough and glowing enumeration of my credentials as the perfect lodger. Speculating as to the age and housekeeping capabilities of old Grimes's mother, I was now in a state of high anxiety and bewilderment.

To my great relief, it soon became evident that 'Mammy' was in fact Mick's wife, and a stern woman she proved. She came to the door and gave me such a thorough 'once over' as I would not have expected in a Garda station had I been charged with a serious crime.

When she had satisfied herself as to my pedigree and prospects, Mrs. Grimes confirmed she had just one vacancy upstairs; I would be sharing a bedroom with a young man from Sligo who also worked for the Post Office. His name, she said, was Mister Rooney - and I could not figure why she referred to him in such formal terms.

I was becoming unhappier by the minute. This sharing a room with a stranger was not part of the script as I had imagined it. It was traumatic enough to be moving to this unfamiliar and teeming city, but to have to share a room in this house run by these two rather severe and extremely old-fashioned people - I was now ready to do a runner.

I desperately wanted to move on and try one more place, but Eddie gently reminded me that we were running out of options and that Capel Street was only a twenty minute walk from my workplace in Sheriff Street; it was getting late in the day and I should take what was on offer.

With great reluctance I handed over my deposit to the steely Mrs. Grimes, who gave me a long list of 'house rules' before telling me 'Daddy' would show me to my room. Of course Daddy turned out to be Mick, the head waiter and general factotum in this eccentric establishment that would be home to me for at least the next six months.

In fact, the Grimeses turned out to be perfectly fair and reasonable landlords, but on that first evening I felt I was about to serve time for some crime I had not committed. It was with a heavy heart and dragging feet that I said goodbye to Eddie and followed old Mick Grimes up the creaking stairs to my new quarters.

Padraig Rooney from Sligo would prove an amiable roommate on Capel Street, but I found my introduction to the Grimes Boarding House a huge challenge. It was my first experience of living away from home and sharing a room with someone I had never met. I was well out of my comfort zone: homesick, unsettled and more than a little afraid. As we climbed the stairs, old Mick Grimes reiterated the numerous house rules and reminded me in very certain terms that if I was late in for Sunday dinner that would be just tough luck - there would be no question of keeping plates in the oven or kettles on the hob for later in the day. My stomach churned and my head spun as I watched him turn on his heel and shuffle back below. There was no offer of even a cup of tea, and my new room-mate confirmed my misgivings by telling me the best thing about our situation was its relative proximity to the Central Sorting Office.

It was going to be a whole new world for me. Feeling lost, and already missing the warm embrace of a home that was often quite dysfunctional but always felt welcoming and safe. I went for a walk over Capel Street Bridge and for about a mile up along the Liffey quays, trying to calm my swirling emotions. But I survived the experience, as I was to survive even bigger challenges in the years ahead.



At the Annagh magazine 40th Edition Celebration, January 2018,
L-R: Kay Curley, Moira Delaney, Frank Grealley, Mary Donnelly.
Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher



Ballyhaunis Sports Hub (Mayo Sports Partnership)

ELMER PIETERSE



At the launch of the Daily Mile initiative at Scoil Íosa, L-R: Elmer Pieterse, Frank Grealley (Ballyhaunis native and founding editor of *The Irish Runner*), Kevin Henry and Charlie Lambert. Photograph by Janapix.

The aim of the Mayo Sports Partnership is to increase participation by providing more opportunities for people to become physically active, provide local sports education and to ensure local resources and facilities are used to the best effect, with an interest in recreational sport and supporting the following target groups.

- **People with a disability**
- **Women and Girls**
- **The unemployed**
- **Ethnic Groups**
- **The older person**

Funded through Dormant Accounts and Sport Ireland, the Ballyhaunis Sports Hub was set up in 2016 to further this cause in the local area and to bring together sport clubs and community groups to ensure that participation is not only increased but done so in a sustainable way by ensuring buy in from the local community.

2018 outputs include:

- In January a six-week Operation Transformation Programme leading into an eight-week Beginner's Couch to 5K programme with over sixty participants.
- Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club was founded in February boasting a membership of just over forty, 80% of which are students from the local National and Secondary Schools, with fifteen members from the Direct Provision Centre.
- A twelve-week National School Cricket coaching programme in of April, led by coaches from the local Cricket Club, where coaches go into the school and teach not only the basics of the game to new players,

but improve and hone the skills of more experienced players.

- A Come & Try Sports Day in June gave clubs the opportunity to build their members base and signposting new members to clubs with over 100 children taking part.
- A Youth Sports Leader Course was delivered to transition year students in Ballyhaunis Community School from Youth Sport Leaders
- A Code of Ethics Level 1 Child Welfare and Protection course was delivered on 19th April, with eight participants from four different sporting codes.
- Daily Mile Initiative launched in Scoil Iosa NS

Recent and Ongoing Events/Programmes

- **Beginners Couch to 5K** – Meeting Wednesdays, Enterprise Centre, Ballyhaunis, 8pm
- **Men On The Move** – Meeting Wednesdays, Peak Physique, 8pm
- **Four Week Foróige Youth Sports Programme**, started 12th Oct.
- **LGFA N.S. coaching programme**, started 4th Oct., Scoil Íosa, Ballyhaunis
- **Cage Cricket Training** and Launch weekend 20th – 21st Oct.

For information about upcoming programmes, and to contact Ballyhaunis Sports Hub, contact Elmer Pieterse on 0873347824 or email epieterse@mayococo.ie or like our page on Facebook **Ballyhaunis Sports Hub**.



Ballyhaunis Golf Club

MARGARET DYER

"The kids of today are the golfers of tomorrow"

Ballyhaunis Golf Club ran a very successful Junior Golf Programme this year. This programme started at Easter during the school holidays and will run to the end of September. In total more than sixty boys and girls between the ages of six to fifteen attended lessons every Wednesday morning. We now have a junior membership of forty juniors.

In July the club ran a very successful summer camp with thirty juniors participating each receiving a certificate and goodie bag at the end of the three days. Professional tuition was given by PGA pro Sean Whelan. The camp was the first of its kind for the club and plans are afoot to make next year's camp bigger and better.

It has been a fantastic year for John William Burke a junior member in our club. At only nine years of age John William has been making massive strides on the Irish Junior golf scene. He has not only represented Ballyhaunis Golf Club but also Ireland on the international stage. Of his many notable successes this year, perhaps the biggest was John William's achievement in qualifying for the US Kids World finals in North Carolina in August. All the club's Junior members are extremely proud of John William. A name certainly everyone will be hearing more of in the future.

As usual our two most prestigious competitions, Captains' and President's prizes were keenly contested with the outcomes in doubt to the final putt. The President, Dr. Alan Delaney's, prize held in early June was won by Kevin Garvey and Margaret Dyer. The Lady Captain, Mary Kelly's, prize was won by Fiona Prenty

and the Men's Captain, Karl Coyne's, prize was won by Tom Fanning. Congratulations to all.

Our competition calendar this year saw the introduction of two new majors. The Ballyhaunis Masters sponsored by Western Brand and The Players Championship sponsored by Agrispreed International proved to be a huge success. The Masters was won by Liam Rochford and Marie Coyne and The Players was won by Johnny Burke and Margaret Dyer.

We would like to thank all our very generous sponsors and acknowledge that our club would find it difficult to maintain our competition calendar without such generosity.

The annual induction to golf lessons commenced in early May with approximately fifteen adults attending classes on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. The tutors were Tom Prenty, Brian Phillips and Mariette Potgieter. Patricia Fitzgerald worked tirelessly ensuring the beginners were at all times aware of any changes to arrangements. As the lessons progressed members were very generous with their time to come and bring the beginners on the course to practice what they learned in the practice area. We were very happy and encouraged when six beginners joined the club. We wish them many years of enjoyment with their new hobby. Lessons will commence post Easter 2019. Details will be posted in the local newsletters.

We remember Dr. Ken Keane, Tom Halliwell and Tony Flynn who died during the year. *Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dhilis.*

Prizewinners in the President's Prize (Alan Delaney) at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Back, L-R:

Seamus Swift,
P.J. Moran,
Martin Finnegan,
Karl Coyne (Captain),
Alan Delaney
(President), Mary Kelly
(Lady Captain),
Brian Phillips,
John Moran.

Seated, L-R:

John Freeman,
David Doherty,
Kevin Garvey (Winner),
John Jordan, Pat Glynn.
*Glynn's Photography,
Castlerea.*





Left: Margaret Dyer receiving her winning prize from Alan Delaney (President, Ballyhaunis Golf Club, 2018). *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*

Above right: Prizewinners in the Captain's Prize to the Ladies at Ballyhaunis Golf Club. Back, L-R: Jenny Glynn, Maria Coyne, Laurena Freeley, Norrie Dillon, Fiona Prenty, Chris Keane, Ita Fahey, Karl Coyne (Captain 2018). Seated, L-R: Alan Delaney (President), Phil Glynn (Winner), Mary Kelly (Lady Captain). *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*



Left: John William Burke (Devlis), Ballyhaunis Golf Club, represented Ireland at the US Kids World Finals in Pinehurst, North Carolina, USA, in August this year. This was a huge opportunity for him and a fantastic experience! His family was overwhelmed with all the help he received from everyone, particularly the members of Ballyhaunis Golf Club. He finished in 54th place out of a field of 152 players. Soon after his return, he finished in first place to capture the winning prize in the Irish Kids Tour 'Munster' series, held in Fota Island, Cork, on a super score of two under par. John William is pictured left, with his father John, in Belfast in 2017, where they participated in the Flogas Irish Open Golf tournament for adults and juniors. Father and son finished second in the prestigious All-Ireland contest.



Prizewinners in the Lady Captain's Prize day at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Back, L-R: Patricia Fitzgerald, Deirdre Moran, Anne Freeley, Marina Coyne, Mary Kelly (Lady Captain), Phil Glynn, Fiona Grogan, Margaret Dyer, Angela Grogan. Seated, L-R: Maria Coyne, Helma Van de Putt, Fiona Prenty (Winner), Norrie Dillon, Eileen Morley. *Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.*



Prizewinners in the Captain's Prize Day (Karl Coyne /Captain 2018) at Ballyhaunis Golf Club.

Back, L-R: Keith Higgins, Eoghan Collins, Robert Coyne, Alan Delaney (President), David Murphy, Shane Buckley, Mary Kelly (Lady Captain), Liam Lynskey, Andrew Hickey, Shane Ganley. Seated, L-R: David Doherty, Tommy Moran, Karl Coyne (Captain), Tom Fanning (Winner), Steven Ryall. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh.*



Eamon Byrne who was amongst those who took part in the Aviva Insurance ad featuring Roy Keane (also pictured) and Brian O'Driscoll this summer. Eamon plays for Shelbourne Academy Under-9s. He is son of Brian Byrne, originally Doctor's Rd., Ballyhaunis, and grandson of Brian and Peg Byrne.



Above: Molly Hunt, all smiles after meeting Pope Francis in Knock on 26th August, 2018. Molly is granddaughter of Bridie Hunt, Larganboy.
Photo © Michael Mc Laughlin Photography / Knock Shrine



A big day for Molly Hunt after meeting Pope Francis in Knock.



Right: Milo Henry and Tina Jordan-Kistner. Tina's family had Jordan's bar (now the Corner Bar) on The Square for many years.



Cousins All - Luke Moran, Andy Moran, Paul Moran and Eoin Moran, at a recent family reunion.



Right: Orla and Meabh Cahill with Conor and Aoife Mulrennan. Conor had just completed Dublin City Marathon 2018.



Olive Webb McLeod, originally from Devlis, now living in Antrim, who was awarded an OBE for her contribution to nursing in Northern Ireland over the last twenty years. Olive is daughter of the late Joe Webb, Devlis and of Rita (Webb) Byrne, Galway. She is pictured with her husband Calum.



Mary and Jonathan Ryan, Derrylahan (centre and right) presenting a cheque for €1,755 to Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin, proceeds from their double birthday party held in Coney Island Lounge, Gorthaganny. Thanks to everyone who donated.



Mary Moore, Derrylea, pictured with Medugorje Tour Guide and recording artist, David Parkes, in Medugorje.

Down Memory Lane: Bridge Street in my Childhood

CORINNE FLATLEY

My street was Bridge Street, where I was born and raised. Here I lived until I married my husband Tom Flatley and moved to Clare Street, only around the corner. It's a great place to live too and I have lived here for fifty years. But Bridge Street was a wonderful street to grow up in. Some wonderful people lived there when I was young - the best neighbours you could ask for.

In No. 1 lived the Foodys (Byrnes). They had a grocery and provisions shop for many years. George Delaney bought it next and the business is still going strong. I called him a 'blow-in', as he lived in Abbey St. when he bought the shop. Michael, my brother, and George were great friends and were always slagging one another off. I hope they are still at it in Heaven, RIP.

In No. 2 lived Micky and Mary Webb and family. They had a butchers business and were wonderful and helpful neighbours to all my family.

No. 3 was my home. My father had a bicycle shop which sold everything you needed for that mode of transport - pumps, spokes, tubes, tyres, etc. He worked very hard as my mother Mae died when I was four years old, RIP. I don't remember her. My father took care of my three brothers and I. He was a wonderful father and mother to us all. I did have a sister Marie (RIP) who died a year after my mother. This was an awful time for my dear Dad. I don't know how he kept going with all the heartbreak, but he had a great family and friends who came to the house every week, played cards, which he loved, and it helped him with his grief.

Michael and Delia Lyons lived in No. 4. He was a great-uncle of mine. His wife was a grand-aunt to Paddo Cunningham, Abbey St. They ran a bar and grocery business.

In No. 5 lived Michael and Mary Higgins and their daughter Maureen. I remember Michael giving me a kitten which I cherished and had for years.

No. 6 was the home of Joe Rattigan and his sister Aggie. Joe was an auctioneer and ran the business for many years. It is now John O'Dwyer & Sons solicitors.

In No. 7 Tom and Mary Lyons ran a pub business. At Christmas my Dad would buy us all a syphon of lemonade there. It was the only place that sold them.

Mrs. Mary O'Connell lived in No. 8. She had a drapery shop where you could buy curtains, materials, etc. She was a lovely lady. Her son, Mick O'Connell, wrote for the Western People for many years.

No. 9 was where Broddie and Teresa Conway lived and ran a bar business. They had four children: John,

Mary, Heather and Brian.

Next door was Albert Madden who ran a man's clothes shop. He was a wonderful friend to my father. They went to meetings together and played cards in the Parochial Hall every week. His sons Albert and Henry still live in Ballyhaunis.

Next to that was Coyne's Grocery and Bar. Here you could get all your shopping, which I did every week for my Dad.

Forde's was next. It was on The Square. I loved it because at Christmas they had every toy you could think of at that time. The window near the Bank of Ireland was filled with toys and I was up and down every day picking out what Santa would bring me - and sometimes Santa was very good!

Across the street

On the other side of the street was Paul and Molly Waldron's chemists. They always looked after me if I had a bad fall off my bike or a got stung by a wasp: they always had something to ease it.

Next-door was Danny and Mary Fitzgerald's - a lovely shop with every kind of sweets and goodies. They had five children: Helen, Barbara, John (Fr. Sean), Nuala, Patricia. Nuala and Patricia still reside in Ballyhaunis.

Mrs. Ellen Byrne lived in the next house and she ran a bar business. She was a widow with four children: Rita (Galway), Hanna (Boston), Noreen (Cambridge) RIP, and Monica RIP. All the Byrne girls were very good to me growing up. Mrs. Byrne gave me many a glass of lemonade, especially when I hurt myself falling off my bike. Rita's daughters Eavan and Aisling are married and living in Ballyhaunis.

Next was Denis Sweeney's. He was a lovely man and a wonderful dentist, though I never liked having to go to the dentists. Over his surgery was a hairdresser named Grace Quinn and I always had my hair done there at weekends.

Denis and Mary Hannan lived in the next house. They had an electrical shop, and this was the first place I saw a television in the town. Their sons Denis and George live in town.

Next door was Miss Mac's who had a sweet shop. She only opened it up every few weeks, and on those occasions the queue for sweets was very long. She had every kind of sweet you could ask for, and gave you a very big bag for just a penny. This was where the Gem is now. Paddy and Mary Casserley bought it and had a



Bridge Street, Ballyhaunis

wonderful business for many years.

Mr. Pat O'Dwyer, solicitor, had his office over the Gem for a long time before he moved to No. 6 Bridge St., where John and sons run it now. Pat O'Dwyer was a great friend of my father's. He was very good to me and gave a type-writer for me to practise on when I did a commercial course with Mother Dymphna in the Convent.

The Post Office is still the same. Many's a morning I would look out the top window from my home to see the time, hoping I wasn't late for school. The nuns would tell me off if I was late as I was nearest to the school. But if they wanted anything my father always looked after them with torches, batteries, etc. Still, I didn't get away with anything!

Bridge Street in the 1960s. One of a series of photographs taken by Padraig Kennelly, Tralee and produced as postcards. First published in *Annagh*, 2001, p. 84

Last but not least are the best neighbours I had, next door. Gerry and Flo Dillon bought Micky Webb's property when he moved with his family to Limerick to open a butcher shop there. The Dillons changed the business and ran a lovely pub for a good many years. They had two daughters Mary and Rita, with whom I still keep in touch. Flo was so good to me – my second mother really – and helped me learn cooking and baking. Her chocolate cake was the best you could eat and she showed me how to make it and many more things. I remember them always in my prayers.

I will finish now. Hope you enjoy my story.



Gerry Benson, Kieran Benson, Thomas Lyons and Sean Waldron. Summer 2018.



Old friends meet: Bernard Waldron, Gerry Benson, George Hannan. Summer 2018.

Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

MARY DONNELLY



"You have a lot of interesting projects and are making great efforts to improve both the natural and built environment in your town. Although there are challenges facing Ballyhaunis in some areas you are working hard to tackle this and overcome them, and we look forward to your continued participation and success."

The concluding remarks in the National Tidy Towns adjudication report 2018 sum up the work of our committee over the past year. Ballyhaunis was awarded 287 marks in the competition - an increase of eight on last year. Marks were gained in six of the eight categories in the competition while they remained at last year's level in the other two. Many business premises in the town were described as well presented: among them Val's Bar & Bistro, Paddy Phillips' Bar, Curley's Bar, Nicholson's and The Oak Café & Bar. The hanging baskets on the river bridge and the planters in the 1916 Garden were admired for attractive use of colour, while the embankment at Delaney's Hardware, Brookvale Manor Nursing Home and the grounds of St. Patrick's Church were noted for attractive planting.

The Friary grounds (Friarsground) were described as a tremendous asset to the town as both a community

amenity and an area of natural habitats for wildlife in the park and along the river.

Among the challenges facing Ballyhaunis noted by the adjudicator were dereliction in the town and in residential streets/housing estates, and the problem of illegal dumping. The report states that it was disappointing to note that, although from the front the Bring Banks looked well kept and clean, there was actually a significant amount of rubbish and bags just dumped there. Hopefully, the presence of cameras and the efforts of the Litter Warden in prosecuting offenders will go some way in resolving this problem.

National Spring Clean and Cleaner Community Campaign

Our Good Friday clean-up continues to go from strength to strength with more volunteers taking part each year. Special mention goes to Annagh Residents who made a huge effort yet again in cleaning up their local area, only to find further dumping taking place less than two weeks later. There seems to be a major increase in the amount of illegal dumping going on as we have reported several incidents to the Litter Warden over the past year. We ask people to be vigilant but please do not open bags of rubbish; report any incidents in your



Presentation of prizes in Mayo County Council's Community Litter League and Cleaner Community Campaign 2017, held in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris. Pictured are members of Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns with local councillors and County Council officials. Standing, L-R: Cllr. Neil Cruise, Mary Donnelly, Peter Hynes (CEO, Mayo Co. Co.), Teresa Grogan, Ann Curley, Cllr. John Cribbin, Falilat Oladibubo, Cllr. John Caulfield, John Condon (Mayo Co. Co.), Cllr. Patsy O'Brien, Gabriel Smith, Cllr. Damien Ryan. Seated, L-R: Christina Mkwanda, Frances Maye, Jacinta Ezeokofar, Cllr. Richard Finn (Cathaoirleach, Mayo Co. Co.), Catherine McConnell (Director of Services, Mayo Co. Co.), Kay Curley.

neighbourhood to Mayo County Council Litter Warden. The Litter Line is 1800 400 256.

Our efforts in the Community Litter League and 'Sweep your Street' in Abbey Street last year paid off with second prize being awarded. An enjoyable night was had by those who attended the presentation of prizes in Claremorris last November. We have entered Main Street and Upper Main Street in 'Sweep your Street' this year and Knock Road in 'Adopt a Mile'. We await the results at the time of writing.

Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets throughout the town and the planted beds added a vibrant splash of colour to the townscape and looked resplendent in the summer sun. Keeping them watered during the dry spell proved quite a challenge this year and we are grateful to our Rural Social Scheme team who rose to the challenge with great success! The tiered planters in the Square were removed this year to make way for the enhancement work being carried out by Mayo County Council. We hope to restore them next year in the newly revamped Square. We plan to introduce rain water harvesting next year in keeping with the recommendations of the National Tidy Towns adjudicator for better use of natural resources.

Thanks

We extend sincere thanks to all who support the work of Tidy Towns in various ways - our voluntary helpers, Mayo County Council staff, Cllr. John Cribbin for his allocation of funding again this year and his ongoing help and support, Ballyhaunis Chamber, Bank of Ireland, Minister Michael Ring for a special financial contribution to mark the 60th anniversary of the National Tidy Towns Competition, and all who contribute to our annual church gate collection and our mite boxes in the shops.

New members

During the past year we welcomed a number of new members and we extend a hearty céad míle fáilte to anyone who would like to be involved in the work of Tidy Towns. If picking litter is not your thing there are several other aspects to Tidy Towns such as biodiversity, waste management, recycling, landscaping, flower and shrub planting - the list is endless! Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the Parochial Hall and everyone is welcome to attend.

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, Mike Griffin, Frances Maye, Nell Rochford, Gabriel Smith, J. T. Smyth, Mary Higgins, Breeda Burke, Una Shields, Caitriona Varley, Connie Gildea, Rob and Mary Finnie.

Brother and Sister line-out for Mayo

Brian O'Neill was on the Mayo U20 team who competed in the All-Ireland, while his sister Niamh was on the Mayo Minor team.



Brian O'Neill



Niamh O'Neill

Summer Reading Programme



Children who took part in the Summer Reading Programme at Ballyhaunis Library. Certificates were presented to the children by Cllr. John Cribbin. Also in the photographs are Eleanor Freyne (Librarian, Ballyhaunis), Darina Molloy (Staff Officer, Mayo County Library), Mary Gannon and Bridie Wimsey (Kiltimagh Library).
Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh





Summer Reading Programme at Ballyhaunis Library. *Glynn's Photography, Castlereagh*

Knockbrack Bonfire



Neighbours enjoying a great night, as usual, at the annual Bonfire at Agatha and Vincent Higgins' in Knockbrack, 2018.

Left to Right: Darragh Walsh, Jimmy Walsh, Michael Egan, Paul McNamara, John Joe Lyons, Kevin McNamara, Mary Cribbin, Bernie Lyons, Kathleen Egan (seated), Síofra Ní Ráighne, Teresa Grogan, Mary Walsh, Joan McNamara, Vincent Higgins, Paul Higgins, John O'Meara, Natasha Higgins O'Meara, Gary Higgins, Agatha Higgins, Zoe O'Meara, Grace Lyons, Shauna Lyons, Róisín Lyons and Michelle Lyons.

The Achill Colony and the Derrymore Priest

PATRICIA BYRNE

When the young curate, Father James Henry, was posted to Achill Island in 1852, it was a place in turmoil. Like the rest of Ireland, the years of the Great Famine had brought devastation; death from hunger, along with eviction and emigration, had emptied entire villages. For the previous two decades, the powerful Archbishop of Tuam, John MacHale, and the leader of the Achill Mission Colony, Edward Nangle, had traded insults and accusations with one another. Stung by accusations that he had allowed the Achill Mission to attract hundreds of converts in the Famine years, John MacHale was now determined to reassert his authority and that of the Catholic Church in Achill, and he chose the energetic young curate James Henry to spearhead this work.

In my book, *The Preacher and The Prelate – The Achill Mission Colony and The Battle for Souls in Famine Ireland*, I tell the extraordinary story of Edward Nangle and his Achill Colony. What happened in Dugort, Achill, on the slopes of Slievemore, was dramatic, raw and tempestuous. In the 1830s, during an earlier famine in the west, the young evangelical Protestant clergyman, Edward Nangle, travelled to Achill on a relief mission and, deciding that it was the most destitute spot in Ireland, he made a decision to establish a missionary colony on the island with the aim of rescuing the people from their uncivilised and primitive ways which he blamed on the Catholic Church and its priests.

In its first decade of operations, the Achill Colony grew into an impressive development on the slopes of Slievemore with a cluster of slated houses surrounded by fertile reclaimed fields, schools, an orphanage, a

hospital and a printing press for the Colony's own publication *The Achill Missionary Herald*. So remarkable was the settlement that it drew visitors such as Lady Franklin, Ann Marie and Samuel Hall, and the American philanthropist Asenath Nicholson who wished to see the Achill Colony first hand. It seemed that Edward Nangle was succeeding in transforming Achill.

It was the Colony schools that initially caused open conflict to break out between Edward Nangle and John MacHale. From a situation where there was barely any schooling on the island, the Achill Colony soon had hundreds of children attending its schools which included the teaching of the scriptures. John MacHale responded by setting up competing schools which were effectively under the control of the local clergy and a battle for the hearts of the Achill children was soon in full swing.

When the Great Famine hit in 1845, Edward Nangle decided to feed the children in the Colony schools and this, understandably, caused an explosion in demand for entry to those schools. This, and other practices at the Achill Colony, gave rise to the ugly charge of 'souperism' – offering food and material benefits in return for religious conversion – against Edward Nangle and his Mission. The outcome of the decision to feed children in the Colony schools was dramatically visible when, in 1849, there were 400 candidates for a Protestant confirmation ceremony at Dugort, 372 of whom were converts from the Catholic Church.

In the early 1850s, as the country painfully tried to recover from the shocking ordeal of the Famine, John MacHale was determined to reassert his authority and that of his church in Achill. His first step was to purchase land at Bunnacurry as a base for the Franciscan monks with would comprise schools and a model farm. He was determined, too, that those who converted in the Great Famine years would return to the Catholic fold. Another important decision, was his selection of Father James Henry to spearhead the fight back against Edward Nangle's Colony.

Derrymore

Born in Derrymore, outside Ballyhaunis, James Henry was ordained a priest in Maynooth, probably in 1851, and served for a short period in Castlebar before being assigned to Achill in 1852. Like his archbishop, he took a resolute and strongminded stand against the proselytisers

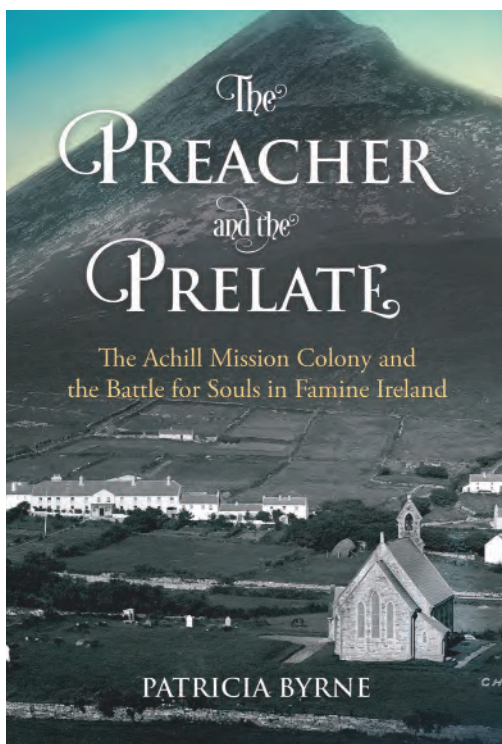


Postcard showing Main Street, Achill Mission Colony.

and on two occasions – in 1852 and 1853 – was summoned to court for alleged assaults on scripture readers. He visited the parents of children attending the ‘stirabout’ schools and extracted promises from the parents that the children would be withdrawn. He employed Edward Nangle’s own tactics by soliciting money for his island causes from English benefactors.

One of many conflicts between James Henry and the Achill Colony occurred in November 1853, when an emigrant ship the *California* was wrecked at sea and some 60 survivors landed at Dugort in a distressed state. While the survivors were being cared for at the Colony hotel and hospital, a sectarian outburst occurred. When James Henry arrived at the Colony, following a request by some of the survivors to see a Catholic clergyman, he was refused entry – on the instructions of Edward Nangle, he was told.

Father Henry was also involved in the passionate defence of the tenants of William Pike (one of the main landlords in Achill in the 1850s, together with the Achill Mission) when they were removed from their holdings in the winter of 1854. The priest condemned the ‘cruelties which my poor parishioners in Upper Achill have been made to suffer by wholesale eviction’ when



frost and snow covered the land. Father Henry strode the stage in post-famine Achill with colossal energy and a passionate intensity.

The Achill Mission Colony declined steadily through the later decades of the nineteenth century due to internal divisions and reduced income as a result of the Irish Church Act and the Land Acts. Archbishop John MacHale died in Tuam in November 1881 in his 90th year. Edward Nangle died two years later and is buried, with his second wife, at Deansgrange Cemetery, Dublin. For decades, the pair of clergymen had participated in a fierce battle for the minds and souls of the Achill people,

symbolising in a dramatic way the fault lines that bedevilled the Ireland of their times.

Patricia Byrne, nee Murphy, was born in Greenwood, Ballyhaunis and now lives in Limerick. Her book, *The Preacher and The Prelate – The Achill Mission Colony and The Battle for Souls in Famine Ireland* was published in 2018 by Merrion Press. She wishes to thank Michael Kelly for his input to her research on Father James Henry.



Gurteen stands behind its Book!

Residents of Gurteen promote and sell their recently published book '*Gurteen (An Goirtín)* - A commemoration of Life in Our Village 1916-2016' at the Traditional Fair Day in Ballyhaunis, 2018.

Back, L-R: Brian, Aoife, Seamus and Mary Mulrennan, Mary Henry, Cheree Gallagher, Pauline Henry. Seated, L-R: Orla Loftus Moran, Mary Henry, Anne Phillips.

Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher.

4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scout Group



Group Report

The 4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scout Group has just opened again for the fifth year. It has flourished in the last couple of years and now has more members than ever with eight new adult leaders having signed up to train before Christmas. We are in a really good position going forward. I would like to thank all of our Leaders, who are volunteers and who dedicate a lot of time each week to planning activities, running meetings and organising events. I would like to thank Scoil Íosa for the use of their gym for our weekly meetings.

**Marion Feeney,
Group Leader, 4th Mayo**

The following is a report from each section of our group:

Beaver Report

We in Beavers have had a very productive, fun-filled year. We achieved so much this year. We had quite a full group in that we had thirty-two Beavers registered with us. Our first big outing was a trip to Castle Saunderson in December to visit Santa. It was a great day out organised by Scouting Ireland. In February we celebrated Pancake Tuesday with 'The Pancake Factory' visiting us at Scoil Íosa and providing crêpes with all sorts of flavours.

In March we completed our Hill Walking badge with a great day out at Moorehall. In April we took part in the Easter Parade which was so much fun as we all got to make a sign for the float. The Firemen from the Fire Brigade came to visit also. In May we earned a First Aid badge thanks to the Red Cross who visited. We also took part in a two night County Camp in Castlebar. In June/July we had our two night group camp in Athlone and we had a day doing Standup Paddling in Ballina.

**Leaders: Anna Patterson, Edel Conway,
Paul Damron, John Durkan, Marion Feeney**

Cub Report

I have been a Scout Leader for nearly five years with the 4th Mayo Scout Group. The other Leaders in this group are Tina Squires, Eamon Monaghan and Paul Carney. The Cub Scout group are aged from 9-12 years old. This year we have twenty-six children in the group. We have had fantastic adventures over the scouting years.

The aim of Scouting Ireland is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and as responsible citizens help to improve society.



One of the benefits of scouting is that it is non-competitive. Everybody gets to take part. Scouts enjoy incredible freedom in a safe environment. Each Scout will progress at their own pace through scouting challenges individually and within their small groups. With all the technology surrounding today's children, it's not difficult to imagine a childhood where the outdoors plays a substantially reduced role. Adventure, freedom and respect for the environment are gained by being in close contact with nature and participating in outdoor adventures such as hiking, kayaking and camping.

Our Cub Scouts work in groups called Sixes with Cub Leaders called Sixers. The following are quotes from this year's Sixes: 'There is always something new to learn and do, such as camping, pioneering, hiking or compass work'. 'I love Cub Scouts because it's about helping others and the community. It is also good for learning how to get over your fears. I have made lots of friends and learned about first-aid, cooking outdoors and camping'. 'I have loved the water activities such as paddle boarding, surfing and kayaking. I have great scouting friends'.

Over 2018 we have had a very busy scouting calendar. Here is a snapshot of some activities undertaken: kayaking, compass reading, orienteering, hiking, paddle boarding and two camps. The first camp was in Castlebar Barracks and the second at Portlick in Glasson. On camp the fun and excitement is endless! Assembling tents, outdoor cooking, pioneering skills, knot practice and camp fires are but a few of the exciting things we do!

Community projects have ranged from Nursing Home visits, Tidy Town clean ups and planting of spring bulbs in the Friary Field, assembling a float for the Easter parade and constructing two insect hotels.

These days it is ever more important to have a sense of community. Scouting gives children a greater understanding of their place in our community, with better understanding of who they are and what they are capable of achieving.

We look forward to another year of adventures and learning through the scouting method.

Mairéad Murphy Damron, Cub Leader



Local players from the Mayo Under-16 Ladies Gaelic Football team visited with cup.



4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scout Leaders.

Back, L-R: Karen Whelan, Tamzin Whelan Manning, John Walsh, Marion Feeney, Tony Johnson, Paul Damron, Paul Carney. Front, L-R: Anna Patterson, Tina Squires, Edel Conway, Rene Nolan (County Commissioner), John Durkan, Kevin Carney. Missing from photo: Mairéad Damron and Eamon Monaghan.

Scout Group

4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Scouts have done a lot of fun activities throughout the year involving kids of all ages. To start off our new year we got a new Den in which to hold our meetings. They are held in Coogue Primary school. We love to have fun in scouts and do as much as we can. Some activities we've done include: Patrol Leader Training in October - here we met loads of others from around Mayo. Paddle boarding in Ballina in October. We had a fun Halloween night with a bonfire and marshmallows and sweets also in October. We had our investiture for new members in November: this is where you get our blue and yellow neckerchief. Our Scouts went to Petersburg in Co. Galway for a hostel camp. They went abseiling, orienteering, did an obstacle course and did a lot of singing in February. Our scouts helped clean up the rubbish around town for Tidy Towns in March. We participated in the Easter Parade with our own float in April. Our scouts went camping in Cavan, where they went backwoods and slept in hammocks overnight in April. We hosted a table quiz in May for the adults as a fundraiser in Fitzer's.

All groups in Mayo attended the Beaver and Cub County Camp in Castlebar. Scouts and Venturers planned out and staffed this camp in May. We participated in the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival in June. The Scouts had a camp with scouts from Louisburgh in Lough Keel in June. We all went to Portlick in Athlone. Here we did kayaking, water slides, crate stacking and loads more fun activities in July. One of our Venturers entered an All-Ireland Scouting Competition in August. Here we met loads of scouts from around Ireland and absolutely loved the experience. Scouting is all about fun and enjoyment and we love to sing and dance when we can.

Tamzin Whelan Manning, Scout Group

Ballyhaunis Chamber

TOM FORDE

As another quick year comes to a close I look back on what we have achieved and what needs to be achieved. As most are aware the Ballyhaunis Chamber is a completely voluntary organisation and there are no paid employees. The Chamber's works are lead by its members and the Ballyhaunis Chamber Executive.

I am delighted to see the works being carried out at the Square and Bridge St. and hope you agree the town looks better for it. I hope it will be complete by the time the Annagh Magazine has been published.

Funding for this work was secured under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, and we have submitted for further funding under this scheme. I would like to thank all road users, customers, the businesses and community, for their patience as there has been some disruption to the town. The upgrading of the N83 from the Ballyhaunis junction out toward Gurrane has definitely improved driver experience. A total of €4.1 million was allocated for improvement works (resurfacing) of the N83, €2 million of which was allocated to the section within Ballyhaunis town, and 1.7 km section between Ballyhaunis and Gurrane at Devlis. Ballyhaunis Chamber will to continue to lobby for further improvement works to the N83. All these issues are long term and we will strive to bring them to fruition.

At the beginning of this year Ballyhaunis Chamber, BRCIE Ltd, Mayo County Council, Cllr. John Cribbin and Minister Michael Ring met to discuss the old Convent of Mercy National School, which is now under the remit of Mayo County Council, to see how it could be put to use for the benefit of the town. After inspection it was seen that the building would need a considerable amount of funding to bring it up to standard. After further discussions with Mayo County Council they have put forward the works on this project for consideration under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (recently announced) for consideration at county level. It is seen at the municipal district level as a key project which could be developed for the benefit of Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area. A decision will be made in the coming weeks as to which projects will be pursued further for funding.

Other issues we are looking at is the possibility of CCTV for the town. Funding for CCTV is available for 2018/2019. Due to recent changes in GDPR clarification is required on data protection changes in relation to data retention and accessibility from Mayo County Councils IT section before discussions on this can take place. As there is a huge cost to the town involved, this issue will be brought to the businesses/organisations/community to discuss.

This time next year we hope to see that the Courthouse will be in use. There are interested parties at present looking at the building and it would be great to see it in use. We are also in talks with Mayo County Council on a space for a one stop shop/tourist office, space for local crafts persons to display their wares, and would also hope to have this secured in 2019.

A letter has been sent to the GPO for clarification of the Future of the Ballyhaunis Sorting Office based at the Enterprise Centre.

The drafted by-laws on anti-social behaviour for the town of Ballyhaunis will be ready for public consultation in the coming weeks seeking submissions before they are adopted by the councillors.

We are delighted to have secured some funding from CMD fund and Cllr. John Cribbin for the Christmas Lights this year, and would like to sincerely thank Mayo County Council and Cllr. Cribbin for their continued support. Repair works are to be carried out on some of the catenary wires and more lights to be purchased as well as the electrician's costs. None of this is cheap but I hope you agree it is worth the time, effort and cost to brighten up Ballyhaunis for the Christmas period and to bring some festive cheer to the town. Help with the Christmas Lights is always welcome, and if you would like to become involved please contact the Ballyhaunis Chamber Office or Paddy Phillips whom we would like to thank for all his time and effort. Our sincerest thanks also to all the businesses who continue to support and contribute towards the Ballyhaunis Christmas lights. Most of our previous sponsors for the fund-raising raffle have agreed to sponsor a prize again this year, and we would also like to sincerely thank them for their support. The raffle tickets shall be sold throughout the town with some fantastic prizes on offer. Please make sure you look out for them and support our efforts to Light-up Ballyhaunis for Christmas. The Ballyhaunis Christmas Market will take place in The Square on Saturday 15th of December and we hope you will take time to come and support. On Sunday 25th November, the crib will be blessed, the Christmas lights will be turned on, there will be carol singing and a visit from Santa.

As a Chamber we have also written to Bank of Ireland requesting the reinstatement of a Cashier for the Ballyhaunis Branch.

A lot of works are carried out quietly by the Ballyhaunis Chamber which would not be possible without the help and support of the staff in the Ballyhaunis Enterprise Centre, the Ballyhaunis Chamber Executive and its member. I would like to personally thank each and everyone who has graciously given of

their time. We are members of a number of excellent organisations in Ballyhaunis and we all work together for the town of Ballyhaunis. New members are always welcome to any of these committees. I know it's not easy running a business and becoming involved in organisations but if we do not look after our town and put some time and effort in, who will? Do we all go about our own business and ignore the decline of the town or do we pull together to combat this issue?

I would now like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a Peaceful Christmas and prosperous New Year and look forward to meeting you all in 2019 where we can come together to discuss what we can do for our town. Merry Christmas!



Easter Parade 2018

Top: Brian Flanagan and Gareth Delaney with 'Olaf' the Snowman.
Photo by Janapix.

Centre: Ballyhaunis Cricket Club.
Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.

4th Mayo Ballyhaunis Beavers.
Photo by Fr. Stephen Farragher.





Easter Parade 2018

Top: 4th Mayo Scouts.

Below: Mayo SPCA and Ballyhaunis GAA.
Photos by Fr. Stephen Farragher.



Ballyhaunis Parish Choir

MARTINA KELLY (SECRETARY)

In September, as the Autumn evenings began to creep in, the Parish Choir resumed their practices and we were delighted to see a couple of new faces in the midst of familiar ones.

Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings from 7 - 8pm in the parish church, and we would be delighted to welcome anyone wishing to lend their voice to enhance the Liturgy of the Mass. We sing on the first and third Sundays of the month and at other special ceremonies throughout the year. Choir members are also available to sing at funeral services, and should anyone need to avail of this service, details can be had from the local undertakers.

Sincere thanks and gratitude are expressed to our Musical Director, Moira Delaney. Moira works tirelessly, forever sourcing new music, teaching it to choir members and ensuring it is perfect before it is performed. Thanks and gratitude are also expressed to the organists and soloists who also perform during the year. If you'd like to see us perform some of our Christmas repertoire, why not come along to the



Ballyhaunis Parish Choir. Back, L-R: Mairéad Quinn, Maureen Thornton, Michael Kelly, Tim Byrne. Centre, L-R: Geraldine Collins, Breege Keogh Kenny, Ann Curley, Sally Higgins, Kay Healy, Agatha Higgins. Front, L-R: Yvonne Loughran, Anna Henry, Moira Delaney (Choir Director), Ita Fahey, Eileen Nestor.

Friary on Sunday 16th December where we will perform along with Gracenotes and the Abbey Male Voice Choir.

Chairperson: Michael Kelly; **Treasurers:** Frances Mulhern & Ann Curley; **Musical Director:** Moira Delaney; **Assistant Musical Director:** Ita Fahey; **Organist:** Ludmilla Burchovski; **Secretary:** Martina Kelly.



Easter Parade

"Mrs. Brown's Boys" float, presented by Tully Forge.

Photo by Janapix.

Ballyhaunis Community School

– 40 years on

JARLATH FAHEY (former Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School)

Reprinted courtesy of the Community School Yearbook 2018

This year (2018) marked the 40th year anniversary of Ballyhaunis Community School, an amalgamation of three secondary schools: the Vocational School established in 1941, St. Joseph's secondary school for girls established by the sisters of Mercy in 1951 and St. Patrick's College diocesan school for boys established in 1961. It is an appropriate time to put on record the origins of the three schools and the social and economic milieu of the time.

Until 1940, secondary schools were confined to large towns and secondary school education for those outside these towns was virtually impossible except for the fortunate few whose parents could afford boarding school fees of £50 to £70 per year. Emigration was high and economic growth was nearly non-existent.

In 1941, The Vocational School was opened in Ballyhaunis as a two year post primary education course leading to a group certificate offering mainly domestic science for girls and technical subjects for boys, as well as evening classes for adults for a group cert. They also covered general subjects like Irish, English and Maths. Vocational schools began to offer an intermediate certificate syllabus in 1966 leading to an exam in 1969, and a leaving cert, but this was gradually phased out.

Dr. Joseph Walsh became Archbishop of Tuam in 1940. He had previously been President of St. Jarlath's College and understood the importance of promoting post primary education, echoing the link that Thomas Davis saw between freedom and education in the previous century – "Educate that you may be free". He gave practical expression to this vision. He oversaw the provision of the 17 new secondary schools in the course of 25 years. It was something of an Educational Revolution. St. Patrick's College Ballyhaunis was one of these projects in 1961, which is now the site of the Community School.

Meanwhile, the Sisters of Mercy, with the encouragement of the Parish Priest, Archdeacon Geoffrey Prendergast, formed a "Secondary Jobs" school for girls in their Primary School, which would allow girls to enter for the intermediate cert. This became a full Secondary School for girls in 1951 built by Mr. Patrick Dyer at the cost of £7,618.

1967 marked a big change in post primary education in Ireland. The Minister for Education, Donagh O'Malley, introduced free post primary education and free transport for students. This simply catapulted

second level education into the future. The fees for secondary schools were modest enough –£17 to £19 per year – but their removal and the advent of free transport had a positive psychological affect for people who may have doubted the relevance of second level education, especially for boys. It also coincided with fresh economic thinking after decades of stagnation which saw Ireland emerging economically and helping to stem massive emigration. Optimism was in the air. It brought a big increase in demands for second level education.

In response to this, the managements of the three schools began to share resources with students and teachers travelling between schools and students availing of a wide range of subjects. This sowed the seeds and had a huge bearing on the move towards a full amalgamation as a Community School.

Amalgamation

It is important to recognise the vision and encouragement of the management bodies of the three schools that pursued this. At the time the Department of Education was anxious to amalgamate small schools and it was fortunate that, due to remarkable foresight, more land had been acquired adjoining the site of St. Patrick's College for Miss Kathleen Grealley which made the site suitable for the Community School. Ballyhaunis was years ahead of the other community schools in the area, indeed within a radius of 40 miles, and it may not have happened without the availability of a site and the co-operation of the staffs of the three schools.

It wasn't easy at the time. Each school had its own traditions and history and were happy in their comfort zones. Relinquishing autonomy and control can be challenging. Community schools were very much in their infancy and were looked upon with a certain amount of caution in some quarters. Co-education for boys and girls was relatively new. It was somewhat of a leap in the dark. A lot of preparatory work, meetings and planning took place which helped to iron out difficulties and fears.

The actual opening of the school presented new challenges. It was a change from organising classes and timetable for a small number of students in one school. The first staff meeting started with a very symbolic ceremony. The principals of the three existing schools, Eddie Thornton from the Vocational School, Sr. Joan Fahey from St. Joseph's Convent school and Fr. Francis McMyler from St. Patrick's College took a light from

three candles representing the three schools and lit one candle representing the new Community School. It was certainly not an empty vital. The staffs embraced the challenge, blended together and made every effort to make the new school a success.

I would like to pay tribute to first Principal, Eddie Thornton and Fr. Francis McMyler, first Vice Principal, both now deceased, who made an enormous contribution to the success of the new school. There were very few guidelines. It was like ploughing a new furrow. The echoes and traditions of the three schools were blended together and the foundations of the organisation of the school today were established.

As a teacher in the school from the beginning, it is not

for me to evaluate its success, but I will say that I am proud of the school and thankful that I was part of it for many years. Whenever I revisit the school I get a very clear sense of the positive atmosphere among the students and staff: that of friendliness, happiness and mutual respect as well as youthful exuberance and joy of life among the students.

As the school starts a new phase, with the building almost complete, I know that positive atmosphere and attitudes will increase and grow in future years and I wish the school, students, parents and staff every success in the future as many young people will pass through its doors.

Community School Transformed

PAT McHUGH (former Principal of Ballyhaunis Community School)

Reprinted courtesy of the Community School Yearbook 2018

I can remember 1977 fairly clearly but I Googled the year to see what the main events were, just to jog my memory. It told me that Jimmy Carter was inaugurated as US President, Red Rum won the Grand National for the third time, Star Wars broke all box office records, Jim Callaghan was Prime Minister of the UK, and Elvis died at 42. In Ireland, Jack Lynch swept back to power as Taoiseach, the Troubles in the North continued and Dublin won the All Ireland, again!

By just recalling those events, which will be news to anyone under 50 years, it puts into perspective just how long 40 years is. The one event not mentioned by Google for 1977 was the opening of the new Community School in Ballyhaunis. It was a new, bright, state-of-the-art facility that was going to afford the young people of the catchment area enhanced educational opportunities not available to the same extent beforehand. Forty years pass and a reincarnated version of that vision is about to emerge. I like to think that over the past 40 years BCS has achieved, if not surpassed, the expectations of 1977.

As anyone can see the 1977 version of the Community School has been totally transformed and another state of the art building has emerged. It is a long time in gestation – nearly 20 years in fact – now good to go for another 40 years at the very minimum. At the end of the day, however, it is just a building; it is the intangible spirit that the school community creates that makes a school. It is possible for a visitor to detect that spirit by the time they reach the reception desk. It is something in the air that gives the visitor the feeling that this is a welcoming, happy place, where people are content. Nobody can see or touch the spirit, it is either

there or it is not and visitors have always said that the atmosphere in Ballyhaunis Community School was evident in the ether once they crossed the threshold.

My wish for the School going forward is that it retains the special spirit of community that makes it unique in my mind. 3,600 students, more-or-less, would have gone through the school since 1977. They have made a valuable contribution to society spread across the world and they appreciate the advice and guidance they received from the many dedicated staff during their time in school. Nobody of the original team is there today but the spirit and the ethos that has developed is in very capable hands, and I wish the present team and all the students every good wish in their new, more spacious, state of the art surroundings.



Ballyhaunis Community School Principal, David McDonagh, congratulates Orla Macken on her appointment as Deputy Principal at the school, September 2018.



Students of Ballyhaunis Community School attend their Graduation Mass in the Friary Church, Summer 2018.



CORRECTION

In last year's (2017) issue of *Annagh*, the incorrect caption was inadvertently given for the bottom photograph on page 176: an image from the 1966 Commemorative March in Ballyhaunis.

Here is the photograph with the correct names. 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.



On the occasion of Pope Francis' visit to Knock Shrine, August 26th, 2018.

L-R: Mary Kay Phillips, Philomena Koller, Cathal and Margie Phillips

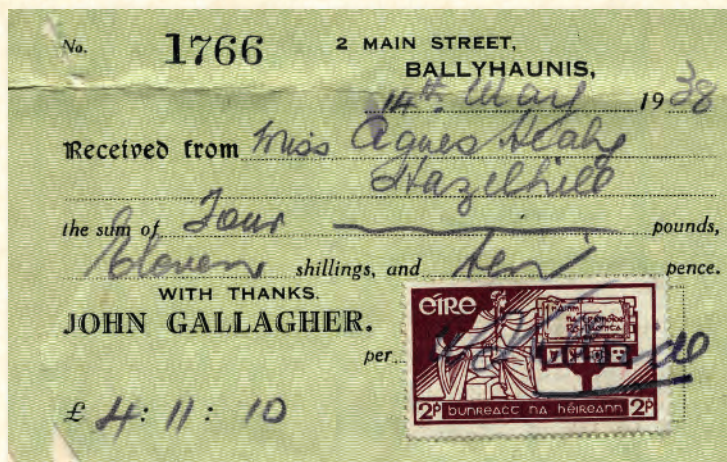
Right: Seamus Mulrennan and Brigid Lynskey at Knock for Pope Francis' visit.



Echoes of the Past

(Left) A 78 rpm gramophone record in a sleeve from O'Brien's, Main Street, Ballyhaunis.

The record is one of Billy Whitlock's, a xylophone and bell-ringing virtuoso who recorded in the 1920s.
Courtesy of Joan Flanagan.



Receipt (above) and an invoice (right) detailing some of the requisites for completing the construction of a two-storey house in Hazelhill in 1938 – eighty years ago.

The house in question stood beside the bridge in Hazelhill, where Keith Revins' Tyre Centre stands today.

BOOT-MAKERS.
Wanted two all-round men. Must be steady. Also an apprentice. Apply to
BERNARD HEALY,
Main-street, Ballyhaunis.

Advertisement in the Western People, 16th December, 1899.

2. Main St. BALLYHAUNIS.
14th May 1938
Mrs Agnes Neahy
Hazelhill
Bot of **M. M. Waldron & Son**
WHOLESALE & RETAIL
DRAPERS & GROCERS.
WINE SPIRIT IRON TIMBER HARDWARE & SEED MERCHANTS STATIONERS ETC.
Funeral Requisites of every description supplied
Agents for Rudge-Whitworth Cycles, Principal Lines of American Steamers, and Phoenix Assurance Co. Ltd.

1938		
March 12	5 bags cement 5 3/4	18 9
	2. 18' 1/2 x 2 (old)	9 .
April 11	4. 6' 4" gutter	13 0
	1. 3' 4" gutter	2 6
	6 Brackets	3 0
	1/2 doz. Gutter Bolts	3 .
	1 lb putty	4 .
	1. 4" Angle	2 .
May 19	3 bags cement	11 3
May 5	2. 5' 2 1/2" L. pipe	12 .
	1. 3' 2 1/2" L. pipe	4 .
	3 Downpipe hooks	1 6
1941	1. 2 1/2" shoe	2 6
	3 1/2 Shrub Zinc	2 .
	10 5 bags cement	18 9
	By 2. 18' 1/2 x 2	50 10
	By 2. 18' 1/2 x 2	9 0
	By 2. 18' 1/2 x 2	4 11 10
	By 2. 18' 1/2 x 2	4 11 10

Ballyhaunis Community Garden

STEPHEN GROGAN

Background

Community Gardens have been growing in popularity over the last few years – a good way to learn about growing vegetables and developing your own garden, but also as a way for people to work together for the benefit of the wider community.

The Community Garden in Ballyhaunis was started in 2015 on land kindly provided by the Abbey Partnership, with funding from Mayo North East and voluntary help from the Family Resource Centre and a range of local people.

Great progress has been made over the last three years with an open area behind the Friary House being transformed into a beautiful garden growing a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and flowers.

An attractive seating/picnic area has also been provided and gardening courses and information/advice sessions have been run.

The community garden is a voluntary activity and we try to be as flexible as possible to encourage and support people to be involved and to support groups to make use of this facility.

Garden Development

After the poly tunnel was installed the garden was further developed with the planting of a perimeter fence (made from Irish whitethorn bushes) and the planting of a small orchard – made up of a variety of Irish Apple and Cherry Tree strains. This perimeter work has been further developed with the planting of Irish fruit bushes and strawberry beds.

The garden area itself has been turned into a well-



The Ballyhaunis Community Garden was one of five gardens to be granted the Green Flag Community Award in a new nationwide scheme started this year. L-R: Mohammad Arshad, Stephen Grogan, Stephen Duffy, Pat Walsh, Petr Horcicko, Colin Egan, Johnny Murphy, Jarlath Nevin.

developed planted area with a focus on traditional vegetables as well as some experimental planting of somewhat more exotic vegetables, favoured by people by our international communities. The planting area incorporates raised beds and traditional ploughed ridges.

The poly tunnel has been used to experiment with a number of different vegetables being planted although the main focus is on growing lettuce, courgettes and tomatoes.

Some people have come forward to develop their own 'allotment' style plots and we would actively encourage anyone interested in this to make contact with us.

Green Flag Community Award

This year, 2018 has seen the initial introduction of the Green Flag Community Award scheme into Ireland, allowing public parks and garden sites managed by volunteers and community groups to participate for the first time.

The Green Flag Award is an international benchmarking standard for parks and green spaces. The scheme is also operating across England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Green Flag Award scheme aims to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces





Ballyhaunis Community Garden

that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways.

The Ballyhaunis Community Garden was one of five gardens to be granted the Green Flag Community Award in a new nationwide scheme started this year. It was great recognition for all the hard work that has gone on over the last three years.

Thanks in particular were expressed to Pat Walsh from the TÚS scheme, as well as Colin Egan (who is

currently looking after the garden), as well as Jarlath Nevin, Johnny Murphy, Stephen Duffy, Mohammad Arshad, Petr Horcicko, Gavin Squires, Michael Coyne, Darius Valciukas, Dennis Kennedy and Inga Ziemele for all their hard work in making the garden as well as to all the other volunteers who have given their time and energy to the project since it started.

TIMES PAST



Above: August 1963. Noreen Walsh (nee Lyons), John Regan (Devlis), Helen Biesty (nee Finn).

Left: Pictured in the 1960s. Noreen Walsh (nee Lyons), Helen Biesty (nee Finn), Bridie Nolan (nee Regan).



Annagh Parish Stations 2018

PHOTOGRAPHS: FR. STEPHEN FARRAGHER, P.P.



Tony and Patricia Waldron, Cave, Sat., 4th November 2017 (Cave, Togher, Carrowreagh)

Standing, L-R: Nora Brennan, Tony Brennan, Paul Waldron, Ciarán Brennan, Patricia Waldron, Tony Waldron, Tom Waldron, Bernard Waldron, Brendan Morrissey. Seated, L-R: Nuala Nolan, Mary Morrissey, Elaine Patterson, Susan Hoban, Breda Waldron, Denise Nolan, Christina Concannon, Michael Nolan, Breege McLoughlin.



John and Patsy Flanagan, Spaddagh, Fri. 10th November 2017 (Classaroe, Spaddagh)

Standing, L-R: Shauna Walsh, Genevieve Walsh, Sinéad Lyons, Bridie O'Boyle, Eileen O'Boyle, Marian Voigt, Francie Martin, Mary Waldron, Patsy Flanagan, Oliver Cribbin, Bridie Lyons, Bernadette Flanagan Kevin Durkan, Regina Carney, Joe Fitzmaurice. Seated, L-R: Eileen Lyons, Joan Flanagan, Dolly Fitzmaurice, John Flanagan, Maureen Durkan, Val Lyons, Maureen Comer, Brenda Lyons.



Patricia O'Connor, Hazelhill, Fri. 16th February 2018 (Hazelhill)

Back, L-R: Alan Blake (Partly hidden in doorway), John Nolan, David O'Connor, Sean Warde, Brendan Blake, Martin Blake, Gabriel Murphy. Back rows, seated, L-R: Aisling Keogh-O'Connor, Michael Nolan, Evelyn O'Connor, Pat Curley, Helen Biesty, Bridie Biggins, Pat Freeley, Bridie Murphy, Eileen McKermitt, Lorena Freeley, Maureen Nolan, Kathleen Curley, Josie Conway, Frances Blake. Front, L-R: Cormac O'Connor, Deirdre Warde, Cliona Warde, Lauren Warde, Daisy O'Connor, James O'Connor, Hazel Nolan, Lucy O'Connor, Patricia O'Connor, Carol Freeley, Bridie Kavanagh, Johnny Biesty.



Joan and Kevin McNamara, Knockbrack, Fri. 2nd March 2018 (Ballinphuill, Knockbrack, Skeaghard)

Standing, L-R: Anne Lyons, Michael Egan, Vincent Higgins, Gerry Lyons, John Joe Lyons, Grace Lyons, Bernadette Lyons, Tina Kirrane, Caroline Cooke, Siobhán Lyons, Agatha Higgins, Kathleen Egan, Frances Gaffney, Liam Lyons, Teresa Grogan, Pat Gaffney, Bernie Lyons, Tadhg Buckley, Marian McNamara, Peter Higgins. Seated, L-R: Kay Higgins, Mary Finnegan, Joan McNamara, Kevin McNamara, Kevin McNamara Jnr., Rachel Caulfield, Rhianna Caulfield, Paul McNamara, Mary Higgins, Kay Buckley, Gabrielle Lyons.



Cathal and Mary Kay Phillips, Gurteen, Fri. 9th March 2018 (Gurteen)

Standing, L-R: Tom Phillips (out of photo), Joe Rochford, Richard Phillips, Jarlath Henry, Paddy Phillips, Michael Brennan, Martin Brennan, Orla Loftus-Moran, Donal Moran, Maude Henry, Mary Rochford, Michael Flynn, Seamus Mulrennan, Martin Keane, Liam Lynskey, Carol Keane, Michael Phillips, Pat Coyne and baby Lauren, Brigid Lynskey, Mary Henry, Mary Kay Phillips, Ellen Phillips, Cathal Phillips, Jack Madden. L-R: kneeling/seated: Brian Phillips, Mike Byrne, Margie Phillips, Philomena Koller, Rita Madden, Marie Brennan, Jacinta Flynn, Johanna Coyne, Una Phillips, Orla Phillips, Dolores Byrne, Mary Henry, Ann Phillips, Helena Byrne, Mary Mulrennan. Front, seated: Roisin Henry, Lauren Henry, Emma Henry, Alex Byrne, Tara Phillips. Front: Erica Byrne, Maya Phillips, Lucy Phillips, Charlotte Koller, Chloe Koller, Daisy Phillips.



Pauline and Ann Curley, Clare St., Fri. 23rd March 2018 (Clare St.)

Standing, L-R: Ann Curley, John Cleary, T.J. McCarrick, John Gill, Sean Freyne, Billy Connell, Patricia Connell, Conor McCarrick. Seated, L-R: Pauline Curley, Ina Freyne, Bridie Levins, Corinne Flatley, Benny McCarrick, Mary Keane, Valerie Curley, Flavia Culliney, Helen Barrett, Emma Connell, Bernie Gill, Martha Grogan.



Gabriel and Jim Smith, Drimbane, Fri. 5th October 2018 (Drimbane)

Back row (near window), L-R: Brendan Donnellan, Kevin Guckian, Noel Phillips, Adrian Smith. Seamus Kelly, Patrick Murphy, Ann Kelly. Standing, L-R: Ronan Guckian, Brendan Grogan, John Cribbin, Padraig Smith, Gerry Winston, Jim Smith, Mairead Smith, Aoife Guckian, Saoirse Rowan, Joan Winston, Michael Kelly, Angela Cribbin, Padraig Kelly, Fr Michael Guckian OMI, Seamus Cribbin, Angela Smith, Thomas Maguire, Rita Ann O'Sullivan, Martina Maguire, Patsy Grealley, Dymrna Grealley, Ann Plunkett, Martha Gallagher, P.J. Grealley, Margaret Hannon, Helen Grealley, Michael Plunkett, John Grealley, James Mullooly. Seated, L-R: Rachel Guckian, Geraldine Guckian, Cathal Guckian, Bernadette McLoughlin, Gabriel Smith, Dawn Mullooly, Áine Mullooly, Patrick Mullooly, Catherine Guckian, Margaret Meehan, Agnes Meehan, Caroline Rowan.



Martin and Josie Cunnane, Carrowkeel, Sat., 6th October 2018 (Carrowkeel)

Standing, L-R: Mary Tarpey, Pauline Tarpey, Bridie Morley, Aisling Tarpey, Sadie Cameron, Helen Biesty, John McDonagh, Amy Clancy, Rita Madden, Eileen Folliard, Jack Madden, Ann Marie Cunnane, Peter Cunnane, Daniel Tarpey, Chloe Mulrennan, Paul Biesty, Keith Gill, Fr. Stephen Farragher, Joanne Morley. Seated, L-R: Kathleen O'Boyle, Ann Biesty, Margaret Tarpey, Ita McDonnell, Martin Cunnane, Josie Cunnane, Catriona Cunnane, Martina Cunnane, Ann Cunnane, Paul Cunnane. Kneeling, L-R: Donal Lenihan, Robert Walsh, Enya Mitchell, Jack Walsh, Cian Mitchell, Niamh Mitchell, Aidan Biesty.



Stations in the home of Pdraig Ruane, Johnstown, Sat. 20th October 2018 (Johnstown, Redford)

Standing, L-R: Eileen Jordan, Noreen Ruane-Dalton, Tom Dalton, Conor Ruane, Thomas Ruane, Ciara Ryan, Lorna Davis, Ross Ruane, Maureen Lilly, Mary Devane, Neasa Ruane-Dalton, Breda Davis, Aoife Davis, Helen Byrne, Connie Gildea, Joe Byrne. Seated and kneeling, L-R: Luke Ruane, Kate Ruane, Dara Ruane, Daisy Walsh, Michelle Walsh, Sean Lilly, Adrian Lilly, Sheila Byrne, Bridie Ruane, Vona Walsh, Tara Ruane, Abi Ruane, Sr. Mary Teresa Ruane, Teresa Healy, Margaret Byrne, Pdraig Ruane.

Liam Lyons Retires from An Post

Liam Lyons retired on 29th September 2017 after fourteen years' service with An Post, Ballyhaunis. He is pictured with his wife Bernadette and colleagues. L-R: Geraldine Flynn, Helen Byrne, Bernadette Lyons, Willie Broderick, Liam Lyons, and Michael Connolly.





Graduation

Left: Cathal Lenaghan, Cullintra, Ballyhaunis, was called to the Bar of Ireland by Chief Justice Frank Clarke recently. He is now pursuing his career in Dublin.



Bloom 2018

Above: Members of Ballyhaunis Active Retirement meet President Michael D. and Mrs. Sabina Higgins at 'Bloom 2018'. L-R: Sabina Higgins, Connie Gildea, President Michael D. Higgins, Celia Lyons, Pat Walsh.

Left: Members of Ballyhaunis Active Retirement group visited 'Bloom 2018' in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. L-R: Margaret Kenny, Connie Gildea, Maura Fitzmaurice, Maureen Higgins, Celia Lyons, Pat Walsh.

90th Birthday Celebration

Mrs. Bina Waldron, Woodpark (centre), who now resides with her daughter Sheila in Ballymote, Co. Sligo, pictured on the occasion of her 90th birthday with her neighbours, Mrs. Ita McDonnell (left) and Mrs. Margaret Tarpey (right).



The Abbey Pattern

STEPHEN FINN

The 2018 Abbey Pattern proved to be a great family day out which was enjoyed by the hundreds of people who attended. Despite having to be rescheduled due to Pope Francis's visit to Knock, and suffering from bad weather on the day, over 150 medals and trophies were awarded to children and adults in almost fifty separate races and activities.

Traditional crowd-pleasers included the ever popular Dog Show, attracting lots of interest with the help and assistance of the Mayo ISPCA. Track and field events are, of course, ever popular. Building on this success, efforts have been made to add new attractions, beginning with the introduction of a very popular Sliotar Race in 2017 – so much so that it required heats this year.

This year's star attraction proved to be the 'Tug of War' event reintroduced after a lapse of several years. Courtesy of a little drizzle on the day, the slippery surface set the scene for a highly entertaining event. On the day local companies, Agrispread, Dawn Meats, Major Equipment, and Western Brand fielded teams in what transpired to be quite a competitive competition that completely engaged the large crowd of spectators. After coming to terms with some early 'footwork difficulties', and aided by resilience, Major seized victory against a gallant entry from Dawn Meats in the final. It is rumoured that at least one of the teams was witnessed in Gareth Delaney's immediately after the event strategising on how to relieve Major of the honours in next year's event. We can only look forward in anticipation! Finally, the Abbey Pattern Committee would like to express its sincere thanks to all the local businesses, many patrons, and volunteers who help out in making this event a success. The Pattern tradition relies on the local people being willing to both help out on the day itself and in the Pattern Committee which prepares the event. This year's organising committee comprised of: Stephen Grogan, Stephen Finn, Brendan Donnellan, Joan Flanagan and Bianca Pretorius.



Tracy, Archie, Lily, Mark (Snr.) and Mark Curley. Janapix.



Sylvia Caulfield, Patricia Murphy. Janapix.

Right: Breda, Martin and Róisín Keane. Janapix.

Below: Áine Lecky, Eibhlin Healy, Mairead Damron. Janapix.





Abbey Pattern 2018

Jasmine Jurakova and Jakub Jurak. *Janapix.*



Abbey Pattern Winning Tug of War Team, representing Major Equipment, Ballyhaunis. Back, L-R: Dylan Murray, Luke Cribbin, Krzysztof Raczynsky, Pat Fleming, Aiden Healy, Gerry Cuddy (First Choice Credit Union, Ballyhaunis). Front, L-R: Martin Walsh, Eamon Finn, Daniel Zygier, Kieran McDermott. *Janapix.*



Eugene Mohan, Tara Mohan, Orla Gildea. *Janapix.*



Frank Greally, Paula and Andrew Smyth.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Pat Feeney.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Joan Flanagan, Cathal Carroll, Bernadette Flanagan. *Janapix.*



Brian Hunt, Brendan Morrissey, Mairead Murphy, Leigh, Emily and Rian Maitland. *Joe Freeley photographer.*



Brendan, Eileen, Ava and Sean Donnellan.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Abbey Pattern – Tug of War team representing AgriSpread, Ballyhaunis.
Back, L-R: Padraic Allen, Lughaidh Tighe, Enda Mulkeen, James Durcan,
Michael Gormley, Patrick Brennan. Front, L-R: Paddy Jennings,
Michael Fitzmaurice, Dermot Murphy. Janapix.



Gerry Cuddy, Justina Lyons, Tina Kirrane.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Dawn Meats Tug of War. Back, L-R: Dragomir Zsolt, Marek Suntil, Peter Kascak, Marek Sluka, Milan Mitter, Gerry Cuddy (First Choice Credit Union, Ballyhaunis). Front, L-R: Zdenek Strempek, Dominik Vidovic, Daniel Pospisil, Roman Budinec, James Naughton. Janapix.



Kris Raczyński, Kasiq Wnobel, Igor Raczyński.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Piotr Kowalski, Magda Wnobel, Lena Kowalska,
Nikola Raczyński.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Mairead Murphy, Patricia Waldron, Patricia Fitzgerald, Helen Woods, Mary Morrissey, Valerie Curley. Joe Freeley photographer.



Samantha and Fiadh Cleary.
Joe Freeley photographer.



John and Paula Burke.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Hazel Nolan, Evelyn O'Connor, Lucy Monaghan.
Joe Freeley photographer.

Abbey Pattern 2018



Robbie and Stella Hughes.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Sharon, Aidan Paul and Fergal Kelly.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Catherine and Jane Forkan. *Joe Freeley photographer.*



Claire and Sonny J. Kelly. *Joe Freeley photographer.*



Tom Lyons, Padraig Murphy, Martin Walsh, Stephen Finn.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Alex Byrne, Josh Kavanagh, Michael Kavanagh.
Joe Freeley photographer.

Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre

STEPHEN GROGAN

2018 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. It 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.

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

The Family Resource Centre also employs a Family Support Worker - Geraldine Glacken – who provides individualised programmes for families, greatly increasing the range of supports and services that the FRC can provide, and 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 ethnic minorities in community development, a gardening course and art projects, with a Bealtaine project being developed and a Culture Night event organised, in co-operation with other community groups in the town. The Senior Alert Programme continues to be operated by the FRC. This year also saw the FRC developing a food bank type service in conjunction with Tesco and Food Cloud, with 'just before' date food being collected and distributed to families in Ballyhaunis.

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 used 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 few years when the project first began, and the FRC continues its support. 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 what is a wonderful garden.

2018 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 Government's National Free Preschool Year Scheme. The Community Pre-school has proven extremely popular with local parents and the quality of the service provided by its dedicated staff which has been recognised at both county and national levels.

The family resource centre also operates another childcare service in the town – with the 'Greater Tomorrow' service based in the Old Convent Asylum Accommodation Centre, funded by Tusla. Both services provide high quality childcare and employ a number of local childcare staff.

Some of the other activities which have taken place this year include the very popular Crochet Group which meets 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 individuals with their queries, filling in official forms and helping them understand their entitlements.

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 is 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.

The officers for 2018 are: Seamus Grogan (Chairperson), 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, so feel welcome to discuss this any time with the staff or directors – your involvement would be invaluable.

Family Support Project

The Family Support Service in Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre has gone from strength to strength throughout 2018, supporting a large number of families in Ballyhaunis and its environs. The criteria for referrals are: families with children under 18, parents who are struggling to manage their child/children's behaviours, families who are having problems communicating with each other, and parents who are in the middle of a crisis that is impacting their children. If this sounds familiar, then get in touch – there are a number of ways that I can help.

- Sometimes parents just need some information or advice on the best way to access services and supports and may only need one or two appointments.

- If there is a short piece of work required, for example supporting a child with anger or anxiety issues, or helping a parent deal with a specific behaviour, a brief intervention of 5/6 sessions can be offered.
- A longer term piece of in-home family support can help people learn new skills to enhance family life. I will work with the family to develop goals to improve family life, and help them to enhance their skills in order to achieve these goals.
- Common sense parenting programmes run throughout Mayo all year round, and I hope to roll one out in Ballyhaunis in Spring, 2019. This will be aimed at parents of children between 6 and 16. If your children are younger, and you would like to do a parenting programme then check out the 'Mayo Parenting' page on Facebook, or call 094-9025211 to check out the spring schedule.

The Tusla website is a great resource for parents and gives easy to use guidelines on what works best for children and families at different stages and in different situations – check out www.tusla.ie/parenting-24-seven for more information. The 'Mayo Parenting' page on Facebook is also a good resource, and will keep you up to date on what is happening for families in Mayo.

There is no doubt that parenting is hard, and all parents struggle. What I suggest is to get help before it gets worse, before the bad habits get ingrained in your everyday life, and before you get stuck in a cycle of negativity and chaos. If you, or someone you know is struggling, then give me a call. I may not always have the solution but I promise to help in any way I can.

**Geraldine Glacken, Family Support Worker,
Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre
086-0470587
g.glacken@mayofamilysupport.ie**



At the Queen of the Woodlands Festival in Loughglynn were, from left, Aileen, Laura and Breda Burke, Daniel Jordan.

Photo by James Hunt.

Brackloon School Register and Roll books

SEAMUS KENNY

As a legacy of the Brackloon School and District Reunion 'Gathering' of 2013, the organising committee was pleased to present two portable hard disks of the digitised Brackloon School Register and Roll books to the Ballyhaunis County Library on Tuesday evening, 7th of November 2017. On behalf of the respective committee, Seamus Kenny formally presented the disks to Ballyhaunis Librarian Eleanor Freyne.

On preparation of the acclaimed Brackloon heritage publication in 2013, the Brackloon School Roll books were expertly transcribed and indexed by committee members Mary Waldron and Elizabeth Sheridan with the assistance of Paul Waldron. On completion of this work, the committee decided to actively investigate options in preserving the valuable details in these books which relates to information about Brackloon National School as far back as 1857. With the agreement of Scoil Íosa Primary School in Ballyhaunis, in liaison with Brackloon committee members Martin Fitzmaurice and Seamus Kenny, the books were presented to Eneclann, the award-winning heritage service based in Dublin. Eneclann provided a digitisation service which converts information from a paper format into a digital image. The purpose of facilitating this service is to preserve this valuable school collection for future generations to enjoy. With the completion of this digitisation exercise, the committee is pleased to advise that information in the School Register and Roll books can be efficiently searched and retrieved from this portable hard disk type.

The organising committee wish to thank fellow committee members Mary Waldron, Elizabeth Sheridan and Paul Waldron for their time and effort in compiling

all the valuable Brackloon School details. We also wish to thank Kenneth Dennedy, Principal of Scoil Íosa for enabling our committee to consult the Brackloon School Roll books and facilitate this digitisation service. The committee is pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Brian Donovan, Paul Manzor and their work colleagues from Eneclann in Dublin for providing this valuable digitisation service. Sincere thanks are extended to Eleanor Freyne of Ballyhaunis Library and the Mayo County Library for their assistance and hospitality in facilitating the presentation and refreshments on the night. The Brackloon School Reunion 'Gathering' committee involved were: Stephanie Coffey, Mary Finan, Kathleen Henry, Judith Davitt, Seamus Kenny, Michael Sloyan, Martin Fitzmaurice, Lorcan Finan, Mary Waldron, Elizabeth Sheridan and Gretta Henry. Refreshments on the night were prepared by committee members Kathleen Henry and Marion Regan.



Above right:

Seamus Kenny presenting the Brackloon School Roll Books in digitised format to Eleanor Freyne, Ballyhaunis Librarian.

Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.

Right:

Members of the Brackloon School Reunion organising committee photographed at Ballyhaunis Library. Back, L-R: Mary Finan, Seamus Kenny, Eleanor Freyne (Librarian), Michael Sloyan, Martin Fitzmaurice.

Front: Elizabeth Davitt Sheridan, Stephanie Coffey, Mary Waldron and Kathleen Henry.

Glynn's Photography, Castlerea.





Some of the locals who attended the hand-over of the Brackloon Roll Books, in digitised format, to Ballyhaunis Library.
 Back, L-R: Emily Coffey, Martin Fitzmaurice, Padraic Regan, Seamus O'Boyle, Willie Broderick, Sheila Broderick, Elizabeth Davitt
 Sheridan, Michael Sloyan, Seamus Kenny, Kathleen Henry.
 Centre, L-R: Marian Regan, Frances Mulhern, Joe Diskin, Deirdre Diskin, Paul Morley.
 Seated, L-R: Stephanie Coffey, Jimmy Joe Sloyan, Mary McGuire, Mary Waldron, Margaret Kenny, Mary Finan.
 Glynn's Photography, Castlerea



The Moran family at the All Ireland Football Final, 2017.

Back, L-R: Paul Moran (Ballinasloe), Peter Moran (New Jersey, USA), Luke Moran (Ballinasloe), Thomas Moran (New Jersey), Katherina Moran (Ballinasloe).
 Front: Tina Wixon (New Jersey) Anne O'Sullivan nee Moran (Skerries), Deirdre Moran.

Up for the match!

Pictured at the Mayo v Dublin All Ireland Football Final, 2017.
 L-R: George Delaney, Brendan Burke, Tommy and Patricia Grogan, Thomas Moran.



Na Brideoga

CLAIRE DELANEY

It was another action packed year for the players of Na Brideoga Camogie Club. There was little time to languish in the successes of 2017 as 2018 training commenced back in February. The cold and frosty evenings do little to deter the local 'camogies' from picking up their hurls and getting back out on the pitch.

As always Féile was not far from the minds of the U14 players, club and management, and the campaign to compete in and defend the All Ireland Féile title began. This year saw Féile come to Connacht and Na Brideoga were proud to host Knockananna Camogie Club. We now know that to host Féile is no small undertaking, and it was due to the hard work of many club members and their families, and huge support from the local Ballyhaunis, Tooreen, Aghamore, Bekan, Gorthaganny businesses, that we can look back and confidently say it was an amazing weekend and experience for all involved. As always our Féile Team and Management left no stone unturned in the preparation stage. When the weekend arrived the players approached it with their usual focus and concentration. When the



camogie players come together to compete they form a determined and strong circle - perhaps because they have now played together for quite a number of years.

Na Brideoga faced Crosserlough and then Cappataggle in the initial stage beating both teams with strong performances. This was followed by our home match, playing Knockananna in Tooreen on the Saturday morning and claiming victory in front of a passionate and supportive Na Brideoga/ Tooreen sideline. From there the team headed to Athlone in order to prepare for the semi-final against St. Mullins. After an exciting and tough game of camogie Na Brideoga claimed their place in the final. The Final saw Na Brideoga go head-to-head with Causeway of Kerry whom we had knocked out at the semi-final stage the previous year. Despite the Na Brideoga team playing outstanding camogie it was not to be their year and Causeway took the title. But never fear – planning has begun for 2019!

Na Brideoga Camogie Club would like to take the opportunity to say a massive THANK YOU to all of our



Na Brideoga Junior Connacht Camogie Champions.

Back, L-R: Fergal Delaney (Mentor), Megan Henry, Ruth Crowley, Laura O'Connell, Aine Charlton, Rachel Lyons, Dearbhla Glavey, Aoife Doherty, Eleanor Harrison, Amy Mullen, Siobhán Mooney, Hannah Tener, Gerry O'Brien (Mentor).
Front, L-R: Orna Hession, Sive Duffy, Mairéad Mooney, Ciara Delaney, Roisín Cassidy, Aoife Lilly, Méabh Delaney, Gráinne Delaney, Eilish Duffy.

sponsors who supported us, and the club members who helped make Féile 2018 the success that it was.

Na Brideoga makes a very substantial contribution to the developing and flourishing Mayo Camogie Teams. This year saw the U14 Mayo Camogie team, captained by Na Brideoga player Róisín Lynskey compete in the All Ireland U14 Division 4 competition. The panel was made up by the three Mayo clubs. Na Brideoga's contribution to the team included: Róisín Lynskey, Saoirse Delaney, Ellen Tener, Caoimhe Delaney, Emer Delaney, Lillian Keane, Rebecca Klein, Alice Curran, Gerri-Maye Henry, Niamh Mooney, Emily Coffey, Aoibhinn Lynskey, Niamh Duffy and Caragh Burke. The competition is held over one day and the teams play five matches in total. The Mayo team progressed from the group stages after winning three out of three matches against Carlow, Westmeath and Donegal. In the semi-final they defeated a strong Wicklow team to gain a place in the final. The final required the team to work together and deliver a strong performance in order to defeat Kerry and win Michael Kennedy Cup.

Mayo U16 camogie saw history made in 2018 as the team competed, for the first time, in the All Ireland U16C Championship. The team included a strong Na Brideoga contingency: Hannah Tener, Dearbhla Glavey, Niamh Greally, Megan Henry, Eilish Duffy, Ellen Tener, Erin Murray, Aoife Doherty, Caoimhe Delaney, Emer Delaney, Saoirse Delaney, Aoibheann Crawley, Claire Flanagan, Lillian Keane, and was captained by Na Brideoga player Meabh Delaney. They secured victory in the group games against Kerry and Carlow and drew with Tyrone. A loss to Roscommon meant we would then meet our Roscommon neighbours in the semi-final. The semi-final was a fierce and competitive match but the Mayo team won by a point. The final saw Mayo play a very strong Carlow team who have been in this final for the previous three years. Despite the team playing outstanding camogie it was not to be on this occasion and Carlow were deserving winners.

Underage Camogie is also alive and well with training for U6s, U8s, U10s, and U12s. The U12s also won the Galway Plate competition in Galway this year.

The Junior team started the League in March. The team is quite a young team as some older girls had moved or were working away leading to the younger players being called upon. We were defeated by Craughwell in the first game but went on to secure a win against Portumna. We needed a win in the third game to reach the semi-final, but Sarsfields proved too strong on the night.

The Championship commenced in July with a win over Craughwell by a point. This was followed by a defeat to Turloughmore, meaning we would need to beat

Sylane to reach the semi-final. This was achieved and at the time of writing this piece we wait to play Liam Mellows in the Galway semi-final.

As a club we represent Mayo in the Connacht competitions. At the time of going to print the Junior team played in the Connacht Junior B final against Padraig Pearses. A brilliant performance by Amy Mulkeen saw her awarded awarded Player of Match. The team delivered a determined and strong performance from beginning to end and Na Brideoga are the Connacht Junior B Champions. Captain Aoife Lilly was delighted to accept the cup on behalf of the Na Brideoga team.

Camogie continues to develop and grow at club and county level. There is a huge contingency of players from around the parishes who consistently represent club and county. They do so with fierce pride and passion and are wonderful ambassadors of camogie. The support that is given by individuals and sponsors is so very much appreciated by the club and players and we want to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to all of you.

Fantastic Emotions

SAM TYNAN

Fantastic emotions are feelings we can't see,
But when we come across them they fill us with glee.
It's the feeling you get when you finally win,
After so long training, having found the power within.
It's the first time you walk after that accident,
The first words of a baby to excited parents,
It's seeing your dog after a long holiday,
And her jumping all over you eager to play.
It's impressing the judges with the perfect audition,
Or catching a big one in the fishing competition.
There are no words can capture that amazing feeling,
Of thousands of people raising the ceiling.
If you have these emotions in public places,
You'll see people react with smiles on their faces.
All through your life you should aim for the notions,
As many as possible Fantastic Emotions.

*Sam is son of the Bernice and John Tynan;
and grandson of Moyra
and Noel Patterson, Knock Road.*

The Parkland (Florida) - Gurrane Connection

JOHN P. McGUIRE

My daughter, Christine McGuire Hunschofsky, was recently re-elected for a four year term as Mayor of The City of Parkland, Florida, the site of one of the deadliest school shootings in modern US history. Christine is also the granddaughter of Martin and Mary McGuire. Martin is a native of Gurrane, Ballyhaunis. He left for Bolton, England in 1922.

Born in Boston, Christine is a graduate of Boston Latin School, the oldest public high school in the USA, a graduate of Boston University and Babson College. She married Hannes Hunschofsky, a native of Tirol, Austria. They have two sons, Michael and John, and have lived in Parkland for seventeen years.

Parkland is a small, close-knit city of 32,000 people on the east coast of the state, near Fort Lauderdale. In January 2018 it was voted one of the safest cities in Florida and then, a month later, tragedy struck and everything changed. On 14th Feb. 2018 gunman Nikolas Cruz opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Parkland, killing seventeen students and staff members, and injuring seventeen others. The lives of many families were fundamentally altered as the shock wave rippled through the city and the grieving started. The priorities of the previous day were pushed into the background as more urgent needs took their place including the funerals and memorial services.

Christine had always been interested in public life.



Christine McGuire Hunschofsky with her father John P. McGuire.



Christine McGuire (front) with her dad John P. (kneeling) on her first visit to Gurrane in the early 1970s. Pictured with neighbours Celia, Peter and Mike Finn.

She wrote for a local magazine, "Parkland Life", and covered public meetings of the city. Eventually, she decided to run for an open City Commissioners position and won. Later, when the then Mayor Michael Udine resigned to run for another office, Christine ran for his seat and was elected to fill out his remaining two year term. In June 2018, she was re-elected by the City Commissioners for a four year term because she was unopposed.

Christine has found serving as Mayor to be very rewarding and also a challenge especially with the school massacre and its aftermath. With her longstanding involvement in civic and religious organisations, she knew many of the victims and their families and lives a half mile from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The outpouring of support for the families of the victims was overwhelming and the city came together to grieve. While the City is still grieving, survivors and their families are receiving counselling and are planning a memorial for the victims sometime next year. Through all of this, Christine, has played a central, often quiet role.

While the difference between the Parkland of today and the Gurrane of my father's time could not be more different, both he and Christine aspired to a better life and use of their talents.

John P. McGuire is a retired Engineer living in Boston, MA. He was a Gurrane resident during most of World War II.

Main Street, Ballyhaunis in the 1960s and 70s

EAMON MURREN



Main Street in the 1960s. One of a series of photographs taken by Pdraig Kennelly, Tralee and produced as postcards.

Growing up in the late 1960s early 70s Main Street was a bit different then than it is now.

The first house across from the church gate, where Kathleen McHugh lives now, was owned by Miss O'Reilly. She was a music teacher. She was also a very religious woman and it was on one of her frequent visits to the church that, one day, she came across a fire starting in one of the candle stands. Her quick reaction saved the parish church from major disaster. Next was the Parochial Hall, which I have mentioned before in several previous articles. The next house was Tighe's Shoemakers. Here Paddy, Joe and Mike worked. I can still get the beautiful smell of fresh leather as they cobbled away. This building was later home of the Credit Union and is now where Edward Mulligan has his picture framing business. Where Paddy Phillips' butcher is now situated was two houses in those days. One was the home of Paddy's father Eamon who also ran a butchering business. The other house I can remember Brod and Frances Moran living in. Next door was Paddy Phillips' pub. Paddy began this business in 1958 and I am happy to say the Phillips family still run the show. Una just celebrated her 90th birthday recently and is helped by family members Margie and Declan and, not

to forget, the genial John Morley.

Next up was Charlie Phillips'. This was a general drapery shop and I can also recall a little bar there. This is where my first long trousers was bought. It was for my confirmation suit, and I think the price was £3.10 shillings. This building was still home to Charlie's widow Phyllis until her sad death a few months ago. Tom Murphy's came next. Tom ran a bar while his wife Lily ran a chip-shop. They were parents of Eddie Murphy who has his dress suit shop on this site. Then came Mike McGreal's. Here you could buy a dish of ice cream with raspberries. Here we also bought 'Lucky Bags'. If you got the lucky number you could win a cap gun and a roll of caps and shoot the town down! This is now the location of Finn's Footwear shop. Next was Tom Finn's pub run by Tom and his wife Kathleen. They also ran a stall in Knock. This building is now part of Eddie Murphy's Menswear. Tess Kelly had a shop next door. I recall Tess had one of the few shops that would be open on St. Stephens' Day. We would want to spend some of our wren-boy money and so were delighted she was open. This building is also part of Eddie Murphy's shop now.

Then came Jack Halpin's. This was also a pub but Jack, I think, ran an auctioneering business as well. This

building is still home of the Halpin family. The ground floor of the building is now Kathryn's Kitchen and Breege Halpin's florists. Where Val's restaurant is now was also two buildings in the late 1960s. The first house was home of Tommy Byrne who ran a dental practice. The second building was where Tommy's brothers Val and Mike Byrne operated from. There was a pub in this building where Mary Byrne worked. They were also involved in the egg business, and to the rear of the house was a store where the eggs were tested. I remember John Costello from Bohogue and a lady called Mary Connolly working there. Val Byrne eventually turned it all into one building and opened the very successful Val's Bar and Restaurant. Micheál Quinn purchased it, and later it was bought by Aghamore man Liam Folliard who ran it successfully for a number of years before selling it on. It is now managed by Shay Walsh, Donal Dunne and Patricia McDaid. Next was B.T. Lynch's Garage with the Esso petrol pumps at the front on the footpath. Bertie Lynch ran this business. I remember his mother also having a hands-on approach there. A lot of mechanics learned their trade here over the years. At the back of the building was the site where a number of international boxing matches were fought, among them Ireland v Germany and Ireland v Italy. Chilli Kebab takeaway is there now. Next up was Mercy Flatley's Café. This was run by Mercy and her mother. They emigrated to Australia in the late sixties. Later, it was bought by Tom McWalter who also ran a restaurant there. Later still it was an Italian chipper. It is now the office of John Higgins auctioneering.

Next was Flatley's newsagents run by the late Rita Flatley. I recall this was the only shop where you could get the 'English papers', e.g. News of The World, People, Mirror. Kit Keane used to work here on the busy Sunday mornings. Later owners were Brian Munro, Eugene O'Connor, Pat Freeley, Michael Dee and Georgina Costello. It is now a phone and computer repair shop. Then came Sonny Phillips' pub. This was a very popular pub despite the absence of any draught drinks. Sonny was a great host. It is now the home of Sonny's nephew Michael McQueeney and family. Next-door Sean and Alacoque Corcoran ran the Savoy Café. It was a very popular place for visitors and workers in the town to go for lunch. It is now home of a Veterinary practice. Michael Fahey's drapery shop was having a closing down sale that I can remember. This would probably be

THE HARP and SHAMROCK

Singing Lounge and Guest House

MAIN STREET, BALLYHAUNIS.

Telepho ne: 135.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

<p>Saturday, 14th December— THE TENNESSEE SOUND</p> <p>Sunday, 15th December— PAULINE AND THE BAMBIES</p> <p>Monday, 16th December— THE STRANGERS</p> <p>Tuesday, 17th December— THE SUPERSHOW</p> <p>Wednesday, 18th December— THE WESTCOASTERS</p> <p>Thursday, 19th December— PAULINE AND THE BAMBIES</p> <p>Friday, 20th December— THE MORAN BROTHERS</p> <p>Saturday, 21st December— RICKY & THE HIGH KINGS</p> <p>Sunday, 22nd December— PAULINE AND THE BAMBIES</p> <p>Monday, 23rd December— THE TENNESSEE SOUND</p>	<p>Tuesday, 24th December— THE WESTCOASTERS</p> <p>Thursday, 26th December— THE SINGING COWBOY</p> <p>Friday, 27th December— PAULINE AND THE BAMBIES</p> <p>Saturday, 28th December— THE COUNTRY BOYS</p> <p>Sunday, 29th December— THE SINGING COWBOY</p> <p>Monday, 30th December— THE TENNESSEE SOUND</p> <p>Tuesday, 31st December— THE FARRELLS</p> <p>Wednesday, 1st January, 1975— THE MORAN BROTHERS</p> <p>Friday, 3rd January— PAULINE AND THE BAMBIES</p> <p>Saturday, 4th January— THE WESTCOASTERS</p>
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Sunday, 5th January—**PAULINE & THE BAMBIES.**

COME AND ENJOY A SAMPLE OF OUR HOSPITALITY AND FIRST CLASS SERVICE AT MAYO'S LEADING ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE.

Christmas entertainment in 'The Harp and Shamrock', 1974,
from an old *Western People* cutting.

in the mid to late sixties. Joe Brennan from Carrownedan worked here before moving to Delany's Oak Bar. It was then bought by Liam Hebron who opened 'The Harp and Shamrock' – the first singing pub in Ballyhaunis. Later owners were Frank Hannon, Cathal Banaghan, the Crowley Family and Des Warde. Billy Nestor then bought it and opened 'Billy's Nite Club'. It is now home of Epic Nite Club.

Next was James Lyons'. Mrs. Lyons ran a shop at the front while James ran the bar at the back. Tommy Lyons still runs a busy bar here. Then came Cribben's butchers. Tony Cribben was the owner. I remember Percy Melvin, Mick McDonald and Michael 'Dinjo' Cameron working for many years in this busy butcher shop. James Waldron's was next door. This was another very busy shop run by the late Noel and Mary Waldron. Staff included Rita Waldron, Seán Boyle, Bridie Waldron, Mary Heneghan, Padraic Phillips, John Joe Hoban and many more. This is now Sinead's Hairdressers. Next in line was Pat Kilroy's. Pat was a postman who cycled around the countryside in all kinds of weather for many years. The front of the house was where Pat Keane had his shoemaking business. This was a great visiting house and many stories, whether true or false, came from it. This later became the private home of Eddie and Noreen Webb. It is now a barber shop. Next was Webb's Butcher Shop. I remember Carrie Webb working in the office. When Eddie retired his son Mike ran the business for

many years with his good assistant Mike Daly. Mike recently retired.

Finally, the last business on this side of the street was **Dillon's**. Joe Fitzmaurice ran the bar at the back of the shop for many years. Tom McCormack manned the busy front. They sold paint, wallpaper, crockery and luxury goods like Waterford Crystal and beautiful china and lamps. This shop was also a very busy travel agency run by John Dillon and his sister Norrie. The landmark painting of an aeroplane on the gable of this premises, facing out onto The Square, was a wonderful masterpiece created by local painter Tom Barry.

Up the other side of the street

Crossing the road at The Square and working our way up Main Street on the other side of the road, we start at **The Corner Bar**. This was owned in my youth by Joe and Sally Regan. In those days lots of people would gather outside and chat and watch the world go by. Billy Nestor is now the licensee of this busy pub. Beside it was **McGarry's**. I remember Paddy McGarry having a big office in the middle of the shop. The ladies department was to the back where Mrs. McGarry worked. The men's department and shoes were out to the front where Tom Finn, Eddie Murphy and John Kilduff, to name a few, worked. It is now a ladies fashion shop run by their daughter Cora. **Gallagher's** shop was next door. I recall John 'Doc' Healy working in the drapery department. There was also a bar in this shop. Eventually, all of the premises was turned into a hardware shop. Workers included Mick Winston, Gerry Cribbin, Mick 'Rodge' Hopkins, Kevin McNamara, Joe Grogan, Joe Rochford, Gerry Godfrey, Mike and John Morley. In the office was Máisín Meath and Benny Curley. This shop is now a grocery shop run by a Syrian family. Next came **Toss O'Boyle's Pub**. I remember the late Willie Joe Armstrong (Holywell) and Kathleen Philbin worked here. This then became Tiernan's Man's Shop run by the late Greg Tiernan. It later became a bookie shop run by Peter and Joan Meenan and Enda Moran. Later, Ladbroke's took it over and still run a very successful business there. **Jack and Josie Eaton** lived in the next house. The Eatons lived in the rear of the house and **Jack O'Connor** had a Chemist shop at the front. Peggy Curran and Mary Sloyan worked with him. It was around this time that Jack set up the Ronoco business that still thrives under the management of his son Rory. The shop is now a busy discount shop trading under the name 'Sparkey's'.

The Central Hotel was situated next door. It was run by Mide Freeley and family. Joe ran a great bar business while his sister Therese ran the restaurant and food business. Doris Carney (Holywell) worked on reception for a good number of years. One has to give a mention to Miss Horgan who was a great employee and became

part of the Freeley family. They gave wonderful employment to so many local girls over their years in business. John Vahey bought the hotel and renovated it and ran it for a good number of years. He then sold it on and it is now a fast food restaurant and takeaway trading as 'Supermacs'. Next door was a small sweet and ice cream shop run by **Padraig and Anthony Waldron**. They were the first to have a whipped ice cream machine. Every evening after school it was a very busy shop with everyone looking for a cone or a 99. When the shop was sold Paddy and Josie Ryan bought it and continued on the business. Mary Burke, Cloonfad, worked here for a good few years. Next was **Conor Flynn's** shop. Paddy and Josie Ryan bought this also and opened the VG supermarket in 1967. It was groundbreaking at the time and proved to be a huge success. Some years later Josie opened a ladies and children's boutique upstairs. Ryan's later moved to a bigger premises further up on Main Street and sold this shop to the Phillips brothers, sons of Charlie and Phyllis. They opened a wonderful men's and sports shop and are trading here today. **Tilly McQueeney's** was the next premises on the street. She ran a small shop here for years. Later this became T.C. Fast-food restaurant and is now a Chinese takeaway. Then came **Paddy and Mary Freeley's** shop. They operated a hardware and bar, and sold some religious items as well. This later became MacSiúrtáins under the ownership of the Jordan family of Johnstown. Stephen Nolan has been the owner for a good number of years. Next up was **Tom Fitzgerald's**. Annie Kennedy worked here for many years. **Baker's** also ran a successful barber business upstairs in the sixties. This later became a Mace Supermarket run by Bob Flynn and family. Later Kevin Beirne took it over and it is now the home of the Beirne family.

Next was **Concannon's**. I remember a little bar at the end of the shop. They were a drapers catering for both men's-wear and ladies-wear. The ladies-wear department was upstairs. Among the staff were Paddy Connell, Betty McDonagh, Teresa Hopkins, Mary Kirrane, Rita, Colette and Oliver Concannon, to name a few. This is now where Phillips' shoe-shop stands. The little shop next door was **Lucy Flynn's**. She sold ice cream, sweets etc. This is where Ali's Barber Shop is now. Then there was a bookie shop run by **Myra McGillicuddy**. The licence owner was Francie Donohue. Later, this was taken over by Murphy's bookies, then by Doherty's. This building is now vacant. **O'Brien's** was next. I recall Mrs. O'Brien working in the shop selling all kinds of goods including furniture. Her son John ran a very busy valuation and auctioneering business and also a Building Society on the premises where Johnny Lyons and Rona Mulligan worked. This premises was later home to Scott's Bakery, which was run by Maureen



Pat Kilroy, Postman, free-wheeling down Main Street, circa 1970.
First published in *Annagh* 2005, p. 103.

Godfrey. It is now Kirrane Auctioneering. Next door was **Seamie Webb's Butchers**. Mary Moore worked in the office. Seamie and his sons Micheál and Tommy ran the shop for many years. This shop is now trading as Fahey Opticians. **Tom and Lily Moran** were next door. I don't remember Tom running the pub there, although in later years his son Tommy and wife Marguerite re-opened the bar for some years. Tom was mainly involved in selling Bord Na Mona turf around the area. This shop is still run by the family and is called Moran's Bargain Store. **Nora Healy's** pub was next door. This was later bought by Mick and Mary Keegan. Paddy Ryan later purchased it and moved his VG supermarket up the street to these premises. Later they moved to a much larger shop behind the Church. This is now Heneghan's furniture and carpet shop. At the rear of this shop, Peak Physique operates a very successful gym. Next was **Dillon-Leetch Solicitors**. John, William and Tom ran a hugely successful practice. They were assisted by Miss Fahey and Kathleen McBride and many more. This premises was purchased by H. and M. Curley when Dillon-Leetch's offices were moved further up Main Street. **Curley's chemists** was next. Micky Curley died in the early sixties. His daughter Mary worked in the shop for a few years. Later, his sons Hugh and Michael took over and expanded the business. Happily, Hugh's family Mark and Róisín run the pharmacy now: they trade under Curley's Total Health.

The **Courthouse** was next. Tim Forde used to man the District Court office here but this was later transferred to Tuam. A few years ago it ceased being a courthouse and is now empty. Next door was the **Garda Sergeant's house**. The Nally family lived here in my young days. When Pat Nally retired Bill Curran and his family took over occupation. I think Michael John Connor's was the last family to live here. When the

Garda Station was revamped some years ago, the house and station were turned into one building. Next door was the home of **John Dillon-Leetch** and family. When the offices further down the street were sold, the solicitors' offices were moved up to this house. John George, brother of the late Tom, still runs a successful business here. His sister Lisa lives at the rear of the offices. **Greene's** shop was next to this. Mrs. Green was a great woman for making ice-lollies in eggcups. You could also buy lucky bags here. Her son Joe opened GreensPrint and now her grandson Alex continues to run the successful printing business. Finally, we come to **Annie and Trish Freeley's**. These ladies ran a very busy pub for many years. It was especially busy on Fridays and Fair Days when cattle used to be stored in their yard at the back of the premises. Their nephew took over the business and completely re-built this pub in the seventies. Later owners of the pub were Michael Horan and Mike Waldron and Margaret Byrne. Later, Margaret and Tim Byrne ran the pub and a very successful restaurant. When they retired, it was purchased by John Morley and David Murphy who upgraded it to a very stylish restaurant called The Dalgan.

That completes a glance at Main Street in the late 1960s and early 70s. Apologies for any errors or omissions. I hope it brought back memories for our readers.

St. Patrick's Day, New York



Enda Moran, Hazelhill (on the right), leading out the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York in 2018.



Summer Festival 2018

Above: Jonathan Flynn, Colette and Maura O'Dowd.
Joe Freeley photographer.

Right: Melissa and Brid Kenny. Janapix.

See more Summer Festival photographs on page 171



Left:
Emma and Ryan
Robinson,
Cartron North,
celebrating a
birthday in
Doha, Children
of Ronnie and
Annette
Robinson (nee
Healy,
Johnstown).



Above:
Moirá Noone
with RTÉ
Sports
Presenter
Michael
Lyster.



Left:
Fright Night
in Ballyhaunis
Halloween
2018.

Rail Freight - Past, Present and Future

KIERAN WALDRON

In 2011, the 150th anniversary of the coming of the railway, a special issue of Annagh had many wonderful articles on the history of the railway. My own memories and reflections may be of interest. I am indebted to many railway enthusiasts and officials in various services for information in compiling this article.

In a supermarket nowadays we can pick our groceries from the shelves because they are all pre-packaged. How different from the days of youth when we, as children of 'grocers and general merchants', helped with the bagging and weighing of everything from tea to Bex-tartar, to sugar, flour and bread-soda. Even biscuits had to be taken from the biscuit tin, weighed and placed in paper bags but (for freshness) only when the customer arrived.

And how did these items reach the shops? In my earlier years in the 1940s they all came from the railway-station. They came in large tea-chests, cartons, crates or sacks. Sugar and fertiliser came in monstrous two hundredweight bags (100kg). This was when road freight was almost unknown. Almost every piece of merchandise that came to Ballyhaunis shops – from a box of matches to a two-ton piece of farm machinery – could reach Ballyhaunis only by rail. Because of war-time rationing there was just one licensed haulier in the town and he had to survive on a minimum ration of petrol just for the local area. Later CIE got a lorry for local deliveries.

One of my boyhood memories was standing in the large store at the rear of Peter Hannon's shop, formerly Flynn's, at the end of Abbey Street, which was exceptional in that they had their own dedicated rail-siding. I marvelled at the unloading of the ten-stone bags of flour floating down on a chute through two levels from the private railway siding adjacent to the store. Goods trains, naturally, could not remain on the main-line so they were shifted to spurs off the line called sidings, for loading and unloading of goods.

For other Ballyhaunis users it was very different. I have happy memories of the goods-store at the station, now unused, which was a hive of activity in my youth. The wagons with light freight were shunted to the siding alongside the present passenger platform and the goods were moved across the store to three large openings for



The goods store and siding at Ballyhaunis Railway Station, with the crane for loading and off-loading heavy goods in the background. Photograph courtesy of Ciaran Cooney www.eiretrains.com

loading on to carts, or later to lorries and vans. During the War this store was so packed with merchandise that one could hardly pass through it.

For heavy freight there were two other goods-train sidings. The siding to the left of the goods store, near the present gate was for flour, cement, bag-stuff and larger items of cargo. Another siding further to the east alongside the main-line, with a crane, was used mainly for farm machinery and, on fair days, for livestock. My father's wholesale/retail and bakery business in Main St., was totally dependent on the rail network so, when a wagon of flour arrived in the station from Odlums of Portarlinton addressed to James Waldron of Main St., it was rolled to the siding near the gate and its contents had to be transported by pony and cart to our stores at the rear of our shop which had an entrance from Knox St. I often accompanied our yardman to the station for the task.

Every railway station in Ireland then depended on freight for survival. Passenger trains were less important then - a few carriages running once or twice a day. What a change nowadays! Nine passenger trains per day and no goods at all! It is the same for every other station from Manulla to Dublin. Not one of them today is adapted for handling freight, though in Claremorris goods sidings are still in place. If the north-south line can be re-opened

to Athenry, this would provide a direct route to Waterford and Foynes Europort, now in development.

And the Present

I have always been fascinated by railways and was glad to find, on my return to Ballyhaunis, that rail freight has, nevertheless, survived. Freight-trains pass through Ballyhaunis daily, hauling up to eighteen 45ft containers from Ballina. Also, timber trains hauling twelve 60ft wagons of pulpwood come from Ballina and Westport, the lines joining up at Manulla Junction. Amazingly, this Mayo line has the highest use of rail-freight in all Ireland. It accounts for over one thousand movements per year. It is an astounding story – though little recognised as such.

Mayo is not a highly industrialised county, so why is this? The reason is that certain enterprising companies in the county recognised the potential of rail freight and particularly that Ballina and Westport, as rail-heads or terminus stations, can so easily cater for freight without impinging on passenger trains. Trains of containers of concentrates come from Ballina Beverages Ltd (Coca-Cola, Sprite and Fanta) which has a work-force of more than 400. The trains are operated, not by Irish Rail but by an international transport company, IWT (International Warehousing and Transport).

The Ballina trains go directly to Dublin Port at North Wall via Heuston and Connolly stations. Economically, environmentally and for reliability, rail has proved for them and other Ballina and Castlebar enterprises an attractive option as against road freight. The timber trains travel to Waterford via Kildare station. The question arises – could other stations in Ireland also be

used as an alternative or as a supplement to road freight? Mainland European countries are moving to rail freight at an increasing level.

And the Future?

Rail-freight would not, however, work in every town and would not be suitable for most enterprises. But Irish governments must surely re-examine the resource they already have for rail freight. Galway station, also a terminus station, will never again be used for freight as it is now selling off eight acres of former goods-trains space. And yet Irish roads are crowded with Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), emitting vast quantities of CO₂. One single trainload can haul one thousand tonnes of freight, replacing eighteen of these trucks and resulting in less carbon emissions, safer roads, less noise and extra revenue for railway infrastructure. There would also be less wear-and-tear on roads as it is documented that a single truck causes 10,000 times the wear-and-tear on a road pavement surface than that of a car!

But nobody wants to go back to the past. There can be no interference with passenger traffic so not every station could be adapted for freight. In the past a major disadvantage of goods trains was the necessity for 'shunting' of wagons. The noise of the shunting trains when I was young often kept me awake at night at home in Devlis during summer-time. Shunting was necessary to uncouple one or two wagons and move them to a siding. So, the shunting of one wagon for a customer in Ballyhaunis involved several forwards and backwards movements of the whole train. This was what made freight traffic impractical and uneconomic. But, surely, with modern signalling and planning of goods traffic this

could be simplified. At a few selected stations a goods train could be held at a siding for several days for loading and unloading – almost as if it were a rail-head, like Ballina and Westport.

Irish Rail provides a wonderful train service for passengers. Their trains are clean, comfortable and punctual. But the full Irish Rail network is vastly under-used. Along the thousand or more miles of rail-line owned by CIE, there is vast unused acreage where there were once sidings. On the Mayo line to Dublin, if even two or three of the twelve intermediate stations could be re-adapted as terminus stations for freight traffic, what a difference this could make in reducing carbon emissions – and at a minimal cost.



A rare photograph showing the rail siding which gave access to the buildings at the rear of Hannon's (formerly Flynn's and most recently 'The Horseshoe Inn'), Abbey St., taken long after it was in use. Goods were loaded and unloaded directly between rail carriage and store. "P. Hannon's" is just visible over the blocked-up doorway.

Courtesy of Sean Browne, Castlereagh.

The present system cannot go on! In the near future Ireland will face huge EU fines because of carbon emissions under international climate-change obligations. Rail-freight traffic could save Ireland a huge reduction in these fines. So far, Irish Governments have ignored the potential of rail freight to reduce carbon emissions. But it may still happen. After all, it was freight, not passenger traffic, which was the principal purpose of railways when they were originally constructed.

Mayo may be still waiting to win the Sam Maguire but, in this aspect at least, Mayo is leading the way –and without many people knowing of it!



This recent photograph of two freight trains in Ballyhaunis Railway Station illustrates the important role that rail transport continues to have in the movement of goods to and from the West of Ireland.

Photograph by Paul Newman, Claremorris, courtesy of Frank Dawson.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Left: Colm and Pauline Murphy, Tulrahan, on their wedding day, 26th Sept. 1967; and (above) on their 50th wedding anniversary in Knock House Hotel, Sept. 2017.



Left: Byrne sisters, formerly of Bridge St. Hannah (Campbell), now of Connecticut, U.S.A. and Noreen (Golden), late of Cambridge, England. Sisters of Rita (Byrne) Webb, Devlis.

Right: Aisling and Eavan Webb participated in the Camino Walk, September 2018, raising funds for AWARE. They would like to extend their gratitude to all those who gave donations towards such a worthy cause. They raised €5,000 in all.



Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club

MARK GODFREY

Forty eager youths – that’s the typical turnout on a Tuesday night for the Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club’s training and game sessions. The club started in early spring under the guidance of coaches Shay and Mark O’Reilly, from Kilkelly, who come every week to show the members the basic skills and help more advanced players to better their game. There are some very talented players involved. Participation and enjoyment are the key principles of our club and we encourage players of all levels to join us.

To make the Club accessible to all there is no charge for membership or for the weekly training sessions. We appreciate the financial support from Mayo Sports Partnership (part of Mayo County Council) – its local representative Elmer has been invaluable in assisting the club set up proper procedures to guarantee child welfare.

Eight of our junior boys and girls played very well in a Connacht Ranking tournament in Bunninadden (Co. Sligo) in September. The Club’s Summer Tournament was keenly contested and showcased the great talent of our many players. The great camaraderie and friendly atmosphere among teenagers makes the table tennis club a great place to spend a couple of hours for teenagers who get to mix with counterparts from different

backgrounds while also learning a great sport.

We are now hoping to start regular table tennis evenings for adults as we’re getting many queries from men and women who’d like to play. This will be up and running by the end of the year. Timing depends on availability of the Parochial Hall, which has been a great venue to have. We congratulate the hall committee and Community Council in their hard work to renovate the hall.

Fundraising also helps pay for our main overhead, the rental fee to the Parochial Hall. We welcome any support in this regard. Perhaps our biggest challenge, however, is getting adults to help supervise what can be very large groups of kids of all kinds of backgrounds. Parents are encouraged to attend, if only for one evening every month – a rota system could be easily established. Contact us if you’d like to help in any way with the club or drop in to the Parochial Hall on a Tuesday evening 6-8pm. Tel. 087 3256133

Officers: Chairperson: Mark Godfrey; Secretary: Paul Ryan/Mark O’Reilly; Treasurer: Shay O’Reilly; Child Welfare Officer: Elmer Pieterse (Mayo Sports Partnership).



Mark Godfrey (Chairman) with Elmer Pieterse (Child Welfare Officer), trainers and members of the Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club.

Community Council:

Ballyhaunis Development Priorities Unveiled in Plan

MARK GODFREY

Following a well-attended Annual General Meeting in the Spring all subsequent meetings of the Community Council have, this year, been consumed with the renovation of the parochial hall as a community space. The Hall has been transferred to the Community Council on a long term lease and the Council has applied to the EU-funded LEADER programme for rural renewal in order to fund the significant structural works required. We have already made progress in getting external insulation works completed at the Hall with support from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The LEADER application was a lengthy and painstaking process involving detailed consultations and specifications from engineers and other structural experts. As of writing our LEADER application has cleared the evaluation process and is now awaiting the allocation of funds. We hope to have an answer to the application by the end of 2018. In the meantime, we have launched a Gofundme.com fundraising page to raise €100,000 towards the refurbishment works as required under any successful LEADER application.

The Community Council also attended the first ever 'Meet the Council' event for the Claremorris Municipal District of Mayo County Council on Thursday, 8th November in the Town Hall, Claremorris. Organised by the Mayo Community Futures office at the Council, the 'Meet the Council' event was part of the Community Futures renewal plan whereby each town selects three projects from its development plan as priorities to discuss with Council engineers, architects, etc. Our three priorities were: a renewal of the old convent buildings in the town, repairs at the Friary (upgrading toilet facilities to acceptable disability access standards, upgrading the electrical wiring, developing a museum/heritage centre to preserve and display the history and heritage of the Augustinian Order), and a traffic plan for the town. The Meet the Council event is all part of the Council's engagement with community groups in setting out development plans with these communities. As part of this Ballyhaunis Community Council, in association with Ballyhaunis Chamber, compiled the Community Action Plan in 2007 and again in 2015 through extensive surveying of the local population on what they saw as priorities for the town's development. The renewed plan was launched in March 2017 and revealed a lot of ambition but also frustration over services, traffic and social issues in the town. One of the recommendations in the plan has progressed

significantly: upgrade works funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme - which was applied for by the Chamber of Commerce - was one of the priorities in the Community Futures Plan. Likewise, the Parochial Hall is being extensively refurbished.

Challenging goals remain ahead however: in particular, maximising use of key public buildings which are no longer used: the Scout Den, the Court House and the Convent Primary School buildings. We'd love to have new members join the Council and help in our work for a better community for all.

We are very proud of the Defibrillator Group - a sub-committee of the Community Council - which is setting up a First Responders Group in Ballyhaunis linked to the National Ambulance Service. The Defibrillator Group continues to train members of the public in CPR and use of a defibrillator.

Volunteerism is paying dividends in Ballyhaunis, but more volunteers are needed: Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns committee is happy to report a score of 287 - up from 279 last year - out of a maximum 450 points in this year's national Tidy Towns competition. In their comments the judges concluded positively: "You have a lot of interesting projects and are making great efforts to improve both the natural and built environment in your town. Although there are challenges facing Ballyhaunis in some areas, you are working hard to tackle this and overcome them and we look forward to your continued participation and success."

The Community Council was set up in 2001 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. We need your help and input.

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.

Mark Godfrey – **Chairman**; Michael Kelly – **Vice-chairman**; Mary Donnelly – **Secretary**; Evelyn O'Connor – **Asst. secretary**; Stephen Grogan – **PRO**; Colin Egan – **Asst. PRO**.

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club

MARTIN WALSH

It's forty years since a group of local enthusiasts from the town and wider area started playing rugby in Ballyhaunis.

There have been a lot of changes in Ballyhaunis since, but the game of rugby has remained something that draws in players from the locality and well beyond. Not being as popular as Gaelic games, we have always had players from a twenty miles radius and beyond. Most Ballyhaunis teams of old would have players living in at least three or maybe four counties and that tradition continues today. It has always amazed me how we could take a bunch of lads from parishes and counties that loathed each other all summer, put a yellow and purple jersey on them, change the shape of the ball, and then they would die for each other. We can now add that there are often players from all corners of the world and the same still applies.

Ballyhaunis RFC continues to field a team in the J1C league competing throughout Connacht. We also fielded teams in minis rugby and U14, U16 and U18 teams. Like all clubs, we are always looking for new players and all are welcome. Our underage train every Thursday evening, 6.30 to 7.30. We are making a special effort this year with our minis and, with help from the Connacht branch, are bringing rugby into many of the primary schools in the district. It's a great way of keeping kids active in the winter and rugby often appeals to children that don't enjoy other team games, so please feel free to



bring your children along and give it a go!

Over the last forty years, the Club has made great strides in developing our grounds and that continues. The first games of rugby played in Ballyhaunis were in Morley's field in Cherryfield. Later, the Club was granted use of Forkan's field in Coolnaha with changing rooms in a shed at the back of Mick Morris pub, the 'Horseshoe Inn' on Abbey St. In the early 1990s we acquired our present grounds on Doctor's road. Over the decades we have developed this into what is one of the best rugby grounds in Connacht, often being asked to host major interclub Connaught finals and semifinals due to our excellent pitch, club house and central location within the province. Over the last year we have added again to our club house and hope to have a full gym and kitchen completed early next year. This has been possible thanks to sports capital funding and our continued fundraising efforts.

The Club runs bingo every Thursday in Midfield and this continues to be a great night out. One of the big fundraisers for our club, and a great social night for the whole area, continues to be 'The Barn Dance'. Held at the end of August this year we decided to expand to a second night. Friday night was hosted by La Bamba and Mike Denver, with local talent Rejig and U.M.A.N on Saturday night. Even stiff competition from Pope Francis didn't keep the crowds away from what was a great weekend of entertainment.





The Ballyhaunis Rugby team that was victorious over Ballina, September 2018.

Back, L-R: Gabriel Gallagher, James Frayne, David Gormally, Dylan Harrison, Kevin Higgins, Stephen Towey, Stephen Foley, Pat Egan, Fintan Crawley, Derek Rogers, Ryan Convey, Sean McKay, John O'Connor, Aidan Healy. Front, L-R: Robert Duffy, David Morley, Edward O'Connor, Sam Keen, Padraic Carney (Captain), Colm Gallagher, Gareth Delaney, Kieran McDermott, Declan Murphy, Seamus Horan, Brian O'Neill, Lorcan Higgins.



Ballyhaunis Musical Society
Fashion Show in Midas
Nite Club, 2000.

L-R: Sheila Fallon (Miss Clare
1999), Rita Lundon, Emir
Holohan-Doyle (Miss Ireland
1999), Frankie Forde-Waldron,
Mary Kelly, Margaret O'Connor,
Rachel O'Connor, Moira Noone.

Stratfords Photography 2000.



Ballyhaunis P.T.A.A. Celebrates Centenary

Congratulations to Ballyhaunis Pioneer Total Abstinence Association (PTAA) on the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Association. The occasion was marked with a special Mass in the Parish Church, celebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P.

After Mass five members of the Association were presented with Diamond Pins and diplomas (marking sixty years of membership), and three members with Gold Pins and diplomas (marking fifty years of membership.)

Meetings are held monthly and members attend all pioneer events in the region. New members would be very welcome.



Members of Ballyhaunis PTAA and recipients of Diamond and Gold Pins and certificates marking sixty and fifty years' membership, respectively, of the Pioneers. Pictured with Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. L-R: Kevin Lyons, Jim Leonard, Bill Comer, Breege McLoughlin, Tommy Fitzmaurice, Jim McLoughlin, Joe Byrne.

Below: Ballyhaunis PTAA committee members, pictured with Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. L-R: Patricia Flanagan, Maureen Nolan, Maureen Comer, Teresa Healy.



Parochial Hall Refurbishment Appeal

MARK GODFREY

Calling all friends of Ballyhaunis! Help us provide the town with a community meeting space the town needs and deserves! We invite people with a connection to Ballyhaunis from all over the world to donate whatever you can to our Gofundme.com page (<https://www.gofundme.com/ballyhaunis-parochial-hall-upgrade>) to help us raise €100,000 towards the refurbishment of the Hall as a community centre.



We have applied for funding from the EU's LEADER programme for rural development to cover the larger part of the costs. But local money is also needed to get the job done. The Parochial Hall has been transferred in a long term lease to the Ballyhaunis Community Council, a non-denominational, non-profit body committed to community development. Anyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings, which are held in the Parochial Hall (email us on ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com).

Built in 1940 by the local parish and run as a community facility managed by a voluntary committee, the Hall requires major upgrading to meet the needs of the modern day community.

Based on extensive consultation with engineers – thanks to Eugene Waldron, Michael Flatley, Gerry McGarry and Pdraig Kelly (Mayo County Council) for their help – the refurbishment project aims to extend the current Hall to add a kitchen and improve access for users with disabilities. It will also entail significant renovation of the existing structure to remove and prevent dampness, improve insulation and to bring it up to standards required to meet high levels of demand.

Meeting rooms as well as main Hall will be upgraded for the various groups using and seeking to use them. There will be significant widening of physical access to the stage and a complete modernisation of changing

room facilities which also serve as an artist room (where art classes are currently run).

For so long intertwined with the history and fabric of the town and parish, the Hall is currently used extensively for fitness classes, choir rehearsals, Irish dancing, art classes and hosts the weekly meetings of the local Parent & Toddler Group. The Hall is busy every night of the week alternately with dance classes, table tennis, meetings of community groups and choral rehearsals.

Down through the years the Hall has served as a cinema, dance hall, concert venue, theatre, social services centre and as a venue for meetings, classes, etc. It has been a venue for badminton, billiards, indoor bowls, boxing and table tennis. It has likewise served as a library and exhibition space and has hosted sales of work, bingo sessions and card games. Ballyhaunis Credit Union was established in the Parochial Hall in the 1980s and operated there until its own premises were purchased. The Hall is also a venue for various fundraising events e.g. tea/coffee mornings for charities like Hospice.

The Hall has long been the venue for meetings of cherished local groups like Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns, Parish Pastoral Council, Community Council, Irish Farmers Association, Foróige and group water scheme meetings as well as the Citizens Information Centre.

Ireland's national youth services organisation Foróige has a full-time office based in the Parochial Hall for the past two years, and is currently establishing a Youth Services Programme which will run over the next three years to address the needs of Ballyhaunis' multi-ethnic youth population including youths from the large direct provision centre in the town.

Given Ballyhaunis is the most ethnically diverse small town in Ireland, it's not surprising that the Hall is now also regularly used by the local Muslim community for family celebrations such as wedding parties, birthday parties and engagements. Similarly, transition year students from Ballyhaunis Community School have hosted entertainment for Western Care service users.

Progress has already been made. Scaffolding recently came down and the Parochial Hall is looking good after external insulation works, supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The main roof has also been replaced by the contractors, making the building comfortable for the various community groups which use the building.

Once you donate on Gofundme you can then follow our progress online and spread the word to those who

might want to donate. Updates on progress with the project will be communicated to the local community via local newspapers, social media channels, parish bulletins, signage outside the building explaining the nature and timeline of the project and a public meeting/launch event once the project is complete. We will make full use of our local radio station Midwest (MWR) fm which has already featured the need to modernise the Hall on its news and community programmes.

We look forward to welcoming you all at the venue to mark its renovation and reopening. But right now we need your support!

*This project has been a priority for the Ballyhaunis Community Council and we've worked hard on it. If you'd like to contribute to projects like this we are always looking for input and new members and ideas. **Contact us at ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com***

Right: Adrian Phillips graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and Geography (Hons.) from the University of Limerick. He is pictured with his parents Katie and Billy Phillips, Doctor's Road, Ballyhaunis.



**AFFILIATED TO
THE MOUSE RACING ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.**

Regulations:
All mice to be in saddling enclosure 1 Hour before start.

Committee will not accept responsibility for spectators who may receive Rodent Kicks or Bites during the course of the meeting.

FREE stabling for mice at rear of premises.

FREE fodder for all competitors.

FREE drinks for competing mice at discretion of management.

ALL jockeys & mice may have to undergo drug test at the discretion of the official Veterinary Officer.

N.B.
Strictly no cats allowed on premises.

Signed:
Clerk of the Course & Official Starter.

*Baron Von Ratt Trapp,
Luch Lodge,
The Curragh.*

GREENSprint Ltd, Ballyhaunis.

Crazy Jack's
Monday May 8th 1989.

**THE
RODENT STAKES,
Sensationail Mouse Race**
In aid of the MARTINA CUMMINS FUND

Will be held in:
Crazy Jacks, Knox St., Ballyhaunis. (0907) 30696.

First Race at: 8.30 p.m. Last Race at: 11.00 p.m.

PROGRAMME
+ Raffle & Buffet
£1.50

SPOT PRIZES. RUNNING BUFFET.

Crazy Jacks' was a popular public house in the late 1980s, and was where 'Heads Up' is now in Knox Street.

My Life in Ballyhaunis Post Office

JOHN JOE KELLY

I arrived in Ballyhaunis on the train on 7th March 1977. I had started my career as a Post Office Clerk in Cavan on 19th February 1976 and following training I spent the next nine months in Athy, Co. Kildare. When I was told of my new transfer I hoped that I would be going nearer to my home in Tipperary, but lo-and-behold I was sent west to my now home of over forty years.

I asked a man on the platform at Ballyhaunis Railway Station where the Post Office was and he kindly offered to bring me there. In the car he asked me which Post Office I wanted to go to and I thought that I was in a huge town. The Post Office was undergoing renovations at the time and there was a temporary office at Dom Moran's in Knox St. I should mention that the kind man was the local Taxi and Mail Car Contractor George O'Malley. I reminded George many times in later years of my introduction to the town.

I met the Postmaster Paddy Brennan and he said that as I was here nice and early I could start work at 5.30am the next morning. I then went to Upper Main St. and joined the many lodgers in Mary Durr's. There were several occupants in Mary's including postal workers, bank workers, guards and a bread-van driver. The only common denominator was that we were all male.

My first morning in the Post Office was spent in introductions to the workforce who, at the time, were Johnny Henry, Eamon Dwane, Dónal Fitzpatrick, John Cleary, Owen Kilduff, Dom Murphy, Joe Byrne, Paddy Fitzmaurice, Mick Lyons, Noel Morley and Bernie Tarpey. I only met Bernie on that first day as he passed away that night and was discovered in his home by Dom Murphy, his near neighbour, who was sent to check on him around noon. There were no mobile phones at that time so we were dependent on the good will of relatives, neighbours and friends.

There were many lovely ladies upstairs in the Telephone Exchange but I was warned not to heed their amorous advances as I was only a young lad. I think that advice came from Mary Greene (now Larkin) from Ballinlough who was the Supervisor.

I remained in the Ballyhaunis Office until June 1980 when I transferred to Castlerea. Both offices were traditionally part of the Castlerea group for many years and remained that way until recent years. I continued to live in Ballyhaunis as I had met my future wife Sarah at that stage. We bought a house down Knox St. in 1983 and we tied the knot on 28th October 1984. Sarah and I are very proud of our three children: Joe, Pat and Maura. They are now adults and going about their own lives.

I was privileged to be a part of the backroom team



John Joe Kelly (left), Ballyhaunis DSU, who retired on 21st June 2018. At a function held to mark the event he was presented with the Union Scroll by Michael Connolly who thanked him for his forty-two years of service. John Joe was an active member and Secretary of the Ballyhaunis Communications Workers Union (CWU) Branch, also of the new Castlerea and District Branch. All of his colleagues would like to wish him a happy and healthy retirement and thank him for all his support and service to our Branch.

that won the Mayo Intermediate Football Championship in 1988 under the management of Tony Morley, Eamon Murren and Denis Hannan. There was great celebrating and craic in town for a few days. All of the lads on that team remain great friends and many of them went on to coach the next generation.

Around the same time a few of us, including Peter Higgins and John Joe Hoban, began coaching a group of young people in the finer arts of Hurling. To this day I am astonished at the silverware those people won. But even more so, I am delighted at the friendships that I witnessed and the real camaraderie that exists because of sport.

Having spent thirty years based in Castlerea and a few years in Sligo I returned to Ballyhaunis to manage the Mails Office in the same building as the Retail Office at Bridge St. We then moved to our new office at Clare St. That was a great day as we have now got a big modern office with all the requirements to provide a first class service. I am very proud of all our current staff providing that service. What the future holds is very unsure but I am confident that my colleagues will carry on regardless.



Above: John Joe Kelly with his wife Sarah, family and work colleagues at a function to mark his retirement after forty-two years' service.
Back, L-R: Willie Broderick, Cian Griffin, Noel Heneghan, Val Kenny, Pat Kelly, Tom Fitzpatrick, David Madden. Centre: Helen Byrne, Maura Kelly, Amy Conroy, Michael Connolly, Gerard Plunkett, Emily Murphy, Joe Byrne.
Seated: Sarah Kelly, John Joe Kelly.

Right: Pat Kelly presenting John Joe with Cú Chulainn statuette on his retirement.



When I saw Joe Byrne retiring I said to myself, the end is nigh! Joe had been here in Ballyhaunis when I arrived and, indeed, I decided that retirement would not be too far away. I discussed my lack of plans with Sarah and the boys in December and made plans to join the pensioners on my 60th birthday on 21st June. I did not inform anybody and I was actually retired before most people knew. After almost forty-three years it was time for a change.

I have enjoyed my life with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, and in later times An Post. I have lived and worked in some great towns. Lasting friends have been made along the way. In those years some fine people have passed away, but they will be fondly remembered and I learned a lot from them.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.



Ballyhaunis Men's Shed

We're open Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm.

All welcome for a cuppa and a chat.

Call us on 0871911135 or find us on Facebook.

Re-elected committee

Chairman: Jim Goulding ; **Vice chairman:** Seamus Freeman

Treasurer: Aiden Gaughan; **Secretary:** Kevin Carney

Pictured above right, is an example of our craftsmanship.



The World Meeting of Families 2018

Icon Visits Ballyhaunis

COMPILED BY GABRIEL SMITH

The World Meeting of Families started in 1994, when Pope St. John Paul II asked the Pontifical Council for the Family (now part of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life) to establish an international event of prayer, catechesis and celebration that would draw participants from around the globe and that would help to strengthen the bonds between families and bear witness to the crucial importance of marriage and the family to all of society.

Dublin was chosen by Pope Francis to host the World Meeting of Families from 21st to 26th August, 2018, guided by the theme “The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World”. Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society and of the Church.

The World Meeting of Families had at its heart the following key moments:

- 21st August, 2018, a National Opening of The World Meeting of Families 2018, which took place simultaneously in all the different dioceses of Ireland.
- 22nd to 24th August, 2018, a three day Congress. Each day would reflect on the theme “The Gospel

of the Family: Joy for the World” chosen by the Holy Father and would include an enriching programme for adults of keynote speakers, workshops, talks, testimonies and discussions; an engaging and exciting programme for young people as well as fun activities for children. The Congress would also include daily celebration of the Eucharist, prayerful activities, exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances.

- Saturday 25th August, 2018, a Festival of Families, comprising a reflective concert style event within a prayerful and joyful atmosphere, in which personal stories of faith would be shared by families from all continents.
- Sunday 26th August, The World Meeting of Families 2018 would close with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration that would gather thousands of people from Ireland and all over the world. **The main Celebrant of the Eucharistic Celebration was Pope Francis.**

The main events of the World Meeting of Families 2018 took place in the Royal Dublin Society (RDS), Croke Park Stadium, the Phoenix Park and at **Knock Shrine**.



The World Meeting of Families Icon in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, pictured with Maureen Nolan, Dorothy Durkan, Mary McGuire, Mary Waldron, Eileen Jordan and Orla Phillips,



The World Meeting of Families Icon, pictured in the Sanctuary of St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis

ICON: There was a specially commissioned Icon of the Holy Family created for the World Meeting of Families event. The Icon was written by iconographer Mihai Cucu and assisted by the Redemptoristine Sisters of the Monastery of St. Alphonsus, Iona Road, Dublin, as part of their ongoing prayer for families. The icon was unveiled and anointed on the 21st August, 2017 during the launch of the one year programme of preparation at the National Novena in Knock.

The Icon **travelled** to each diocese in Ireland to encourage reflection and prayer as part of the journey of preparations for the World Meeting of Families 2018. The Icon was accompanied by petition boxes, where families could write their intentions and prayer. Contemplative communities around Ireland **would** pray for the intentions collected during the year.

The World Meeting of Families 2018 Icon was organised to be in Ballyhaunis Parish Church by Fr. Stephen Farragher on Thursday 25th January, 2018. The Icon was brought to Westport on Friday 26th January. The Parish Church was decorated for the occasion.

At 7.00pm, on the evening of Thursday 25th January, a Holy Hour was co-ordinated by the Eucharistic Adoration sub-group of the Parish Pastoral Council. The Holy Hour, which was very well attended, included Scripture readings, which were read by Fr. Stephen Farragher, and corresponding stories to reflect current images in today's society were read by Mike Byrne. After the Holy Hour, people were able to get pictures of the Icon.

On Friday morning, the Parish Church was open at 8.00am to facilitate people who may have wanted to view the Icon. The 10.00am Mass on Friday morning was celebrated by Fr. Stephen Farragher. The Mass was

attended by pupils from Scoil Íosa along with the Deputy Principal, Mr. Kevin Henry. After the 10.00am Mass, students from Ballyhaunis Community School visited the Church to view the Icon. This was organised by Orla Phillips who is Head of Religious Education in the School.

At 12.30pm, the Icon was moved and returned to its case for departure, after 1pm, to St. Mary's Church, Westport. The following people were very helpful in moving and returning the Icon to its case - Seamus Caulfield, Pat Devine, Jimmy Donnelly, Mike Griffin, George O'Neill, Ray Sloyan and Mike Webb. Mike Webb was in charge of transporting the Icon to Westport.

Special thanks must go to the following people of the Eucharistic Adoration sub-group of the Parish Pastoral Council - Fr. Stephen Farragher, Eileen McDonagh, Mary McGuire, Mary Waldron and Mike Byrne - who coordinated the visit of the Icon over the two days.

Information above taken from the World Meeting of Families 2018 website, www.worldmeeting2018.ie



The World Meeting of Families Icon being transported into St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.



Of the approx. 110 men and boys pictured here, only twelve are positively identified. Names of others are known, but they are not identified clearly. Front row (seated on the grass), L-R: James Treston or Andrew Forde [bowler hat and moustache], Michael M. Waldron [bowler hat], John Healy [no hat, moustache], Michael Lavan [beard], Fr. James A. Anderson OSA [top hat in right hand], Thomas P. Cassidy [hat and beard], Dr. Charles E. Crean [no hat, clean shaven], Maurice Fitzgerald [no hat], Michael A. Waldron [bowler hat and side-burns]. Extreme left, second row: William Cooney or possibly Thomas Masterson [cap and beard]. Third from left, second row: James Daly, Editor Connaught Telegraph [bowler hat, bow tie, notebook in left hand]. The boy in front of the brass band, and between Michael Lavan and Fr. Anderson, is P. A. Waldron. Three of the other boys pictured to the right, in the second row, are: Michael Grealley, Anthony P. Waldron and Michael Flynn. Of the eight brass band members (second and third rows), the names of five are given: Davy McHale, Mike Kenny, Pat and Mike Waldron, and Peter Devine. The man on the big drum was not known to Dr. Waldron. In 1930 Dr. Michael F. Waldron named some men described vaguely as standing 'right of photo': Darby Glavey, James O'Malley, Michael Cusack, Peter Keaveney, Thomas Waldron (Knox St.), James Grealley, James Blackhall, Johnny Sweeney, Peter Hackett, Robert Mark, Michael Dawson. In 1951 the same writer listed some of these, with a few more, this time as 'others who have been identified': Peter Keaveney, James Blackhall, James Grealley, Thomas Waldron (Knox St.), Darby Glavey, James O'Malley, Robert Mark, Michael Cusack, Martin Ruane. Three men other than those who were members of the 'council' (or committee) are pictured wearing sashes. The Connaught Telegraph report (1878) says the three prefects leading different groups of workmen each wore a green silk sash with the order of the sodality on a white background, and names them as: Thomas Masterson (labourers), Peter Keaveney (tradesmen) and Patrick Downey (shop assistants). Three such men can be seen in the group: (1) man kneeling in the second row, extreme left, named as William Cooney in 1930, but not named in 1951 – could this be Thomas Masterson? (2) man right of centre, about three rows back with a top-hat – this could be Peter Keaveney who was among those said to be standing 'right of photo'; and a young man left of centre, about five rows back – this might be Patrick Downey as he and his companions look of an age to be shop assistants. *Courtesy of Wynne family collection, Source Archives.*

The Temperance League, The Brass Band, and a 'Grand Excursion' in 1878

PAUL WALDRON

The remarkable photograph shown across was taken at Thornhill, near Kiltimagh by professional photographer Thomas J. Wynne of Castlebar. The occasion was the first ever 'Grand Excursion and Picnic of the Ballyhaunis Total Abstinence Association', and the date was Sunday, 19th May 1878.

Its story would have been forgotten but for Dr. Michael F. Waldron, the historian and writer of Knox St., Ballyhaunis. Twice during his long career as local press correspondent he wrote about the picture, remarking that it "...furnished a link in the chain of history". Only a two year-old child himself when it was taken, his elder brother, P.A. – then a ten year old boy – is featured prominently at centre (as described below), while their father Thomas (a tailor) is known to be one of those standing on the right hand side, though not clearly identified.

Were it not for Dr. Waldron's detailed descriptions, published in the *Mayo News* of 16th Aug. 1930, and the *Western People* of 3rd Nov. 1951, it would now be impossible to learn the significance of this recently re-discovered photograph taken 140 years ago. The original is preserved in the Wynne Collection, but neither provenance nor date is given in the catalogue of that extensive archive viewable in the County Library, Castlebar. The collection contains two other photographs taken on the same occasion: one of the eight council members (committee) of the Ballyhaunis Total Abstinence Association (which has been published in Annagh before), and one showing members of the Brass Band in a horse-drawn vehicle known as a 'brake'.

Total Abstinence

The *Ballyhaunis Total Abstinence Association* (better known later as the *Ballyhaunis Temperance League*) was one of many initiatives of Fr. James Anderson O.S.A., the tireless and energetic Prior at the Abbey 1874-79. It was founded on 14th Oct. 1877, under the auspices of the League of St. Nicholas of Tolentine (an Augustinian saint). According to John Healy's (the honorary secretary) first report, published in the *Connaught Telegraph*, 30th Nov. 1878, the *League* was set up with two main purposes, firstly: 'the salvation of souls by preventing sin through drunkenness being committed'; and secondly, 'the social and domestic welfare and happiness of its members'. In association with the *League*, Fr. Anderson also started up the brass band, officially named 'the Band of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Ballyhaunis'.

Within a month of its formation nearly 200 members had enrolled in the *Ballyhaunis Temperance League*, even

though it met 'crushing opposition' (referred to without elaboration in the honorary secretary's first report). By the following May (1878) membership had grown to 296 members, although it was noted that a small number had 'fallen away' or had returned their pledge cards. Not unusually for the time, membership was open only to men, and most of these appear to have been tradesmen, shop assistants and labourers living in the town. The positive effects of temperance was plain for all to see, as the honorary secretary remarked: "Look about and you will behold on every side men now presenting a respectable appearance, well fed, well clad, and with money to spare, who hitherto were all but lost to the abominable vice of intemperance."

It was regarded a great honour to be admitted a member of the *Temperance League*, and those who broke its rules risked reprimand and formal expulsion from its ranks. Members wore a star-shaped badge of white metal, about the size of an old five-pence coin, mounted on a pin. However, even after just one year there were fears for the *League's* future. Funds were depleted, largely due to the expense of the Thornhill trip, and the cost of having copies of the group photograph made for members. According to that first report of Nov. 1878, nothing was left in the account "...save a few shillings received last week". The honorary secretary, John Healy, regretted that he was unable to seek re-election to that position, and also recorded that Dr. Crean would not be seeking re-election as president. A new committee was formed, but if press coverage is anything to go by, the *League* had a low profile in ensuing years, most probably because Fr. Anderson, its founder and driving force was transferred the next year, 1879. The Brass Band, however, continued in existence and was a regular feature at gatherings and rallies throughout Connacht over the next decade.

Grand Excursion

In keeping with the *Temperance League's* aim to further "the social and domestic welfare and happiness of its members", a 'Grand Excursion and Picnic' was organised. Advertisements appeared in the local papers for weeks before the event. An item in one of those papers claimed (rather optimistically) that the route selected – through Claremorris and onto Kiltimagh, "...could not be excelled for picturesque and varied scenery of landscape, woods, cliffs and ravines; projecting rich valleys, celebrated for their fertile lands, and tastefully planted demesnes."

A detailed account of the whole day was published in the following week's *Connaught Telegraph* (25th May



1878) and reveals an extraordinary level of organisation. The writer was, most probably, James Daly, editor of that newspaper, who was present on the day and is included in the group photograph.

On the morning of Sunday, 19th May 1878, over one-hundred members of the Ballyhaunis Temperance League attended 8 o'clock Mass in the Friary church and then, shortly after 9 o'clock, departed the town in at least twenty horse-drawn 'cars' and three 'brakes'.

Led by the Brass Band, the cavalcade was divided into a number of 'bodies' travelling in strict sequence, each with its own chosen prefect: the Labourers led by Thomas Masterson; Tradesmen, by Peter Keaveney; and Shop Assistants, by Patrick Downey. At the very end were the Council (or committee) of the *League*. The whole convoy was kept in order by Maurice J. Fitzgerald "...mounted on a splendid charger." It must have presented a remarkable scene, as the *Connaught Telegraph* correspondent reported:

"The sight was a truly imposing one, as they passed along over the country, led by a brass band who have recently joined the Temperance League, the melodious strains of which collected crowds at every crossing and hamlet as they procession passed along. Towards Claremorris, needless to say, the greeting from the country people was of the warmest and most enthusiastic nature. On reaching Claremorris they were most cordially received. Banners and triumphal arches were thrown across the streets – one bearing the expressive words in the mellifluous native tongue, *cead mille failthe*. A large concourse of the young men of Claremorris joined in the procession, and escorted them for over a mile out of town."

From Claremorris they travelled through Murneen towards Kiltimagh, arriving at their destination –

Thornhill House – at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, some four hours after leaving Ballyhaunis. Their host was Charles Bourke Jordan, Esq. and he threw open the house and demesne to his guests for the day. The weather was miserable – overcast and showery – but the excursionists walked through the landscaped grounds and took in the dramatic scenery of the surrounding countryside, including the 'beautiful cliffs of Slieve Cairn', all the time led by the band playing favourite airs. Returning to the house, they found a hearty feast set out before them. The correspondent described the scene: "Tables were laid in profusion, creaking with meats of the choicest kinds. Over two-hundred persons armed with sharp appetites helped themselves sumptuously under a fusillade of corks flying and bottles fizzing in every direction". Everyone had enough to eat and drink, and the sun eventually started to shine.

The day-out came to an end when Fr. Anderson proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Bourke Jordan, "for the cordial and warm manner in which he received them, for which, to say the least for him, he deserved the best gratitude and thanks".

Photographs

The *Connaught Telegraph* stated that members of the *League* consented to have their picture taken by the noted photographer Mr. Thomas Wynne of Castlebar. Wynne took exception to this use of words and, in the following week's paper, pointed out that he took the photograph at *their* special invitation. The paper willingly published a clarification, adding that it was "admirably and most accurately executed, surpassing the expectations of the members of the *League*, when taking into consideration the inclemency of the day and other disadvantages attendant to taking an outdoor group."

In the *Mayo News* of 16th Aug. 1930, Dr. Michael F. Waldron included a short paragraph about that excursion, and the group photograph, admitting that neither the exact date nor the event had then been authentically fixed. He names the front row as follows:

"In the centre of the front row sitting on the grass is Very Rev. Father Anderson, O.S.A., prior; on his left sit Dr. C. E. Crean, T. P. Cassidy, Maurice Fitzgerald, M. A. Waldron ('Big Michael'); to the right of Father Anderson sit Michael Lavan, John Healy, M. M. Waldron ('Little Michael'), James Treston and behind him William Cooney. Kneeling behind M. M. Waldron, notebook in hand, is James Daly, Castlebar (Editor *Connaught Telegraph* in those days)."

The man named here as James Treston was given as Andrew Forde when the photograph of the eight Temperance League council members was published in

the 1948 commemorative booklet 'The Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin, Ballyhaunis – 1348-1948 – An Historical Sketch', so his identity is not certain. These named men, with the exception of Treston, Cooney and Daly, comprised the Council of the Ballyhaunis Temperance League. They each wore a maroon sash done up with gold border and fringe, and on their left breast their badge of office, consisting of a silver star with clasp and green ribbon.

Dr. Waldron then named some of the men he describes vaguely as standing 'Right of photo', but doesn't identify who is whom: "Darby Glavey, James O'Malley, Michael Cusack, Peter Keaveney, Thomas Waldron (Knox St.), James Greally, James Blackhall, Johnny Sweeney, Peter Hackett, Robert Mark, Michael Dawson."

All members wore green rosettes and the badge of the *League*, as seen in the photograph. The prefects, leading the various 'bodies' of the *League*, each wore green silk sashes with the order of the sodality on a white background. Some of those pictured with sashes must include the prefects named in the 1878 report: Thomas Masterson (labourers), Peter Keaveney (tradesmen) and Patrick Downey (shop assistants).

Members of the 'St. Nicholas of Tolentine Brass Band', wearing military caps of green and gold, were named by Dr. Waldron, but not specifically identified: "Davy McHale, Mike Kenny, Pat and Mike Waldron, and Peter Devine." One of the first leaders of the band was Dan Feely, but whether he is pictured here is not known. The man on the bass drum was not known to Dr. Waldron but he describes him as, "the most prominent and important looking individual... with his cap perched jauntily on his head, and a look of determination on his face, accentuated by flying side-whiskers, it is evident that he means to make some noise in the world!"

Fifty-two years had then elapsed (1930) since the photograph was taken, and Dr. Waldron had to admit that "the great majority have not been identified".

Memorable Occasion

Just over twenty years later, Dr. Waldron's piece in the *Western People* of 3rd Nov. 1951 offers some additional information on the photograph. Once again he has to admit that "comparatively

few of the total group... can now be identified", and adds poignantly that, "All of those who then figured in the proceedings have passed away. May they rest in Peace." With slight variations from the 1930 article, he identifies those...

"...in the foreground, sitting amid the lush grass...: Father Anderson, flanked by members of the Confraternity Council, wearing sashes and medals. On his right are: Michael Lavan, John Healy, M. M. Waldron, ('Small Michael'), James Treston. On left: T. P. Cassidy, Dr. Charles E. Crean, Maurice Fitzgerald, M. A. Waldron ('Big Michael'). Immediately behind are the Temperance Brass Band and James Daly, Castlebar (Editor of *The Connaught Telegraph*, with note-book in hand)."

He names a number of men (including those said to be standing 'right of photo' in the 1930 piece) described this time only as "others that have been identified". Only his own brother, the ten year old P.A. Waldron, is identified clearly:

"Peter Keaveney, James Blackhall, James Greally, Thomas Waldron (Knox St.), Darby Glavey, James O'Malley, Robert Mark, Michael Cusack, Martin Ruane... and a number of very juvenile schoolboys,



Members of the Council (committee) the Ballyhaunis Total Abstinence Association/League 1878.
Back, L-R: Dr. Charles E. Crean, Andrew Forde [or James Treston], John Healy, Michael Lavan.
Seated, L-R: Michael A. Waldron, Fr. James Anderson OSA, Maurice Fitzgerald, Michael M. Waldron.
This was published in the commemorative booklet 'The Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin, Ballyhaunis – 1348-1948 – An Historical Sketch'. The man named in that publication as Andrew Forde is identified elsewhere as James Treston. *Courtesy of Wynne family collection, Source Archives.*

Michael Greally, Anthony P. Waldron, Michael Flynn, and P. A. Waldron (kneeling on one knee between Father Anderson and Michael Lavan)."

The Brass Band

Another of the three surviving photographs from that 1878 excursion shows members of the brass band in a horse-drawn vehicle known as a 'brake'. Running on four wheels and pulled by a pair of horses, it was the minibus of its day. There's a thatched house in the background, not identified, and Fr. Anderson, wearing a top hat, is standing to the left, facing the camera.

Attempts had been made to form a brass band in Ballyhaunis as early as 1872 and, at a meeting held in William Insley's Hotel (now Lyons', Main St.) on 16th Nov. that year a committee was formed and a start made on collecting subscriptions. Nothing appears to have come of it, however, and it took Fr. Anderson's arrival in town some years later to see the brass band come to fruition in 1877.

Instruments were purchased and one Michael Short from Co. Armagh engaged as bandmaster to train the musicians. A banner was acquired, measuring six feet square, with beautiful scenes front and back painted by a Mr. W. Grady of Dublin: the front bearing the legend, 'Band of St. Nicholas of Tolentine Ballyhaunis', and a picture of the saint in Augustinian habit; while on the back were images of a wolfhound, harp and round tower, with the motto 'Let Erin Remember the Days of Old.' The band's official name – as given on the banner – was rather cumbersome, and it was more usually called the Ballyhaunis Temperance Band, or simply, the Ballyhaunis Brass Band.

Dr. Michael F. Waldron, writing in 1941, commented on the difficulties of combining musicianship with abstinence, in the band's early days:

"A few outings were sufficient to demonstrate that rigorous and conscientious compliance with the rules and principles of the Temperance Society could scarcely be expected of members, mostly artisans and tradesmen, who had to keep blowing music out of heavy brass instruments or beating big drums for long periods."

However, the band quickly fell into shape and was in great demand in Ballyhaunis and all over Connacht from its establishment in 1877 up to its disbandment in 1891. Dr. Waldron wrote in the *Connaught Telegraph* of 12th June 1937:

"...the Ballyhaunis Band was the leading band in Connacht. Their services were requisitioned – and cheerfully given – for every important Nationalist

meeting in Connacht, and all the prominent Land Leaguers were well acquainted with its members, whom they frequently met very many miles from their home town. Davitt, O'Brien and Parnell were familiar with its music. With one exception (Mr. Pat Eagney) they were all tradesmen, but never hesitated to sacrifice a day or two (at great inconvenience, and even risk, to themselves) in aid of the National Cause."

The band shown in the 1878 photographs consists of three cornet players and one player each on trombone, euphonium, clarinet, bass drum and side-drum. The following musicians in the large photograph were named, though not precisely identified, as Davy McHale, Mike Kenny, Pat and Mike Waldron, and Peter Devine. The man on the bass drum was not known to the writer at that time.

In that 1937 newspaper item Dr. Waldron gave the following list of band members' names, taken, as he says, from an old manuscript: Michael Short (bandmaster), Michael T. Waldron (leader), Pat Waldron, Michael Melia, Dan Feely, Mike Kenny, Darby Kenny, Pat Daly, Davy McHale, Pat Joe Devine, Peter Devine, Tommy Flatley, Michael Lyons, Johnny Flanagan and Pat Eagney. He added, "There were others, but I cannot trace their names."

The Brass Band played an important role during the Land War and performed at many meetings and rallies throughout Connacht from the foundation of the Land League in Irishtown in 1879, all through the 1880s. They were regularly called on to add colour and variety to a wide range of gatherings and outdoor assemblies. When Viscount Dillon, the most extensive landlord in the district, granted a reduction of 20% on rent due in 1879, a celebration was quickly organised. A huge bonfire was lit in Abbey St., several half-barrels of porter were donated by local publicans, and the Ballyhaunis Temperance Band, "discoursed some beautiful music during the evening throughout the town", as reported in *Freeman's Journal* of 14th Oct. 1879. The following month another absentee landlord, Dominick Moore O'Farrell, followed suit, and, to mark the occasion, the Brass Band once again played 'excellent music' at a bonfire lit at the Square.

The Apparition at Knock in August 1879 saw a huge increase in passenger numbers at Ballyhaunis Railway Station – then the most convenient stopping off point for pilgrims – with a consequent demand for accommodation in the town, and for transport to and from the Shrine. The local press regularly reported the Brass Band escorting groups of pilgrims between the station and the various hotels in town. Fr. Anderson, who was transferred from Ballyhaunis in 1879, returned in June 1880 leading a pilgrimage from his new posting in

Drogheda. The group was met at Ballyhaunis station by a local deputation, and were then paraded to the Railway Hotel, led by the band. On another occasion a sodality group from Cork were 'played to the station' by the band on the day of their departure.

A remarkable occasion at which the Brass Band performed was covered in the international press, and gave rise to one of the few newspaper reports that tell us what music they actually played. It was the return home of Granlahan man William Hebron, the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice in England. He and his brother John were arrested and tried for the murder of a policeman in Whalley Range near Manchester in 1876. John was acquitted, but William found guilty on the flimsiest of evidence (an imprint matching the sole of his boot was found near the scene) and received a death sentence, later commuted to penal servitude for life. Three years later, as he awaited execution for *another* murder, the notorious criminal Charlie Peace made the dramatic confession that it was *he* who killed the policeman in Whalley Range. William Hebron was released from Portland Prison and, after three years' incarceration for a crime he didn't commit, resolved to return home quietly and without any fuss. However, news of his impending arrival spread and made international headlines. The *Connaught Telegraph* reported that "The Ballyhaunis Brass Band was a prominent and agreeable feature" amongst the huge crowds who assembled at Ballyhaunis railway station on 20th Mar. 1879. The band played 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home', followed by 'God Save Ireland', on the platform. The crowd accompanied Hebron's side-car as far as the cross-roads in Devlis, where William made a short but emotional speech before heading home to Granlahan. The assembled throng paraded back to town again led by the Band playing 'The Wearing of the Green' and 'O'Donnell Abú'.

Fr. Anderson's successor as Prior in Ballyhaunis, Fr. William Doran O.S.A., seems not to have shared his predecessor's interest in the band, and they appear to have lessened their association with the Friary and with the Temperance movement. They continued to perform, however, and found an additional but more sedate role



Members of the 'Band of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, Ballyhaunis' or 'The Ballyhaunis Brass Band', in a horse-drawn 'brake' en-route to Thornhill, 19th May 1878.

Fr. Anderson is standing beside the back wheel. The band members, wearing military caps of green and gold, were named by Dr. Michael F. Waldron, but not specifically identified, as Davy McHale, Mike Kenny, Pat and Mike Waldron, and Peter Devine. The man on the bass drum was not known to Dr. Waldron. A young P.A. Waldron is third from left wearing a band cap, but unlikely to have been a band member at that time. *Courtesy of Wynne family collection, Source Archives.*

as 'orchestra' at various concerts and performances in Ballyhaunis through the 1880s. At the very first 'Amateur Dramatic and Variety Entertainment' given in Ballyhaunis on St. Stephen's night, 1885, they played 'The Marseillaise' and 'The Men of Harlech' during the interval. Two nights later they provided orchestral accompaniment at a 'Grand Concert' where most of the twenty-nine items were light classical songs by solo, duet and group performers.

In June 1886 there was another big excursion, this time to Ballintubber Castle, Co. Roscommon, and organised for members of both the Temperance League and the Confraternity of Sts. Augustine and Monica (another Friary associated movement). A *Connaught Telegraph* report states that it was a great success, although the absence of the brass band was "a considerable drawback". However, they weren't without music and, the reporter added that "Messrs. Thomas Cooney, Smith, and the famous Jim Rourke 'The Irish Piper', rendered their services as musicians in splendid style."

The Ballyhaunis Brass Band made their last appearance at a great meeting addressed by Charles Stewart Parnell in Irishtown in 1891. Dr. Michael F. Waldron attributes the break-up of the band, in some measure, to politics tied up with the Parnellite split which occurred shortly after, and said with a tinge of sadness, "After that performance the band dissolved and the cold chain of silence operated... the band fell to pieces, and the drums and instruments hung on the members' walls, collecting dust and cobwebs as years rolled by".

An attempt to reform the band was made in September 1897, at a Grand Bazaar and Fête to raise funds for the building of the Convent of Mercy. Here, as Dr. Waldron recalls, "a few of the surviving members tried out a come-back performance, but the results conclusively proved that Fr. Anderson's Brass Band was defunct..." Another attempt to form a Brass Band in the town was made in December 1903, but nothing became of it. When Patrick J. McGreal, bootmaker, of Clare St. died in October 1941, he was reported to be the "last known surviving member of the Ballyhaunis Brass Band".

In his diary entry for 8th Jan. 1953, Dr. Waldron noted that he had been consulted that day about the history of the Ballyhaunis Brass Band, and that a suggestion had been made to form a new brass band in town. It is not known who consulted him, or if any further plans were made but, as in 1903, nothing appears to have become of the suggestion. Dr. Michael F. Waldron died just a year later, in 1954, and any willingness there was to reform the brass band seems to have died too, never to be resurrected. One wonders if the whereabouts of any of the instruments is known, or if there is memorabilia relating to the band still surviving in the area.

In June 1965 the local press reported on the

discovery of the old banner belonging to the Band during renovations at the Friary. Fr. Twomey O.S.A., Prior at the time, said that a note found attached to the banner stated that it was brought to the last meeting in Ireland of Parnell, held in Irishtown. The note was almost certainly the work of Dr. Michael F. Waldron, and the reference is probably to the 1891 meeting in Irishtown, mentioned above. With the passage of time the banner was put away once again: it and the brass band were forgotten. Then, while renovations were being carried out during July 1997, it surfaced once more, in an upstairs room of the Priory (Friars' residence), and once again made big news in the local press and *Annagh Magazine*. This was during the Priorship of Fr. Vincent McCarthy O.S.A. He organised for it to be preserved in an elegant timber and glass case, and put on display in the Friary Church, where it can be seen at the present time – as Dr. Michael F. Waldron might say, "furnishing a link in the chain of history".



Niland Family Photographs

Above: Richard and Kathleen Niland, Agloragh, on their wedding day, 1950.

Left: Andy, Geraldine and Kate Niland, Agloragh, 1965.



My Visit to Pearl Harbour

RITA MEALLY

I was on a coach tour of the west coast of the United States of America for 15 days last summer, which included the National Parks and the major cities along the coast. I did an add-on trip to Hawaii for a further 7 days. As I am very interested in history, I have always wished to visit Pearl Harbour and this was on top of my list while there.

Hawaii itself is situated in the North Pacific Ocean and is made up of eight main islands of which Hawaii island is the largest of the archipelago. The other main islands are Maui, O'ahu, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Ni'chau and Kaho'olawe. O'ahu is the second largest of the islands and I stayed in Waikiki while in O'ahu. Honolulu is the capitol of O'ahu. Pearl Harbour is a lagoon on the island of O'ahu, west of Honolulu. It is mainly a United States Navy deep water naval base. It is also the headquarters of the United States Pacific fleet.

Historical Perspective

On O'ahu, war seemed a distant threat. A November war alert had just been lifted. Saturday, Dec. 6th 1941, felt routine, the same weekend chores or duties, the same evening diversions. That night, sailors in their dress- whites flocked into Honolulu for entertainment. For most, this would turn out to be their last night of liberty for a long time, for many, their last night alive.

Just before 8am on the 7th Dec. 1941 hundreds of Japanese fighter planes attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbour near Honolulu. At 8.10am, a 1800 pound bomb smashed through the deck of the battleship USS Arizona and landed in her forward ammunition magazine. The ship exploded and sank with more than one thousand men trapped inside. Next, torpedoes pierced the shell of the battleship USS Oklahoma. With four hundred sailors aboard, the Oklahoma lost her balance, rolled on to her side and slipped under water. By the time the attack was over, every battleship in Pearl Harbour USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, USS California, USS West Virginia, USS Utah, USS Maryland, USS Pennsylvania, USS Tennessee and USS Nevada had sustained significant damage. USS Arizona suffered the most serious damage and loss of life. USS Arizona, USS California, USS Oklahoma and USS West Virginia were sunk during the attack.

The barrage lasted just two hours. The Japanese destroyed nearly twenty American naval vessels, including eight enormous battleships and more than three hundred airplanes. More than two thousand soldiers and sailors died in the attack and another one thousand were wounded.

The attack on Pearl Harbour was a surprise, but Japan and the United States had been edging towards war for decades. The United States was particularly unhappy with Japan's increasingly belligerent attitude towards China. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and demographic problems was to expand into China's territory and take over its



USS Arizona Memorial.

import market; to this end, Japan had declared war on China in 1937. American officials responded to this aggression with a battery of economic sanctions and trade embargoes. They reasoned that without access to money and goods and especially essential supplies like oil, Japan would have to rein in its expansionism. Instead, the sanctions made the Japanese more determined to stand their ground. During months of negotiations between Tokyo and Washington, DC, neither side would budge. It seemed that war was inevitable.

The Japanese plan was simple: destroy the Pacific fleet. No one believed that the Japanese would start that war with an attack on American territory

The day after the assault, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said that ' the United States of America was



USS Battleship Missouri.

suddenly and deliberately attacked. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again'

That day, the 8th Dec 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. Congress approved his declaration with just one dissenting vote. Three days later, Japanese allies Germany and Italy also declared war on the United States of America and again, Congress reciprocated. More than two years into the conflict, America had finally joined World War 11.

Pearl Harbour today

Today, Pearl Harbour is one of the most venerated sites in the United States of America. Ordinary Americans, historians, tourists and veterans alike make regular pilgrimages to the USS Arizona Memorial every year.



Hulk of the USS Arizona.

I visited Pearl Harbour Arizona Memorial while on holiday in Waikiki, Oahu. The tour of the Memorial was an emotional and reflective one. There were hundreds of people there at the time. One can see the white Memorial overlooking the site where thousands of people lost their lives at the invasion and bombing of Pearl Harbour in 1941. The hulk of the sunken Arizona can still be seen from the viewing site of the memorial. The Memorial, built in 1962, is visited by more than two million people annually. Accessible only by boat, it straddles the sunken hulk of the battleship without touching it. The battleship's sunken remains were declared a National Historic Landmark on May 5th 1989. There is a visitor centre, library, audio –visual facilities and also a gift shop at the Memorial site. The visit and tour are well organised and large numbers of people are managed efficiently and smoothly and brought through the centre without fuss. A sense of peace, silence and respect is maintained throughout the experience.

The visit was very worthwhile and highly recommended.

Missed No Days



Chloe Kate Byrne on her last day in Primary School having never missed a day in St. John's N.S., Logboy, from September 2010 to June 2018. Also pictured is current Principal, Mrs. Karen Ronane and past Principal, Mr. Aidan Brennan. Chloe Kate is daughter of Kevin and Joanne Byrne (nee Madden), Drimbane.



Dublin singing duo, Cathy and Lisa from The Vard Sisters, pictured with Helena Byrne (centre) from Gurteen at a family wedding in Cork recently.



Well-known local musician and singer, Paddy Joe Tighe, sporting the county colours in Medugorje on All-Ireland Final day, September, 2012.



Left: Morgan Lyons, who graduated from NUI Galway, 17th Oct. 2018, with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) degree (Hons.). He is son of Gerry and Anne Lyons, Knockbrack.



Anna and Kevin Henry, Doctor's Road, renewing their marriage vows in Las Vegas, USA, 5th Aug. 2018.

Knockbrack ladies proudly present cheque for €6,420 to Katriona Morley at Val's Restaurant.

L-R: Tina Kirrane, Anne Lyons, Mary Walsh, Katriona Morley, Gabrielle Lyons and Teresa Grogan. Katriona, daughter of the late John and Rose Morley, Knox Street, has been battling a severe form of cancer for the past four years. The Knockbrack ladies took the initiative to raise some funds locally to help Katriona during her difficult journey.





Two Cloontumper neighbours, both of whom attended Began National School. Maureen Toal and Mary Carney (New York). Taken August, 1947.



Padraic T. Regan (Cloonbook), New York.



Left: Mrs. Winifred Garrity being presented with Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Blessing on the occasion of her 100th birthday in 1999. Mrs. Garrity was formerly Glynn from Cuiltycreaghan, Brickens. Making the presentation is her nephew Fr. Patrick Henry (originally from Cloontumper, Began) following a Mass in her home in San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

Right: Mary Cunnane (New York), Peggie Cunnane Reid and baby Lillian Cunnane, in 1958.



Holywell schoolchildren in the 1980s: Back, L-R: Sandra O'Dowd, Anne McManus, Carol O'Dowd and Tony McManus. Centre: Catriona Biesty, Catriona O'Dowd, Colette O'Dowd, Karl McManus and Conor McManus. Front: Damien Waldron and Eoin McManus.





Breege Moran, Devlis, on her motorbike, in the 1950s.



John Hosty, Devlis and Mick Hopkins, Churchpark, in 1970s.



Taken at Ballyhaunis GAA Clubhouse in the 1980s.
L-R: Mary Walsh, Tommy Glynn, John Joe Kelly, Michael Waldron, Mick O'Connell, Tom Waldron.



Mike Mulrennan thatching his house in Bracklaghboy in 1990. His was the last thatched house in the parish.

Ballyhaunis Town Football Club

JARLATH WALSH AND BRENDA KILCOURSE

The AGM of the Club was held on the 29th of January 2018 in the 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, Brenda Krusina, Kaitlyn Clarke, Johnny Powers, Paul Nolan, Michel Krusina and James Clarke. Tommie Page and Karl Briem were re-elected managers for the season at the first meeting of the new committee.

This is our ninth season in the Mayo League since the Club was reformed. Ballyhaunis played in a ten team Premier League. It was our second season to do so, with the Super League being the top division and League 1 and 2 below us. There were ten teams in our division, namely: Snugboro United, Conn Rangers, Fahy Rovers, Swinford, Glenhest Rovers, Bangor Hibs, Achill Rovers, Ballyglass B and Westport United B.

Ballyhaunis town's League form was very good all season which sees us currently placed in second place in the table and promoted to the Super League. With just one point behind Snugboro United and with one League game to go with a tally after seventeen games played is 39 points. We won twelve, drew three and lost two.

In The Tuohy (League) Cup, after a great away win to Fahy Rovers in April in Round 1, on a scoreline of 0-



4, we were beaten in the quarter final at home by Swinford on a scoreline of 0-2 in June. Swinford were beaten 1-2 in the final by Snugboro United after extra time.

We are the third highest goal scoring team of all the Mayo divisions so far for 2018 with sixty goals. Ballina Super League team scored eighty goals, and Ballina B team scored sixty-three goals in 17 games played this far this season. That is some tally of goals with us scoring an average of three plus per game.

Our top scorers so far this season are Dayo Adex, Gary Higgins, Keith Robinson, Cathal Carney, Andrew Cunnane, Hammad Althobhahey and Kieran Mooney.

Squad

The full squad for the season is: Hammad Althobhahey, Hammid Heidary, Dayo Adex, Sam Olabude, Michal Krusina, Michael Marigliano, Pat McGee, Aiden McTighe (Captain), Alan Canny, Cathal Carney, Jarlath Carney, Paul Nolan, Richie Crinnigan, Shane Crinnigan, Robbie McCormack, Andy Cunnane, Christy Mc. Tighe, Conor Nolan, Stephen Nolan, Gary Higgins (Vice Captain), Jamil Kezzie, Jimmy Cribbin, John Cunnane, Ken Carrick, Kieran Mooney, Tom Colleran, Vinny Hanley, Mark O'Brien and Calum Gardiner,

We were knocked out of the Divisional Cup by



Ballyhaunis Town F.C., Oct. 2018

Back, L-R: Tommie Page (Manager), James Clarke (Physio), Michel Krusina, Michael Marigliano, Pat McGee, Jarlath Carney, Jimmy Cribbin, Alan Canny, Christy McTigue, Karl Briem (Asst. Manager). Front, L-R: Hamid Heidary, Hammad Althobhahey, Andy Cunnane, Gary Higgins (Vice-captain), Aiden McTigue (Captain), Ken Carrick, Robbie McCormack and Cathal Carney.



**The squad and managers photographed in Solar 21 Park, Castlebar on 7th October 2018
after winning the Connaught Gold Premier Cup Final.**

Back, L-R: James Clarke (Physio), Karl Briem (Asst. Manager), Shane Crinnigan, Jimmy Cribbin, Richie Crinnigan, Sam Olabude, Michel Krusina, Cathal Carney, Pat McGee, Jarlath Carney, Christy McTighe, Ken Carrick, Paul Nolan, Jamil Kezzie, Aiden McTigue (Captain), Tommie Page (Manager). Front, L-R: Alan Canny, Hamid Althobhahey, Kieran Mooney, Gary Higgins (Vice-captain) Robbie McCormack, Andy Cunnane, Michael Marigliano, Dayo Adex and Hamid Heidary.

Swinford but we won the Premier Gold Cup, on the 7th of October in Solar 21 Park Castlebar against Snugboro United. It was a nip-and-tuck game with honours even at the end of normal time after Gary Higgins equalised early in the second half. The game was still tied after twenty minutes of extra time, but we won the penalty shoot-out after Hamid Althobhahey drove home our last penalty to win 4-3. What a day and what a huge turnout in Castlebar! It was brilliant to see the joy and happiness amongst the players, their families and supporters alike.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our Managers Tommie Page and Karl Briem, and in the last few seasons James Clarke for all they have achieved on the field since they came to the Club. A lot of hard work and commitment has gone into the team... thank you lads. A big thank you also to Aiden McTigue who has been a brilliant captain for the season and who always led by example on and off the field. To Gary Higgins (Vice-captain) who has also led by example on and off the field and has been a great addition to the Club this season. To each and every one of the squad for their dedication and commitment in every game and also in training all year.

Underage

Underage continues at the Club with an increasing number of children participating. Currently we have both U10 and U12 teams. Our U12 team played in the Mayo Schoolboy League this year finishing an

impressive third. At present, a number of our players have been asked to go to county trials and we wish them the best of luck. A huge thank you to Paul Nolan and Johnny Powers who manage the U12 Team. Our U10 team is coached by Brenda Kilcourse, Michel Krusina and Hamid Heidary, and a huge thanks to them also. A huge thank you to all the underage coaches and also the supporters and parents who help out in any way all season.

Next year we are hoping to expand our underage by adding an U13 Team. For this to happen we will need more volunteers at the Club. If you would like to volunteer to help out at the underage please contact any of the names previously mentioned or through our Facebook page.

Thanks

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the pubs that host our 50/50 draw, to all the businesses who have advertising hoardings at the pitch. To all the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas who support our church gate collection, backpacks and our various other fundraising events throughout the year. To our loyal supporters (and they are growing in number) who come out every week to support the lads.

Thanks also Stephen Grogan and Tracey McDermott at the Friary House for the use of it for our meetings and courses throughout the season. We would like to say a huge thank you to Austin Lyons who has done a



The Finn brothers (*in orange and grey tops*), who play for Real Madrid, and are grandsons of Michael Finn of Devlis, visit Ballyhaunis Town FC training session during the Summer.

tremendous amount of work at the pitch all season, and also Eugene Freeley for all his work there as well.

We started our 50/50 draw a few Christmases ago and it's going from strength to strength. Thanks to Brenda, Michel, Paul Nolan, Elaine, Richie, Ken, Tommie, Karl, James and all the rest who sell tickets every fortnight.

Our wish at the Club is to expand our range of football to cater for young and old, boys and girls, over the coming years. To do that we will need the help and co-operation of more people. 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 can come to our AGM at the end of January 2019 (usually the last Monday in January), contact us through our Facebook page: Ballyhaunis Town F.C., our Website www.ballyhaunistownfc.com, 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 years ahead.



Ballyhaunis Town F.C. U10 team who were runners up in the Shield Final, photographed during the Summer at the Mayo Annagh Blitz.

Gracenotes – Braving the Elements!

MIRIAM JUDGE & LIESEL WARD

Our usual September routine of starting back to rehearsals consists of planning competitions and repertoires, but this year we also had a summer tour to plan. And so, it was unanimously decided to utilise Knock International Airport to take us to our destination...The UK. The tour is an end-of-year activity so let's go through our year of 'braving the elements' to get there.

Our annual trip to Sligo International Choral Festival in November proved very successful with a second place in the Female Voice Competition. On our return to rehearsals we planned our Christmas concert in the Friary. We were delighted to be joined by the Abbey Male Choir and the Parish Choir. However, due to heavy snow in early December we had to postpone the concert and reschedule for a week later. This didn't dampen the Christmas spirit and we had a wonderful community evening while also raising €1,065 for the local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We rang in the new year with a Christmas party in the Dalgan Restaurant – lovely food, wine and of course a sing-song! Practices resumed for our next competition of the year, the Limerick Choral Festival. However, lightening does strike twice, and this was postponed again due to weather – Storm Emma! The competition took place a week later and although our numbers had dwindled somewhat, we still managed to sing our way to second place in the Sacred Music Competition.

Sometimes in Gracenotes we get the opportunity to advance our vocal skills with workshops. In April we welcomed Aisling Kenny (Soprano) to Ballyhaunis to

teach us new techniques and enhance our sound.

Staying local, in May we took part in the Mayo International Choral Festival which was held in Castlebar. We were thrilled to be placed joint second place in the Female Voice Competition.

Our rehearsals took on a different focus as we prepared for our summer tour. Our itinerary was jam packed and exciting as we jetted off from Knock Airport to Bristol. Our first concert was in St. Stephen's Church in Bristol. We had a wonderful audience and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The following evening, we travelled to Cirencester by coach where we were hosted by the very hospitable Cirencester Male Voice Choir. Both choirs performed in their beautiful parish church and we retired to the local pub for finger food and a relaxed sing-song. We visited Bath, the Cotswolds, Stonehenge and Salisbury. The Cathedral in Salisbury was breathtakingly beautiful, and we were given a comprehensive guided tour. We left the Cathedral after singing in the Cloister, a memorable experience to end the tour.

Despite our Irish winter weather experiences this year, we basked in the summer sun in Bristol. We came home to equally beautiful weather as our Gracenotes year came to a close.

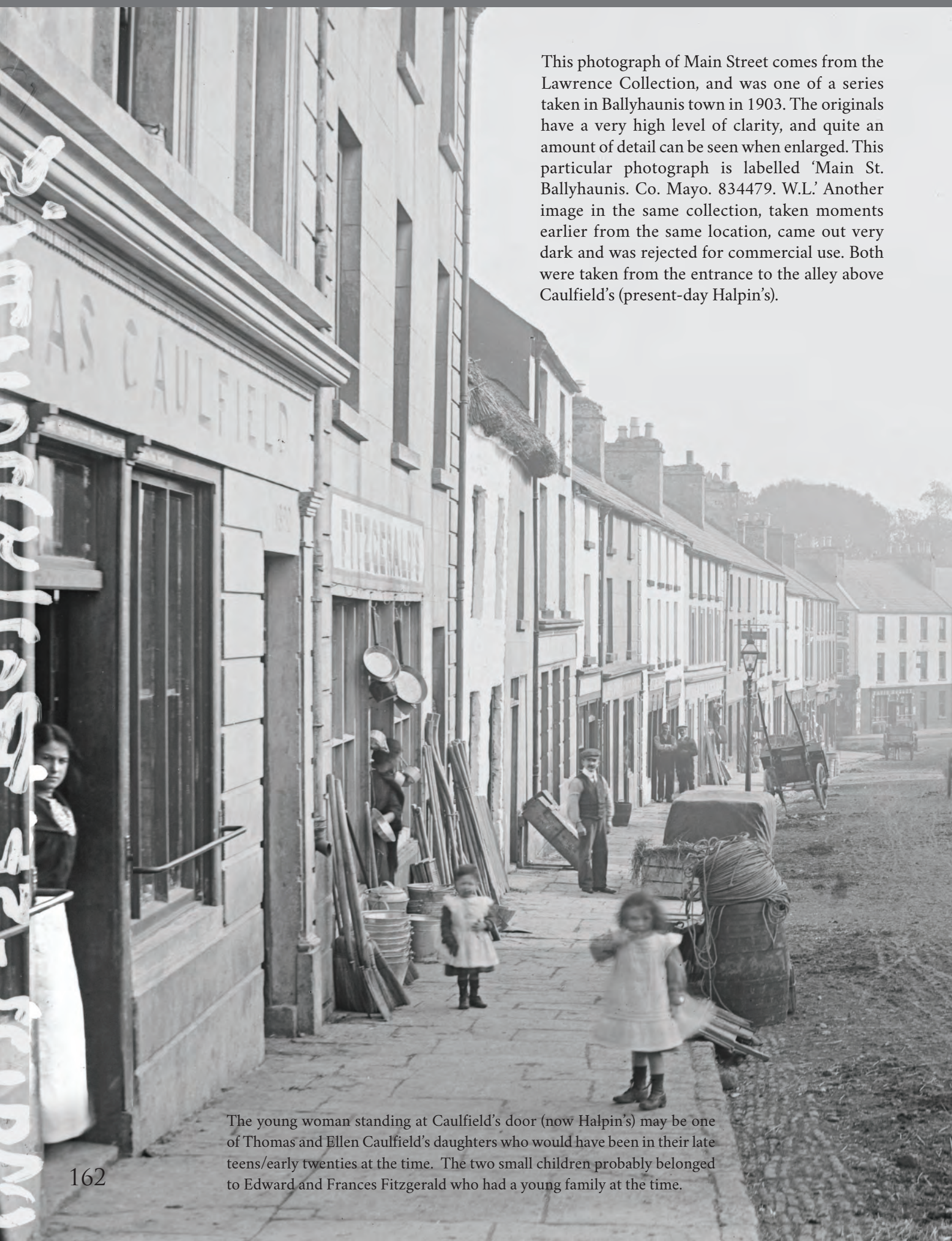
There were many choir members that assisted with organising the tour to the UK, a sincere thank you to all involved. As always, our dedicated Director, Laura Brogan, sourced beautiful pieces of music for us to learn and sing. We are grateful for her time and hard work, thank you!



Gracenotes on Tour in Cirencester, England. L-R: Laura Brogan, Karen Ronane, Agatha Higgins, Leanne Walsh, Anna Henry, Miriam Winston, Moira Stratford, Mary Patterson, Martina Kelly, Xanthe Pratt, Ann Lyons, Sarah Lawrence, Ita Fahey, Bridie Giblin, Helen White, Eimear Thornton, Moira Delaney, Mary Lyons, Una Shields, Maureen Thornton, Liesel Ward, Geraldine Collins, Margaret Monaghan.

Main Street, Ballyhaunis, 1903

This photograph of Main Street comes from the Lawrence Collection, and was one of a series taken in Ballyhaunis town in 1903. The originals have a very high level of clarity, and quite an amount of detail can be seen when enlarged. This particular photograph is labelled 'Main St. Ballyhaunis. Co. Mayo. 834479. W.L.' Another image in the same collection, taken moments earlier from the same location, came out very dark and was rejected for commercial use. Both were taken from the entrance to the alley above Caulfield's (present-day Halpin's).

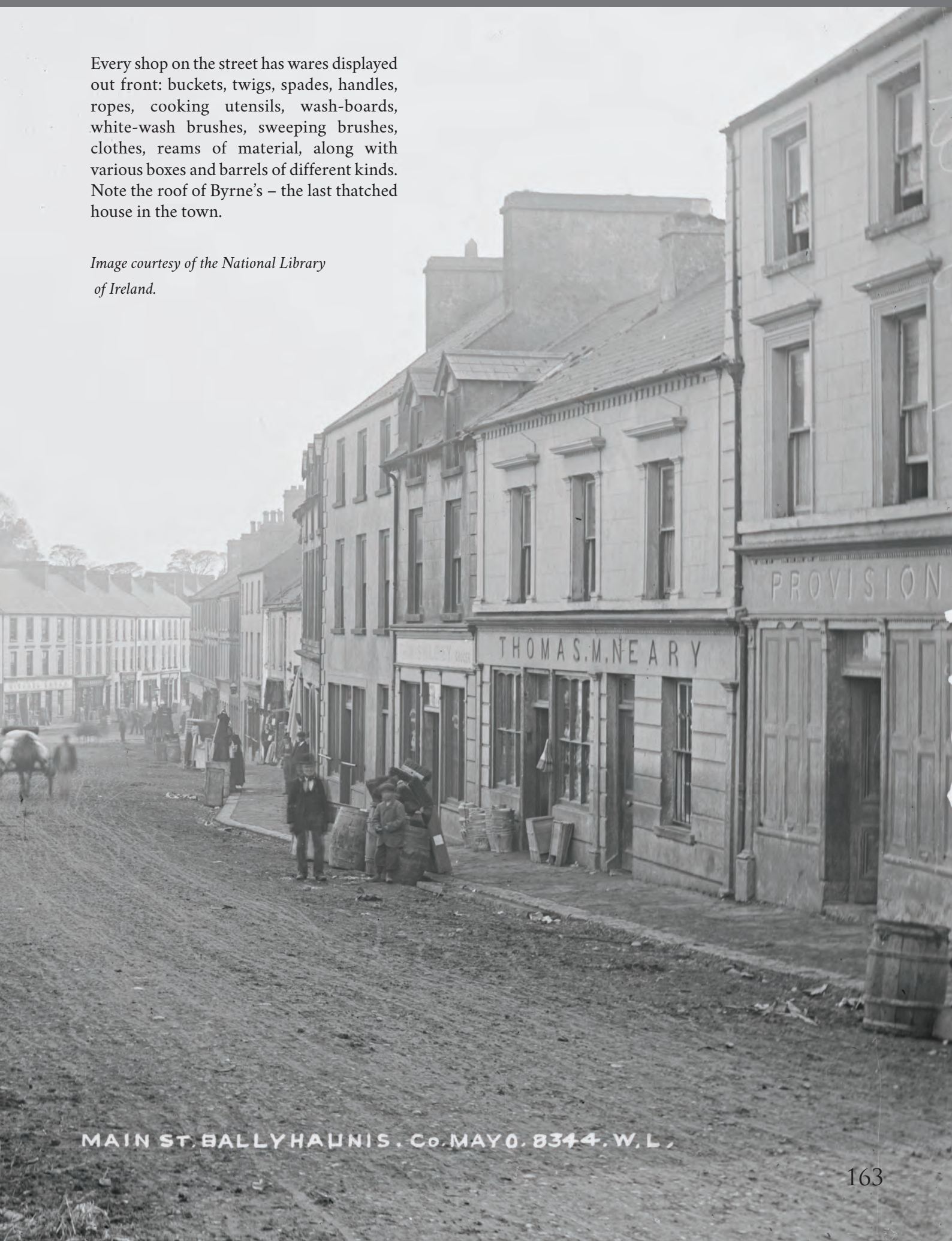


The young woman standing at Caulfield's door (now Halpin's) may be one of Thomas and Ellen Caulfield's daughters who would have been in their late teens/early twenties at the time. The two small children probably belonged to Edward and Frances Fitzgerald who had a young family at the time.

from the Lawrence Collection

Every shop on the street has wares displayed out front: buckets, twigs, spades, handles, ropes, cooking utensils, wash-boards, white-wash brushes, sweeping brushes, clothes, reams of material, along with various boxes and barrels of different kinds. Note the roof of Byrne's – the last thatched house in the town.

Image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.



MAIN ST. BALLYHAUNIS. Co. MAYO. 8344. W.L.

Enlargements of the 1903 Main Street photograph



The man standing outside Byrne's (now part of Val's) could possibly be the proprietor, Thomas Byrne, egg merchant. Perhaps too, one of the two men standing together down the street is John Phillips, standing at the door his house (now McQueeney's).

Much of the north side of Bridge St. can be seen in the far distance with David Morley's, Michael Lavan's and John M. Conry's show-boards clearly visible. A man leads a horse and cart laden with bags up the town, possibly coming from the Railway Station. *Image courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*



BALLYHAUNIS BAZAAR.

OPENING DAY.—ADDRESSES BY VERY
REV. DR. KILKENNY, P.P., AND REV.
J. P. CANNING, P.P.

Ballyhaunis, Monday.

Magnificent weather favoured the opening of the Connaught Carnival at Ballyhaunis to-day. The ground portion of the spacious convent was occupied by the bazaar stalls. The various stalls were perfect models of taste, the colours being blended most harmoniously, and the whole effect was simply charming. The young ladies in charge deserve a special word of praise for the interest which they manifested in bringing the good work to a successful issue. They worked most industriously, and the result was evident in the picturesque bowers and stalls which occupied the various rooms, as well as in the extensive patronage they secured for the bazaar. The Ballyhaunis Brass Band was, for the first time within a number of years, in evidence, and the promoters of the bazaar feel deeply obliged to the gentlemen of the band for their very great kindness and the sacrifices which they made in being present on the occasion.

Father Canning, in introducing Dr Kilkenny, said that he regretted exceedingly the inability of his Grace the Archbishop to be present to open the proceedings to-day. Although absent from amongst them he was present with them in spirit, and even before a stone was laid in the erection of the convent he had shown the greatest interest in the undertaking; and moreover, what was the principal part, he had contributed most generously to the work. A child of the parish, Dr Kilkenny (great applause), had consented to open the proceedings.

Dr Kilkenny, P.P., who on coming forward received a tremendous ovation, said.—It has been shown that every event connected with the introduction of nuns into a parish and preparing a home for them to dwell in, has always raised a feeling of interest in the people amongst whom these good ladies have to live. Experience has shown over and over again, how much the material as well as the spiritual interests of the people have been upheld by the presence and labours of these good ladies. From the earliest ages of the Church it appears indeed to have been the practice for religious ladies to abandon the world, and having got the blessing of their bishops lived in seclusion in their own homes. The only mark of distinction by which they could be known was a ring, and occasionally a veil bound to their heads by a fillet of gold—a symbol of virginity. In after times they lived in convents, and this state of things began about the time of St Anthony, of Egypt, whose sister was the first lady superioress, and whose name in the language of Egypt gives us the word “nun,” a word which signifies a virgin. Holy Church has protected these sisterhoods with singular care. She places over them the strong shield of her power. She calls their persons sacred, and by threat and ban forbids anyone to offer injury to them or their persons. From the time of St Bridget, when “the bright lamp that shone in Kildare’s holy fane” cast its beams over the hills and valleys of Ireland, those sisterhoods were most tentatively and quietly carrying on the beautiful

work of their sacred mission. These good ladies have ever proved themselves true to their sacred calling. Their work is universally recognised as of extreme importance. In fact, it has lifted very much the National life of Ireland by cultivating and refining the minds of our girls, and teaching them to preserve their virtue unsullied and pure, the presence of which in our families has in the highest and truest sense made Ireland “First flower of the earth and first gem of the sea.” (Applause.) We know that this holiness is a bright light that shines from afar and attracts Gentile people into the domain of the Church. Now, that mark of the Church is never so clearly seen as in the lives of these virtuous ladies who lived and loved God within the sacred precincts of their cloister homes. All of us who have regard for this old town of Ballyhaunis, all of us who know its proud traditions of Faith and Fatherland, must acknowledge that Ballyhaunis has done much towards bringing about this desirable consummation. This knowledge is not in the minds of a great many of the young people whom I see around me now. I know how strong the people of Ballyhaunis were in the resistance of heresy and schism. In fact, the weeds of heresy could never be in the holy atmosphere of Ballyhaunis, and I know in the old times, when attempts were made to carry heresy into Ballyhaunis, they spurned it from them, and risked their lives to drive it far from the town of Ballyhaunis. It is a pleasure to know that these good people are to be blessed by the presence of nuns; and we, who have an interest in Ballyhaunis, must feel especially proud at seeing the good work approaching a successful issue (hear, hear). In the first place we must feel indebted to his Grace the Archbishop (applause) for his generous gift (renewed applause), and the ceaseless vigilance which he has shown in examining every detail connected with the building of this house, and over all that has been done to carry it to its present successful condition. I think I would not be interpreting your thoughts rightly if I did not mention the name of one who lived for a long time amongst us. I refer to the late Canon Waldron (applause). It was his generous bequest that first started the idea of founding a convent in Ballyhaunis, and it was that bequest that first made the thing feasible. I am sure that his kind spirit looks down to-day with pride on the fact that the hope of his life is now realised (applause). We cannot or will not omit a reference to a person whose labours have contributed so materially to the success of the undertaking—your distinguished parish priest, Father Canning (loud applause). To his anxious thoughts and ceaseless energy this grand work has been brought to a successful issue. Nor is it the first grand edifice that he has been the means of erecting to the glory of God. Where the wavelets of the Lecanoeys murmur on the silver strand in the shadow of Croaghpatrick he has raised a magnificent church, grand in the strength of its structure and beauty of its architecture, somewhat similar to the noble edifice which shelters us to-day. This bazaar is now opened, and we trust it will meet all the ends of its promoters (applause)—that it will be a successful bazaar. And now, my friends, I will confide you to the tender attentions of the young ladies (laughter).

Ballyhaunis GAA Club

PATRICK KEANE (SECRETARY) AND WILLIAM NESTOR (PRO)

As the sun sets on another eventful year at Ballyhaunis GAA Club, we firstly wish to take our hats off to all the players, coaches and supporters for once again showing great determination and commitment on and off the field.

While we may not have a laden down trophy cabinet this year, we are proud of the wealth of talent which exists in the Club across all codes.

One of the highlights of the year was watching our very own clubmen, John Cunnane and Brian O'Neill, represent the club in the inaugural final of the U-20 All-Ireland competition. Unfortunately, we didn't take the spoils on that occasion, but we are sure this will not be the last time we will have representatives in Croke Park competing for All-Ireland titles.

In keeping with men's football, we are delighted that our Senior Men's team have retained Intermediate status for another year and were unlucky not to reach a quarter-final. Many have said that if this young and talented group of players stick together in the coming years, silverware will not be far away.

Special mention must also go to our Under-16 boys football team who reached a County Final in difficult



circumstances. At the beginning of the year, it was unlikely that we would have been able to compete in this age group due to a lack of numbers, however, thanks to the management team of Paul Webb and Trevor Kelly, the boys pushed on and had competitive football on their plates for the summer.

Whilst on the matter of underage football and hurling, the feedback to the club is that coaches are struggling for sufficient numbers to field teams at a competitive level. Having attended numerous meetings and events concerning underage structures in the county throughout the year, the general consensus from rural clubs is lack of players is the primary concern. We feel this is an issue that must be given urgent attention at club and county level going forward in order for our club and others to prosper.

Senior Football

The Senior Football Team got together in early January under the new management team of; Patrick Finnegan, Martin Maloney and Michael Dillon. This youthful bunch of players blended with some able stalwarts set their stall in Division 3 of the league and Intermediate Championship.



Ann Curley (sponsor) presenting Eamon Phillips with Player of the Year for 2017.



Ann Curley (sponsor) presenting Eoghan Collins with Player of the Year for 2015.



Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling team and management, 2018.

Back Row, L-R: Darran Conlon (Joint Manager), Pierce Higgins (Coach), Hughie McKermitt (Coach), Cormac Phillips, James Lyons, Adrian Phillips, Sean Herr, Jason Coyne, Kieran Kiely, Eamon Phillips, Eoghan Collins, Luke Cribbin, Fergal Lyons (Captain), Shane Healy, Eoin Roe, Sean Gildea, Jason Powers, Paul McConn, Cyril Collins, Trevor Kelly, Pete Higgins (Joint Manager).

Front, L-R: Jimmy Cribbin, Jack Coyne, Dónal O'Brien, Brian Hunt, Patrick Kiely, Kieran McDermott, Keith Higgins, Mark Phillips, Thomas Dillon, Austin Lyons (Captain), Sean Griffin, Morgan Lyons, Stephen Hoban, Adrian Brennan, Calum Gardiner, Hanan Iqbal, Gary Conway. Missing from photo: Kevin Morley, Brian O'Neill, Aidan Morrisroe, Peter Healy, Tadhg Buckley, Micheál Raleigh.

The first half of the season saw us field understrength teams in the League due to numerous dual players committed to inter-county hurling duties. However, as the season progressed, and the management team found their feet, results started to go our way.

Our first championship match was a closely contested game against last year's beaten finalists, Kiltimagh. In what was a gripping contest, we lost on a narrow margin although a lot of confidence was gained by the performance.

We had a three-month wait before our next championship match away to Belmullet. We started the game slowly and conceded three sloppy goals and from there on we were playing catch-up, albeit the better team. It's not often a team kicks twenty points and we came away with a well-earned draw with a shot at making a quarter-final.

Our last game in the group pitted us against Mayo Gaels in the neutral venue of Ballindine. The lads put in one of the displays of the season with a resounding victory, unfortunately another result didn't go our way, however, the win meant we secured Intermediate status for 2019.

We wish to thank the management team and all the players for their commitment throughout the year and we look forward to what we hope will be a successful 2019 season.

Senior Hurling

The Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling team faced the 2018 season coming off a loss in the 2017 County Final to Tooreen, which put an end to a four in a row quest. Tooreen of course went on to claim a historic Connaught Intermediate Club Championship.

Throughout the first quarter of the season Donal O'Brien, Adrian Brennan, Mark Phillips, Austin Lyons, Kieran McDermott, Pa Kiley, Keith Higgins, Adrian Phillips, Brian Hunt and Jason Coyne were on duty with Derek Walsh's Mayo team where they claimed a National League Division 2B Title.

This allowed for the U21 members to make the breakthrough and players like Cormac and Eamon Phillips, Calum Gardiner, Jack Coyne, Sean Herr, Thomas Dillon and Aidan Morrisroe showed their potential.

A panel of youth blended with more experienced players such as Sean Griffin, Kieran Kiely, Jimmy and Luke Cribbin, Stephen Hoban, Peter Healy and Tadhg Buckley entered the Tain and Genfitt League's reaching the final in both competitions, where Hanan Iqbal made his senior début between the posts, while Shane Healy, Sean Gildea and Cyril Collins featured prominently in every game throughout both campaigns.

The later part of the summer saw the return of the Mayo hurlers along dual players involved in inter County football namely Brian O'Neill from Mayo U21s,

Eoghan Collins for Clare and Keith Higgins Mayo Seniors. Jason Powers returned from Australia and Morgan Lyons from injury.

A large and competitive panel was taking shape under the leadership of joint captains, Fergal and Austin Lyons. Victories against Castlebar and Tooreen and a draw away to Westport, meant the team qualified for the County Final against Tooreen on Sunday the 14th October. It will be a unique occasion to host the reigning County and Provisional champions to Ballyhaunis in what no doubt will be another fiercely contested final against a team ranked among the top four Intermediate Club teams in the country.

Pete Higgins and Darran Conlon are joint managers with a backroom team of coaches, Pierce Higgins and Hughie McKermitt along with selectors, Trevor Kelly, Kevin Morley and Gary Conway.

The team and management would like to thank the Buckley family of EPS and the Brennan family of Gurteen Kitchens for their continued support. They also extend deep gratitude to the outgoing executive headed by Chair John Higgins, Secretary Patrick Keane and Treasurer John Collins for their assistance in the development of hurling in the club over the past three years.

(Darran Conlon, Secretary Ballyhaunis Hurling Committee.)



L-R: John Higgins (Chairman), Patrick Keane (Secretary) and John Collins (Treasurer). All have served a three year term as officers.

Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) 2018

At the AGM on 27th November 2017 the following officers were elected: Chairperson - Breda Murray; Secretary - Deirdre Browne; Assistant Secretary - Ann Cunnane; PRO - Nicola Walsh; Registrar - Frank Browne; Child Protection Officer - Stella O'Neill; Coaching Officer - Pat Tighe; and Fundraising Coordinator - Ann Marie Foody.

Under the management of Justin McDonagh and Michael Cleary, our Senior Ladies battled very hard on the field. After only two years fielding a team at this level, these girls have put on some spectacular displays of football for their supporters. This year the girls are into the County Semi-Final and going very strong in the league campaign. Our girls also participated in the Connacht Club 7s Series this year. A very successful day was had at the Centre of Excellence in Began on 26th May, where they attained the Connacht Gold Cup for the very first time. These girls went on to participate in the All Ireland Club Series subsequently in September for the second time in the club's history. After many great displays of skill and determination beating teams from all over the country, our girls were narrowly beaten by two points in the Cup Quarter Final after sudden death due to a few 'questionable refereeing decisions'.

Michael Cleary and Justin McDonagh furthered their management roles governing the Minor Ladies also, who are continuing their pursuit of glory in the League Campaign. Acknowledgement must also be given to our minor county representatives from Ballyhaunis LGFA, Niamh Foody, Gemma Foody, Niamh O'Neill and Aoife Conway.

Our U16 panel have endured some tough battles under the guidance of David Delaney and Sinead Coakley Johnston. Their hard-fought battles in some difficult situations paid off successfully, with the girls winning the U16 B County Final in September last. Our U16 panel consists of many spectacular players including County Stars Leah Johnston and Erin Murray who were coached by Justin McDonagh and Michael Cleary and Liaison Officer Olivia Cleary in the County set-up. These girls and management have also been fortunate in collecting silverware with the Mayo U16 ladies who claimed the All Ireland title this year also. A further tribute has to be paid to Erin Murray on receiving a second All Ireland Medal with the Mayo U16 Ladies Camogie team. She is truly a tremendous dual star, and a young lady admired by many of our younger club members.

The U14 ladies were carefully guided by Mike Henry



Ballyhaunis Senior Ladies Football team and management, 2018.

Back, L-R: Justin McDonagh (Mentor), Niamh Murray, Sheena Roddy, Mae Hession, Brenda Kilcourse, Niamh Foody, Fiona Freyne, Siofra Murray, Roisin Lyons, Laura Godfrey, Kate Delaney, Erin Murray, Kaitlyn O'Sullivan, Gemma Foody, Michael Cleary (Mentor).
Front, L-R: Holly Browne, Lauren Walshe, Aoife Murray, Chloe Ryan, Laura O'Connell, Aibhinn Herr, Laura Madden, Leah Johnston, Rachel Cleary.

and Ann Cunnane. Unfortunately at this level, it was not our year. However, another tribute must be paid to our very own Nikita Tighe who claimed All Ireland victory with the Mayo U14 ladies. Another up-and-coming star to come from Ballyhaunis LGFA.

U12s guided by Ann Cunnane and Paul Smith and our U10s under the management of Pat Tighe and Tracy Cunnane saw our girls participate in several games and blitzes throughout the year. A special occasion for these girls and management teams was in Breaffy where they took to the field in games against a brilliant London side. This was an extraordinary day for all players and management involved and showcased the promotion of our games abroad.

None of these games and participation at all levels would have been possible without all members of our Fundraising teams, sponsors, Chamber of Commerce and the community in particular Mary T. Griffin who unselfishly devoted her time to the causes. This year saw valuable money raised from varied events including Carol Singing in SuperValu and the Inter Pub Quiz. Another spectacular night was the premier of "Big

Maggie" performed by Claremorris Drama Society, with all proceeds on the night going to Ballyhaunis LGFA. Our Senior Ladies held a very unique "Boston Tea Party" raising a significant amount of money on the night. On this unique night Colin Coyne also presented our Senior Ladies with tops sponsored by Emo Oil. In addition to this fundraiser a very generous donation was made to the Senior panel by Councillor John Cribbin to aid the development of this squad and to enable them to compete in various competitions, a donation greatly appreciated. Ballyhaunis Bouncy Castles and William Nestor also came on board this year and sponsored our U12 ladies with jerseys. Extended gratitude to all.

All of the girls' achievements were acknowledged on our medal presentation night in January with all girls receiving medals presented by All Star Sarah Tierney in recognition of their efforts, wins and participation in games from our previous successful year.

All of our successes and achievements are due to the constant support of the entire community and club. All roles in our club are on a voluntary basis and without each and every one of you it simply would not be



Ballyhaunis Ladies U16 Football team - County and League Champions 2018.



Ballyhaunis Ladies U12 Football team being presented with jerseys sponsored by Ballyhaunis Bouncy Castles. Included are Anne Cunnane Marques (Mentor), William Nestor (Ballyhaunis Bouncy Castles) and Paul Smith (Mentor).

possible. Your continued hard work and dedication is always appreciated and will continue to further develop our club.

We are constantly looking for people to get involved in our club irrespective of your skills, expertise or qualities. If you are interested in joining our club you may contact us on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BallyhaunisLGFA, email us on ballyhaunisladies@outlook.com, or simply contacting any of our club officers.

Our Club Grounds

Major redevelopment works are currently undergoing at Ballyhaunis GAA Club. Thanks to the Sports Capital Grant and the support of our local business people, we are in a position to resurface our car park and, more importantly, erect new floodlights on our training pitch. We are very grateful to the working committee on this project and we look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour in the New Year. A special mention to our Groundskeeper, Peter Higgins, who puts in endless hours to ensure the surface of our main pitch is up to the highest standard possible at any given time of the year.

Finance

As always, fundraising is a key component to keeping a club alive. This is made possible by our team of 50/50 Draw sellers and supporters which is led by our Finance Chairperson, Robbie Herr. We would also wish to congratulate Robbie on being selected as Club Person of the Year 2017. Thanks.

Finally, we would like to wish the entire Club, supporters, sponsors, and all the people of Ballyhaunis a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Cruinniú Bliantúil Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Béal Átha hAmhnais

Liam Ó Riain, Úachtarán ag labhairt
leis na toscairí.

A Athair Stiopháin, Cathaoirleach, Rúnaí, Chuisteoir agus ballraithe C.L.G. is mór an onóir dom a bheith ceaptha mar Úachtarán an Chlub i mbliana. Roghnaigh sibh mé ach bhí mé as lathair mar bhí mé ag téarnamh ón obráid na curróige ag an am sin. D'fhill mé ar ais i mí Márta agus d'fhreastail mé ar gach cluiche, na chruinnithe, na h-eachtraí éagsula, agus an taispeántas i Scoil Íosa i mí Meán Fhómhair. Bhain mé sásamh astu ar fad.

Tá meas mór agam do Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Sílim go bhfuil sé ina ghluaiseacht mór in Éireann agus ar fud an domhan freisin. Eagríocht tioncharach, forásach, agus uailmhianach is ea é. Is aobheann liom fealsúnacht na h-eagraíochta. Sé mo thuairm go bhfuil tréithe níos tabhachtaí air mar thimire ár gcluichí, ár gcultúir agus ár dteanga. Spreagann sé diospóireacht, agus bíonn conspóid ann uaireanta. Taispeánann sé misneach chun na fadhbanna a shárú mar eiríonn leis réiteach a fháil i gcónaí. Seachas seo tá fíis mhór agus radharc dearfach aige.

Bhí áthas orm a fhoghlaim go bhfuair an Chlub deóntas suntasach ón Roinn Turasóireachta agus Spóirt le déanaí. Bhí sé tuillte mar dhéin na h-oibrí deonacha iarracht mhór na háiseanna a fheabhsú ó bhliain go bliain. Úsáidfear an deontas seo chun tionsamh níos tabhachtaí a chriochnú ar an bpáirc oiliúna. Soláthróidh sé deis shuntasach d'ár n-imreoirí óga agus ár sinsir freisin. Dé dheasca, sílim go bhfuil na todhchaí níos gile.

Iarraim oraibh tosaíocht a thabhairt do na mean chumarsáide an bhliain seo chugainn. Seachas na páipéir agus an raidió áitiúil, bíonn an suíomh greasán ann. Seo é foinse faisnéise níos tabhachtaí sa Chlub. Soláthraíonn sé tuairisc do na h-imeachtaí spóirtiúil agus sóisialta gan mhoill. Tríd is tríd tugann sé buntáiste don ballraíocht agus na lucht leanúna. Tá sé riachtanach é a úsáid chun phoiblíocht agus aitheantas níos éifeachtaí a fháil.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival

ANNE CUNNANE

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival was held over June Bank Holiday weekend. It took place from Friday 1st June to Monday 4th June. The whole event was an excellent success with great crowds over the four days.

Friday, 1st June – Ballyhaunis Inter Pub Quiz

Ten of our local public houses took part in our annual quiz with the chance of winning the Perpetual Shield. Each pub had teams and runners to bring back the answers to HQ. The event is FREE to enter to all members of the community. Fun fundraising (which is always a great laugh) during the rounds of questions was in aid of the Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Association. Congrats to Gareth Delaney and his team in Delaney's Bar, the winners of the Inter Pub Quiz. The Perpetual Shield was presented to them by First Choice Credit Union, Ballyhaunis, who kindly sponsored the event, and whom we sincerely thank. Second place went to The Clock. There was a tie-break for third place between MacSiúrtáin's and Curley's Bar which, after five questions asked of both teams, saw Mac's placed third. A massive thank you to Michael Goulding (presenter), Tommy Caulfield (question setter), Seamus Caulfield and Jim Landon (scrutineers), Tom Eagney for providing the venue, Michael Neary for radio set up, the publicans for participating, and to all the volunteers who helped with the smooth running of the event. Thanks also to John Gill for organising of prizes.

Saturday, 2nd June – Come and Try Sports Day

With the help/organising of Mayo Sports Partnership this event saw ten organisations taking part and with circa 100 children participating and having tasters of what Ballyhaunis has to offer. This event is organised primarily to integrate and invite our multicultural population to try out different sports and to hopefully get them involved in sports in Ballyhaunis. It was a very successful day and great to see all the different nationalities mixing and enjoying the activities. Sincerest thanks to Ballyhaunis GAA for the use of their grounds, the Mayo Sports Partnership and to the organisations and volunteers for this day wouldn't happen only for them.

Sunday, 3rd June – Traditional Fair Day

The Fair Day draws in tremendous crowds to the Town of Ballyhaunis – volunteers, stall-holders, participants in activities, and families from all over. It opened at 12 noon and ended at 5.30 pm. There were stalls, demonstrators, music, Irish dancing, street circus, magician, face-painter, a dog show, vintage vehicles, inflatables and displays from a pet farm – resulting in

plenty of footfall throughout the day. The Show & Shine Modified Car Show, in aid of Crumlin Children's Hospital, had over 100 cars taking part

Some of the multinational community formed part of the festival committee, and some also performed on the day, something with which we were delighted. We also showcased an upcoming event "A Taste of Ballyhaunis" the tag line of which was culture exposed through great food and sport. All the different nationalities in Ballyhaunis were invited to share their food and culture and to sample and taste the world's dishes and make new friends.

Residents of the Old Convent Accommodation Centre organised stalls and tables and gave out samples of free food from different nationalities. Traditional music, bands and the Mary Elwood School of Irish Dancing performed on the day. Some excellent artwork by Scoil Íosa pupils was displayed on Sunday, while the Local Artists exhibition took place in the Friary church.

Monday, 4th June – Car Treasure Hunt

This was our first Car Treasure Hunt with ten cars taking part and each car having four occupants. On speaking with the participants they all agreed it was a fun-filled super event and we hope to build on this going forward.

Thank You

All-in-all the Ballyhaunis Festival was a huge success. We hope that everyone enjoyed the weekend as much as we did, and if you would like to become involved in next year's festival please contact the Ballyhaunis Chamber office.

Sincere thanks to all who helped and became involved in this year's Festival, including John Cribbin MCC and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the 2018 Festival and Summer Schools Scheme, without which support the Festival would not be able to continue.



Gabriel
Caulfield,
Mary Lyons,
Sally
Caulfield.
Joe Freeley
photographer.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival Photographs



Jane Buckley, Jean Gallagher, Eithne and Claire Morley, Janine Gallagher.
Joe Freeley photographer.



John Gallagher, Johnny and Helen Biesty, Margie Gallagher.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Thatcher with display, Eugene and Alma Carney.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Ursula Borges, Attracta Jordan, Pauline Curley, Michelle Borges. *Joe Freeley photographer.*



Una Phillips and Mary Henry.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Eugene Freeley, John Lyons.
Joe Freeley photographer.



Finnegan Family Photographs

Top left:

Tom and Josie Finnegan (left and right) pictured with Tom's sister Christina Kenny, Skeaghard, Ballyhaunis (centre) on the occasion of Christina's 70th birthday.

Top right:

Tom and Josie Finnegan with their granddaughter Róna Burke at her Christening.

Centre:

Tom and Josie Finnegan, Logboy, with their good friends and neighbours Mick and Mary Godfrey in Burke's Lounge, Irishtown, at a social event.

Below left:

Tom and Josie Finnegan and family, Logboy, at the wedding of Dermot and Bridget. Back, L-R: Josephine, Noel, Rena, Tommy and Margaret. Front, L-R: Josie, Dermot and Bridget, and Tom.



The Annagh Magazine Society would like to wish all its readers at home and abroad a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

PATRONS

Annagh would like to thank all its patrons, past and present. Please Support Local Business and Industry.

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Dalغان Gastro Bar and Restaurant, Main Street. reservations@dalghanrestaurant.com	Tel: 094 9632030
Dawn Ballyhaunis, Clare Rd.	Tel: 094 9632400, Fax: 9630561
Delaney's Ltd., Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St. and Hazelhill.	Tel: 094 9630296
Delaney's, Gareth, Select Bar and Lounge, Abbey St.	Tel: 094 9630024
De-Luxe Cleaning, Carpets, Upholstery, etc., (Prop. Vincent Higgins)	Tel: 086 1038288/ 094 9630284
Dillon-Leetch & Comerford Solicitors, Main St.	Tel: 094 9630004
Donnellan's Joinery, Undertakers & Funeral Home, Clare St.	Tel: 094 9630045
Eagney Insurance Services Ltd., Bridge St.	Tel: 094 9630793 / 094 9630794, Fax: 094 9630795
EPS Group Ballyhaunis, www.epswater.ie info@epswater.ie	Tel: 094 9633500/Fax: 094 9630761
Elwood School of Irish Dancing (Mary Elwood)	Tel: 086 2337193
Emo Burke & Coyne Oil, Coolnaha	Tel: 094 9632665
Express Scaffolding, Tully Carrowbehy Castlerea kevinwebb@gmail.com	Mob: 087 2898042
Fahy Opticians & Contact Lens Centre, Main Street. jarlathfahy@gmail.com	Tel: 094 9630212

Farragher, Fr. Stephen, P.P., Parochial House	Mob: 087 9210305, Tel: 094 9630006
Fastway Couriers (Frank Burke)	Mob: 087 2163008
Finn Footwear Specialists (Ballyhaunis & Kiltimagh) finnfootwear@gmail.com	Tel: 094 9381970 / 094 9630141
First Choice Credit Union Ballyhaunis, www.firstchoicecreditunion.ie	Tel: 094 9630998 / 094 9633965
Fitzer's Bar, Knox St.	Tel: 094 9631974
Fitzmaurice, Martin & Patricia, www.newireland.ie	Mob: 087 2455989
Flanagan Motors, Tooreen, Car Sales & Repairs www.flanaganmotors.ie	Tel: 087 2545950 / 094 9649433
Fleming, Seamus & Annette, Lavallyroe, B&B and Cab Hire	Mob: 086 8195500 / Tel: 094 9646040
Forde's Ltd., The Square (The House for All the Family) Embroidery & printing specialists.	Tel: 094 9630013
4-D's Carryout Off-licence, The Square (Best Value Selection of Wines, Spirits, Beers)	www.fordes.ie
Freeley, Terence, Braga, Portugal	
Freyne Family, Clare Road.	
Garvey Moran C, Knox Street	
Gavin, Martin, Undertakers, Funeral Home, Headstones & Grave Care, Knox St.	Mob: 087 6324586, Tel: 094 9633448
Gem - Costcutters (Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery), Bridge St.	Tel: 094 9630840
Gill's Pub, Clare St. (Props. John and Bernie Gill).	Tel: 094 9630039
Godfrey Mark & Tzyy Wang, Dereens	Mob: 087 9777899
Glynn's Photography, Doctor's Road.	Tel: 094 9630026 / 094 9620094 (Castlerea)
Goulding, Jim & Mary, Doctor's Road.	Tel: 094 9631272
Greene, Tony & Pauline, Box 127, Sholola, 18458 PA, U.S.A.	Tel: 0019144712548
Griffin, John, Orthodontist, Upper Main St.	Tel: 094 9630534
Griffin, Mike, Taxi Service, Clare St. / Devlis.	Tel: 094 9630213, Mob: 087 9047466
Grogan, Austin, & Sons, Concrete Products, Cave.	Tel: 094 9630072
Gurteen Kitchens Ltd., Gurteen, www.gurteenkitchens.com. Mob: 086 8244386, Tel: 094 9630797, Fax: 094 9630751	
Halpin, John & Breege, Floral Occasions (Teleflorist), Main St.	Mob: 087 6883383, Tel: 094 9630012
Hazelhill Family Practice, Hazelhill. Hazelhillmedctr@eircom.net	Tel: 094 9632170 / 094 9632171
Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd., Europallets, alan@hazelhilltimber.ie	Tel: 9630094 / 9630250, Fax: 094 9630825
Helen's Launderette, Barrack St.	Tel: 094 9630841
Heneghan's Carpets & Furniture, Main St.	Tel: 094 9630770, Mob: 087 2245661
H.E.R. (Photo Supplies Ltd), Kilmannin Business Centre. helenfreeley@gmail.com	Tel: 094 9633389, Fax: 9633476
Herr, Fred, Grocer, Knox St.	Tel: 094 9631305
Higgins, Pat & Sally, Devlis.	
Homecare Medical Supplies, Tooraree. www.homecaremedicalsupplies.ie	Tel: 094 9633800
Hunt, James, Photography, Kilmovee. email: hunt.jms@gmail.com	Tel: 086 068 0702
Janapix Photography, Ballyhaunis – www.janapix.com	Mob: 086 1775352
J.G.'s Barber Shop, Barrack St.	Mob: 087 2450079
Jennings, Bernard, B.D.S., Dentist, Knox St.	Tel: 094 9630315
Joes Dove. Professional Dove Release. Hazelhill Ballyhaunis	Mob: 087 9931931
John Higgins Auctioneer, Main St. www.johnhigginsauctioneers.com	Tel: 094 9631372 / 086 8292603
Johnston, Margaret, Knox St.	
Jordan, Colette & Assoc., Architectural Eng. & Energy Consulting, hello@colettejordan.ie	T: 094 9373232 / 086 8366944
Jordan Oliver, Annagh	
Jordan's Windows & Double Glazing, Clare St.	Tel: 094 9630641
Kay's Beauty Salon, Knox St.	Tel: 094 9630065
Keane Kitchens Ltd., Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd, www.keanekitchens.ie.	Tel: 094 9630038
Keane, Brian, Heating & Plumbing.	Mob: 087 622 4604, Tel: 094 9640351
Keane, Joe and Marcella, Knox St.	Tel: 094 9630751
Keith Revins, Tyres, Batteries, 24hr breakdown service, Clare Rd.	Mob: 086 256 9155, Tel: 094 9630573
Kelly, Padraic, Bar Furniture Manufacturer, Abbeyquarter.	Tel: 094 9630089
Kieran Whelton Motors, Knock. www.kieranwheltonmotors.ie	Tel: 094 9388371
Kirrane Bros., Seamless Gutters, Fascia, Soffitt; Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis.	Mob: 086 3858922, Tel: 094 9646079
KPS Colour Print Ltd, Knock, www.kpscolourprint.com	Tel: 094 9388231
Life Pharmacy, Main St., Knock.	Tel: 094 9376968
Lilly, John Joe, Plant Hire, Johnstown	Tel: 094 9630352
Loughran & Burke, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., Upper Main St.	Tel: 094 9630017
Lyons, Michael G., Agricultural Contractor, Cloonfaughna, Knock.	Tel: 094 9880249
Lyons, Michael, Coach & Minibus Hire, Lecarrow, lyonsbushire@eircom.net	Tel: 094 9630347 / 086 2338419
Lyons, Tommy, Publican, Main St.	
MacSiurtain's, Live Music & Sports Bar, Main St, (Prop. Stephen & Nuala Nolan).	Tel: 094 9630854/086 2457001
Madden, Gerald, Snooker Tables, Gurteen www.maddensleisure.com	Tel: 094 9630228
Main Street Framing, pictures, mirrors, posters, prints. (Prop. Edward Mulligan)	Tel: 094 9632692/0876738964
Mallee, Sinead, Graphic Designer, Knock. email: sineadmallee@gmail.com	Tel: 087 2204296
Major Equipment Intl. Ltd., www.major-equipment.com, info@major-equipment.com	Tel: 094 9630572, Fax: 9630788
Melissa Beauty Therapy, Knox St. (Prop. Melissa Connaughton)	Tel: 086 3779617

McGarry Development Consultants, Engineers, Architects, Clare St.	Tel: 094 9630170
McGarry's Ladies Wear, Main St.	Tel: 094 9630084
McNamara Car Dismantlers, Knockbrack.	Mob: 087 2615828, Tel: 094 9630439
McNamara, Eamon, Car/Tractor Repairs (24-Hour Service).	Mob: 086 6061739, Tel: 094 9630386
Midwest Radio, Clare St., www.midwestradio.ie	Tel: 087 9004141 (Text requests) / 094 9630553 (Ads)
Moran Coaches & Minibus Hire, Knock Rd. moranscoaches@yahoo.ie	Tel/Fax: 094 9630346
Moran, Kieran, Building Services, Knox St.	Tel: 094 9630079
Moran, Donal, T.V. Systems, Knox St.	Tel: 094 9630569
Moran, Tommy, Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St.	Tel: 094 9630493
Morley, M.J. & Sons, Electrical & Plumbing Contr. Boiler/Pump Repairs, Lissaniskea, Began. T: 087 6116372 / 094 9380315	
Morley, Tony. Exterior and Interior Decorators, Pollnacraoaghy, Ballyhaunis	Mob: 086 2648673
Mulberry Lodge Guest House, Upper Main Street. www.mulberrylodge.ie	Tel: 086 3858929/086 2457001
Mulhern, Edward and Frances	Mob: 087 6961579, Tel: 094 9630249
Mulrennan, James & Sons, Ltd., Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens), mulrenns@gmail.com	Tel: 086 8535661
Murphy, Eddie, Menswear/Formal Wear, Main St, www.eddiemurphy.ie	Tel: 094 9630651
Murphy & Sons Autosales Ltd., Service Station & Shop, Dublin Rd. Mob: 0872490634,	Tel: 094 9630307
Murphy Carpentry & Building Services Ltd, Knock Road Ballyhaunis	Tel: 087 6446734
Murren, Eamon, 1 Hazel Court.	
Murray Sr., Diarmuid, Medical Practitioner, Clare Street	Tel: 094 9630324
Murray, Jr., Diarmuid, Medical Practitioner, Knock Medical Centre	Tel: 094 9388385
Nestor & Co., Accountants, Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.	Tel: 094 9632000
Nestor's Corner Bar, The Square.	Tel: 094 9631011
Nico Café, Knox St	Mob: 087 3979363
Nicholson's Bar, Bridge St.	Tel: 094 9630357
Nour Foods, Quality Halal Irish Meats, Clare St.	Tel: 094 9632765 / 086 3880017
Noone, Dr. Patrick & Moira, Ardpark. hazelhillmedctr@eircom.net	Mob: 085 1580407
Noone, Dr Caroline, Hazelhill Family Practice. hazelhillmedctr@eircom.net	Tel: 094 9630091
O'Brien Motor Factors, Knock	Tel: 094 9388211
O'Connor, Fr. John O.S.A., Duckspool House, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	
O'Dwyer Solicitors, Bridge St. www.odwyersolicitors.ie	Tel: 094 9630011
Oak Cafe & Bar, Bridge St.	Tel: 094 9630099
Our Lady's Shrine, Knock, www.knockshrine.ie info@knockshrine.ie	Tel: 094 9388100
Order of Malta Knock	Tel: 087 2515422
Parochial Hall, Main St., Available for Meetings/Events. For bookings contact Mike.	Mob: 087 9047466
Patterson, Noel, M.R.C.V.S., Knock Road.	
Phillips Clothes Shop, Dalton St., Claremorris.	Tel: 094 9372020
Phillips Menswear, Main St.	Tel: 094 9630368
Phillips Shoes, Main St. – www.phillipsshoes.com	Tel: 094 9630368
Phillips, Eamon, High Class Victualer, Main St.	Tel: 094 9630381
Phillips, Paddy, Publican, Main St.	Tel: 094 9630118
Post Office, Bridge Street	Tel: 094 9630230
Rochford Motors, Main Mitsubishi/Seat Dealers, Knock Rd, www.rochfordmotors.ie	Tel: 094 9630350 / 094 9630163
Ryan's Supervalu, Newpark.	Tel: 094 9630359
Scoil Íosa Primary School, Abbeyquarter, iosaballyhaunis@gmail.com	Tel: 094 9630310
Seven Oaks B&B, Knock Rd. Contact Martina Gallagher, sevenoaksguesthouse@gmail.com	Tel: 094 9630605
TC's Fitness, Abbey St., Ballyhaunis. Personal Training, Group Classes, Adults, Kids, Krav Maga Instructor, www.facebook.com/TCs-Fitness	Mob: 086 0618126
The Clock Tavern, Knox Street.	Tel: 094 9630344
The Courthouse Accommodation & Val's Bar & Bistro, Main St, www.courthouse.ie	Tel: 094 9630068
The iClinic, The Square – Computer and Phone Repairs	Tel: 094 9631983
The Old Ground Restaurant, Main Street, Knock. (Prop: Michael and Thelma Morley)	Tel: 094 9388957
The Shop, (Above Fordes Ltd, The Square) School Books, Novels, Party Balloons, Stationery Georgina.theshopmainstreet@hotmail.com	Mob: 087 6475075
Timoney, Martin, RECI, Electrical Contractor, Carrownedan.	Mob: 087 2398402
Tynan Dillon & Co, Chartered Accountants, Clare St.	Tel: 094 9630261
Valerie's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Barrack St.	Tel: 094 9630681
Waldron, Anthony, Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh.	Mob: 087 4141462
Waldron, Austin, Derrymore	
Waldron, Pearse & Paula, Vermont, USA.	
Waldron, Fr. Kieran, Devlis	
Walsh Seamless Gutters, fascia and soffit	Tel: 087 2213553 / 087 2763256
Weissenberger-Byrne, Della & Joe, New York, U.S.A.	Tel: 0016315433225
Western Brand Group Ltd., Knock Rd. wbrand@iol.ie	Tel: 094 9630069, Fax: 094 9630834
Winston, Gerard (Top Oil), Devlis	Tel: 087 6793990

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the individual authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Annagh Magazine Society. While every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained in this magazine is up-to-date and correct, no responsibility will be taken by the Annagh Magazine Society for any errors which might occur.

Some photographs have had to be reproduced smaller than hoped for, due to poor quality of original image supplied. Regrettably we could not include all photographs submitted due to large volume received.

Some Guidelines for contributors of articles and photographs:

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

Deadline: The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2019 is Friday, 4th October 2019. 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.

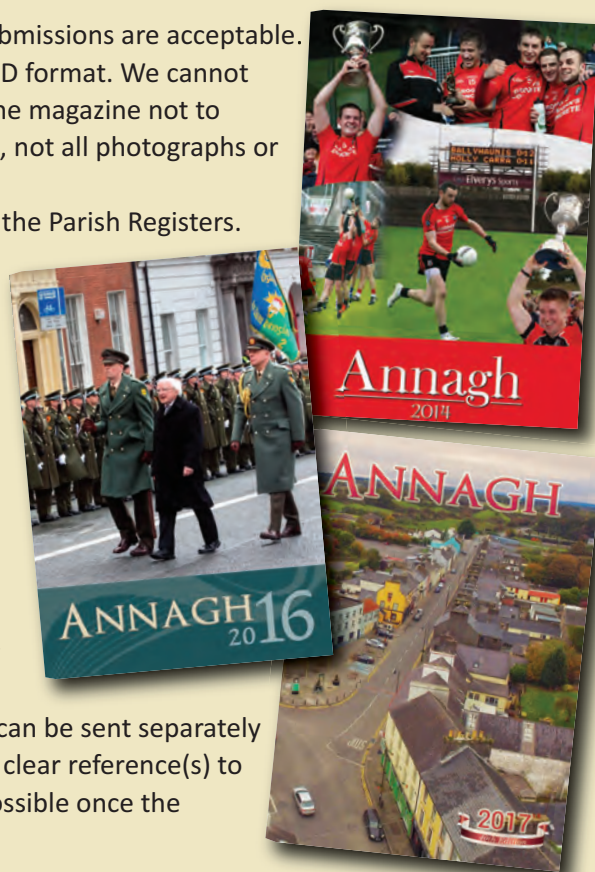
All work done on Annagh Magazine is done on a voluntary basis.

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 2018 Cover Photographs

Front: Snowscene at Ballyhaunis Friary Grounds.

Photograph courtesy of Martin Durkan, formerly of Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis.

Back: Corpus Christi Procession 2018, the Friary Avenue, Ballyhaunis.

Photograph courtesy of Janapix.

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Ballyhaunis Parish Magazine

