

ANNAGH

2022



Foreword



As we look back over 2022 there are a number of key happenings that stand out. First, it was the year when at last we began to emerge from under the cloud of the Covid 19 pandemic and life began to return to some form of normality. Businesses, especially those in the hospitality sector, began to open their doors to the public. For parishes the pandemic has had a drastic impact on numbers attending weekend Masses. Many people, especially the elderly, have understandably been slow to risk returning to church. Others have become accustomed to attending Mass and ceremonies online. While attending Mass and ceremonies online may be convenient there is no substitute for people gathering as a community in person to worship as a community at Sunday Mass. “Is ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.”

The second event that occurred during the past year happened just as we began to emerge from the Covid pandemic. Vladimir Putin, president of the Russian Federation, decided to invade Ukraine, a neighbouring sovereign nation, in breach of international law. This has led to death and destruction on a massive scale. It has led to the largest movement of people since World War II. To date Ireland has accommodated somewhere in the region of 45,000 refugees from Ukraine. From an economic perspective, Putin’s war has led to a huge rise in the cost of living, caused mainly by a surge in the price of gas, oil and electricity. As we enter the winter months there are fears that the cost of fuel will continue to rise and that there may even be some power cuts. At the time of writing Ukraine has launched a major counter offensive and has managed to reclaim some of the territory annexed by Russia.

At diocesan level, last January, Bishop Francis Duffy was ordained archbishop of Tuam, in succession to Archbishop Michael Neary who had reached retirement age.

Here in our parish the past year has seen some changes in personnel. Mary Donnelly, who had been a loyal, dedicated and efficient secretary for almost thirty years, reached the age of retirement. Following interviews of those who applied for the secretary’s job, Paula Donnellan was appointed parish secretary. For many years Paula’s voice was a familiar one for the listeners of MidWest radio where she worked in the News department as newsreader. She has settled in well and is applying the skills and experience garnered over the years to her new role.

A few weeks ago, a young man from our parish commenced his studies for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Tuam in St. Alban’s College in Valladolid, Spain. Wiktor Siemionkowski has won the respect and admiration of the people of the parish and his teachers for his contribution to the life of the parish ever since his days as a Mass-server. He has put his many gifts and talents at the disposal of the Church and parish. He has always been available to assist at daily and weekend Masses, Easter and Christmas ceremonies, as sacristan, organist and soloist. He has also shown great kindness to people, especially the elderly and those living alone. All students studying for the diocesan priesthood must now complete what is called a “Propaedeutic Year” which is a year of discernment and preparation before entering the national seminary at Maynooth. We wish him every blessing and assure him of our prayers as he embarks on this great adventure.

To conclude, I wish to congratulate the members of the Annagh Magazine Society for another fine production. So much work goes into bringing such a project as this to fruition and we are grateful to them for their endeavours. People of our parish, at home and abroad, look forward each year to the publication of ‘Annagh’. Each year Sinéad Mallee does a fantastic job on the design and layout of the magazine.

We wish all our readers a very happy and meaningful Christmas. May the birth of the Christ child soften hearts that have become hardened and help bring peace and healing to our broken world.

Stephen Farragher

Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P.

Editorial

Welcome to the forty-fifth issue of Annagh, the annual magazine for and by the people of the parish of Annagh and town of Ballyhaunis.

As ever, Annagh Magazine invites the reader to take a stroll, through its pages, in and around our town and parish of yesteryear. The ramble also includes a picture of today's community and if we dare to look forward the magazine provides signposts directing us to a vision of tomorrow's Ballyhaunis. In each edition of Annagh Magazine we endeavour to include many of the highlights of life in the parish during the current year. This year's issue gives a snapshot of Ballyhaunis 2022 and we hope that you come across many interesting and enjoyable articles, reports, photographs and poems.

Putting together and bringing out the magazine would be impossible without those who contribute articles, reports and photographs year-after-year, to whom we send our heartfelt thanks. Thanks also to those who help in identifying and naming photographs, often covering many miles over many hours in the process. Production of the magazine and maintaining the current retail price

at €10 would not be possible without the support of our Patrons, whom we thank sincerely for their continued generosity.

As the very final preparations were being made before going to print, Ballyhaunis footballers won the County Intermediate title for the fourth time in the club's history. We congratulate all involved and wish them well on their return to the Senior ranks of Mayo football. The Junior Ladies football team were also crowned County champions. Congratulations on this historic victory and best wishes on their promotion to Intermediate grade. These victories gave rise to great scenes of jubilation, lifting the spirits of Ballyhaunis people everywhere.

Last March (2021) Annagh Magazine Society was delighted to receive the inaugural Mayo County Council Cathaoirleach's Mayo Publication Award. It's always nice to get recognition and we wish to thank all concerned for honouring our publication in this way.

The Annagh Magazine Society would like to wish all its readers, contributors and supports a very Happy and Holy Christmas, a safe and prosperous New Year.

Annagh wins inaugural County Council Award

At a community celebration evening in Breaffy House on Tuesday, 8th March 2022, the thirteen winners of the inaugural Mayo County Council Cathaoirleach's Awards 2021 were announced. Mayo County Council's new civic awards recognise the dedication and efforts of the many community volunteer groups at work in County Mayo, as they work quietly behind the scenes for the benefit of our communities. After a public nomination process in autumn of 2021, all nominees were invited to the presentation evening, which celebrated their achievements and provided a fitting platform to showcase their incredible work to a wide audience.

Annagh Magazine was chosen as winner in the Mayo Publication Award category. Members of the Annagh Magazine Society - Seamus Mulrennan (Chairperson), Edward Mulhern (Treasurer) and Noreen Ruane Dalton (Secretary) - were on hand to accept the prestigious award from Cllr. Michael Smyth, Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council. Cllr. Smyth congratulated Annagh Magazine Society on their award and thanked its members for their hard work over the years. He added that volunteering is at the heart of community life and helping others and giving time to your community, while a big commitment, can be a very rewarding experience.

The Cathaoirleach concluded by saying that the value of volunteering cannot be measured, but tonight we try to at least acknowledge those who give up so much of their time for their community.



Members of the Annagh Magazine Society with the award.

Back, L-R: Tommy Caulfield, Edward Mulhern, Paul Waldron, Gabriel Smith, Mike Griffin. Front, L-R: John Kilduff (holding the 2022 Annagh), Noreen Ruane Dalton and Seamus Mulrennan (Chairman) with the Award. Missing from photograph: Nell Rochford.

Annagh Magazine Society **President:** Joe Keane; **Vice-President:** John Halpin;
Chairman: Seamus Mulrennan; **Vice-Chairman:** Tommy Caulfield; **Secretary:** Noreen Ruane Dalton;
Asst. Secretary: Paul Waldron; **Treasurer:** Edward Mulhern; **Asst. Treasurer:** John Kilduff;
P.R.O.: Nell Rochford; **Asst. P.R.O.:** Gabriel Smith; **Patrons Officer:** Mike Griffin.

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Looking Back on the Year 2022

MIKE BYRNE

NOVEMBER 2021

Great news this month for Ballyhaunis Community School as the Department of Education gives the approval for an extension, under the additional school accommodation scheme. This grant comes after the school's recent refurbishment and extension programme which brings the Knock Road academy up there with the best of the country's secondary schools. An increased number of students enrolling in the school has led to a need for more accommodation. To this end, temporary prefabs were brought in during the summer months to cater for the increased demand... Ballyhaunis pharmacist Róisín Curley, who has been steadily making a name for herself in the fine art of wine making, gives a talk on this subject at The Grill Room at the River Lee Hotel in Cork. This is Róisín's first solo effort in this capacity... The death takes place of Main Street resident Kathleen McHugh (née Morley), wife of the late Terence McHugh, well known family butcher on Abbey Street for many years... Gurteen resident Orla Loftus Moran is the recipient of the award of Practice Nurse of the Year in the Irish Healthcare Annual Awards ceremony held in The Clayton Hotel, Dublin. Daughter of former Mayo All-Ireland senior football medal winner and GAA President, Dr. Mick Loftus, Orla is wife of Knox Street native Donal Moran... Bad end of season result for both the footballers and hurlers from Ballyhaunis; the Senior hurlers went down to arch rivals and neighbours Tooreen in the Senior County Final by just one point, while, a week later the Intermediate footballers went under to Mayo Gaels in the County Intermediate Final by a two point margin, 1-11 to 1-9... Popular Ballyhaunis lady Moira Delaney celebrates the great occasion of her eightieth birthday. Moira is arguably one of the busiest ladies in the parish as she is director in chief of almost all of the sacred music in the Parish Church, conductress of the Parish Choir and of the Abbey Male Choir, which she has been directing for well over twenty-five years... One of Holywell's most loved citizens Anne Lynch passes to her eternal reward after a very brief illness... Also, on a sad note this November, the death occurs of the late Kathleen Webb of Brickens, formerly of Tooraree. Wife of the late Kieran Webb, Tooraree, Kathleen was a native of Inishbiggle Island.

DECEMBER 2021

The month of December gets off to a very positive start for Ballyhaunis man John Prenty when he is one of the recipients of NUI Galway's 2021 Alumni Awards. Born in Ballyhaunis to parents Arthur and Bea (née Hunt) Prenty in 1952, John graduated with a BA in 1974 and

HDip in Education in 1975, became Chairman of Ballyhaunis GAA Club in 1978, then Secretary of Mayo County GAA Board and became the first full time Secretary/CEO of the Connacht Council in 1995. John spearheaded the development and the construction of the Connacht Council's Centre of Excellence in Cloonacurry, Bekan, which now hosts many of the provinces major Gaelic games. A tremendous achievement indeed and one that has brought so much life and business to Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas. His current role oversees all GAA activities in the five counties of Connacht and its compliment of 201 clubs. John is responsible for the development of Gaelic games in the province's as well as in the area of the twinning partners of New York, London and Asia. An award so well deserved. Well done John!... Also on GAA matters, Ballyhaunis club man Derek Walsh has been ratified as Mayo's Senior Hurling Manager for the coming year. Derek is son of Jimmy and Mary (née Hunt) Walsh, Knockbrack... Several brave souls from Ballyhaunis and surrounds took the plunge, literally, on Christmas Day, when they dived into the ice-cold waters of Erritt Lake as a fundraising effort for Mayo SPCA. The brainchild of Eavan (née Webb) Caulfield, a long-time supporter of and worker for the MSPCA at their Pattenspark centre, the Christmas Day dip raised a significant amount of funds for the local animal rescue and shelter centre. Among the many people who joined Eavan on the day was her husband Tommy, who also lent a hand in organising the event... Great sadness in the village of Clagnagh and around the town of Ballyhaunis during the Christmas period when the very sudden death of Colin Egan occurs. Colin was son of Eamon and Pauline Egan, Clagnagh. May he rest in eternal peace... The death also occurs in her 99th year of Kathleen (Kate) Hopkins, sister of the late Mick Hopkins of Island.

JANUARY 2022

The year 2022 gets off to a flying start for Killian Scollan from Breaffy when he is the lucky winner of the Seat Tarraco, the top prize in the Ballyhaunis GAA Club's Win-an-SUV fundraising draw. Killian opted to take the alternative of €50,000 and collected his handsome cheque from Club Chairman Gerry Lyons at the GAA Club's grounds on the Knock Road... Following the closure of the Bank of Ireland branch in September, Ballyhaunis was left without an ATM machine for night-time and after-hours cash withdrawals. This issue was resolved however, on January 28th, when Ballyhaunis Credit Union on Clare Street launched their first ATM machine, offering patrons of all banks to use their facilities, day and night. A welcome initiative for sure.



Pictured at the launch of the ATM machine at First Choice Credit Union Ballyhaunis in March 2022 were staff members at the Clare Street office, from left: Linda Cox, Mark O'Brien and Catherine Kilbride. (Courtesy of Mike Byrne).

The death takes place in Bunninadden, Co. Sligo of Bina Waldron, formerly of Woodpark, Ballyhaunis. She was wife of the late Terence Waldron of Woodpark... Sunday, 9th January was an historic day for the Archdiocese of Tuam when a new archbishop is installed in Tuam Cathedral. Archbishop Francis Duffy (63) is a native of Bawnboy, Co. Cavan and succeeds Dr. Michael Neary who served from 1995 to 2021. Ordained to the priesthood in 1982, Archbishop Duffy was principal of Fatima and St. Felim's Secondary School in Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim for twelve years. Prior to taking up duty in Tuam, he has served as the Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois where he was appointed in 2013... Great sadness among the community of Knox Street when beloved resident Noreen Morley passes to her eternal reward... Ballyhaunis Community School student Jack Delaney wins gold in swimming in the 100 metres breaststroke and silver in the 200 metres breaststroke competition at the Leinster swimming championships, held in Dublin... Jarlath Walsh (Knock Road) is elected Chairman of Ballyhaunis Town F.C. at the club's annual general meeting. The club's senior team selectors are Niall Richardson, Tom Colleran, James Clarke and Lorcan Higgins... Long-time member of Ballyhaunis Golf Club, Michael Mahony, Coogue, a native of Yorkshire and formerly of Kiltimagh, passes to his eternal reward following a very brief illness. Michael, who came to work in Kiltimagh in the 1950s as manager of the Irish Spinners factory, was a very popular and prominent member of the club for over forty years... Ballyhaunis senior footballer and hurler Keith Higgins leads a band of players and club members in a fundraising initiative, 'Hurling For Hope', aimed at raising funds for the Motor Neuron Disease Association and the Mayo Roscommon



Most Rev. Francis Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam.

Hospice Association. Keith will solo a sliotar from Castlebar to Castlerea over the course of four days, from 23rd to 26th March.

FEBRUARY

Gerry Lyons from Knockbrack is voted Ballyhaunis GAA Club Person of the Year for 2021 by the club's executive committee. Gerry has been a member since first toging out as an underage player back in the 1970s. Together with a committed band of club members, Gerry steered the monster draw for an SUV which netted a handsome profit for the Ballyhaunis GAA Club... The first Parish Pastoral Council meeting in almost two years takes place in Scoil Íosa Primary School. Pastoral Council gatherings were suspended for the past twenty-four months due to Covid restrictions... Friday, 18th February marked the end of an era for one of the town's leading licensed premises when Nicholson's Bar on Bridge Street closed its doors for the very last time. Proprietors Christy and Vera Nicholson have operated the business for the past twenty-four years and have decided to sell the license and retire from retail activity. Formerly known as The Silver Dollar, the bar was owned and ran by the Byrne family in the 1940s and 50s, and later by the late Phil Hurst for many years through the 1960s and into the 1970s. It was later purchased and run by Bridie and the late John Moore until 1982, then owned and operated by the late Jim McKermitt and his wife Eileen, who sold it on to Tommy and Maura Curran from whom it was later acquired by Christy and Vera Nicholson. We wish Christy and Vera many happy years of retirement... James Lyons from Knockbrack is nominated as Ballyhaunis Footballer of the Year for 2021... Well known Ballyhaunis man Ted Maughan passes to his eternal reward after a brief illness. Ted was one of the last tin-smiths in the country and a top class craftsman... Ballyhaunis young golfing sensation John William Burke has been nominated by Ballyhaunis Golf Club as their inaugural Junior Captain for 2022. This is indeed a fitting honour for John William who epitomizes everything that is good about golf in general, and junior golf in particular. He has enjoyed numerous on-course successes to date, including landing the 2021 Irish Junior Open Gary Player trophy. He gained national and indeed international attention when achieving the incredible feat of shooting a 59 gross over 18 holes recently at Ballycastle Golf Club, a round which included a hole-in-one at a par four and two eagles!... The death takes place of Sean Regan from Killinaugher... After almost two years of living with Covid and its effects, the government announces the lifting of many of the restrictions which have become part of our everyday living over the past twenty-four months. Restrictions like social distancing and other elements have been lifted in recent weeks and

now the last of those - the wearing of facemasks in public places - has been brought to an end. From Monday, 28th February, it is no longer required to wear a facemask in shops, public transport or indeed anywhere. Great relief all round!... And, as Covid restrictions are almost completely relaxed, tensions arise in eastern Europe when Russia invades Ukraine, causing many casualties as hundreds of thousands flee from Ukraine to escape their war torn country. Many fleeing Ukrainians come to Ireland and some to Ballyhaunis where they have taken up residence.

MARCH

The death occurs in Renmore, Galway of Sr. Evelyn Fahy. Sr. Evelyn served in Ballyhaunis for many years with the Sisters of Mercy and gave so much of her energy, time and patience to so many during her years of service here... John William Burke strikes gold again this month when he captures the Irish Under-12 Junior Open in Portstewart Golf Club. He won the title in great style, finishing with an amazing round of 62-10 under par. Another super win from this amazing golfing sensation, adding yet another trophy to the ever bulging trophy room in Devlis!... And, also on the golf circuit, Ballyhaunis Golf Club hosts the annual Captain's and President's Drive-Ins. Captains for the coming year, Seamus Cox and Patricia Fitzgerald, tee-off at Coolnaha with incoming President Tadhg Buckley in beautiful spring-like weather conditions... The late Canon Joseph Cooney is remembered in a very special way on 27th March when a special Mass of remembrance is celebrated for our late Parish Priest. Canon Joe, who

served as parish priest here from 1993 until his retirement in 2011, passed to his eternal reward two years ago not long after Covid struck, when no public ceremonies or large gatherings were allowed due to the restrictions imposed by the virus. However, all was put right this month when Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. celebrated a Mass of Remembrance for the late pastor, where he delivered a wonderful homily detailing the life and achievements of his predecessor during his long and fruitful ministry. Fr. Stephen was assisted in the celebration by Ballyhaunis native Fr. Kieran Waldron, who graduated with Canon Cooney in 1961, and Fr. Benny McHale, CC, Athenry, who served as curate here during Canon Cooney's tenure... Massive crowds turn out on the streets of Ballyhaunis as Keith Higgins passes through the town heading for Roscommon on the final leg of the Hurling For Hope fundraising initiative in support of Motor Neurone Association and Mayo Roscommon Hospice. Keith, supported and accompanied by many colleagues along the way, attracted overwhelming support for his fundraising initiative which raised over €200,000 for those two most worthy causes.

APRIL

Ballyhaunis Community School is alive with the sound of music of a multicultural variety on 1st April as the school celebrates its Multicultural Day. This event at BCS had been suspended for the past two years as a result of Covid, but this year the show went on with a bang as all thirty-six nationalities included in the school took part in what was a very colourful event.

Multicultural food, dance and song were the order of the day as each nationality displayed what is best about their native homeland... Great sadness throughout Ballyhaunis on Easter Week, as news trickles through of the passing of Mary Dillon from Ballindrehid. The former Mary Thornton from Claremorris was a very well known and dearly loved member of this community since making Ballyhaunis her adopted home following her marriage to Frankie Dillon back in 1975. A former captain of Ballyhaunis Golf Club, member of Ballyhaunis Parish Choir over many years and a dedicated and loyal secretary at Scoil Íosa NS for a number of years, Mary's passing evoked great sadness and regret throughout the community... Former Ballyhaunis Community School student Niamh O'Neill is named Most Improved Athlete of the Year at DCU's Athletics Club Awards 2022 in Dublin.



A tree was planted in memory of Canon Joseph Cooney in the grounds of St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, following his memorial Mass on 27th Mar. 2022. L-R: John Duggan (neighbour of Fr. Joe in Carramore Meadows, Knock), Fr. Kieran Waldron (Retired P.P. of Killarerin and former classmate of Fr. Joe), Marian Duggan, Liam and Matilda Thompson, Main St., Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Ballyhaunis, Fr. Benny McHale C.C., Athenry, formerly C.C., Ballyhaunis.

Niamh is daughter of George and Stella (née Morley) O'Neill, Woodpark... The official signing of the contracts for the next extension to Ballyhaunis Community School took place at the school this month. The development includes an SEN base, five general classrooms and an art room. Great news indeed for the Knock Road academy and for the future of secondary education in Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas... The death occurs this month in Castlebar of Sr. Eithne Nolan, formerly of the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis. A native of Clashaganny, Milltown, Co. Galway, Sr. Eithne joined the Mercy Sisters in Westport in 1947. A few short years later, she was appointed to Ballyhaunis where she served with great love and dedication until her retirement and the subsequent closure of the convent here a few years ago.

MAY

Tuesday, 17th May saw the end of an era on Clare Street when John and Bernie Gill, proprietors of Gill's Bar, turned the key on their popular hostelry where they served the public with great hospitality and courtesy for the past twenty-two years. John, from Hollymount, and Bernie, herself a native of the Neale, took over the Clare Street business on 1st August 2000, previously owned by the Byrne family since 1954... Over 700 brave souls from the locality took part in the first ever Ballyhaunis Darkness Into Light 5 km walk. The event was a massive success with significant funds raised through the initiative in support of Pieta House... Abbey Street native Mary O'Dwyer dies suddenly in Galway. Daughter of the late Pat and Hannah O'Dwyer, Mary was laid to rest in Ballyhaunis Cemetery following requiem Mass in St. Patrick's Church... More good news this month for young golfing hero John William Burke when he received confirmation that he has qualified for the U.S. Kids World Teen Championship to be played over three days (18 holes a day), in North Carolina, USA, which begins 28th July... After over three decades behind the microphone at Midwest Radio, popular news presenter Paula Donnellan decides to retire from broadcasting following a very successful career on local radio. Paula, however, does not intend to let the grass grow under her feet, so to speak, as she takes up a new duty as Parish Secretary to Fr. Stephen Farragher. Paula succeeds Mary Donnelly who has served the parish and its community so well since taking up duty under then newly appointed parish priest, the late Fr. Joe Cooney, in 1993... Plans are in place to hold a Mardi Gras in Ballyhaunis this July, entitled 'From Rio to Ballyhaunis: Mardi Gras Parade & Street Party'. The planned festival, with a Samba twist, will have lots of colour, activities, dance and music right through the day and night... Bridie Regan of Killinaugher is laid to rest after requiem Mass in St. Patrick's Church... The Park Hotel in Kiltimagh is the venue for a very



Mary Donnelly (left), who retired as Ballyhaunis Parish Secretary this year, with her successor, Paula Donnellan. (Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher)

special occasion on 21st May when former students of St. Patrick's College in Ballyhaunis come together to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation from the Knock Road academy. The class of boys who attended St. Pat's from 1967 to their leaving cert year in 1972, had been planning this get-together for over two years and what a great occasion the event turned out to be. The past pupils were joined by former teachers of St. Pat's: Fr. Des Walsh, Fr. Kieran Waldron, John Cleary and Morgan Jennings. A great night of reminiscing was enjoyed by all who attended... Gurteen villagers turn out in large numbers on 30th May to welcome Carlagh Peake home after her wonderful feat in winning a gold medal in Borås, Sweden in the Golden Girl Box Cup, the largest all-female competition in Europe. In what is a hugely competitive tournament, Carlagh defeated her Ukrainian opponent, leaving her with a standing count in the second round, to win the silver medal. On the following day, the third year student at Ballyhaunis Community School, overcame her Italian opposition to win the coveted gold medal, a marvellous achievement for the girl from Ballyhaunis. Carlagh is daughter of Martin and Sue Peake from Gurteen... Keith Higgins' brave and courageous Hurling for Hope fundraising initiative raises a fantastic sum of €227,856.62 through his sliotar solo run from Castlebar to Castlerea in support of his two chosen charities, Mayo Roscommon Hospice and Motor Neurone Association... Ballyhaunis GAA Club receives Government funding to the tune of €64,000 under the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme Appeals process. The funding has been awarded for the reconfiguration of the Handball Alley which is situated on the club's grounds on the Knock Road and which was erected in 1981.

JUNE

2nd June is a bleak day for the community of Upper Main Street and for the entire parish of Ballyhaunis and beyond as news comes in of the sudden death of Micheál (Hawley) Murren. Micheál's was a dedicated and committed member of staff of Ballyhaunis Community School for many years, having previously taught in the old Technical School. 'Hawley' was so popularly known, both as a teacher and member of the local community, that his death brings massive sadness to the town and community, at the loss of one of the areas most respected gentlemen.... Down in Coolnaha on Lady Captain's day, it is Siobhán Herr (née O'Connor) who hits the top score of the day, winning Patricia Fitzgerald's beautiful Captain's Prize, with just one shot to spare over Joan McGuire (née Folliard), who finished in second place... Also on golfing matters, that young man from Devlis, John William Burke, hits the headlines once again when he finishes in sixth place out of 650 competitors in the US Kids Golf European Championships in Musselburgh Golf Club, just outside Edinburgh, Scotland... Patricia Gaughan retires from her position as secretary at Ballyhaunis Community School after twenty years of sterling service at the Knock Road academy. Patricia is wife of retired Ballyhaunis Garda Aidan Gaughan. We wish Patricia many years of health and happiness in her retirement...



Patricia Gaughan (right) pictured on her retirement day from Ballyhaunis Community School in June 2022 with Deputy Principal, Orla Macken. (Courtesy of Mike Byrne).

Great celebrations in Galway this month for four former Ballyhaunis Community School students who graduated with flying colours in Medicine from NUIG. They are Cian Henry, Rachel Lyons, John Cassidy and Katie Moran. Heartiest congratulations to the graduates and to their parents on a fantastic achievement... The death occurs of Josephine Leneghan of Lohan Park, Brickens, formerly of Station Rise, Ballyhaunis... Great sadness on Thursday, 30th June with the news of the passing of Tommy Waldron from Cave after an illness. Tommy was



Former Ballyhaunis Community School students, Cian Henry (Annagh), Rachel Lyons (Aghamore), John Cassidy (Tooreen) and Katie Moran (Gurteen), all of whom graduated from NUIG College of Medicine in June 2022.

an avid supporter and active member of the local GAA club all his life. He was Chairman of the Ballyhaunis branch of Fianna Fáil for whom he carried out trojan work for many years... Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic footballers win the Tara Ryan Memorial League Championship following a thrilling victory over neighbours Aghamore on a scoreline of 3-8 to 1-13 in the Centre of Excellence in Began. Top star for Ballyhaunis was Mae Hession who won the Player of the Match award.

JULY

Knockanarra based Mayo County Councillor John Cribbin is elected Cathaoirleach of the Claremorris /Swinford Municipal District at the Swinford Cultural Centre on 6th July. John takes over from Foxford based and fellow Ballyhaunis native Neil Cruise... The sudden death occurs in Dublin of Laura McGuire, daughter of Ballyhaunis natives Sean McGuire (Ballindrehid) and Joan Eagney, formerly of Curries. Deepest sympathy from all in Ballyhaunis to Seán and Joan on their great loss... The Dalgan Restaurant on Main Street was the venue for an evening of celebration and tributes to Mary Donnelly, marking the occasion of her retirement as Parish Secretary, having served in this position since 1993. Mary was joined by her husband Jim and family for the occasion where a special presentation was made to her on behalf of Parish Priest Fr. Stephen Farragher and the Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council to mark her outstanding contribution to the life of the parish over the past twenty-nine years... The death occurs of Michael Lavin from Lavallyroe. A native of Began, Michael worked with Mayo County Council for many years where he was so highly respected and much loved by colleagues and all who ever knew him. Michael's son Timothy, a most popular member of Ballyhaunis Golf

Club, died following a brave battle with terminal illness in 2011... Also this month, Tommy Biesty, formerly of Pattenspark, passes to his eternal reward at Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, where he was a resident for some time... Ballyhaunis Community School student Carlagh Peake captures her fourth national boxing title, thus securing her place on the Irish team for the upcoming European Youth Championships, to be held in Italy in September... Another great sporting achievement for Ballyhaunis athlete Niamh O'Neill who won the gold medal in the Under-23 100 metres hurdles and bronze in the 100 metres sprint at the National Outdoor Championship in Tullamore on Sunday, 17th July, where she was representing St. Colman's South Mayo A.C.

AUGUST

The death occurs following an illness of Noel Patterson, Knock Road. Noel was a very popular member of the Ballyhaunis community where he lived and worked for many years as a veterinary surgeon... Also this month, the death takes place in Coventry of Bernard Keane, formerly of Annagh. He was renowned throughout his adopted city of Coventry and indeed throughout Great Britain as a great ambassador for Gaelic games through his involvement in his local GAA club Roger Casements and the Warwickshire County Board for over fifty years... David Burke wins Tadhg Buckley's President's Prize at Ballyhaunis Golf Club... The death takes place in Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, of Brendan Byrne, formerly of Main Street, Ballyhaunis. Brendan operated a very successful pharmacy on Bridge Street (now Curley's Jewellery) for a number of years before departing to Dublin where he established a pharmacy practise at Oxmantown Road... The death also occurs this month of Kathleen Morley of Woodpark. Formerly Waldron from Woodpark, Kathleen was predeceased by her husband Paddy... Ballyhaunis has been chosen as one of six towns in the West of Ireland to benefit from a grant of €100,000 under a fund to enhance streetscapes and shop fronts. Under the initiative, retailers and property owners will be provided with grants to improve their buildings, carry out artwork or install features such as street furniture or canopies... Former Ballyhaunis Community School teacher Vinny Healy from Ballindrehid departs to his eternal reward following an illness. A former Ballyhaunis senior footballer, Vinny was a regular member of the Abbey Male Choir, and together with fellow group members, Moira Delaney, Mairead Mulhern, Tony Flynn (RIP), Brian Byrne and Miriam Murphy, won All-Ireland honours in 1972 when the group won first place in the Senior Scór competition in Ballad Singing.

SEPTEMBER

One of the biggest crowds in many years turn out to the Augustinian Abbey on 4th September for the annual Friary Mass. Chief celebrant, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. is joined on this occasion by Friars Fr. Michael Mernagh OSA and Fr. Anthony Finn OSA. Music is provided as usual by the Abbey Male Choir under the direction of Moira Delaney with organist Paula Donnellan... Michael (Mickey) Coffey, formerly of Cherryfield, dies after a very brief illness. Mickey has lived in Charlestown since 1994 when he returned from Scotland having worked there for many years... Having been granted full planning permission by Mayo County Council several months ago, work finally begins on the construction of the new ALDI store when the first sod is turned on the site on Upper Main Street. The new €7 million store will create up to thirty jobs when it is open to the public, as well as fifty jobs in the construction phase... As student numbers continue to rise at Ballyhaunis Community School, long time staff member Patrick McGarry is appointed Deputy Principal at the school. Patrick, who joined the staff in 2002, joins the senior management team of Orla Macken (fellow Deputy Principal) and Principal David McDonagh... Great sadness among the community of Abbeyquarter as news of the passing of Tina Waldron is learned. Tina was wife of the late James Michael (Seamus) Waldron from Woodpark who died at a relatively young age in 2010... Ballyhaunis and the entire country is basking in what has become an Indian Summer with daytime temperatures for the end of September touching 18 to 21 degrees centigrade. A welcome boost as the cost of heating oil and electricity continues to rise at a rate never known before in this country... Well known assistant sacristan at St. Patrick's Church, Wiktor Simeonkowski, heads to Spain where he begins his preparation to study for the priesthood. Polish native Wiktor came to Ballyhaunis at the age of five with parents Andrew and Bernadette and brother Norbert and, after becoming an altar boy, stayed on in this position through secondary school, becoming an assistant to sacristan Frances May and later to Irene Nunes as well as being a great support to Fr. Farragher over the past number of years. Wiktor will remain for one year in Spain before taking up studies for the priesthood in Maynooth, after which, he hopes to minister in the Archdiocese of Tuam. We wish Wiktor well in his vocation... Ballyhaunis Community School 2022 leaving cert student, Nathan Dee, receives the prestigious John Paul II Papal Cross Award for completing sixty hours of volunteering in the community. Another BCS 2022 leaving cert student, Aoife Loftus, receives her gold John Paul II Award for completing forty hours of voluntary work within the community. Both students are inspirational young adults



Reunion of retired Ballyhaunis Community School Staff, 28th September 2022

Back, L-R: Sr. Teresina Daly, Justina Lyons, Mary Frances Cleary, John Cleary, Hugh Rudden, Chris Pratt, Ann Joyce, Sr. Maura Callaghan. **Centre, L-R:** Eileen Jennings, Fr. James O'Grady, Terry Coleman, Eva Brogan, Pat McHugh, Peggy Egan, Morgan Jennings, Eileen Byrne, Jarlath Fahey, Fr. Des Walsh. **Front, L-R:** Sr. Joan Fahey, Aiden Kelly, Micheál Smyth, Tommy Grogan, Bríd White, Helen Hurley, Christy Ruane, Mary Reaney. (Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher)

and have served as great ambassadors for the Ballyhaunis school and their local communities. Well done to both Nathan and Aoife on their achievements... Initial work has begun on the new ALDI store on Main Street. It is hoped the retail operation will be open for business for the summer of 2023... At their September meeting, Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council, together with parish priest Fr. Stephen Farragher, make the decision to reduce the number of weekend Masses in the parish. It comes about at a time when numbers attending Sunday Mass have not fully recovered since the pandemic, while the workload of the parish priest is unsustainable in the long-term, given that Fr. Stephen has recently also been given responsibility for the parish of Ballinlough and its two other churches in Cloonfad and Granlahan. Therefore, from the first Sunday in Advent (27th November), there will no longer be a 12 noon Mass on Sundays. The Saturday evening vigil Mass (7.30 p.m.) and the 10 a.m. Sunday morning Mass will continue as usual. There was a reunion of retired Community School staff at the Knock road academy on the 28th September 2022.

OCTOBER

Ballyhaunis Community School appoints staff member Olive Lyons as their Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Co-ordinator. The HSCL scheme aims to improve educational outcomes for children through supporting parents/guardians. Its co-ordinator provides support through home visits, parent classes/courses

(recreational and educational), transition programmes and offers information on other family supports available locally. Olive, a member of the BCS staff for many years, is daughter of Bridie and the late Oliver Levins, Clare Street... Great sadness and indeed much shock as Tommy Carroll dies suddenly at his home in Knox Street. A native of Erritt, Carrowbehy, Tommy, was deaf and dumb from early childhood. He was an employee of Halal/Avonmore/Dawn Meats for close on forty years. He lived in Ballyhaunis for many years and was so popular and highly regarded all... Scoil Íosa Primary School has been granted planning permission for an extension of the school at Abbeyquarter. The proposed extension comprises of four general classrooms, two special education teaching rooms and associated works... Good news also this month for the Ballyhaunis Community Council when they received funding of €22,476.95 under the Community Centres Investment Fund. This announcement is indeed welcome news for the council who have spearheaded the redevelopment of the Community Hall (formerly Parochial Hall), which was officially opened to the public on Friday, 14th October... Very sad news for the close-knit community of Main Street and the wider area, as news of the passing of Úna Phillips is announced. The former Úna Donnellan from Clare Street operated the very popular Phillips Bar on Main Street with husband Paddy for many years. She was a lady known and loved by many from far and wide... Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic

footballers win the Mayo County Junior Championship when they defeat neighbours Aghamore in the county decider at the Centre of Excellence. The Intermediate footballers, meanwhile, qualify for the Mayo Intermediate county final when they defeat Hollymount/Carramore in the semi-final in Claremorris on a score of 1-12 to 0-9... The first Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council meeting in the newly refurbished Community (Parochial) Hall is held on 17th October. A little bit of history here too as it is the first meeting in the hall to be booked online... Former Mayo senior footballer, Ballyhaunis GAA club man, Keith Higgins is named on the Ring, Rackard and Meagher Hurling Team of the Year 2022... And still on hurling matters, Ballyhaunis GAA Club members David McConn and Tom Phillips are ratified as joint managers of the Mayo Senior Hurling team following a meeting of the Mayo GAA Executive Committee and the Mayo GAA County Board. David and Tom have been appointed for a two-year term...

Ballyhaunis native John Lyons dies in Enfield, Co. Meath following a brief illness. A native of Skeghard, John was son of the late Pat and Teresa (née Waldron) Lyons... On the last Saturday of the month, Ballyhaunis GAA Club and supporters celebrate with gusto when the local side capture the Intermediate County Championship at McHale Park, Castlebar, with a three point win over Kilmeeena: 0-13 to 0-10. Jack Coyne is awarded Player of the Match. Jack is son of Paul and Noreen (née Toolan) Coyne, Ballyveal, and nephew of Willie Coyne, a long time stalwart with the club's senior side in the 1970s. And finally, as we enter the final quarter of the 2022 year, looking back on these past few weeks of winter, the weather through the months of September and October have been extremely kind to us. Temperatures have been ranging from 13 to 17 degrees throughout the month of October, a great blessing indeed as we head into the final two months of the year. And long may it last!

Some photos from the Annual Ballyhaunis Spring Clean 2022 which took place in April.



Geraldine O'Dwyer, Anna Henry and Willie Coyne of Ballindrehid.



Eamonn and Margaret Monaghan of Doctor's Road with their children Eamonn Óg, Kate and Seán.



Michael Jordan, Paul Damron and John Griffin, all of Annagh.



Liam and Aiden Hill of Annagh.

The Travelling Shop

MARIE MACNAMARA (NÉE CAULFIELD)

It was cold and dark that January morning in 1941 when 16-year-old Austin (Gus) Caulfield climbed onto the seat of his horse-drawn cart. Calling out to his faithful horse as he snapped the rein, he set out on the first delivery of a long career on the road. Little did he know that this was just the first run of nearly forty years of service, travelling the back roads of Mayo to bring groceries to homes and farms in exchange for eggs and a few pounds. However, before we travel the roads with Gus, we need to set ourselves back in time to an Ireland that is now nearly faded from the memory of all but a few of the parishioners of Annagh. From the late 19th until the mid-20th century was a time of great hardship across all of Mayo where the economy relied almost exclusively upon agriculture and remittances from emigrants or seasonal labourers in England. It was a time when many homes had no indoor plumbing, electricity, and certainly no telephones. The car was still a novelty in much of rural Ireland and the faithful pony or horse, or quite frequently 'shanks' mare', provided the only modes of transportation. Travelling into a town or nearby village was reserved for market day or Mass and it was by no means a casual quick in-and-out to the supermarket. Ever resourceful, families across the west of Ireland relied upon barter, or goods purchased from what became known as the Travelling Shop, to meet their daily needs for basic groceries and supplies for their livestock.

Stretching back to at least the late eighteenth century there has always been a Caulfield family living in the homeplace in Knockroe, Carrowkeel. This story begins with my grandfather, Michael Caulfield, who carried on a long family tradition by operating a small farm, growing vegetables for the family alongside rearing a few cattle for milk or sale. Michael

married Kate Waldron, who moved from nearby Woodpark, and together they raised a family of seven children: Lena, Patrick Vincent, Rita, Teresa, Gus, Kathleen and John Joe. Like his father before him, Michael supplemented income from the farm by working as an eggler. As an eggler, Michael would travel



Top photo: Gus Caulfield and his sister Kathleen with their first motorised Travelling Shop. Photograph taken in the mid-1950 when they were in their twenties.

Above: Customers at the Travelling Shop in the mid-1950s. Taken the same day as above.



Gus and Kathleen Caulfield's Wedding on 5th August 1961 in Salthill, Galway.

Front, L-R: Joe Finn, Austin Biesty, Teresa Ramsbottom, Michael Caulfield, Gus Caulfield, Kathleen Caulfield, Fr. John O'Malley, Mary O'Malley (Daly), Micheal O'Malley, Kathleen Caulfield (Upper Main St), Monica Biesty, Delia Finn.

Also in photo are: Val and Josie McGreal, Jack Halpin, Brod and Frances Moran, Eddie and Eileen Fitzgerald, Pakie Caulfield, Kathleen Eaton, Jack Regan, Alice Caulfield, Kathleen Morley.

from farm-to-farm buying eggs to sell onto a wholesaler in Ballyhaunis. Recognising the business opportunity, Michael included a few staple groceries such as sugar, flour and tea to bring with him when he did his rounds. Over time, local housewives and farmers came to rely upon this service and thus the 'modern' Travelling Shop came to Carrowkeel. Tragically, in January 1941, Michael died a relatively young man at the age of 64. Gus and his sister Kathleen were taken out of school to support the family by running the Travelling Shop. By this time, Gus and Kathleen's older siblings, Lena, Rita, and Teresa had emigrated to England to train as nurses while little 10-year-old John Joe remained at home. Patrick had left home earlier moving to Castlerea to take over his uncle John Waldron's farm.

Diversified

Today, we rely upon packages delivered by temperature-controlled vans dispatched from warehouse and storage facilities across Ireland. The Travelling shop of the 1940s and 1950s consisted of a horse and cart with a simple tarp to cover the goods, an arrangement which left Gus and Kathleen exposed to all kinds of weather. Imagine what daily life would have been like for the two teenagers in 1941. Caring for the horse, stocking the cart with the



From left: Kathleen and Gus Caulfield (Carrowkeel), Vinnie and Kathleen Caulfield (Upper Main Street) on a night out in the early 1960s. Gus and Vinnie were first cousins.

groceries and farm supplies, travelling the boreens to distant farms and then returning in the twilight before unloading the eggs and planning for tomorrow's run. Of course, in their spare time they both had the farm chores to do. It exhausts me just writing about it!

By 1960, nearly twenty years on, Gus was running the business on his own as his sister Kathleen had married and moved away closer to Knock to raise a family of her

own. By this time, he had retired the horse and cart and purchased a large red van, as he covered even longer routes and diversified the range products he sold. Livestock feed and bluestone were stocked in large bags toward the rear of the van due to their weight, while groceries and other kitchen supplies were towards the front of the van to be near at hand when he arrived at a farm. Increasing the variety of goods surely made the Travelling Shop more vital to the needs of distant holdings. However, it also increased the level of work each morning as the van needed to be restocked with its growing inventory.



Gus in his red truck with his four children - Patricia, Marie, Helen and Michael c.1970.

Fortunately for Gus, he married Kathleen O'Malley in 1961, who became the love of his life, as well as his partner running the house, the farm and the Travelling Shop. Prior to marrying Gus, Kathleen lived in the small village of Purranes, located roughly halfway between Hollymount and Claremorris. Similar to the Caulfield family, the O'Malleys owned a Travelling Shop and, like Gus, Kathleen was taken out of school at the age of 14 to help her older brother Michael after the untimely death of her father. Their marriage seemed almost to be fore-ordained as Gus and Kathleen were introduced to each other by a familiar face, Jack Halpin, who was an egg wholesaler in Ballyhaunis. He knew both families well and thought they would be a good match and so, after a formal introduction in June of 1961, they were married two months later in August in Salthill, Galway.

Family

Gus and Kathleen raised four children - Marie, Helen, Patricia and Michael – who, like the generations before them, grew into the workings of the farm and the

Travelling Shop in between attending school in town. By this time Gus had five established runs around the countryside attending to his customers every day except Tuesday and Sunday. He never seemed to miss a day as he felt such a duty of care to the families whom he knew depended on his deliveries. This would be no surprise to the rural community of Ireland. These men and women had a hard, unrelenting life of physical labour whether as farmers or on the road with a Travelling Shop. For Gus, that meant farm work all morning before leaving for the road in the afternoon and not returning until well past sunset every evening. His schedule meant that

Kathleen needed to meet with the vendors that supplied the shop, as well as neighbours who would cross the fields to purchase individual items. Of course, this was all on top of the evening farm work and rearing the four children! It wasn't long before the children began going 'out the country' with their father on his Saturday run. I was first to go with Dad and have fond memories of standing on the seat, looking out the windscreen as we rolled down the road before hopping into the back to hand out groceries to the ladies at each farm. We all took turns on those Saturday runs and, as we got older and more able, we would join Dad on his Christmas runs and throughout our summer holidays. Lest you think we were 'all work and no play', my siblings and I would have

fierce negotiations if there was a special "Top of the Pops" on the television and we needed to swap our day! The Christmas season was especially busy as we prepared a 'Christmas Box' or small gift for each household. A typical box might contain a four-pound bag of sugar, a cake, and maybe a few biscuits. Mum would spend days sorting, assembling and wrapping the boxes for each family. It was a big expense for a small business, but Dad felt it was important to give a little back to these farm families who were his customers.

Dad was diagnosed with heart trouble in the summer of 1980 and retired from the Travelling Shop at Christmas of the same year. His health was the major reason for giving up the life on the road, but in truth it was the end of an era. Most families had their own cars by then and were happy to make the trip to meet friends for a drink while also visiting the grocer or hardware store in town. The farming life of rural Ireland was giving way to larger commercial enterprises and work for many was now to be found in the towns as we benefited from a much-improved system of roadways.

Not unlike the pony and cart of years before, the time of the Travelling Shop was ending.

We finish our story with a tip of our hat to Gus and all the men and women who drove their Travelling Shops to the family farms of yesteryear. If we look carefully, we can still see the horse and cart disappearing over the hill, the driver waving goodbye until we meet again.

Slán agus beannacht Dé.



Ballyhaunis Pioneer group, late 1950s.

L-R: Paddy Lyons (Gurrane), John Forde (The Square), Paddy Kearns (Gurrane), Unidentified, Maurice Caulfield (Upper Main St.), Joe Horkan (Churchpark), Tom Hunt (Derrynacong), Martin Caulfield (Carrowkeel), Gus Caulfield (Carrowkeel), Willie Joe O'Boyle (Carrowkeel).

Ballyhaunis Town FC

TRACY CUNNANE

Ballyhaunis Town FC had a very busy season with teams ranging from Under 10s to Senior and Over-35s and the introduction this year of Under 16, Under 17 and Under 18 teams.

The club held their first ever Summer Soccer School in August 2022 at the Station Rise grounds. The booked-out event was co-ordinated by FAI Mayo development officer Nigel Naughton and assisted by four FAI coaches. Thanks to coach Tracy Cunnane who organised the event. A very enjoyable week was had by all involved.

The club was presented with a set of jerseys sponsored by Mac's Bar and we would like to thank Stephen and Nuala Nolan for their ongoing support.

The Under 17 team had a great first season winning the League. They would like to sincerely thank Major Steel for sponsoring their jerseys. The Under 16 team won the Mayo Trophy Title in October and also the Division 3A League during the summer.

Congratulations to David Owuso, captain of the Ballyhaunis Town FC Under 17s/18s team, on making the Mayo Under 16 team. Congratulations also to Fionn Conlon on making the Mayo Under 14s, and to Mario Mahalango on making the Mayo Under 12s. Thanks to Marcin Balak Novak and Tracy Cunnane for coaching the Under 14s and Under 12s, and also TCs Fitness for sponsoring their jerseys.



Ballyhaunis Town FC hosted the Karl Briem Memorial Tournament on 30th July 2022. Karl was joint senior men's team manager with Tommy Page and they had many great years with the club. Sadly, Karl passed away in 2021. Current and past players from the club, along with many of his friends, took part in the event and a great day was had by all.

We would like to thank all our committee members and coaches. We would also like to welcome our new coaches and helpers this year. The club would welcome more volunteers and help with administration and coaching or assisting our coaches with supervision.

For more information please send an expression of interest to rcrinniganbtfc@gmail.com or contact Ballyhaunis Town FC Facebook page.



Stephen Nolan of Mac's Bar presenting a set of jerseys to Ballyhaunis Town FC.
L-R: Cathal Carney, Mick Waldron, Stephen Nolan, Andy Cunnane and Owen Cunnane. (Photograph by Ciara Buckley)

We also would like to thank all our sponsors throughout the year. Your support is most appreciated. Thank you too, to all our loyal supporters.



Ballyhaunis Town FC team with coaches.
Back, L-R: Niall Richardson (coach), Michael Golden, Sean Burke, Mick Waldron, Jamil Kezze, John Morley, Pat McGee.
Front, L-R: Aiden Tighe, James Reynolds, Tommy Cunnane, Andy Cunnane, Richie Crinnigan, James Clarke (coach).

The Ballinphuill/Devlis Lyons Family Gathering 2022

DECLAN LYONS

Our family story begins in Ballina. Our father, Pat Lyons, was born in the village of Ballinphuill, the first townland outside the perimeter of Ballyhaunis on the Ballinlough road. He worked for Coras Iompar Eireann or C.I.E., now known as Irish Rail and in 1932 as a young man was working as a signalman at Ballina Railway Station. He stayed in a lodging house which was run by my grandmother Kate Forbes opposite the station. When he and my mother Jenny, Kate's daughter, started walking out together along the Foxford Road my grandmother was none too pleased because Pat was twelve years older than Jenny. Kate resisted their plans to marry. They responded with the threat of emigrating to America. Kate relented and so the pair were married in St. Muredach's Cathedral in 1933. In time Kate would go on to declare that Pat Lyons was better to her than any of her own sons since he could make himself useful in any situation.

Eight members of our family were born in Ballina beginning with P.J. and followed by Kathleen, Josephine, Davy (RIP), John, Declan, Michael (RIP) and Billy. The family moved to Ballyhaunis in 1947 when, after the death of my grandfather, the small farm in Ballinphuill passed to my father. The thatched cottage on the land was uninhabitable and so the family settled in Devlis Cottages. Rita, the youngest member of our family was born there.

Our father continued to work in the Signal Box at Ballyhaunis Station while also working the farm in Ballinphuill. He provided us with milk, butter, potatoes and vegetables as well as cutting turf in Scrigg bog to keep us warm. He was skilful with his hands, he cut our hair and mended our shoes. By way of relaxation he enjoyed a pint of stout with his pals in George Delaney's on Abbey Street. When an occasion arose for a song he loved to sing. A soulful rendition of 'Kerry Long Ago' was his favourite. He drove us mad by reciting the traditional long prayer to St. Joseph after the family rosary during the month of October. *'To thee O Blessed Joseph we have recourse in our tribulations'*

Our mother was an endlessly energetic and creative woman. She knitted our socks and sweaters. With her treadle Singer sewing machine she made dresses for the



Pat and Jenny Lyons.

girls and britches for the boys. In the acre of garden attached to our cottage she reared two suck calves. She turned the area around our house into a lush green lawn and bordered it with flower beds that produced bloom and colour throughout the seasons of the year. On our birthdays she baked us an apple pie and, using a long string of rolled pastry, she scrolled our name on it. She loved to take time out from our crowded house by walking into town to St. Patrick's Parish Church to pray. Our humble home was, in the best Irish tradition, a school of love where we were cared for and where we were taught to love and care for each other.

In many ways we lived in an idyllic setting surrounded as we were by hills, streams and fields, yet close to the town. As children we were able to sport and work together. The summer days were filled with the tasks of helping to save the hay and drawing turf home from the bog with our ass and cart. We joined the Boy Scouts and enjoyed Summer camps in Killarney and in the sand dunes by the sea in Enniscrone. For these privileges I salute the memory of Scoutmasters Seamus Durkan and John Morley. We served Mass in the Friary and enjoyed all the rituals associated with that task. We took pride in having a role in the annual Corpus Christi procession when the streets of Ballyhaunis were festooned with banners and bright bunting and when every shop window and doorway displayed colourful statues of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady decorated with flowers and candles. Amid those memories I salute those of Fr. Mansfield and Fr. Delaney.

Our schooling began for both boys and girls in the infants' class in the Convent Primary School where we learnt to read and write, do our sums and be prepared for what we were told would be the happiest day of our lives... receiving Jesus for the first time in our First Holy Communion. For me the highlight of the week was on Friday afternoons when Sr. Oliver sat at the piano and played 'O'Donnell Abu' while all of us children played ding-ding on triangles or shook jingle bell sticks. My only grouch was that Dermot Waldron from Cherryfield always got to play the drum. For those memories I salute Sr. Carmel, Sr. Benignus and Sr. Oliver.

At the age of seven the boys moved to the National School in Abbeyquarter where our education continued under Mrs. Fahey, Mr. McNicholas and the school master Bill Mulligan. The happiest memory from my time there is our sessions with Bill while he drilled us in singing a song made famous by the Vienna Boys' Choir, 'The Happy Wanderer', and the poem/song by Joyce Kilmer, 'Only God can make a Tree'. In recalling my school days I salute the memory of my boyhood pals: Pat Mulligan and Tommy Greally from Devlis, Ian Wilson and Padraic Waldron from Abbey Street and Joe Freeman from Tooraree.



The Lyons children, early 1950s.
L-R: P.J., Kathleen, Josephine, Davy, John, Declan, Michael, Billy and Rita.

School Days over

When our family schooling was completed only my brother Billy found secure employment locally with the National Bank on the Square. He with his wife Bridie moved to Carrownedan with their sons Paul and Cathal. For the rest of the family, due to the poor economic conditions in Ireland during the 1950's, emigration for work was the only choice. It was the same for countless other families in the district and throughout the country. This was hardest on the parents left behind. These were the days of the steam train and boat journeys when getting home frequently was not the easy affair that it is now. The situation for the emigrants themselves was easier in that they had youth on their side. It was a time of mass emigration and in Manchester, Birmingham and London they could find companionship and help in learning the ropes from friends from their home places who had gone ahead of them.

Out of our family of nine, seven went to England and one to America. I like to think that wherever life took us that we, by the grace of God, sought as a family to live in the spirit of the old adage "Bloom where you are planted" and that we have tried to be true to the words from the song: "The Boys from the County Mayo"... 'Keep one another and love one another as true hearted sons (and daughters) of the County Mayo'. We have faced and come through all the challenges involved in the ups and the downs of life that come to everyone. Consciously or subconsciously we believed in the words of Julian of Norwich that: "All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well". Throughout all the decades



Lyons siblings, 2022. Back, L-R: Declan, P.J., Billy.
Front, L-R: Rita, John, Josephine, Kathleen.

that we have spent away from Ireland we have never forgotten the rock from which we were hewn and have returned home to Mayo faithfully throughout the years, especially when our parents were alive. The green and red of Mayo lies deep in the marrow of our bones.

Gathering

This past year we decided to gather in Mayo with all the younger generations of our extended family to celebrate and give thanks for the joys of kinship and for the blessings of life itself. We threw our net wide to include the families of our Uncle John and Aunts Mary and Kathleen who emigrated from Ballinphuill to America in the 1930s. We can never forget that, in the long ago, it was from them that the parcels of clothes used to arrive

in Devlis including the precious dollars at Christmas time.

On the first weekend of June 2022 we gathered in Mayo from New York, Philadelphia and Boston, from Manchester and Birmingham, from Dublin, Cork, Clare, Tyrone and Mayo to party together, to tell stories, to make music, to dance and sing songs together. Thanks to our friends Paddy Joe Tighe, Connie Gildea and Michael Nolan for the jigs, reels and merriment they brought to our celebration.

Seventeen of the younger generation climbed Croagh Patrick on a gloriously sunny Saturday morning. On Sunday, 6th June we attended Mass in St. Patrick's Church in Ballyhaunis. Fr. Stephen Farragher kindly wove the memory of our dead into the prayers of the

Mass. Afterwards, in his characteristically warm way, he bent over backwards in helping us find chairs from a side chapel so that we could form our large family gathering into a tidy group in front of the altar to capture the best possible snapshot for posterity. Afterwards we paid respects at our family grave in Foxhill.

At the end of our weekend together the unanimous consensus was that our family gathering was a time of multiple blessings. Moladh go deo le Dia. I would like to finish by borrowing words from Seamus Heaney:

"If you have a strong first world and a strong set of relationships then in some part of you - you are always free, you can walk the world because you know where you belong, you have some place to come back to."



Members of the Lyons family of Ballinphuill pictured with Fr. Stephen Farragher, P.P. in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, June 2022.

- Back Row, L-R: Kevin Corrigan, John Lyons, Brendan Lane, Sean Lane, Michael Lyons Jnr., Kevin Lane, Carl McGowan, Carl Bacon, Rita Lyons-Lane.
- Third Row, L-R: Billy Lyons, Denise and Sarah McGuire, Meghan and Kelly Ann Corwen, John Morley, Paul Coggins, Sheila McGowan, Siobhan Brotherton, Lisa Marino Lyons.
- Second Row, L-R: Kathleen Lyons-Gallagher, Berni McQuillan, Ann Murray, Maureen Bacon. Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Josephine Lyons, Rosemary Saddington, Geraldine Jones, John Lyons, Meghan Bacon, Carmel Tobin, Paul Lane.
- Front row, L-R: Emma and Adam McQuillan, Alice, Mikey and P.J. Lyons Jnr., Kieran Lane, Lucan Murray, Joan Burke, Maureen Kozdrajski, P. J. and Nancy Lyons, Noreen Coggins, John Lyons. Kathleen Lyons-Higgins, Finley Lane, Declan Lyons.

A Farewell to Banks

JIM CRIBBIN (JOHNSTOWN)

In life there are some things we only get one chance at; other things remain available for longer but as we grow older, we become less able to grasp them. I paid a shilling and climbed Nelson's Pillar once. Even if it were still there, I would not be able to do what I did in 1965. I could walk into three banks in Ballyhaunis once. I could still walk and make the same journey, but that same opportunity no longer exists. Our generation is the only one that can claim they did business, or could have done business, in three banks in Ballyhaunis - a claim that it is very unlikely that any future generation will be able to make.

Banks have been coming and going for a long time at both national and local level. How many people now remember the National Bank, the Hibernian Bank, the Provincial Bank, the Munster and Leinster Bank, the Northern Bank? My sister Carmel mentioned the defunct 'daddy of all banks' recently. She was having a chat with another lady some years back. They were comparing notes about their families and how they were making their way in life. Carmel asked how the lady's daughter was getting on and what she was working at. The other lady paused for an instant and then replied, "I'll whisper it - Anglo Irish Bank."

The Ulster Bank was the first Irish bank I dealt with. The choice was not really mine. It was made for me in a branch of the Westminster Bank deep in the heart of London Town. I had got an urgent message to go home as my father was seriously ill. I went in to withdraw the few bob I had lodged there. Eyebrows were raised when I handed in my deposit book. The account had only recently been opened. I was ushered into an office where a civil and well-dressed gent listened to my reason for closing the account so soon, enquired where I was from - 'Ballyhaunis' - went to a book and said, "Yes, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. Is there a branch of Ulster Bank there?" "Yes, that happens to be the bank nearest to my home", I answered. "Well, the simplest way to deal with this is to transfer the account to Ulster Bank in your home-town", was his reply. He went on about this for some time and the advantage of not taking the risk of carrying cash while on a long journey, the convenience of being able to walk into the Ulster Bank and draw out cash as it was required, and so on. As well as looking after my interests, he was killing two birds with the one shot. I was later to find out that, at that time, the Ulster Bank was a fully owned subsidiary of the Westminster Bank. By transferring the account to the Ulster Bank, he was keeping it in 'the financial family.'

Now that Ulster Bank is migrating to God knows where, account holders have no choice but to find new nests for their nest eggs. Many accounts are joint accounts, amongst them one held by a couple in Bridge Street. They went through the formalities and thought the 'migration' was completed when they got a letter from the bank informing them that they had been short-changed during the transfer process and would they 'please find the enclosed cheque'. No matter what people say banks can be trusted!.



A.I.B. had a branch here once. It operated where Coyne's' shop was and is now occupied by a computer and phone business. It was not there for very long and some would say, long enough. The National Bank is fading from memory. There is one reminder that it ever existed still to be seen. The night safe that was there when it was in business can still be seen in the front wall of the now empty Bank of Ireland with its name inscribed thereon - 'The National Bank'. My earliest memory of being in the National Bank is being there as a member of a committee that had an account there. I can recall that there was a large portrait of Daniel O'Connell 'The Liberator' in the manager's office. The National Bank was founded by O'Connell in opposition to the Bank of Ireland which was founded in 1783 as a Protestant bank for the Protestant people. The penal laws were all that the government of day provided for the Catholic population. When the Bank of Ireland took over the National Bank, I made a few enquiries as to what happened Daniel's picture. It had disappeared and nobody could tell me where it went. Just as well because The Liberator would probably turn in his grave in Glasnevin Cemetery if he knew that his picture was on display in a branch of the Bank of Ireland in Ballyhaunis.

(P.S. Please return cheque as the final day for cashing it is fast approaching... the Author).

Epic 1990 Encounter Recalled

One of the highlights of the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival of 1990 was a Seven-a-side Soccer Tournament with four participating teams drawn from the Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade, Publicans, Gardaí and the Smithwicks Depot. The photographs presented here were taken during the semi-final between the Gardaí and the Fire Brigade, on 6th Aug. 1990. Mike Byrne carried a report of the encounter in the *Connaught Telegraph* of 15th Aug. 1990, under the heading, 'Cosgrove Brace Quenched 'Brigade':

Tuam Star Joe Cosgrove notched two superb goals for the Gardaí in their emphatic 3-nil win over the Fire Brigade in the semi-final of the 7-a-side soccer tournament in Ballyhaunis. Cosgrove's first goal came almost on the stroke of half-time. During this time the Garda defence had to withstand a lot of pressure from the hardworking Edward Mulhern and George Hannan in the Fire Brigade attack. However, former Shamrock Rovers utility player Sean Barrett, together with Tom Howley and Eddie Rogan, were very steady at the rear. M.J. Connor added a third goal for the Gardaí five minutes from time. Referee: Thomas S. Cribbin.

In the other semi-final the Publicans narrowly defeated the Smithwicks Depot team, setting up a thrilling final in which the Gardaí defeated the Publicans 3-2. Photographs of these other encounters have not materialised. For the record, here are the team listings:

Fire Brigade: John Kilduff, Michael J. Lyons, M.J. Walsh, Edward Mulhern, Georgie Hannan, Pat Ryan, Tony Morley Sen., Mike Griffin (sub), John Finnegan (sub).

Gardaí: Eddie Rogan, Joe Cosgrove, Tom Howley, Pat Gaffney, Sean Barrett, Michael Connor, Pat Power, Paschal Keegan (sub).

Publicans: Billy Nestor, Val Rattigan, Mike Byrne, Denis Hannan, Adrian Murray, Tommy Curran, Gabriel Smith, Tommy Grogan (Doctor's Road).

Smithwicks Depot: Padraig Prendergast, John Greally, Tommy Grogan (Kiltaboe), Freddie Herr, Eugene Colum, Willie Coyne, John O'Neill, Tony Gibbons, Pat Doyle, Padraig Regan (sub).



From left: Michael J. Lyons, George Hannan, John Kilduff, Tom Howley, John Finnegan



From left: Michael J. Lyons, John Finnegan, Eddie Rogan, Seán Barrett, Tony Morley, John Kilduff, Mike Griffin, Child: Jonathan Kilduff.



*From left: M.J. O'Connor, Eddie Rogan, John Kilduff.
(All photographs courtesy of John Kilduff).*



From left: Mike Griffin, Tony Morley, George Hannan, John Kilduff, M.J. Walsh, Joe Cosgrove.



From left: Eddie Rogan, Tom Howley, John Kilduff.



Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to Michael and Rosaleen Kelly of Kiltaboe who celebrated their Ruby (40th) Wedding Anniversary this year. Rosaleen Keane, Kiltaboe, Ballyhaunis and Michael Kelly, Cloonlough, Ballinlough, were married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, 25th August 1982.



Above: Pictured at celebrations to mark the 80th Birthday of Margaret Hopkins in Island earlier this year were, standing from left: Fr. John Peyton, Úna Hopkins, Austin Hopkins, Adam Hopkins, Martin and Micheál Hopkins. Seated: Margaret Hopkins and her sister Joan Biesty from Pattenspark, Ballyhaunis. (Courtesy of Mike Byrne).



Left: Mary Murren of Upper Main St. on the day of her marriage to Paddy Commins of Knock in 1981, speaking with Mrs. Sheila Hoare (right) and Ms. May Moyles.

A Changed Town

Ballyhaunis Trades and Services over 75 Years

FR. KIERAN WALDRON

The 1948 edition of the 2,400 page 'Thom's Directory' for Ireland and its two-page listing of Ballyhaunis traders and services has prompted me to offer some thoughts on the development of the town since then. The reflections below are simply those of one elderly resident of the town. The directory is by courtesy of Eddie Murphy and thanks to Oliver Jordan for his help.

The late 1940s were pivotal years in the history of small towns. I remember these years very well. The return of cars, vans and lorries after the savage petrol rationing of the World War made movement throughout the country so much easier. People were moving away from pony and trap transport. No longer were they dependent on the town near them. Naturally, the greater the choices a town can offer, the greater the chance there is of its retaining local customers. People can certainly access all their grocery needs within the town still but some travel elsewhere for greater choices and, perhaps, lower prices. But this may change!

The listings for Ballyhaunis 1948 shows how the town and social life has changed. In 1948 there were 62 groceries while now these are replaced by five supermarkets and one or two dedicated groceries and general stores. There were 55 Public Houses then - less than ten now. Then of course many pubs were incorporated in grocery, hardware or provisions stores.

Certainly, the range of services in Ballyhaunis has increased substantially. Who, in 1948, could have foreseen that we would have a Radio Station as well as large manufacturing enterprises and two food-producers employing over two thousand workers? It is worth listing the lost services as well as the modern services that have replaced them.

Vanished Trades and Services - since 1948

The loss of a hotel; the Friary church; Convent of Mercy; freight services at the railway station; cinemas (2); dance hall, courthouse; bakery; banks (2); shoemakers (3); tailors (4); draperies (6); hardware (5); dentist; coach builders (2); saddlers and harness makers; egg exporting merchants (4); millers (2); Gardaí residing locally (7); and a drop from seven priests to just one nowadays.

New Trades and Services – since 1948

These include: nine passenger trains per day; the modernised Community Hall; the Community School; Scoil Íosa, replacing five primary schools; a Mosque;

several housing estates on the outskirts; GAA, Rugby and Soccer grounds; 'Friarsground' with riverside walk, playgrounds, outdoor multiple use games area and gym equipment; medical centres (4); an enterprise centre; hospice shop; Clare Court communal hall; nursing home; funeral homes (2); drapers (7); computers/phone shops; hospice shop; extra pharmacy; car dealerships and garages; garden centres (2); plant hire business; opticians; auctioneers; hauliers; grocery multiples; off-licences; two large food exporting factories; three large agricultural manufacturing enterprises; a European pallets manufacturing factory; kitchen furniture manufacturing (3); the Mid-West Radio Station; Western Care; Electric Pump Services (EPS); vehicle recovery service; furniture and carpeting shop; credit union; accountants; restaurants; cafés and take-aways; plant hire; coach hire; motor tyre-fitting; pre-fabricated bathroom pods; bottle banks; picture-framing; chiropody; sports injury clinic; shops for Polish and Syrian communities.

'Cherish and support your local services and trades'

Population

Other rural towns have seen similar changes in seventy-five years, but the most significant change in Ballyhaunis must be the decrease in population within the town itself. Between the censuses of 1911 and 1971 the change in population within the town was insignificant, but since then the decrease has been dramatic. In 1948, Ballyhaunis, Castlerea and Claremorris had similar populations of a little above one thousand each. Nowadays, Ballyhaunis, despite the growth on its outskirts, has several vacant business premises and some are derelict. In my youth Main Street, for instance, was occupied by up to 300 people from forty or fifty families, creating hundreds of walking customers. Nowadays, this is reduced to much fewer than 100, though some upstairs properties are currently being rented as apartments to local workers.

In 1948 doing business in another town hardly existed at all. This was soon after the World War so there were few private cars in rural Ireland. Local businesses survived because of their regular customers from a wide hinterland – from Ballinlough to Cloonfad, from Brickens to Began, to Aghamore and Gorthaganny. They came to town for all their wants, travelling by foot or by bicycle, some coming on horseback or sitting in a trap or on a plank across the sideboards of the family cart.

BALLYHAUNIS, CO. MAYO.

Market Day—Tuesday. Half Holiday—Thursday. Population, 1946—1,103.

PRINCIPAL PROFESSIONS, MERCHANTS AND TRADERS.

Auctioneers.

Caulfield, P. J., Main street.
 Coyne, John J., Cherryfields.
 O'Brien, Patrick, Main street.
RATTIGAN, M. J., Bridge street.
 (See Advt. page 1913).

Bakers.

Waliron, James, Main street.

Banks.

National Bank, Ltd., Knox street.
 Ulster Bank, Ltd., Bridge street.

Boarding Houses, Cafes, etc.

Holmes (Commercial), Bridge St.

Boot and Shoe Makers.

Forde, Thomas, Knox street.
 McGreal, James, Clare street.
 Tighe, Patrick, Main street.

Builders.

Dyar, Patrick, Brackloon.

Bus Service.

C. I. E. Westport-Ballyhaunis-Longford.

Chemists and Druggists.

Curley, M., Main street.
 Waldron P. P., M.P.S.I., Bridge st.

Clergymen.

Flanagan, Rev. S., O.S.A., St. Mary's Abbey.
 Jennings, Rev. T. A., C.C., The Presbytery.
 Mansfield, Rev. E. A., O.S.A., St. Mary's Abbey.
 O'Donoghue, Rev. F., O.S.A., St. Mary's Abbey.
 Prendergast, Rev. G., P.P., The Presbytery.
 Rushe, Rev., C.C., The Presbytery.
 Redmond, Rev. D. B., O.S.A. (Prior) St. Mary's Abbey.

Car and Coachbuilders.

Gilmore, John, Knox street.
 Waldron Brothers, Knox street.

Dentist.

Sweeney, Denis Patrick, B.D.S., Bridge street.

Drapers.

Concannon, T., Main street.
 Fahey, M., Main Street.
 Flynn, Miss M., Main street.
 Forde, Thomas, The Square.
 Gallagher, John, Main street.
 Kenny, Miss M. K., Clare street.
 Lynch, Mrs., Abbey street.
 McGarry, P. J., Main street.
 Madden, A., Main street.
 Moran, D., Knox street.
 Neary, William, Main street.
 O'Boyle, J., Main street.
 O'Connell, Mrs. L., Bridge street.
 Tarpey, Patrick, Knox street.

Egg Merchants.

Byrne, John, Main street.
 Caulfield, P. J., Main street.
 Caulfield, Mrs. T., Upper Main st.
 Cunningham, Mrs. E., Abbey st.
 Foudy, Michael, Bridge street.
 Murray, Mrs. P., Devils.

Glass and China Merchants.

Byrne, Bernard, Clare street.
 Dillon, Mary Kate, Abbey street.
 Flatley, J., Main street.
 Forkin, William, Knox street.
 Grealy, Miss, Knox street.
 Griffin, M., Clare street.
 Jordan, Austin, Upper Main st. and Main street.
 Lyons, Bernard, Bridge street.
 Lyons, Thomas, Main street.
 Murphy, Thomas, Main street.
 Murray, Mrs. M. E., Clare street.
 Rattigan, M. J., Bridge street.
 Waldron, Miss K., Knox street.

Grocers.

Bieaty, E., Knox street.
 Byrne, John, Main Street.
 Canfield, Mrs., Abbey street.
 Caulfield, P. J., Main street.
 Caulfield, Mrs. T. M., Upper Main street.
 Conway, James, Bridge street.
 Coyne, Thomas, Bridge street.
 Cunnane, Martin, Knox street.
 Cunningham, Mrs. Ellen, Abbey st.
 Curley, M., Clare street.
 Delany, George, Abbey street.
 Dillon, John, Main street.
 Dillon, Mary Kate, Abbey street.
 Dillon, P. G., Bridge street.
 Durkan, John, Abbey street.
 Fitzgerald, Desmond, Bridge st.
 Fitzgerald, Edward, Main street.
 Flanagan, W., Main street.
 Flynn, Miss Monica, Main street.
 Forkin, W., Knox street.
 Foudy, Michael, Bridge street.
 Freely, Miss A., Main street.
 Freely, Patrick, Main street.
 Garvey, T., Knox street.
 Glavey, P., Knox street.
 Grealy, Michael, Upper Main st.
 Grealy, Miss D., Knox street.
 Greenc, A., Main street.
 Griffin, Michael, Clare street.
 Grogan, C., Clare Street.
 Halpin, John, Abbey street.
 Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
 Healy, Nora, Main street.
 Herr, Fred, Knox street.
 Hopkins, Daniel, Upper Main street.
 Johnstone, Thos., Knox street.
 Jordan, Austin, Upper Main st.
 Jordan, Mrs., Knox street.
 Kenny, P., Knox street.
 Lynch, Bernard, Main street.
 Lyons, Bernard, Bridge street.
 Lyons, Hubert, Knox street.
 Lyons, M., Abbey street.
 Lyons, Michael, Upper Main st.
 Lyons, Mrs. Della, Bridge street.
 Lyons, T., Main street.
 Lyons, Thomas, Bridge street.
 McDermott, Miss B., Bridge street.
 McQuemner, Joseph, Main street.
 Moran, L., Upper Main street.
 Morley, John, Knox street.
 Morley, Phillip, Knox street.
 Murray, Mrs. P., Devils.
 Murray, M. E., Clare street.
 Murphy, Thomas, Main Street.
 Neary, William, Main street.
 O'Boyle, T., Main street.
 O'Brien, Patrick, Main street.
 Phillips, John, Main street.
 Rattigan, Michael J., Bridge street.
 Rattigan, T. B., Knox street.
 Waldron, James, Main street.
 Waldron, John, Abbey street.
 Waldron, Mrs. John, Knox street.
 Waldron, Miss K., Knox street.

Hairdressers.

Meehan, Patrick, Clare street.
 Morley Miss (Ladies), Main st.
 Quinn, Miss (Ladies), Bridge st.

Hardware and Ironmongery Merchants.

Conway, James P., Bridge street.
 Delaney, George, Abbey street.
 Dillon, John, Main street.
 Gallagher, John, Main street.
 Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
 Johnstone, T., Knox street.
 O'Brien Patrick, Main street.

Hotels.

Central Hotel (Hannon, Miss U.), Main Street.

Motor and Cycle Engineers.

Freynes Motor, Clare street.
 Lyons, B., Bridge street.
 Lynch, B. T., Main street.
 McHugh's, Motors, Clare street.
 Murray, J., Railway road.

Newsagents.

Flatley, Joseph, Main street.
 Forde, Thomas, The Square.
 Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
 Johnstone, Thomas, Knox street.

Physicians and Surgeons.

Smyth, Andrew F., M.D., Prospect House.
 Waldron, E., A.M.B., St. Ann's.

Provision Dealers.

Conway, James, Bridge street.
 Dillon, John, Main street.
 Dillon, Mary Kate, Abbey street.
 Forkin, W., Knox street.
 Freely, P., Main street.
 Griffin, Michael, Clare street.
 Grealy, Della, Knox street.
 Grealy, Michael, Upper Main st.
 Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
 Jordan, Austin, Upper Main street.
 Lyons, M. J., Upper Main street.
 Lyons, Mrs. M., Bridge street.
 Morley, Patrick, Main street.
 Murphy, Thomas, Main street.
 Waldron, James, Main street.

Publicans.

Byrne, Ellen, Bridge street.
 Byrne, John, Main street.
 Caulfield, Mrs., Abbey street.
 Caulfield, Patrick J., Main street.
 Concannon, T., Main street.
 Conway, James P., Bridge Street.
 Coyne, Thomas, Bridge street.
 Cribbin, A., Main street.
 Cunningham, Mrs. Ellen, Abbey st.
 Curley, Michael, Clare street.
 Delaney, George, Abbey street.
 Dillon, Mary Knox Street.
 Dillon, John, Main street.

Publicans.
 Cailly, P.
 Dillon, Mar
 Dillon, P. C
 Donelan, M
 Durkan, Joh
 Fahey, Mi
 Flanagan, V
 Hope Bar,
 Forde, Thom
 Foudy, Mich
 Freely, Miss
 Freely, Patr
 Gallagher, Jo
 Gilmore, Joh
 Glavey, P.
 Grealy, Miss
 Hannon, Pote
 Healy, Norah
 Johnstone, T.
 Lyons, Huber
 Lyons, Mrs. M
 Lyons, Thom
 Lyons, Thom
 Lyons, Thom
 McGillicuddy.

Telegram

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BALLYHAUNIS TRADES' DIRECTORY

1913

Publicans—continued.

Callaly, P. J., Knox street.
 Dillon, Mary Kate, Abbey street.
 Dillon, P. G., Bridge street.
 Donelan, Mrs. Mary, Clare street.
 Durkan, John, Abbey street.
 Fahey, Michael, Main Street.
 Flanagan, William, Cape of Good Hope Bar, Main Street.
 Forde, Thomas, The Square.
 Foudy, Michael, Bridge street.
 Freeley, Miss A., Main street.
 Freeley, Patrick, Main street.
 Gallagher, John, Main street.
 Gilmore, John, Knox street.
 Glavey, P., Knox street.
 Greally, Miss Delia, Knox street.
 Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
 Healy, Norah, Main street.
 Johnstone, T., Knox street.
 Lyons, Hubert, Knox street.
 Lyons, Mrs. M., Bridge street.
 Lyons, Thomas, Bridge street.
 Lyons, Thomas, Main street.
 McGillicuddy, Mrs. Nora, Knox st.

Moran, Lawrence (The White Horse Bar), Main street.
 Morley, John, Knox Street.
 Morley, Phillip, Knox street.
 Mulhern, J., Clare street.
 Murphy, T., Main street.
 Neary, W., Main street.
 O'Boyle, T., Main street.
 O'Brien, Patrick, Main street
 Phillips, John, Main street.
 Rattigan, Michael J., Bridge st.
 Rattigan, T. B., Knox street.
 Tarpey, Patrick, Knox street.
 Waldron, Mrs., Knox street.
 Waldron, Mrs. J., Knox street.

Saddler and Harness-maker.

Smyth, John T., Knox street.

Schools.

Convent of Mercy.
 National School (Boys).
 St. Joseph's.
 Vocational School.

Solicitors.

Leetch, John Dillon, Main street.

Leetch, William Dillon, solicitor.
 O'Dwyer, P., Bridge street

Tailors.

Byrne, D., Main street.
 Keane, P., Knox street.
 Loftus, Michael, 1 Knox street.
 Tarpey, Patrick, Knox street.

Victuallers.

Cribbin, Anthony, Main street.
 Glynn, Frank, Clare street.
 Glynn, T., Main street.
 Morley, Michael, Knox street.
 Phillips, Patrick, Upper Main st.
 Smyth, James, Abbey street.
 Smyth, Patrick, Main street.
 Webb, Michael, Main street.
 (See also Publicans).

Wine Merchants.

Coyne, Thomas, Bridge street.
 Dillon, John, Main street.
 Durkan, John, Abbey street.
 Foudy, Michael, Bridge street
 Hannon, Peter, Abbey street.
 Murphy, Thomas, Main street.

There were also the fairs and markets – huge monthly cattle fairs, separate monthly pig-fairs as well as cart-loads of 'banbhs' for sale every Tuesday from carts backed into the pavement on Main Street. There were also the two horse-fairs in May and October that, for us children, meant no school on those days. All these meant a constant buzz in the town, helped by extra trade on Fridays and Saturdays.

Yes, there were country shops where provisions and non-perishables were available, but these sourced most of their merchandise from a few wholesalers in Ballyhaunis itself. Among these wholesalers was our own family business on Main Street (James Waldron's) which had access to Knox Street. I can recall many of these customers and travelling shops providers coming to our yard to stock up with bags of flour, bran and pollard, fertilisers and other provisions.

Until the late 1940s almost all of these goods had to be brought from the railway station because lorries and vans were still difficult to obtain. One local entrepreneur, Joe Gilmore in Brickens, began assembling the necessary crates for vans and lorries which he attached to chassis supplied by Ford and other manufacturers.

Change

Ballyhaunis and other towns of its size were, therefore, self-reliant on a stable local customer base. There were some shops, of course, which did not do so well, but there was no travelling elsewhere for shopping except for exceptional items. All bread was baked locally in the bakeries of Waldron's, Delaneys and later Hubert Lyons'. Waldron's bakery produced several batches daily. The

12sq m draw-plate came out of the oven on rails, carrying each batch of ten or twelve dozen pan-loaves, 'batch bread' and 'twists'. As this bakery needed some refurbishment in the late 1940s, my father saw the changes coming so he closed the bakery and sold off the equipment. Dublin bakeries, like Boland's, began to supply Ballyhaunis with hampers of fresh bread delivered by rail. Later on, as road transport recovered, numerous bread-vans of larger bakeries, like Dyar's from Castlerea and Dockery's from Ballymote, began to serve towns like Ballyhaunis.

Loyal customers who still choose to buy in Ballyhaunis generally have to travel by car, so they need convenient car-parking. This is not always easy and two of its car-parks are remote and little used. Constant through-traffic, not footfall, is the visible sign of life within the town today. The Ballyhaunis Chamber, Community Council and local traders are constantly trying to improve the town which is still a thriving town. But they need the people's interest and support, relevant to every person in the community. People have welcomed the recent initiative from Government to fund improvement of the town's business premises.

Retail business is always in the process of change so, unlike farming enterprises, few business families survive for more than two generations. Nevertheless, seven shops have survived in the town to the third generation as well as the providers of four other services. Perhaps from the list in the Directory attached, some readers may be able to identify the survivors during those seventy-five years from 1948.



As President of Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce it gives me great pleasure once again to outline some of the activities and projects we are currently engaged in for the benefit of our community. As a voluntary organisation, we rely heavily on the commitment of our members and executive to carry out all our undertakings. I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Chamber Executive for their commitment over the past year and Anne Cunnane, with her team in the Enterprise Office, for all their hard work on behalf of the community. Anne and her office team are available to help any person or organisation locally with information, advice and basic administration.

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable support we receive from Tadhg Buckley and the board of B.R.C.I.E. that oversee all the activities of the Enterprise Centre and Social Housing Ltd. for the benefit of the community. Without their support we would simply not be able to function as a successful local Chamber organisation. We have a good relationship with the team at Mayo County Council. I wish to thank Padraic Flanagan, Conrad Harley, Matthew Stephens and all other council personnel we have engaged with. Our own local Councillor John Cribbin has been a huge support to us over the past year. He is a great ambassador for the community and has worked tirelessly for its benefit.

As I mentioned already, we are currently involved in many different projects for the benefit of the community. These are summarised below.

Active Travel Corridor

As mentioned in our report last year, with the successful completion of the footpaths and streetscape to the Ballyhaunis GAA Club grounds, we are actively engaging with Mayo County Council and our local representatives to formulate our proposal for the Smarter Travel / Traffic Management Plan to the GAA Centre of Excellence (COE) in Began.

We hope to connect the town of Ballyhaunis (from the GAA Club) to COE with a safe walking / cycle lane to the Marian Shrine at Knock, to incorporate the village of Began. This proposal would link the three communities to the COE with safe pedestrian and cycle lane access. We do recognise that this is a proposal and it will take some time to complete. With the success of the Greenways and similar environmental schemes in Ireland, this project has potential to showcase our region and promote tourism in our area. As government

departments are encouraging and subsidising communities to enhance their local facilities with new environmental initiatives we feel our proposal would fit with the criteria of these environmental schemes.

The Square

Over the past number of years we have received considerable funding to enhance the environs of the Square. With derelict properties in private ownership, there is only so much that can be done. As we go to print, details are emerging of incentives from the government to encourage property owners with derelict properties to develop them, which can only be a welcome initiative for all towns. We did apply to a government initiative for Town Centre Planning, but were unsuccessful at this particular time. However, with the support of Mayo County Council we were successful in qualifying for the 'Streetscape Enhancement Grant Scheme 2022' from the Department of Rural and Community Development, one of twenty-six communities in Ireland and the only one in Mayo. My colleague Anne Cunnane and I visited many businesses and property owners in Ballyhaunis to encourage all to avail of the scheme. Currently, all applications received by Mayo County Council have been forwarded to the Department of Rural and Community Development for consideration. With a strong number of applications we hope there is a high level of acceptance which will benefit Ballyhaunis and enhance the streetscape.

I'd like to thank Mayo County Council also for their support in dealing with some issues at the Square, probably the most noticeable being the continuous destruction of bollards by illegal parking and anti-social behaviour. As you will probably notice we have recently completed lining street parking and marking double yellow lines. An ongoing issue of parking in certain parts of Main Street leading to major congestion at times had to be addressed. We thank Mayo County Council again for their support with this matter.

Information Centre

Having received the keys to a vacant premises on Upper Main Street, we are still working on securing personnel and funding to furnish the premises as an Information Centre for the town, providing details on all local clubs and organisations and on events and activities in the locality. We also hope to have someone with the expertise to deal with any issues our different nationalities face filling forms or seeking information. Owing

to the success of our local industries and recognising that we do have a large diverse population, this Information Centre will provide vital information on our town and locality.

Old Convent National School Development

As detailed in previous reports, we continue to engage with the Department of Rural and Community Development, Mayo County Council, the County Library Service and the County Fire Service on important projects for the community. This is an important project we have been working on for some years now. Currently at planning (part 8) stage, the closing date for public submissions has now passed and we are waiting for approval from An Bord Pleanála. With no obvious objections, we hope to submit project details for further funding.

As well as developing the Old Convent National School site, we have proposals to link the site by pedestrian bridge to the car park / swimming pool. We are also working with Mayo County Council to develop the swimming pool so that it can be used more frequently than is the case.

With the development of the Old Convent National School to house a new library, engagement with the County Library Service is essential to ensure a smooth transition as the project develops. We have also engaged with the County Fire Service to ensure funding will be available to the Ballyhaunis Fire Service to develop the current Fire Station site, once the library service has moved.

Other Activities

As I write these lines, preparations are at an advanced stage for the Christmas Lights. I wish to thank Paddy Phillips and Anne Cunnane for all their hard work in preparing the lights setup. Thanks to Anne and the Enterprise Team also for organising the Christmas Raffle, a vital source of funding towards the Christmas Lights. To all the businesses locally who subscribe to the draw and indeed also all those who make annual contributions to the lights, a big Thank You. I would also like to acknowledge the vital funding and support we get from Mayo County Council and our local councillor John Cribbin.

Thank You also to William Nestor and his team who are busy preparing a special Christmas Market event on 4th December to coincide with the Official Switch-on of the lights. A lot of preparation has been underway to attract families to Ballyhaunis for the start of the Christmas festivities and Christmas lights switch-on. Hopefully, this event will encourage more families and visitors back to support our local businesses during this vital trading period of the year.

William and his committee should also be complimented on a very successful Summer Festival. The weekend was extremely well run and successful despite the weather. See William's report also in this magazine.

Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce spent a considerable amount of time engaging with Mayo County Council, as well as our local and national politicians, on many different issues relating to the town. Concerns about our Primary Care Unit, which has ceased construction for some time now, is just one of many issues on which we have engaged with our Oireachtas members.

I am privileged to be part of a team that works hard for the benefit of Ballyhaunis. As I stated earlier, we are all working voluntarily and share a passion for the development of our town. It's not without its problems. Like many towns, derelict sites in the town are one such issue. Over the past year it has been encouraging to see many properties sold and looking to be developed. With accommodation unavailable and government incentives available to develop derelict sites, Ballyhaunis looks in a good position to benefit.

The commencement of construction at the Aldi site and the proposed opening of its new store in 2023 is another welcome development in the town.

I wish to finish by wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. Here's hoping that we will have much more positive events and developments to report on in 2023.



Artist's impression of the proposed development at the Old Convent National School site.



Proposed site plan for the development of the Old Convent National School site.

Ballyhaunis Parish Choir

After what seemed like a very long two years the Parish Choir has returned to singing at full capacity. During the pandemic choir members took it in turns to sing at Sunday Mass in St. Patrick's Church in groups of three or four, with numbers permitted gradually increasing as restrictions eased. Even as restrictions eased, or ceased altogether, choral singing was one of the last activities to return to full capacity and we are delighted to be back.

Even though we have been singing at Mass over the past year, it is only in the last few months that we have returned to our weekly choir rehearsals. If anyone would like to join us, we rehearse in the church gallery at 7pm on Mondays. New members are always welcome.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of choir member Mary Dillon in April of this year; and this was

followed by the death of another member, Vinny Healy, in August. Both Mary and Vinny were popular members of our singing community and will be missed by all of us who sang with them. May they both rest in peace.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our musical director Moira Delaney. Moira has dedicated the past twenty years ensuring that there is a choir available to sing every weekend, whether it is the Parish Choir or The Abbey Men's Choir. As well as directing both choirs she also plays the violin at services, together with fellow violinist, Ita Fahey. We also acknowledge the dedication and talent of organists Ludmila Burchovski and Paula Donnellan without whom, we would not be able to do what we do.

Bog Wars and Road Trips

NOEL LYONS

In a time long ago in a nearby place before German agricultural scientists raped the land with chemicals and effluents on farms the size of postage stamps, there was a magic well. When the well beside the house in the heart of Knockbrack dried during my youth-filled imagination of the 1970s heatwave summers, we sallied forth with buckets to replenish the household with ice cool water. Later, when we became more sophisticated we used five gallon drums and a transport boxed tractor.

Such was the Shangri La or sacred paradise of this space in its isolated innocence. We who were privileged used the well as a challenge with a game of endurance. We thrust our arms into the freezing water in the heart of summer to see who could endure the pain of its cold the longest. I still can feel the torture as my opponent brothers counted the seconds rather slowly during my trials. No greater challenge has been set except perhaps by Ulysses or a Mayo senior football team in search of the holy grail.

The narrow boithrín of Knockbrack was a pathway into an enclave of peace and self-sufficiency. Its sod ditches seemed, to my child's eye, to mark the boundaries to another world. Often, on our journeys to school or Mass, we crunched with musical intent the ice upon its assorted potholes. I have no doubt that some modern rap star could have created a number one hit listening as the Lyons team unleashed its percussive melody. Martin Finn T.D. would later destroy our enjoyment when he layered the road with well-received tarmac. In the days when there was still a perceived difference between political parties the conversations were about whether the tar was green or blue. I have often reflected on the exodus of emigrants who tramped its path for decades, some of whom rarely if ever returned. The music of the footsteps of innocence would travel across the world to incomparable destinations. The bible would provide root for the phrase, "take off your shoes for the ground you walk upon is holy", which applied to this holy ground of home for many of us.

The enclave of the speckled hills had its own characters and storytellers who could decorate any stand-up theatre or stage. Paddy Joe Cribbin, Frank Leonard and Brod Boyle would often hold me enthralled with stories and yarns somehow concocted from thin air with, perhaps, some elements of factual existence to enhance the credibility. Entertainment too was an example of self-sufficiency. The supply of devilment, as we called it, was never in short supply. The Murphy brothers, Pádraig and Tom, would arrive in their spaceship otherwise known as the thresher and an army of neighbours would assemble to raucous laughter for

the meitheal. As the Nipper Moran would later state about our own army of brothers at haytime, it seemed as if there was enough of us there to eat it! The laughter and chatter still ring in my eardrums like the memory of the church bells ringing the Angelus.

The roads to Knock, to Mecca, to Lourdes and other such shrines could talk of the bodies and souls who trudged along their weary paths as the pilgrims gathered sustenance from each other on their journey. My earliest memories are of those who trudged the bog road in Knockbrack long before Russian or Arabian oil flowed. Frank Greally recently shared memories of running the gauntlet through our hinterland where he spotted a gaggle of Lyons children in sunhats waving at him. I smiled and asked if he wasn't sure that we were throwing clods of turf instead of waving.

Bog work is very interesting if you are on a school tour or visiting from San Francisco, New York or Birmingham. It loses a little of its appeal, its quaint and magical allure, when it has to be repeated day after day and year after year. My older siblings invented cures for the boredom. It seems in hindsight that these older bucks of brothers went to the bog to do the heavy lifting while we, the younger folk, tagged along for their amusement. The bank of turf was stripped of top scraws with the spade and then, layer by layer, the bog was forced to surrender its precious cargo by the sléan vertically and horizontally. Speed was essential as the cutter on the sléan tossed the sods to the catcher who placed forty or fifty sods on the turf barrow for distribution. My older brothers made this accuracy an artform and a challenge for younger receivers, especially as they cut deeper into the luscious turf that was blacker and wetter. They were no longer content to land the sods at stomach or chest height at high speed, which would increase as they went deeper in the bank, and the target became the face, especially if the turf was soaking wet. The innocent faces when they would be well pleased with a particularly accurate effort would have a nun blushing in the confessional box.

It was always important to stay focused on the work at hand in the bog. My cousin Austin Boyle used to catch and spread with Mick Finnegan on the sléan as his dad Brod was busy at the forge. On a particular Saturday evening, Austin's mind must have been wandering as he had a date planned for McGarry's hall. Turf, perhaps, was not the only source of heat on his mind. Mick Finnegan had no such distractions and was, it seemed, planning overtime, if not a night shift. However, it happened that a barrow loaded with heavy wet turf landed on poor Mick and a work strike awaited the outcome. Mick

chased Austin around the bog with a pitchfork chanting, "I'll tell Brodeen", until Austin escaped to a warmer clime or so to speak.

Prince Donal Cam O'Sullivan of Beare led one of the most tragic marches of Irish history and its story epitomises the loss of our identity, our language and painful history. My less perilous voyage took place on Wrenboys' Day with my dear friend and neighbour Tomás Cribbin. We set out early in the day carrying a tin whistle and disguised in lipstick and old clothes. We attacked the hill of Scrigg full of enthusiasm and energy. We sang at houses we didn't know but were lauded and foddered by many as we headed up through Tullaghaune and on to Ballyglass, the home castle of the Cribbin Clan. We trudged on to Bargarriff, Curries, Lecarrow and into more familiar territory. We met many friends, relatives, and were well looked after. We counted the takings and the blisters in Knockbrack and were well pleased. When I got home my mother asked me to share the proceedings with my twin brother although he had refused to make the journey. I never questioned her request but shared as she asked. Our home of ten was never a democracy. It could not work that way and nobody worked longer or harder than my parents to provide for us.

New Culture

The joy of travel and experiencing new culture fell my way by accident when I met my beloved from Latvia. Her interests in music, history and poetry matched my own. She set me a challenge to translate Latvian poetry to English and thought it impossible as it had never been done before. I assured her that I had been speaking a foreign language since before I was born. So, we set out on a journey together and now two albums and a poetry publication later we continue the experiment. Encouragement comes from different sources and when our first album called 'Angels in Your Eyes' was nominated for Latvian Album of the Year it motivated us to continue the experiment. We published a poetry book in Latvian, English and Gaeilge called 'Voices on the Bridge' and expect to publish a second album early next year. We both write and compose, so more and more we include original material. We also have reconnected with amazing talent in Ireland and Latvia and no connection was more enjoyable than with Ballyhaunis native talents Frank Greally and Anne Irwin (Hughes) who have both published their work, with Anne releasing her poetry collection called 'A Minor Concerto in Ragoon.'

The Voices on the Bridge are really the voices from home.

St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is Ireland's largest voluntary charitable organisation and has been providing assistance for those in need and for homeless people since 1844. The Ballyhaunis Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to remind readers of Annagh Magazine that help is available for individuals and families in our local area by calling 086 264 0969. All communication is treated in the strictest confidence and any assistance is offered by the society in a non-judgemental manner, based on the needs of the family or individual. People may contact our SVP Regional Office in Galway on 091 563233 if they prefer.

With the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions earlier this year, we have once again been able to hold our meetings in person. We are most grateful to our voluntary committee members and to all who continue to support our work. We send our very best wishes to all of our friends at home and away.

**Our confidential
helpline number is
086 264 0969**



AA Meetings (Alcoholics Anonymous)
Sunday 8.30pm
and Friday 8.30pm

Venue: School Iosa Primary School,
Abbeyquarter, Ballyhaunis.

www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Connaught Telephone Service: 091-767777
Tel: 085 2793345
www.al-anon-ireland.org



Memories of The Star Cinema

JOHN KILDUFF

Time marches on and the world changes and progresses. But sadly, this also means that many things fall by the wayside and disappear. A case in point is the Star Cinema, Ballyhaunis where I happily worked for a number of years in the 1970s.

The cinema was purpose-built by P.J. McGarry who had the vision to see that cinema was the way forward in the world of entertainment. The building was spacious and comfortable and was built over two levels with a big screen, comfortable seating and large auditorium. The cinema showed all the hit movies with blockbusters running for up to two weeks. There was a shop for patrons with a sweet tooth. The cinema also had a sizeable stage for various types of shows and bingo sessions were frequently held at the venue.

In the 1970s, P.J. McGarry's son Gerard decided to add a smaller cinema called Star 2 which opened at weekends. Many of the town's great characters were among the regular attendees who ensured a special and unique atmosphere. Positions at the cinema were a good starting point for a young employee and included box office, shop assistant, ushers, projectionist and management. The cinema staff were very obliging and always helped patrons to enjoy their visit.

Over the years quite a number of great people were employed at the Star Cinema and they made working there such an enjoyable and memorable experience.



The Star Cinema, January 2001. The movies advertised on the show-board are 'Gone in 60 Seconds' and 'U-571', both released the previous year, 2000. (Courtesy of Edward Mulhern)

Sadly, many of the former cinema staff members are no longer with us. All that now remains of that former hive of activity on the Clare Road, where thousands of movie fans enjoyed many a good night's entertainment, is a building site.



The Star Cinema, staff early 1970s. L-R: Thomas Jordan, Jimmy Fleming, Seamus Clarke, John Kilduff, Doreen Kilboyle, Tom Finn, Mike Griffin, Eamon Dwane, Eugene Freeley, Tommie Jordan. (Courtesy of John Kilduff)

THE STAR ★ CINEMA BALLYHAUNIS

PROGRAMME
for
Aug. 11th - Sept. 19th, 1968

**ALL FILMS SHOWN ON
WIDE SCREEN OR CINEMASCOPE**
Doors Open, 8 p.m.
Performances Commence, 8.30

ADMISSION:
BALCONY 3/-
PARTERRE 1/6 1/-

PATHE NEWS

Herald Printing Works, Tralee.

Sunday, September 8th:
Edmund Lowe, Ralph Ellis,
and Lawrence Tierney as
DILLINGER
Public Enemy No. 1. His Crimes! His Loves!
His Prison Breaks! Every blasting word is
real. His story is written in bullets, blood
and blondes.
Also: **MAN FROM SCOTLAND YARD**

Thursday & Friday, September 12th-13th:
(2 Days Only)
Dean Martin (He lived to kill)
George Peppard (He killed to live)
with Jean Simmons
ROUGH NIGHT IN JERICHO
(Technicolor)
Foremost ingredient is action—In the same
class as Shemandoah, Shane, Winchester 73.
Only one can survive the "Rough night in
Jericho."

Sunday, September 15th:
Victor Mature, Leo Genn, Anthony Newley
NO TIME TO DIE
(Technicolor and Scope)
The sufferings of five escapees from a
prisoner of war camp. Superb tank battles
and the heartbreak of recapture.
Recommended.
Also: **GUN FURY**

Thursday, September 19th:
Gene Barry, Elsa Martinelli, Leslie Phillips,
and Cyd Charisse as Lotte
MAROC 7
(Color and Panavision)
Your passport to high adventure. Hate and
greed among the international spy set.

Star Cinema programme
from 1968.
(Courtesy of Johnny
O'Shaughnessy)

Sunday, August 11th:
Joe McCrea, Forrest Tucker, Susan Cabot
FORT MASSACRE
(Cinemascope and Color)
Set in 1870, this is a top class
action packed western.
Also: **SHOT GUN WEDDING**

Thursday, August 15th:
Lee Remick, Karen Dar, Werner Peters
INVISIBLE DR. MABUSE
A master criminal in action:
what is operation X.
Also: **GUNSMOKE**
Audie Murphy, Susan Cabot

Sunday, August 18th:
Frankie Howard, Dora Bryan,
Godfrey Win, George Cole
**THE GREAT ST. TRINIAN'S TRAIN
ROBBERY**
(Color)
Directed by Frank Launder & Sidney Gilliat,
the comedy kings: It's a riot of laughter, as
the Great Train Robbers leave £2 million
at St. Trinian's Girls' School.
The best of the famous comedy series.
Also: **INSIDE DETROIT**

Thursday, August 22nd:
Dora Matal, Phil Spector, Buster Keaton
**A FUNNY THING HAPPENED
ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM**
(Color by De-Luxe)
Funnier than the funniest thing you can
remember, chase, sex, slaves, soldiers,
hempseed husbands, scampering wives,
love scenes and death scenes, provocations
and puns... It's a triumph of laughter—
highly recommended.

Sunday, August 25th:
Yul Brynner, Janice Rule,
Brad Dexter, George Segal
INVITATION TO A GUNFIGHTER
(Color)
Gun rule in a law abiding town.
The star of "The Magnificent 7" in another
big fast western.
Also: **NO ESCAPE**

Thursday & Friday, August 29-30, (2 days):
Rock Hudson, George Peppard, Nigel Green
TORREK
(Technicolor)
The most daring Commando raid of World
War II springs to life: the adventure they
live is the screen's supreme achievement,
and makes this one of the all time greats
in the Film World. A must. DON'T miss it.

Sunday, September 1st:
ONE MAN IN MARRAKESH
Tony Randall, Herbert Lom, Terry Thomas
(Color)
Intrigue and murder in the mysterious East.
An oil company struggle for survival
by fair means or foul.
Also: **UNDESIRABLE NEIGHBOUR**

Thursday, September 5th:
Eric McCormack, Erna Wasm
THE MAGNIFICENT TWO
(Color)
Viva Eric, Viva Erna! Involved in a South
American revolution. The greatest living
comedy team in an hilarious plot.



The Star Cinema, staff early 1970s.
Back, L-R: Jimmy Fleming,
Thomas Jordan, Eamon Dwane,
Eugene Freeley.
Centre, L-R: Seamus Clarke,
Tom Finn, Tommie Jordan.
Front, L-R: Mike Griffin,
Doreen Kilboyle, John Kilduff.
(Courtesy of John Kilduff)

Making Dough

EAMONN MURREN

A quote that I recently came across went as follows: "How can a nation be great if its bread tastes like Kleenex?" This got me thinking about bread and all the bread delivery men that I recall who supplied Ballyhaunis. I know that James Waldron of Main Street and Hubert Lyons of Knox Street had bakeries but this was years before my time. There were probably others too but they were no longer in business when I was growing up in Upper Main Street in the sixties and seventies.

My own experience of the bread distribution business was with Boland's as a young teenager in 1969. Oliver Levins (RIP) was my next-door neighbour at the time and he drove and delivered for Boland's. His helper was Michael Eamonn McGrath from Carrowheden. When Michael Eamonn was on annual leave for two weeks, Oliver asked me to do sub during my summer holidays with instructions to say I was fifteen years old if anybody enquired.



Cindy, the Circus elephant, smelling the freshly-baked bread from the back of Dyar's bread van in the 1960s. Taken by Michael Dyar (Courtesy of Sean Browne Facebook page)

We would start out early in the morning and load up from one of the Boland's feeder trucks the far side of Roscommon town. Our first stop was Higgins' shop in Roscommon which sold a lot of bread. We would work our way home to Ballyhaunis calling at Ballymoe, Castlerea, Ballintubber, Ballinlough along the way. Apart from sliced and unsliced pans, we also sold batch loaves, crusty pans and Tiger loaves. I can still recall the lovely aroma of the Chester cakes which were a popular seller.

Paddy Ryan from County Limerick was the earliest driver for Boland's that I remember. At that time Paddy

and Josie and family lived in Upper Main Street across from the church. Of course, Paddy and Josie would go on to open the town's first supermarket, the VG Store on Main Street, later to become SuperValu.

Kelly's of Kilcock was another supplier and they visited the town twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays with Frank Cunnane of Castlerea at the wheel. Frank was a great supporter of the Roscommon football team. Many's the ten-shilling note Vinnie Caulfield took off him thanks to Fr. J.J., Tom Fitzgerald and co. The turnover loaf was one of Kelly's specialities. Dyar's of Castlerea was another big supplier of bread to Ballyhaunis when I was growing up. I recall Frank Cahill driving for them and, like Paddy Ryan, he also went on to open his own supermarket in Castlerea. Tommy Roddy and Willie Broderick also delivered for Dyar's. Paul Claffey's dad also ran a bakery in Castlerea and delivered a tasty line of cakes and confectionery to Ballyhaunis. Paddy Dunne and McNicholas' of Kiltimagh also delivered bread, cakes, tarts and buns to all the shops in Upper Main Street: Mixie Caulfield's, Mulhern's, Hopkins', Vinnie Caulfield's and Jordan's. I remember the slogan that summed up the Kiltimagh bakeries: Mack's bracks and Dunne's buns! Hanley's bakery was based in Claremorris and two of their drivers that I recall are Joe Duggan and Alan McDonagh. Joe later went on to drive for Bus Eireann and Alan became well known in the music business. Tommy Smyth of Abbey Street delivered a delicious range of cakes including a top quality swiss roll for Gateaux. The Gateaux Topsy cake was also very popular.

Other bread suppliers that covered Ballyhaunis were O'Hara's of Foxford, Holsum (Charlestown), Lydon's of Galway, Keane's and O'Connor's of Ballinrobe and Brogan's of Glenamaddy. Sadly, Jimmy Keane who drove for Keane's Bakery passed away earlier this year. Jimmy was a great character and became a good friend of mine in later years in Castlebar. I'm sure he has now secured employment in the "Daily Bread" bakery!

Most of these small bakeries that I mentioned have gone by the wayside. The demise of the small shops has seen to that. Many of the once popular types of loaves have disappeared and have been replaced by bland *cardboardesque* alternatives as people become more conscious of health and nutrition. I'd still settle for a thick slice of fresh batch loaf, plastered with a good dollop of real butter and a generous coating of blackcurrant jam.

Delicious!

Ballyhaunis Sports Hub

TRACY CUNNANE



Left:
Participants in Ballyhaunis Soccer Camp organised by FAI Mayo, Ballyhaunis Town FC and Ballyhaunis Sports Hub.

Below:
Mayo Rollers, based in Castlebar, came to the MUGA in the Friary Field, Ballyhaunis for HER Outdoors Week. Eighteen girls participated.

The Ballyhaunis Sports Hub, in association with Mayo Sports Partnership, aims to build a community network to enable people to enjoy a healthier and more active lifestyle. It is a collective of sport and recreation facilities, clubs, organisations and schools that wish to work together to support, promote, encourage and create a culture of sport and physical activity in their local community. Its focus is to increase sport and physical activity opportunities for people in Ballyhaunis and its surrounding areas. Amongst the many initiatives available through the Hub are: Men on the Move, Couch to 5k, Activator Pole walking, HER outdoors Week, Ballyhaunis Soccer Camp, Girls Get Active, Children's

Fitness and many more.

Tracy Cunnane acts as Ballyhaunis Sports Hub Co-ordinator. If you are interested in getting involved or have any queries on what is happening in the area, send a message by email to ballyhaunissportshub@gmail.com, phone 0860618126 or find Ballyhaunis Sports Hub on Facebook.

Ballyhaunis is one of just two sports hubs in the county: the other is in Ballinrobe. There are also the Castlebar Urban Adventure Hub and Ballina Adventure Hub. You can find these on facebook or check Mayo Sports Partnership pages for updates.





The Intermediate Certificate class of 1963, St. Joseph's Secondary School, Ballyhaunis.

Pupils from the following primary schools were in this class: Aghamore, Ballyhaunis Convent, Began, Brackloon, Clooncan, Derrylea, Logboy, Tooreen, Tulrahan. *Back, L-R:* Maud Cunniffe, Bridie Folliard, Maura Conway, Breege Gilmore, Breege Duffy, Nonie Hoban, Gretta Fitzmaurice, Angela McGuire, Mary Murtagh, Mary Toolan, Serene Connolly. *Centre, L-R:* Phil Biesty, Mary O'Dwyer, Yvonne McGarry, Mary Halpin, Margaret O'Boyle, Christina Johnston, Anita Cunnane, Florrie Higgins, Angela Moran. *Front, L-R:* Anne Cribbin, Mary McGrath, Maureen Prendergast, Bernie Murphy, Una Lyons, Anne McGuire, Marita Rushe, Annie Adams. *Courtesy of Christina Johnston.*



L-R: Kathleen Murphy (Greenwood), Maureen Comer (Killinaugher), Patricia Skerrett (Erriff) with Christina Johnston (Erriff) at front. Taken in the mid-1950s. *Pictures courtesy of Christina Johnston.*



Mrs. Katie Johnston (Knox Street) who lived to be 100 years, pictured (right) with her niece Baby Johnston (Erriff).

Michael (Mike) Finn, Gurteen. Brother of the late Lena and Austin Finn, amongst others. Mick rose to the rank of Superintendent-Inspector with the Yorkshire Metropolitan Police. This picture was taken 24th February 1948.





A view of the site where Aldi are constructing their supermarket at Upper Main Street. AK Photography.



On Monday morning, 5th Sept. 2022, Aldi turned the sod on its latest outlet at Upper Main St., Ballyhaunis. To mark the occasion some of the residents and former residents of the street gathered at the entrance to the new store for a photograph.

From Left: Aideen Burke, Siobhán O'Connor Herr, Jane Freeley, Dermot Freeley, Tommy Grogan, Oliver Jordan, Grace O'Connor Lyons, Mary T. Hopkins Judge, Helena Caulfield, Eamonn Murren, Breege Glynn, Kathleen Caulfield, Eamonn Glynn, Paula Jordan Burke, Tommy Glynn, Eithne Glynn, Cathy Jordan, Seamus Grogan, Attracta Jordan, Seamus Forde, Marina O'Connor Coyne, Padraic Forde, Mary Hannah Jordan O'Connor.

St. Patrick's College Class of 1972 - 50th Anniversary Reunion

MARTIN JOYCE

'A wild but respectful class'

- The Teachers

When our class of twenty-nine students completed the final Leaving Certificate exam in June 1972, we walked through the gates of St. Patrick's College to begin our lives in the 'real' world. We did not know then that fifty years would pass before most of us would meet again. After a forty-eight years and six months hiatus, a simple email set the class adventure in motion again. Former classmate Gerard Cleary read the article I wrote in *Annagh 2020* about my father Dr. Tommie Joyce, and my mother Angela, and he contacted me from London. The evocation of the town as it was around fifty years ago brought back memories for him too - and indeed others. From a subsequent conversation we had, the seeds of the reunion were sown.

In 1972 the class parted to face life, with music in our hearts. Music in one form or another had been the essential soundtrack of our schooldays. No.1 in the charts that final week was Neil Diamond's melodious *Song Sung Blue*, while Rock 'n' Roll was then in its majestic heyday. When we had entered our final year in primary school, in 1966, Jim Reeves had had a posthumous No. 1 hit on both sides of the Atlantic with *Distant Drums*. It was a simple love song, but with the Vietnam war looming in the background, hence the title. Big showbands packed out McGarry's Hall on Clare Street every weekend, with The Dixies, The Royal, The Freshmen and many other bands drawing in thousands from the town, district and further afield. It is hard to imagine today the excitement and the fun of those occasions. Not to mention the crush!

Fast forward fifty years. On 21st May 2022, twenty-six of us, plus four of our teachers, met in the lobby of the Kiltimagh Park Hotel, expecting some social awkwardness, and even difficulty in recognising our old schoolmates. Not a bit of it! We picked up immediately where we had left off in 1972, and the years just rolled away as we dined and socialised together. The bond forged over five impressionable years had remained intact.

What was it about St. Pat's, now the greatly enlarged Community School, and that era, which bound us together so well? There were only five classes, so the total number of pupils was about 160. Everyone knew everyone else in the school, to a greater or lesser extent. It also meant you spent a lot of time with your

classmates, outside the class as well as in it. There were few distractions, such as girls (which seems so quaint now). In a time of strict segregation of the sexes, the only real contact on a daily basis with the girls in the Mercy convent school was by the nine of us lucky enough to study History. We also studied the girls, and they us. We were bussed down to Ray Charles's class (and for a year it was Jim Higgins in the Vocational School) in the convent school four times a week. Country lads, who comprised three-quarters of the class, were not allowed down town at lunchtime. It was never really explained why, but no doubt it was partly because of the girls. So we townies became part-time messenger boys, regularly asked to purchase items for classmates - pencils, pen refills, foolscap copies, laces, stamps, peanuts, and much else. There was constant interaction amongst us.

Teachers

In our first year the teachers were all diocesan priests, with the exception of Jarlath Fahey. Gradually more lay teachers were added to the staff and eventually they formed the majority. It remained an all-male bastion for the duration of our five years at St Patrick's College. That was just the way it was. All the teachers were good, with some outstanding educators in their ranks, worthy of any institution. They were also mainly young, starting out on their careers and full of enthusiasm for their subjects, which transmitted itself to us.

For many in the school, GAA was the central sporting interest, principally Gaelic football. Science teacher Fr. John Kennedy had played for Galway seniors, at least when clerical licence allowed him to. He missed out on an All-Ireland medal in 1956 as the authorities in Maynooth would not release him. He subsequently played for Ballyhaunis *incognito*, as 'John Connolly', and they won the Intermediate county championship with him as the star player.

On very wet days we loved to play push penny in the gym, all huddled together and with side bets being taken on the outcome of matches. The maestro of push penny was Liam Forde, and he invariably came out on top in matches to see who scored and defended best across the wooden table.

Fr. Francis McMyler (RIP) was a brilliant communicator and teacher of both Music and Latin. He instilled discipline effortlessly - you just did not mess with 'Mac.' He had incredibly high standards, and not just academically: he would fine you 6d (six old pence - a

tanner) for unpolished shoes. His love of classical music often had the other teachers knocking on the thin partition door, imploring him to turn down the volume so they could continue their classes. Some other teachers wielded the fines threat too. On being fined, Noel Finnegan cheekily responded, 'Will you take a cheque, sir?' Cue raucous hilarity. We were always up for that.

While Music was only taught for the Inter (Junior Cert), it was wide-ranging and innovative. It included learning forty folk songs from many countries, modern classical opera, five orchestral pieces, choir singing (after training our ears using the latest Kodály method) and much more. It was great. We were Fr. McMyler's first music class, and to prepare himself he had taken a summer course beforehand, studying the Ward method of general musicianship. He soon brought in Colman Pearce from Dublin, conductor of the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and a fine pianist, to enlighten us on the joys of music. We were all more interested in admiring his beautiful Bentley sports car.

Fr. Kieran Waldron was a wonderful English teacher, full of passion for his subject; Morgan Jennings, from Finny near Clonbur, had beautiful native Irish; Jarlath Fahey taught Geography and was the most hard-working teacher in the school; Fr. Des Walsh was a very humorous guy, full of brilliant ideas, while John Cleary, who joined the school in our later years (we remember the fashionable corduroy jacket!), came into his own as sports master, inspiring all the underachievers, of which there were many. These teachers were all dedicated, and it rubbed off on us. Happily, they are all still with us.

Our talented and endearing Maths teacher Michael Glynn, known universally as Sam, sadly succumbed to cancer in 1991, at the age of 46. He knew about the uncertainty of life. When we had tried his patience with our antics just once too often, he would warn us that we were heading nowhere in life unless we knuckled down to study. He frequently quoted *Julius Caesar* to ram home the point: *'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.'* Other teachers who made an impression on all or some of us included Fr. Colm Burke (Maths), Terry Coleman (Science), Vinny Healy (Biology) and Tommy Judge (Maths). The whole enterprise was presided over by the Principal, Fr. Paddy Costelloe, who became the Parish Priest later. He passed on his love of all things French to many of us.



St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis, c.1967. Courtesy of Fr. Kieran Waldron.

Lucky generation

Our class was part of the lucky generation who did not have to leave Ireland after the Leaving Cert for gainful employment. Remarkably, only four of the forty who were in the class at one time or another went to live abroad - two to the USA and two to the UK. The total in the class never exceeded thirty-three in any year. Of the thirty-seven of us who still survive (a good statistic!) sixteen are living in close proximity to Ballyhaunis, eight are in Dublin, with the remainder scattered around the country, apart from three now in the UK/USA. An impressive twenty-one are still living in the west of Ireland.

Looking back, it must be admitted that we took a lot for granted - the quality of the education, the social bonding and the teachers' dedication, amongst other things. I recall that in the spring of 1972, with the distant drums of our futures beating ever more loudly, the staff brought in a series of guest speakers from various walks of life, to describe what their working day was like. The idea was to prepare us for our choices ahead. The speakers included a doctor (Alan Delaney), a vet, two priests, a commercial traveller, a farmer, an agricultural advisor (Tony Flynn), a banker, a musician, a Mr. Ryan from CIE (Iarnród Eireann now), and Gay Corr from Galway Regional College (and a local man from Logboy). It was an excellent line-up. I don't know if this is the norm these days but back then it was unusual. The teachers did not have to do this. We could have been more appreciative but we were very young, our only excuse. Wild but respectful? I have my doubts about the second part, but we were certainly untamed.

I gratefully acknowledge the contributions and fact-checking of Gerard Cleary, Michael Kelly and Noel Finnegan in writing this article. My teenage diaries from the period, hitherto unread, were also useful.



St. Patrick's College First Year 1967/68

Back row, L-R: Michael Connolly, Joe Rattigan, Jim Jordan, Denis Sloyan, Gabriel Prendergast, Tom Murphy, Liam Forde.
Fourth row: John Hopkins, Paddy Joe Boyle, Joe Henry, John O'Brien RIP, John Tighe, Tom Curran, Martin Joyce, Gerard Caulfield.
Third row: Tony Carney, Aidan Judge, Bernie Flanagan, Michael Kelly, Tom Finn, Liam Lynskey, Tommy Grogan, Georgie Hannan, Sean Cleary.
Second row: Dom Byrne, Niall Eagney, Tom Ronan, Francis Gavagan, Noel Finnegan.
Front row: Gerard Cleary, Fr. Francis McMyler RIP, Jarlath Fahey, Fr. Patrick O. Costelloe RIP, Fr. John Kennedy, Fr. Colm Burke RIP, Fr. Kieran Waldron, James Campbell. **Absent:** Dermot Freeley, Michael Flynn RIP, Jimmy Devine. Photo taken end of May 1968.



Fourth Year 1970/71:

Back, L-R: Gerard Caulfield, Michael Connolly, Paddy Joe Boyle, Tom Finn, Tom Curran, Joe Rattigan, Liam Forde.
Centre, L-R: Aidan Judge, Dom Byrne, Denis Sloyan, Francis Gavagan, Michael Kelly, John Tighe, John Hopkins, James Campbell, Dermot Freeley, Liam Lynskey. **Front, L-R:** Tommy Grogan, Noel Finnegan, Gerard Cleary, Niall Eagney, Jim Jordan, Georgie Hannan, Tony Carney, Tom Murphy, Martin Joyce. **Absent:** Liam Connell, Enda Forde RIP, Michael Lyons. Photo taken on 25th March 1971.

St. Patrick's College Ballyhaunis Class of 1967-1972

NAME	FROM	NOW	OCCUPATION	IN CLASS
Paddy Joe BOYLE	Knock	Dublin	Retail Sales	1967-1972
Dom BYRNE	Clare St	Dublin	Retail Business Owner	1967-1972
James CAMPBELL	Knock	Knock	Knock Museum Curator	1967-1972
Tony CARNEY	Kiltimagh	Kiltimagh	Coach Operator	1967-1972
Gerald CAULFIELD	Granlahan	Dublin	Chartered Accountant	1967-1972
Gerard CLEARY	Clare St	London	Dentist	1967-1972
Sean CLEARY	Brickens	Brickens	Farmer	1967- 1968
Liam CONNELL	Devlis	Castlebar	Lab Technician	1971 -1972
Michael CONNOLLY	Killinaugher	Dublin	Garden Centre Owner	1967-1972
Willie CRIBBIN	Knockanara	Meath	Primary Teacher	1971 -1972
Tommy CURRAN	Main St	Doctor's Rd	Irish Ales / Businessman	1967-1972
Jimmy DEVINE	Brickens	Brickens	Farmer	1967- 1968
Niall EAGNEY	Clare St	Galway	Vending Business Owner	1967-1972
Tom FINN	Bekan	Bekan	Car Mechanic	1967-1972
Noel FINNEGAN	Logboy	Kildare	Sales Director	1967-1972
Bernie FLANAGAN	Ballinlough	Ballinlough	Electrician	1967- 1968
Michael FLYNN RIP	Ballinlough	D.2021	Unknown	1967- 1968
John FOLLIARD	Aghamore	Aghamore	Agricultural Contractor	1970-1971
Enda FORDE RIP	Kiltimagh	D.2015	Teacher at St Nathy's	1970 -1972
Liam FORDE	Bekan	USA	Train Driver Hoboken Line	1967-1972
Dermot FREELEY	Upr Main St	Ballinlough	Electronic Technician	1967-1972
Frank GAVAGAN	Station Rd	Midlands	Agricultural Knife Factory	1967-1972
Tommy GROGAN	Coolnafarna	Coolnafarna	Worked Irish Ales/Diageo	1967-1972
Georgie HANNAN	Bridge St	Drimbane	Rigging Services Owner	1967-1972
Joe HENRY	Tooreen	Castlereagh	Secondary Teacher	1967- 1968
John HOPKINS	Aghamore	Dublin	Construction Contractor	1967- 1971
Jim HUNT	Aghamore	USA	Attorney	1968-1969
Jim JORDAN	Tooreen	Dublin	Public Servant	1967-1972
Martin JOYCE	Abbey St	Dublin	Publisher/Tour Operator	1967-1972
Aidan JUDGE	Ballinlough	Limerick	State Solicitor	1967-1972
Michael KELLY	Bekan	Galway	Civil Servant	1967-1972
Liam LYNKEY	Gurteen	Gurteen	Engineer	1967-1972
Michael LYONS	Aghamore	Dublin	Civil Servant	1971 -1972
Tom MURPHY	Tulrahan	Tulrahan	Primary Teacher	1967-1972
John O'BRIEN RIP	Knox St	D. 2017	Army Sergeant	1967- 1968
Gabriel PRENDERGAST	Irishtown	Irishtown	Machinist & Carer	1967- 1968
Joe RATTIGAN	Knock	Knock	Sales Rep / Shopkeeper	1967-1972
Tommy RONAN	Cloonfad	Ballinlough	Electrical Supervisor	1967- 1968
Denis SLOYAN	Brackloon	Kildare	Property Developer	1967-1972
John TIGHE	Aghamore	Kildare	Horticulturist	1967-1972

Low Emigration, High West of Ireland Residency, Low Mortality Rate

St. Patrick's College Class of 1967-72 Fifty-Year Reunion

Pictured at The Park Hotel in Kiltimagh in May 2022.

Courtesy of Mike Byrne.



Liam Connell (Devlis), John Tighe (Aghamore) and Dom Byrne (Clare St.).



Michael Connolly (Killinaugher) and Liam Lynskey (Gurteen).



Michael Kelly (Bekan) and John Hopkins (Aghamore).



Joe Rattigan (Knock), Fr. Kieran Waldron (former teacher) and Martin Joyce (Abbey Street).



Frank Gavagan (Railway Station), Tommy Grogan (Kiltaboe) and Jim Hunt (Aghamore) who travelled all the way from the U.S. for the reunion.



Former teachers, John Cleary (left) and Morgan Jennings (right) with Gerard Cleary (Clare St.)



Aidan Judge (Clooncrim), Fr. Des Walsh (former teacher) and Martin Joyce (Abbey St.).



Above: St. Patrick's College, Ballyhaunis, May 1966.

Back, L-R: Raymond Burke, David Jordan, Tom Stenson, John Muldowney, Eamon O'Reilly, Tom Ryan, Joseph Cunnane, Kieran Kneafsey.
3rd row: Mike Webb, Michael Burke, John Prenty, Francis Ganley, John Nolan, Anthony Plunkett, John Lyons, Jimmy Morley, Tommy Finnegan.
2nd row: Tommy Folliard, Tom Carney, Gerard Lyons, John Freeley, Willie Rattigan, Michael Sloyan, P.J. Keane, Pat Healy, Micheál Webb.
Teaching staff in front row, L-R: Fr. Francis McMyler, Jarlath Fahey, Fr. Patrick Costelloe, Fr. Colm Burke, Fr. John Kennedy, Fr. Kieran Waldron.
Photo © Mallee's Photography, Knock. (Courtesy of Sr. Breda Freeley).

Below: Station Mass choir in Upper Main Street, 1974.

L-R: Angela Cox, Fiona Murray, Elaine Murray, Mrs. Mary Lyons (on piano), Patricia Hopkins, Anne Caulfield, Bernadette Hebron.



Left: Neighbours Anne Caulfield and Patricia Hopkins of Upper Main St., pictured on the day of their First Holy Communion 1969 with Fr. William Diskin C.C.



Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic Football Association

A Message from the Chairperson & Secretary

Thankfully, 2022 was the first full season back without the Covid-19 restrictions in place. We are delighted to see that Ballyhaunis LGFA is going from strength to strength and our number of registered players is growing every year. It is wonderful to see our club grow so much since we were first set up in 2013.

As always, we would like to express our sincere thank you to all our managers, coaches, selectors, liaisons and our very dedicated committee, without whose help, support and input we could not continue in our efforts to promote women/girls in sport. Without their voluntary commitment to the club we would not be where we are today!

Committee

Anne Cunnane (chair and registrar), Stella O'Neill (vice-chair, assist. registrar and assist. child protection officer), Edel Kinsella (secretary), Conor Kinsella (assist. secretary), Marina Carney (PRO), Aileen Murray (assist. PRO), Megan McKenzie (child protection officer), Tracy Cunnane (fundraiser), Michael McLoughlin.

Management, Coaches, Liaison Officers and First Aiders

Micheál Dixon (U10 manager), Siobhan Conlon (U10s coach and female liaison officer), Samantha Cleary (U10 coach), Clare Higgins (U12/U13 manager and U13 female liaison officer), Treasa Norrby (U12 coach and female liaison officer), Pat Neary (U14 and U13 manager/coach), Eddie McLoughlin, Conor Kinsella (U14 coach), Sharon Lyons and Treasa Heneghan (U14 female liaison officer), Tracy Cunnane (U16 manager and female liaison officer), Michael Finnegan (U16 coach), Neville Hughes (U16 coach), Michael McLoughlin (manager/coach of junior and minor Team and Feile), Emma O'Toole (Minor team coach, female liaison officer and Feile coach), Declan Doyle (Junior team manager), George O'Neill (coach Junior team), Aileen Murray (coach and female liaison officer of Junior team) and John Joe Hoban, (Junior team coach), Tom Colleran (first aider for Junior team).

Under-10

This year we welcomed Micheál Dixon, Siobhán Conlon and Samantha Cleary as our new coaches for the U10 team. They did a wonderful job with the U10s. It has been a fun year for the girls and, by the time the season finishes, they will have played about ten matches overall. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly their trip to Croke Park which was a great day out and a memorable and fantastic experience for the girls to get

inside the dressing rooms and play on the hallowed turf. They lived every young footballer's dream, to play in Croke Park!

Under-12

The U12 Ballyhaunis Ladies team had an extremely successful year in terms of player development, team bonding and individual growth. The girls learned early in the year the importance of coming together as a team by encouraging one another during games. They focused on the positives rather than dwelling on the negatives. Sportsmanship was also a major emphasis, even when this was not reciprocated. Respecting the referee's decisions was also emphasised.

The girls kept working hard despite a few hard losses during the grouping stage and eventually they had their first win which brought huge joy to the team. This spurred the girls on knowing that they were improving with every training session and they finished top of the table in their group.

It was a pleasure to train and manage this group of girls and to witness the making of friends for life. The confidence the girls had gained at the end of the year was worth more than any trophy and we look forward to building on this next year.

Under-14

The management team and liaisons for U14 ladies was put together in early February 2022, made up of Pat Neary, Eddie McLoughlin, Conor Kinsella, Therese Heneghan and Sharon Swanick.

Training began towards the end of February and our first League game was played against Claremorris B which took place on 13th April where a comfortable win was achieved. Next up were Michael Davitts in Ballindine and they proved a much sterner challenge, but a great second half comeback by the Ballyhaunis ladies secured the victory. Our next game was away to Kilmaine whom we knew would pose a huge challenge. Kilmaine were narrowly the victors in this one. As runners-up in our division we were into a semi-final against Islandeady, the winner of the other group in the division. Islandeady were highly fancied by many to win this encounter, but a superb and spirited Ballyhaunis performance won the day and we were now in a final against Kilmaine who had won the other semi-final. The Final was played in the Centre of Excellence (Bekan) on 10th June on a very blustery evening. In a game that ebbed and flowed Kilmaine held on to win with disappointment for a super bunch of Ballyhaunis ladies who gave a great account of themselves.



Ballyhaunis Minor Ladies 2022 pictured at their home grounds in Ballyhaunis.

Back, L-R: Brian O'Neill, Megan McGuire, Saoirse Waldron, Sarah Ronayne, Alannah Hession, Chanel Marques, Jesslyn Jennings, Kate Doyle, Jovanna Dobric, Sophia Marques, Emma O'Toole.

Front, L-R: Katie Madden, Geri-Maye Henry, Erica Byrne, Rebecca Lyons, Eva Henry, Keleigh Cullen, Treasa McDermott, Michael McLoughlin.

Next up were the U14 Championships and the Ballyhaunis ladies had been promoted to a higher division due to their success in the League. The opposition were Ballinrobe, St. Brigid's (Kilmoremy, a long car journey) and Kilmovee. The step up in division presented much tougher competition, but the ladies made it through to a Shield semi-final versus Swinford on a very wet day. The game was a draw at the end of regulation time and it took extra time to separate the sides, where Swinford narrowly won.

All-in-all it was a very good year for these young ladies who came so close to winning the League Cup, gained promotion to a higher division and gave a good account of themselves in the Championship.

Under-16

Ballyhaunis Ladies Gaelic football Under-16s girls had a terrific season. We welcomed new coaches – Tracy Cunnane, Neville Hughes and Michael Finnegan – along with our liaisons Sharon Lyons and Sandra Waldron, all of whom were an excellent help with the girls. The players made it to two finals, the League final, narrowly losing out to Tourmakeady by one point and The Cup final finishing runners-up to Belmullet. Every week saw a great turnout at training which paid off because they ended up topping their groups each time. The future is Red and Black!

Minor

The Minor team was in a highly challenging Division 2 this year. They worked extremely hard but didn't get the outcomes they needed early on in the League, as results didn't go their way. The team persevered and there was massive improvement from all individuals. As the season went on, the Championship was an objective, but we started to play better as a team and squad as the season progressed. The best game was when the girls realised that they can compete with a 'never say die' attitude that resulted in them beating Hollymount to qualify for the Cup semi-final against Belmullet. The journey ended in the County semi-final losing by four points. Continuing on from the individual growth within the squad, these players have great potential to be winners of a county final in years to come.

Junior

Our Junior Ladies had a very warm welcome for a new management team made up of Declan Doyle, John Joe Hoban, Michael McLoughlin, Tom Colleran, George O'Neill and Aideen Murray (Liaison Officer). The girls were very excited to start off a fresh new season with a clear perspective of where they wanted to be and how they would get there. The biggest goal of this season was to make it into the Championship final, as last year they were beaten by a very strong St. Brigid's side in the Championship semi-final at the end of September 2021



Ballyhaunis Junior Ladies after winning the Mayo Junior A Championship Final.

Back, L-R: George O'Neill, Tom Colleran, John Joe Hoban, Catriona Hanmore (and her daughter Julia), Katelyn O'Sullivan, Niamh Foody, Olivia Cleary, Katie Madden, Chanel Marques, Marina Carney, Roisin Lyons, Shauna Murray, Geri-Maye Henry, Siofra Murray, Rebecca Vahey Brennan, Erin Murray, Michael McLoughlin, Aideen Murray.

Front, L-R: Ailish Carney, Gemma Foody, Rachel Cleary, Laura O'Connell, Mae Hession, Chloe Ryan, Eva Henry, Leah Johnston, Sinead O'Neill, Treasa McDermott, Aibhinn Herr, Declan Doyle, Eoin Doyle, Saoirse Doyle. *Photo Ciara Buckley*

which drew their season to a close.

Thankfully, the ladies set the year off to a flying start by winning the Tara Ryan Memorial League at the end of June. Our Junior ladies met our neighbouring club, Aghamore, in the final where we were lucky to have beaten them by one point. On the day Mae Hession was named Player of the Match. Thank you to the Murrays of The Clock in Ballyhaunis for sponsoring some post-game food for the ladies after the match.

On the first weekend in August, our Junior Ladies went up the road to Dublin to take part in the All Ireland Mini-7s. The girls won 3/3 games against Raheny (Dublin), Crusheen (Clare) and Naomh Eoin (Antrim). They then proceeded to the quarter-final where they were unfortunate to lose against Fureys (Galway). Thank you to Michael McLoughlin and Sinead Johnston for travelling up with the ladies on the day. Also, a huge thank you to Nolan's SuperValu Ballyhaunis for sponsoring snacks and refreshments for the ladies on their trip.

As Summer went on, so did our League games. After beating Parke in the League semi-final, we proceeded into the final against St. Brigid's. After going through the League unbeaten, this was a very important game for our ladies as they were facing the team that we lost to in the

Semi-final last year. It was a battle to say the least, but a strong Ballyhaunis side had the beating of St. Brigid's when we became the League Champions with a finishing scoreline of Ballyhaunis (3-12), St. Brigid's (3-09). Gemma Foody was our Player of the Match. The ladies are now beaming to have two pieces of silverware on display!

The 4th of September marked the first round of the Junior Championship when our ladies met Kiltane at home where they battled for the first win in round one. The following week we met St. Brigid's again in Kilfian, but the ladies made their journey worthwhile and came out with another win. Round 3 came around the following week when we travelled to Parke and, after a fantastic win, earned our place in the semi-finals. When all the results came in, we found we had to play the second-placed team of the other group which happened to be Breaffy. We earned home advantage, where we had the beating of Breaffy on a huge scoreline of Ballyhaunis (7-12) to Breaffy (0-8).

Ballyhaunis Ladies finished top of our group and Aghamore Ladies finished on the top of theirs. It all came down to Sunday, 16th October, where Ballyhaunis came head-to-head with Aghamore at the Connacht Centre of Excellence. After a deep battle between the two rival

clubs, our Ballyhaunis Ladies dug deep and led the game the whole way through to the final whistle. The scoreline finished up as: Ballyhaunis (3-7), Aghamore (2-5). Thank you and well done to Aghamore for putting up such a fantastic fight. We have no doubt they will be as successful next year. As for our Junior Ladies, huge congratulations. We can now call them by their new title, Ballyhaunis Intermediate Ladies! They are a credit to the club and an inspiration to the underage teams. This is the first time in the history of Ballyhaunis LGFA to have a Ladies Intermediate team. It did not come easy to these girls. After years of battles and heartache, on their sixth year running, they finally overcame the mark and were crowned Mayo Junior Champions 2022. With three trophies to their name, Ballyhaunis Junior Ladies lost only one game this year, at the beginning in the Tara Ryan Memorial League. What an outstanding achievement! The Ballyhaunis ladies now proceed to the Connacht Quarter-finals against Salthill-Knocknacarra (Galway).

Junior Team: Chanel Marques, Rachel Cleary, Laura O'Connell, Mae Hession, Marina Carney, Aibhinn Herr, Chloe Ryan (C), Erin Murray, Siofra Murray, Leah Johnston, Gemma Foody, Eva Henry, Niamh Foody, Katelyn O'Sullivan, Katie Madden, Sinead O'Neill, Aoife Conway, Olivia Cleary, Shauna Murray, Caitriona Hanmore, Treasa McDermott, Roisín Lyons, Rebecca Vahey-Brennan and Geri-Maye Henry.

We would also like to acknowledge two more incredible sporting achievements for our team. Firstly, congratulations to Mae Hession on captaining her team, Mount Saint Michael's of Claremorris, to the Lidl All Ireland Post Primary Senior B Final on 1st April, where they were unfortunately beaten by a very strong Colaiste Oiriall team. Secondly, congratulations to Erin Murray on getting called up to Mayo Ladies Senior Team, where she made her debut against Dublin in June.

Heartful thanks

From the players, we would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all the fantastic managers, coaches, liaison officers and committee members who take time out of their busy lives to make every training, game, meeting etc. We know it isn't easy, but we really appreciate all you do.

On behalf of the management and team, we would like to thank Ultan Molloy from Healthwest Pharmacy for sponsoring a First Aid bag for the team. We are so fortunate that O'Dwyers Solicitors have come on board and sponsored brand new O'Neills jerseys for all our teams in the Ladies Club. Our Junior Ladies are so grateful for their generosity throughout the year, covering the cost of the bus to Dublin for the Mini-7s, refreshments after the League final, and for sponsoring brand new O'Neills training tops for the Championship Final.

Not to forget, there is always a family member at our games to represent and support – Thank you! Also, a shout out to Fergal Kelly for stepping in and training the ladies on a number of occasions. It was fantastic to have someone with such extensive knowledge to share some tips.

A huge Thank You goes to Sinéad Johnston and Ciara Buckley for taking fantastic action shots of our teams throughout the season. The photos are so lovely to have.

Thank you to our amazing supporters who have travelled around Mayo to support the ladies – it has not gone unnoticed. Every cheer from the sideline is fantastic encouragement!

We would like to send special wishes and huge congratulations to our Liaison Officer, Aideen Murray, who married her soulmate, Liam Brady in July. All at Ballyhaunis LGFA wish you both a lifetime of love, health and happiness.

Abbey Male Choir

EAMONN MURREN

Thankfully, after the lifting of all the Covid-19 restrictions, it was full steam ahead for the Abbey Male Choir in 2022. As well as singing at weekend masses, we also sang at a number of funerals and at the wedding of Isobel Morrissey, daughter of our member Brendan.

On a sad note, the passing of our valued member Vinny Healy was a great blow to our close-knit group. Vinny was a talented singer and a loyal and dedicated member of our choir over many years. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Irene and children Vinnie, Ronan and Ciara and to the extended Healy and Eagney families.

As always we are hugely grateful and indebted to our musical director Moira Delaney and organist Paula Donnellan for their ongoing support and encouragement. New members are always welcome to join. We send best wishes to Annagh Magazine readers at home and abroad.

Views of Ballyhaunis in the 1970s



The Square and Main Street,
Ballyhaunis, taken in the 1970's
by Jim Conboy
(Aghamore and Leeds)

*Courtesy of
Anne Conboy-McLoughlin*



Knox Street in the 1950's and 60's

JOHN T. SMYTH

"Nostalgia isn't what it used to be", as they say and this is particularly true of Knox Street, Ballyhaunis. In 1838 Knox Street only stretched as far as Tony Morley's house on the south side of the street with nothing on the opposite side. The other side was built by Lord Knox of Mount Falcon Estate near Ballina and this is how Knox Street got its name. In the 1850's he built, or at least he commissioned Paddy Fitzgerald of Lurgan, Ballinlough to build the houses. He built seven houses in a row and 100 years later I was born, in the sixth house. Knox Street has changed quite a bit in the last seventy years. In the 1950's there were lots of people and particularly young people on the street. In trying to remember all of them I decided to start in Pollnacraoahy, which strictly speaking is a separate area but was always considered part of the street.

From Morley's Cross we first meet Rattigan's. There was a medium sized family there but they were on average ten years older than me so we would not have hung around together even though we all knew each other. After Rattigan's we come to Fleming's. Mrs. Fleming had a great vegetable garden in front of the cottage with a path to the front door lined on each side with rhubarb. We were sent down to buy the rhubarb for my mother's tarts. Next to Fleming's was a ruin which belonged to Gilmores, or more specifically Annie Gilmore. John Gilmore and his wife used to store hay for their cows here. The house was repaired in the 60's and John and Mrs. Gilmore moved in around 1970. There were two small cottages after that which we knew as Keane's cottages. I only ever remember Harry Dillon living here. He was a brother to Jack Dillon who owned the Hardware business at the Square.

Impressive

Forkan's was a shop at the end of the street proper and Mrs. Forkan was the district nurse when we were small. She had replaced Mrs. John Gilmore in the early 50's. They had a double garage across the road from the shop and my father rented one for our car and our turf. Mrs. Forkan and my father each had a black Ford Prefect. Next to the garages was Jimmy Byrne's house, the most impressive house on the street. Jimmy had three grandchildren who spent a lot of time here, John, Pat and Elizabeth (Bibi) O'Brien. We thought of them as Knox Street kids even though they were from Clare Street. Next to Forkan's was Durkan's. Sean Durkan was one of the owners of Durkan's bottling plant in Abbey Street but they had their private house on Knox Street. Jordan's was next with three kids around my age, Tommy, Jacinta and Anne. The house next door was vacant for a long

time until Joe Keane and Marcella Greene got married and moved in. Marcella came from the house next door to this. She lived there with her mother and her brother Tony who went to America in the 60's. Brod Morley had a butcher shop next, with a slaughter-house at the rear. He lived there with his daughter Noreen, his wife having died some years previously. They had a butcher, Terence McHugh, who looked after the business. Terence had great patience because I always wanted to help him when he was skinning the lambs in the slaughter-house. There was a window with wire mesh over it where I would watch when I wasn't helping.

The O'Malleys lived across the alley from Morley's: two brothers and their sister Mrs. Crean whose husband had died. He had been a solicitor in the practice of Crean, Ó Cleirigh and O'Dwyer. Neither brother was married. Michael was a joiner and he made pictures of landscapes in timber in his spare time. Willie worked in the post office. Johnny Forde was a shoemaker next and lived there with his sister Martha until she got married and moved away. Biesty's had a grocery and sweet shop and I remember a collection box for children in Africa in the middle of the shop. When you put a coin into it, the little kneeling black baby on the top would nod its head in thanks. Eddie Biesty also had a bicycle repair workshop across the street, beside my father's harness workshop. Neither business was particularly lucrative but they paid their way.



Pat O'Brien and Stephen Durkan pictured in Knox Street on the day of their First Holy Communion in 1968.
(Courtesy of John Durkan).

Drapery

Directly across from Biesty's was a row of three empty houses and the remnants of a forge. In this forge Joe Waldron collected jam jars for return to the jam companies. He paid a halfpenny for a one pound pot and a penny for the two pound pot. We collected the jars for



Postcard photograph of Knox Street, Ballyhaunis, in the 1950's. Published by M. Flatley, Ballyhaunis.

him and made a bit of pocket money for ourselves. Mrs. Mike Waldron had a pair of semi-detached houses next to Joe, in one of which she lived while the other was rented to Joe Keane and his sister Kitty for their tailoring business, with living accommodation above. Across from Mrs. Waldron's was Carney's. Two retired sisters who opened their drapery shop for McDermottroes of Boyle to sell their clothes on fair days. Many's a good suit was bought there as well as working trousers. Tweed was the favourite fabric.

There was an alleyway between Carney's and Kitty Mitchell's sweet shop. Kitty and her mother had lived in a small shop on the opposite side but moved across in the late 50's. It had lovely ice cream and lolly pops. Kitty also sold sweeping brushes and dust pans, etc. She had her regular clientele who kept the business going. Loftus's was vacant but my aunt Phil rented it for a while in the 60's before her husband, a garda, was transferred to Cong. Willie and Annie Murphy had another drapery shop but this was an army surplus shop. Billy was always afraid of being robbed and, even though we lived across from his shop, he would never let me take a pair of trousers back home for my mother to look at. He liked to place a few bets on the horses and had a fair share of winnings. However, one year he meticulously recorded all of his incomings and outgoings and discovered that the bookie, May Moyles, was the real winner so he stopped his betting for good. Morans were next to Murphy's and they were our age. There was Mary, Kieran, Donal, Cecily, Padraic, Sean and Enda. Don Moran was a builder and had a builder's yard at the back of the house accessed by means of a large double door

with a little Judas gate in it.

Directly across from Moran's lived Paddy Glavey. His premises was a pub with a six day licence but I don't remember it being open for business. Paddy was uncle to Eddie Murphy of Murphy's Menswear, on Main Street. We lived next to Glavey's and my mother, Josie, having tried to run yet another sweet shop for a few years after I was born, decided to return to her real trade as a hairdresser. The hours were long, especially on Saturday evenings when shop staff came to get their hair done after work. Unfortunately, work for them ended at ten o'clock and then the hair took another two hours, including the chat. So, Mom never finished before two o'clock in the morning after the stream of clients had left. Dad, Liam Smyth, had a hackney car and a harness making business. He was also a founder member and Deputy Chief of the Ballyhaunis Fire Brigade.

Fair Days

Next to Moran's across from us was Finnegan's pub and there were four kids our age, Tommy, Monica, Geraldine and John. They had a yard behind the pub and on fair days farmers would put their cattle in there for safe keeping. A retired jockey, Taudy Devany, used to make a few pounds by looking after the cattle and he would often be heard quoting the "Forty Shades of Green" as he hadn't a note in his head. Across the alley from Finnegan's was Paddy Byrne's pub with a similar layout of yard and buildings also used to hold cattle. Many deals were struck in these yards and payment was often completed in the pub over a drink. Paddy Byrne's children were older than us and the grandchildren were

just a little younger than us and lived in England. They came home every summer and, as such, became part of the fabric of the street.

Dom Moran had a drapery business and he also kept an eye on everything that happened on the street. We used to call him Barnaby Jones after the television detective of the time. Dom was a deadly shot with a rifle and was often called on to shoot wild, troublesome animals. Delia Waldron and her niece Mary (Mrs. Dillon) had another pub on that side of the street. They also had a fine yard at the back, suitable for holding cattle on fair days.

On our side, Gilmores lived next to us. John Gilmore was a veteran Old IRA man and a stonecutter/undertaker by profession. He was a gifted artist and had a great interest in local history and archaeology. After U.S. President John F. Kennedy visited Ireland in 1963, John carved a bust of him in limestone. He also did repairs to the windows in the Friary, one of which was in the yard for years until eventually discovered and brought back to the church where it was put on display. Gilmore's was also a licenced premises with a six day licence for use after funerals. In the family there was John Jnr. (Sean), Bridget, Tommy and Mary.

McGillicuddy's was next to Gilmore's and this was also a licenced premises but it wasn't opened in my time. They had a terrier called Sputnik. A watch and clock repairer had rented part of the shop until he decided to return to his native Tuam, Co. Galway. Today, this is the Clock Tavern. Next to McGillicuddy's was Maggie Kenny and her little sweet shop. She sold biscuits loose from big boxes and, as always, there were broken ones on the bottom. Somehow, these tasted nicer than the whole ones. Maggie had two sons, Aidan and Joe, both teachers. Aidan (Aido) was a primary teacher in Strokestown and Joe was vice principal in Tullamore Vocational School. There were three priests in Lyons's next door: Albert, Enda and Noel. Their father Hubert operated a bakery for some time and also had a travelling shop. Finally, the last house on our side was Callally's pub. Mrs. Callally too had a small yard behind the pub used on fair days. She also did B&B for some teachers and bank officials working in the town. When she decided to retire to her home town of Ballymote, Co. Sligo, Peter Moran bought the pub and continued the business.

After Waldron's pub across the street lived Philip Morley and his wife Delia Mary. They had four children, Tony, Seamus, Marguerite and Rosary. They had a long garden at the back which ran down to the river and served us as a playground. Greally's next door was sold in 1958 and Bill Campbell bought it, setting up a pub and auctioneering business. They moved in in 1960. It did great business especially on a Saturday night before the

dances. I remember it being absolutely jammed. Johnston's machinery business was next. The family was made up of Tommy (Snr.) and Katie Johnston, Margaret, Tommy Jnr. and Carmel. They did a fabulous business because they were selling tractors and farm machinery from the beginning of the transformation of farming from horses to tractors.

Rattigan's was a fully-fledged pub and did a very nice, steady trade. The oldest, Tommy joined the Canadian Mounted Police but he was gone from Ballyhaunis before I was born. There was also Mary Theresa, Helena, Gabriel, Benny and Val. Val continued the business until he retired in the early 2000s. Next to Rattigan's is Herr's. Fred and Maura had a grocery shop and he also had a travelling shop with which he toured the country calling to farmers' houses who wouldn't be able to get to town except on Sundays when shops would be closed. The family ranged in age from older to younger than me. Mike, Mary, Ita and Freddie were older; Sarah was born the same day as myself, Anna was in my brother's class in school and Robbie was the youngest. The last family with youngsters was Morley's. Again, this was a pub which was very popular and did a lively trade until it closed in the late 1970s. Three of the family were contemporaries of my own - John (Dolly), Mike (Baa) and Susan, who was my age. Lastly, there was Maureen Tarpey who had a fabrics and haberdashery business. When she retired she went to live in Tuam, Co. Galway.

Playground

While I have tried to mention all the people on the street, simply naming them cannot convey what the atmosphere was like on the street when I was young and what it was like to grow up there. On our side of the street there were no gardens so we played in the gardens of the houses across the street and in the fields of Pollnacraoaghy. The river was a favourite haunt and we played on the stepping stones that linked Knox Street to the Friary grounds. Frequently, we would miss our footing with a resultant soaking. We caught minnows and I even caught a jack pike on a fly one time. Morley's sandpit was another favourite playground with its hazel wood where we picked nuts and concocted all kinds of games. We also used to get the out-of-date eggs from Byrnes on Main Street and lob them at each other like they were hand grenades. In winter we would create a slide in the middle of the street by throwing water on the road and waiting for it to freeze. At the end of the street a pond would appear in winter and then freeze over which gave us a skating rink to play hockey on.

Yes, growing up on Knox Street was great fun and a great experience and I feel it was much better than nowadays. Like I said, nostalgia was better years ago than it is today.

Ballyhaunis Boxing Club

SUE MULLARNEY

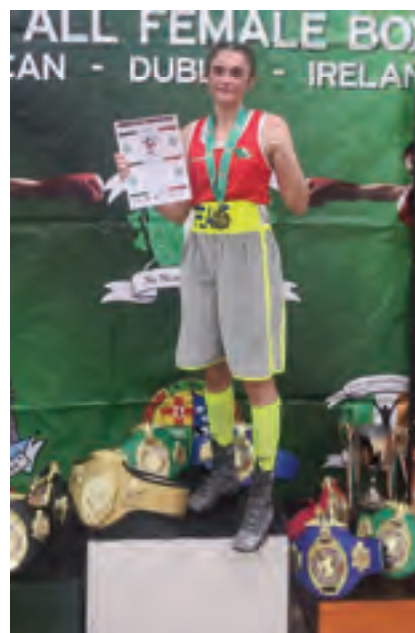
Ballyhaunis Boxing Club has seen its ups and downs this year with unprecedented strain on our finances. As with most sporting organisations our recovery from Covid has been a slow one and is running into its second year. Things we took for granted, like a Tesco bag pack or a church gate collection, became things of the past and we are currently on waiting lists for collection permits.

We had tremendous success with Eoghan Lavin and Carlagh Peake seeing us through the bad times with one successful competition after another.

This past season saw Eoghan Lavin win the under-22 competition and secure a place in the high performance unit in Abbotstown in anticipation of travelling out to the European championships with a team. Unfortunately, this never came to fruition after Eoghan was controversially diagnosed with a concussion during training.

Carlagh Peake raised the bar in Sweden in May when she took part in the Golden Girl European Box Cup. She brought gold home to rapturous applause in her home village of Gurteen. She went on in June to win the National Cadet competition and secured her position on the Irish team travelling to Montesilvano in Italy. Carlagh struggled in the hot weather to maintain her boxing weight of 52kg and, as a result, was a lot lighter than her opponent and bowed out of the European championships. In true Carlagh style she came home and launched straight back into training and entered the Esker Multinational All-Female Box Cup in October where she was crowned champion. She also won Best Juvenile Boxer at this tournament and was awarded a prestigious belt.

The Ballyhaunis Boxing Club trains each Monday and Wednesday in Began Community Centre (F12 C9P5) from 6.30pm to 8pm. All are welcome. We are currently trying to meet criteria to be part of the High-5 initiative to include people with an autism diagnosis to take part in the sport. For any enquiries please contact Sue on 085 8108152.



Above right: Carlagh Peake, champion boxer
Centre: Winning boxer, Eoghan Lavin



Gurteen Welcomes a Gold Medal Winner

Gurteen residents pictured at the 'Welcome Home' celebrations for European Boxing Gold Medallist Carlagh Peake, June 2022. L-R: Bernie Clarke, Mary Freyne, Helena Byrne, Bernard Freyne, Lauren Henry, Aoife Murphy, Lily Murphy, Tara Phillips, Lucy Phillips, Felice Dubois, Anne Phillips, Pat Phillips, Liam Lynskey, Harry Murphy, Kirsty Murphy, Ted Murphy, Martin Keane, Mary Henry, Eddie Murphy, Carlagh Peake, Mia Murphy, Shauna Keaveney, Emma Henry, Sue Peake, Maud Henry, T.J. Peake, Seamus Mulrennan, Michael Brennan, Mike Henry, Martin Brennan, Martin Peake.

Memories of a Mechanic

BILL LOWRY IN CONVERSATION WITH PAUL WALDRON

It is now sixty-seven years since Bill Lowry left his native Gurteenmore, Ballyhaunis for England. He went to find work as a mechanic having completed his apprenticeship in Freyne's (Clare St.) along with some time spent working in Lynch's (Main St.). Within days of arriving in Manchester, on 18th March 1955, he started as a fitter for Wimpey, the well-known British construction firm, and remained with them for most of his working life. Rising steadily through the ranks, he kept in regular contact with home and never failed to return to his native Ballyhaunis whenever possible, at least once a year. On his most recent visit he met his old friend Tom Fitzmaurice (Derrynacong) and the present writer with whom he shared some memories.

"I left Brackloon National School at thirteen and spent eighteen months in the Vocational school where Pat Hughes was the science teacher, Sean Cleary taught woodwork and Pdraig Forkan was the Irish teacher. Mick Flanagan, my neighbour in Gurteenmore, was working in Freyne's Garage, Clare Street and had his time more-or-less served when I started there as an apprentice. He was five years older than me. During my apprenticeship I worked with some very good and helpful people such as Paddy Folliard (Cartron South),



Bill Lowry (aged 21) with his grandmother Florrie Lowry.

Tommy Jordan (Knox St.), Leo Carroll (Ballinlough) and Ned Groarke (Falleighter), from whom I learnt a lot. All have now passed away, may they Rest in Peace.

Freyne's were agents for Hillman and Morris motor cars at that time. I was working away there doing bits and pieces, but I was a bit of a rebel in those days and wasn't happy enough, so I went to B.T. Lynch's on Main Street for a while. They were Ford agents and had a big workshop out the back. I stayed there for eighteen months but returned to Freyne's and finished serving my time there. Half-day was Thursday, but it was often 3 o'clock by the time you'd be finished. It was hard work, but you learned a lot. John Freyne was a brilliant mechanic and I learnt a lot from him. When I left there with my time served, I was on £3. 10s a week."

Motor Vehicles

During his time in Freyne's and Lynch's, Bill got to know virtually every motor vehicle in and around Ballyhaunis. And it wasn't too difficult for they were scarce enough in those years.

"There were very few cars in and around Ballyhaunis in the 1950s. The Ford Prefect and Baby Ford were the most popular cars around the town in that decade. Mostly Fords and the odd Vauxhall and that was it. That time you'd know every car in town, and most of them belonged to the hackney drivers: Mick Folliard, Tommy Flatley, Paddy Kearns, Bill Eagney. They had some of the bigger, more exotic cars, many of them American models - Chrysler, Terraplane, Studebaker, Dodge. Parked on Knox St. you might find two motor cars if you were lucky; you'd find more side-cars and traps than motor



Bill's father Thomas Lowry with his American first cousin Kathleen Lowry, pictured at Scárdán well in the 1960s. Scárdán, which was on Lowry's land in Gurteenmore, was a powerful Well and, as described by Bill, "It supplied all Gurteenmore, half of Tavnaghmore and half of Mountain. It never went warm and it never went dry."

cars along the streets in the 1950s. At that time a new Hillman Minx, column control, four forward gears, one reverse, would cost £550 to £600; a Morris Minor around the same, maybe a little cheaper. Both Doctors Joyce and Waldron had Hillmans, as had the Webbs and Bill Eagney. They were a nice car, quite popular with a bench seat in the front and handbrake down by the side. Jack Culliney had a Studebaker. George O'Malley had a Chrysler. He used to do the post office run, taking the mail over to and from the station, and if he couldn't, Jimmy or Brud would do it: there were a couple of brothers, all able to drive. The biggest car in the town one time was Tom Forde's – a big American Dodge Powerglide. Johnny Gilmore's hearse was a Dodge too. Tommy Donnellan's hearse was an Armstrong Siddeley with a gate change. Most of them used come up to Freyne's at one time or another to have bits and pieces done."

"There were a number of trucks in the town in those days, most of them travelling shops, Caulfield's and Byrne's amongst them. Austin Jordan's in Upper Main Street had a truck, and Gallagher's and Dillon's had trucks for carrying building materials."

"The last year I was in Freyne's, the Ballinlough road was being upgraded and CIE had seven or eight tippers working there, mostly Ford V8s, and we used to maintain them. They'd finish at 12 o'clock on Saturday and bring the trucks down to us, whatever would be wrong with them. We'd work on them then and when they'd be done – it could be 10 o'clock at night – we'd



Three Greally brothers originally from Mountain, Forthill, who lived in Dublin. Their brothers Mark and Tim Greally lived in the home-place not far from Lowry's.

have to take them back to the station again."

Welding

Bill learnt the art of welding during his apprenticeship, a skill he first encountered years earlier in the local forge where the coulter (of a plough) would be brought to have an edge put on it. "We'd take it down to Pat Quinn. He heated the coulter and then heated the metal in the furnace and fused the two together: you heated them to a great temperature and they'd go into one another."

Freyne's had an oxyacetylene welder for repairing motor vehicles, but it came in handy during the haymaking season as well when mowing-machine blades were brought in for repair. "You had a bar across, and there were two rivets holding each blade section. Well, they used to break and I used to weld them: line them up, put them together, weld them both sides. It would save them buying a new blade."

Mudguards in those days were also made of metal and could be repaired by welding. Over time Bill became familiar with and proficient in the many different forms of welding: electric stick welding and carbon arc welding as well as brazing, which involved the fusing of brass, and cast iron welding. "I did most of the welding in Freyne's and was pretty good at electric and oxyacetylene welding. The foreman in Lynch's who taught me was an English man (whose name escapes me at the moment) and he was very, very good at welding. He taught me quite a lot." He recalls another welder he knew in England years later, apparently not as skilful: "We used to call him 'Teflon' - non-Stick!"

Football

Besides work, Bill recalls other aspects of his younger days at home in Ireland. He played football for Ballyhaunis in the early 1950s. "I played here with Joe Webb, Tommy Jordan, Johnny Biesty, Paddy Waldron, Val Byrne, Doc Healy and the Morans from Levallyroe. We used play in Prenty's field before they had the new pitch. During the summertime they used to have four teams in Ballyhaunis - Knox Street, Clare Street, Main Street and Bridge Street. They all had a team and they used to play each other. You know that was dog rough, but you don't notice it when you're young. I was very close to having a trial for East Mayo for the minors but everyone used say to me I was too clean a player. I used to play right full-back but came on once for Joe Webb in centre-field. We were playing Kiltimagh and I scored a goal and a point. We won the game and I got my name in 'The Western'."

"Then of course we had the FCA, I was in that. The leading man was Joe Keane, God bless him, he's still keeping well. Tim Robinson's son, Jack Eaton and Jimmy O'Dwyer, the school-teacher out in Coolnafarna, were



A Wimpey board meeting at headquarters in London the mid-1970s. Bill Lowry is standing, second from left.

head men in it as well. We used to go back to the old school for training and manoeuvres. I was in Finner twice; you had a week in Finner camp in those days.”

Some of the young men with cars used to do ‘unofficial’ hackney in those days. “Mick Flanagan, Michael Nolan and myself, in the winter-time, we used pick up the older people on a Sunday and bring them to Mass; it used to be a half-crown a head. You’d do two or three runs. Of course, the official hackney drivers used to be going mad, if they could catch us!”

Characters

Of the many outstanding characters in the locality in the mid-twentieth century, Bill recalls three in particular in his own neighbourhood: Mark Grealley, Sergeant Lowry and Pat Hoban. “They were something else. When Pat Hoban was in Brackloon National School, his teacher said he couldn’t teach him anything more; in fact Pat used teach the teacher! He was very clever. If he was at a function or a bit of a country dance or the stations, Pat would get up and give a recitation, like ‘Fontenoy’. He was absolutely brilliant. I was only young at the time, but he always reckoned they’d put a man on the moon: ‘There’ll be a man on the moon; I mightn’t see it, but there will be’, he’d say, and he was right. He was in Dom Moran’s one day – the drapery shop in Knox Street – during an election and the usual debates and arguments were going on amongst a crowd of them. They were talking about the election anyway and Pat was listening to them. Then he declared: ‘I’ll tell you something now, this country will never be right until every Irishman is gone out of it.’ That’s the way he was. He was something else.”

Another memorable character was Ellen Finnegan who lived in what they used to call the Dardanelles. “On a Friday she used to sell herrings down the town out of an orange box. Going home in the evening after selling the herrings she might have a couple of glasses of stout. Fr. Curley, the curate here at the time, would be coming down the town saying his office. The conversation would go, ‘Good evening, Ellen’; ‘Good Evening, Father’; ‘Drunk again, Ellen?’ ‘So am I, Father’. They met another day and he greeted her, ‘How are you, Ellen?’ ‘Not so bad, Father’, she answered, ‘Tell me, you wouldn’t have a pair of shoes for an old woman?’ ‘Ah... Our Lord didn’t wear shoes!’ he said, to which she replied, ‘No Father, nor he didn’t have a motor car either!’”

“Pat Killeen used play the tin whistle and do recitations. A line from one of his poems based on an election address, I remember is, ‘Ah, we’ll put them houses back a yard or two or maybe three, and we’ll run a tramline out to Knock, begobs he said, we will you see.’ The Lord have mercy on them all.”

England

Bill and his neighbour and life-long friend Michael Nolan of Mountain went to England together, on the 18th of March 1955. “We arrived in Manchester to his brother. We had no jobs lined up. I had £10 in my pocket, and that was it. We got digs and then, on Monday morning, went to a well-known pub in Manchester at that time, ‘Aunty’s Bar’ – and that was the labour exchange! Somebody said Wimpey’s would be looking for men on such a building site and I said, ‘I don’t want a job on the site, I want a job in the workshop.’ They were quite big at the time in Manchester, Wimpey’s, and had a big regional office there with a lot of work on. So, I

went down there, to 629 Eccles New Road, and into the labour office where there were two men, and said I was looking for a job. 'What kind of a job?' they asked. 'I'm a mechanic', I answered, and they sent me across to a man named Trevor Turford, a Welshman, who was in charge of all the plant and machines in that area. I went to him anyways and he said to me, 'What have you worked on?' I said, 'I'm not a plant man'. 'Well, have you worked on engines?' he asked. 'I have', I said, 'but not a lot on diesel'. You see, there was only one diesel truck in town when I left Ballyhaunis and that was Eddie Fitzgerald's Vulcan truck with a Perkins P6 engine. All the others were petrol. The Bedford had a six-cylinder petrol engine, straight six. Anyway, Trevor Turford said, 'Have you got any tools?'. 'No', said I, 'I've just come over from Ireland'. So, he said, 'I'll tell you what, I'll give you a job as second-class fitter. All you're going to be doing here is engines, from the smallest to the biggest. When the fitters here take the engines out, they'll go to you. There's another two men working there and you'll be part of that team.'

It was an awful change from home. I used start in Freyne's at 9 o'clock, but to get to Wimpey's yard you'd have to be up at 6 to be there at 8 o'clock, and the hours were 8 to 6 o'clock - nine and a half hours a day, overtime at the weekend if you wanted it. We used to do engines of all kinds: the JAP engine, which was a small single-cylinder engine, Listers engine, single cylinder diesel, Petter engines, Caterpillar engines in the dozers, and

engines in the compressors. They'd come into us and we'd strip them down. The first engine ever I worked on there was a JAP engine, single-cylinder petrol, two small little valves in it, no bigger than the top of your nail. I stripped it down, went to the stores, got the bits for it, put it all back together but it would not start. Tommy Englefield, the senior man there, said, 'strip it down again, take out them valves, now grind them until they're polished.' And I did. Put them back again and she started. 'Now, there's a lesson there for you', he said, 'When you've only got one cylinder, everything has got to be perfect otherwise it won't start. Where you've got three, four or five cylinders, two or three of them will be alright and it'll start and the others will pick up.' It was a lesson I never forgot."

Bill worked there for eighteen months before moving on to transport. "The transport workshop was across the way where the manager was Jim Beirne from Frenchpark. Someone gave me the nod that they were looking for a mechanic, and I went across to see him. He had a brother John who drove for CIE at home in Ireland and I knew him from coming in with the truck to Freyne's. So, I started there as a full-time mechanic in the transport workshop at the age of twenty-two."

Transport

In Manchester, Wimpey's had about forty or fifty tipper trucks, twenty-five buses, about a dozen vans and



Bill Lowry, seated third from left, with other Wimpey fitters, in 1956.

company cars for those who were in senior positions. Bill explains, "The buses were for bringing workers to and from the sites. Now, in the labour office on a Monday morning you'd have a queue of men three and four deep for a long way waiting to get a job. The coach would take them into work to the site and then come back. So, if you were in charge of a site and you wanted ten labourers, the labour office would know and they'd say right, 'We'll start ten workers.' And the coach from your site, that brought your men out in the morning, would go back and pick them up and bring them back to the site. That's the way they used work it. Every Monday morning, the buses would make a return trip for men. They'd start nearly a hundred men. The workers, they'd be on the cards, not subcontractors, included some bricklayers, some joiners, some roofers. So, you had about ten Wimpey buses going around Manchester every morning and every evening."

"I spent my time there and eventually became foreman of the transport workshop at the age of twenty-four. What stood to me was the eighteen months doing nothing but engines in the first workshop. The trucks were the same as they were in Ireland - back axle, gearbox, radiators, brakes, all the same type of work. They were mostly Fords, AEC Mercurys and Mammoth Majors. The buses were similar too, mostly Leyland or AEC."

That workshop building had a low ceiling and was not really fit for purpose. Eventually, a new one was built, to the mechanics' requirements. "A lot of coaches had underslung engines half-way down the length of the vehicle, lying flat underneath not vertically, with a big gear-change rod going from there to the gearbox at the front. We designed a special pit so you could get the engines out halfway down the pit with the trolley." One of the directors visited from London one day and asked Bill what he thought of the new workshop. 'It must have cost a lot of money', Bill said, to which the director replied, 'Ah yes, it did, but never mind - you'll never build tomorrow as cheap as you'll build today.'" Another valuable lesson learnt.

Jim Beirne passed away leaving a vacancy for the post of transport manager. Bill continues, "My name was mentioned, but I didn't expect to get the job, to be honest, I was only there around ten years. I was up against a foreman driver named Tommy Kershaw, a man from Rochdale. Wimpey's main man Frank Keane came up from London to conduct the interviews and, in the end, he said to me, 'The job is yours', which came as a complete surprise. The reason I got the job was because of my mechanical knowledge. But, I told him my administration skills are not good, which they weren't; I had no experience of that end of things at all. We had to

make a monthly P. & L. (profit-and-loss) because transport was a separate department. So, for example, if you were an agent on a site, and you wanted two trucks, you came to us, but we charged you for it. He said, 'don't worry about it, you can pay people to do that.'"

Manager

At the age of thirty-four, Bill was Wimpey's Transport Manager in Manchester. Administration took over from mechanical work and there was a lot of travel involved in his first company car – a maroon-coloured Ford Cortina Mk 4. "The job involved having the right number of trucks for the requirements on the various sites, making sure when an agent rang up, through office, that he got the right amount. You had to go out on the site if a new development was starting, weigh it up to see what the ground was like, whether it was suitable for a four-by-four truck or an ordinary truck or a tipper or whatever. But they were busy sites, going all the time. Wimpey's used to hand over three or four hundred houses a week, all around Manchester. Then they had what they called PD which is private development, building private houses. We had big jobs in waste sites, sewerage works and open cast coal mines as well. Each had their own workshops on site, but the trucks all came under us. Then they brought out the MOT for trucks so they had to be mechanically right. And if you wanted a driver or a fitter, you had to interview them."

Decisions had to be made, but it was all down to cost. "You were paying wages to the fitters, drivers and clerks, all taken out of your monthly P. & L. If you were in the red you had to find out why, and rectify it if you could, but normally we were in the black because you kept the trucks working all the time. If you could keep them working you were doing alright. You kept an eye on the costs all the time, and nine times out of ten you'd be in the black."

"You'd have to go to a meeting every so often. Health and safety was coming in then, though not like it is now, so you had to be au-fait with all that. And you had the industry people who could stop the vehicle, anytime on the road, check it out, give you a GV9 which meant the vehicle was off the road until it was repaired. So, there was quite a bit to it. Although I didn't do mechanical work anymore, they'd still come looking for advice."

When the MOT was introduced, there were regulations regarding truck weights, according to the number of axles. "Say, you have a truck outside – front axle, rear axle. That would be a sixteen-ton gross weight when it's loaded. So that meant ten on the back axle (twin wheels) and six on the front. We were at a transport meeting in London and they were talking about weights and the distribution of weights; you could get done quite heavily if they were over the limit. Anyway, we had some

trucks with Hiab loader cranes behind the cab, and I said, 'how about buying a wagon and putting the crane on the back rather than the front?' With the crane on the front, straight away you're taking a ton and a half off the axle weight and you're working in a confined space, so why not put it on the back as an extension?" They decided to try it out and found it a great success. Many others followed suit and, Bill points out, "You'll notice now that a lot of trucks have got the Hiab on the back rather than the front. It makes common sense: you've got far better vision, it's safer in that it's not working over the cab, and the weight is distributed more evenly over the axles."

New Directions

In the late 1970s the Wimpey Waste Management company was formed with Bill as a director, overseeing plant and transport. "We bought out a big company called Beatwaste and had depots all over England and Scotland: in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Bathgate, Nottingham, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham. Each had their own workshop and I was in charge of all that, so I used to travel around to all the depots and made sure they were maintaining their trucks right."

Around this time too Bill got an offer from Wimpey to go to Isfahan in Iran where they were contracted to build an army tank installation. "The English Government got a contract from the Shah of Iran to supply these people with so many army tanks. They wanted me to go out there to set up an installation to transport the tanks from the docks up to Isfahan. I was interviewed in London and it seemed like a good job - six months on, six months off, free education for your

children, any schools of your choice, attractive pension options. After talking it over with my wife, I thought, well, I'd go. And the time was coming closer. Then, one of Wimpey's transport managers in Middlesborough depot rang and more-or-less told me he was taking over my job saying, 'you're going to Isfahan, aren't you?' I said, 'I might, I really haven't made a final decision.' 'Well', he said, 'I'm coming down there'. That changed my mind. I didn't go. Forty-five of them went from London to Isfahan and within a very short time the Shah was knocked off his perch and replaced by the Ayatollah Khomeini, the contract was cancelled and they were all back in England at Christmas with no jobs. So, I made the right decision there and was very thankful for it."

Gone fishing

Bill retired from Wimpey Construction and Civil Engineering after working with them for nearly fifty years. This allowed him spend more time with his wife Maureen (née Corley, originally from Breaffy, Castlebar), whom he married in 1959, and family, Sean and Deirdre.

During his regular visits home, he spent most of his time fishing with his lifelong best friend, the late Mike Nolan of Togher and formerly of Knox Street and Mountain. Together, they fished every lake in the locality.

Down the years Bill has always kept in touch with Ballyhaunis. As he says himself, "I've a great old grá for this town, always had, and the people in it and the people around it. I've always come home when I could, at least once a year."

Long may it last!



Bill Lowry at work in the late 1970s.



Taken in the Mullarkey family home, Bohogue, Ballyhaunis, mid-1980s.

Clockwise from front left: Maggie Waldron, Annie McNamara, Marcella Lyons (child), Delia Lyons, Johnny Mullarkey, Kenny Lyons (child), Delia Callaghan (seated), Peggy Jackson (standing), Mary Mullarkey, Lizzie McNamara, Agnes Griffin.

Grand Pageant Play,
'IRISH CHIEFTAIN,'
WILL BE PRODUCED IN THE FRIARY GROUNDS, BALLYHAUNIS,
On Friday Night, 28th August, and Sunday Night, 30th.

Programme.

CHARACTERS.

Irish Chieftain	M. CARROLL	Priest	W. GLORY
Cavan	R. T. LYDOK	Mark	A. F. SMYTH
Knight	F. J. SMYTH	Porcus	J. P. KERRY
Baron Fitzgerald	J. O'CONNELL	Boy	W. L. SMYTH
Una	NELLIE SMITH		(P. McNALLY, J. SWANNEY,
Doomer	NORA GILMORE	Irish Soldier	A. SMYTH, F. J. RATTISAN,
Jester	J. JOYCE		(J. HAYTISAN, J. P. KERRY
Bard	M. CARNEY	English Soldier	B. MCCONVILLE

Musics—R. LYDOK, W. OLYER, A. F. SMYTH, P. McNALLY, J. P. KERRY.

SYNOPSIS OF PLAY.

ACT I—SCENE I.

A GLADE IN THE FOREST, in which the Irish Chieftain has taken refuge with the remnant of his followers. Chieftain having been driven from his castle in Ballyhaunis by the English invaders under Lord Barry Fitzgerald.

To this retreat in the forest a young English knight, son of Lord Fitzgerald, is led by Una, the Chieftain's daughter, whom he has rescued from the traitor, Cavan. A jester entertains the scene by some occasional witticisms.

2ND SCENE.

AN APARTMENT IN BALLYTRACHT CASTLE.—Baron Fitzgerald enquires the fate of his son, who has lost his way whilst hunting in the forest. An Irish bard takes part in the scene.

3RD SCENE.

A GLADE IN THE FOREST.—Whilst Chieftain and his men have gone hunting Una and her attendant entertain the young knight whom he remains a prisoner in the forest. The bard gives warning of the dangers threatening the little hut through the treacherous report sent by the traitorous Cavan to the young knight's father.

4TH SCENE.

A BOOK BY THE CASTLE, in which the Chieftain is seen, and where he is reconciled to his enemy, and where he gives his paternal blessing to the knight, who has won his daughter Una's hand.

5TH SCENE.

A SCENE ON MANKIN LAKK, where the Friars first started the building of the Abbey, and where they heard the mysterious bells which sent them to Ballyhaunis.

6TH SCENE.

THE ANNEY GLADE, where the children and youths were taught and the wandering came for food and rest.

CAFE CHANTANT
From 4 o'clock till 7.30 p.m.
EVERY QUARTER OF AN HOUR.

ARTISTS—

1. Miss Maggie Kelly	Song.
2. Mr. Bernard Lavin	Song.
3. Mr. Michael Waldron	Harp.
4. Miss Ellen Drury and Miss Annie Gilmore in the Cakewalk Dance.	Cakewalk Song.
5. Mr. M. Byrnes	Song.
6. Mr. M. Delaney	Song.
7. Chorus.	
8. Mr. P. Giblin	Violin Solo.
9. Miss Josie Carney	In the Ballroom Dance.
10. Miss Maria Fitzmaurice	Irish Song.
11. Mr. W. J. Delaney	Song.
12. Miss Josie Carney	Violin Solo.
13. Miss Nora Smyth	Songs.

Accompanists—Miss NELLIE SMITH, and Miss FRANCIS DELANEY.

'THE IRISH CHIEFTAIN' BALLYHAUNIS.

'The Irish Chieftain' was a pageant play written by Dr. Michael F. Waldron BA, LL.D., of Knox Street, incorporating themes from the early history of Ballyhaunis and the founding of St. Mary's Abbey (the Friary). It was staged in August 1908 during an open-air fete organised to raise funds for the restoration of the Augustinian Abbey, then about to commence under the guiding hand of the Prior, Fr. Edward A. Foran O.S.A. (Programme courtesy of Dermot and Mary Morris, Ballinlough.)

Ballyhaunis Language Café

MARK GODFREY

It felt like Ballyhaunis Language Café had gone national this autumn when we were joined by a man who drove from Longford on an October night to speak Spanish for an hour at our Thursday evening Café Espanol, an informal gathering that's been going for three years now.

Language lovers in other counties have been using Facebook to find Ballyhaunis Language Café, which was born in late 2018 out of a wish among a few of us to help newcomers learn Irish, and English. We quickly realised that newcomers to the town could help us natives improve our French and Spanish so, pretty soon we had a weekly group going in each language, the model being the same in each group: a friendly hour for all ages and abilities.

Through Covid we met during the summer months in the Community Garden, later switching to the lounge space in Gill's (now Paddy's) bar on Clare Street, which is always a friendly spot, with a native Irish speaker frequently behind the bar!

A highlight of 2022 was an Irish night to mark 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' which drew a large crowd to Delaney's bar on Abbey Street to sing, talk and listen to stories. Another highlight was the Open Day we had during the Summer Festival, upstairs at the reopened Community Hall where we are, this winter, running a programme of classes in Irish for beginners. Our regulars come from all over Europe and the Americas. We also have multilingual Mohammed from Somalia.

One of the Language Café's most dedicated attendees is Brid Cleary from Clare Street: "For me the Language Café is a brilliant idea. I have a renewed interest in French and Irish, subjects which I haven't studied since I was in Secondary School. I am now retired and since Covid I decided to start learning Spanish. Even if I never go to either France or Spain, I am getting great satisfaction and loads of fun from meeting some fantastic people from these countries and listening to them. It encourages me to try my 'cúpla focal'. It may not be pretty, but they are a great group and very supportive of my efforts."

From her home in Curries, a few kilometres out the Cloonfad road, Laura Dinraths makes the trip to Paddy's Bar twice a week, for French and Spanish. "French is my native language but I also speak English and Spanish fluently," explained Laura, who's originally from Belgium. "Ballyhaunis is a multicultural and multilingual town and the Language Café is a force for organising different groups of conversation which attracts locals and visitors from other counties. These convivial gatherings allow me to help people learning French while also practising my Spanish, all the while having fun

and forging new friendships and local links."

German native Angie Kastler heard about the Language Café after moving to Ballyhaunis and a teaching job in Aghamore. "Coming to the Ballyhaunis Language Café I got the chance to practise Spanish and English, but on top of that my children and I have found friends, welcoming words and even a hug or two during hard times, and the feeling of a home away from home and a place in this wonderful community that makes us feel not as foreign any longer. It has been such a pleasure also to help people from different nations become part of it." Angie is studying Irish at the weekly Irish for Beginners programme organised by the Language Café with Conradh na Gaeilge. She also attends the English and Slavic groups which meet weekly at the Friary House.

Leading the Slavic language group each Saturday, Ludmilla Burcovschi said for her the group means, "Social inclusion, fun, meeting new people, making friends, celebrating occasions, sharing news and information."

Thursday night Spanish and English groups are "... the perfect meeting place for practising languages in an informal way," said Jorge Pérez, a graphic designer from the northern Spanish region of Galicia now living on Abbey Street with his partner (and Language Café regular) Zinthia Álvarez. "We don't have fixed topics and it doesn't matter what level you are, which makes conversations happen naturally and fluidly, like when you go to a friend's house and they invite you for a cup of tea and the time passes without realising it. After trying different groups in big cities, we would stay with Ballyhaunis!"

As well as helping us learners to chat in Spanish, Jorge and Zinthia also attend the English conversation where Tomás Phillips from Urlaur is a great facilitator. "It is a privilege to be involved in this café. As a former teacher it is great to be still involved, active and relevant as a tutor as one pushes on into the latter stages of one's life. The idea of the Café is to provide a place where people can gather and share refreshments and practise conversational English. The atmosphere is warm, friendly and informal. Everyone is welcome and we have European, Africans and Americans on most nights. Some formal teaching of vocabulary and grammar takes place but a lot of the time is taken up having stimulating discussions on the traditions, customs and cultures of our participants." Tomás' only disappointment is that more newcomers don't come to make friends, practise their English and get advice on settling in."

Tomás' fellow facilitator in the English conversation



group is Merrilyn Finn, a retired New Yorker whose enthusiasm and generosity have been highlights of the Language Café - along with her board games. "2022 brought us all together, indoors again, it was bit of a struggle for new English speakers after the Covid lockdown isolation. I sensed a new self-consciousness as we got re-introduced to each other. We introduced puzzles, crosswords and games like 20 Questions, One of These Three is a Lie, Charades. These and other fun conversation starters got us communicating freely, and laughing. We experimented with the idea of field trips and attended Bryan Friel's 'Translations', with a new English speaker bravely explaining the story to the group. A trip to Bord Gais to see 'My Fair Lady' was preceded by a few participants reading Shaw's Pygmalion, picking favourite quotes and discussing."

The war rages and we hope to continue to provide a haven for migrants... a bit of fun while learning a language and meeting many natives. They do love that each of the facilitators has a varied accent. I hope as they travel the world speaking English, people will hear a bit of a Scottish twirl, a Mayo motif, a New York mutilation, and ask. 'Did you learn English in Ballyhaunis?'



Ballyhaunis Language Cafe members did a litter pick of the town on Good Friday in conjunction with Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns. Pictured from left are: Mark Godfrey, Colm Bohan, Igor Solodky, Natalya Taraniuk, Sasha Taraniuk, Laura Dinraths, Kellie and Pawlo Wasylec.

Caifé Gaelach i mBéal Átha hAmhnais

RENA BURKE

Beatha teanga í a labhairt agus tír gan teanga, tír gan anam a deir na seanfhocail agus nach fíor iad. Ní briathra a dhearbhaíonn ach gníomhartha agus dá bharr sin cuireadh Caifé Gaelach ar bun le déanaí mar chuid de shraith caiféanna teanga i mBéal Átha hAmhnais.

Is coincheap nuálach é ina dtagann grúpa daoine le chéile uair amháin in aghaidh na coicise, tráthnóna Dé Domhnaigh ag a 7.00 i.n. i suíomh neamhfhoirmeálta chun smaointe agus tuairimí a roinnt le chéile. Is i mBeár Paddys a bhíonn an caifé Gaelach ar siúl.

Anois is arís ceartaíonn an t-éascaitheoir na botúin a dhéantar agus má tá daoine ag iarraidh focal a fháil tugtar dóibh é. Is cuma cén caighdeán Gaeilge atá ag daoine cuirtear fáilte rompu. Seoladh an Caifé Gaelach ag cóisir mhór i mbeár Gareths i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Is ag dul i neart atá sé ó shin.

Tá ranganna foirmeálta ag tosú, maoinithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge agus ár mbuíochas leo as ucht na hurraíochta seo. Is é múinteoir Colm a bheidh i gceannas

ar na ranganna seo a bheidh ar siúl san Halla Pobail i mBéal Átha hAmhnais. Is do thosaitheoirí Gaeilge na ranganna seo. Gaeilge abú!



Photo: Mary Donnelly (right) helps Merrilyn Finn with Irish vocabulary during the Irish Night organised by Ballyhaunis Language Café and Conradh na Gaeilge on 10th March 2022.

Russian Political Prisoner Yuri Dmitriev

MICK BROGAN

Yuri Dmitriev has dedicated his life to documenting and giving dignity to all those who died during Stalin's reign of terror regardless of the great risk to himself.

When we met Yuri Dmitriev in a café in the city of Petrozavodsk in Eastern Russia in 2012, his first action was to point to two shady looking characters seated outside, whom he said had been following us since we sailed into Arkhangelsk two weeks previously on *Northabout*. He then pointed to two other similarly leather-clad fellows whom, he said, followed his own every movement. He told us that the two following us, most likely wouldn't harm us but they could slow our progress if we didn't follow their rules. Regarding the pair following him, he said he wasn't afraid of them and in fact went to school with one of them. It suddenly felt we were becoming embroiled in a John Le Carré spy thriller, except this was real.

Belamour Canal

With our skipper and boatbuilder Jarlath Cunnane from Knock, we had returned to Russia to sail through the notorious White Sea/Baltic Canal, known in Russia as the Belamour Canal. Back in 2005 having completed the first ever East to West Arctic circumnavigation, we had requested a permit to sail back to Ireland from the Siberian Arctic through the Canal, to the reasonably sheltered Baltic in order to avoid the stormy seas over Norway in wintertime. Permission was denied and we had no choice but take the latter route.

In 2011 the Russians decided to allow foreign yachts access to the Canal and it seems we were the first to get a permit for what we considered 'unfinished business'. Built by Stalin between 1931 and 1933 with an endless supply of slave labour, some estimate 170,000 prisoners, the Canal is 227 km long and links the Arctic White Sea to the Baltic, passing through Lake Onega, the Svir River, Lake Ladoga, the Neva river and onto St. Petersburg.

It is also no coincidence that this is the region known as the heart of the notorious Gulag, and we were getting exclusive access. Our film-maker Gary Finnegan wanted to document as much as possible.

Having cleared customs in Arkhangelsk we set sail for the Solovetsky Islands and a monastery turned to Gulag camp which provided labour for building the Canal. Solzhenitsyn described it as, "a place so distant



Yuri Dmitriev (centre) flanked by Mick Brogan (left) and his brother Colm (right) at a war memorial site in Russia.

that the screams of the prisoners could not be heard." This was the nucleus from which the entire Gulag grew. As we walked around this extraordinary place among the abandoned watch towers, barbed wire and Orthodox Crosses, we were told by an elderly man who himself was a survivor, that the "entire place is a graveyard."

Nowadays the islands are a UNESCO world heritage site and an outstanding example of a monastic settlement and place of meditation and prayer. It was Yuri Dmitriev who documented the thousands of prisoners who were transferred from this camp to be shot and buried in Sandermark Forest on the mainland. Although we had paid for and received a permit to film, when we entered the first lock on the canal, we were confronted by armed guards with their Kalashnikovs pointed at us, shouting, "No cameras!" Thereafter, all photography and filming was done in secret. Gary, who wanted to make a film on the canal, had heard about Yuri but had no idea as to how to find him in this huge city of Petrozavodsk, the capital of Karelia. He enquired in the local tourist office and to his surprise was given Yuri's telephone number by one of the staff.

Yuri Dmitriev

When we met Yuri next day, he took us to his apartment on the seventh floor of a soviet style block (without a lift). Gary recorded four hours of footage with my brother Colm acting as translator. He took us to the nearby forest of Sandermark where he had excavated 7,000 human remains of dissidents, poets, musicians, priests, writers, from all eastern nationalities, all regarded as threats to the state. There we met relatives posting pictures on the

trees looking for any clues about the fate of their long-lost loved ones.

Of course, many recognised Yuri, and his humanity and compassion shone through when he spoke to them. Yuri has spent thirty years compiling a list of 40,000 people executed or deported under Stalin in this region of Karelia alone. Over the following days he took us to other burial sites around the city, his belief being that all victims of war, regardless of nationality should be remembered. I discovered that Jurgen Buester, whose son Martin sings with me and whose grandson Daniel conducts my choir Cois Cladaigh, nearly died when he was a German POW in Petrozavodsk. Yuri was able to show me the block where he was detained. It meant a lot to the family living near Galway that we visited his place of detention.

Yuri is a founding member of Memorial in Karelia. Memorial is a human rights organisation set up in the Gorbachev era, to persuade Russia to come to terms with its totalitarian past, based on the notion that confronting past crimes is essential to prevent new ones. Sadly, this is not the direction Vladimir Putin is leading his people in, and so many like Yuri Alexei Dmitriev, who are brave enough to stand on their principles on behalf of humanity, continue to pay the price. Memorial, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October (on Putin's 70th birthday) was outlawed by the Kremlin last year. Last December Yuri was sentenced to fifteen years in a high security penal colony prison which, at the age of 66, amounts to a life sentence.

Neither Yuri nor his lawyer were represented at the hearing which was held in camera. Just one week before



Protest outside the Russian Embassy in Dublin last February 2022.

Putin invaded Ukraine last February, the crew of *Northabout*, with support from many others including Amnesty International, protested outside the Russian Embassy in Dublin on Yuri's behalf. We were delighted to discover later that Yuri learnt of our protest and sent us a message of thanks. It meant a lot to him and his family.

It has been an honour to have met this brave and compassionate person and hopefully we will meet again another day

Link to the film documenting the voyage:

<https://vimeo.com/viewfinder100/review/169884667/fac51e3f6c>



A Sweet Home Coming.

"It was a lovely feeling to be back home in Ballyhaunis on the last week of July 2022 to host an evening of music, song and story in the Friary where my Dad had worked for a number of years. The weekend also included a well-attended Poetry Workshop in the Friary House with well-known Galway poet Bernie Crawford." – Frank Greally.

Pictured outside the Friary are performers at the 'Coming Home' concert on Sunday, 31st July. L-R: Connie Gildea, Richard Waldron, Paddy Joe Tighe, Anne Irwin, Frank Greally, Bernie Crawford, Skarleta Feierabends, Noel Lyons, Anthony Jordan, Michael Nolan. Photo by Janapix.



Oscar Mulrennan was christened in Gorthaganny Church in April 2022. He is pictured with his parents Gerard and Sarah Mulrennan (née Kelly, Kiltaboe), sisters, grandparents and uncle. From left: Michael Kelly, Gerard Mulrennan, Sarah and Oscar Mulrennan, Rosaleen Kelly, Mark Kelly, Willow and Sylvia Mulrennan.



Old Ballyhaunis school friends travelled from New Jersey, London and Ballyhaunis for the Ireland v. Wales Rugby match earlier this year.
Back, L-R: Pat Webb, Pat Neary, Vinnie Caulfield, John Fitzgerald, Stephen Nolan.
Middle, L-R: George Delaney, Thomas Moran, Tommy Grogan, John Dillon-Leetch, John O'Connor.
Front, L-R: Francis Salmon and Seamus Grogan.



Lisa Dillon Leetch (Main St.), Air Hostess with Aer Lingus, on the flight from Rome to Dublin in September 1978, with His Holiness Pope John Paul II.



A Clare Street Reunion. Alacoque (Lyons) Grey and Gerard Cleary, former neighbours in Clare Street in the 1950s and 60s, met up for lunch in Kingston-Upon-Thames in August this year. Alacoque moved to England in 1960 and Gerard in 1979 and, despite them both living in the London area for over forty years, this was their first meet-up on British soil. Alacoque explained to the passer-by photographer that she and Ann Byrne (Clare St.) used to 'fight' to push Gerard's pram in the mid-1950s!



Stations in the home of Tim and Margaret Byrne, Johnstown, 8th July 2022

Back, L-R: John Jordan, Dolores Byrne, Derek Finnegan, Marita Finnegan, Erica Byrne, Alex Byrne, Adam Mulkeen, Megan Finnegan, Noel Byrne, Collette Mulkeen, Dylan Mulkeen. **Middle, L-R:** Anne Jennings, Martha Lucey, James Finnegan, Lily McGrath (Byrne), Joe Byrne, Maureen Lilly, Ava Mae McGeehan, Pdraig Ruane, Noah Mukeen, Jimmy Hopkins, Megan Lucey, Ethna McGeehan, Anthony Mulkeen, Michelle Byrne, Helen Byrne. **Front, L-R:** Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Emma Haverty with baby John Jordan, Bridie Ruane, Margaret Byrne, Tim Byrne, Eileen Jordan, Aoibhín Jordan, Connie Gildea. (Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher)



Ballyhaunis vintners on a trip to the Harp Lager Brewery, Dundalk, 1990

Those unidentified are Harp officials and employees. **Back, L-R:** Unidentified, unidentified, Seamus Grogan, Adrian Murray, Crazy Jack, Mike Byrne, unidentified. **Centre, L-R:** James Lyons, unidentified, John Vahey, unidentified, Val Rattigan, Gabriel Smith, unidentified, John Halpin, unidentified, Eamonn Burke, John O'Neill, Patsy Quinn. **Front, L-R:** unidentified, unidentified, Anne Curley, Frances Mulhern, Bernie Jordan, unidentified.

Ballyhaunis Rugby Club

MARTIN WALSH

It's been another busy and successful year at Ballyhaunis RFC. After having two seasons cancelled when our seniors were leading the league, we were anxious to get back and finish the job. Thankfully, after a long hard campaign we finally won the Connaught JC1 League in convincing style. The campaign nearly took as much out of the lads as the celebrations! This promotes our seniors to the Connaught J1B League, a much tougher and even more competitive competition. Like all promoted teams the plan for 22/23 is to stay up and compete in order to build the team. The seniors also had a great run in the Curley Cup loosing narrowly to Ballinrobe in the final. That was the only competitive match they lost all season: an amazing achievement.

An awards night was held in the Stone House where we had our presentation of medals for seniors as well as other various annual club awards. It was a great celebration of one of the club's most successful seasons where past and present members and players got to meet up.

At under-age we continue to run minis rugby every Friday night for 7 to 12 year-old boys and girls. Our youth teams 12-16 train on Wednesday nights; new players and coaches are always welcome. Teams of all ages competed in games and blitz across Connacht very

successfully and the club clearly punched above our weight.

Like all sports, Rugby has seen huge growth and success by female teams at all levels. We have had girls attending our minis for several years and this year are running separate training for girls from age 10-13 at the pitch on Fridays 6.30 - 7.30pm and would be delighted to increase numbers. It's well worth a try!

We continue our club house developments and have finished the first phase finally with the opening of our fantastic fully equipped gym. We continue to develop the facilities and hope it will be completed by mid-2023. We are extremely proud of our facilities which are at the heart of the town and community. They are open at all times for people to enjoy but we would appeal to people to respect them and ask all dog walkers to keep their dogs on a lead and clean up after them.

We are well into our season now and it's going reasonably well, but like everyone we are finding it difficult to keep the lights on. The cost of running a club, particularly a winter sports club, has increased significantly. We have restarted our bingo night and lotto draw every Thursday night in Julian's of Midfield at 8 pm. It's a great way to socialise and pass a winter's



Ballyhaunis RFC under-11 Boys team attending Tuam Blitz

night and you could come home with a few extra euro in your pocket. The community and our patrons have always been great to us over the years and for this we are eternally grateful. We are always open to new members

and players at all levels and abilities.

Have a happy and safe Christmas and new year from all at Ballyhaunis Rugby club.



Ballyhaunis RFC, winners of the JC1 League.

Back, L-R: Stephen Foley, Bruce Robertson, Declan Murphy, Brendan Colleary, James Doyle, Clayton Nolan, Pat Egan, William Cunnane, Jack Deegan, Pdraig Carney, Aidan Healy, Sean Saunders, James Frayne, John O'Connor, Dave Gormally, Brian O'Neill.
Front, L-R: John Cunnane, Gabriel Gallagher, Conor Horan, Paul Carney, Andy Pearce, Colm Gallagher, Seamus Horan, Ailish Carney, Dave Lilly, Michael Jordan, Kieran McDermott, Jarlath Carney.



Ballyhaunis RFC Senior panel attending the awards night for medal presentation.

Back, L-R: Conor Horan, Robert Lilly, Stephen Foley, Cillian Costello, Andy Pearce, William Cunnane, Bruce Robertson, Pat Egan, Clayton Nolan, Aidan Healy, Pdraig Carney, Barry McLoughlin, Gabriel Gallagher, David Lilly, Brendan Colleary, Ian Cunnane.
Front, L-R: Dave Gormally, Dylan Hanley, Kieran McDermott, Colm Gallagher, Jarlath Carney, Fintan Crawley, Brian O'Neill, Declan Murphy, James Frayne, Seamus Horan, Michael Jordan, John O'Connor. *Photograph by Ciara Buckley.*

1950's Ireland Youth for Export - A Review

In his memoir Joe Mullarkey, one of the key members of the Irish in Britain Representation Group, reflects on what it means to be Irish and his experiences of being an activist in key events that affected the Irish in Britain over twenty years.

Joe was born in Bolton, Lancashire in 1942, but his mother died when he was five years old and he returned to Ireland to be brought up by his Aunt Kate and Uncle Tom in Ballybeg, Tullaughane, Ballyhaunis. His father stayed in Bolton working until he returned home when Joe was 15. *"I only knew him for a very brief time. I would have seen him every year for two weeks and he wrote every fortnight and sent me sixpence."* Brutal treatment by the Franciscan Brothers led to Joe walking out of school in Granlahan when he was 13. *"I told the brother that if he was to try and repeat the beating I would retaliate and so I walked out three months before I was due to finish school."*

Outside of school Joe's book tells us that he enjoyed a much happier and fuller life. He was very well cared for by his aunt and uncle, and he also had regular contact with his father who wrote to him often. Joe participated fully in all the activities in the local community including helping with farm work and developing friendships with the young people of his own age. Joe played minor hurling for Ballyhaunis, also minor and senior football for Ballyhaunis and was selected for the East Mayo senior team. No doubt also that in those formative years Joe developed his life-long deep interest and love for Irish traditional music, song and dance.

Bolton

Joe moved back to Bolton when he was 17. *"The lack of job opportunities was the reason I had to leave. I was an economic migrant although that wasn't the term used then."* In the 1960s he played for Gaelic football team Shannon Rangers which provided a social life for many Irish emigrants. *"It was a great saviour for many Irish people. Some of the clubs would meet people coming off the boat train and they did tremendous work finding them accommodation and jobs."*

Life changed for Joe forever when he had a serious accident on a railway line and lost both legs which were amputated above the knee. Through operations and his determination to walk again Joe mastered the use of prosthetic limbs. Joe was supported by his family and even a coach load of Manchester GAA supporters who turned up in his hospital ward. *"Those visits had a magical effect in encouraging me to walk again."*

In 1972 he married Margaret Schofield. They had two children, Bernadette and Nuala, and also adopted

Margaret's two children from a previous relationship. Together they went on to encourage the Bolton Irish community to be proud of being Irish, and not to be afraid of challenging discrimination and disadvantage.

Events in the North of Ireland following the Northern Ireland Civil Rights campaign in 1969 reflected back onto the Irish community in the UK. As Joe comments, *"The Irish community in Britain had no community structures that could cope with the aftermath of the 1974 Birmingham and Guildford pub bombings and the introduction of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (1974) that led to the conviction of the Birmingham Six, the Guildford Four, the Maguire Family and other innocent people."* Irish activists did respond in 1981 after the death of ten young Irish men who were on hunger strike for the right to political status in the North of Ireland.

IBRG

Joe was one of the founder members of the Irish in Britain Representation Group (IBRG), started, he explains *"...to campaign and to represent the interests of the community in Culture, Education, Welfare, Repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Anti-Irish racism, and political issues."* Bolton IBRG had a membership of over 100 hundred people with about 20 active on issues. They organised Irish language classes, as well as taking part in local multi-cultural festivals, starting an Irish radio programme, and taking their place on the Bolton Race Equality Council (BREC) and the Minorities Joint Consultative Council. Joe was Chair of Bolton IBRG as well as national Vice President of IBRG and a member of the Ard Choiste i.e. the six weekly meetings of the organisation which took place at venues across the country. He was also a shop steward in his workplace for thirty years.

Most IBRG branches had problems finding venues that would allow them to meet and Bolton was no different. After the 1974 Birmingham and Guildford pub bombings Irish pubs and clubs would not allow groups to meet that had any political agenda, even though the actual event was a fundraiser for a football club. Bolton IBRG challenged this and organised many events including the first Bolton Irish Festival. Bolton IBRG branch had difficulties finding an Irish club or pub that would allow them to meet monthly. In the end the Socialist Club provided that venue and over the years supported IBRG as well as putting on their own events which highlighted human rights abuses in the North of Ireland.

Irish in Britain

Being Irish at this time was making a political statement. Joe and IBRG did not avoid the fact that Irish were in Britain because of the occupation of the country by the British over many centuries. IBRG policies were passed on Northern Ireland and the issue was taken up consistently over the years. This memoir is important because it highlights how activists in IBRG were kept under surveillance and harassed for speaking out about Ireland and taking part in legitimate political activities. It did not stop Joe, or other members of IBRG, in taking up issues including anti-Irish racism, the use and abuse of the P.T.A., and the human rights abuses that followed from the occupation of the North of Ireland by the British Government.

In 2002 Joe returned to Ireland for the second and last time. *“Following the ceasefire and the various political changes, things improved for the Irish community, but I never felt that I belonged over there. I worked with English people, lived with them, was involved with them on a trade union and community level, but I never felt part of them.”*

Joe’s story is part of the radical history of working-class people in Britain. It is a chapter in the history of the Irish in Britain who take their place in campaigning for a better society as well as challenging the role of the UK in the occupation of part of Ireland. It is an important story and one that can only inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

The book can be purchased from Castle Bookshop, Castlebar, www.mayobooks.ie.

Footnote: As the Annagh magazine was going to print, we learned of the untimely death of Joe Mullarkey.

May he Rest in Peace.



The front cover of Joe Mullarkey's memoir contains a photograph of five youths, all of whom emigrated from Ireland, and of whom three returned. Author Joe Mullarkey is on the right. It was taken in Corrisloustia, just over the border in County Roscommon, sometime around 1950 and includes three members of the Goulding family – Kevin, John Joe and Kathleen.

Joe adds: *“It was taken at their family home where we all gathered every Sunday to play football, handball and hurling. The sporting endeavor halted while we listened to Micheál O’Hehir broadcasting the big game on Raidio Éireann.”*

The fourth person is John Mullarkey (no relation) from Ballybeg, Tullaughane.

Ballyhaunis Cemetery Committee

MARTINA GAVIN

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

There is a detailed map showing the location of marked graves 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’ or donations can be given through any committee member. Phone 087 632 4586 or 086 396 0943

Committee: Edward Mulhern, Tom Finn, Walter Cleary, Martin Gavin, Martina Gavin and Enda Caulfield.

Darkness Into Light, Ballyhaunis 2022

DEIRDRE MORAN (CHAIRPERSON)

Where do I begin? It went above and beyond our expectations. It was the most amazing event to take part in and be part of. Finally, after being granted permission to become a venue for 'Darkness Into Light' three years ago, Ballyhaunis, at last, held its first in-person event on 7th May 2022. Preparations began after Christmas 2021 with the committee coming together quite often to plan the event, still afraid to get too excited in case Government restrictions would see it postponed again. But we looked forward and remained positive. Volunteers were rounded up and posters and banners began to appear.

We approached the TY co-ordinator in the Community School, Mr. McGarry, to see if the students would like to get involved and that was met with a huge YES. They would totally get behind us and decorate and build whatever we needed. To say they did an amazing job is an understatement. Beautiful artwork, flowers, ribbons and a fantastic HOPE sign adorned the front of the school. It really was a credit to them.

We also asked the students of Scoil Íosa to get involved. The children decorated stones with inspirational quotes and wishes and laid them at the entrance to the walk in the Friary Field. They did a wonderful job.

So, the committee and volunteers rose very early Saturday morning (in all honesty very little sleep was had anyway – too excited and nervous) and began putting out tealights in various places along the route. The Burco boilers were filled and the scone buttering began. Water, fruit and snacks were ready for the walkers. Thankfully, the weather was lovely, and the fog actually added to the atmosphere.

Amazed

To say that we were amazed at the turn-out is an understatement. We expected maybe 350 but the number well exceeded 500. It was just so lovely to see the community of Ballyhaunis and indeed further afield coming together with one common goal – to raise awareness of Suicide and Self Harm and raise money for Pieta House.

Tracy Cunnane did a very invigorating warm-up to get the hearts pumping and to wake people up – it was lovely to see so many smiling faces that early in the morning. The Chairperson, Deirdre Moran, read a letter from Pieta and read their manifesto, and Fr. Stephen Farragher blessed the walkers and set everyone on their way.

We are truly blessed in Ballyhaunis that our complete



route is well lit, and our stewards kept an eye on the crowds and showed them the way. You could hear laughter all along the route. The Reflective Kilometre was around the Friary Walk and at the end of the walk the participants were met with beautiful music and song provided by the ever-talented Evan Fitzmaurice and friends.

Upon return to the Enterprise Centre the walkers were provided with refreshments and the odd hug if required. It was wonderful to see full families taking part and the very young people were delighted to pick up goodies in the wee hours of the morning. Young and old, and those in between, seemed to really enjoy the walk and the meet-up afterwards. Some found it very moving, remembering those gone before us and thinking of those we know who are struggling with their mental health. Everyone took part for his or her own reason.

After what seemed like a blink of an eye, the last of the walkers headed home and the stewards and volunteers helped with the clean-up and, by 6 am, you would never know that anything had taken place.

The committee would sincerely like to thank each and every person who took part in the walk, made donations, sponsored and donated refreshments, hung signs and took them down, decorated their premises, left lights on in their windows, and wished us well. We thank Ballyhaunis Enterprise Centre for the use of their premises, all the volunteers and stewards and parking attendants. Honestly, it's because of all of you that we had this fantastic community event. It was a common phrase on that Saturday morning: 'Ballyhaunis is a mighty little town'. And we cannot disagree with that.

Preparations are already underway for next year and we are hoping to build on this year's massive success although, looking back, we wonder how we can make it any better. If you would like to volunteer next year, please let a committee member know and we would be delighted with any assistance that we receive or perhaps ideas on how we can improve.

Information is available on www.darknessintolight.ie or by emailing ballyhaunis@darknessintolight.ie

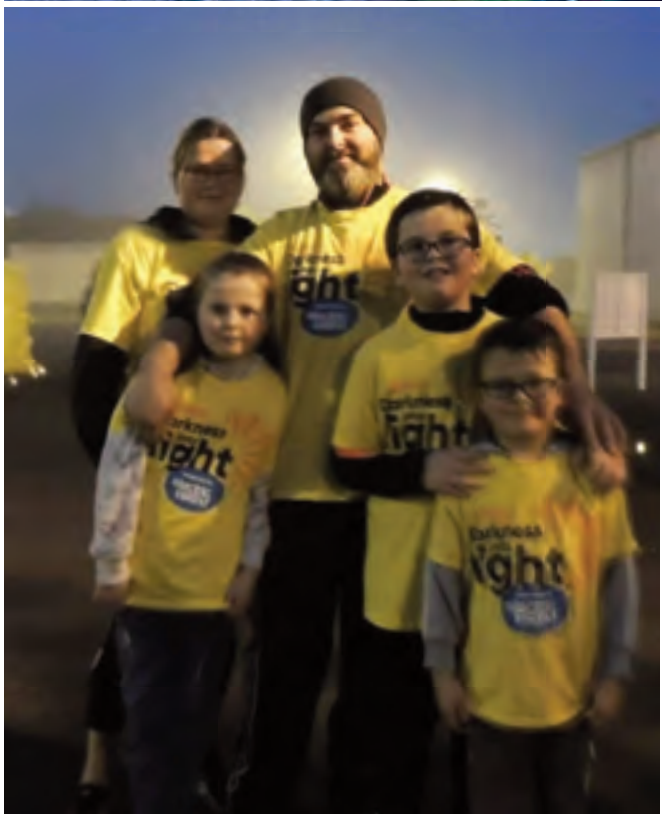
Remember: ***'Alone we are one drop;
together we are an ocean.'***

Committee: Deirdre Moran, Elma Kilbride, Anne Cunnane, Aisling Caulfield, Eavan Caulfield, Tina McGoldrick and Tracy Cunnane.

Looking forward to 6th of May 2023.



*Darkness Into Light,
Ballyhaunis 2022*





Darkness Into Light, Ballyhaunis 2022

'Alone we are one drop; together we are an ocean.'



Students of Ballyhaunis Community School who participated in Darkness Into Light 2022



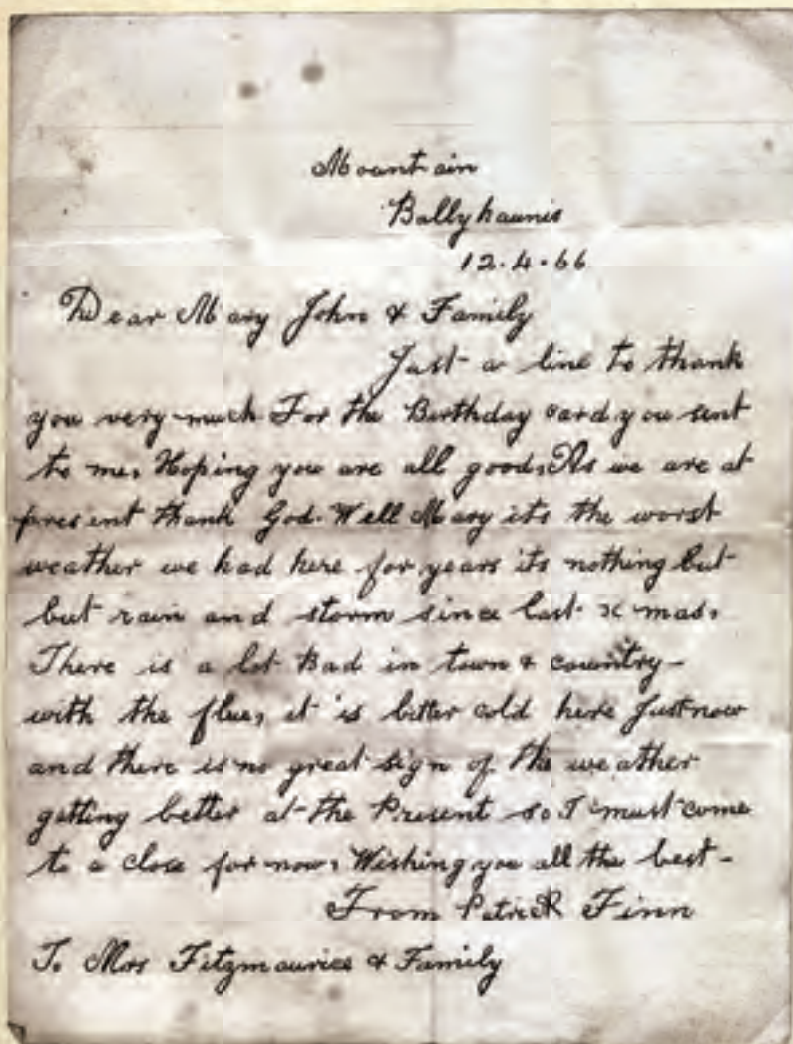
**St. Mary's Boys NS 1966,
Third and Fourth Classes.**

Back, L-R: Gerry Lyons, Davy Jordan, Eddie Murphy, David Dwane, Kieran Ruane, Liam Lyons, Jarlath Ronayne, Ger Devine, Tommy Webb.

Third Row, L-R: Brian Conway, Michael O'Connell, Alex Eaton, Oliver Hannon, Eamonn Murren, Kieran McGrath, Tommy Barrett, Eamonn Smyth, Eddie Campbell, Jarlath Kenny.

Second Row, L-R: Frank Lyons, Oliver Cribbin, Eugene Morley, Noel Armstrong, Bertie Cribbin, Hugh Campbell, John Ronayne, Paddy Lyons, Michael Keegan, Kieran Folliard, Pat Freeley.

Front, L-R: John Morley, Kevin Healy, Sean Maguire, Justin Joyce, Joey Coyne, David Freeley.
Courtesy of Michael O'Connell.



Abount air
Ballyhaunis
12.4.66

Dear Mrs John & Family
Just a line to thank
you very much for the Birthday card you sent
to me. Hoping you are all good. As we are at
present thank God. Well About its the worst
weather we had here for years its nothing but
but rain and storms since last Xmas.
There is a lot bad in town & country -
with the fleas, it is bitter cold here just now
and there is no great sign of the weather
getting better at the present so I must come
to a close for now. Wishing you all the best -
From Patrick Finn
To Mrs Fitzmaurice & Family

Left: Once upon a time letters were the only way we had of communicating with distant family and friends. The letter reproduced here is dated 12th Apr. 1966 and written by Patrick Finn of Mountain, Ballyhaunis, to his neighbours Mary and John (Frank) Fitzmaurice, then living in England.

There wasn't much in the way of news, except for the terrible weather since Christmas. The careful composition and beautiful penmanship are good examples of the lost art of letter writing. *(Courtesy of Jane Carr).*

Abbey Partnership

MARK GODFREY



A group participating in one of the garden workshops at the Community Garden in May 2022 with organisers from the Community Garden committee and tutor Martin Connor of ABC Gardening.

L-R: Eamon Egan (Community Garden), Mark Godfrey (Community Garden), Jenny Glynn, Eileen Jordan, Michael Cleary, Martin Connor, Natalya Taraniuk, Malgosia Cieslikowska, Angie Kastner, Rachel Cleary, Aoife Burke, Deimante Smyth.

Gardening, repairs, renovations and a poignant return by the Augustinian Friars, twenty years after leaving St. Mary's Abbey: these are some of the highlights of 2022 for the Abbey Partnership, a voluntary local group which runs the Friary properties and grounds for the community.

Much voluntary effort was expended in readying the church for two services during the year: the Corpus Christi procession and the traditional harvest Mass in early September which was attended by two friars from the Augustinian Order. They told a very large attendance that they were impressed with the upkeep of the friary and grounds and hoped it could continue to serve the community's interests.

In the course of the year the church has hosted the Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club, whose presence allowed the church to be aired twice a week. Tai chi and yoga lessons have also been run at the church during the year while in May the arts office of Mayo County Council hosted a dramatic and magical storytelling performance,

'Scéalaíocht's Samhlaíocht' by the State of US performance troupe. The Friary also hosted an art exhibition as well as a variety show and poetry workshop during the town's Summer Festival.

Across from the church, there is much daily activity in the Friary House where tenants include the Family Resource Centre and Mayo Autism Camp while the House is also home to the local branch of St. Vincent De Paul.

The grounds of the Friary were the subject of several studies this year by visiting ecologists, including Dr. Mary Tubridy who was invited by Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns to assess the state of local nature. Marine biologist Dr. Ken Whelan, meanwhile, led a fascinating field study of the Dalgan river which runs by the grounds. Dr. Ken's visit was at the invitation of Ballyhaunis Community Council and the Local Authorities Water Programme which aims to protect and improve water quality.

While an application to the government's Clár rural funding scheme to renovate the playground on site was not successful this year, there was a major achievement in getting funds for the lighting of the multi-use games area (MUGA) which will involve new cabling from the Friary church down to this covered structure in the grounds. This will allow for basketball and other games to be played in the facility after dark. Elsewhere, significant repairs have been carried out to the roof of the shed which serves as a base for the Rural Social Scheme workers who are so essential to the maintenance of the Friary and grounds.

Several workers on the TUS return-to-employment scheme work in the Community Garden, which is overseen by the garden committee of the Partnership. This has become a very vibrant part of the property with a dozen members of the community this year growing their own vegetables in plots. The garden has also retained for the next year its Green Flag status, awarded by An Taisce. Given that early this year we re-covered the large polytunnel at some cost, we are happy that ten gardeners have requested their own space in the tunnel for the upcoming growing season. Many of the gardening enthusiasts who have brought vitality to the garden also participated in a series of workshops on organic vegetable gardening hosted by the Community Garden this year. The workshops, funded by Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB), will be run again in 2023.

Members of the Partnership and Trust this year reached out to Mayo County Council to carry out repairs and cleaning to the church roof and gutters as well as some light repairs to the internal wiring. Constant vigilance is important in an old structure and it's hoped that the internal walls will be freshly painted in 2023. More maintenance work to the property will be required in the coming years, including an extensive rewiring.

Our chairperson Jim Power was moved to a new role in Mayo County Council early in 2022 and as of late October has not been replaced by the Council, with the deputy chairperson now acting chairperson. Typically, the chair is held by an officer from Mayo County Council.



Harvest Mass at the Augustinian Friary, Ballyhaunis, 4th September 2022.

L-R: Seamus O'Boyle (retired caretaker), Val Hughes (Ballyhaunis Faith & Light), Barry Butler (Ballyhaunis Faith & Light), Mary Donnelly (secretary of the Abbey Trust), Barry Griffin (Ballyhaunis Faith & Light), Pat Higgins (chairperson of the Abbey Trust), Fr. Michael Mernagh OSA (moderator of the Trust on behalf of the Augustinian Order), Christina Concannon (Ballyhaunis Faith & Light), Kay Curley (member of the Abbey Trust), Julia Kelly (Ballyhaunis Parish Pastoral Council), Wiktor Siemionkowski (sacristan).

(Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher)

We are happy to have Mary Commons continue as our administrator, supported by the Community Employment Scheme. Acting chair Mark Godfrey and secretary/treasurer Anne Cunnane regularly liaise with the Abbey Trust and various agencies, contractors and Mayo County Council as well as the local Gardaí, who conduct foot patrols of the grounds.

The Abbey Partnership is always keen to hear feedback from the community and we would be very happy to welcome new ideas and volunteers to help us run this property of such cultural, historical and natural value for the benefit of the community.

Requests to use the property can also be emailed to ballyhaunisabbey@gmail.com.



Ballyhaunis Football Club Dinner Dance ticket 1978.

My Story So Far or 'I Come from Doon Myself'

JOHN O'CONNOR O.S.A.

This year Fr. John O'Connor OSA celebrated his 96th birthday and the 70th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. Now living in Abbesside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Fr. O'Connor belonged to the Augustinian community in St. Mary's Abbey (The Friary) from 1981 to 1997. He is no stranger to Annagh readers having been a regular contributor of articles and poetry down the years and a staunch supporter of the magazine.

To mark the occasion, he has submitted a brief biography which he humorously entitles, "My Story So Far or 'I Come from Doon Myself'". Fr. O'Connor's native place is in the heart of 'Sliabh Luachra', a district on the borders of Cork and Kerry famed far and wide for its music and poetry, and this comes through in Fr. John's lively and conversational writing style. That he has reached these milestones is remarkable, particularly as he did not enjoy robust health in his early years, as outlined below. His many friends in Ballyhaunis and district send their congratulations and best wishes.



John O'Connor as a young clerical student.

I was born on 9th June 1926 in the Co. Cork townland of Doonasleen (or Doon), in the Parish of Boherbue in the diocese of Kerry (which also in Cork has the parishes of Millstreet, Ballydesmond, Dromtariffe and part of Rathmore). I was baptised a few days later with a twin sister in the Sacred Heart Chapel of Ease in Kiskeam. I grew up on a farm with parents, three sisters and three brothers, all gone to God now except one sister who is a year younger than me and a Presentation Nun in their Convent in Tralee. As in all the local homes the Family Rosary was said every evening after milking the cows and Sunday Mass was at the Church of Christ the King, about three miles away in the village of Knocknagree (in Rathmore Parish). From the Primary School early in the 1930s I made my First Confession and First Holy Communion in the Church in Knocknagree and, on 8th May 1939, I was confirmed by Bishop Moynihan in the Church of St. Joseph in Rathmore.

Like all local families at the time it was the pony and trap, or the pony and sidecar for Mass. In our family it was the parents and girls who so travelled; the boys walked. But the womenfolk paid a little price for this in patience. After Mass it was the custom for the men to go into one of the public houses for a weekly pint and, of course, to settle up the affairs of the world. At the time it was not the done-thing for women to go into public houses, so they sat outside and waited. But it was not all suffering. Members of one family would join another and the local news was passed around and family wisdom shared, while the men were off in Russia or South America!

Meanwhile, the young lads would have walked off home and could be listening to the radio (a novelty at the

time) or playing 'Pitch-and-Toss' at the crossroads. As yet there was no GAA club in the locality to mould them into Cork county footballers. This part of Cork did not then promote hurling. Later when I went to a boarding school, not being a player was a disadvantage as it was coupled with a country shyness in the company of so many town and city replicas of the great Mick O'Connell around me. However, I went on to choose the next best thing and have never regretted it. I became a committed supporter and follower of the GAA and so was no longer my lone self but one of a group at every match, and this is still the great beneficial aspect of my weekends. So, my advice to everyone is to adopt some sport and follow it religiously.

School-time

Most of the local boys and girls in our side of the parish went the three miles to Knocknagree school, a big two-storey building at the lower end of the village (fittingly opposite some sweet shops, if you had small money in your pocket at the time). The girls and their teachers occupied the top storey; the boys and theirs the lower storey. There was no playing field, just a gravel yard for recreation which girls and boys took in turn.

Here then the four boys of our family in turn went to school. By choice – in spring, summer and autumn, at least in my time – we mostly went barefooted as the road at the time was still good and dusty and not tarred. Each carried his satchel of books and sometimes we had our shoes thrown over our shoulder. In the walking to Mass on Sunday (before we got bicycles and before the first motor cars came) it was different. We wore our polished shoes or maybe boots and our Sunday best clothes. And after the ritual Saturday night washing we were all spic-

and-span and smelling of carbolic soap. Oddly, the girls in our house did not go to Knocknagree to school. It seems Mother had a friend in another relatively close school (in our own parish) and there they went. Then for them, when it came time to leave the National school, they were blessed to have the Presentation Secondary School for girls in Millstreet. Although this was reasonably close, transport was a problem so the girls had to stay in the town up to the weekends.

For myself, having gone through the two 'babies' and six regular classes in Knocknagree from the early 1930s to Summer 1939, my time for secondary school had arrived. In this regard there was no established pattern in our house. The oldest brother with a number of other local lads had been taken to a missionary order's juniorate with the hope that they would join up, which was common enough at the time. I think one of the group did persevere but the others, and among them my brother, did not. But they did get a good secondary education however, sufficient for my brother to go to the veterinary college (which I understand was quite demanding at the time) and become a farm vet. The other brother did not go to secondary as he was to take over the home farm, which he did. But without a doubt, in leaving Knocknagree National School he did know his catechism and sums and Irish (as a written language) as we all did. While personal reading was encouraged to a degree, English as a taught language was not developed that much. Still, all round the standard was high as I learned when I got to secondary school in New Ross. I found I had knowledge of Mathematics and Irish that practically brought me up to the Inter Cert.

As I indicated above the boys of the locality were not as fortunate as the girls when it came to secondary education. Nowadays, there are several excellent local secondary schools, but in my time there was the seminary in Killarney for boys and another in West Cork, but few locally went to these. The trend at that time was the boarding schools of religious orders and, as it happened, the Augustinians had two: one in New Ross, which I went to, and one in Dungarvan, where my younger brother Denis and a number of younger local lads got their secondary education (and some, including my brother, getting to play Minor Football for Co. Waterford).

And so with parents and teachers having decided, in early September 1939 I was put on the train in Rathmore with two of my classmates, Con Lenihan and Dinny Moynihan, to head for Mallow and onto Waterford and the waiting cars there to take us to the Augustinian Good Counsel College in New Ross, Co. Wexford, still standing but derelict and replaced now by a thriving day school at the top of the town. So then twice every year respectively after the Christmas break and the Summer holidays, the three of us made the same journey until the end of June 1945 after we had completed the Leaving Cert. For me

this was followed by a final summer on the farm saving the turf and the hay, milking the cows, going to the creamery and the succession of other chores shared by the father and brothers and occasionally (as in the hay-making) by Mother and sisters.



Fr. John O'Connor at the Augustinian Summer House in San Pio, Italy, on the day he celebrated his First Mass at the nearby Shrine of Our Mother of Good Counsel in Genazzano.

Novitiate

Then in early September 1945 once again Dinny and Con and myself were on the train out of Rathmore, but this time our destination was further afield: the Irish Augustinian Novitiate in the Dublin Mountains where we were to spend a year, trying out our vocation to the Augustinian Order. In the group that year there were twelve novices and, believe it or not, nine of those came from our class in New Ross. Sadly, neither of my travelling companions completed the year. Con actually got seriously ill and went home and died shortly after. Dinny also went home and worked for a number of years and then also went to God. God rest them both.

For me, the tentative acceptance in the Order came on 24th Sept. 1946 at what is canonically referred to as Simple Profession, that is the taking of the three religious vows (of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience) for a three-year

period of further testing. This is usually followed by transfer to what is called a Student House (or Professorium) to begin a three years' Philosophy Course in preparation for the Priesthood, to be followed by four years Theology. However, the superiors of religious orders sometimes select a few of the simply professed and send them to a local secular university. This happened in my case. I was sent to the Augustinian student house at John's Lane in Dublin and from there attended UCD for a BA Degree. I did so for a year and, I have to say, I very much enjoyed the lectures and no doubt benefited, especially in my favourite subjects, English and History. But then from Superiors came a change of plans and I was sent off to St. Patrick's, the Irish Augustinian Student House in Rome, to begin Philosophy in the Jesuit Gregorian University and continue with the Theology Course.

To Ordination

At the Gregorian I did the three year Philosophy Course in Latin, a smattering of which I had from the Leaving Course. Then came the four years of Theology (with canon law and scripture, dogmatic and moral theology). I should say that with regard to the Augustinian Order my time for Solemn Profession came up. This takes place three years after Simple Profession and it is a commitment to the same three vows for life and permanency in the Order. Mine took place on 24th Sept. 1949.

In our student days in Rome, believe it or not, there were sometimes around forty of us in the community getting ready for the priesthood. On occasions of celebration we were treated to some cigarettes and maybe some special Italian wine at meals to replace the daily kind. And at night we usually had a get-together for some songs and recitations (and smoking). Being a non-singer my choice had to be a recitation. As time went on, I wrote a few of my own, but early on my favourite was 'The Trimmings of the Rosary' or 'The Choice of Friends'.

Reflecting on my life at that stage it was all a positive story: no serious sickness on the farm, no day in bed at the boarding school, no sickness in the novitiate, nor so far in the student houses. And so the time for ordination was approaching which, in my case (as in many others), was to take place in the third of the four theology years.

I was ordained on 13th July 1952 in the church of Our Lady of Grace near the Victory Emmanuel monument in Rome. Now a priest, I went back to the summer house in San Pio and said my first Mass the next morning at the shrine of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Genazzano. Images of Our Mother of Good Counsel, based on the original fresco here, are venerated in every Augustinian church, including a very fine example in Ballyhaunis.



Fr. O'Connor and Altar Servers Packie Freeley, Barry Collum and Stephen Gately. Taken in the Friary Sacristy, 18th May 1993. (Courtesy of St. Mary's Primary School photographs taken by teacher Mrs. Betty Regan).

Change of Life

After the summer break in San Pio we were back in St. Patrick's in Rome and I, now an ordained priest, had my final years of theology to do and secure a confirming BD (Bachelor of Divinity) degree for it. This did not happen, however. Briefly, coming on to the Christmas I began getting haemorrhages and it became clear that I had fairly advanced TB (sadly, like a number of students before me in St. Patrick's). Because of my exceptionally good health early on it had taken the disease a long time to become evident. So, on 31st January 1953, I was put on a plane for London and back to Dublin where I spent two years in St. Mary's Hospital (the TB sanatorium), Phoenix Park. It was sad for a young man who, up to then, did everything for himself. But there were positives too: the unbelievable kindness of the staff certainly, but also the fact that it was there I began my writing career which was later to blossom in numerous articles and books. My first ever published article was in the sanatorium magazine: *The Voice of St. Mary's*. But to give some of the gory details: I was confined entirely to the bed for the first nine months, the hope being that the complete rest would heal the advanced disease. As it happened the result was not positive so I ended up having two chest operations which necessitated losing the most of seven ribs, with the permanent collapse of most of the right lung. The disease

had gone too far for the treatments that were coming in at that time, through the unforgettable endeavours of Dr. Noel Browne. So, part of me is already waiting the Resurrection in Phoenix Park! For most of the time I shared a room with the late Fr. Bell OSA and Fr. Louis, a Passionist priest, two men who brightened every day for us, doctors, nurses, orderlies, all the caring staff and myself. But, believe it or not, we three TB patients sometimes smoked on the quiet and it took me a few more years before I finally finished my last cigarette. And it was not concern for health that motivated me, but the wish to gain a freedom. That desired liberty, I have to say, took quite a fight to win one Lent.

Appointments

After my stay in hospital I went home to Cork for a while and then came my religious appointments: Callan (for a few months) and then (for varying periods): Fethard, Dungarvan, Carlisle, Drogheda, Orlagh, Fethard, Galway, Ballyhaunis, Galway and Abbeyside (Dungarvan), where I am now celebrating my 96th birthday and 70th jubilee, and no longer smoking. After my spell in hospital as a sideline (and a sort of apostolate) I took to writing more seriously and so some material of mine – prose and verse

– can be found in a number of papers and a few books of mine. And then there was my association with notable magazines like *Annagh*, *Good Counsel*, *Mission News*, *Medugorje Herald* and *Profile* (all but sterling *Annagh* now sadly gone). When in Dungarvan I was teaching for a while and also in Carlisle. And I was the Novice Master for a few Years. But sadly always, my heart's desire to go on the Missions can never materialise because of the TB encounter. But welcome be God's will.

This summer we celebrated my 70th Jubilee here in Abbeyside with a meal and I got lots of cards from all over, including one from our Father General in Rome. But family-wise, it was the birthday (9th June) that took over. As in most of the recent years, a goodly number of the home-based nieces and nephews and relations and neighbours gathered at my sister's home for the event. So, to conclude and finish I'd like to extend Christmas Greetings to all my friends in and around Ballyhaunis and wish them the best of health and good fortune in the coming year.

Pictured below: Fr. John O'Connor with his twin sister Peg, nephews, nieces, in-laws and neighbours, celebrating their birthday.



Photographs courtesy of Rosie Moran Fitzsimons, Beachwood, New Jersey, U.S.A.



Above: Stations in Freeley's, Ballindrehid in the 1960s.

Back, L-R: Annie Glynn, Baby Glynn, Annie Freeley, Mary Regan, Mickie Barrett, Phil Power, Cait Freeley, unidentified, Michael Freeley, Helen Freeley, Mary Delia Waldron, Kate Lyons, Rosie Moran, Nora Cunnane, Delia Flanagan, Mrs. Healy.
Seated, L-R: Kate Sullivan, Delia Greeley, Agnes Freeley, Fr. Heraty C.C., Mary Freeman.



Left: School outing from the Tech to Sligo, 1964.
 L-R: Tom Curry (Knock), Pat Foley (Glantavrane) and Fergus Flatley (Knock).



Right: L-R: Austin Lyons, Jimmy Robinson, Rosie Moran and Jimmy Egan.
 Taken during Ballyhaunis Tech trip to Sligo, 1964.

Photographs courtesy of Rosie Moran Fitzsimons, Beachwood, New Jersey, U.S.A.



Above left: Taken at the Donkey Derby during a Ballyhaunis Agricultural Show during the 1960s. L-R: Paddy Hunt (Larganboy), John and Joe Moran (Brackloughboy) on the donkey, Paddy Mullarkey (Bohogue).

Above right: School trip from the Tech to Achill, 1965: Rosie Moran (Brackloughboy) and Marie Finn (Aghamore).



Above centre: Mike Mulrennan's thatched house and the Gurteen Road, taken 1997.



Left: Taken outside the Tech in 1965. L-R: Vera Hopkins (Knock), Marie Finn (Aghamore) at back, Rosie Moran (Brackloughboy), Mary Keane (Kilkelly), Nancy Hopkins (Knock).



Mayo SPCA, Pattenspark

LUCIE KAVANAGH

I am opening our annual Mayo SPCA update with a quote from Linda Garvin, one of our wonderful volunteers:

This is why I volunteer with Mayo SPCA. Volunteering at a rescue centre was something that I always wanted to do but I was afraid that it would have a negative impact on me emotionally or affect my mental health. I was afraid I would get too emotionally involved or find it too distressing. I can honestly say after twelve months working here, that it is my therapy. It is my happy place. It is somewhere I look forward going to. We can't fix the world, but we can help lots of animals heal and find safe homes where they will be shown love and kindness. I get to feel like I am making some small contribution by making the world a kinder place and I have met so many people who wish for the same.

We literally wouldn't be in existence without our volunteers and Linda sums up so well how the shelter gives back such a feel of community, achievement and of course the joyful afterglow of cuddles and play! We always love to meet new volunteers and wherever your interests lie, if you love animals, there is a place for you here.

It's been another busy year for us. To date (October 2022) we have rehomed 179 animals and have 87 cats and dogs in our care. Every animal who comes through our gates is memorable and we love the satisfaction of knowing that when they leave for their forever homes they are so much better physically and otherwise after their time here. This year we have, sadly, had some cruelty cases like Joey and Sophie (pictured) and thanks to the amazing work by our volunteers, after a period of physical and emotional TLC, they both recovered and went happily off to loving homes where they continue to thrive. There aren't enough words to describe the importance of the rehabilitation work carried out by everyone who volunteers at the shelter. This can only go

at the pace of the animal and, in some cases, it can take months, even years, to get to a point where a traumatised animal can learn to trust and feel safe again.

Sadly, kitten season continues to bring us some harrowing cases. We have had kittens found at the sides of roads, kittens left outside the shelter in a sealed bucket and, very sadly, kittens abandoned outside who died before anyone



realised that they were there. We have seen mother cats in very poor states of health and still using every ounce of strength in their bodies to care for their babies. We continue to see so much suffering and it is very hard since this is largely avoidable if people would just get their cats neutered as soon as they reach between 4-6 months of age. This includes indoor pet cats and feral cats. If you have a cat that you need to get neutered but cannot physically handle, we can help with the loan of cat traps. This year we have had some very successful TNR (Trap Neuter Return) projects with feral cat colonies where people assisted us in catching the feral cats around their property, got them neutered and returned to their usual haunts where they can live a much happier and healthier life without the endless cycle of fighting, injury, unwanted kittens, illness and suffering.

Re-homing

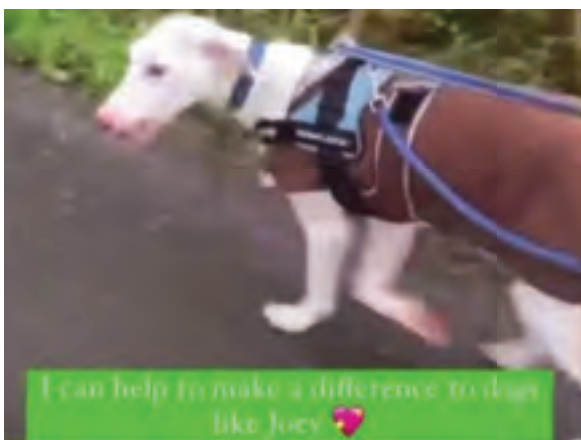
Times are tough and, sadly, this filters down to us when housing, landlord and economic issues lead to people being unable to keep their pets. We help re-home these pets where possible and make the transition as easy as possible for the animal and all concerned. Re-homing pets isn't easy and needs to be done safely and in the best interests of the animal. We urge anyone in the unfortunate position of having to part with their pets to contact an animal rescue service for advice and help.

Throughout the year we rely, as always, on our volunteers and truly appreciate the work that they do, whether it's coming in for regular shifts in the shelter, feeding, walking, loving our animals, or helping with administration, fundraising or fostering. Fostering is a great help to us at the busy times when the shelter is full but also where an animal because of young age, trauma, poor health, or in need of extra tender loving care, will benefit from being in a household and receiving some one-to-one care and attention. It particularly helps in the case of new-born or very young kittens who don't have



a mother cat and need round the clock care and feeding. One of our wonderful foster carers, Claire Tuohy, who has raised two new-born litters of kittens so far this season, describes what she does:

I've always had pets and volunteered when I lived abroad many years ago. I had some experience of bottle feeding and, with space limitations in my house, decided to put myself forward to foster young kittens. It comes with the territory that there will be failures as well as successes. Cats can have many litters each year if not neutered/ spayed. Life can be really tough on cats as some owners let them wander. The drive is there to mate and reproduce, but the death rate is astonishingly high. Those that end up in rescue or whose owners neuter them are the lucky ones. What is it like to foster? It is really rewarding but, no doubt. It's hard work too. Kittens don't need as much space in the house as puppies do, but I've learned that tiled floors are the way to go; easy to clean! People ask if I get attached and, of course I do. These are gorgeous, defenceless little beings – and, have I mentioned how cute?! But there is a lot of work to it with feeding and monitoring. When they are small it's around the clock, but the mindset must be that, if you end up keeping them you can't help the next litter that comes along. I think I get them at the best stage! Then they move on to their forever homes and I am open to take the next gang. Definite benefits are the first purrs! I get a load of kitten snuggles in before they go to their new pet parents and I get to watch them open their eyes, take their first wobbly steps, progress from syringe feeds to bottles to the bowl (and what a mess that is, let me tell you). I'm delighted I could help those I've fostered and the rescue centre has been so supportive it's great to have the occasional check-in to see how I am. If you have the time, space and love I would totally recommend it. You will have saved the life of an innocent creature that, maybe, would have had no chance without you. There are very few better feelings in life than that.



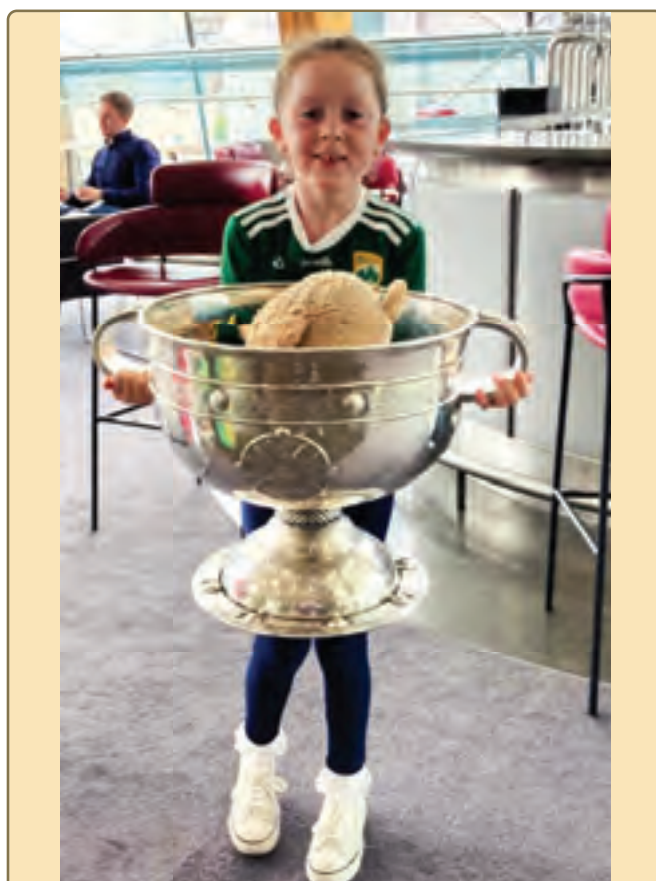
Fostering can be bittersweet, but it is so rewarding to see an animal blossom in the household and be ready to move on to the next stage of their lives secure and able

to adapt to indoor life.

As always, we thank everyone who supports us: our volunteers, the public who donate food, money, share our posts, help us with queries and partake in fundraising activities, the Gardaí, Dog Wardens Laura and Dara, the Department of Agriculture, Mayo County Council and local politicians John Cribbin, Richard Finn and John Caulfield who assist with much needed grants. In short, everyone who loves animals and helps us do what we do.

We also want to acknowledge a huge fundraising achievement recently carried out by Ger Duffy (<https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/GersEverestExpedition>) who has climbed a 20,000 peak on Mount Everest as part of an amazing expedition to raise funds for us as well as Irish Cancer Society.

If you are interested in volunteering at our rescue centre in Ballyhaunis and can commit to working one three-hour shift per week or one every fortnight, we would love to hear from you. Our centre is open seven days per week and we have two shifts daily: 10am to 1pm and 3pm to 6pm.



Shauna Walsh, from Brosna, Co. Kerry attended her first All-Ireland Football final this year (July 2022) and was delighted that The Kingdom won! She also brought along her teddy 'The Gooch'. Shauna's mother is the former Genevieve Flanagan of Spaddagh, Ballyhaunis, where her grandparents John Joe and Patsy Flanagan live.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival

WILLIAM NESTOR

The long-awaited return of the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival was a hugely successful event in the community's social calendar of 2022. Two main events were held on the August Bank Holiday Weekend: a Family Fun Day in the Friary Field and a Street Festival with live local musicians, entertainers, street stall sellers and demonstrators held on Main Street.

In bygone years, the festival was scheduled in June, however, due to time constraints the Summer Festival Committee made a decision to push this year's festivities back a couple of months. Persistent rain on the day didn't dampen spirits as hundreds of children attended the activities in the Friary Field throughout the afternoon, while operations on Main Street got underway from early that morning.

The erection of a professional and eye-catching stage for musicians to perform on made a memorable addition to our event which was themed: "From Rio to Ballyhaunis: Mardi Gras Street Festival." With a growing population of Brazilian nationals in Ballyhaunis, it was deemed appropriate to invite and welcome this new influx of residents into our community. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather a planned walking parade was cancelled. However, the Samba element to the night was not lost as dancers and drum bands electrified punters on the street and packed pubs in the town.

The wealth of local musical talent was aired on stage through bands such as Diesel, Matica with lead singer Evan Fitzmaurice, Beggars Velvet with bassist Kyle Dee,

solo performer Dara Healy, rising rap star Jacob Ubych, Brazilian duo Rodrigo & Leo, and Syrian father-and-son act Adnan and Ali Sakkar. Meanwhile, an art exhibition was held by the local Rural Irish Artists in the Friary church over the weekend followed by an evening of song and stories with Frank Greally and friends.

An enormous amount of time and energy was invested by a team of volunteers during the weeks and months in preparation for the festival which was fully supported by the Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce. The Festival Committee wish to thank all who participated and made donations towards the running of the festival, particularly to Nolan's SuperValu Ballyhaunis who kindly invited us into their store for a collection day. Without this kind of support and the general goodwill of people in our community, the committee would struggle to provide such an expansive line-up of events.

Plans are already afoot for 2023 and we hope to bring an even bigger and better festival to Ballyhaunis over a number of days next summer.

Ballyhaunis Summer Festival committee and volunteers: Martin Fitzmaurice, Margaret Monaghan, Mary T. Griffin, Anne Cunnane, Padraic Murphy, Mark Connery, Ciara Buckley, Geraldine Cregg, Claudiane Lima, Mike Griffin, William Nestor, Eamon Monaghan, Mohammed Cherbatji, Tomás Murphy, Chris Ganley, Vincent Higgins, Martin Gavin, Michael McNamara, Eamon Egan, Conor Fitzgerald and Tommy Caulfield.



Members of the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival committee and volunteers:
Back, L-R: Sophia Balbino, Geraldine Cregg, Gabrielle Teles, William Nestor, Mary T. Griffin, Padraic Murphy, Margaret Monaghan, Eamonn Monaghan, Mike Griffin. Front: Cassia Oliveira, Manoel Cabrai, Anne Cunnane.



"From Rio to Ballyhaunis: Mardi Gras Street Festival".
Vanessa Frota and a drum band performing on Main Street, Ballyhaunis, Summer 2022.



Dara Healy entertains the crowd at the Ballyhaunis Summer Festival, 2022. Photos by Ciara Buckley

WEDDINGS

Adena Morley (Ruane, Knock) and Gearóid Ó Laimhín (Brook Road, Foxford) who married in Knock Church, 3rd Sept. 2022.



Christina Connolly (Killinaugher) and Colin Fogarty (Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath) who married in The Village Barn, Tyrrellspass, Co. Westmeath, 17th Sept. 2022.



Clare Lavin (Knock) and Richard Kelley (Leeds) who married in Ballintubber Abbey, 24th June 2022. Clare is daughter of the former Anne Hopkins (Upper Main Street) and Jimmy Lavin.





Aideen Murray (Hazel Court) and Liam Brady (Liscat) who married in St. Patrick's Church Ballyhaunis, 15th July 2022.



Sara Lenaghan (Bekan) and Evan O'Keeffe (Castlemartyr, Co. Cork) who married in St. Margaret Mary Alacoque church, Began, 8th July 2022.



Austin Lyons (Bekan) and Sarah Halpenny (Blackrock, Co. Dublin) who married in St. Dymphna's Church, Upper Lavey, Co. Cavan, 1st Apr. 2022.



Damian Hoban (Brackloon North) and Máirín Mulherrin (Connemara) who married in St. Columba's Church, Castlegar, Galway, 6th May 2022.



**Enda Griffin (Annagh)
and Caroline Bowe
(Ballyfin, Co. Laois)
who married in
Ballyfin, 20th May
2022.**



**Laura Kelly (Ballyhaunis)
and Ruairi Gallogly
(Rathfarnham,
Co. Dublin) who married
in St. Therese's Church,
Brickens, 4th March 2022.**



**Leanne Lynch
(Holywell) and Patrick
Lynn (Waterford) who
married in St. Mary's
Church, Westport, 11th
June 2022.**



Daniel Byrne (Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon) and Natalie Hartmann (Long Island, New York, U.S.A.) who married in Long Island, 6th Aug. 2022.



Niall Byrne (Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon) and Holly Collins (London) who married in Knockcroghery, 11th June 2022. Niall and Daniel (left) are sons of the former Anne Griffin (Clare St.)



Isobel Morrissey (Cave) and Richard Taylor (Yateley, Hampshire) who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, 26th Aug. 2022.



Jade McDermott (Island Upper) and Killian Lane (Crosshaven, Co. Cork) who married in Robert's Cove, Cork, 23rd Aug. 2022.



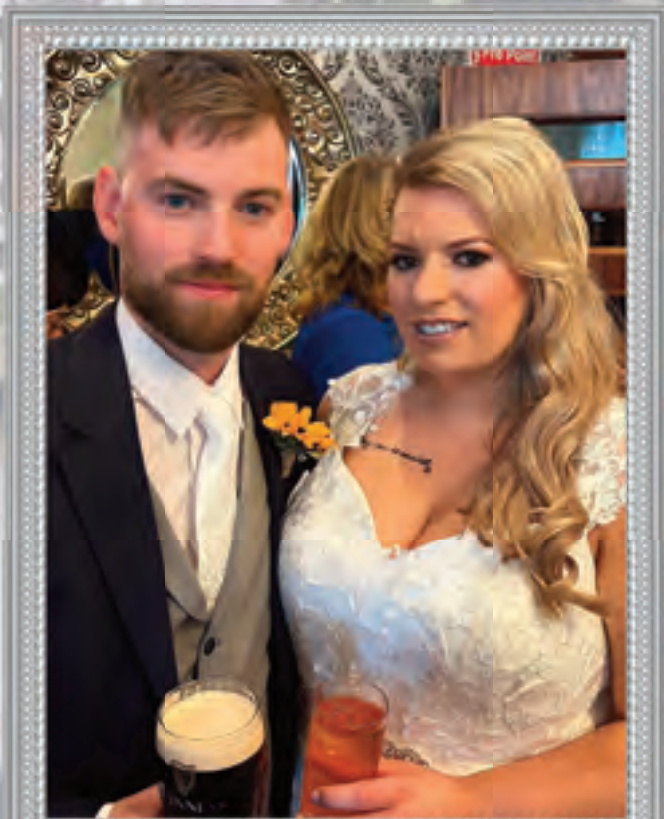
Jenny Lyons (Spaddagh) and Thomas Brady (Kiltevena, Dunmore) who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, 18th June 2022.



Joe Neenan (Coolnafarna) and Stephanie Byrne (Drum, Knock) who married in St. Brendan's Church, Kilmeena, 19th Nov. 2021.



John Finnegan (Ballinastoka, Tulrahan) and Mary Holahan (Drumcoura, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim) who married in Drumreilly Church of Ireland, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, 6th May 2022.



Kevin Morley (Derrymore) and Chelsie Parker (Dunmore, Co. Galway) who married in The Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, 23rd Sept. 2022.



Orla Lyons (Knockbrack) and Harry Geraghty (Mullaghroe North, Clogher, Ballina) who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, 18th Dec. 2021.



Robert Cregg (Ballinlough) and Sinéad McNea (Charlestown) who married in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Derreens, Achill, 18th June 2022.



Thomas Timlin (Knockmore, Ballina) and Eimear Bell (Derry) who married in Derry, 24th Apr. 2021. Also pictured are Thomas's parents Tommy and the former Patricia Daly (Ballyhaunis)



Kim Moran (Ballyhaunis) and Lynden Fahy (Ballinrobe) who married in St. Mary's Church, Logboy, 31st Dec. 2021.



Lisa Henry (Tooreen) and Giles Harvey (Dorset, England) who married in Markree Castle, Co. Sligo, 2nd June 2022.



Lisa Webb (Main St., Ballyhaunis) and Alan Danso (Bangor, Co. Down) who married in The Millhouse, Slane, Co. Meath, 25th Aug. 2022. Pictured with their son Zach. Photograph by Pawel Bebenca.



Aisling Waldron (Holywell) and Richard Dowling (Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny) who married in Coromandel Peak, New Zealand, 28th January 2022.



Mairead Horkan (Lassiney) and Conor Hanbury (Westport) who married in St. Margaret Mary Alacoque church, Bekan, 23rd Apr. 2022.



Megan Toolan (Philadelphia) and William Dwyre (Philadelphia) who married in Philadelphia, 15th Oct. 2022. Pictured with Megan's parents James Toolan (Knockanarra) and Debbie Conway Toolan (Holywell).



Melissa McLoughlin (Loughanboy) and Martin Corcoran Jnr. (Islandeedy) who married in St. Margaret Mary Alacoque church Bekan, 7th Oct. 2022.



Mouhanad Cherbatji (Aisling Drive) and Nawal Iskeif (Syria) who married in Egypt, October 2021.



Eimear Culliney (Lissaniska) and Hamish Hamilton (Scotland) who married in Kilfenora, Co. Clare, 30th Apr. 2022.



Noel Byrne (Johnstown) and Michelle McGrath (Pulronaghane, Kiltimagh) who married in the Holy Family Church, Kiltimagh, 2nd July 2022.



Pat Kelly (Knox St.) and Amy Conroy (Aghamore) who married in St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis, 7th Oct. 2022. Pictured with their children Noah and Amelia Kelly. (Photograph by Jenny McCarthy).



Ross Nolan (Gorthaganny) and Caroline Eaton (Strandhill Road, Sligo) who married in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Kilmovee, 11th March 2022.



Máire O'Dwyer (Ballindrehid) and Cian O'Sullivan (Castleknock, Dublin) who married in the Church of Our Lady and St. David, Naas, Co. Kildare, 26th Feb. 2022.

Séamus O'Dwyer (Ballindrehid) and Emily Gould (Kent, England) who married in St. Patrick's Church, Slane, Co. Meath, 7th May 2022.

Diamond Wedding Celebrations

Monday, 26th September 2022, marked a very special day in the lives of Ballyhaunis natives Fintan and Mai Lynch, when they celebrated the great occasion of their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary.

Main Street native Fintan (son of B.T. and Sarah Lynch) and the former Mai Byrne (daughter of Bernie and Peg Byrne), Clare Street, were married in St. Patrick's Church in Ballyhaunis by Fr. Heraghty, C.C. in 1962. A reception was held afterwards for family and friends in The Central Hotel, Main Street. The couple have lived in Ennis for the past sixty years.



Above: Pictured at the Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary celebrations with Fintan and Mai, were sons Mark, Bernard and Ivan, daughter, Olive, and granddaughter Lauren.

Left: Fintan and Mai Lynch on their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary.

Baptisms Marriages Deceased

BAPTISMS in the Parish – November 2021 to October 2022

Jazmin Lynn Sidhu, Kiltimagh
Winnie Christina McDonagh, Tooraree
Eli Liam McConn, Bracklaghboy Village
Madison Carmel Flanagan, Manor Brook
Smilte Emilija Skistymaite, Esker Pines
Killian Luke Brown, Brisbane, Australia
Thomas Francis Kinsella, Station Rise
Luke Michael Hogan, Doctor's Road
Bláithín Alice Jordan, Annagh
Michaela Rose Connors, Aisling Drive
Patrick James Daly, Cherryfield
Andrea Uselyte, Claremorris
Ethan Malala Dube, Tuam
Destiny Ezeh, Old Convent
Victory Ezeh, Old Convent
Michaela Connie Hodge, Athlone
Thomas Joseph Jordan, Holywell
Aimee Grace Regan Hayes, Old Racecourse
Narosa Teriah Omoruyi-Festus, Old Convent
Noyosa Tirza Omoruyi-Festus, Old Convent
Elena Paulina Matulionyte, The Maples

Amelia Rutkauske, Hazel Court
Theo James Glynn, Castlebar
Bonnie Helena Dolan, Johnstown
James Stephen Donohoe, Knox St.
Jakub Kozlowski, Knock
Caoimhe Mae Sloyan, Brackloon North
Ada Saige Healy, Annagh
Jack James Grogan, Sydney, Australia
Seosamh Séan Ó Ráighne, Kilreekil, Co. Galway
Mark Ruadhri Reynolds, Castlebar
Caitlin Claire Waldron, New Zealand
Luke Peter Rodgers, Sydney & Gurteen
Una Patricia Murphy, West Yorkshire, U.K.
Orla Maria Murphy, West Yorkshire, U.K.
Millie Taylor, Hampshire, U.K. & Cave
Nevaeh Jacqueline Cribbin, Cloonfad
Shay Tino Waldron, Abbeyquarter
Patrick Joseph Ward, St. Gerald's Crescent
Freya Jordan, Devlis
Thomas Francis Murphy, Esker Pines

MARRIAGES

in St. Patrick's Church
November 2021 to October 2022

Orla Lyons (Knockbrack) and Harry Geraghty
(Mullaghroe North, Clogher, Ballina)

Jenny Lyons (Spaddagh) and Tomás Brady
(Dunmore, Co. Galway)

Aideen Murray (Hazel Court) and Liam Brady
(Liscat, Knock)

Isobel Morrissey (Cave) and Richard Taylor
(Hampshire, UK)

Thomas Maughan (Station Rise) and Ellen
Barbara McDonagh (The Maples)

Pat Kelly (Knox St.) Amy Conroy
(Abbeyquarter)



DECEASED

of the Parish
November 2021 to October 2022

Mary Reynolds, Clare Court
Kathleen McHugh, Main St.
Anne Lynch, Holywell
Katie Webb, Brickens & Tooraree
Richard Waldron, Derrymore & Carrowkeel
Katie Hopkins, Carrick, Ballinlough & Island
Tony Mulligan, Hazelhill
Colin Egan, Clagnagh
Séan (John) Regan, Killenaugher
Noreen Morley, Knox St.
Edward (Ted) Maughan, Cherryfield
Anne Marie Devoy, Abbeyquarter
Peter Sloyan, Forthill
Artur Birznieks, Knock & Latvia
Mary Dillon, Ballindrehid
Sr. Eithne Nolan, formerly Convent of Mercy
Mary Teresa Rynn, Tully, Carrowbehy
Mary P. O'Dwyer, Galway & Abbey St.



Bridie Regan, Killenaugher
Margaret McDonagh, Kent, Ballaghaderreen
and Sligo
Mícheál Murren, Upper Main St.
Iaon Marius Leva, The Maples & Romania
Patricia (Patsy) Naughton, Leeds & Cave
Joan Lenehan, Lohan Park & Station Rise
Tom Waldron, Cave
Michael Lavin, Lavallyroe
Tommy Biesty, Pattenspark
Antanos Pasakevicius, The Maples & Lithuania
Noel Patterson, Knock Road

Kathleen Morley, Woodpark
Vinnie Healy, Ballindrehid
Michael (Mickey) Coffey, Charlestown
and Cherryfield
Mary Neale née Keane, USA & formerly Knox St
Tina Waldron, Abbeyquarter
Marie Colette Purcell, Abbeyquarter & Castlebar
Tommy Carroll, Knox St.
Baby Darren Terence Maughan, UK & Cherryfield
Una Phillips, Main St.

DECEASED

Prayed for at Mass, November 2021 to October 2022

Eric Oakland, Chesterfield, UK
Michael Doherty, Devlis & Athenry
Maureen McDonnell, Cambridge, UK,
Ballyhaunis & Galway
Fr. Pat O'Brien, P.P., Caherlistrane
Anne Joyce (née Goulding), Birmingham
Tommy Forde, Galway & Knox St.
Austin Waldron, Manchester & Derrymore
Tommy Byrne, New Jersey, USA & Derrymore
Noel Byrne, Garrafrauns
Mary Kelly, Wales
Christy Cregg, Ballinlough
Frank Garvey, USA
Christina Dale, Manchester
Patrick Rudden, Bawnboy, Co. Cavan
Carmel Grant, Gurrane
Roberta (Bertie) Dunphy, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny
Jarlath Creaven, Corrandulla
Michael Davison, Somerset, UK
Mary Jo O'Grady, Moate
Bridie Hunt, Larganboy
Sean Greally, Birmingham
Sr. Evelyn Fahy, Galway & Convent of Mercy,
Ballyhaunis
Margaret Diskin, Claremorris
Sr. Pauline Feely, Castlebar & Convent of Mercy,
Ballyhaunis
Sean Walsh, Stradsbourg, PA, USA
John Hunt, Cloonfad & Lecarrow
Sr. Mary Catherine Leonard RSC, Dublin
Paddy Moran, Cong
Bernie Reapy, Ballindine
Dermot Guilfoyle, Dublin

George McMahon, Belfast
Delia Lyons (née Mullarkey), Tulrahan
Pat (Pa) Sweeney, Toronto & Cartron North, Tooreen
Paddy McDonagh, Castlebar
Vincent Sweeney, UK
Tommy Johnston, Lurgan
Edward Rudden, Bawnboy, Co. Cavan
Bertie Cox, London & Roscommon
Mary Regan (née Fitzmaurice), Rathgar, Dublin
and Lisbane
Maureen Cunningham (née McGowan), Donegal
Laura McGuire, Dublin
Veronica McCann (née Mullins), Manchester & Coogue
Maureen Crosbie (nee Flanagan), Wexford and
Main Street
Maira Gallagher, Donegal
Susan Murphy, Moate
Michael Devaney, Florida & Ballinlough
Allen Jenkinson, Clare Court, Annagh & Cheshire, UK
Bernard Keane, Coventry & Annagh
Brendan Byrne, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, Main St.
and Bridge St.
Eamon Meagher, Naas
Tom Walsh, Coventry
Mary Kelly (née Cunningham), Rath, Ballintubber
and Ballinlough
John Healy, Craughwell
Marion Summerton (née Kelly), Birmingham & Began
Dudley Flannery, Monasteraden
Karen Teresa Campbell, Knock & Western Care Centre,
Ballyhaunis
Detta Mustafa (née Kelly), Warwickshire & Devlis
Jim Brogan, Kinvara
Jimmie Glynn, Tuam
Ger Brogan, Robeen
Theresa Tarpey, Boston & Carrowkeel
Gabrielle O'Connell, New York & Gurrane



A Trip to Paris in 1979

In September 1979 Tommy Carroll (Knox Street) travelled along with his friend John Jordan (Johnstown) who was driving an articulated lorry load of meat products from Halal Meat Packers, Ballyhaunis to the Rungis Market in Paris. There they met up with John's cousin, David Jordan (Lecarrow), who was on a similar run and they took the opportunity to visit all the tourist

attractions in the French capital, including the Eiffel Tower where some of these photographs were taken. Tommy visited many far-flung destinations in his lifetime and died suddenly this October 2022. David too passed away before his time, in September 2001. May they both Rest in Peace.



Pictured outside the Rungis International Hotel, Paris, 1979.
Tommy Carroll and David Jordan.



David Jordan and
Tommy Carroll at the Eiffel Tower,
Paris.

*(All photos are courtesy of John
and Eileen Jordan)*



Tommy Carroll and John Jordan
at the Eiffel Tower, Paris.



David Jordan and John Jordan
with the Halal truck in Paris in 1979.

Calling all Past Pupils of Ballyhaunis Vocational School – ‘The Tech’



The Vocational School, Ballyhaunis pictured the day before its official opening on 1st October 1941.

At the time of going to print, there are proposals to organise a reunion of past pupils of Ballyhaunis Vocational School, also known as ‘The Tech’, which was opened in 1941 and closed in 1977 when the Community School was opened. Plans are in the very early stages and more details will be made known across media sources as they become available.

The Vocational School provided an excellent education for many generations of boys and girls from a broad hinterland of Ballyhaunis. It would be great if as many as possible were to participate in the reunion.

For further information, please phone Seamus at 087-9510435.



Pictured at a Ballyhaunis Community School Function in the 1990s.

L-R: Eddie Thornton, Mick O’Connell, Micheál Murren, Hugh and Mary Rudden. (Courtesy of Hugh Rudden).

Historic Photos

Over 8,400 photographs have featured in the forty-five issues of Annagh Magazine so far, from 1978 to 2022. These include many fine old, historic photographs which were, unfortunately, not always published clearly or large enough due to the limited technology available at the time, especially in the early years through the 1970s and 80s.

Equipment for scanning and printing has improved immensely in recent years, and so the Editorial Committee would welcome if those who submitted

photographs – or who otherwise have access to them – would consider submitting them again, so that they could be published more clearly, bigger, or with a more complete caption. They can be scanned to a high resolution and returned immediately.

If you wish to contribute an article or photograph for consideration in next year’s magazine, you can contact any committee member, or email at info@annaghmag.ie, or visit our website www.annaghmag.ie

The Ballyhaunis Feis of 1922

MICHAEL KELLY

This year marks the centenary of the first Ballyhaunis Feis, which was organised by the local branch of the Gaelic League and held in the grounds of the Convent of Mercy on the afternoon of Thursday 29th June 1922. That was the feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul which, in those days, was observed as a holy day of obligation, so many people would have been off work and free to attend the Feis. However, the organisers had taken the precaution of requesting the business people of Ballyhaunis to close their premises from 2pm.

Echoes of 1903

Although this was the first Ballyhaunis Feis, it wasn't actually the first Feis held in Ballyhaunis! Two decades earlier, in April 1903, Ballyhaunis had hosted a very successful Feis at the same venue, but that was a Mayo Feis, organised by a county committee of the Gaelic League although the heavy lifting was done by the Ballyhaunis branch. (The 1903 event was the subject of a centenary article by Paul Waldron in *Annagh* 2003). Dr. Michael F. Waldron, who was Hon. County Secretary for the 1903 Feis, was also a key figure in organising the 1922 event. For information about the latter we rely on a detailed report in the *Mayo News* on the following Saturday week. According to the reporter, it was an even better Feis than the famous one of 1903: 'When we say that the Feis on Thursday week excelled in many respects the county event of the past, we write on the authority of one who happened to be present on both occasions, and who had no hesitation in giving a verdict in favour of the former. Of course, we must admit that last week's Feis had the benefit of being reinforced by the wonderful National spirit that has been revived generally but particularly in relation to the functions of the Gaelic League'.

There was indeed a blossoming of national spirit at the time, which was especially evident in the work of active Gaelic League branches in Ballyhaunis and district. Another example was the revival of the local GAA club following a meeting earlier in June 1922, and an indication of progress was the big Gaelic football and hurling tournament hosted by Ballyhaunis on the previous Sunday, which was followed by a dance with 'a select orchestra' in Moylett's Hall that night.

Political turmoil

But it was also a time of political upheaval with civil war in the offing between those who supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty and those who opposed it. That difficult period in our history was the subject of an article by Fr. Kieran Waldron in last year's issue of *Annagh*. The Civil War had begun in earnest just the day before the Feis when Free State forces began shelling the Four Courts to dislodge the anti-Treaty IRA forces which had been in occupation there since April. At that time the Ballyhaunis district was still under the control of anti-Treaty forces and, while the district was relatively trouble free in the lead up to the Feis, a number of local incidents had been reported. For example, appearing beside the newspaper report of the Feis was an account of a recent armed raid on the Ulster Bank in Ballyhaunis. Tulrahan Post Office too was raided around this time while armed masked men had robbed the post office in Knock. In May collectors for the Treaty Election Fund had been



Dr. Michael F. Waldron (violin), Feis organiser in 1903 and 1922, pictured here with Michael J. Waldron (harp), also of Knox St., Ballyhaunis, but not related. The fife player has not yet been identified. Taken in 1908 by P. Holmes, Photographer.

THE MAYO NEWS, SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1922

Ballyhaunis Feis, 29th June. The Oireachtas of Connacht.

£130 in Prizes, 30 Gold and 20 Silver Medals.

Don't miss Feis Concert, Plays and Ceilidh. Prize Distribution. Local, Provincial and City Artists to Contribute.

Competition for Brass and Pipe Bands. Harp, Violin and Fiddle Competitions. Connacht Championship in Irish Step-Dancing.

robbed at Brackloon and Ballykilleen, acts which the *Mayo News* condemned especially since rival political leaders were then observing a Truce and endeavouring to achieve 'a reconciliation and lasting peace'.

Wide range of competitions

It was against this background that the Ballyhaunis Feis was organised. It had been well promoted in the press. The advert reproduced here is taken from the *Westmeath Independent* of 17th June 1922.

feis béil áca
h-amhair.

BALLYHAUNIS FEIS.
JUNE 29th, 1922.
£100 IN PRIZES.

Uipeáca.
1. Essay in Irish on subject connected with County Mayo.
2. Best list of Place-names in Parish of Ballyhaunis (in Irish) with notes on origin.
3. Original Irish Song in Irish Metre.
4. Best Story in Irish dealing with late Irish War.

Óráioáca.
Irish Speech:—"Seachtain na Cárta."
Sgéaluráca.
Best Telling of Irish Story (Folk-Lore).
Cómpá.
Best Irish-speaking family (at least three members).
Amháinuráca.
1. Solo (Ladies); 2. Solo (Gentlemen):—"Mágo Dól áca h-amhair" and one song of own choosing. 3. Amháin ar an sean nór.
Aréireáca.
Sean-óin.
Seinnim Ceóil.
Violin:—Performance of "The Black-bird" with Reel and Jig of Competitor's own choosing. Bag-pipes, War-pipes, Procóg or Flute, Harp.
Rinceóáca.
For Seniors and Juniors—Jig, Reel, Hornpipe, Four and eight hand Reels.
Uasáca.
Prizes for Best Sketches in Colours.
Déantóir.
1. Best Spinning on Irish Linen Wheel, (Competitors must have own Spinning Wheel) Best Piece of Irish Crochet Lace, Best Jumper in Irish Wool, Best piece of Fancy Needlework, Best Pair hand-knitted Socks, Best and neatest Irish Costume for boys and girls.
2. Best hand-made Plough; Best Pair of Cleaves; Best home-made Bee-hive.
3. Best home-made cake, Best home-made Roll of Butter; Best Dozen of Eggs.
(C.D.B. patterns.)
All Entries in Uipeáca Section to be in hands of Secretaries by June 15th.
Large Prizes in each of above Competitions.
For Special Programme of Competitions for Schools apply to SECRETARY.
Single Entry Fee—1s. General Entry Fee—2s. All entries to be sent in before June 15th.
For further particulars apply:—
SECRETARY,
FEIS COMMITTEE,
BALLYHAUNIS.

609W

There was a remarkably wide range of competitions on the day. In addition to the usual competitions that we might expect at a Feis – singing, dancing, and instrumental music – there were also competitions in arts and crafts and farm produce. There was also a competition in spoken Irish for national school children (consisting of conversation, recitation, prayers and Irish history) and a competition for school choirs. The Feis was followed by a concert, two short plays, and a céilí, so overall it was quite an undertaking for the organisers.

The day of the Feis

Although the weather on the morning of the Feis was less than promising, the day cleared up well and competitions were continuously in progress from 2 o'clock in the afternoon up to 7 p.m. The town was decorated with streamers bearing appropriate Gaelic inscriptions which spanned the streets at different points. From 12.30 p.m. up to 3 p.m. large numbers of visitors were arriving from Mayo and adjoining counties. 'The Ballinrobe Brass Band, arriving in good time, discoursed a selection of airs on the Market Square prior to proceeding to the Feis Grounds. It was a source of much attraction throughout the evening and its fitting contributions were highly appreciated by the large gathering'.

Notable patrons

Several veterans of the 1903 Feis were present, the *Mayo News* reporter observed: 'Some twenty years ago Ballyhaunis was honoured by being selected as the centre for the holding of a County Feis. It deserved that honour at the time because it possessed then, as now, some of the greatest workers in the National League Movement that were to be found in Ireland, and we were happy to observe amongst the attendance on Thursday week some of those personalities who had done service a score of years ago, a prominent figure being Dr M. F. Waldron (President, South Mayo District Court), while others included Messrs Philip Waldron; P.A. Waldron (Principal, Ballyhaunis Boys' School); Michael J. Waldron, John J. Smyth, P.J. Waldron, D.C., etc.'

The clergy were also well represented and included Monsignor Macken (Claremorris), Canon M. J. McHugh PP (Ballyhaunis); Fr. Francis McDermott PP (Ballinlough), Fr. John O'Malley PP (Bekan), Fr. Leonard, USA (Brackloon), Fr. Walsh, USA (Castlebar), Fr. Joe Carney PP, USA (Ballindrehid), Fr. Garvey CC (Aughamore), Fr. Brett CC (Ballyhaunis), Fr. Harte CC (Kiltimagh), Fr. Ed. O'Hara, Fr. Judge CC (newly ordained), Fr. Michael Murphy CC

(Ballyhaunis, newly ordained), Fr. Walsh CC (newly ordained), Fr. O'Donoghue CC (newly ordained), Fr. Mark Curley (Maynooth), Bro. Carney, etc.' The attendance of three newly ordained priests is noteworthy. One of them, Fr. Michael Murphy, was son of Edward Murphy of Main St.; he had been ordained in Maynooth a fortnight previously along with two other locals: Fr. Joseph Tarpey, son of Richard Tarpey NT, Began, and Fr. Thomas Jennings, son of Patrick Jennings of Knock.

Dancing competitions

The dancing competitions, which were the dominant feature of the Feis, took place in the open air and attracted hundreds of spectators. The adjudicators in all dancing events were Seaghan Ó Ceallaigh, M.C.C., and Hubert Nolan, Crossard. The list of competitors included Misses May McDonnell, May McNicholas, Maggie McGreal, Maggie Forkan – all from Kiltimagh Convent (Sisters of Charity); Mary O'Rourke, Julia Kirrane, Dora Boyle, Nora Coughlan, Annie Greene, Nora Mullane, Nellie Griffin, Bridget Glennon and May Duffy – all from Cloonfad; Nellie Cunningham (Abbey St.), Baby May Kenny (Foxhill), Kathleen Eaton (Kincora House), Sheila Heneghan (Ballyhaunis) and Mary Delia Lyons (Ballyhaunis), all pupils in the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis; May Brennan, May Croghan, Delia Ryan, Delia Maloney, Winnie Collins, Rita Gibbons – all of Castlebar; John Connolly (Cloonfallagh) and Mary Eaton (Ballyhaunis). The following were the prizewinners:

Double Jig: 1st tie between May McDonnell (Kiltimagh) and Rita Gibbons (Castlebar); 2nd Rose Carney (Castlebar); 3rd Sheila Gibbons (Castlebar).

Reel: 1st Rita Gibbons (Castlebar); 2nd Maggie McGreal (Kiltimagh). 3rd Rose Carney and May McDonnell were awarded equal marks.

Hornpipe: 1st May McDonnell (Kiltimagh); 2nd Rose Carney (Castlebar).

Three-Hand Reel (senior): 1st Maggie McGreal, May McDonnell and Annie McNicholas, all pupils of the Sisters of Charity, Kiltimagh.

Slip Jig: 1st Josie Dillon (Logboy).

Four-Hand Reel (junior): 1st Maureen Clune (Abbey St.,

Ballyhaunis), Maggie Healy (Holywell), Kathleen Lyons and Ina Eaton (Ballyhaunis), all pupils of the Sisters of Mercy, Ballyhaunis.

Irish Reel (junior): 1st Nellie Cunningham (Abbey St., Ballyhaunis); 2nd tie between Baby May Kenny (Foxhill) and Ina Eaton (Ballyhaunis).

Irish Jig (senior): 1st May Croghan; 2nd May Brennan.

Irish Reel (senior): 1st tie between May Brennan and May Croghan.

Hornpipe (senior): 1st John Connolly (Cloonfallagh). For the 2nd prize, May Brennan and Mary Croghan were awarded equal marks.

Four Hand Reel (senior): 1st Delia Ryan, Delia Maloney, May Croghan and May Brennan.

In presenting the awards, Mr. Ó Ceallaigh made special reference to the dancing of May McDonnell of the St. Louis Convent, Kiltimagh which, he said, was equal to anything to be seen at the Oireachtas.

First-class musicians

According to the *Mayo News* report, the dance music was supplied by three prize-winners, namely fiddle-players Joe Mannion and Mark Cribbin, both from Drimbawn, and 'Martin O'Reilly (Irish pipes), Dunmore, Co. Galway'. The piper in question was probably John Reilly of Dunmore. While there had been a famous Galway piper named Martin O'Reilly, he had died back in 1904 and was not from Dunmore.

John Reilly, who was also blind, was a native of Cloonfad but living in Dunmore. He shared first prize in the piping contest at the Oireachtas in Dublin in 1912 and was the outright winner at the Feis Ceoil in 1914, when the adjudicator was Éamonn Ceannt. If John O'Reilly was indeed the piper at the 1922 Feis, it may have been one of his last public performances as he died in 1927.

Local fiddle-player Joe Mannion (1894-1962) was also a highly regarded musician. When he played at a concert in Ballyhaunis some weeks earlier, on 23rd April 1922, a report of the event commented:



Piper John Reilly (seated) receiving a new set of pipes in 1910.

*‘What Mr. Joseph Mannion does not know about the king of instruments – the violin – is not worth knowing and in selecting *The Blackbird* as his principal selection on Sunday night he was heard at his best. It would be difficult to compile a complete concert programme in Ballyhaunis without the name of Joe Mannion.’*



Joseph Mannion, Drimbane, whose musicianship was in much demand at functions near and far.

Singing competitions

The singing competition adjudicators were Mrs. Seaghan Ó Cathain, Cummer, Tuam, and Philip Waldron, Drimbawn. First prize in the Ladies’ Solo (senior) competition was awarded to May Perry (St. Louis Convent, Kiltimagh) while second prize went to Agnes Caulfield (Mercy Convent, Ballyhaunis). Other competitors included May Hogan and Delia Egan (Kiltimagh) and Delia Judge (Coolnaha). For traditional Irish singing, Mrs. Flatley (Forthill, Ballyhaunis) was awarded a special prize. In the Ladies’ Solo (junior) competition, Margaret Morley (Bekan) was the winner with Julia Lyons (Mercy Convent School, Ballyhaunis) as runner-up. Other competitors were Misses Conboy (Mountain), Lyons, O’Malley, and Tighe (Ballyhaunis). Disappointingly, there was no men’s senior competition due to a lack of entries, but a special prize was awarded to Master Malachy Eaton (Ballyhaunis) for his rendering of *The Men of the West* in Irish.

Choirs’ competition

The adjudicator here was Mrs. Seaghan Ó Catháin, Cummer, Tuam. Understandably, there were fewer entries than might have been expected in normal circumstances. In the senior competition, the honours went to the Foxford Choir, *‘which exceeded in harmony, feeling and expression anything of the kind that has been heard in the West in recent years’*. In the Junior section Kiltimagh and Ballyhaunis Convent choirs shared the honours.

Instrumental music competitions

Philip Waldron, Drimbawn, was the adjudicator for the instrumental music competitions, except for the

warpipes competition, which was judged by Seaghan Ó Ceallaigh. The fiddle competition in particular was keenly contested with first prize being shared by Joe Mannion (Drimbawn) and Pádraig Ó Carraigin, (Ballinrobe), with second prize shared by Áine and Mairead Nic Cogain (Foxford) and Mark Cribbin (Drimbawn). The warpipes competition was won by Liam Forde (Bohola). In the harp competition, first prize went to Miss Maire Lyons (St. Louis Convent, Kiltimagh), daughter of James Lyons, Commercial Hotel, Ballyhaunis. According to the newspaper report, *‘Miss Lyons’ contribution to the day’s proceedings provided one of the most high-class treats in the competitions’*.

Irish tests for schools

In the Irish tests for first, second and third year pupils from National Schools, the following schools were represented: Ballyhaunis Convent Schools, Brackloon Boys’ School (Mr. W. O’Dwyer, Principal), Coolnafarna Boys’ and Girls’ Schools (Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Flatley, Teachers), Cloonfad (Mr. Fahy, N.T.), and Tulrahan (Mr. McNicholas, N.T.). The prize-winners were:

Conversation (1st year): 1st Mary Moran; 2nd Mary Hett.

Recitation or Story: 1st Mark Hunt; 2nd Josephine Grogan.

Prayers: 1st Dominick Regan; 2nd Michael Flatley.

Conversation (2nd year): 1st Maggie Healy and James O’Dwyer – a tie; 2nd Kathleen Grealy and John Murphy – a tie; 3rd B. O’Donnell and J. Flatley - a tie.

Recitation or Story: 1st Winifred Lyons and Kathleen Grealy – a tie; 2nd John Smyth and Eddie Groarke: a tie; 3rd Denny Waldron and Maggie Healy – a tie.

Prayers: 1st John Murphy and B. Freeley – a tie; 2nd Maggie Healy and J. Joyce – a tie; 3rd Winnie Lyons, B. Folliard and B. Flynn – a tie.

Conversation (3rd year): 1st Miss A. Tighe; 2nd Miss Peg Moran.

Recitation or Story: 1st Bridget Cooney; 2nd Delia Judge.

Prayers: 1st Bridget Fitzmaurice; 2nd Nora Brennan.

Irish History: 1st Bina Mulkeen; 2nd Maggie Ruane.

Home industry competition

The *Mayo News* reported that ‘when the linen wheels, woollen wheels and hanking wheels were all set ready for action, in charge of their respective operators, they looked a beautiful old Irish picture reminiscent of grand old days, past and gone, and which we all wished to see revived on a big scale’. The competition adjudicators were Dr. C.E. Crean and Philip Waldron. For best spinning on the Irish Linen Wheel, the award went to Maire Deacy (Cappagh, Aughamore) and second prize to Michael Deacy (do.). The prize wheels were manufactured and presented by John Halpin, Abbey Street, Ballyhaunis. For spinning on the Irish Woollen Wheel, the first prize was awarded to Michael Deacy (Aughamore) who operated on wheels manufactured by John Halpin (Abbey Street) and John Flaherty (Moate, Ballyhaunis). For work on the reel for Hanking Yarn, the first prize was shared by Messrs. Bailey (Bargarriff) and John Flaherty (Moate). The former exhibited a reel over 100 years old.

Craftwork competition results

Crochet Section: 1st Annie Regan; 2nd Mrs. Brennan. Mrs. McElroy was awarded an honorary prize in this department for special work exhibited by her.

Ordinary Crochet: 1st Mrs. Philip Ó Bhaldrath (Drimbawn); 2nd Mrs. Bridie Waldron (Main St.).

Fancy Needlework: 1st Mrs. Bridie Waldron (Main St.)

Best Knitted Shawl: 1st James Sloyan (Drimbawn).

Best Pair Hand Knitted Socks: 1st Sarah Coyne (The Square); 2nd Mrs Flatley (Forthill).

Irish Costumes: 1st Foxford Sisters of Charity.

There was also an exhibit of a model dwelling house by R. W. Neville, 13 East Square, Inchicore, Dublin.

Art work

Responsibility for organising this category had been assigned to the Misses Flatley (Coolnafarna). William Brett (Castlebar) carried off first prize for his painting of the late Terence MacSwiney, while Miss Bridie Fitzmaurice was awarded second prize. Mr Brett exhibited three paintings - one of Michael Collins, T.D., another of the late Captain McEvelly, I.R.A. and a third of the late Terence MacSwiney (the prize piece) - as well as some specimens of Celtic illumination art. The reporter commented: ‘While such an artist as Mr Brett is to be found in Mayo there remains great hope for the development of artistic skill of a high order in the county, but it is only events such as we had in

Ballyhaunis on Thursday week can bring such artistic work to the front to act as an incentive to others to cultivate a taste for it and make it of more general use in the county ...’

Farm produce

The adjudicator in this section was John Buckley (Maygrove House, Ballyhaunis) an official of the Department of Agriculture. The reporter remarked: ‘Every exhibit in this section created no small surprise, and certainly the samples of new potatoes, onion, etc., showed the existence of agricultural enterprise in Ballyhaunis and district, for which Mr Buckley deserves no small credit’. The awards were made as follows:

Early Potatoes: 1st Mr. Melvin (Ballindrehid); 2nd Miss Duffy (Bracklagh); 3rd Mr. R. Healy (Ballindrehid).

Potato Onions: 1st Miss Duffy (Bracklagh); 2nd Mrs. Thomas Cribbin (Bush Island).

Seedling Onions: A bunch of ‘James’s Keeping’ seedling onions exhibited by Thomas Cribbin (Bush Island) was awarded a special prize. A bunch of ‘Tripolo’ onions exhibited by Mr R. Healy, Ballindrehid, was granted a special prize.

Early York Cabbages (white): Mr. R. Healy (Ballindrehid) was awarded a special prize.

Home-made Beehive: 1st Mr. T. Lyons; 2nd Mr. T. Cribbin (Johnstown).

Best Honey: 1st Mr. T. Flatley, N.T. (Coolnafarna); 2nd Mr. R. Healy (Ballindrehid).

Best home-made butter: 1st Mrs. Mary E. Buckley (Maygrove House); 2nd Mary Tarpey (Bekan).

Promoting the Irish language

At the conclusion of the Feis, Fr. Martin McEvelly, C.C., addressing a large gathering in the main schoolroom, said that the committee of the Ballyhaunis Gaelic League felt extremely grateful to all of the patrons, especially those who came long distances under trying circumstances, to contribute to the success of the Feis. To loud applause he said that the Ballyhaunis Branch of the Gaelic League could boast of the best year’s work in the Irish Language Movement that had been done in any town in Ireland, since the Gaelic League started. They had built up an Irish-speaking district round Ballyhaunis in the last twelve months. In conclusion he reminded patrons that Irish language classes would re-commence on 1st September. Fr. McEvelly was a brother of Capt. Seamus McEvelly who had been killed in the Kilmenna

Ambush in May 1921; he was transferred from Ballyhaunis to Milltown in 1923.

The concert and the plays

At the concert held on the evening of the Feis in the New Hall, the main contributors were the Feis prizewinners. There were thirteen items in all: Ballyhaunis Girls' Convent Choir, opening chorus, *Eileen Aroon* (in Irish); Selection on Irish pipes by Martin O'Reilly (Dunmore) [*recte* John Reilly?]; Three-hand reel by Nellie Cunningham, Baby May Kenny and Ina Eaton (Ballyhaunis Convent Schools); Song, Mrs. O'Keane (Tuam); Selection on harp, Miss Lyons (Commercial Hotel, Ballyhaunis); Dance, Hornpipe, May McDonnell (Kiltimagh); as an encore she danced a reel; Song, by a Kiltimagh pupil, *The Snowy-breasted Pearl*, as an encore she contributed *My Dark Rosaleen*; Selection on Fideog [fife] by Feis prize winner; Song by Miss Hession (Tuam); a three-hand reel by Kiltimagh Convent pupils; Song (by special request) by Mrs O'Keane, Tuam; Selection on warpipes by Liam Forde; and a selection on the violin by Mr. Kerrigan, Ballinrobe.

The concert was followed by two plays, in Irish, staged by pupils from Ballyhaunis and Coolnafarna. The first was *The Beggar Woman (An Bhean Déirce)* in which there were three characters. The second play, comprising four short acts, was entitled *An Gadaidhe (The Thief)*. Synopses of both plays were included in the *Mayo News* report. There was a packed hall for the performances.

An incident at the céilí

The final event of the day was the céilí and it was only while this was in progress that patrons experienced some evidence of the political divisions playing out in the background. During the course of the céilí, members of the anti-Treaty Irregulars burst in and 'arrested' two officers of the National Army, brothers Patrick ('P') and Austin ('Aut') Kenny, of Cloonbook, who were enjoying the céilí. 'P' Kenny (1887-1946), who was the subject of an article by Paul Waldron in *Annagh 2016*, had actually won a prize for Irish dancing as a 16-year old at the 1903 Feis. A report of the incident at the 1922 céilí stated that the Kenny brothers were believed to have been taken to 2nd Divisional Headquarters, Ballinrobe, and detained there along with Dominick Byrne (Derrymore) and James Dalton (Coolnafarna) who had been taken into

custody at their homes. The *Mayo News* report stated: '*Messrs. Kenny and Byrne were prominently connected with the I.R.A. and did highly commendable and heroic work during the hottest period of the 'Terror'. Possessed of wonderful organising abilities, Comdt. Kenny was a strict disciplinarian, yet popular with all the men under his command, and the word 'fear' was not to be found in his vocabulary. Some six weeks ago Mr. Dalton was apprehended by the same authorities, but was released after a brief detention.*'

Subsequent Feiseanna

Despite the apparent success of the 1922 Feis, no similar event was held in Ballyhaunis until an Aeridheacht was organised on 29th June 1939. Associated with it was an impressive exhibition of objects of antiquarian, historical and cultural interest, which led to a proposal for the establishment of a museum in Ballyhaunis. One of the items exhibited in 1939 was a group photograph taken by Ballyhaunis photographer Edward A. Biesty (1873-1940) at the 1903 Feis. Included in the large group were two distinguished adjudicators who later became household names - P.H. Pearse and Douglas Hyde. Does anybody know if that historic photo survives? Dr. Michael F. Waldron (1876-1954) still had a copy in his possession in 1940. A second Biesty photo of a smaller group at the 1903 Feis was previously published in *Annagh 2003* (see below).

In June 1943 a jubilee Feis, entitled Feis Ciarraige Loch na n-Áirne, was held in Ballyhaunis to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1903 Feis. That gave rise to a lively correspondence in the newspapers between Liam S. Ó Raghallaigh of Ballina and Séamus Ó Duibhir of Ballyhaunis as to which place could lay claim to having held the first Feis!



The second Biesty photo referred to above, of the committee of 'Feis Mhuigheo' 1903 (*Annagh 2003*).

The Newry Protest 1972

Ballyhaunis demonstrates its outrage at Bloody Sunday Killings

TOMMY CAULFIELD

January 30th, 2022 marked fifty years since the Bloody Sunday massacre in Derry when British soldiers opened fire and shot twenty-six unarmed Catholics during a civil rights protest march in the Bogside area of the city. Fourteen people died: thirteen were killed outright, while another man died four months later from his injuries.

Bloody Sunday marked a watershed moment in our history. Most of the dead were shot while fleeing from the soldiers, and some were shot while trying to help the wounded. Seven of the victims were just teenagers. Many of us can recall the grainy images on our television screens. The dozens of civil rights marchers being frog-marched by British soldiers and forced against walls. The still bodies in pools of blood. Fr. Edward Daly waving his white handkerchief, flanked by men carrying the lifeless body of an innocent teenager. Outrage swept the nation in the aftermath of the killings and a march which had been planned for Newry a week later attracted 20,000 protestors and demonstrators from all over the island - including a group from Ballyhaunis.

British Prime Minister Ted Heath made an appeal to Taoiseach of the day Jack Lynch and to Catholic church leaders in Ireland and England to use their influence to have the Newry march called off. All marches were banned in Northern Ireland by Prime Minister Brian Faulkner. The march in the border town would be illegal, declared Heath, and would take place over the pleas of the British and Northern Ireland Governments. However, the Newry demonstration went ahead. What had been intended as a relatively small march before Derry now ballooned into a major protest as a result of the killings on Bloody Sunday. Organisers intended that the Newry protest would be a peaceful civil rights march like Martin Luther King's march at Selma in the USA. "It will be a non-violent demonstration unless the British Government intends to use its army to carry out another massacre of peaceful demonstrators," said Kevin Boyle, one of the Newry organisers.



Poster on Dillon's window advertising the Newry March.

FILM CREW

In the week leading up to the protest the BBC sent reporter David Jessel and a film crew to Ballyhaunis to talk to those who decided to take part in the illegal demonstration in Newry. Among the unlikely radicals featured in the BBC clip which aired on Monday, 7th February, 1972 were farmers, shopkeepers, a mechanic, a couple of pharmacists, a doctor, a solicitor, a milkman and a dentist who had served with the British army during World War 2. All believed they had an abiding moral duty to show their support for those slaughtered during the Civil Rights march in Derry a week earlier.

One of those involved in organising the Ballyhaunis trip to Newry, now retired GP Dr. Alan Delaney, recalls the trip to Co. Down and his responsibility for the safety of his friends and neighbours who accompanied him on that day fifty years ago: "I had been in regular contact all week with the organisers in Newry and I was satisfied that the measures taken would ensure an orderly and peaceful demonstration. If we anticipated that there was going to be any trouble, we would have called the trip off." Another of the Ballyhaunis protestors, local dentist the late Brian Hosty, at the time explained, "we are not looking for any confrontation with the army".

Posters were put up around the town advertising the trip and Brod Moran was engaged to drive the bus which was hired at a cost of £75. The late Fr. William Diskin

C.C. facilitated the travelling demonstrators with an early morning Mass in St. Patrick's Church at 5.30 am. In total, thirty-eight men and women paid over their £2 each to cover the cost of the bus and they set off in the dark for County Down at 6am.

Denis Hannan remembers that 'things were very hot' throughout the country following the Bloody Sunday atrocity. Prior to departure from The Square Dr. Alan Delaney addressed the travelling group and reminded them that there would be no alcohol allowed on this bus. Neither would there be allowed any weapons or any arms or any literature that might be considered to be subversive or illegal. Thankfully, the Co. Down event passed off peaceably and our delegation returned safely to Ballyhaunis that Sunday evening just before 10pm closing time.

CLEARED

It took almost forty years to clear the names of those murdered in Derry on Sunday, 30th Jan. 1972. The families of the victims and the campaigners deserve great credit for their dignity and their persistence. Two investigations into the events of Bloody Sunday were subsequently held by the British government. The Widgery Tribunal, held in the aftermath, largely cleared the soldiers and British authorities of blame. This report was widely criticised as a 'whitewash'. The Saville Inquiry was established in 1998 to re-investigate the atrocity much more thoroughly. Saville's report was made public in 2010 and concluded that the killings were 'unjustified' and 'unjustifiable'. It found that all of those shot were unarmed and that soldiers, "knowingly put forward false accounts" to justify their firing. On publication of the report, British Prime Minister David Cameron formally apologised on behalf of his government and country for the unlawful killings of fourteen completely innocent people.



Joe Greene delivering milk to Mrs. Mary Lyons, Upper Main Street. One of the images from the BBC News footage.

After forty years the victims of Bloody Sunday were vindicated and the Parachute Regiment disgraced. Widgery's great lie had been laid bare. The truth emerged in the end and it can now be proclaimed to the world that the murdered and the wounded of Bloody Sunday, civil rights marchers, were innocent one and all. One of Derry's most famous sons Seamus Heaney captured the mood in his poem The Road to Derry:

*Where I might find the coffins where the
thirteen men lay dead.*

*My heart besieged by anger, my mind a gap of
danger.*

I walked among their old haunts.

the home ground where they bled;

*And in the dirt lay justice like an acorn in the
winter*

*Till its oak would sprout in Derry
where the thirteen men lay dead.*

The BBC film footage concludes by promising that it will be a very long time before we forget the day that Ballyhaunis went to Newry. Half a century later, this article is just a reminder. For most, it was their first time to take part in a protest of any kind, but they all felt that they had to demonstrate their concern about the shootings. They strongly believed that they had a moral duty to show their support for those killed in the civil rights march the week before. We salute all those campaigners who bravely made the trip to Newry from Ballyhaunis fifty years ago in order to record their outrage at the events of Bloody Sunday and to show their solidarity with the victims and their families. Many of the Ballyhaunis protestors have since gone to their eternal reward. We are proud of our thirty-eight courageous Ballyhaunis women and men who refused to be silenced or intimidated off our streets and who travelled to the border town demonstration fifty years ago.

Those interviewed by the BBC were Brian Hosty, Alan Delaney, Hugh Curley, Joe Greene and Seamus Coen. Some of the others who travelled to Newry for the protest were Tom McCormack, John O'Dwyer, Bernard Gallagher, Paul Gallagher, Jack O'Connor, Seamus Durkan, Martin Forde, Sylvester McBride, Brian Hunt, Denis Hannan, George Hannan, Paddy Joe and Seamie Cassidy. The BBC footage gives a valuable snapshot of the town of Ballyhaunis as it was five decades ago and features many of the town's legendary residents and characters.

You can view the historic clip at:

<https://discover.bbcrewind.co.uk/asset/5b20d7fefc632e002b63e54a>



The Newry Protest 1972

Some stills from the BBC news item:

Top left: Fr. William Diskin C.C. sees off the protestors leaving Ballyhaunis early on the morning of the march.

Top right: Martin Forde.

Below left: Brod Moran, bus-driver.

Right: Dr. Alan Delaney, with Tommy Daly in the background.

Below right: Hugh Curley.

Bottom left: Dr. Alan Delaney and Joe Greene at the march.

Bottom right: Brian Hosty, dentist.



Mayo SPCA Christmas Dip

EAVAN CAULFIELD

The Mayo SPCA Christmas Morning 2021 Fundraiser at Erritt Lake was an outstanding success. As a lifelong supporter of Mayo SPCA, which is based at Pattenspark, Ballyhaunis, I was overwhelmed by the level of generosity and support for our icy water challenge at Erritt Lake, just outside Ballyhaunis. My husband Tommy and I are active volunteers at the sanctuary where we see first-hand the great work done by Sanctuary Manager Marian Biesty and her helpers on behalf of Mayo's abused and neglected animals.

Like every other voluntary organisation, Mayo SPCA has had its fundraising severely curtailed by the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic and the much-needed income to run the animal rescue and sanctuary had literally vanished. I decided to organise the Christmas morning challenge to help raise awareness of the great work being done by the voluntary organisation and, hopefully, to raise some much-needed funds to help pay the bills at the sanctuary. I decided to set a challenge that would take me out of my comfort zone and invited others to join in.

On Christmas morning Tommy and I were joined by eight other hardy souls who took up the challenge to brave the elements and enter the chilly waters at Erritt Lake. In order to comply with government public health guidelines in force at the time, we restricted the number of spectators. The event was captured by local photographer Adam Kaczmarek of AK Photography who generously offered his services in support of the worthy cause.



Photos AK Photography

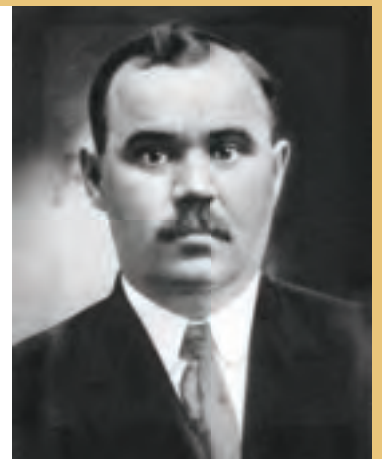
L-R: William Nestor, Eavan Caulfield, Tommy Caulfield, Deirdre Moran, Karl Coyne, Padraig Hennigan, Seamus Caulfield, Patrick Keane, Conal Caulfield, Eamonn Monaghan, after the Christmas Dip at Erritt Lake.

Initially, I set a target of €1,000 which would be very helpful to Mayo SPCA in paying for animal feed, veterinary costs, insurance, electricity and all the other day-to-day bills. However, that target was very quickly exceeded as some of my brave family members and friends accepted the challenge and the event caught the imagination of all those concerned about animal welfare.

On Christmas morning at precisely 11am, I was joined at Erritt Lake by my husband Tommy Caulfield and chilly dippers Seamus and Conal Caulfield, Eamon Monaghan, William Nestor, Karl Coyne, Padraig Hennigan, Patrick Keane and Deirdre Moran. Caroline Webb and children Matthew and Alannah, who live in Co. Meath, supported the event by taking a festive Christmas morning swim at Laytown Beach.

It was wonderful to observe that in these difficult times for everyone, the event was filled with good humour and a spirit of generosity that truly represents the Christmas season. On behalf of the Mayo SPCA I would like to thank all who supported the fundraiser and to wish readers of Annagh Magazine the best in 2023.





Ellen Lyons (née Clancy),
Treenreavough.

Michael Lyons, Knocknafolia
and Treenreavough.

Left: Congratulations to Nora Waldron (née Lyons) who celebrated her 100th birthday on 27th Aug. 2022 and is pictured here with her birthday greetings from the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Born in 1922 in Treenreavough, Bekan, daughter of Michael and Ellen Lyons (née Clancy), she was sister of Joe Lyons (Treenreavough) and Babe Lyons (Cloonfaughna) and is the longest living member of a family of six. She married to Cyril Waldron of Derrymore and lives in Manchester. She has two in family: Stephen and Margo.



Above: Fr. Johnny Lyons, Skeghard and U.S.A. and his sister Molly, pictured in Webb's Butcher Shop, Main Street in the 1980s.

Above right: Pictured at a match in McHale Park, Castlebar in the 1970s were, from left: James Caulfield (Bohogue), Joe Costello (Bohogue), Tom McCormack (The Square), John 'Doc' Healy (Killeenlea), Johnny Murren (Upper Main Street). (Courtesy of Eamonn Murren).

Bottom right: Mick and Seamus O'Connell, Upper Main Street, 1966.



John Prenty Receives NUI Galway Alumni Award

TOMMY CAULFIELD

Former Ballyhaunis footballer and current Connacht Council GAA Supremo John Prenty was one of the seven former students who were honoured in this year's NUI Galway Alumni Awards, for their excellence and achievements. John was this year's recipient of the Alumni Award for Contribution to Sport.

First introduced in 2001, the NUI Galway Alumni Awards recognise individual excellence and achievements among the university's more than 120,000 graduates. NUI Galway Alumni in the worlds of the arts, sports, public service, Irish language and academia were among the distinguished recipients of the NUI Galway Alumni Awards 2021.

Past recipients of the awards boast an impressive roll call of more than 100 outstanding alumni who have gone on to make an impact in their chosen field, and in so doing honour their alma mater. Among the distinguished honorees are President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins; Olympian Olive Loughnane and Rugby great Ciarán FitzGerald. The 2021 Alumni Award for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences went to Dr. Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, Health Service Executive, who became a familiar face on our television screens during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A native of Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo, John is married to Mary (Newell) from Co. Galway and they have two sons, John Jr. and Niall. In 1974 John graduated from UCG, as it was then known, with a BA and the following year he was awarded the Higher Diploma in Education. Having served as club secretary he became chairman of his local Ballyhaunis GAA club in 1978 and a short time later became Secretary of Mayo GAA County Board, before moving on to become the first full-time Secretary/CEO of Connacht GAA Council in 1995. His current role



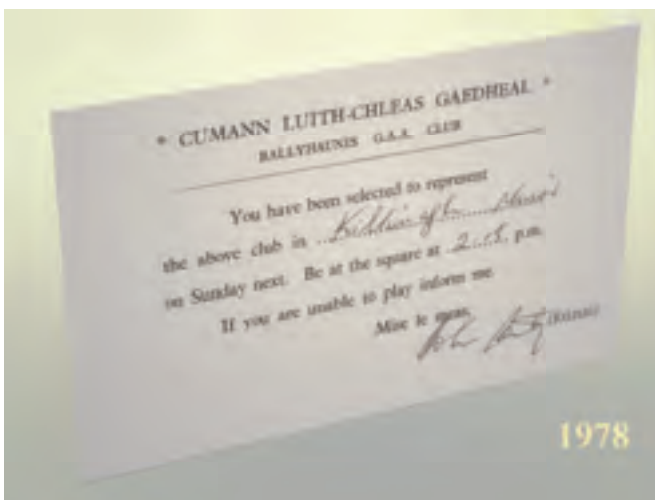
From left: John Prenty, Brendan Heaney (Tobin Engineering), Danjiel Serec (DBS Engineering Dome Design), Brendan Rudden (Tobin's), Kurt Reinhardt (Facilities Manager Connacht GAA).

oversees all GAA activities in the five counties of Connacht with its complement of 210 clubs.

The Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, which is located within forty minutes of ninety of the province's clubs, cost €8m to construct and includes five full size pitches, one 3G full size pitch, floodlighting and parking for 400 cars and twenty buses. It also includes all modern ancillary back-up facilities associated with all aspects of the preparation of top inter-county teams. The centre also caters for county, club, school and academy teams as well as the training and upskilling of referees and coaches. In December of 2021, the GAA President Larry McCarthy was at the Centre of Excellence to officially cut the ribbon on Prenty's brainchild, the new state of the art Connacht GAA Air Dome at Cloonacurry, Began. The dome is 26 metres in height at its highest point, 150m in length, 100m wide, has a 30m running track and is capable of holding up to 3,000 supporters for GAA games, a fully equipped gym with capacity for 30 people and a portable stand. It can also be re-purposed within 72 hours as a unique, adaptable conference arena. Up to 3,000 spectators can be accommodated for matches and 20,000 for concerts or events. With public health considerations to the fore these days, it is important to note that fresh air constantly flows through the venue.

Indoor Games

The Connacht FBD Championship made a welcome return in 2022 with Sligo and Leitrim meeting in the



John Prenty served as Ballyhaunis GAA club secretary in the 1970s

Preliminary Round on Tuesday, 4th January. There was an added novelty to this year's competition as all games took place in the Connacht GAA Air Dome. The Sligo-Leitrim meeting was the first ever competitive intercounty GAA game to take place under a roof!

Sligo saw off Andy Moran's side in a thrilling encounter as both sides racked up high scores in a 1-21 to 1-17 shoot-out. The venue has been hailed as 'the future' for allowing teams to train and play matches away from the harsh January weather. After the game Sligo boss Tony McEntee said: "I think it's a fantastic spot, even from an atmosphere perspective. It's very noisy in here when you get a crowd in."

NUI Galway Connacht GAA Air Dome

In late 2021 Connacht GAA and NUI Galway officially announced a new partnership agreement which saw the Air Dome at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence being renamed the NUI Galway Connacht GAA Air Dome. The partnership was unveiled on Sunday, 12th December 2021, when the NUI Galway Connacht GAA Air Dome was officially opened. Welcoming the new partnership with the GAA, President of NUI Galway, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh said: "Our University's core values are respect, sustainability, openness and excellence. This partnership shows how our mission and vision can align not only with the ethos of the GAA but also with what the NUIG Connacht GAA Air Dome represents as a facility for all ages and all levels of skill and experience to enjoy. NUI Galway and Connacht GAA are both organisations committed to our communities and we are delighted to partner with them on this excellent facility in and for our region."

John Prenty also welcomed the partnership saying that all of Connacht GAA are thrilled to have found such a perfect fit for their naming right sponsors in NUI Galway and added that he is looking forward to many years of fruitful partnership together and it's something that he sees as hugely beneficial to the whole region.

Speaking about his dream for the centre at Began, Prenty said, "I'm sure there were people on the outside who thought we were mad." "The idea of putting a full-sized GAA pitch under an air dome had never been done before for sport anywhere in the world. Ours is 150 metres long, 100 metres wide, and 26 metres high, so I suppose there were fellas who thought it would never happen. But it did. In terms of use, we have enough people looking for it to keep two domes busy, never mind one. We're in a wet and windy part of the country, so from a games and development point of view, we've probably added three months to our year, because we're not affected by weather".



John Prenty inside the NUIG Connacht GAA Airdome.

Royal Visitor

Colm O'Rourke was highly impressed when he visited the Connacht GAA HQ at Began earlier this year. He thought a spaceship had landed when he saw the air dome first in the distance! The former Meath star paid tribute to Prenty for getting the project off the ground. As a school principal involved in the promotion of Gaelic football, O'Rourke is acutely aware of the lack of pitch availability during the winter months: "It's not long since I rang twelve clubs in Meath without success, looking for a pitch for a school's game". O'Rourke acknowledged that this problem is even greater in the West. "I don't think I've ever been to Mayo or Galway without getting wet", he declared.

The NUIG Connacht GAA Air Dome is designed to the highest standards of sustainability, being extremely eco-friendly and energy efficient on top of having state of the art playing facilities and gym. The facility will also provide a hub for excellence in education and research which will have a positive impact on the greater community. The air dome has also been designed with community at its heart and with Connacht GAA ensuring that it is open to everyone to use at all ages and at all levels.

Scór Finals

In November 2021, The All Ireland Scór Sinsear Finals were held in the Dome and this proved to be a wonderful success. A month later the Dome was chosen to host the GAA Annual Congress when major reforms were up for debate and decision and delegates from all over the world were in attendance to have their say on the future of the association. The National GAA Coaching Conference, one of the highlights of the GAA's Games



Delegates attending the 2022 GAA Congress in the Air Dome in Began.

Development calendar, was hosted by the Dome in Began on Saturday, 19th February 2022 with over 600 in attendance.

New Institute of Health

In August of this year world leading health care provider UPMC and Connacht GAA announced the establishment of a state-of-the-art UPMC Institute for Health that will be located at the Dome and will benefit Connacht GAA, sporting groups and the wider community in the west of Ireland.

“The partnership will provide sports medicine, physiotherapy services and rehabilitation programmes for our communities here in the west,” said the CEO of Connacht GAA.

The UPMC Institute for Health is a collaborative model for patients and clinicians. The local community will benefit from the provision of sports medicine and physiotherapy services, as well as rehabilitation programmes for oncology, osteoarthritis, and cardiology. It will also include a falls prevention programme and exercise programmes for those suffering with chronic illness.

UPMC is the official health care partner of the GAA and GPA. Partnering with Connacht GAA at Began sees its first location in the west of Ireland.

Jewel in the Crown

The new Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence was described as, “one of the finest, most practical sporting centres on our island”, by Connacht Council President Frank Burke at its official opening. “Much like the case of Knock Airport and the late Monsignor James Horan, John Prenty has that unstoppable zeal, with night and day commitment to get things progressed. Without his hard work and energy this excellent complex would not have been developed and I thank him for a vision and

project that will bear fruit into future generations,” added the Connacht GAA President.

Officially opened in December of 2021 to major acclaim, the stunning NUIG Connacht GAA Air Dome is one of the new Wonders of the Sporting World. It is the jewel in the crown of the already impressive GAA Centre in Began and is being seen as a gold standard example of what is possible in maximising latest technology to offer a world class sporting facility and is a great tribute to the vision and drive of Ballyhaunis man, Connacht GAA Secretary John Prenty.

Sustainability and The Environment

Even before the centre was officially opened in 2012, green and sustainable actions were being implemented. Back in 2008 four acres of the site were planted with native ash trees. The Centre of Excellence was designed to collect rainwater from its main roof area which is stored underground in a 72,000-litre tank. Currently, four local secondary schools are also playing a part in the biodiversity program, planting native trees and shrubs under the direction of local woman Margie Phillips who works with The Botanical Gardens. The students have also built bug hotels, installed beehives and erected educational signage to explain their project. The Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence also has been granted planning permission for a solar farm which will have the capacity to generate close to 100 per cent of its usage of electricity during the summertime. John Prenty is pleased that The GAA Centre of Excellence is also living up to its name with regard to sustainability and concern for our environment.

Smart Air Dome

The energy-efficient Smart Air Dome features specialist LED lighting, high-tech inflation, air exchange, ventilation and heating adaptations that are controlled by multiple systems which use automated fault detection, as well as monitoring and maintenance technology to control heat, pressure, humidity and lighting.

The innovative design of this Air Dome allows for the structure to transform itself from a sporting facility for the local community into a fully functional conference area within 72 hours. Other prospective functions allow the Dome to be used for executive training days, trade exhibitions and concerts, with the capacity to hold up to 10,000 people: making it one of Ireland’s largest indoor venues.

Engineering Excellence

Tobin Consulting Engineers (Ire) are proud to have delivered the world's largest Sports Air Dome for Connacht GAA and were selected as winners at the ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards (Innovation Category) at a gala dinner in Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel in September of this year. Congratulations to Tobin Consulting Engineers and NUIG Connacht GAA Air Dome on this well-deserved accolade.

Challenges

Asked about the challenges such as the maintenance associated with the world's largest sports dome, John remains unflappable. "They're not huge. You brush the pitch the way you would with any astroturf pitch — maybe less than most because the pitch is indoor — but it's a smart dome. A lot of it can be worked remotely through internet and technology: I can do a lot of the operations from my phone".

So now, whenever we see John with the phone to his ear we know, as we always have, that he is hard at work!

Well done JP!



Johnny Biesty and his grandson Luke Mangan of Salthill-Knocknacarra GAA club pictured recently at the NUIG Connacht GAA Air Dome.

Parish League 1985-'86

PARISH LEAGUE 85/86

CAPTAINS: JOHN TOOLAN,
JOHNNY DAVITT,
EAMON CUNNANE,
KEVIN DEVANEY.

LAMON CUNNANE	JOHN TOOLAN	KEVIN DEVANEY	JOHNNY DAVITT
Paddy Phillips	Pedraic Waldron	Paul Webb	Michael Battiga
Johnny Cribbin	Enda Moran	Declan Phillips	Tommy Grogan
Jimmy Nolan	Tommy Caulfield	Tom McGuire	John Turhan
Teddy Webb	Gerry Morley	John Webb	John Frenty
Joe Joe Webb	Gerry Winston	Ray Sloan	Vincent McNamar
Kial Cruise	Seamus Kenny	David Fitzgerald	Val Byrne
Joe Tighe	Brian Phillips	Martin Naughtan	Brendan Toolan
Noel Phillips	Brian Murray	Tony Morley (Jnr.)	Donal Delaney
Gerry McGarry	Barry Butler	Paul Clarke	Jimmy Seyth
James Clarke	Cathal Phillips	Austin Cribbin	John Cusiskey
Tony Waldron	Noel Morley	Liam Lyons	Gerry Lyons
Tommy Frenty	Gerry Murphy	Billy Lyons	Tony Morley (Sr)
Michael Webb	Peter Concannon	Paul Sykes	Michael Feehey
Fergus Coyne	Tomás Cribbin	Joe Fitzharris	Kieran Moran
Thomas Cunnane	Jimmy Fleethy	Pedraic Waldron	John Turhan
Eamon Glynn	Tommy Curran	Cliffie Bannon	Liam Tierney
Donal McNamar	John Turhan	Tom McGuire	Enda Moran

Trophies to the winning team-sponsored by Grogan & Sons plus "Fogor Casement Cup" presented by Ballyhaunis G.A.A. Club to the winning team. Played on League basis-top two teams play in final.

Special prizes, best footballer of the competition, best under-age footballer performance of "Non footballer".

Social night of the final and Presentation.

TEAM MANAGERS

Nicola Murrell
* Helen Robinson



First cousins pictured at Croke Park, 24th August 2022. L-R: Peter and Bobby Gallagher (Derrintogher), Erin Higgins (Ballyhaunis), Ben and Patrick Gallagher (Bargariff).



*St. Mary's Primary School
photographs taken in the 1993
by teacher Mrs. Betty Regan.*

Top left:
Performing in a concert in 1993
were, from left: Christopher
Kilcourse, Simon McDonagh,
Adam Jumail and Eddie Kilcourse.

Top right:
Hurlers in the making.
L-R: Keith Higgins, Mícheál Walsh
and Derek McConn.

Above left:
**Taken at rehearsals for the 1993
Nativity Play.**
L-R: Sarah Kelly, Jane O'Connor,
Emma Herr, Michael Jordan,
David Hannan, Patrick Heaney,
David Lynch, William Nestor,
Declan Warde, Phelim Carroll.

Right:
Lunchtime. L-R from back:
Gareth Morrissey, Michael Moran,
Fergal Walsh, Brian Mulrennan,
Alan Lyons, Rory Coyne.



Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club

GARETH DELANEY (PRO)

As the sun sets on another field sporting year we conclude that Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club continues to go from strength to strength. Over the twelve months since this magazine's last publication we have held fifteen open clay pigeon shoots bringing competitors from far and wide. We've had winners of these shoots from Dromahair to Athlone and from Drumcliffe to Loughrea showing the far reaching popularity of our grounds in Cave.

This past summer saw four members from our club qualify, on merit, to represent the Mayo Team at the NARGC (National Association of Regional Game Councils) at the All Ireland Clay Target Championship, held at The National Shooting Ground in Esker, Banagher, Co. Galway. Those representing Mayo were David Bowens, Mark Kelly, Padraig Kiely and Ciarán Waldron, all of whom gave a good account of themselves within the team.

In August, our Top Shot competition was held with Mark Kelly coming out victorious, winning the Eamon Burke Perpetual Trophy. A good day and night was had by all.

Our annual Long Tail Pheasant competition will be held on the first Saturday in November and we look forward to getting out into the countryside with our friends and dogs over the coming weeks of the game season. Happy and safe hunting to all.

Club members have reared and released 100 pheasant poults on lands around the town, as well as fifty ducklings, on the island in the White Lake. Vermin control has been ongoing, with members helping farmers or anyone in need of help.



Members of the Ballyhaunis Clay Pigeon team at this year's County Shoot. Back, L-R: Mark Kelly, Padraig Kiely, Gareth Delaney. Front, L-R: David Bowens, Jack Lannon, Ciarán Waldron.

This year has also seen a great uptake in membership by ladies who have very much enriched our gun club. At our AGM in July we elected new officers with Jack Lannon coming in as Chairman, flanked by Isla Waldron (Secretary) and Mark Kelly (Treasurer). We wish them well for the coming year and sincerely thank the outgoing officers for their diligent work over the past number of years.

On a sad note, we remember our dear friend, Tom Waldron, who passed away in June of this year. Tom was a stalwart and lifelong member of our club. He was known countrywide by the clay pigeon shooting fraternity from the founding days of our grounds in Cave. He was a good advisor to all in the club on matters regarding bird rearing, releasing and vermin control. His brother, Bernard, son Ciarán and nephews Padraig Waldron and Paul Sykes continue his good work within the club. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Ballyhaunis and District Gun Club would like to thank all our dedicated members and sponsors for their ongoing support, without whom, we would not have this great amenity.



The late Tom Waldron with his trusted dog, Mol.



Ballyhaunis Tidy Towns

MARY DONNELLY



2022 got off to a very favourable start for us in January with the news that we had been awarded €3,500 towards the cost of drawing up a Biodiversity Action Plan for Ballyhaunis. This followed our application for funding to the Community Foundation for Ireland in November 2021. The aim of the Plan is to survey, identify and map the various species, habitats, flora and fauna present in Ballyhaunis, and to take the necessary steps to enhance and protect them into the future. The Friary grounds and the Dalgan river are the main focus of the work, along with the schools and other areas of interest within the town area.

We engaged the services of Dr. Mary Tubridy, ecologist, who visited the town on 28th April for initial survey work, and her subsequent report outlined how to improve biodiversity of grasslands in the Friary grounds with a new mowing regime. She also advised the replacement of conifers in the woodlands and dead ash trees on the riverbank with native trees, planting more shrubbery which is more attractive to nesting birds, monitoring water quality in the river Dalgan, revised wildlife signage and the inclusion of pollinator signage on grasslands.

During the summer a survey of birdlife in the area was carried out by Michael Hogan, and a survey of the river was carried out by Dr. Julian Reynolds, fresh water ecologist and former Head of Zoology at Trinity College, while his wife Sylvia who is a botanist carried out examination of vegetation and plant species. We look forward to completing the work in the coming months

and implementing Dr. Tubridy's advice and recommendations.

We especially acknowledge the work of Laura Dinraths – one of our new committee members – in spearheading much of the biodiversity action plan. Laura is new to Ballyhaunis but with her qualifications in marine biology and climate action she is a real asset to our committee and our community.

'No Dog Poo on my Shoe!'

In March we organised a poster and colouring competition for primary school children entitled, 'No Dog Poo on my Shoe!' The aim of the competition was to promote awareness of the problem of dog fouling in public places and the need for dog owners to clean up after their pets. Nine primary schools in Ballyhaunis and the surrounding area took part in the competition; prizes of Easter eggs were awarded to the children and a crab apple tree was presented to each participating school. Our thanks to Jeff & Mary Nolan of Super Valu for sponsoring the Easter eggs.

Good Friday Clean-up

Heavy rain on Good Friday (15th April) posed a major threat to our first post-Covid organised clean-up, but nevertheless a sizeable amount of litter and rubbish was collected by our loyal team of volunteers who worked around the weather to make sure the event was a success. We acknowledge new groups like Ballyhaunis Language Café and TY students for participating in clean ups around town as part of efforts to expand our community outreach. Our thanks to all of them and to Mayo County Council for disposing of the proceeds. The Good Friday Clean-up is part of An Taisce's National Spring Clean Campaign which runs annually in April.

Hanging Baskets

Every year we decorate the town with hanging baskets and floral displays in various locations and 2022 was no exception. This year we were very fortunate to have secured sponsorship from Dawn Meats for the purchase of the flowers locally and, on a fine Saturday morning 28th May, a team of volunteers from Dawn Meats staff joined us in the Friary



Lunch with Dr. Mary Tubridy on her first visit to Ballyhaunis.

L-R: Tidy Towns members Mary Donnelly, Laura Dinraths, Tzyy Wang and Sean Freyne, Dr. Mary Tubridy, ecologist for Biodiversity Action Plan, Kay Curley, Chairperson Tidy Towns.



Tidy Towns member Frances May making St. Brigid's crosses.

car park and helped to fill and plant all one hundred baskets! They also joined our Rural Social Scheme (RSS) team in the major task of putting the baskets in place throughout the town. Our thanks to everyone involved and to our RSS team who kept the baskets fed and watered throughout the summer ensuring a wonderful display of colour and vibrancy.

National Tidy Towns Competition 2022

For the first year since Covid judging in the National Tidy Towns Competition reverted to normal where the adjudicators visited the towns and villages that entered. Our entry form was submitted online after many hours of diligent work by Tzyy Wang – our PRO and social media expert – gathering and collating information and photographs into a comprehensive, reader friendly presentation. At the time of writing the results of the competition have not been announced so we await the adjudicator's report hoping for an increase in marks from last year.

BIGbin

We are delighted that the BIGbin service is now available in Ballyhaunis thanks to Jeff and Mary Nolan in SuperValu. BIGbin is a pay-as-you-go waste disposal service where people can buy a ticket in SuperValu or pay online and deposit their waste in the BIGbin container located in the car park. It is particularly useful for small households who do not accumulate enough domestic waste to pay for an annual waste collection service.

Our hope is that this, along with the existing recycling banks, will help to reduce the amount of illegal dumping that goes on despite the best efforts of Mayo County Council's Litter Warden and Environmental staff.

Thanks!

We extend sincere thanks to all who supported Tidy Towns over the past year; our sponsors Dawn Meats and SuperValu, Cllr. John Cribbin for annual GMA funding, Mayo County Council officials and staff, our helpers and volunteers who made St. Brigid Crosses which raised in excess of €1,000, Tzyy Wang and Mark Godfrey who publicise our events on social media, Facebook etc. and everyone who contributed in any way to our efforts to make Ballyhaunis beautiful.

We thank the Abbey Partnership for accommodating our meetings in the Friary House while the Community Hall was under renovation. We congratulate Ballyhaunis Community Council on the excellent refurbishment work that has been carried out in the Community Hall, and we look forward to enjoying the comforts of a modern up-to-date facility for our meetings into the future.

Welcome

As part of the outreach in welcoming new talents to the team, with Tzyy Wang (social media and PR experience) as well as Laura Dinraths (biology, climate action) backgrounds, new members are always welcome – whatever your talents are we have a place for you in Tidy Towns!

Tidy Towns Committee:

Chairperson, Kay Curley. Secretary, Mary Donnelly. Treasurers, Frances Mulhern and Moyra Patterson. PRO, Tzyy Wang. Members: Teresa Grogan, Frances May, Merrilyn Finn, Ann Curley, Laura Dinraths, Sean Freyne, Connie Gildea, Mary Higgins, Mike Griffin, Gabriel Smith, Nell Rochford.

No Irish Need Apply

Frank Greally

The sign in the digs in Birmingham
Back in the days gone by
Hung in the window and clearly said,
'No Irish need apply'

My father moved from door to door
Frightened, lost and alone
Walking through streets in the bitter cold
And wishing he'd stayed back home

But work was scarce in Ireland then
And the family had to be fed
My father found work in Birmingham
But he could not find a bed

As he tramped the streets on that winter night
A full moon hung in the sky
My father saw many more cruel signs
'No Irish need apply'

It was coming up to the midnight hour
When a friendly face he found
The sign on the door said – 'all welcome here'
And he felt he'd reached high ground

The Landlady said - all are welcome here
And I'll tell you the reason why
My father once found many signs that said
'No Irish need apply'

Right: Michael Dillon with parents Mary and Frankie along with their Ballindrehid neighbours David and Freddie Herr attending a Street Fair in Ballyhaunis early 1990s.

Also pictured is Frances Mulhern of Knock Road (Courtesy of Eamonn Murren).



Some photographs taken in Gill's Bar, Clare St. over the years.



Above left: L-R: Tony Rattigan, Philip Fisher, Sean Carney.



Above right: From Left: Sean Tarpey, Noelle Keegan, Sean Brady, John Morley.

Photographs courtesy of John and Bernie Gill.



Above: From left: Patsy Keane, John Gill, Mary Keane, Tom McCormack.



Bottom left: Pat Gildea, John Gill and Pake Byrne outside Gill's Bar, Clare Street.

Western Potteries Ltd.

A Brief chapter in Ballyhaunis' Industrial History

EMMETT KEANE SNR. AND PAUL WALDRON

1950s West of Ireland was a bleak place when it came to employment prospects. Farming was the main occupation but there wasn't an income for everybody on the land. With no construction industry to speak of, opportunities in trades were limited; jobs in retail and industry were scarce enough too; while very few could afford further education to enter one of the professions. With little to keep young people at home, the only option was emigration.

The business-people of Ballyhaunis did their best in that hungry decade to address this haemorrhage of youth and talent to the cities, to England and the U.S.A. By the mid-1950s the Ballyhaunis Development Association (and its predecessor, the Town Improvements Committee) had been working for years to bring industry to the town. Negotiations between them and Liga (Ireland) Ltd. to establish a factory here started in 1952 and were still ongoing in 1956. In that year some members of the Association, frustrated with the lack of progress and the endless back-and-forth of communication with Liga and official bodies, decided to start their own factory. And so it was that Michael A. Keane led a group of local business-people including Paddy McGarry, Denis Sweeney, Larry Freeley and Seamus Durkan to set up Western Potteries Ltd. It would, they hoped, manufacture pottery goods never before made in the West of Ireland – tableware, ornaments and souvenirs – and provide badly needed employment in Ballyhaunis.

To house the venture, an extension with basement was built onto the rear of M.A. Keane & Sons' premises on Knox Street, by then, a well-established employer in the locality. The building was completed and things were progressing well by early October 1956, as reported in the *Western People*:

“It is expected that production will start in about three weeks' time at the new Pottery Factory which is established in Ballyhaunis under the Management of a local Limited Company. The factory will concentrate on 'small' pottery for the home market, and it is encouraging to note that many large wholesalers in the country have already placed orders for big consignments of the finished articles. In its initial stage the factory will employ about six hands, but it is hoped to increase this number as the undertaking expands. A number of skilled workers are already engaged.”¹

Making a Start

The special equipment, all of it electrically powered, was acquired second-hand in England, shipped over and delivered to Ballyhaunis by rail. The kiln, a massive cast-iron oven, lined inside with fire-proof bricks, was six foot tall and weighed two tons and thirteen hundredweight. Its arrival on Saturday, 24th Nov. 1956, caused quite a stir when it was found that the Ballyhaunis railway station crane couldn't lift it. Onwards it went to Claremorris station to be unloaded by their more powerful crane, before being conveyed back to Ballyhaunis by truck.² The final stage of its journey and its installation in the newly built premises was an awkward and delicate operation carried out with the assistance of Brod Moran of CIE and others. All help and advice was taken on board. One of the shareholders, on arriving during the procedure, asked Michael A. Keane earnestly, “What can I do, Michael?” to which he replied, “Go up to the church and say three Hail Marys that we can get this in!” The man who sold the kiln came over from England to commission it and had to reset some of the bricks inside which had been slightly damaged in transit.

Pouring and moulding equipment was set up and within a very short time production got underway under the supervision of an experienced potter, a retired English man living in Galway, who came down to train the workers. Having started production in early December 1956 the factory got off to a good start and just before the new year, the last *Western People* of that year reported that:

“Finished products of Western Potteries Ltd., Ballyhaunis, were on sale in the town last week, where they attracted much attention. The high quality of the goods, their beautiful designs, and excellent workmanship were the subject of favourable criticism. The factory is at present awaiting the delivery of more kilns from the manufacturers in England.”³

By February 1957 production was going well and more positions were advertised in the papers: “Wanted, eight to twelve young boys to serve their apprenticeship to pottery making under expert potter. Small wage to commence, gradually increasing.”⁴ Some months later an advertisement in the national newspapers sought, “Experienced men and girls for good-class pottery work. Full particulars to Western Pottery Co., Ballyhaunis.”⁵

² *Connaught Telegraph* and *Western People*, 1st Dec. 1956.

³ *Western People*, 29th Dec. 1956.

⁴ *Western People*, 23rd Feb. 1957

¹ *Western People*, 6th Oct. 1956.

Among the names of Western Potteries workers now remembered were Mikey Fleming (Pollnacraohy), Johnny Clarke (Hazelhill), Jimmy Ruane (Curries), Micheál Regan (Tooraree), Liam Baker (Main St.) along with two young members of the Keane family – Bernard and Emmett. Hubert Lyons, who had a shop and bakery on Knox Street and also operated one of the many travelling shops around Ballyhaunis in those years, included Western Potteries tableware in his stock.

Process

The pottery clay came in large plastic bags from Stoke-on-Trent in England. It had a consistency something like dough and had to be kept cool until ready for use. It was shaped in moulds spinning at high speed, as opposed to being ‘thrown’ and moulded by hand on a potter’s wheel. When making a cup, for example, a small piece of clay was formed into a ball and thrown into the mould rotating horizontally at great speed. The momentum forcing the soft clay against the mould shaped the outside of the cup and, while this was happening, a profile lowered into the mould shaped the cup inside. Excess clay was trimmed from the top, the rotating mould was stopped using a brake and placed into a dryer. The whole process took only a few seconds per cup after a few weeks’ practice. When it had dried the following day, the handle-less cup came out of the mould easily. The handles were made of a liquified form of the same clay poured into a mould and, when dried sufficiently, stuck onto the cup with great care using the same liquid clay. Trays of cups, thus formed, were then stacked on brick shelves within the kiln. A similar process using different moulds and profiles was followed when making plates, saucers, bowls, jugs and egg-cups. Great care had to be taken that no two items touched when loaded into the kiln, otherwise they’d be stuck together and ruined. There it got its first firing, over-night, at around 1000°C. It was a full day cooling before the kiln door could be opened again.

When removed from the kiln the pottery was called ‘biscuit’ and the next stage was ‘glazing’. Each item was dipped into and shook around a specially mixed glaze liquid kept in a half-barrel, then left to dry on a drip-tray. When they were powdery dry they were returned to the kiln for the second or ‘glaze’ firing, at around 1200°C, which transformed the glaze into a shiny, durable coating. The resulting tableware emerged in one solid colour, according to the glaze used, though fancy edgings or designs of a different colour might be painted-on afterwards.

A Miss Hart came over from England as a designer and to do hand painting on the pottery. Though her designs were sometimes regarded dubiously by

⁵ *Irish Independent*, 3rd May 1957.

management, she stayed long enough to get involved in community events in the town and, in summer 1957, she adjudicated on the Ballyhaunis Fancy Dress Parade and was described in the newspapers as a ‘designer at the local pottery factory’.⁶

A mishap during one particular production run gave rise to an unusually patterned set of tableware. A set of six cups, saucers and side-plates were sprayed pink, but the colour ran and they didn’t come out as planned, so they were left on a shelf out of the way. Maria Cribbin, another great stalwart in community development during these years, brought her good friend Mrs. Perks (whose family operated the popular carnival that came to Ballyhaunis regularly) to see the pottery in operation, and they happened to notice the mis-coloured set. “Oh Maria, aren’t they beautiful!”, Mrs. Perks said, and she wanted to order a few more sets like them. However, despite all their efforts the pottery workers were unable to replicate the process or make anything like them ever again!

The range of products expanded over time and, just after their first year in production, in January 1958 they advertised, “An Tostal flower bowls, 6 shillings, post paid: trade enquiries invited.”⁷ New outlets continued to be sought and in the following month notices were placed seeking, “Van salesmen and shopkeepers – Special lines in Delph and Souvenirs.”⁸

Although the clay was imported from England, samples from elsewhere were considered for suitability. As a test a piece would be fired in the kiln and, if it didn’t break up, it could be used. They tried locally sourced clay too, but it didn’t work very well. Perhaps this came from Curries, just two miles southeast of the town, where a ‘pottery’ is marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (published 1838). The ‘Memoirs of the Geological Survey’ for this part of the country, published in 1871 gives that:

Bluish red plastic clay suitable for pottery work is to be found on the south-eastern flank of Course Top, in the townland of Curries. A large pottery was once worked there, and the clay was about three feet thick, but all traces of the works are now gone. Similar potteries were rather frequent in the district, but the only trace now existing of them is their mention in the Ordnance maps.⁹

⁶ *Connaught Telegraph*, 13th July 1957.

⁷ *Irish Independent*, 15th Jan. 1958.

⁸ *Irish Independent*, 26th Feb.

⁹ G.H. Kinahan MRIA and R.G. Symes FGS, *Memoirs of the Geological Survey: Explanatory Memoir to accompany sheets 86, 87, 88, and Eastern Part of 85 of the maps of the Geological Survey of Ireland* (Dublin 1871), pp. 51-52.

Ornaments

Those involved in Western Potteries acknowledged years later that they should have concentrated on souvenirs and ornaments, especially with so much being imported from abroad at that time.

When it came to this line of the pottery's output, Patsy Cunningham was a key figure. Born in Bridge Street, he lived in Upper Main Street in the 1950s and was a talented poet, humourist, actor and dramatic producer. He was also gifted with his hands, and it was he who made the moulds for the ornaments manufactured by Western Potteries. These included holy-water fonts, wall plaques depicting horse-shoes and representations of the apparition at Knock.

First of all, a model of the proposed item was shaped in potter's clay. It was then covered in plaster of Paris, which set to a rubbery consistency and, when removed, revealed the shape of the model in reverse, forming the mould. One of Patsy Cunningham's designs was for a holy-water font bearing an image of the Blessed Virgin. These were made by pouring liquid clay into a mould made as described above. The holy water bowls were made separately the same way as cups, then cut in half, and stuck to the face of what was made in the mould, forming the completed font. When glazed and fired, they came out white; Patsy then touched them up with coloured paint. These turned out to be Western Potteries' best-selling product.

Closure

In 1958, during its second full year in operation, Western Potteries applied not once, but twice, for a grant from An Foras Tionscail, a body set up in 1952 to encourage industry in undeveloped areas. The applications were specifically for an extension to the premises and for additional equipment. Neither application was successful and, by January 1959, Western Potteries had ceased production and the factory was closed. Lack of accommodation was said to be the main cause of its closure: not that the company failed, but that it had not sufficient premises.

Michael A. Keane told a meeting of the Ballyhaunis Development Association on 12th Jan. 1959 that, when they first set up in 1956 they did not approach the government for any money, but when they discovered they were making tableware, "... never before manufactured on this side of the Shannon; that it was as good as any of its kind in Ireland, and was selling at a competitive price", they approached An Foras Tionscail for grant assistance. They were turned down, with no official reason given, but they learnt afterwards that, had they concentrated on souvenirs they might have been successful. So, they did that and applied again a short time later. This time they were visited by officials from that body who inspected the premises and the manufactured goods. However, despite being certain of success, their hopes were dashed when they were informed that their application was once again unsuccessful.

At that January 1959 meeting of the Ballyhaunis Development Association, it was questioned how a pottery in Bofeenau, Ballina, employing just two people, had received a grant of £1,000. Questions were also asked if Arklow Pottery might have had influence in blocking the grant, since some of their directors had visited the Ballyhaunis plant, apparently to weigh-up the opposition,

Mr. Keane said, "There is a lot of talk about emigration and unemployment. At the time we were in production we had one adult and seven learners employed, and if we had got a grant we could easily have trebled that number." He continued: "Our pottery is now closed; the plant and equipment are still there, and our former employees are drawing the dole. It would be a far more decent thing for the Government to give us a grant to pay for those people doing honest work."

It emerged from that meeting that Western Potteries faced huge disadvantages operating at such a small scale, almost from the start. They were turning out more pottery than they could 'fire'. Additional equipment, particularly kilns, were needed and a bigger premises to house them. The cost of operating just one electric kiln was enormous given the amount of product. Clay had to be imported in bags from England, whereas the likes of Arklow and Carrigaline could bring it in shiploads. Furthermore, Ballyhaunis had no technicians for maintaining and repairing the specialist equipment. Another thing which proved regrettable for the factory's reputation was the inclusion of some reject items in stock sold locally. It came to light too that, of the £3,000 required to float the company on start-up, only £2,400 had been subscribed. Some of the founders felt that a public meeting should be called to remedy the shortfall, but others felt they could not ask anybody to invest because everybody knew it was a gamble. However, those involved said they felt it was a risk worth taking.

Following the closure, the equipment was sold to a company in Sligo, but some items of pottery and moulds were to be seen in the Knox Street premises down to the 1970s.

Despite some initial enquiries, no surviving items of Western Potteries tableware, ornaments or souvenirs have been located, though some must surely have survived the sixty-five years since they were manufactured in Knox Street. So, take a close, careful look at those cups, saucers and plates on your dresser or sideboard, or maybe examine the holy-water font or that old souvenir hanging on the wall. If it was manufactured by 'Western Potteries Ltd.' then you are in possession of a real piece of local history.

As for the Liga factory mentioned briefly above, negotiations continued into the 1960s and, in the end, after ten years of tireless effort, all that came of it was a short-lived packaging concern in Abbey Street. But that's a story for another *Annagh*.



Above: Marguerite Morley (Knox St.) and Helen Waldron (Cave) on O'Connell Bridge, Dublin, 1973. Taken by Arthur Fields, the O'Connell Bridge photographer.

Left: Michael Lyons (Bridge St.) pictured on Knox St. in 1995. (Courtesy of Tom McCormack collection).



Garda Eddie Rogan, 1995. (Courtesy of Tom McCormack collection).



Gabriel Forkan, Knox St. pictured in Dillon's, The Square. (Courtesy of Tom McCormack collection).

Staff at John Durkan & Sons, Devlis in 1974.
L-R: John Keaveney, Joe Jordan, Declan Prendergast, John Jordan, Joe Hosty.

(Courtesy of John and Eileen Jordan)



Ballyhaunis Community Council

MARK GODFREY

The reopening of the Community Hall, popularly known as the Parochial Hall, as an airy, shiny and bright space for community use was the highlight of our year. After several years of paperwork, fundraising, meetings and constant problem solving, we in the Community Council felt a great sense of satisfaction from the project's completion but also from the teamwork which got us there.

Ballyhaunis Community Council invited the community on Friday, 14th October, to drop into the refurbished Community Hall (the Parochial Hall) for tea. Transferred by the Diocese of Tuam to the Community Council in 2018, the hall was renovated in a project costing nearly €500,000 with funds from local donations backing grants from LEADER, the EU's fund for rural development. We also installed a new heat pump heating system with SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) grant support covering half the price tag. The project was completed with a term loan from social finance company Clan Credo which will be paid back over the coming decade from hall usage fees and fundraising.

In the next phase of development, we will restore the balcony and once again show films in the hall. The theme of refurbishing the balcony for use as a community cinema and conference space allowed us to get grant funding of €22,000 in this year's Community Centres fund from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs. We intend to have these works completed in 2023.

In our first year as a registered charity, the Community Council held monthly meetings, open to the public, as well as weekly project meetings to manage the renovation of the hall. Aside from the hall renovation we have formed relationships with agencies and bodies in fulfilment of our mission which is development of community facilities while also promoting culture, sustainability and learning. A Community Education grant from the Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB), for instance, allowed us to deliver a year long programme of organic gardening workshops in conjunction with the Community Garden at the Friary. Aside from being fun and informative, this well-attended series has brought a whole new coterie of gardeners into the Community Garden, fulfilling its role as a centre for local learning, camaraderie and social development.



Stage before and after refurbishment works.



Our ongoing collaboration with Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWP) saw us get funds for an in-depth study of Annagh Lake and local waterways, a study which allowed for two very well attended nature walks along the Dalgan River where we also took samples of water life. Also sponsored for us by LAWP, a special nature field trip for Heritage Week, 'Life of a Rural River,' drew an interested group of participants from the local and neighbouring parishes under the guidance and tutelage of Jackie Hunt, an ecologist based in west Mayo.

We continue to work with Local Link to develop routes into Ballyhaunis from outlying villages thus providing a service and a valuable connection to residents who want to visit the town to do their shopping and socialise. Driven by Michael, the Local Link bus runs several routes over two days every week

and we hope to expand on this to include more people who'd like to avail of the service.

One of the reasons Ballyhaunis Community Council was established in 2002 was to provide the local community pillar for the Abbey Trust and the Abbey Partnership, the two bodies which respectively hold the lease and manage the Augustinian Friary in the town. We are happy that members of the Community Council sit on both bodies and encourage the upkeep and development of the Friary for the community.

Various groups and activities have resumed at the hall to brighten winter evenings, including jiving classes, Irish classes, Zumba and private family parties. We've had lots of bookings for meetings while two drama groups have booked the main hall for shows in 2023. We will also be running several events for the public, including a monthly Sunday social and a card game. A bicycle repair workshop will also be run over several weeks.

To further develop the hall and our various other projects for the community we welcome more new faces at our friendly monthly meetings at the hall in 2023. The new management of the hall will include an online booking system allowing users to list their events for the public to view. Several meeting rooms and the main hall are now available for rent by contacting:

ballyhauniscommunitycouncil@gmail.com
and by viewing **www.ballyhauniscc.ie**.

Chair: Mark Godfrey; Secretary: Mary Donnelly; Treasurer: Marie Cribbin; PRO: Tzyy Wang. Hall committee: Mark Godfrey, Mary Donnelly, Nuala Fitzgerald, Tzyy Wang, Ruairí Ó Broin, Kay Curley, Chris Ganley, Mike Griffin, Sam Helmy.



The Hatch before and after refurbishment works



Congratulations to Hannah Briody who captained the Meath Ladies U-14 team in their 2022 Leinster Final victory over Wexford. Hannah is the daughter of Samantha and Micheál Briody of Oldcastle and granddaughter of Jenny and Pat Glynn, Doctor's Road.



Tony Rattigan, 'The Singing Cowboy', is joined on stage by his first cousin, Val Rattigan (Knox St.)

Ballyhaunis GAA Club



Chairman's Report

Chairman of the club Gerry Lyons would like to thank the officers of the club, members of the Executive Committee and all of our sub-committees for their hard work throughout the past year. Huge thanks also to all the coaches and team managers who give so freely of their time and effort. On behalf of Ballyhaunis GAA, Gerry extends best wishes to all readers of Annagh Magazine and wishes to acknowledge the generosity and support of our many friends at home in Ballyhaunis, throughout the country and overseas. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go leir.

Intermediate Football (Paul Jordan, Manager)

Ballyhaunis Intermediate footballers maintained their status in the very competitive Div. 2A of the Mayo Senior Football League with seven points from seven games. Ballyhaunis had wins over Ardnaree, Kilmaine and Parke-Keellogues-Crimlin and drew with Crossmolina Deel Rovers. We suffered defeats to Balla, Kilmeena and The Neale.

Egan Jewellers Mayo Intermediate Champions 2022

Ballyhaunis 0-13 Kilmeena 0-10

In the Intermediate Championship Ballyhaunis emerged unbeaten from the group stage and went on to beat Parke-Keellogues-Crimlin by five points in the quarter final at Clogher. We proceeded to brush aside

the challenge of Hollymount-Carramore in the championship semi-final played in terrible conditions in Claremorris. The scene was set for a novel decider pairing in McHale Park with hotly fancied Kilmeena, the reigning All-Ireland

Junior champions, on Saturday, 29th October. After an excellent exhibition of football from both teams Ballyhaunis were crowned Egan Jewellers Mayo Intermediate Champions with three points to spare over the West Mayo side who pushed our lads right to the end. There were great scenes of celebration as Ballyhaunis claimed the Mayo Intermediate title for the fourth time (1967, 1988, 2014, 2022), having lost two finals in recent years. The entire panel of players are a credit to their management, their families and to the parish and reaped their just reward after putting in a tremendous effort all year. Béal Átha hAmhnais Abú.

Intermediate panel 2022: Adrian Phillips, Conor Freeley, Jack Coyne, David Cunnane, Joe Sutton, Keith Higgins, Liam Herr, Kieran Kiely, Kevin Byrne, John Cunnane, James Lyons, Jarlath Carney, Eoghan Collins, Patrick Caulfield, Aidan Sloyan, Morgan Lyons, Jason Coyne, Cathal Carney, Eamon Phillips, Cormac Phillips, Neil Carney, Barry Cribbin, Brian Hunt, Piarais Caulfield, Christy McCrudden, Conor Keane, Danny Murray, Diarmuid Phillips, Ethan Keane, Joshua Webb, Kevin Gallagher, Kian Burke, Mark Phillips, Sean Gildea, Sean Herr, Jack McGoldrick, Shaun Morley, Kevin Durkan.



Ballyhaunis players and management celebrate winning the County Intermediate title.



Brian Mulrennan (Management) and his daughter Naoise celebrating the Ballyhaunis win.



Ballyhaunis Intermediate Football Team Manager Paul Jordan with his wife Áine and children Órlaith and Aoibhinn pictured with the Sweeney Cup.



Pictured with the Sweeney Cup are Kevin Gallagher (right) with his son Cúan and team-mates (from left): Conor Freeley, Kieran Kiely, Eoghan Collins and Joe Sutton.

(Pics: Ciara Buckley/Memories thru a lens)

Team Manager: Paul Jordan. Selectors: Ronan Kenny, Brian Mulrennan, Patrick Keane, Jason McGoldrick, John Prenty, Frankie Nolan. Physio: Maeve Duffy.

Junior Football (William Nestor)

Our Junior men's football team had another successful year by reaching the Junior 'B' County Final after gaining promotion from the 'C' grade in 2021. Victories in the group stage over Burrishoole and Ballaghad-erreen set up a quarter-final tie with Kiltimagh. Ballyhaunis came out on top on a score line of 3-14 to 1-11 in Fr. O'Hara Park, Charlestown. Our semi-final pitted us against Breaffy in a game which needed a late change of venue from Ballaghadereen to the Connacht Centre of Excellence due to a waterlogged pitch. It was a memorable game of football which saw our lads dominate for long periods. A standout performance from Conor Keane in attack and equally impressive performances from Brian 'Deano' Hunt and Andy Cunnane in defence helped us to a 3-11 to 3-2 win. Our final opponents were a formidable Bohola Moy Davitts side who came to Ballaghadereen very well prepared and chose to operate a defensive system which we struggled to manage. At half-time only one point separated the sides. Early in the second half we held much of the possession and it looked as though we might have pulled clear. However, the Foxford club held too many aces and finished out the game strongly on a final score of 4-13 to 3-6. It was a proud performance from all our players and another progressive year for our development team. A special word of thanks to our player/coach Kevin Gallagher for his efforts this year.

Junior panel 2022: Aidan Sloyan, Andy Cunnane, Kevin Gallagher, Cathal Carney, Christy McCrudden, Danny Murray, Dara Healy, David Cunnane, Brian Hunt,

Diarmuid Phillips, Eamon Phillips, Ethan Keane, Ja Carney, Jason Reinhardt, John Cunnane, Josh Webb, Kevin Durkan, Kevin Kilbride, Kian Burke, Lee Dixon, Barry Cribbin, Liam Herr, Mark Phillips, Michael Dixon, Michael Waldron, Neil Carney, Oisín Henry, Sean Gildea, Sean Herr, Shane Healy, Shaun Morley, Steven Nolan, Jack McGoldrick, Damien Egan, Conor Keane, Piarais Caulfield, James Cribbin.

Team Management: William Nestor, Emmet Keane, Eamon Monaghan, Kevin Gallagher.

Underage Football (Brendan Donnellan)

2022 was a very rewarding year indeed for all our underage players. After two summers of Covid restrictions all age groups got to enjoy regular training once more. Training for U7, U9 and U11 footballers took place from March through to October and players made excellent progress overall. U7 footballers trained on a weekly basis and enjoyed their end-of-season challenge games against Eastern Gaels and Swinford with some great skill on display! Our U9 players made excellent progress also and competed in several Go Games fixtures against other East Mayo clubs. The U11 players improved immensely with excellent performances by all against Michael Glaveys, Shrule-Glencorrib, Ballina, Kilmovee, Crossmolina, Aghamore and Ballaghadereen.

St. Jarlath's Football

Over the past number of years player numbers at underage level have been a concern and we were unable to field a team at certain age groups. After much deliberation it was agreed by the Executives of both Ballyhaunis and Eastern Gaels clubs to amalgamate from

U13 to U18 under the name St. Jarlath's. The objectives of the new club structure was to ensure that:

- We retain as many players as possible.
- Players will get the opportunity to compete at a higher standard.
- Both clubs would have a sufficient number of players who will be in a position to play senior football for their respective clubs in the coming years.

2022 was the inaugural year for St. Jarlath's and thankfully it has proven hugely successful. Coaches from both clubs have worked very well together. Both the U17 and U15 teams won county titles and the U13s missed out narrowly in their county final. Hopefully, competing at Division 1 will stand to our young players in the coming years. Overall, our young players got plenty of game time this year, so many thanks to Bord na n-Óg Maigh Eo for organising the fixtures. Great credit is due to our underage players for their dedication at training, at matches and at the home practice. We would like to sincerely thank Pdraig Murphy and the groundsmen who always ensure that our pitches are in pristine condition. We are very fortunate to have some of the finest facilities in Mayo at our disposal. Many thanks also to our coaches who give so generously of their time. Without them it simply wouldn't be possible to continue with our club activities.



Congratulations to our football and hurling legend Keith Higgins, who was named at midfield on the Ring/Rackard/Meagher Team of the Year 2022.

Senior Hurling (Tadhg Buckley)

Ballyhaunis Senior Hurlers started the Genfitt League in March 22. After losing our opening match to Castlebar, we went on to win against Tooreen 0-14 to 0-10 and Westport 2-13 to 0-7. This got us into a Genfitt final against Castlebar in May. We won the final on a scoreline of 3-18 to 1-8. Well done to all players, management and both captains Shane Healy and Sean Griffin. A special acknowledgement to Eoin Ryan, Micheál Richardson

and Shaun Morley on joining the squad this year. The Senior Championship started in late August. With Westport not playing senior in 2022 it meant Ballyhaunis, Tooreen and Castlebar would compete for the T.J. Tyrrell Cup. We played Castlebar at home in August with a win by 4-14 to 1-5. Tooreen had a win over Castlebar, so the County Final was set between our close neighbours Tooreen and ourselves. On a wet and windy Sunday afternoon in October our lads gave it everything. At half time there was only a point between the teams but, unfortunately, we lost the game on a score line of 2-5 to 1-14. A big thanks to our sponsors Gurteen Kitchens and EPS Group for their continued support and to the Club for all their help during the year. Congratulations to James Lyons on receiving player of the year.

Underage Hurling (Peter Healy)

U13 Hurling

The U13 hurlers enjoyed a great year capped with a County Title win in McHale Park on Saturday, 3rd September. The season brought some notable wins in the group stages against Tooreen, Caiseal Gaels, Ballina and Ballyvary. We were lucky to have the experience of David McConn and our Inter County star Adrian Phillips to coach the lads this year. The knowledge that these two were able to bring to the sessions and impart on the boys really stood to us this season. Each and every player played their part in bringing success to the parish and I want to thank them all and to acknowledge the sacrifices their parents made this year to ensure we had teams available, especially for the away matches. Here's to continued success!

U11 Hurling

Our U11 hurlers had a great year where we played Ballyvary, Claremorris, Moytura, Tooreen, Westport. The highlight of the year was when the team was asked to play in a blitz in Croke Park where we played Westport, Tremane and Western Gaels. Everyone had a great day out on a sunny summer's day. Thanks to senior players who helped with training and also the players and parents for their dedication throughout the year.

U9-U6 Hurling

The future of Ballyhaunis is bright, safe in the hands of a talented bunch of boys and girls in the U6, U7 and U8 hurling group. Over eight weeks they had great fun learning the skills of the game and progressing to lively matches at the end of each session. Thanks to all the mams and dads for their support. Special mention to Mark, Adrian, James, Dave and Sinead for their help with coaching this year.



Winning Ballyhaunis GAA Intermediate Football Team Captain John Cunnane (holding the Sweeney Cup) pictured with his mother Rita, his granny Mrs. Nancy Flynn and his brother David.



Michael and Lee Dixon, father and son, pictured after playing together for Ballyhaunis Junior Footballers. Originally from Belmullet, the Dixon family recently moved to Ballyhaunis. Michael and Lee are the first father and son to play together for Ballyhaunis GAA for many years.



Ballyhaunis Under-13 Hurlers, winners of the County Title at McHale Park in September. Pic Ciara Buckley/Memories thru a lens



Ballyhaunis Senior Hurling panel 2022. Back, L-R: Eoghan Collins, Adrian Brennan, Stephen Hoban, Danny Hill, Donal O'Brien, Kieran Kiely, Mark Phillips, Christy McCrudden, Luke Cribbin, Micheál Richardson, Shaun Morley, Kevin Kilbride, Shane Healy, Diarmuid Phillips. **Front, L-R:** Sean Gildea, James Lyons, Cormac Phillips, Keith Higgins, Gearoid Keane, Kieran McDermott, Adrian Phillips, Eoin Ryan, Brian Hunt, Sean Griffin, Dara Healy, Jack Coyne, Hannan Iqbal. **Also on the panel but not in the photo:** Damien Keadin, Jason Coyne, Morgan Lyons.



St. Jarlath's Football Under-15 League winners with management Mike Morley, Brendan Donnellan and Eamonn Monaghan.
Pic Ciara Buckley/Memories thru a lens



St. Jarlath's Under-17 footballers and management, winners of the League.
Pic Ciara Buckley/Memories thru a lens

Ballyhaunis Community School

MICHAEL GINTY

All at Ballyhaunis Community School would like to extend our warmest best wishes to the readers of Annagh Magazine. We are proud to have served the community of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas since the school was established in 1977.



Ballyhaunis Community School is a modern, progressive and innovative school, fully committed to preparing our students for the demands and challenges of the 21st Century. We provide a holistic learning environment for all the members of our school community. We hope that this short Report gives you a snapshot of life in our school and a flavour of the many activities that take place each and every day.

Covid the Musical

On Wednesday, 27th April 2022 the transition year (TY) students of the Community School took to the stage with 'Covid the Musical - A Show of Hope'. It all started back in November of 2021 when Ms. Murray, Ms. Nolan, Ms. Glavey and Ms. Hegarty came up with this unique idea and from there our show was born. Over the following months all three TY classes worked tirelessly to create and edit the script and produce choreography and music to match our theme. We were glad that we had a lot of freedom when putting together the different aspects of the play because it was entirely original and had never been done before.

Our journey to the final product was not always easy. We encountered many creative differences, but worked collaboratively to come up with a show that was entirely ours. Many long days were spent perfecting our scenes,

doing dress rehearsals, mic checks and getting everything ready for the big day.

The stage was built, lights were put up during the week of the show and excitement for the big day was building. The school was buzzing with anticipation for the long-awaited musical. On the day makeup was applied, hair was curled - and that was just the boys! The costumes were perfected and it was time to take the stage. The lights went down, 'A Million Dreams' was sung, and the show got under way.

The musical had everything from Queen to Gwen Stefanni. We had an array of characters from students to material girls, mummies, healthcare heroes, businessmen and Gardaí. We had it all! The show provided our audience with a wave of emotions. They laughed, they cried and even cringed at a few corny jokes. The curtain closed and we all took our final bows. We were overcome with relief that all our hard work had paid off. Overall, it was an enormous success. We were all thrilled but not as much as the four people that made it happen. A huge thanks to Ms. Nolan, Ms. Hegarty, Ms. Glavey and Ms. Murray for putting such a huge amount of time and effort into the show and believing that we could bring off such a big production.

Ukraine Appeal

As news broke of the tragic war in Ukraine we, as a school community, knew we had to help. The student council gathered together and decided to help by setting up an appeal. We asked for children's clothes, nappies, toiletries, soap washing powder, adults' clothes, shoes



Students and staff of Ballyhaunis Community School with Tom Murphy of Amigo Transport who collected the boxes of items they gathered for the Ukraine Appeal.



Intercultural Day

Our Intercultural Day took place on 31st March 2022. This was one of the highlights of Diversity Week. There are currently thirty-six different nationalities represented amongst the student population in Ballyhaunis Community School and eighteen of these showcased on the day. The Study Hall was transformed into a festival of colour and music as students shared language and food, celebrating their pride in the countries they

were representing. Throughout the day impromptu dance performances from

Ireland, Syria, Pakistan, Brazil and Africa brought all students together in this celebration of diversity. A huge thanks to the Transition Year students who ran the tours so efficiently on the day and a special mention to the 2A CSPE class who were instrumental on the day.

Some Ballyhaunis students with the thirty-eight boxes the school's students and staff filled for the Ukraine Appeal.

and many more useful items. We were delighted with the response! Members of the school students and staff managed to fill thirty-eight boxes. We partnered up with Tom Murphy from Amigo Transport who collected the boxes from the school on Monday, 7th March 2022. The lorry was filled with supplies for the Ukrainian people and, to our relief and delight, all our generous donations arrived safely to the Ukraine-Poland border. These were life changing and greatly appreciated by all those who needed them.

"Diversity is not how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another's uniqueness."



The cast of BCS musical, 'Covid-19, A show of Hope'.

BCS MUSICAL: COVID-19 'A SHOW OF HOPE'



Pakistan



INTERCULTURAL DAY AT BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Lithuania



Slovakia



Poland



Australia



Nigeria



Brazil



PTAA Outing 1956



Ballyhaunis Pioneer Association outing Dublin, May 1956

**PICTURED AT THE HOME
OF BLESSED MATT TALBOT.
(Courtesy of Mary McBride).**

1. Mary Waldron, 2. Kathleen McBride,
3. Mary McBride, 4. Corrine Lyons,
5. May Byrne, 6. Maureen Comer,
7. Mary Nally, 8. Noreen Culliney,
11. Ann Grogan, 14. Mary Teresa Rattigan,
15. Bridie Mulkeen, 16. Mike McGreal,
18. Marguerite Sloyan, 20. Sean Smyth,
21. Catherine Biesty, 22. Attracta Smyth,
23. Tom Hunt, 24. John Connolly,
25. Tom Finn, 27. Gerry Cribbin,
29. Tom Guilfoyle, 31. Sylvester McBride, 32. Kathleen Freeley, 33. Mickey Jordan, 35. Mick Murphy,
36. Mrs. Neary, 37. Padraic Murphy, 39. Tom Murphy, 40. Fr. Michael Godwin C.C., 42. Val Lyons, 49. John Cleary,
60. Mary Kearns, 66. Imelda Biesty, 72. Austin Murphy, 73. Bridie Fleming, 74. Anna Greene, 75. Mairead Madden,
77. Carmel Hunt. About half those pictured have been identified.



The Annagh Magazine Society would be delighted to hear if any others can be named.

Hurling For Hope

TOMMY CAULFIELD

Ballyhaunis GAA is proud to have been associated with 'Hurling for Hope', a unique event to fundraise for two charities – Mayo Roscommon Hospice and the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association. The event involved soloing a sliotar from the Mayo/Roscommon Hospice centre in Castlebar, Mayo to the Mayo/Roscommon Hospice centre in Roscommon town over the course of four days between the 23rd – 26th March. The 100km route passed through Breaffy, Balla, Claremorris, Knock, Ballyhaunis, Castlerea and Ballymoe along the way.

The imaginative fundraiser was launched in January in Croke Park with the help of well-known sports personalities Jacqui Hurley RTÉ Sport and former Mayo footballer Tom Parsons CEO GPA alongside Mayo football and hurling legend Keith Higgins. In 2017, Keith's brother Pierce was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease and the initiative was launched to raise funds for charities close to Pierce's heart.

'Hurling for Hope' involved a group of friends, players, mentors, and teammates from Ballyhaunis GAA Club led by Keith Higgins and joined by sporting figures from across different codes who pledged their support to the fundraiser. Some of the well-known names from the world of sport who took part included Cora Staunton (Mayo LGFA), Anthony Cunningham (Roscommon manager), Jason Ford and Ronan Maher (Tipperary hurlers), Jack Carty (Connacht and Ireland rugby player), Tommy Walsh (former Kilkenny hurler), Larry O'Gorman (former Wexford hurler), Stephen Coen, Aidan O'Shea, Donal Vaughan, Colm Boyle, Cillian O'Connor (Mayo footballers) and Grainne McElwain (TV and sports presenter).

An amazing €227,856.62 was raised by 'Hurling For



Keith Higgins is joined by his Mayo footballing team-mates Donal Vaughan, Aidan O'Shea, Cillian O'Connor and Colm Boyle and members of Ballyhaunis GAA at the start of the 100 km Hurling for Hope fundraiser.

Hope' in aid of the two very worthy charities. Ballyhaunis GAA would like to thank everyone who supported the fundraising event for their very generous donations. Pierce and his wife Clare and their children Erin and Ellie, along with the extended Higgins and Gallagher families would like to take this opportunity to thank the readers of Annagh Magazine for their support. As the fundraising group made their way through the streets of Ballyhaunis, they could have never anticipated the level of support and outpouring of love from the crowds who turned out. Pierce and Clare had received countless cards and good wishes from people from all over the country and overseas but they were totally overwhelmed by the encouragement and humbled by the love shown by the members of our own community who lined the streets of our town as the fundraisers passed through. It is a memory that the Higgins family will cherish in their hearts and draw on forever.



Huge crowds gathered at The Square, Ballyhaunis to show their support for the Hurling for Hope fundraiser.



Hurling for Hope fundraisers pictured at the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Head Office in Knock. (Photo by Sinead Mallee)



On the way to Croke Park 1989.

From left: Eamonn Murren, Alex Eaton, Grahame Cleary, Vinny Healy, Robbie Madden, Pat Donnellan, Al Madden, John Cleary. The unidentified lad in the background is a local selling hats, flags and headbands!



Austin and Molly Jordan pictured at Upper Main St. in the early 1960s. (Courtesy of Siobhan Herr).

Breast Cancer Fundraiser

MIKE BYRNE

In October 2021 mother of two, Dorothy Biesty from Pattenspark, was diagnosed with breast cancer. Thankfully, due to the incredible care she received at Breast Check Galway and the Oncology unit in Castlebar, she is doing extremely well and getting her life back on track. Since that October day it has been a painful and hard road for Dorothy and her husband Austin in the fight against the dreaded disease. Austin takes up the story:

“So, in October 2021, Dorothy was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, the news that everyone and every family dreads. Your whole life and world is turned upside down. So many thoughts go racing through your head, but thankfully for Dorothy she was in great hands. You hear so many bad stories about our health system but the doctors and nurses who treated her from day one were magnificent; her operations and treatment were decided promptly and carried out with great care and professionalism. So, after all that, we began to think about a way of giving something back. Dorothy was still having treatment when we decided to organise a ‘Shave or Dye’ event with the proceeds going to the Oncology Unit in Castlebar and Breast Cancer Care and Research. We put it up on Facebook and asked if anyone would like to get involved. We didn’t have to ask twice! Our family and friends and Dorothy’s amazing work colleagues in Cunningham’s Londis got on board without hesitation. We set up a GoFundMe page too and were amazed with the support we got. We approached the Murray family in The Clock (Knox St.) to host the event and again they were happy to oblige. We decided to have a raffle on the night too, hoping to have five or maybe six spot prizes. Once again we were blown away by the generosity of people ending up with over twenty decent prizes, which included a signed Mayo Jersey for auction on the night. Our local hairdressers Sinéad Biesty and Jenny Lyons and barber Eric from Ali’s Barbers were brilliant, giving up their time to help make this event a success. Six heads were shaved on the night and twenty heads dyed! These amazing people helped make this event a huge success, as did our MC on the night Mr. Leo Forkan and we will be forever grateful. The staff and students in Began N.S., Ballyhaunis Community School and St. Louis’ in Kiltimagh all got involved too having cake sales and a Jersey Day raising a great amount of money. There are too many people to name individually to thank, but to all who supported us along the way, you know who you

are and we are extremely grateful to you all. We also want to thank everyone who donated helping us raise a massive €11,100. In the last year we have really found out how good and supportive people are, and personally we found a strength we didn’t think we had”.

The money was divided evenly between the Oncology unit in Castlebar and the National Breast Cancer Research Institute, NUI, Galway, to help in the development of breast cancer research.



Above: Dorothy and Austin Biesty presenting a cheque, proceeds of their fundraising drive, to Deirdre and staff at the Oncology Unit at Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar.

Below: Austin and Dorothy Biesty (left) presenting a cheque to Dr. Nicola Miller, Lecturer and Emer Hennessy, Cancer Centre Research Manager at NUIG.



Ballyhaunis and Environs

A Motivation to Rebel (1916-23)

SEAMUS KENNY

From a global perspective, the year 2022 will be remembered for the bravery and defiance of the Ukrainian people against Russia's illegal invasion. An international audience has been awed by the extraordinary spirit and resistance with which the people of Ukraine have responded to Putin's brutal incursion. We can only admire the collective enthusiasm of ordinary Ukrainians to take up arms to defend their homes, their principles and their future. While we hail the heroism of the people of Ukraine across the multitude of global media, it is fascinating to ponder on the resonance and similarities of this conflict of the twenty-first century to the motivations and emotions of the Irish men and women who challenged the validity of British rule in this land over one hundred years ago.

Over the last number of years, there has been much debate, recollection and commemoration marking the troubled years that formed the Ireland that we live in today. There has been an expanded number of remembrances, media documentaries, publications and articles recognising the achievements and failures, the joy and sorrow of this difficult period in Irish history. While we remember this glorious, troubled period of our nation's past, it is compelling to try and ascertain what guided our ancestors' thoughts and motivations to challenge the authority of the land and, in many cases, take up arms against British rule. What were the motives and desires that enthused the people of Ballyhaunis and environs to rise up against the perceived injustice of direct London rule, so much so that they were prepared to freely give their lives to do so?

From researching recorded details and local lore relating to the formative years of the Irish nation, it is intriguing to relate actions that occurred in Ballyhaunis and surrounding districts that affected the daily lives of our families. While national and local publications have duly celebrated and reminisced on the many sad and joyful incidents that coloured this troubled period of local history, there were other actions and activities in Ballyhaunis and district that arguably motivated elements of the local populace to rebel.

Conscription in Ballyhaunis

An overriding motivation to rebellion in Ireland was the executions following the Easter Rising of 1916. While this atrocity can be seen as a recognisable factor that inspired rebellion, there is a stronger argument a confluence of events motivated open revolt in Ballyhaunis and beyond. When the Irish Volunteers were

formed in 1913, to counteract any armed threat from unionism primarily in the north of Ireland and to uphold a government in Dublin through Home rule, there was no perception that it would be suggested to fight a war abroad! John Redmond, leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, had lobbied for another Home Rule Bill for Ireland that was passed into law, while another law was passed to suspend its implementation until after the end of the war with Germany in 1914. Redmond suggested that the Volunteers should enlist and that their action would ensure Home Rule for Ireland after the war that was expected by many to be over in a short period of time. The Great War (1914-1918) transpired to be one of the deadliest conflicts in history. Irish men, many aligned to the Irish Volunteer movement, joined in great numbers only for thousands of them to die in foreign lands. As this conflict continued, rumblings of forced conscription emanated. The Volunteer movement had split, the Irish Parliamentary Party was in turmoil while the Sinn Fein political movement was growing in popularity and actively campaigning against compulsory military service.

At about 2.30pm on Sunday afternoon, 21st April 1918, a public meeting against conscription to the British army was held in the Square, Ballyhaunis, presided over by appointed chairman, Rev. John Grealy C.C. ably assisted and in the company of Very Rev. Fr. Nolan, Prior O.S.A., Rev. Fr. McEvelly C.C., Dr. M. F. Waldron, Thomas Dillon Leech (solicitor), Michael Delany (County Councillor), John J. Waldron, James Cunningham, Thomas Cunningham, James Lyons, Philip Waldron and others. Fr. Grealy challenged English rule in their call for the young men of Ireland to go out and fight for the independence of small nations. His oration outlined a list of grievances of English misrule in Ireland from previous decades. His presentation was followed by Mr. Dillon Leech who addressed the meeting advising those gathered of the merits of Sinn Fein and complimenting their intentions to remain in Ireland and oppose the enforcement of compulsory military service here. Dr. M. F. Waldron was loudly cheered when he addressed the local multitude and, like previous speakers, referred to historical precedent and grievances of British rule in times past. He advised that Ireland claimed exclusion from conscription because (1) it was immoral, (2) because Ireland cannot spare a man of her population and (3) that it is the first duty of every Irishman and woman to live in Ireland for their own and Ireland's welfare.

On the same weekend in Ballyhaunis, it was reported in the local newspapers that the anti-conscription pledge was given to large congregations in the Augustinian and Parish churches at the different Masses on Sunday morning after which a covenant was extensively signed by men of eighteen years and upwards. Indeed, Volunteer witness statements show that the threat of conscription motivated Irish people to follow Sinn Fein and the new local military units in greater numbers. This was duly mirrored in Ballyhaunis and environs.

Another fascinating aspect that encouraged the local population to protest against conscription to military service was the organisation of the 'Woman's Day' movement and a national protest on the 9th June 1918 that involved a signing of an anti-conscription pledge. It was duly recorded that 431 women in Ballyhaunis signed this pledge and marched to Holywell carrying a banner and accompanied by two Augustinian Fathers. The Rosary was recited and a Stations of the Cross performed.

Land Agitation

While the atrocities of 'The Great War' in Europe, the conscription crisis and other political considerations were compelling many young Irish men and women to take up arms against British rule, the land question was still a significant factor in everyday life in Ballyhaunis and the West of Ireland that still urged people to rebel against repression. There was still land in the Ballyhaunis area held by the landed classes despite the efforts of the Congested District Board to break them up. The extensive demesne at Erritt Lodge was still held by the De Freyne estate based in Frenchpark in 1920. Some of these lands were previously tenanted by small farmers who had been evicted. The compulsion to rebel in Erritt at this time motivated people to seek justice. After much agitation, the lands were distributed among adjoining farmers in the Gorthaganny district. Local lore informs us that IRA volunteer battalions in the district held military and drill training at the unoccupied Lodge area during the troubles of this era. Indeed, it is attested in records that some Irish volunteers and their families were motivated to rebel as they considered the Congested District Boards and Land Rates to be another form of landlordism from the ruling classes.

Military Service Pensions collection

The magnitude of the motivations that inspired the Irish to rebel against British rule is reflected in the Military Service Pensions collection relating to Ballyhaunis and surrounding districts. These records and local media outlined the increase in numbers joining local volunteer military units, motivated and stimulated by many factors such as conscription, The Great War, Easter Rising,

British military activity, enhanced Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) monitoring and their feared British reinforcements, infamously known as the 'Black and Tans'. Inspiration to rebel was accentuated by the London parliament's failure to recognise the new Irish Dáil and reluctance to validate Home Rule. From local lore it is clear that those volunteering to service ranged from active members continually ready to train in arms and fight, to those available if needed.

After the success of Sinn Fein in the general election of late 1918 and the compulsion of these ardent nationalists to assemble at the first Dáil in Dublin in January 1919, greater numbers of Irish men and women joined local volunteer movements, Sinn Fein clubs and Cumann na mBan in Ballyhaunis and surrounding districts. Records from the Military Service Pensions collection document the active service of applicants. These allude to the fact that the Ballyhaunis 4th Battalion was part of the East Mayo Brigade until July 1922. There were organised volunteer company groups in this battalion in Crossard, Brackloon, Aghamore, Coolnafarna, Holywell, Knock and Ballyhaunis itself. The East Mayo Brigade area had battalion officers with each volunteer company having their own command structure.

Active Service

The Military Service records of Laurence Morris of Brackloon, Ballyhaunis, illustrate the dedication of volunteers to partake in weekly drills, training in arms, raising funds and active service. He recalled service in Brackloon, Ballyhaunis, Crossard, Erritt, Ballinlough and Aghamore. He also offered fascinating insights into elements of his active service and confirmed the financial hardship and personal difficulties he experienced. He wrote a detailed letter to the Military Pensions Board on 13th March 1941, stating that he had taken part on an attack on the Ballyhaunis RIC barracks under the command of Brackloon Company Captain, Martin Devaney in January 1921. He had reported for duty at Brackloon School, armed with a shotgun and was joined by Patrick Regan, Peter Cafferkey, James Sloyan, Michael Sloyan, Michael Fitzmaurice - all of Brackloon - William Fitzmaurice (Derry-nacong), Patrick Freeley (Barheen) and others unnamed.

There are detailed records forwarded to the Military Pensions Board specifically relating to the continual command of the Ballyhaunis Battalion of the East Mayo Brigade, its transfer to the South Mayo Brigade and their respective membership recorded in the 1930s by former local commanders such as John P. Jordan (Crossard), Martin Forkan (Kiltimagh), John Freyne (Coolnaha), Sean Carney (Crossard), Patrick Kenny (Cloonbook) and Bernard Byrne (Kiltaboe). With the passage of time and the differing memories and attitudes of the varied





contributors, there were some inconsistencies and discrepancies of actual numbers and local volunteer command structures. However, this collection offers a valuable insight into local involvement in Ballyhaunis and a credible reflection of how these volunteers had progressed their lives at the end of the troubles. As outlined in the records, there were sixty-four volunteers in the Brackloon Company, which is open to further qualification and research. A social survey of the Brackloon Company membership offers a fascinating depiction of life in the new Irish State in the 1930s. Eleven members (17%) had emigrated to the U.S.A., while a further twelve (19%) had emigrated to England. One recorded member had decided to take a longer journey and emigrated to Australia. The majority of the ex-members were still living in Ireland and, in most cases, were landholders in the local community at this time (See lists of the Brackloon and Coolnafarna Volunteer Companies below).

Challenges of rebellion

From local research it can be seen that, while there were motivations to rebel, the nature of the rebellion also challenged the general well-being of families and local society. There are still stories to be told about RIC members, their spouses and related families. There are records relating to local volunteer groups targeting Congested District Board employees, postmen and other perceived employees of the Crown. While many rebelled against British rule and joined local volunteer units around Ballyhaunis, some of their family members were perceived as legitimate military targets. Indeed, there are fascinating records in the Military Pensions collections recording where local volunteer units were monitoring the activities of RIC members while some of the same RIC members were diligently paying spies and encouraging informers in the same communities.

Above left: James Sloyan and his wife Bridget Sloyan (née Freeley), Brackloon North. James served as Quartermaster of 4th Battalion East Mayo Brigade. Bridget was an active member of local Cumann na mBan.

Above right: Martin Devaney, Captain of Brackloon company of 4th Battalion East Mayo Brigade. He was interned at Athlone barracks and Curragh camp during the Civil War.



Laurence Morris, Brackloon North.

Conclusion

The commemorations celebrating the actions, motivations and idealism that formed the Ireland of today have facilitated reflection on the achievements our ancestors in Ballyhaunis and environs accomplished and the challenges they overcame during the period 1916-1923. The fight for Irish independence and the unfortunate Civil War that followed was punctuated with scars and conflicts often hidden by bitterness and sorrow. While values of today may colour the views and perceptions of our ancestors' fight for Irish freedom and Civil War in times past, it is important that we pay tribute to those men and women motivated to rebel and challenge foreign rule, that laid a cornerstone for the Irish Republic today.

References

- Information courtesy of Newspaper archives and *The Galway Express* (1918-1919)
- Bureau of Military History (1913-21)
- www.militaryarchives.ie

Brackloon Company, 4th Battalion, East Mayo Brigade / 5th Battalion South Mayo Brigade I.R.A. Association 1921/22.

(Details of members and residency and change of abode, if different, at time of record in 1934. All villages in Ballyhaunis district unless otherwise stated).

Patrick Freeley, Barheen (Captain)
Martin Devaney, Brackloon (Captain)(USA)
Patrick Regan, The Hill, Brackloon (1st Lieut.)
John Byrne (Adjutant)(England)
James Sloyan, Brackloon (Quartermaster)
John T. Kenny, Brackloon
Peter Cafferkey, Brackloon
John Devaney, Brackloon
Andrew Fitzmaurice, Brackloon (USA)
John Thomas Fitzmaurice, Tully, Carrowbehy
Denis Kenny, Brackloon (England)
Patrick Hoban, Brackloon
Patrick McDonagh, Brackloon
Thomas Kenny, Brackloon (USA)
Denis Regan, Brackloon (USA)
John Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong
James Kedian, Moneymore
Patrick Nolan, Mountain
Patrick Grealley, Mountain (USA)
Dominick Flatley, Tavanaghmore (England)
Patrick Dyer, Brackloon
Patrick Waldron, Derrylahan
James Waldron, Derrylahan
Edward Dyer, Brackloon
Dominick Murphy, Brackloon (USA)
John T. Kelly, Brackloon
Michael A. Dyer, Brackloon (England)
Denis Sloyan, Brackloon
John Murphy, Brackloon
Myles Waldron, Brackloon
William Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong (USA)
Paul Gilmore, Brackloon (England)

Lawrence Morris, Brackloon
John Morris, Brackloon (England)
James Neary, Brackloon
Thomas Devaney, Brackloon (England)
Michael Fitzmaurice, Brackloon (USA)
Michael Devaney, Erritt, Carrowbehy
Chris Flatley, Brackloon (England)
Michael Fitzmaurice, Brackloon
John McDonagh, Brackloon (USA)
Michael Deasy, Brackloon (USA)
Patrick Regan, Derrynacong
Martin Dyer, Lurgan
Michael Ganley, Brackloon
Patrick M. Nolan, Mountain
Pat Lowry, Tavanaghmore
Patrick Fitzmaurice, Forthill
Patrick Dyer, Brackloon (England)
Patrick Waldron, Brackloon
Michael Smyth, Brackloon
Michael Tully, Derrynacong
Michael Kelly, Claremorris
Timothy Dyer, Brackloon (England)
James Waldron, Brackloon (England)
Thomas Sloyan, Brackloon
John Hoban, Brackloon (England)
William Gilmore, Brackloon (Australia)
Patrick McNamara, Brackloon
Thomas McNamara, Brackloon
Patrick Murphy, Brackloon
Thomas Deasy, Derrynacong
William Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong (USA)
John McNamara, Brackloon

Coolnafarna Company, 4th Battalion, East Mayo Brigade / 5th Battalion South Mayo Brigade I.R.A. Association 1921/22.

(Details of members and residency and change of abode, if different, at time of record in 1934. All villages in Ballyhaunis district unless otherwise stated).

Brian Byrne, Kiltibo (Captain)
Martin McHale, Leow (1st Lieutenant)
James Lyons, Kiltibo (2nd Lieutenant)
Thomas Lyons, Leow (Quartermaster) (Eng.)
Thomas McGuire, Kiltibo (Adjutant)
Patrick Freeley, Scrigg
James Freeley, Scrigg
Thomas Freeley, Scrigg
Martin Hunt, Scrigg (USA)
Patrick Biesty, Scrigg (USA)
John Lyons, Coolaragh
John Loftus, Coolaragh (USA)
Thomas Loftus (USA)
John Finn, Classaroe (USA)
Patrick Cruise, Spaddagh
Patrick Regan, Killineagher

John Murphy, Killineagher
Patrick Regan, Killineagher
Michael Grogan, Killineagher
Andrew McGarry, Killineagher (USA)
John Doory, Killineagher
Patrick Lavin, Killineagher (USA)
John Keane, Corriculuay
James Lavin, Lollhill
Thomas Grennan, Lollhill
Patrick Lyons, Spaddagh
Anthony Lyons, Spaddagh (England)
Austin Biesty, Spaddagh (USA)
John Boyle, Lurgan
Thomas Comer, Killineagher
Patrick Brown, Killineagher

Portrait Presented to Paddy Joe

In 1958 Margaret Barry was booked by Fr. James Horan to play at the renowned dancehall in Tooreen. Around this time Margaret was based in Claremorris where her manager Andy Creighton lived. Paddy Joe Tighe of St. Gerard's Crescent, Ballyhaunis, had the honour of performing in the pubs with the famous ballad singer who stayed with him and his late mother Kate (Naughton) at their home in Arderry, Aghamore in 1986. The two musicians were interviewed by Paul Claffey on Midwest Radio before Margaret's passing in Co. Down in 1989.

Margaret Barry was born in Cork on New Year's Day 1917, into a family of musicians and street singers. She was daughter of Tim and Mary (Thompson) Cleary, and granddaughter of Bob Thompson, a well-known uilleann piper who took top prize at the 1888 Feis Ceoil in Dublin and again in Belfast the following year. She taught herself to play the banjo and the fiddle at a young age. At the age of sixteen Margaret left home and travelled by bicycle from place to place performing as a street singer/musician at fairs, markets, house parties and cinema queues. She made her living busking from 1933 to 1951 and in that year Irish folklorist Sean O'Boyle discovered her while performing in Dublin. He alerted the American folk music collector Alan Lomax who recorded her during his Irish field trip later that year.

In the early 1950s Margaret moved to London to appear on a TV series called 'The Songhunter'. She became a well-known name on the London folk scene where she was frequently accompanied by the Sligo fiddler Michael Gorman. Her distinctive singing style and banjo playing became a major influence on the younger generation of ballad singers in Ireland and the UK, including Luke Kelly. Margaret Barry went on to perform at Carnegie Hall and the Rockefeller Centre in New York.

Last June 2022 Paddy Joe Tighe visited the Barry family in Co. Down where he received a framed photograph of Margaret Barry performing alongside Michael Gorman while on tour in Rhode Island, U.S.A. As an interesting aside, Michael Gorman's grandson Michael Gorman from Tubbercurry, is married to Joanne Fitzmaurice, the daughter of Paddy and Máire Fitzmaurice of Abbeyquarter.



Paddy Joe Tighe (left) is presented with a framed photograph of ballad singer and musician Margaret Barry, with fiddle-player Michael Gorman, by her grandson Paddy Barry.

Local artist Johnny O'Shaughnessy recently presented Paddy Joe with a wonderful painting of the American photograph. Paddy Joe, who will celebrate his 80th birthday on 29th December, was thrilled to receive the cherished portrait of his idol. "I spent some of the best days of my life with Margaret Barry," said Paddy Joe. "We will never see her likes again."



Johnny O'Shaughnessy's painted portrait based on the photograph of Margaret Barry and Michael Gorman.

Third Time Lucky!

DEIRDRE MORAN (SECRETARY, ST. PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY)

You may be wondering why this report is titled 'Third Time Lucky' – well...

In 2019 St. Patrick's Dramatic Society was all set to hit the stage but there was a problem with acquiring the amateur performing rights for the production, so we decided to try again in 2020. But we all know what happened when we were just weeks away from hitting the stage! To say the cast was disappointed would be an understatement. So, 2022 was going to be OUR year... finally.

In March of this year the group staged Ken Ludwig's 'Lend me a Tenor' with kind permission of Samuel French and directed by our very own Tom Colleran. A hilarious play set in the 1930's in small town Cleveland, Ohio. The local operatic society is set to hold a huge Anniversary Gala event and world-famous Italian Tenor Tito Merelli (played by Karl Coyne) 'Il Stupendo' is set to perform. His late arrival, accompanied by his fiery wife Maria (Stella O'Neill), a mix up with medication, and his biggest fan's desire to meet him causes the Grand Opera General Manager, Henry Saunders (Adrian Murray) serious headaches. Saunders and his long-suffering assistant Max (Tom Colleran) try to come up with a way to solve the problem of Tito and his 'Death'.

Tito is very popular with the ladies and Diana (Deirdre Moran), the opera soprano, Maggie (Norma Jean Folliard) – Henry's daughter and Max's 'Fiancé' – and Julia, the chairperson of the Opera Guild (Caroline Keane) are all trying to catch his eye, along with the Hotel Bell Boy (Leo Forkin), Tito's biggest fan. All are determined to meet Tito. More problems arise and this leads to a series of hilariously comic events.

After the mix up with medication and Tito's apparent death Henry persuades Max to take Tito's place, wear his costume and impersonate Tito at the Gala. Max is a huge success and when Tito regains consciousness and gets



The cast of 'Lend me a Tenor'.

Back, L-R: Deirdre Moran (Diana), Leo Forkan (Bellboy), Tom Colleran (Max and producer), Adrian Murray (Henry Saunders). **Front:** Stella O'Neill (Maria), Norma Jean Folliard (Maggie), Karl Coyne (Tito Merelli), Caroline Keane (Julia). *AK Photography.*

into the identical costume as Max, there are two opera singers running around in the same costume and two women running around in lingerie, each thinking she is with Il Stupendo. To say there was hilarity does not begin to describe the scenario!

The play was performed for four nights in late March in Tooreen Hall. The venue is a fantastic facility and we are very grateful to the committee there for giving us permission to use it while our usual venue – the Parochial Hall – was under renovation. There was a full house every night and rave reviews from the audience, with standing ovations every night, were given.

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society committee: Michael Kelly (Chairman), Katrina Sweeney (Treasurer), Deirdre Moran (Secretary), along with cast members made donations from profits to both Hurling for Hope and Pieta House.

The show couldn't have happened without all the help from volunteers who assisted the cast throughout, and excellent set design by John Caulfield.

As yet, the cast and crew are unsure which production will take place next year, but as soon as we know we will publicise.



St. Patrick's Dramatic Society in action on the set of 'Lend me a Tenor'.



Above: Deirdre Moran, on behalf of Pieta House, accepting a donation from the profits of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society's production of 'Lend me a Tenor' earlier this year.

L-R: Tom Colleran, Norma Jean Folliard, Deirdre Moran, Katrina Sweeney, Karl Coyne, Stella O'Neill.

Right: Keith Higgins, on behalf of Hurling for Hope, accepting a donation from the profits of St. Patrick's Dramatic Society's production of 'Lend me a Tenor' earlier this year.

L-R: Deirdre Moran, Tom Colleran, Norma Jean Folliard, Keith Higgins, Katrina Sweeney, Karl Coyne, Stella O'Neill.





Ballyhaunis Athletics Club Training 1972.

L-R: Matt O'Dwyer, Hugh Campbell, Rita Webb, J.T. Smyth, Sr. Angela, Chris Pratt, Donal Ahern.

* Photograph courtesy of the **Liam Lyons Collection** at Mayo County Library.

See www.mayo.ie/library/local-history/publications-photographs and click on Mayo photographs. Copies of these photographs can be ordered by emailing info@liamlyons.com



Lorcan Ronan (Bekan) who graduated from GMIT, November 2021 with a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons.) degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is son of Jimmy and Siobhain Ronan.



Ted Maughan displaying and making a bucket he made out of copper. Ted passed away in February 2022 (RIP).

Harvest Mass

The Friary Altar adorned for the Harvest Mass this September.



Left:
Tony Moran
formerly of
Devlis and
Hazelhill,
pictured at work
in Central Park,
New York.



Harvest Mass in the Friary with Chief celebrant Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. (centre) assisted by Fr. Michael Mernagh OSA (left), Dublin and Fr. Anthony Finn OSA, Galway.

Right and far right:
2022 was a bumper year for apples. Joe Healy of Annagh with his crop of cooking and eating varieties.



Marvellous Occasion on St. Stephen's Day as a Tribute to Jason

JOHN PRENTY

Traditionally, St. Stephen's Day in Ballyhaunis GAA Club has been celebrated by the playing of the Goodfellowship Final. Large crowds attended the event and it was one of the major sporting occasions in the local GAA calendar. Unfortunately, in recent years, club tournaments have been on the wane and have almost gone out of existence.

An idea by Fergal Kelly during the Summer of 2021 was to play a game to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of one of the club's greatest players - Jason Morley Knox St. and Larganboy. He suggested that the game be played in the Dome and offered to organise a Team of Ballyhaunis Masters and friends and members of the schools team of 1994. The teams were made up of players from Ballyhaunis, Eastern Gaels, Aghamore and Kiltimagh. Among those playing were Fergal Kelly, Jason's son Conor (who scored a penalty) and his brother Tony, former Mayo players Peter Burke, David Nestor, Tommy Grogan, Roscommon star Ciaran Grogan, London's Kevin Waldron and a host of former greats from the local clubs. No injuries were recorded but a number of players were seen limping before the game and had an excuse to be substituted early. The game was sort of refereed by John Glavey who again showed his anti-Ballyhaunis bias by scoring a goal for The Schools Team '94 and Friends. Thanks Hammy!

All-in-all it was a marvellous occasion with a huge crowd turning out on the day and it was a fitting tribute to a great person and wonderful Ballyhaunis Footballer, Jay Morley. After the game, Fergal presented Conor with a book of tributes to Jason which included comments by everybody involved in the day.

Footballs with the slogan "A Tribute to Jay" printed on them were presented to Becky, Tony Snr. and Tony Jnr. as a memento of the day.

After the game everybody retired to Fitzer's where a long evening of stories and reminiscences was enjoyed. When the pharmacies reopened after Christmas it is reported there was a brisk trade in Wintergreen!

Those who participated in the game included: Adrian Murray, Padraig Jennings, Seamus Caulfield, Jimmy O'Boyle, Cathal Phillips, John Donnellan, George O'Neill, Johnny Cribbin, Tony Morley, Mark Patterson, Mike Phillips, David Morley, David Nestor, Tommy Grogan, Tony Cribbin, Kurt Reinhardt, Vinny Healy, Liam Rochford, Brian Murray, Tony Waldron, Michael Webb (Jnr.), Patrick Keane, P.J. Moran, Brian Phillips, Joe Freeley, David Burke, Johnny Burke, Paul Finn, Paul Prenty, Brendan Rudden, Eamonn Monaghan, P.J. Fleming, Tom Lyons, Eamonn Cunnane, Paddy Phillips, Peter Burke, Declan Doyle, Tomás Morley, Cathal Duffy, Michael O'Shaughnessy, Ciaran Grogan, Paul Nolan, Kevin Waldron, Fergal Kelly, Paul Hunt, Seamus Owens, Michael Swords, Derek Walsh, John Guilfoyle, Eugene Coggins, Anthony Finn, Eugene Comer, John Duffy, Peter Glavey, Leo Forkan, Andy Smith, Michael Morley, Johnny Coggins, John Caulfield, Eddie McNulty, Kieran O'Neill, Aidan Ruane, Jeff Nolan, Shaun Morley, Conor Morley. Managers: John Prenty and John Higgins.

Here's looking forward to St Stephen's Day 2022 when all of the above will still be eligible and we can have a bigger occasion free from the restrictions of Covid.



Participants in the Tribute to Jason football match in the Dome, Centre of Excellence, St. Stephen's Day 2022.



Organiser Fergal Kelly presented Conor and Becky with a book of tributes to Jason Morley.

L-R: Fergal Kelly, Conor Morley, Becky Morley and John Prenty.

Ballyhaunis FINE GAEL

The American born poet T. S. Eliot once wrote, “*Last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice.*” This scribe cannot believe that another year has passed since he sat down to pen Fine Gael’s contribution to the award-winning Annagh Magazine of 2021. Neither can he predict who ‘next year’s voice’ might be, so for now he will concentrate on the present year of 2022.

On the 24th February 2022 an event taking place 3,500 kms from Ballyhaunis would set the political agenda in Ireland and across the world for the rest of 2022. On that never-to-be-forgotten day Russia invaded Ukraine. Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence, was one of the first European politicians to react to this situation when, on Monday, 7th March, he addressed a meeting of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and asked for sanctions to be put in place that would affect the economy of Russia. He also stressed that Ukraine would require massive humanitarian aid and asked that countries open their borders to fleeing Ukrainian refugees.

Fine Gael Branches throughout the country were asked to assist in whatever way they could with regard to the Ukrainian situation. The members of the Ballyhaunis Branch contributed generously in sending aid to the people of Ukraine and in acquiring accommodation for those who arrived here. Unfortunately, the war still continues and is a major source of concern for politicians worldwide.

In August the branch members travelled in large numbers to the Michael Collins Centenary Commemoration Festival which was held from 14th to 22nd August in Clonakilty, Co. Cork and surrounding areas to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the death of Michael Collins, and also to celebrate his life

and achievements. There was a full programme of events including workshops, lectures on the life of Michael Collins, tours of his birthplace and a wreath-laying ceremony at Sam’s Cross. One of the most interesting and enjoyable events was the premiere of ‘Michael Collins: Tales From Home’, a short documentary by Lisavaird National School, where he attended as a young boy. The whole week was a lead up to the main event which took place at Béal na Bláth, on Sunday, 21st August, where on 22nd August 1922 at the aged 31, Michael Collins lost his life following an ambush by an anti-Treaty column. An estimated crowd of 10,000 attended the event and heard orations by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. and An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar T.D. Both spoke of the massive impact Michael Collins had and continues to have on Ireland, even though he was taken from his country at such a young age.

The Branch members are now looking forward to the upcoming Ard Fheis in Athlone on Saturday, 19th November. As this event is after the Annagh deadline, a report on the Ard Fheis will follow in Annagh ‘23.

All of the above activities by the members of the Ballyhaunis Branch were conducted under the guidance and watchful eye of local Councillor John Cribbin. The members would like to express their gratitude to John for his tireless work in serving the needs of the people of Ballyhaunis and surrounding areas.

John is available to meet constituents by appointment at a time and place of their convenience. He can be contacted @ 087-2920368.

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

St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School Class of 1967-72 Reunion

ROSALEEN KELLY



Reunion of the St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, Class of 1967-72, on 24th Sept. 2022

Standing, L-R: Leona Finnegan, Marian Ganley, Cabrini Naughton, Kay Greene, Helen Tully, Agnes O'Dwyer, Maura Hussey, Kathleen Kearns, Marian Lyons, Bernadette Gormley, Susan Morley, Anne Halpin.

Seated, L-R: Bernadette Kelly, Marceline Lyons, Christine Finn, Bernadette Healy, Eileen Commons, Dympna McGuire, Joan Kenny, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Rosaleen Keane. Front: Eileen Waldron, Tina Coyne. *AK Photography.*

I attended St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy in Ballyhaunis from 1967 to 1972. There has never been a school reunion for my cohort and, in March of this year, it struck me that it would be a pity to let the fiftieth anniversary of our Leaving Cert pass without marking the occasion with a celebration. I called Marian Forde (née Ganley), originally from Began but now living in Dublin, for an opinion and she thought it was a great idea. We met up at my house one day shortly after that, looked through some old class photos and decided to call a few people that we knew... and it just took off from there.

Initially, it was a little daunting trying to figure out how we would be able to get in touch with everyone, but after making a few phone calls we were amazed at the enthusiasm people had for reigniting connections, and a WhatsApp group was formed. While the original plan was to reconvene the Leaving Cert class of '72, I felt, when looking through school photos from down through the years, that there were some people who started off with us in 1967 before branching off in

different directions who should also be included. This had happened for a variety of reasons – some families relocated or changed schools, other pupils left after what was then called the Inter Cert at the end of third year, and some progressed from the Inter Cert to a year of secretarial studies with Mother Dympna. Several phone calls later, I had contact details for almost every one of the fifty-two girls who started at the Convent in 1967. Sadly, two classmates had passed away in recent years: Ann Nolan from Tully and Cait Travers from Bricksens. May they Rest in Peace.

It wasn't easy to find a date that would suit everyone, but eventually we settled on the 24th of September 2022, and decided to hold the event at the Park Hotel in Kiltimagh. While thirty-five people had originally committed to attending, twelve of those had to drop out in the lead up to the reunion, for a variety of personal reasons. On the night, we kicked off with a drinks reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner in a private dining area. Each attendee wore a name badge, although I must say it was remarkable how many people

recognised others without any prompting after all those years.

The reunion was a great success, with many of us heading to bed hoarse after chatting and laughing non-stop all evening. I was particularly pleased to hear a number of the attendees making plans to meet up again in the near future – something that should be relatively easy to achieve now that we all have one another's contact details.



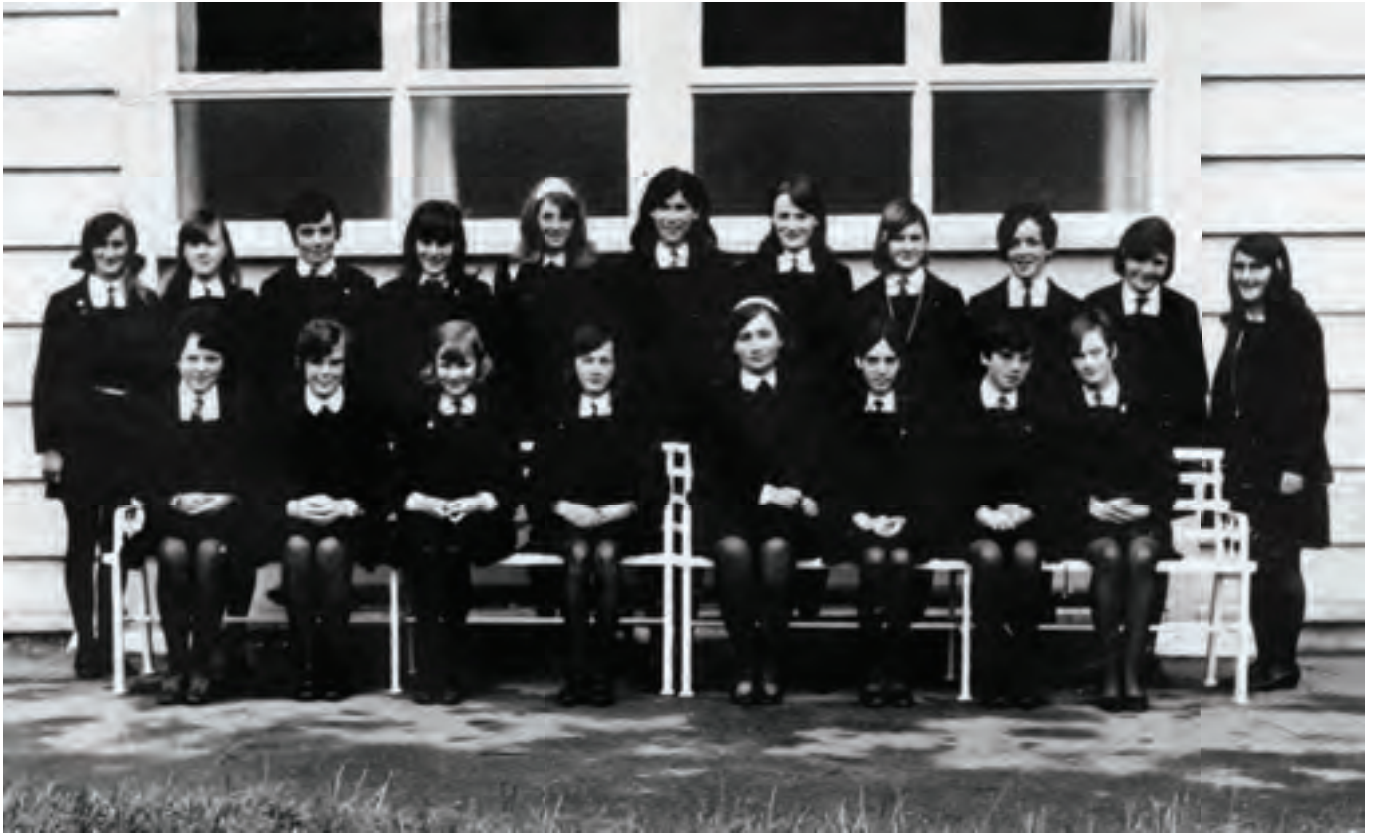
The Class of 1967-72, St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, at their reunion, 24th Sept. 2022.



St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, Leaving Cert Class 1972

Back, L-R: Bernadette Kelly, Marian Ganley, Mary Griffin, Helen Freeley, Kathleen Kearns, Helen Tully, Kay Greene, Marian Lyons, Rosaleen Keane, Marian McHugh, Marian Cunnane. **Centre, L-R:** Dymphna Cunnane, Marian Meehan, Ann Halpin, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Marion Frain, Colette Hopkins, Eileen Commons, Josie Ganley. **Front, L-R:** Margaret Ronayne, Tina Coyne, Eileen Waldron, Sheila Waldron, Joan Kenny, Mary Kilduff, Anne Nolan, Christine Finn.

St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School Class of 1967-72



St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, First Year, 1967

Back, L-R: Joan Kenny, Bernadette Healy, Imelda Kilkenny, Doreen Lilly, Susan Morley, Eileen Waldron, Bernie Hopkins, Maria Moran, Sheila Waldron, Una Lyons, Mary Kilduff.

Front, L-R: Bernadette Niland, Christine Finn, Ann Nolan, Leona Finnegan, Margaret Ronayne, Rita Culkeen, Teresa Fitzmaurice, Dympna McGuire.



St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, First Year, 1967

Back, L-R: Bernadette Gormley, Kay Greene, Rosaleen Keane, Mary Lyons, Marian Ganley, Marian Cunnane, Josie Ganley, Kathleen Kearns, Mary Travers, Helen Tully. **Centre, L-R:** Marian Meehan, Marian Lyons, Marian McHugh, Mary Morley, Bernadette Kelly, Cait Travers, Dympna Cunnane, Eileen Commons, Helen Freeley, Mary Griffin. **Front, L-R:** Cabrini Naughton, Marceline Lyons, Tina Coyne, Bernadette Keane, Agnes O'Dwyer, Anne Halpin, Maura Hussey, Marion Frain, Colette Hopkins.



St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School Class of 1967-72



St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, Inter Cert Class 1970

Back, L-R: Bernadette Gormley, Mary Travers, Helen Tully, Kathleen Kearns, Cait Travers, Marian Cunnane, Kay Greene.

Centre, L-R: Marian Lyons, Eileen Commons, Anne Halpin, Agnes O'Dwyer, Mary Griffin, Helen Freeley, Josie Ganley, Rosaleen Keane, Mary Lyons, Colette Hopkins.

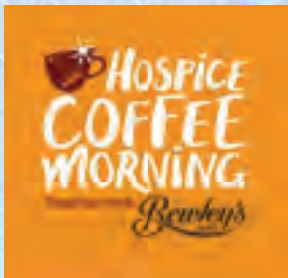
Front, L-R: Marceline Lyons, Marion Frain, Tina Coyne, Marian Meehan, Maura Hussey, Marion Keane, Marian McHugh, Bernadette Kelly, Dympna Cunnane, Cabrini Naughton.



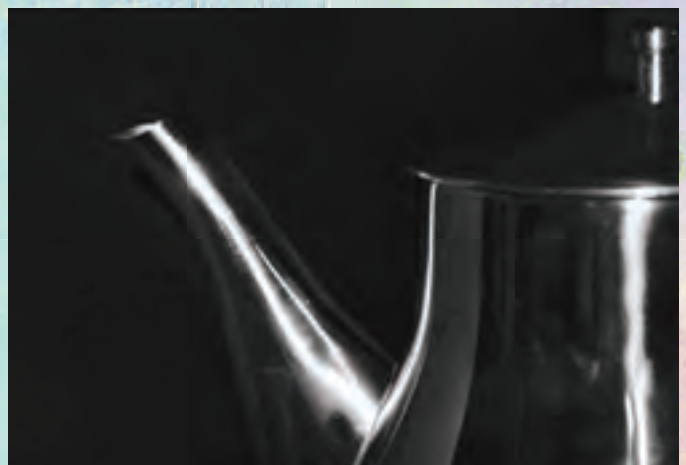
St. Joseph's Convent Secondary School, Mother Dympna's Secretarial class 1970-71

Back, L-R: Doreen Lilly, Marian Regan, Bernadette Gormley, Mary McDonnell, Rita Culkeen, Catherine Byrne, Phyllis Eagney, Marian Mulkeen, Bernadette Hopkins.

Front, L-R: Bernadette Healy, Una Lyons, Dolores Freyne, Cabrini Naughton, Noreen Staunton, Bríd Keane, Dympna McGuire, Leona Finnegan, Marceline Lyons.



Anne and Gerry Lyons hosted a Coffee Morning at their home in Knockbrack in Sept in aid of The Mayo Roscommon-Hospice Foundation. Photo shows Anne Lyons (right) and Bridget Killeen (centre) presenting the moneys raised to Marie McGuinness of Mayo-Roscommon Foundation at their offices in Knock.



Helen and Joe Byrne would like to extend a huge thank you to all those who supported the Coffee Morning at their home in Johnstown, in aid of Mayo/Roscommon Hospice on Friday, 16th September 2022. There was a wonderful turn-out and a total €1480.00 was raised on the day. Photo: N. Ruane Dalton.

Left: Orla Healy from Annagh who hosted a Coffee Morning for Mayo Roscommon Hospice and raised €1,281. Thanks to all her lovely neighbours and friends for calling.

Local artist Johnny O'Shaughnessy organised and delivered Art Classes in Ballyhaunis for Ukrainians who fled the war in their home country.

AK Photography.



Murty's American 40th Birthday

MURT HUNT

I suppose it all began in February or March this year when my daughter Noelle told me: "You are going to America in July", to which I replied, "Definitely not." However, when other members of the family came to me with the same information I had to reconsider and find out what the reason was, or why I was being told such a story. Did I win some competition, the lotto or was some sponsor paying my way? The answer was 'no', which I realised when I was asked for a down payment for a flight from Shannon to Boston on the 21st July. I reluctantly came up with the cash, hoping that some event would prevent me from travelling, but no such luck. Then I was told that I was travelling with my family to my son Murty's 40th birthday celebrations on 22nd July. I was duly informed that a house had been rented in Plymouth near Boston for a week for the whole family. As seanchaí Eamon Kelly used to say, "Things rested so", for a week or so, and then I was ambushed for more money for a hotel in Boston for two nights and the house in Plymouth for a week.

Arrangements had to be made for the selling of cattle and the like, before the departure date, and soon T-shirts, sandals, boxers, shorts sun-tan lotion began arriving at my house, donated by members of the family. They were trying to change a country mug into a Yankee Doodle Dandy. Reluctantly, I played along with the orders I was

being subjected to and to which I was partially reconciled. I was still hoping for a miracle release from my contract which nearly happened as I had to get a booster Covid injection for the flight, but found my doctor was temporarily out of stock and my chemist was unfortunately on holidays. I had no way of getting the prod - or so I thought. However, my family had other ideas and arranged for another chemist the day before the flight. Proof of same had to be got as it was needed at the airport and it only arrived on my daughter's phone at 6 o'clock the morning of the flight. So there I was at my daughter Noelle's house in Claregalway, with my suitcase packed to capacity with a surplus of clothes and shoes not needed at all, and we were soon on our way to Shannon airport in the capable hands of my son-in-law Conor, accompanied by Noelle and their two girls. There was no delay at the airport and we were soon joined there by my son Sean, his wife Alice and their two young girls. After a short delay we were on our way to Boston without ever being asked for proof of our Covid injection status.

My daughters Marie and Áine and their families were flying from Dublin and we all duly met up at the airport in Boston before making our way to the hotel. After a meal we all hit the sack for a good night's sleep. We all went for a walk down to the harbour next morning. The



The Hunt family gathered for Murty's surprise 40th birthday party.

Back, L-R: Conor Hayes, Áine Egan (Hunt), Sean Hunt and baby Fiadh, Alice Hunt and Zoe, Murty Hunt, Carmel McDermott (Hunt), Murt Hunt, Pat McDermott, Michael McDermott, Anthony McGee, Marie McGee (Hunt).
Front: Noelle Hayes (Hunt), Killian McGee, Eabha Egan, Annah Hayes, Caoimhe Hayes.
Missing from photograph: Carmel Hunt, Alan Egan (husband of Áine) and their son Oisín.

heat was unbearable and I had a job keeping up with the others. We went for a trip on a tallship, a mini replica of the Mayflower ship used by the Pilgrim fathers in 1620. As Murty (my son) thought that only his brother Sean was paying a visit, they were meeting up elsewhere until joining the rest of us for a surprise party at the hotel that night.

Party

A room was assigned to us for the party and it was wonderfully fixed up with banners and bunting. Sean and Murty duly arrived, and the surprise on the birthday boy's face when he saw us is beyond description. His sister Carmel was the only family member missing due to family commitments, but she rang him during the party. My sister Sr. Kathleen did not travel either. My sister Carmel and husband Pat also arrived from their home in Florida, accompanied by Pat's cousin Michael.

Cars were hired the next morning by Sean, Anthony and Conor, all of whom had experience of driving in the U.S.A. and we all made our way to Plymouth and the beautiful house we were to stay in. Everything possible was in that house, all mod-cons, electric bicycles, and even a hot-tub! A collection was made and we soon stocked up with food and lots of booze from a supermarket. Lots of fun and laughter was had in that house during the course of the week.

We visited the golf driving range, baseball range, water slides, stock racing circuit and fun fair, as well as many malls and shopping centres, not forgetting regular visits to breakfast shops for pancakes with lashings of maple syrup and peanut butter. Blood sugar levels were forgotten about for the week! Perhaps my highlight was the trip to see Plymouth Rock where the Pilgrim Fathers landed four hundred years ago. However, I was disappointed. I had visualised it as being a massive rock whereas it turned out to be a small stone similar to what you would see in the bog. We saw an exact copy of the tallship that was used all those years ago. We also visited a re-constructed village that was a copy of an ancient settlement of small wooden houses with primitive cooking utensils and with a cosy spot beside the fire place for the bed - something like the 'hag' in older Irish houses. No central heating needed here.

I was delighted when my only living American first cousin Bob Sullivan arrived from Brighton with his wife Susan. We had a lovely few days with them and exchanged memories and presents. On the 28th July I was brought to the most beautiful beach where we relaxed for a few hours before going to dinner in a high rise restaurant with beautiful views of the sea. I realised I was caught on the hop because today was my own birthday - 'twenty-one plus vat' once again. A birthday cake was produced with a reduced number of candles so

I had no problem blowing them out. After a lovely meal and many hugs and kisses we retired to the house again for more drinks and craic.

So it was soon time to pack up for home, and there was a tear in all our eyes as we said goodbye to Murty. But we were all so happy to see him again after his many years away from home.

PS. Of course there is a sad ending to many joyful stories, and so it was with this story. My best friend Jeanette's mother Margaret, who was a patient in a nursing home in Ballymahon, unfortunately passed away while I was on holiday. Jeanette never told me as she was afraid it would put a damper on the holiday. Margaret was like a mother to me over the course of many years, a true blue native of Kilfenora, Co. Clare and I know she has got a top seat in her new eternal home.



Above:
The Hunt family who gathered in Boston to celebrate Murty's birthday.
L-R: Murty, Áine Egan, Marie McGee, Noelle Hayes and Sean. Carmel was unavoidably absent.

Right:
Murt Hunt enjoys a boating trip during his recent trip to the States.



If I Ever Lose My Memory

FRANK GREALLY

If I ever lose my memory
Or if I ever lose my mind
Please write a note and say hello
I think that would be kind

Just say you are my daughter
Or say you are my son
Or say - we are your family
And we always will be one

And if I then look back at you
With a confused stare
I think somewhere deep inside of me
I'll know that you still care

So, if I ever lose my memory
If I ever lose my mind,
Please write a note and say hello
For I think that would be kind

Yes - I think that would be kind

HOLY HOUR

CHRISTINA JOHNSTON (ERRIFF & BEKAN)

Rows and rows of seats
Much movement, puzzled faces?
Some accustomed to the place
And seated, waiting?
Swirling wings of black swifts
Court the nearing twilight,
Swoop down above our head
As if to say, "She's coming!"
The shuffling eases.
Crowd all seated now – peaceful,
Against the fading flawless blue sky.
This vast array of gazes
Spans all ages; all continents
Single Monstrance shines out,
Its piercing spikes of light.
I feel them passing near me
Silhouetting the other five – my friends
"Sanctus". Oh what a Holy Hour.

*(Our group of six friends at the Holy Hour
in Medjugorje, 2017)*

The Resurrection

At five fifty daddy with a gentle shake
whispers *C'mon see the sun dance?*
We push the blankets aside, flop out of bed
stagger to the front door, determined
not to miss the miracle of our Saviour rising
this Easter Sunday Morning.

Keep focused he advises,
as we stand outside, scrunching our eyes,
watching the pale sun rise
above the hill in Neary's field.
At 5.59. *Is that a hare in Greene's garden?*
Where daddy? We ask as we scan
the bushes and flower bed across the road.
It's hard to see. Did he go behind the hedge?

At 6.01 we turn back at the sun.
It's not moving we say, disappointed.
It's over he says *It only dances on the dot of six.*
Ah! We missed it again.
Never mind. There's always next year.
See if there are any Easter eggs.

We hide our chocolate eggs till after mass.
On the way to church, I ask daddy
What was it like?
*It spins in a circle, glowing brighter
than the mid-day sun in the Sahara,
dancing a reel to the celestial orchestra.*
It just lasts a second.

I wish I saw it.

BY ANNE IRWIN (NÉE HUGHES) OF GALWAY
AND FORMERLY OF UPPER MAIN STREET,
BALLYHAUNIS.

.....
Lapwing Press in Belfast have just published
Anne's first collection of poetry,
'A Minor Concerto in Ragoon'.
.....

Frank Glynn – The Early Years

CHARLES GLYNN

My sister Patricia asked me to document our father's life. The information I'm going to share was handed down by word of mouth by our father and mother and our older siblings. Thanks to our cousin Noreen and to Father Kieran Waldron, I was able to fill in some blanks.

In writing about our father's life, I decided to write about his younger years. Today's travel is much different than it was in the early 1900s. Today you can have breakfast in New York and have dinner with your friends in Dublin. Jules Verne wrote 'Around the World in Eighty Days' in 1872, twelve years before my father was born. The modes of transport when my father traveled were still very similar to that described by Jules Verne.

Most of my contemporaries will remember Frank Glynn as an elderly gentleman with a walking stick in one hand and a greyhound by his side. The joke in my family was always that when Frank died, instead of the usual rosary, we would place a dog leash in his hands. One of the most famous greyhounds of the time was called Master McGrath, and I always said we knew the history of Master McGrath before we knew the catechism.

Starting out

Our grandfather, Patrick Glynn, came from Ballintubber, County Roscommon. He was a baker by trade and came to work for the McConville family. The location of the bakery is the present location of Father Kieran Waldron's family home on Main Street. Our grandfather married Hanoria (née Brennan) and according to the 1901 census, they lived in Hazelhill. Frank was the eldest of their nine children.

Our three aunts all emigrated to the United States in their youth. Of our uncles, Patrick remained in Ireland, Matt emigrated to England, John and Edward died young and then Tom, who was two years old when our grandfather passed away, was raised by our grandmother and by his brothers. My Uncle Tom, even as a grown man, was known as 'the ladeen' by our father Frank. Frank and Tom both learned their trade as butchers from the Kilroy family, who had their place of business where Cribbin's was on Main Street.

The Adventures Begin

Frank's adventures really began by accident. One night, coming home from a fair after curfew and having had a little too much to drink, he was approached by two of the local RIC. An altercation followed and Frank, unsurprisingly, came out the winner. Our grandmother heard of the incident and gave her son two choices: either go to jail or join the army. So, Frank enlisted in the Connacht Rangers and

trained at Renmore Barracks in Galway. After training, the Rangers sailed from Galway Bay to India via Egypt through the Suez Canal. That was actually the time when Rudyard Kipling was writing about India and Gunga Din.

Frank left the Rangers at the end of his commitment in India, and I believe he then spent some time in England. The story goes that the Waterloo greyhound race was going to be run and he asked his employer for time to attend it. When his employer refused the time, Frank resigned his job and went to the races anyway.

The next we hear of Frank is his rejoining the Connacht Rangers at the outbreak of World War I. The Irish volunteered to fight alongside the British, as they



Frank Glynn with his son John and greyhound, circa 1936.

were promised Home Rule if they fought in the war. Frank was captured by the Germans and spent three years in a prisoner of war (POW) camp in Alsace Lorraine. When the Germans discovered he was a butcher by trade, they put him to work in the camp kitchen. It was there he learned to make sausages. When he came home to Ireland, he and Uncle Tom made sausages locally with great success until the factories started making it.

At the end of World War I, the camp was liberated by American forces and the prisoners walked from Alsace Lorraine to Paris. Arriving hungry and tired, they found a hotel housing American officers, went into some rooms and 'borrowed' some uniforms. Dressed in their American gear, they went down to the hotel dining room to enjoy a good French meal. They were, of course, caught, but nothing happened and they were simply shipped back to England.

Frank then returned to Ballyhaunis and opened a butcher shop with his brothers. That was probably about 1918. He then got involved with the IRA and was 'on the run.' He was smuggled out of Ireland and went to Canada. He arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia in the middle of winter and the St. Lawrence River was frozen. He then travelled by train from Halifax to Saskatchewan. He worked on a large farm on the prairie, harvesting wheat. He did not like Canada, so in time he traveled to the United States and worked in the stockyards in Chicago.

He did talk about going to a rodeo in Chicago, where Tom Mix (then a famous actor in the silent movies) was an attraction. He also talked about the gangsters who were so visible in Chicago society. Frank liked good whiskey, but during the Chicago years he never drank any of the bootleg 'hooch.' He did make some money at the slaughterhouses and before the Depression hit he returned finally to Ireland in the late 1920s.

Returning Home

Shortly thereafter, he met Delia Doyle, our mother, who was working at the Corner Bar. When my father first walked into the bar, he saw our mother and was completely smitten from that moment. They married in 1928 and from then on Frank never travelled abroad again.

Frank and Delia had seven children and we all lived as a happy family on Clare Street. Our family included Noreen (deceased at three years old), John, Mary, Frank (now deceased), Patricia, myself and our younger brother Fintan. Because he was very affected by the war, our father hated guns and would not strike a child or hurt an animal. And so, he became very much a pacifist.

One of the greatest things I learned from Frank was that in his world there were no class distinctions. In his hobby sport with the greyhounds, he met and spoke equally with lords and stable boys. Our father was the same with everyone in Ballyhaunis, rich or poor in station, and he passed that open hearted character on to me and all my siblings.



Taken outside Mulhern's 'The Clare Bar', on Clare Street, Summer 1955.
L-R: Martin Grogan, Frank Glynn, Kathleen Mulhern, Edward Mulhern, Michael Mulhern, Aidan Nally. (Courtesy of Edward Mulhern.)

2022 was a bittersweet year for the Fianna Fáil organisation in Ballyhaunis and the wider East Mayo area.

The highpoint saw Deputy Dara Calleary TD elevated to the office of Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in September – a fitting acknowledgement of his ongoing dedication and commitment to Mayo in his work as a TD. The Fianna Fáil organisation in Ballyhaunis is very proud of his achievements and wish Minister Calleary every success in his new role. The Constituency Office remains open every Friday from 10.30am to 12.00 noon. It is advisable to call the Ballina office on 09677613 for appointment advice.

With the untimely passing of Tom Waldron, Cave, we lost our esteemed Chairperson of *The Michael Waldron Comhairle Cheantair* and, in truth, the likes of Tom we will never see again.

His ability to lead the organisation, to bring new members on board, to organise and make arrangements was second to none. He worked night and day to reorganise and re-energise the organisation in East Mayo over the last ten years and was instrumental in getting Dara Calleary TD's East Mayo Constituency Office open on Clare Street, providing guidance, advice and assistance on all matters relating to Ballyhaunis and East Mayo. He truly was one in a million and our hearts are broken for all the Waldron Family.



Ballyhaunis supporters greeting Minister Dara Calleary at his East Mayo Office on Clare Street. Pictured L-R are: Ann O'Dwyer, Packie Waldron, Ciarán Waldron, Hugh Rudden, Rosaleen Curley (front), Minister Calleary, Jimmy Waldron, Margaret Tarpey, Joe Hosty, Cllr. John Caulfield, Mick Hunt and Seamus Mulrennan.

Sadly, we also lost former Councillor Michael Carty, Knock. Michael was an excellent local area representative working closely with individuals on the ground, doing his best to help people in his efficient quiet way. He was loyal and dedicated to the community in Knock, Ballyhaunis, Claremorris and throughout East Mayo and will be very sorely missed by all who knew him.

May the light of heaven shine on Tom and Michael and all our deceased relatives and friends who passed away during the year.



Harp Lager Brewery Outing

James Lyons entertaining Ballyhaunis vintners on their outing to the Harp Lager Brewery in Dundalk in 1990.

Val Rattigan gives a rendition during the Ballyhaunis vintners outing to the Harp Lager Brewery in 1990.

(Courtesy of Edward Mulhern).



'Volleyhaunis'

Ballyhaunis Girls Volleyball Team

We started up in 2021, with the help of Mayo Volleyball coach, Ballyhaunis Sports Hub and Ballyhaunis Chamber of Commerce. We started in Scoil Íosa. A few girls showed up on the first night and what fun we had! As the ceiling was low, after a few months we had to relocate to Aghamore Hall which has a high roof, is perfect in size and we could put up nets. We grew in numbers with over twenty girls attending. Some girls now train at least twice a week and we are really enjoying it! Thanks to AK Photography for sponsorship of our jerseys. Thanks also to our coaches and liaisons, committee members, Aghamore Community Centre and Scoil Íosa who helped start us off.

For information on training times, you can contact us on TikTok (@volleyhaunisvc), on Instagram (@volleyhaunis) or our Facebook Page (@Volleyhaunis V.C)



'Volleyhaunis' Volleyball Team. Back, L-R: Alisha Forde, Paulina Balik-Nowak (coach), Emily Coffey, Ellena Coffey, Adam Kaczmarek (sponsor). Front, L-R: Sofia Marques, Ana Posaric, Victoria Balik-Nowak, Sara Kaczmarek. AK Photography.

Last GAA Lotto Draws



Ballyhaunis GAA would like to thank Bernie and John Gill for all of their support in promoting their weekly 50/50 and weekly lotto draw over the past twenty-two years. Photo shows Hugh Rudden (left) and Gerry Lyons (right) of Ballyhaunis GAA with John and Bernie Gill on the occasion of the final 50/50 draw in the Clare Street premises under the ownership of the Gill family.



Christy Nicholson (left), pictured with Ballyhaunis GAA Chairman Gerry Lyons, draws the winning 50/50 envelope for the last time as proprietor of Nicholson's, Bridge Street. Ballyhaunis GAA would like to thank Christy and Vera for their great support over the past twenty-four years and wish them all the very best for the future.

Scaling New Heights

KATE FAHEY

This is the last place I thought I would be! Having just completed my Leaving Certificate and deciding to take a year away from studies, I didn't have much of a plan for the year. But little did I think that I would be sitting in a cab 130 feet above the streets of Dublin. You see, I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to become a crane operator - Ireland's youngest and first female crane operator.

Construction was never my intended career but I decided in my gap year to work in our family construction business on a project we are involved with on Hume Street, Dublin. I had always seen myself entering the field of science or medicine and had in fact been offered a place on two medical courses in Budapest. I needed some time to make these decisions and decided to defer these offers for the year. Having grown up on a farm I love working in the outside environment and physically doing things and I did not want to end up in an office as such.



Kate Fahey, crane operator.

I was involved in a variety of jobs on site and one day, while scaling the crane to complete a weekly inspection, the crane operator on site, Paddy Broderick, encouraged me to sit in the chair and take the reins. Immediately I felt challenged. I knew I wanted to have a go and was determined to succeed. I am so stubborn and if someone tells me I can't, well then I do. I think I shocked Paddy by my enthusiasm and remember him saying, "you are either very brave or very stupid." While it takes nearly ten minutes to climb the crane I immediately felt at ease. It took nearly six months for me to get where I am today. I first had to complete my banksman's certificate - a banksman is the person who directs the operation of a

crane from the ground. Then I had to build my hours operating the crane under Paddy's supervision before taking an exam to become a licenced operator. This job cannot be underestimated. It is a huge responsibility and you have to work and communicate well with your banksman.

This all comes with challenges. While I received great support from all working on site, some visitors to the site, either making deliveries or doing inspections, often asked to be put in contact with the actual site banksman or crane operator. One such delivery driver interrogated me and then proceeded to scrutinise my ticket of certification. I often hear comments like, "it's not an ideal or nice job for a girl". These comments only motivate me to want to succeed more! I feel it was often a source of surprise when people arrived on site and saw a woman in a hard hat, steel toe-cap boots and a hi-vis jacket.

It is time Irish society in general has a change in attitude towards women in construction. We don't have to sacrifice being 'girly'. I love nothing more than getting dressed up, putting on makeup and having a nice manicure. A girl can be practical and 'girly' at the same time. Soon after gaining my tickets RTE News contacted me to see if they could join me for a day to see what the job entailed and to do a piece on women in construction. This has led to many doors being opened to me. I was honoured to be asked by the Construction Federation of Ireland to join them, along with many inspirational women in the construction industry, on International Women's Day in Clontarf Castle. This was a very proud moment for me and I was amazed and in awe of all the women who spoke on the day. A lot of local and national media outlets have interviewed me since and it has been a great pleasure to represent women in the industry. I have received calls from many young females asking how they might go about pursuing a career in construction.

I am currently working on a site in Salthill in Galway and would love at some stage to get the opportunity to work abroad. There are great opportunities out there and if any girl is considering working in construction, my advice is to go for it, don't let anyone or anything stop you. There are great apprenticeship courses available and women should not hesitate to put their names forward in many areas that are primarily considered a man's domain. If I can do it so can you! We need more women in the industry and the industry needs us.

Kate is the daughter of Roger Fahey of Kilkerrin, Co. Galway and Sharon (Higgins) Fahey, formerly of Knock Road, Ballyhaunis.



Left: Stephen and Marian Timlin, who have lived in Calgary, Canada for the past seven years, brought their daughter Croia home to be Christened in Knockmore, Ballina on 15th July 2022. They are pictured here with Stephen's parents Patricia (née Daly, Ballyhaunis) and Tommy Timlin. L-R: Stephen, Patricia holding baby Croia, Marian and Tommy Timlin.

Centre: Helena Daly (right) with her son James visiting her uncle Michael (Micky) Daly. Helena now resides in Chicago, U.S.A.

Above: Shane Timlin, son of Patricia (née Daly) and Tommy Timlin, with his daughter Brooke and partner Maria. Pictured as best man at his brother Thomas' wedding last year.



Above: Former RTÉ reporter and journalist Charlie Bird (right) and advocate for awareness of Motor neurone disease, releasing a "Dove of Peace" at Croagh Patrick. Pictured with Joe Freeley (Hazelhill), proprietor of 'Joe Doves'.



Above: Members of the Jordan family (Upper Main St.). From left: Oliver, Attracta, Columba and Mary Hannah (O'Connor).



Right: Joe Freeley (Hazelhill) (second from left) pictured with his cousin Conor Edward Freeley on his first ever visit to Ballyhaunis. Conor works with U.S. President Joe Biden and organised the President's inauguration ceremony in Washington D.C.



Johnstown Gurrane group, taken in the 1960s.

Back, L-R: Nicholas Kelly, Paddy Lyons, Jim Griffin, Tommy Joe Ruane, Paddy Gildea, Pat Kelly, Mick Kearns, unidentified, Michael Coen. Front, L-R: Unidentified, K. Waldron, Celia Gildea, Josephine Lyons, Breege Walsh, Rita Lyons, Angela Hunt, Michael Moore. Courtesy of Celia Lyons.



*Above left: Paddy Gildea (Johnstown) looks on as the late, master tinsmith, Ted Maughan (Cherryfield) fashions a bucket out of copper.
Courtesy of Celia Lyons.*



Above right: Oliver Jordan of Annagh clears the road after Storm Barra in December 2021.



*Bottom right: Neighbours meet up.
L-R: Mary Gildea (Johnstown), Kathleen Moran (Levallyroe) and Mary Finn (Gurrane). Courtesy of Celia Lyons.*

Rev. Professor Eamon Conway meets Pope Francis

TOMMY CAULFIELD

Professor Eamon Conway is a native of Tuam, Co. Galway and is son of the late Berry (Bernadette) Tarpey of Knox Street, Ballyhaunis. His late aunt Maureen Tarpey ran a busy drapery and textiles business in Knox Street up until the 1980s. Eamon's mother taught in the Convent of Mercy, Ballyhaunis before being appointed to a teaching position in the Presentation Convent, Tuam. It was in Tuam that she met her husband Edward Conway who sadly passed away earlier this year. Professor Conway is a frequent visitor to the home of his mother's first cousin Mary McBride of Annagh.

Rev. Professor Eamon Conway BA (NUI), BD, STL, DD was ordained in 1987. He studied philosophy and sociology at the National University of Ireland and theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth and the University of Tuebingen. He was awarded his doctorate in theology in 1991 and taught Systematic Theology for seven years at All Hallows College, Dublin. He was appointed Head of Theology and Religious Studies at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick in 1999.

In April Fr. Eamon enjoyed a private reception with Pope Francis in the Vatican during a research trip to Rome to closer study Pope Francis' initiatives in Catholic education. Professor Conway was among a group of Catholic educators from the Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education (GRACE) project, an international research-based partnership between MIC, Boston College (USA), the University of Notre Dame (Australia), and St. Mary's University (London, UK). GRACE provides an opportunity for practitioners and scholars of Catholic education and theology in their respective countries to affirm, study, collaborate and respond meaningfully to challenges they face in the field. The GRACE academics spent four days in Rome discussing how to further the goals of the project in dialogue with leading Catholic educators on the world stage.

Professor Conway presented Pope Francis with a copy of his new publication, *The Synodal Pathway: When Rhetoric meets Reality*. The collection of fifteen essays from leading scholars in Europe, America and Australia analyses the ongoing self-reflection of the Irish Church and the opportunities of finding a place in the modern world.

The Pontiff took time out of his busy Easter Week schedule to meet with the GRACE researchers. Speaking

of the opportunity to meet Pope Francis, Prof. Conway said: "It was an extraordinary gift that Pope Francis gave us a private audience and, setting aside his text, spoke to us heart-to-heart for over a half an hour about his passion for education."

Having completed over twenty years of service at Mary Immaculate College, Professor Eamon has been granted permission by Archbishop Francis Duffy to accept an appointment as the inaugural Professor of Human Development at the School of Philosophy and Theology, Notre Dame University in Australia. Notre Dame is a private Catholic University on both the east and west coast of the continent. "I very much welcome the opportunity this new role in the university affords me, to work with colleagues to strengthen and develop an appreciation of the unique Christian understanding of the dignity of the human person in all its dimensions", Fr. Conway said of the appointment.

Annagh Magazine joins with Eamon's many friends in Ballyhaunis in wishing him the very best of luck and happiness in his new role.



Professor Fr. Eamon Conway with His Holiness, Pope Francis at the Vatican in Rome, last April.

Memories of Growing up in Clare Street in the Fifties and Sixties

MICHAEL CLEARY

My earliest memories of growing up in Clare Street date from the mid-1950s. There were several families with children at or around my age in the street at the time. Starting from the Corner Bar there were the Jordans, Grogans, Griffins, Byrnes, Fitzgeralds and Eagneys. Coming back in towards town, there were the O'Briens, Flanagans, Dwanes, Barrys, Freynes, my own family, Morrisons, Glynn's and Mulherns. Paul Gallagher, who was a Clare Street boy by virtue of their shop's entrance onto the backway, and Martin Grogan were the only boys of my age in the street and were my best friends. Before I had left National School some of those families had moved away such as the Jordans, Flanagans and Morrisons, to be replaced by Regans, Donoghues, Flatleys, McGuire's and Levins, respectively. In addition, Bertie Curley, Tommy Donnellan and Brendan Byrne brought their new brides to the street and had started young families.

The footpaths were where most games were played and, as we got older and could be trusted a bit more, the street itself was a legitimate place to play. Traffic was infrequent and slow enough that games on the road were

common with occasional interruptions to allow traffic to pass. While home-made go-cars and stilt-walking were played on the footpaths, hurling, football, tipsy-cat, spinning tops and bicycle wheel rolling were games that couldn't be confined to such restricted places. On freezing winter evenings we would throw buckets of water on the road and spread it with a brush for about 25 metres until we had a good 'slide'. I don't recall any objections from the grown-ups! As we moved from the 50s and the 60s progressed, the road had to be gradually surrendered to the traffic. I particularly remember Tom (Darby) Lyons and my brother John rounding up anyone old enough to walk, to take part in *Backs and Forwards* against the wall that stood across from Tom's house, where the entrance to the Fire Station is now. The traffic eventually pushed us into Brod Byrne's yard – currently Murphy's – and later into the unfinished swimming pool. The other venues for football were Jimmy O'Briens field, where Keane Kitchens is now, and Brod's Field just opposite. Jimmy O'Brien's field was best but you had to abandon the game at the first sight of Jimmy. At least Brod left us in peace. It also had the Leebeen Drain at the

far end from which we were happy to drink! One year I recall Vinny Freyne introducing us all to the mysteries of Rugby which he had played in Garbally. We also often played cricket according to rules which we had deduced from reading comics. It took many years before either sport managed to have clubs established in Ballyhaunis and we weren't the seeds.

Brod's yard was also one of the several unofficial bike parks which were to be found at the edge of town on all the approach roads. Many people liked to walk through the town unencumbered by a bike and with their clothes in proper order without bicycle clips and other accoutrements. This was particularly so when in their best clothes for Sunday Mass. The 'Last Mass Bicycles' were the machines on which we all learned to cycle. Women's bikes were the most popular and we favoured the bikes of the women who delayed the most socialising after Mass which allowed us as much time as possible. I don't know if the owners ever



Mid-1950s, outside the shop opposite Cleary's house.

Vera Biesty, John Cleary, Christy Morrison, Brian Clarke, child – Mike Cleary. Christy Morrison lived in Levins' house; Brian Clarke worked in Gallagher's.

noticed us hastily replacing the bikes as they were returning. I suspect they were very tolerant people.

There were times in the year when the road had to be definitely surrendered to traffic and Reek Sunday was one of those. Being on the main road west, the annual pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick would bring a continuous stream of cars heading west on Saturday and east on Sunday. We children had a tradition of writing down as many registration numbers as we could on copy books. The purpose of these long lists, as best I can remember, was to amass a greater number than the previous year. We used to do the same thing on Whit Monday – currently the June Bank Holiday. This time, counting the cars returning from Louisburgh and Achill, festooned with Rhododendron blossoms.

The other occasions were the Fair Days. This was especially the case on the big fairs of 16th March and the October Horse Fair, both of which were free days from school. This tradition started, according to my mother, after a child was killed by a horse at the October fair when she was young. On those days the streets of the town were packed with farmers, carts, animals and street traders' stalls. Even a townie like me could hope to pick up a few pennies for keeping an eye on some sheep or pigs or a docile cow while the owner went for some liquid refreshment. Then the money could be exchanged for a catapult, water gun or some itching powder in the Cheap Jacks.

Adventure

Mack's Hill was the adventure playground for the street. It encompassed the area now taken up by the Fire Station, Library, Swimming Pool and car-park. A small excavation for gravel had been made where the forecourt of the library is now to create what we called 'The Sandpit' and the rest was wilderness. It was not stocked or farmed at that time. There was no path through to Bridge Street and so it was the preserve of children. A jungle, a swamp and a river. A place for huts and hide-outs, stepping-stones and dams, bows and arrows and campfires. There were tall trees to climb with the initials of the ancients – Vinnie and Kieran Freyne – engraved at such unattainable heights as to raise the two brothers to the status of legends – heroes of a lost age. There was no fear of any adult intruding in this untamed corner of the street. If a parent wanted to call a child home they sent another child in with the message, "You're wanted."

The Sandpit was the location for the Bonfire on the 23rd June. This was the high point of our year. It culminated three months of meetings, collecting tyres, cutting timber – where-ever we could get away with it – spying on other streets' activities, 'raiding' and repelling raids. As the day approached, organising the collection of minerals, sweets and cakes for the feast and



L-R: Gerard Cleary, Elizabeth Griffin, Bridget Griffin, John Griffin, Nora Flynn (worked in Griffin's mid-late 60s).

on the day supervising the fair distribution of the booty, was a job jealously reserved by the girls. Martha and Helen Grogan, Evelyn and Angela Byrne, Thérèse and Jenny Fitzgerald and Dolores Freyne were the mistresses of catering in our time. As I remember, organising the bonfire was the affair of National School children. You graduated up through the ranks to be one of the leaders by sixth class and then retired to the sidelines to simply take part in the festivities on the night. My age group took over from Bernard and Pat Freyne, Tom and Margo Fitzgerald, Fintan Glynn, Dymrna and Brian Byrne, Eddie Mulhern, Dermot Eagney and Anne and Rita Barry. We left it in the hands of Dom Byrne and Mike Byrne, Niall Eagney, Mike, Mary and John Griffin, David Dwane and my brother Ger. There was a shed, used by Joe Regan, situated to the front of the sandpit, which had a level area behind. This was a frequent venue for older teenagers and young men to congregate. Here they would play 'pitch and toss' in the hopes of converting their little money into a little more.

The first clearance of Mack's Hill was for the swimming pool. It was a local initiative carried out with largely voluntary labour from around the area supplemented by summer work camps of foreign students who stayed in the Scouts' Den. I recall that my father was a sort of site manager and I think that the whole project was accompanied by a lot of socialising in which I was too young to participate. Work progressed slowly mainly in the summer over about two years and then came to a stop for many years. The un-plastered shell of the pool was a much used 'indoor' soccer venue in those intervening years with the peculiarity of having a marked

slope from one end to the other.

In those years no house that I can recall had central heating. Open fires supplemented by paraffin stoves heated the draughty and uninsulated houses. In the depths of winter it was normal to see the intricate floral patterns of frozen condensation on the insides of the single pane glass windows. Unlagged pipes, often of lead, froze easily and bursts were common leading to house flooding. One such event was discovered when Tom Lyons noticed water flowing out the front door of my neighbours', the Caulfields.

It was a time before television but we did have access to the world of children's media of the time. The Beano, Dandy, Tiger, Judy, Bunty, Victor, Superman and The Green Lantern all circulated freely in the street by means of 'swapping' which compensated for the fact that, as children, we had access to little money and so we actually only bought 'comics' infrequently. The system depended heavily on those who had much older siblings who were earning some money. I was particularly fortunate to have as a neighbour Dolores Freyne who had several older brothers.

Shops and businesses

Clare Street had a wide range of economic activity at that time and with the freedom accorded to children to stick their noses into anyone's business I recall many fascinating hours watching people practice their trade.



Maureen Cleary in Delia Grogan's shop, Clare Street.

Next door to me was John Freyne who tolerated me pestering him with questions as he lay under lorries on the street. Across the road in Brod's yard Frank Glynn had his 'slaughter house' where I observed my first dissections through cracks in the galvanised doors. We had a choice of two blacksmiths to observe. 'Frank the Blacksmith' had a forge in the 'Backway' and Pat Waldron had one between Curley's and Kitty Healy, who was a hairdresser. Noreen Finn was a dressmaker who had her workshop in Dalton's, Tommy Donnellan had a joinery and undertakers, Jimmy O'Brien and Tim Robinson were millers. Paddy O'Brien was an eggler and flour merchant and just beyond him John O'Brien was a wheelwright. Tom Barry was a house painter.

The newly formed Fire Brigade stationed their Land Rover in a shed in the backway and the first Fire Chief was, to our great pride, one of our own, Clarence Grogan. At that time the members of the Fire Brigade were summoned by the sound of a siren and they arrived running or by bicycle. They were not the only ones to drop everything to answer the call; by the time the red Land Rover drove down the street adults and children alike were out to see the spectacle.

There were four bars: Jordan's/Regan's (Corner bar), Byrne's (also grocery and hardware), Mulhern's and Michael Curley's (also bicycles and bus-stop). Bicycles could also be bought in Mrs. Murray's along with a varied selection of other goods which were piled in apparent randomness on either side of a narrow passage which ran from her kitchen to the door. Griffins had a general grocery store as had Delia Grogan, whose kitchen also functioned as a women's social club. Alice Lyons' kitchen also functioned as a social club and great card playing house in the winter. Brian Hosty had a dental surgery beside Eagney's – Bill was a hackney driver. Benny Byrne had a pharmacy which my mother, a Clare Street native, continued to call 'Paul's Corner' and next-door Joe and Sheila Conway had a sweet shop and ran a wholesale delivery as well. Kitty Healy had a hairdressers and Pat Meath next door had a barber shop. Eddie Fitzgerald had a haulage business with stores and a loading bay in the backway, a good place to play on a rainy day. Frank Glynn had a butcher shop, which in the later 60s became a chip-shop ran by his wife 'Mrs. Glynn'. Other people who lived in the street at the time were Smyths and Daltons. There was an old man whom I can barely remember called Pat Boyle who died when I was very young.

He lived just beside the cinema. We played in his derelict house in later years despite the suspicion that it was haunted. Other Clare Street people who passed away in my early childhood were Jim Caulfield and his sister known as Dearee, who lived next-door to my own house and which belongs to Fordes now. There was also Miss Healy who lived in the Mill House which we regarded as the limit of Clare Road. Tom Barry and Paddy and Mrs. Donnellan, Willie Smyth and Mrs. Dalton all passed away in this period. The first marriage of someone in the street that I can remember was that of the late Úna Donnellan to Paddy Philips.

Entertainment

The street also boasted of the Star Cinema and Eclipse Ballroom which made Clare Street the entertainment centre of Ballyhaunis and a considerable area around. The Cinema was open on Sunday, Monday and Thursday and there was a constant stream of people dressed up for the night on the street before and after the shows. Byrne's sweet shop (MidWest Radio now), Alice Lyons and Vera Biesty (first chip shop in Ballyhaunis, I think) supplied the sustenance to the patrons.

Byrnes' sweet shop was an institution in the lives of young people in the town over many years as it was run by a succession of the Byrne children from May to Mike and it acquired a juke box in Brian's time, if I recall correctly. This was a source of street music that I was able to enjoy from my bedroom at night. I recall Thomas Lyons, who was himself minding a shop, calling a request to Brian and rolling the six-pence down the street.

Occasionally, travelling players would perform a play in the Cinema. I have a memory of being shocked at seeing Jack Cruise, a famous actor of the time, shoot a man on stage. I also recall a special screening of the then recently released 'Lawrence of Arabia' for the benefit of the Boy Scouts. As I recall, Seamus Durkan arranged it through the star, Peter O'Toole, who was a former boy scout. This was a coup as Ballyhaunis would not normally have been in line for showing the film that soon after release.

The crowds that would converge on the dance hall, particularly when a famous band like The Royal Showband or Dickie Rock, and even British stars like Adam Faith, were performing, would leave the street packed with cars and people until after 3 o'clock in the morning. I recall the sound of the last of the dance hall revellers repeatedly trying to start his car in vain, echoing around the empty street one early morning. After some time, I heard a window open and the voice of John Freyne shout, "Pull out the choke!" The next attempt was successful. I regarded myself as very privileged to be at the centre of all this excitement as I



Taken in Cong, 1966. Back: Mike Griffin, John Higgins, Gerard Cleary, John Cleary. Front: Jim Higgins, J.J. Cribbin.

lay in bed at night with the window open listening to all the latest Show Band stars perform. Just sitting on the wall near the cinema and listening to the dialogue of the cowboy films allowed us to recreate the drama, having earlier studied the still shots of the film displayed outside McGarry's shop on Main Street.

Clare Street housed the girls' primary school, or at least some of the classes, for a school year in the 60s while renovations were underway on the convent school building. Hunt's (beside the betting shop now) and Caulfield's (now Forde's house), both of which were vacant at the time, were the venues. The latter hosted Sr. Dympna's secretarial class. The other temporary school room was in the Parochial Hall.

The climax of the entertainment year during the early 60s, not just for Ballyhaunis but for many miles around, was the 'Carnival'. In the early 60s Mack's Hill was levelled for the swimming pool and for three weeks each September Perks' Amusements set up there. At night, all over town, the sound of pop music resounded, bright lights flashed in the sky. Shooting galleries, bumper cars, roller-coasters and swinging boats provided the thrills. Pongo (Bingo), Wheel of Fortune and live theatre entertained the more sedate. The weekly big draw with the Monster Draw (for motor cars) on the final night attracted huge crowds which used to fill Clare Street and would be the main topic of conversation for weeks afterwards. We even had two of our own, Mike Byrne and Kitty Healy, take the big prizes on two occasions. I recall one of the Perks family, whom we called 'Big John', on top of the rigging in 1961 trying to get the canvas down as Hurricane Debbie was building up. Later in the

day I saw sheets of galvanise flying down the street as slates were bombarding the footpaths. Seventeen people lost their lives in Ireland in that storm.

I hope I have listed all the households and families who were in Clare St. during my childhood. I have not attempted to list all family members especially children not close to my own age. There were residents in the street not captured by the family names. I am thinking of the 'lodgers' who lived with Mrs. Smyth (Annie Kennedy, Eileen O'Dwyer), Alice Lyons (Johnnie Regan, Jim Foley, Paddy Melia and Paddy McCormack at different times as well as the previously mentioned

Noreen Finn) and Mrs. Glynn (Paddy Connell and Brian Clarke). There was also Michael Freely, my mother's uncle, who lived in Griffin's and who was immortalised in a John Hinde postcard standing at his usual post outside Griffin's shop.

These are snatches of what I can remember of life in Clare Street from my earliest memories to about the age of twelve, a short span of eight or nine years. Others, especially of older or younger age groups, will have their own recollections of people and events not mentioned here and I for one would love to hear or read them.



Above: Tarmey cousins meet up. From left - John Whitehouse, Martin Brennan, Mary Mulrennan and Michael Brennan.

Left: Pictured at the Gurteen Bonfire this summer. This is one of the oldest established bonfires held in the Ballyhaunis area, on St. John's night every year within living memory. L-R: Mike Henry, Seamus Mulrennan, Martin Brennan and Adrian Brennan.

Right: Grandchildren of Frank and Mary Healy Ballindrehid. Mark, James, Catherine (triplets) and Cathal, children of Mags (Oranmore); Orla and Lily, children of Peter (Annagh).



Ballyhaunis Golf Club

KEVIN GARVEY

For Ballyhaunis Golf Club, 2022 will be remembered as the year we carried out more development to our course and infrastructure than in any year in the past, the year that we had two young players represent us on the international stage and the year we can boast of having a PGA Professional in our club for the first time ever.

The club received a Sports Capital Grant to develop a piece of waste ground at the front of the clubhouse to make it into a short game practice facility. Following a tendering process, the project was awarded to DAR Golf from Wicklow, and work began on the site in July. The area, comprising three greens, two bunkers and three tee boxes, will be of great benefit to members as well as junior golfers and beginners. The new facility is as good as you would find at any of the top courses in the country.

The second project was aided by a grant from Golf Ireland which helped with the construction of a new machinery shed, workshop and staff facilities.

A third project, spearheaded by Tadhg Buckley, President of the Club and a group of volunteers, resulted in the installation of a sprinkler system to our greens. Tadhg's expert knowledge of pumps and plumbing meant that this work was done to perfection.

Lady Captain, Patricia Fitzgerald, held her prize-giving day over the June Bank Holiday weekend and Siobhán Herr was the overall winner. Men's Captain, Seamus Cox held his prize-giving day over the August Bank Holiday weekend and Joe Kelly was the outright winner of the gent's prize with Mary H. Morris taking the Ladies' section. Tadhg Buckley's President's Cup weekend was held at the end of August and the cup went to David Burke with Maria Campbell winning the Ladies' prize.

Seamus Cox and Kevin Garvey reactivated the Summer Scramble which ran very successfully for the months of August and September with many members playing on Wednesday evenings. This event was an opportunity for our budding new members to get a taste for the game and meet members of the club.

Ballyhaunis Golf Club Junior Section now boasts over eighty girls and boys from the age of seven to eighteen. Weekly coaching took place on Wednesday mornings during the summer holidays. Forty-eight of our Juniors worked on their short game skills and completed Stage 1 of Golf Ireland's Junior framework. Ballyhaunis Junior golfers were also invited to compete in a four club Golf Sixes league organised by Golf Ireland. Fifteen girls and boys competed against Juniors for Castlereagh, Strokestown and Swinford Golf Clubs over the summer months and they enjoyed the experience of playing on various courses.

We are very proud of our two young stars John William Burke and PGA Professional Andrew Hickey.

John William started 2022 with a handicap of 13 and, at the time of writing, he is playing off a handicap of 1; this is some achievement for the 13-year-old young man. He played in many competitions throughout the year - the more notable of these being the US Kids' European Championship, which took place in Scotland. John William came sixth in that competition. He then moved on to the US Kids World Championship which was played in North Carolina, USA. He finished 45th in that tournament out of a field of 163 of the best young golfers from throughout the world. Andrew's 2022 season was long and challenging. Playing off a handicap of +2, his season started back in February where he competed on the Toro Professional Tour in Spain at Atalaya, Estepona. He shot rounds of 69, 74, 67 to finish 7th as an amateur. Following this tournament, he travelled from Estepona to Setubal, Portugal to compete in the Portuguese International Amateur Open.

Andrew competed in many of the Irish amateur championships during the year. However, he suffered an injury in the middle of the season which forced him to withdraw from two championships. When recovered, he finished in a tie for 11th in the Ulster Strokeplay Championship at Belvoir Park. Following the 2022 season, which was concluded in Kells, Andrew decided to turn professional and become a member of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA). This is a highly regarded group of professional golfers who are available for coaching and tuition. Andrew turned professional on 1st October 2022 and will compete in his first tournament as a professional on the 24th of October for the Moran Cup in Royal Dublin Golf Club which is part of the Irish PGA Tour. We wish Andrew all the best.

To say that the Club is proud of these two young men is an understatement. For a small 9-hole club in East Mayo to have two young men playing at this level is a phenomenal achievement; they are a credit to themselves and their parents and we wish them every success in the future.

Fifteen ladies and gents took part in our beginners' classes throughout the summer months and all of them showed great promise and seemed to enjoy the experience immensely. If you have any thoughts of taking up the game, please join us - keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

Finally, Ballyhaunis Golf Club would like to pay tribute to our own loyal members who passed away during the year. Among them were past Captains and Presidents Michael Mahony, Mary Dillon, Stephen Ryall and Noel Patterson who, with all others, shall forever remain in our prayers and memories. *Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha dhilse.*

Corpus Christi Procession

MIKE BYRNE

The 2022 Corpus Christi Procession in Ballyhaunis, held on Saturday, 18th June, was one with a difference, one that was unique compared to all other Eucharistic Processions which have been held in the town down through the decades.

As is the usual format, the Corpus Christi Procession was led by Parish Priest, Fr. Stephen Farragher, with the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and the children from the parish who received their first Holy Communion earlier this year, all dressed in their first Holy Communion attire, followed by a large representation of people, young and old, taking part in the annual event.

However, what made this year's event so special and different from previous processions was the great number of non-nationals now living in Ballyhaunis who actively participated. Co-ordinated by the Ballyhaunis Pastoral Council, under the leadership of chairman Kevin Henry, the Procession was indeed a very colourful affair this year. Proceeding from St. Patrick's Parish Church to the Augustinian Friary, where it concluded with Benediction, the Procession was enhanced by the beautifully crafted carpets created by the members of the Brazilian community, which decorated the aisle of the church, depicting the essence of the Corpus Christi feast day, sharing this beautiful Brazilian custom with the local people; the colourful pavement artwork, created by the children of Scoil Íosa, and also the participation and contribution of a member of the Brazilian community who, together with Pastoral Council member Mike Griffin, carried the cross for the final segment of the Procession. Also present was Polish born Wiktor Simeonkowski, Ballyhaunis resident now for over fifteen years, who carried the thurible ahead of Fr. Farragher and the Blessed Sacrament. Following the Procession, a great variety of refreshments were served to participants, courtesy of members of the Pastoral Council.



Above:

Children who made their First Holy Communion on 17th May 2022, throw petals on the path of the Procession at the Friary.

(Photo by Janapix)

Below:

Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P. carries the Blessed Sacrament through the Main Streets of Ballyhaunis flanked by canopy-bearers and led by the thurifer Wiktor Siemionkowski.

(Photo by Janapix)



Mary Donnelly Retires as Parish Secretary



Above: Mary Donnelly with her husband Jimmy and family members, along with members of the Ballyhaunis Parish Pastoral Council at her retirement party held in the Dalgan Bar & Restaurant on 7th July 2022.

Standing, L-R: Austin Boyle, Eileen Lynch, Bernie Boyle, Mary Mulrennan, Frances May, Marian Regan, Anne Lyons, Kevin Henry, Eileen Donnellan, Kay Curley, Mary Waldron, Paula Donnellan, Willie Ryan, Siobhan Conlon, Gabriel Smith, Emer Gallagher, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Mary Henry.

Seated, L-R: Jimmy Goldrick, Jennifer Donnelly, Mary Donnelly, Jimmy Donnelly, Elaine Donnelly, Liam Hodge.
(Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher).



Left: Kevin Henry, Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council (left) makes a presentation to Mary Donnelly to mark her retirement as Ballyhaunis Parish Secretary (1993-2022). Also in photo is Fr Stephen Farragher P.P.

The Original Ballyhaunis Christmas Lights

BREDA BURKE REMEMBERS...

When speaking to my brother James in Manchester, we were talking about the cost of living and how people will have to cut back on their energy usage. I told him that people are thinking of not putting up Christmas Trees or Lights this year to save on energy and high costs.



James and
Bridie Toolan.

He reminded me that our Dad, Jimmy Toolan, was the first man to put up the Christmas Lights in Ballyhaunis, sometime in the late 1950s. He was employed by Denis Hannan who had an electrical shop in Bridge Street. In early December each year Dad would arrive home to Devlis with the lights. James would help him to spread them out over the kitchen floor. Dad would check every light to make sure it was working. Needless to say, they were not like today's lights: they were big, coloured bulbs.

On the 8th of December Dad would put up the lights in the town standing on a ladder. There were no cherry-pickers in those days! He was so happy and proud of his work when it was all completed.

Sadly, he was only fifty-nine when he died suddenly on the 6th August 1969. My Mum died twenty-two months later on the 16th June 1971 aged fifty-four years. Denis and his wife Ea also died suddenly in the prime of their lives. Hopefully, they are all at peace and that the lights of Heaven are shining on them.

Visits From Manchester

MIKE GRIFFIN (MANCHESTER)

Our late Dad, Michael Griffin, as his gravestone tells us, was late of Ballymoe, Manchester and Johnstown, Ballyhaunis. We all look back on our parents and grandparents fondly and each family who emigrated from the West has its own story. I will tell you a little of the Griffins from Ballymoe and the Lyons from Ballyhaunis. Mickey Griffin left Ballymoe in 1956 at the age of 29. He had been lucky, bright and gifted. Many left at 14 or 15 to labour, housekeep or work in factories. Blessed with hard work, faith and determination many built successful lives in new lands. Many did not, struggling with loneliness and lives of hardship and decay; as Christy Moore wrote: "Can't go home now because of the shame, I'd give all for the price of the flight." But Mickey was lucky.

Unlike many of his countrymen he left Ireland with a trade. He was a 'motor engineer'. "Not a fitter like today, but an engineer", I can hear him say. He could rebuild an engine, gearbox, or any mechanical part, and often we watched him, captivated, the permanent Benson & Hedges hanging from his mouth, lit from his welding torch! He found work immediately with one of the truck dealers in Manchester and made lifelong friends in the Irish pubs of Moss Side, Hulme and Rusholme. He soon set up his own small garage repairing the trucks of people from those pubs and clubs.

He was lucky to befriend John, Jim and Michael Connell from Redford. They ran a thriving demolition company and he repaired their fleet of trucks as he

established his business. He lodged in one of the Connell's houses and, on the luckiest day of his life, he met Babe Lyons from Redford, lodging in another Connell house down the street. He offered to teach her to drive, which she accepted. A courtship commenced and Mum passed her driving test - twenty years later! They were married in 1961, settled in Manchester and had six sons between 1962 and 1972. Michael and Babe never lost their love of home. They returned to Redford, to the Lyons farm, every summer and Mickey never missed a year of his beloved Galway Races from the year he left until the day he died in 2003.

Mum and Dad gave us six lads many gifts, but the greatest of them was our Irish roots and those long summer holidays. We gained a love of Ballyhaunis, Ballymoe and Granlahan; and split loyalties between Mayo, Galway and Roscommon. I look back and think how proud he'd be that we can walk into Paddy Delaney's (Gareth's), his local, or any pub in Ballinlough and be treated as locals.

Holiday Home

In the 1980's Mum and Dad bought a house in Johnstown, built on an acre field previously owned by my Grandad, John Lyons. They both loved that house and it is still a great holiday home which Babe treasures. Dad has been described as many things - an entrepreneur, a joker, a grafter, a very bad singer, a clever



Haymaking behind Michael and Babe Griffin's house in Johnstown in the 1990s. Included are, from left: Seamus Walsh, Michael Griffin, Pat Doyle, Jimmy Cribbin and John Joe Lilly.

man, a tough man and a character. Yes, he was a character, fun to be with and full of tales and stories - some of them even true. He bought the last drink on the old Manchester Racecourse, a half bottle of brandy after the bar had closed. He was always last to leave, a trait passed on to his sons and now to his grandchildren. He lived for 'the deal' whether it was £20 off a suit or a dress or a car he'd bought for half its true value. "Any fool can buy a bad cow", he said, "but show me the man who can sell one." In the '80s he visited driving a Bentley car, one he'd repaired and put back on the road. The car was parked outside Jackie Collins' pub in Ballymoe (another local... he had a few.) A local man walked in and sat to enjoy a drink with the returning Griffin. "I suppose that's your fancy car outside?" he asked. "It is", Dad replied. "Jesus Mickey look at you now, I knew you when you had a bad ass and cart." November 2003, as we look back now, was a fitting end.

In retirement he bought Connemara ponies. He had bought three at the fair at Maam Cross and was fixing a gate to put them into the field in Redford on the farm of our uncle Paddy Lyons. He became short of breath, the severe asthma brought on by years lying under trucks kicked in, and his struggle for breath brought on a heart attack. His friend Patsy and neighbour Paddy Waldron carried him up to the house and he breathed his last. A working man who died with his boots on, unloading his beloved ponies. When Mum arrived he was laying in the kitchen where Dad had first met John and Margaret Lyons, her parents. Traumatic and sudden for us all at the time, but looking back now, such a fitting way for him to go.

The six families gather at Babe's house in Manchester every Christmas morning and on other occasions his fourteen grandchildren. I know he'd be proud of every one of them. This Christmas Mum's first great-grandchild, Poppy Jones, born last September, will be with us. She will be brought up on stories of her great-grandad and hopefully will continue to make those trips to Johnstown, Redford and Ballymoe.



Michael Griffin and Jim Fitzgerald (Redford) tying up a cock of hay.



Michael Griffin at the Connemara Pony Fair in Maam Cross.

The Next Generation.
 Baby Poppy Jones with Great-Granny Babe Griffin (Johnstown and Redford), proud Grandad Paul Griffin and Mum Ciara Jones.



Mikey's Story

BY GRANDAD GRADY

It was a journey of a lifetime
Though I'm only six months old,
I've been through so many ups and downs
Or so I have been told.
It was a journey that I'll never forget
I put you through so much worry and pain,
But I know I'll make you proud of me
And that it wasn't all in vain.

When I came into this world
I was just a little tot,
I was just over two pounds in weight
And to live was asking a lot,
With all the love around me
Doctors, nurses, Mom and Dad,
I knew I had a fight ahead
But I couldn't make them sad.

There were prayers, novenas, Mass cards
From all around the globe,
And every night they put me down
They would say how much I throve.
I was in an incubator
For at least two months or more,
I was fed with a tube up my nose
Oh my God it was uncomfortable and sore.

I was barely 26 weeks old
When I left my mother's womb.
Most people thought I wouldn't live
I had come from there too soon.
The nurses were wonderful
They never left me alone,
And none of them could understand
That I was breathing on my own.

Well, the days and nights passed slowly by
And I was getting strong.
Then just before Christmas Eve
We were told we could move along.
It was my first journey on a plane
All on my very own.
Mom and Dad could not come with me
They were told there was no room.

So it was straight away to Palmy
To reunite with Mom and Dad,
And to meet Grandma and Grandad
And the siblings that they had.
I spent another 52 days there
Getting ready for my next move.
For I knew that getting home to Perth
Was something I had to prove.

When I finally made that journey
It was the best day of my life,
I can settle down now and relax
No more need for struggle and strife,
Well, little did I realise
The shock that lay in store,
For just a few days later
Who was standing at the door?

It was Granny and Grandad from Ireland
They had come out all this way,
To see their first little grandson
Oh, there was nothing I could say.
Well we've had so much laughter
Huddles, cuddles and smiles,
But I hate to think what lies ahead
When it comes to say the goodbyes.

Now today is another big day for me
I'm getting rid of my venial sin,
In a little church not far from here,
But a long way from Loughglynn.
I could go on for a long time more,
But I will have to cut it at this spot,
But remember, I have come a long, long way
Since I said I was just a little tot.



Declan and Ferne with Mikey on Declan's first meeting
with their son, five weeks after he was born.

Some background to 'Mikey's Story'

Declan Grady of Gorthaganny and Ferne Robinson married in her native New Zealand in 2019 and live in Perth, Western Australia. Ferne was six months pregnant and visiting family in New Zealand when, on the day before she was due to return to Perth, the borders were shut due to Covid-19 lockdowns and, despite numerous attempts, she was unable to leave the country.

While stranded there, on 7th October 2021, after her waters broke and multiple infections, she was airlifted to Wellington hospital where she delivered their son Mikey via emergency c-section at exactly twenty-six weeks gestation and weighing just 992 grams (2 lbs, 2 ounces). Unfortunately, Declan was stuck in Perth and could not get a visa or a flight, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

Eventually, after a long, hard battle, on 9th November, five weeks after the birth of his son, he was reunited with his wife and got to meet his son for the first time. Since then they have faced and overcome many hurdles including heart surgery, hernia surgery, infections, too many tests and procedures to name and many sleepless nights with baby Mikey fighting daily for his life.

Mikey came home to Perth on 8th April 2022 and is doing fantastic. His family wish to thank one and all for



*Above left: Mikey on his Christening Day.
Above right: Carmel and Micheál Grady with their grandson Mikey in Perth, April 2022.*

all their support during a most difficult year. Mikey's grandparents Micheál and Carmel Grady are well known in Ballyhaunis through Micheál's involvement with Connaught Scaffolding Ltd. since its establishment in the early 1970s. They made a surprise visit to Perth earlier this year, a very special occasion for which Micheál penned the accompanying poem.

(Declan was interviewed on Australia radio, this can be found by googling 'Declan Grady interview in Australia')

Local Auctioneer Elected IPAV President

Congratulations to Gerry Coffey who has been elected President of IPAV (Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers). Gerry, who lives in Grange, Granlahan, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon is a well-known auctioneer with an office based in Williamstown, Co. Galway. He is a native of Annagh parish, coming originally from Tullaghaune, Ballyhaunis.

As the country's largest representative body for Auctioneers and Valuers, the IPAV supports over 1,500 members across the 32 counties. Gerry is first IPAV President from the Western region for twenty-one years. Gerry is a past pupil of Granlahan National School and Ballyhaunis Community School. Outside of business Gerry is well known in farming and political circles. He ran for Fine Gael in the 2019 local elections and currently serves as secretary of the party's Roscommon District Executive. He is also involved with Michael Glavey's GAA club and has been club chairman for two separate terms. Gerry is married to Anne and the couple have three children, Edel, Joanne and Thomas. He is pictured here (right) with Ballyhaunis and Mayo dual star Keith Higgins who was a speaker at the recent IPAV conference.



Scoil Íosa Ballyhaunis

KENNETH DENNEDY (PRINCIPAL)

Ar son chuile duine í Scoil Íosa ba mhaith liom Beannachtaí Na Féile a bhronnadh chuig gach duine I bParóiste Béal Atha hAmhnais agus thar lear. Agus chun buíochas a gabhail chuig gach duine ar son an méid tacaíochta a bhronntar ar ár Scoil í mbliana.

2022 has been a busy year at Scoil Íosa and one in which we have seen major changes to the overall operation of our school. In April we learned that the school had been granted DEIS status (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) which set in motion a series of changes to be in place for the beginning of the new school year. We now have reduced class sizes, extra teachers to support the children's learning, hot school meals, funding for extracurricular activities and the appointment of Sheena Flanagan as Home School Community Liaison Officer. While we have always prided ourselves on the standards of our children in terms of behaviour and attainment, the new status will undoubtedly lead to us reaching new heights.

The past year has also, thankfully, seen a return to normality after the difficult circumstances foisted upon us by the Covid19 virus. The children have been able to, once again, take part in sporting and social activities which were curtailed or cancelled during the previous couple of years.

First Holy Communion

2022 saw a welcome return of our First Holy Communion to the traditional time for our First Communion ceremony. This year's ceremony took place on Saturday, 14th May in St. Patrick's Church. The following children received the sacrament on the day: Peter Cervenak, Kamil Keles, Victoria McDonagh, Sofia Maughan, Kaitlin McDonagh, Rimghaile Staniulyte, Leon Barcanec, Patrick McCormack, Brajan danilczuk, Darren Nkongho, Kleber Lucas Alves Da Silva, Robin Webb, Emily McDonagh, Lorena Turi, Tommy McDonagh, Sabina Polishova, Lily Penzes, Larissa Simuncic, Jaroslav Lavrovic, Phoebe McNamara, Gary Maughan, Hazel Murphy, Robert Polak, Nóra Ní Laighin, Sonny Jay Kelly, Kyle Regan Hayes, John Caulfield, Niamh Conlon.

Sports News

The children competed in Mini-7s football and hurling, Cumann na mBunscol leagues and in the Primary School athletics championships. In all cases the relief and excitement of involvement in competition and the novelty of travelling together to the events far outweighed the competing, given that these competitions had not been staged over the previous two years. The competition itself was keen and in all cases our representatives acquitted themselves well.



First Holy Communion Class 2022, with teachers Sharlene Ruane, Lisa Watchorn and Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P.

Photo Glynn's Photography Castlereagh



Staff of Scoil Íosa Primary School, Ballyhaunis, 29th August 2022

Back row, L-R: Marissa Brett, Séan Kenny, Carole Freeley, Sharlene Ruane, Labhaoise Cunnane, Claire Walshe, Róisín Prendergast-Freeman, Josh Ronayne, James Cullinane, Dónall O'Brien (Asst. Principal), Roseanne Nolan. **Third row, L-R:** Dervla Phillips, Lisa Watchorn, Niamh Connolly, Caroline Campbell, Emily Worden, Ciara Byrne-Russell, Joanne Forde, Ciara Richardson, Úna McCabe, Michelle Nally, Emer Ryan, Sarah Scully. **Second row, L-R:** Sheena Flanagan, Eimear Finn, Emma Corr, Marian Nally, Olivia Burke, Karen Nolan, Breda Slattery, Annie Kelly, Marian Byrne, Tara Cusack, Elaine Brady. **Front row, L-R:** Elaine Burke, Anne Durkan, Marina Coyne, Aishling Toal, Kevin Henry (Deputy Principal), Kenneth Denny (Principal), Carmel Cassidy, Diane Marigliano, Miriam Judge, Maria Coyne, Edel Maher. (Photograph by Fr. Stephen Farragher)

However, in sporting terms the absolute highlight of the year was the 'Hurling for Hope' event held in late March. Having close links with the event through the involvement of Assistant Principal Dónall O'Brien and Board of Management member Darren Conlon, as well as numerous parents, in the organisation of the initiative, the school embraced it wholeheartedly. As a group we were humbled by our association with Hurling for Hope and were proud to be able to participate actively both through fundraising and by helping with the send-off of

the group on the penultimate leg of their journey to Roscommon. Thanks to our Junior Infants and to their teachers for organising a sponsored walk in aid of the appeal and to all of our pupils for their fundraising efforts in what was the School's single greatest fundraising event in memory.

Boys Football Team: Pavel Cobzaru, Thomas Curran, Senan Heaney, Joshua Maughan, Liam Nolan, Tomás Ó Laighin, Nikodem Zborowski, Cathal Conlon, Sean Donnellan, Jake McNamara, Jeff Nolan, Denis Ryan, Jamie Doyle, Evan Feeney, Charlie Finn, Oisín Finnegan, Ben Gallagher, James Ó Laighin, Cian Murphy, Shane Nolan.

Girls Football Team: Eileen O'Toole, Erin Higgins, Alice Curran, Abbie Gildea, Abbi Norrby, Anna Kelly, Nawal Mujtaba, Aibhe Donnellan, Katie Conlon, Michaela Kavanagh, Cara Walsh, Róisín Murphy, Kate Monaghan, Estela Balbino, Anabelle McGowan, Michaela Maughan, Nikol Udovic, Andrea Ward.



Pupils and staff of Scoil Íosa presenting the proceeds of their fundraising drive to Keith Higgins of Hurling for Hope earlier this year.

Hurling Team: Tomás Ó Laighin, Pavel Cobzaru, Thomas Curran, Liam Nolan, Senan Heaney, Miguel Cala, Joshua Maughan, Seán Donnellan, Cathal Conlon, Jeff Nolan, James Ó Laighin, Cian Murphy, Oisín Finnegan, Shane Nolan, Ben Gallagher, Katie Conlon, Aibhe Donnellan.

School Staff 2022-2023:

Kenneth Dennedy (Principal), Kevin Henry (Deputy Principal), Dónall O'Brien (Asst. Principal), Lisa Watchorn, Ciara Byrne, Dervla Phillips, Caroline Campbell, Eimear Finn, Carole Freeley, Joanne Forde, Miriam Judge, Ciara Richardson, Sharlene Ruane, Aishling Toal, Niamh Connolly, Elaine Burke, Emer Ryan, Olivia Burke, Emily Worden, Tara Cusack, Claire Walshe, Annie Kelly, Elaine Brady, Marian Byrne, Anne Durkan, Sean Kenny, Karen Boyle, Labhaoise Cunnane, Michelle Flatley, Úna McCabe, Marissa Brett, Diane Marigliano, Thomas Corless, Maria Campbell, Edel Maher, Sarah Scully, Josh Ronayne, Breda Slattery, Samantha Cleary, Sheena Flanagan, Marian Nally, Roisín Prendergast, Marina

Coyne, James Cullinane, Roseanne Nolan, Matthew Cummins, Carmel Cassidy (Secretary), Helena Gill (Secretary).

School Board of Management

James Reidy (Chairperson), Fr. Stephen Farragher (Vice Chairperson), Kenneth Dennedy, Eddie Murphy, Eileen Donnellan, Darren Conlon, Marian Feeney, Samantha Cleary.



Murt Hunt's Prizewinning Letters to 'The Sunday Independent'

Old Good Fridays

Sir,

What a beautiful morning on this Good Friday, especially with the newly arrived swallows sitting happily on the ESB wires and the cuckoo singing his head off in the distance. Following with tradition I had to walk outside, on rising, in my bare feet whilst saying some prayers. What a change from Good Fridays of the past, though, when oats and barley had to be sowed on the day, as it was a lucky day to do so - though it was the only work permitted on the day. Fields had to be prepared in the days beforehand to have them ready for the sowing. I was up early to follow my father as he shook the seed by hand, saying, "One for the pigeon, One for the crow, One for the grub and Two to grow."

It was up-and-down that field for hours with the horse and pin harrow covering the seed and, when I asked if it was enough runs, the answer always would be, "Sure give it another run or two." Of course the job had to be completed in time so that we could make the Good Friday ceremonies, walking again of course. I often wondered how many miles we covered on those particular occasions?

No meat was allowed in those days except fish and, in some cases, dry toast and black tea was the norm, especially with the older folk. No shops or businesses of any kind were open in the towns. No nails were to be driven under any circumstances as we were told it was the same as driving the nails into the Cross on Calvary.

Good Fridays nowadays have completely changed. Shops and businesses open and all kinds of work are in progress. The day of fast and abstinence long gone and the latest development is public houses opening on the day.

I think they were wonderful people to observe those traditions in those far off days, and indeed they were very close to God.

Overpaid and Overpriced

Sir,

So Solskjaer's tenure as manager at Manchester United has finally come to an end, at long last. He was given every chance to redeem himself as manager, but he was always flogging a dead horse and most of his players did not give him much help in their attitude towards saving his career. A bunch of players costing billions that continually under-achieved, especially against lower regarded teams, is not the Man Utd. team I knew so many years ago, when the players would give their right hands to defend their great club tradition and manager.

I worked as a bus conductor in Manchester in the mid-sixties and part of the job was bringing Man Utd.

supporters to matches in Old Trafford. We all (drivers and conductors) put our names down for those match buses which were free of charge to supporters, being paid for by the Man Utd. Board. The biggest bonus of all was that we, as drivers and conductors, got into those matches free of charge and had a great view from the top of the stadium. What a privilege to view the great 'Man U.' team of that era; to see George Best float past several defenders and score glorious goals; Denis Law showing his wizardry in mesmerising defences; and Bobby Charlton lashing the ball to the net from a distance. One of them could always be depended on to pull the cat out of the fire if they were losing, while a superb defence could be relied on to keep goals out at the other end. What a privilege, but no surprise, to see the team of that era win the European Cup in 1968. I will never forget the celebrations in Manchester city centre when the cup came home.

So, what a change to see our overpriced and overpaid present Man Utd. panel seeming not to care about the club, their manager, their team mates or football in general, as long as their pockets are lined each week, whether they make the starting team or not. What would the late Matt Busby make of it all?

Bureaucracy?

Sir,

I am a 75 year-old farmer trying to keep the farm ticking over to the best of my ability, which is not easy. I am in a few schemes and never had any problem with them having a very good consultant to look after my affairs in GLAS, etc. In the BEAM scheme, which has to do with farm emissions, I was instructed to cut back on the amount of stock as the emissions were over and above my farm entitlements. On account of Covid-19 there was no way I could cut down on stock as I could not go to marts and was not experienced to sell on-line. However, when things settled back I sold twelve cattle, only to be told that it was no good at that stage and the letter stated that, "You cannot export emissions." So the department are stopping €1,300 from me. I appealed, only to be told by letter that I had every chance of going to a mart and disposing of stock prior to the date which I had done.

I would like to find out:

No. 1. How can somebody sitting in a comfortable chair in the Farming Centre know how much emissions come from a bull or heifer? No two would be the same.

No. 2. Why airplanes in their hundreds fly over Ireland day-after-day and the emissions are never queried, even though emissions from cars are?

No. 3. How many emissions from cattle equal that of

a massive jet airplane, or how many from cars do the same?

No. 4. Is there no respect for older farmers anymore, or can someone in an office tell them in no uncertain terms what they can or cannot do?

No. 5. Why I was instructed about another scheme

ANC, to qualify for which I must maintain a stocking density of 0.15 livestock units per hectare for seven consecutive months?

No. 6. Am I losing it completely or is it time I gave up this crazy lifestyle dictated by office staff most of whom never stood on a farm?

The Temptation 1959

My sister and I go with daddy to pay the bills.

Everyone slips us a six-pence.

The money jingles in our pockets,
itching to be spent.

I see the Easter Egg on Hopkins window
not just any egg but a huge oval
of thick silky chocolate,
covered in golden foil,
in a blue box, tied with red ribbon.

I gaze at the egg

then look across the street to Mrs. Murren's window
full of jars and boxes of twelve-a-penny sweets.

Dilemma.

Will I buy this one exotic egg for myself
or spend my two and six on a life supply to share?

My eyes dart from one to the other.

The golden egg radiant
amid tins of peas, pears, peaches
and packets of *Lifebuoy soap*.

My heart misses a beat,
Mrs. Murren's window bulges
with gobstoppers, bull's eyes, jelly babies
peggy's legs, liquorish all sorts, toffies.

My head spinning I eventually
settle on a large paper bag of sweets.

My sister saunters up the street,
glances at the egg and without losing stride
strolls into Hopkins' and buys the golden egg
for herself.

ANNE IRWIN (NÉE HUGHES)
OF GALWAY AND FORMERLY OF
UPPER MAIN STREET, BALLYHAUNIS.



Taken on Main Street this summer. L-R: Brothers Patrick and Jarlath Phillips, Declan Phillips and neighbour Robert Finn home from Sydney, Australia.



Taken in Philadelphia in the early 1990s. From left: Sarah and Declan Phillips (Main St. and Limerick), John Lynskey with his parents Martin Lynskey (formerly Gurteen) and his wife Margaret (née Hopkins of Larganboy).



Pictured in Phillips' Bar, Main Street in the 1990s. From left: John Comer, Jerry Mulvihill (Co. Kerry), Paddy Fanning, Mick Mulrennan, Matt Healy, Michael Lynskey, Declan Phillips (behind bar).

Last Orders at Captain Lyons'

WILLIAM NESTOR

Two American tourists walk into a bar. Claude and Maud are tracing their Irish roots. James Lyons stands behind the counter. A lit Major in hand, braces over starched blue shirt, square-framed glasses sliding down his nose.

Captivated by the character and mystique of this stumbled-upon public house, it takes a few moments for the Yanks to land their attention upon the proprietor who has already begun the internal interview process.

"Welcome to Ballyhaunis," the boss says. "What will it be?"

"Gee, gosh, I dunno Claude," Maud mutters to her husband. "You think they got highballs here, honey?"

Meanwhile, James busies himself handwashing and polishing glasses as the Cincinnatians consider their options. Overseas visitors are few and far between in Ballyhaunis. However, James always looks forward to the annual summer return of his sister, Mary, from the States. For the past 25 years she has never failed to gift a bottle of Canadian Club Whiskey to her beloved brother.

"I'd doubt it Maud, but let's see," Claude takes over the exchange. "Hey fella, you got any Canadian Club back there?"

The retort: "I can do you a bottle or a case."

=====

Stories like this from Captain Lyons' are ten a penny. And the tellers of the yarns are a rare breed today - if not almost extinct. For more than 125 years; characters and codgers, wheelers and dealers, friends and fighters have passed through the doors of what was initially founded as the Commercial Hotel.

The original James Lyons was born in 1852, son of George Lyons, a classics hedge-school teacher who married a Dublin lady by the surname of Wade. James was one of five children and married Catherine Josephine O'Reilly. Together they had fifteen children and established the Commercial Hotel in the late 1800s.

In 2008, a distant cousin of mine, Henry Murdoch, penned an article entitled 'Only the Finest Lagnours Supplied' for the Annagh Magazine. Henry goes into detail regarding his grandfather James Lyons, his early beginnings and the search for the meaning to the word 'lagnours' which was included in an advertisement for the Commercial Hotel. To this day, the most commonly held opinion is that lagnours means wines.

Not long after the turn of the twentieth century, the



1975: James Lyons (behind counter), Mick O'Connell and Johnny Gallagher.

Commercial Hotel underwent a change of façade in keeping with its new successor, Thomas Lyons, my grandfather whom I never met. We understand that Thomas was the original "Captain", although confusion remains surrounding the purpose of the nickname. He neither served in the army nor played for a football team!

Thomas Lyons met and married Margaret Ruane from Knox Street and continued the thriving business on Main Street. Bed and board for travelling salesmen, fishing tackle for anglers, fine delph, trinkets, bed linen, groceries and, of course, creamy porter were all on tap and tick. My grandmother Margaret, affectionately known as Babs, ran the front shop for the most part, whilst Thomas tended to the bar. From the 1940s and up into the 1970s, Lyons' became an institution in Ballyhaunis – a hub of sorts for many gatherings and important appointments.

Every Tuesday, a well-known vet by the name of Paddy Gavigan from Kiltimagh visited the establishment. Farmers would make it their business to be there early to seek essential assistance and advice from Paddy. Meanwhile, the Anglers Society, which was once a very popular and well-attended organisation in Ballyhaunis, held their monthly meetings on the premises.

On the weekends, solicitor Tom Byrne from Knock rented the dining room for five shillings. Clients would sit patiently in the hallway waiting to speak with Tom. And the soliciting didn't end there. On Saturday nights,



James Lyons' in the late nineteenth century.

Fine Gael TD, Paddy O'Toole, would hold his clinics in the same dining room. I'm told on very busy nights a young and enthusiastic Jim Higgins would sit and chat with the overflow in the kitchen!

In the late 1970s, my uncle James Lyons, (the aforementioned Canadian Club hoarder), took over the reins. But it is from the early 1990s onwards that my memories of the pub and all who frequented it surface and, to a greater extent, when my Uncle Tommie began to work in the pub as much as he did on the farm in Barheen.

Sunday was a huge day in James Lyons' bar. It would be shoulder-to-shoulder after Mass. Sing-songs were a guarantee and the place seemed to sway with conviviality and companionship. Trying to keep up with the glass-washing was an unenviable task for my sister Laura, whose post I duly took over after she went off to college.

I enjoyed waiting for Uncle James to sing. Dead silence every time he took to a rendition of Galway Bay or The West's Awake. James was popular and witty and generous. He was very much missed after he passed. My Uncle Tommie was a quieter soul. A Merchant Navy man who came home to farm the land. Following James'

untimely death, Tommie continued to run the bar and made sure to cater for the country man as much as the townsman.

The regulars spent in shillings before punts and chattered in cattle. Deals were struck, legs were added to stories and jokes were cracked. I always admired Uncle Tommie's persistence, right up until the pub's closure, to refrain from allowing anything more electrical in the bar than a radio. On Sundays, only if Mayo were playing or it was All-Ireland Final Day, the television set would be carried in from the kitchen. Spirits were poured free-hand and a timber box sufficed as a cash register, while the open fire blazing and hot toddies were the only source of heat on cold winter days.

Laughter and story-telling was at the heart of Captain's or Lyons', or Tommie's, or whichever name you may have come to call it at any particular time in the past. Sadly, Uncle Tommie left us last year and his departure meant the time had come to lift the parting glass to Captain Lyons. The friends the Lyons family has made over the years - whether they be from near or far away - are remembered and reminisced. And on behalf of my mother Eileen, I wish to thank them all.



From a postcard depicting James Lyons' business premises in the early twentieth century. There have been several theories as to the theory of the mysterious word 'Lagnours' painted on the building. Research shared by Patrick Prendergast of Gurrane suggests that it is a plural form of the Dutch / Old Saxon word for 'Lakan' meaning cloth, usually referring to bed linen.



James Lyons' as it is today and has been for many years.

Last Orders at Captain Lyons'



Pic 1: 2005: Tommy Lyons (behind bar), Mike Lyons, Frank Healy, Val Lyons (partly hidden), Paddy Fitzmaurice, Gabriel Forkan.

Pic 2: Jimmy Finnegan (right) with his brother-in-law Jack Mullan from New York.

Pic 3: 1959: From left: Thomas Lyons, Margaret 'Babs' Lyons, Eileen Lyons (Nestor) and James Lyons.

Pic 4: Making Music in the Doorway.
Standing: Mark Connery, Ciara Healy.
Seated: Ian Connery and Noreen Lyons.

Pic 5: 1975: Mick O'Connell, Mick Moran, Paddy Walsh, John Hunt, Johnny Mullarkey.



Nice Names

I heard of someone – Tiger Lily,
Autie Bones and poor John Willie
Plant them,
Mourn them,
Hail who bore them –
Blessings to our ears.

I knew nice people; Lucy Flynn,
Ellen Peter, and Pat the Wren.
I sometimes see their loving eyes
Though long they've journeyed through the skies.

Drumlusty is a fertile name,
Its school house brought it quiet fame.
Four times I pass it every day
Now, it teems with bales of hay.

Urban names have magic too
Newtownbutler and Lisdoo.
Stoneybatter with a blue horse-cart
He left there, at the Cattle Mart.

A curlew and a young corncrake
Were cradled near to Mannin Lake.
Poor Máirtín Byrne he missed their quake
Though nearing dusk, he's not awake.

Eugene Carney, Breda Larney,
Jack the Bottles and Gusheen Finn,
Pat the Pullet, Rosie Kiernan,
Tailor Hopkins and dear Anne Wynne.

All these names, to me are special,
Yet there's still so many more
Polly Kelly and Mary Lally
They sometimes haunt me, with their lore.

A tired brain pours out its musings,
Let you rest near white snowdrop
Dream your dreams neath tangled brambblings
I will meet you – join the crop

(For names I love and friends who are dead).

CHRISTINA JOHNSTON
(ERRIFF & BEKAN)

Headstone Epitaph for My Mom and Dad

Under the crumbled gable of this church
Lie two hard labourers of these ravaged
fields;
Think of them gently as you pause or pass!
Their work was long like yours,
Their troubles deep.
Therefore salute their spirit but don't weep.
They fought their corner and returned to
sleep.
Their atoms will recur in future stars,
But their fine courage will live on in us
Their children, who are proud to carry on
Using a different matter and palette –
Facing the hostile future, as they had done.

ANDREW JOHNSTON
(ERRIFF & BEKAN)

Written in Began Cemetery for Andy
and Ciss Johnston (Erriff)

Ros Run



Ballyhaunis runners who took part in the Ros Run on Saturday, 10th September 2022. From Left: Martin Fitzmaurice (10K) Karen Clancy (Half Marathon), John Christopher Halpin (Half Marathon), Justin McDonagh (10K).

Community School Class of 1977-1982 40 Year Reunion

NOREEN KEEGAN (KAVANAGH)

On 30th July 2022, the Ballyhaunis Community School Class of 1977 - 1982 held its forty year reunion in MacSiúrtáin's, Ballyhaunis. Seventeen former classmates travelled to attend the fourth reunion for this group. Numbers attending this year were much lower than the previous years of 1992, 2002 and 2012. John Joe Lyons, originally from Bekan, travelled from California, USA to attend, with the rest based locally and nationally.

The years for the reunions have always been in the diary for every ten years following our departure from BCS, however, deciding the date proved difficult. At the time of choosing the date, we were unaware of plans to hold the Summer Festival on the same weekend. However, our concern was more surrounding the welfare of one of our classmates Nuala Nolan who had been critically injured in an accident at her B & B premises in Upper Main Street a few weeks earlier. Thankfully, we heard some positive news on the day. The group signed a 'Get Well' card for Nuala and organised a collection among the group to donate to the Nolan family on behalf of Nuala. Stephen Nolan gratefully accepted the

donation of €500 which would be donated to the Burns Unit in St. James' Hospital.

On the night, we also acknowledged our classmates who have passed away: James Cruise, Gerry Murphy, Deirdre Durkin, Marie Ruane, Nora Glynn, James Waldron, Tommy Moran and James Morley. May they Rest in Peace.

A great night was had recalling our years in the Community School and catching up with each other. There were numerous apologies from those who wished to attend but who, unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond their control, could not make it on the night. We hope to organise a reunion again in 2027 which will be our forty-five year reunion.

The organisers were Noreen Keegan and Elizabeth Cuddy. Thanks also to Joanna Webb and Stephen Nolan.



Members of the Community School Class of 1977-82 who gathered for a reunion this summer.

L-R: Liam Smyth, Peter McHugh, Frank Henry, John Fitzgerald, Bernadette Mulkeen, Trena Flatley, Maureen Culliney, Stephen Nolan, Delia Waldron, Caroline Levins, Brendan Kelly, John Joe Lyons, Regina Hunt, Padraig Cunnane, Elizabeth Cuddy, Joanna Webb, Noreen Keegan.



Noreen Keegan and Caroline Levins.



Liam Smyth, Peter McHugh and Pdraig Cunnane.



John Fitzgerald and Noreen Keegan.



John Joe Lyons and Pdraig Cunnane.



Trena Flatley and Frank Henry.



Regina Hunt and Gerry O'Connell.



Joanna Webb and Bernadette Mulkeen.



Stephen Nolan and Delia Waldron.



Maureen Culliney and Pdraig Cunnane.



Left:
Peter McHugh,
Trena Flatley,
Delia Waldron.

Right:
Elizabeth Cuddy
and Regina Hunt.



Ballyhaunis Faith & Light

ANNE LYONS



When the parents of Thaddée and Loie brought them on a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1968 they felt excluded and unwelcomed. On returning home they decided to gather like-minded people to plan a special pilgrimage for their sons, their friends with special needs and their families. In 1971 this special pilgrimage took place to Lourdes and so Faith & Light began. After such a wonderful experience in Lourdes they wanted to keep meeting and this gave rise to the Faith & Light Fiestas. Now there are 1,612 communities in 81 countries. In October 2021 Pope Francis acknowledged the 50th Jubilee of Faith Light. Ballyhaunis is the newest community in Ireland and we held our first Fiesta on 15th March 2018.

The Ballyhaunis Faith & Light Community enjoyed another successful year. Since last year's report we continued with our 'special' packages for Halloween and Christmas 2021. Unfortunately, we commenced the year still with Covid restrictions, though that didn't stop us from connecting with our members through sending Valentine Packages in February and St. Patrick's Day Cards in March.

With the lifting of restrictions the Faith & Light National Assembly was held last March in Castlebar at which Julia Kelly and Orla Phillips attended. 21st May

saw the welcome return to the Annual Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, which we helped to organise. It was a wonderful day meeting up again in person with our own members and those who travelled from all over Ireland to join in community celebration.

Youth retreat to France

Back in June, when the sunshine here in Ireland was still hiding behind the rain clouds, a group of people from the parish of Ballyhaunis and from our Faith & Light community, joined other people from around Ireland and headed off to France where beautiful blue skies and sunshine greeted us as we touched down in Paris. The group, led by Fr. Fergal Cunnane, P.P. of Dunmore and Faith and Light chaplain, were looking forward to spending several days together on a Youth Retreat at a place called La Ferme in Trosly-Breuil, which is part of L'Arche. It was here, back in 1964, that the first L'Arche Community was founded. L'Arche communities, like Faith & Light, are worldwide. There are four in Ireland. L'Arche, meaning 'ark', is where people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together creating communities of friendship and belonging. Some members of the group visited a few of the different houses in Trosly-Breuil and enjoyed sharing meals with the families.

The theme of this year's retreat was "Come and See". The facilitators of our group talks were members of the L'Arche community along with several members of our own group. In this beautiful, peaceful place, we had an opportunity to connect with God; to pray, to think and reflect. During our time at La Ferme we certainly felt God's presence and guidance on numerous occasions. We celebrated mass every day and were joined by the French community in their beautiful chapel. We were so fortunate to have talented musicians in our group and their contributions during the Masses were very special and moving.

During our time spent together, where we both laughed and cried, lovely friendships were formed, gifts and talents shared by all and lasting memories made.

If anyone is interested in attending a Youth retreat in La Ferme next year (over 18 years only) please contact a member of the Ballyhaunis Faith and light group via St. Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.

Other events

It was so exciting to be able to host our Barbecue this summer. It was held in the Community Hall, Clare Court on Sunday, 3rd July. This was the first time that most of our group met in person since February 2020. It was



Some of the Ballyhaunis Faith & Light group at La Ferme, France, during the Youth retreat. L-R: Joicy Nunes, Orla Phillips Wiktor Siemionkowski, Christina Concannon, Julia Kelly and Barry Griffin.

such an enjoyable gathering. Some members of the Dunmore Faith & Light joined us on the day.

On 25th September we held a Fiesta which focused on Thanksgiving and Caring for our Creation. Pope Francis established 1st September as World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation with this year's theme being, 'Listen to the Voice of Creation'. So we drew the theme of our Fiesta from this. We ended the occasion celebrating our friend Bridget's special birthday by sharing a delicious cake.

We will be holding our Halloween and Christmas Fiestas after this report goes to print. Our community will also be participating in the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal again this year.

We would like to congratulate Fr. Fergal Cunnane, P.P. of Dunmore, who is the new National chaplain to Faith & Light communities in Ireland and wish him well. We also wish to thank our local chaplain Fr. Stephen Farragher for his continued support.

We are looking forward to the continued growth of our Faith & Light Community in 2023. If anyone is interested in joining us please feel free to contact us. This year we have welcomed on board two new volunteer members, Christine Concannon and Mary Stanley.

Julia Kelly – **Chairperson** (086) 0764709.

Anne Lyons – **Secretary** (087) 6892848

Geraldine O'Dwyer – **Treasurer**.

Committee members: Orla Phillips, Christina Concannon, Mary Stanley.



The Ballyhaunis Faith & Light group gathered with other groups at La Ferme in France during the Youth Retreat, June 2022.

Ballyhaunis Faith & Light



An Craoslach

Noel Lyons

*An Craoslach we shall rename you.
As the lake that swallows tears.
The beauty of your nature juxtaposed with agony.
You have known and worn for many years.*

*Question again with endless how's and why.
Answer please Creator. Diamond cutter of the sky.*

*Too numb to understand or even feel
The substance of existence. An empty shell.
As your people stood with Eoghan Roe Ó Neill
Born again in hope to live in hell.*

*Surrounded once again by border and by cliff.
Enclave of language no tongue could rehearse.
Could even Eoghan Roe answer if
the response could utter in feeling or in verse.*

*I too must play truant with emotion.
Hide within the clouds of Sheephaven Bay.
Where storms collide in wild commotion
Like thoughts within my Wild Atlantic Way.*

*Gone are the steps of the skipping rope.
Songbirds silenced in the candle flame.
Tears ever washing the cheeks of hope
In our hearts An Craoslach we hold your name.*

*Question again the endless how's and why.
Answer please Creator Diamond Cutter of the sky.*

*Delusional peace transcends
Each morning nightmare of reality.
Love is such an empty word.
Eoghan Roe and Hugh saw in its banality.
That which they never wished must still be heard.*

*The march of a new day a rusted sword of bereavement.
For none were born to retreat or fail.
Courage in darkness lives though in concealment.
Awaiting the road for another march to Kinsale.*

*Creeslough the diamond cutter carved you in beauty.
Like the beauty of each single face.
Standing bereft in naked confusion
With no retreat from the sacred space.*

*Creeslough in my arms I hold you.
In the pain of a bleeding heart.
I pray. I pray for His comfort to console you.
With Amazing grace to make another start.*

Ballyhaunis Beekeepers Association

COLM BOHAN (SECRETARY)

Ballyhaunis Beekeepers Association came into being when a group of like-minded people got together in 2012 at a sociable occasion in Paddy Phillips' (The Cape). After a juddering start, slowly the association took shape, and we affiliated ourselves with the Federation of Irish Beekeepers Associations, which covers our insurance and continued education in all aspects of beekeeping.



how the colony has over-wintered. The bees need feeding at this stage as there is very little pollen and nectar around. During the Summer months the bees work tirelessly, flying up to a three mile radius, with the summer bees living for just six weeks - three weeks in the hive and three weeks foraging. We harvest the honey in late August and begin preparing the hives for the winter months.

Our association has grown steadily over the past ten years and now stands at sixty-three members. We outgrew The Cape, progressed to the boardroom at EPS and now we are to be found at Clare Court on the second Friday of each month from September until May. We hold a beginner's course in Spring and offer mentoring at our club apiary on a weekly basis during the summer months.

Beekeeping is quite labour intensive and not for the faint-hearted, but the rewards are worth it when the honey jars are labelled and ready for sale. Several of the local businesses in Ballyhaunis are selling our club apiary honey and we are very grateful to all of them.

The beekeeping year starts in Spring when the temperature is above 13°C. We open the hives and assess

We lost two valuable members recently: Halyna Wasylec and Noel Patterson. Halyna was a wonderful organiser and brought our club from strength to strength. Noel was a founding member of the club and a friend to all, they are both badly missed.



Pupils of St. Joseph's Convent Primary School, Ballyhaunis who received their First Holy Communion in 1973, pictured with Canon J.G. McGarry P.P. and Sr. Rosario Waldron.

Back, L-R: Albert Madden, Pauline Waldron. **Fourth row, L-R:** Mary Ruane, Margie Phillips, Maria Campbell, Fergus Coyne || Harriet O'Reilly, Dolores Biesty, Joanne Dillon. **Third row, L-R:** Maeve Loughran, Deirdre Harvey, Seamus Ruane, Tony Waldron, Paschal Keegan (RIP), Michael Rattigan || Helen Moran, Rosie Mongan, Damien Rattigan, Audrey Ryan. **Second row, L-R:** Fergal Gorman, Cathal Freeley (partially hidden), Anthony Cribbin, Jarlath Freyne || Anne O'Connell, Liam Hebron, Teresa Moloney, Brian Marrinan (RIP), Joan Laffey. **Front, L-R:** Alfie Webb (RIP), Derek Byrne, Anne Connell, Richard Phillips, Fidelma Ronayne, James Clarke || Paula Moran, John O'Connor, Siobhán Greene, Paul Donnellan, Kevin Henry. **Missing from photograph:** Mary Angela Grogan, Martin Waldron, Gerry Hunt.

|| denotes break in row (left and right)

A Love of Music

EVAN FITZMAURICE



I think the first session I took part in was in The Hazel, which was run by the Byrne family. I was about twelve at the time. Naturally, these were held early on a weekend evening in order to be out in time as I was underage. My dad started to organise them on an irregular basis with his friends who also loved music.

The beauty of a session is that there is no amplification involved, no gear, no regulations – just a group of friends who enjoy each other’s company, singing songs they love. All Dad’s friends were into music and, as a result, it was sometimes difficult to get a night that suited everyone. In time I started to invite my own friends who had similar interests. It was a wonderful experience for young people of my age. Over time we developed a great love and appreciation of music and friendship in a pub environment without alcohol. This has stood to me up to today. While I enjoy a sociable drink with my friends today, I would still enjoy a night out dancing or playing music without alcohol. To this day, we still have a number of young people at the sessions who come for the fun and the songs and enjoy displaying their musical skills and ability without alcohol.

Everyone is welcome to our sessions. There is no distinction on age, ability or input. You can just come along, sit in, listen and enjoy the night. In recent years, we have been based at Gareth Delaney’s in Abbey Street. The atmosphere there is lovely and each night Gareth

Brought together through Music.

Back, L-R: Rachel Hession, Amy Hession, Nathan Dee, Lorna Hession, Jamie Hession, Amy Geraghty, Evan Fitzmaurice, Sarah Dee and Niamh Gildea. **Front, L-R:** Darragh Kennedy, Declan Henry, Vanessa Henry, Serena Henry and Gillian Donnellan.

provides some refreshments for all of us. This summer we started a regular music session in The Ranch in Claremorris every Thursday night. It started with a group of eight or nine of us and grew as the summer weeks continued to become a popular destination every Thursday night. We also had sessions in Tierney’s of Foxhall and in Drury’s in Monasteraden.

On the August Bank Holiday week-end, Ballyhaunis hosted a new Festival – “Rio to Ballyhaunis” – at which I performed. Three Brazilian guys also performed a few songs on the stage. We got in touch with one of them afterwards and invited them to join us at our next session in Gareth’s. A number of Brazilian community came along and one of them joined in with us for a few songs. It was a great opportunity to integrate the visitors with our community in a fun environment. We hope to continue with this trend of welcoming anyone who has a love and appreciation of music and song. We love having new musicians joining us all the time from everywhere. We try to make them feel as welcome as possible.

Tommy Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong, with prizes won in recent years - local and national - for his suckler herd. Included are English cousins who visit Ireland frequently. (Courtesy of Evelyn Fitzmaurice).



Pictured at the baptism of Thomas Francis Murphy, Esker Pines, Devlis, on Sunday, 30th Oct. 2022.
Back, L-R: John Gill, Fr. Stephen Farragher P.P., Ann Murphy.
Front, L-R: Bernie Gill, Mary Gill, Ruth Murphy with Baby Thomas Francis Murphy, Padraic Murphy, Maya Murphy, Robert Kennedy.

Back-to-Back Champions. Michael Nally (grandson of Kathleen and the late Pat 'Scholar' Regan), Derrynacong, with Tommy Fitzmaurice, Derrynacong. Both were prize-winners at Elphin Show this year. Michael won the "Little Masters" competition, while Tommy won First Prize in the 'All Ireland Super Suckler Cow and Calf' competition for the second year in a row.



Ballyhaunis Table Tennis members and officers with Tracy Cunnane of Mayo Sports Partnership, welcome Ukrainian refugees.

Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club

'A sport for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.'

That's the unofficial motto of Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club and one personified by one of its older players and one of its youngest.

Originally from Portland in the northern US state of Oregon, retiree Joseph Murphy travels from Westport every week to play in Ballyhaunis. "I have been casually playing table tennis since I was a child. But it's only now that I'm well into my sixties that I've taken it a bit more seriously. I'm American-Irish and moved to Westport for a year. There are not many sports available for seniors in Mayo County. There are even fewer available if one does not have a car."

"Table tennis is a great sport. It is fun to play by any age group and can be played by those with minimal degree of physical fitness. It doesn't require expensive equipment, is very safe, and can be played year-round. It's also a good way to meet people."

The younger player, Dmitriy Kushko, a Ukrainian refugee living in the town since early summer, is probably the most talented player at the club's sessions on Monday and Wednesday evenings. At eighteen he sees his future as a professional player of chess and table tennis. "I arrived in Ballyhaunis in May of this year... I am from Kharkiv, a city in eastern Ukraine. Now the situation in my city is very difficult, there are constant shellings, people are dying every day."

Dmitriy and his father Vadym have impressed with their skill and generous dedication to coaching others at the two-hour playing sessions in the refurbished Community Hall, also known as the Parochial Hall. "We both played table tennis in Ukraine, it was our job. Vadym was a table tennis coach and a sports referee. Yes, I am a professional chess player, I have been playing chess since childhood. Of course, what I have been doing since childhood has yielded results. Now I play in international competitions in Europe."

The Table Tennis Club in Ballyhaunis is one of very few in the west of Ireland and the only one in County Mayo, explains Joseph Murphy. "I live in Westport, and



Dmitry and Vadym (right) Kushko with Shay O'Reilly (centre), coach of Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club. Dmitry and Vadym came to Ballyhaunis as refugees. They coach and play table tennis at a high level.

it would be definitely easier if I had a car. But retirement brings a different perspective on time. I leave Westport at 1pm by bus and arrive in Ballyhaunis about two hours later. Since playing begins at 6pm, I've got some time on my hands. I tried relaxing in the nice pubs in Ballyhaunis, but I found day drinking not the best way to prepare for a fast-moving sport!"

"I've settled into a routine of walking about the extremely pleasant Friary Grounds, and then catching up on a bit of reading and letter writing in the Library. The two hours of playing, from 6 to 8 pm is just the right amount of time. Travelling back is very convenient as the train station is located a very short walk out of town and there is only a brief wait at the station for the last westbound train. Ballyhaunis is a great town, full of kind people from all over Europe."

For Dmitriy Kushko life in Ballyhaunis is "completely different, it is no better and no worse than in Ukraine, just very different," said Dmitriy. In July he won the Irish Rapid Championship in chess. In recent months he competed in Romania, Slovakia and Spain. "I am a professional chess and table tennis player and I don't need anything else."

Club head coach Shay O'Reilly and chairman Mark Godfrey welcome all each Monday and Wednesday from 6-8pm to Ballyhaunis Table Tennis Club at the Community Hall on Main St.



Scouting in Ballyhaunis - The Early Years

JOHN DURKAN

Introduction

After a break of over twenty years, some adults, mostly parents who had historic connections to the 4th Mayo and scout groups in other parts of Ireland and the UK, started the process of getting the scout meetings going again in Ballyhaunis. Scouting Ireland officers could see from the start that Ballyhaunis 'got' scouting. Lots of communities want a scout group but have no idea what it's actually about. This got me thinking about the early scouts - those who had to take the brand-new concept as devised by Baden Powell in 1909 and introduce it to Ballyhaunis.

In 2015 I became aware that local Mayo newspapers going back over a century were all on computer in Castlebar Library and that the public could search them under any topic they wished. I searched under "4th Mayo Scouts" and "Ballyhaunis Scouts" (1931 -1992) and soon realised that I had a big job on my hands. It took me about a year of 'wet Wednesdays' to cut and paste all records into a file... or so I thought! Unknown to me Colm Dunne, a now retired Castlebar scout leader, was undertaking the same job on a Mayo wide basis (1930 - 1961). He realised when his project was completed that Ballyhaunis entries dominated and sent me a copy on a memory stick (large file). The reader will think that I wasted my time - the two files must be the same but this was not the case. My 'search words' must be different from Colm's but, thankfully, the two reports together give a very vivid picture of the activities of the 4th Mayo and scouting in general in the county. On a whim I contacted Scouting Ireland on the off-chance that they might have records of correspondence between the then CBSI (later subsumed into Scouting Ireland). One can imagine the reaction! Several structural changes including moving office in the Dublin area a few times over the course of nearly a century! Amazingly, a bulky parcel of photocopies of records arrived by post a week later. Even more startling the further one went back the more complete the records were. The 1930s not alone include the records of all scouts registered by year but also include the handwritten letter from Bill Mulligan asking to register. The 1940s is largely complete. The 1950s less so and just two (incomplete) entries from the 1960s - 1964 being the last

'The 1916 Ballyhaunis Scouts' (1915 -22)

Most people when they think of scouting in Ballyhaunis will know that Bill Mulligan, a teacher in the local National School, made the application to the then C.B.S.I. Bill was the first 'scout master' in Ballyhaunis. This is common knowledge... however, this is not

actually true. The following passage from Sinéad Callanan, a student of Castletroy College in Limerick, who was a prize-winner in the all-island Decade of Centenaries schools essay competition for her study "The Lost Boys of the Irish Revolution," Irish Examiner (2016) highlights the role of scouts in the push for independence.

When men come to write the history of the freeing of Ireland, they shall have to record that the boys stood in the battle gap until the Volunteers armed... So said Patrick Pearse. Why, then, does it seem that he was mistaken? Sinead goes on... Irish National Boy Scouts played a vital role in the events of 1912 to 1922 yet have been largely overlooked in most modern accounts of this time. Pearse goes further still, asserting that, "If the scouts had not been founded in 1909, the Volunteers of 1913 would never have arisen."

He was speaking at the beginning of 1914, the formation and success of the Irish Volunteers, and the arming of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), but the scouts are rarely praised or even mentioned anymore. When Cumann na mBan was founded, it was the scouts who taught them first aid, map reading etc. During the 1916 Rising scouts were to be found everywhere including the GPO. Young scouts lost their lives in this period.

Scouting as a pastime was a relatively new concept, having begun in England two years previously with the Baden Powell scouts... and this was the problem. The concept, while obviously beneficial, was organised on the British Imperial military model and this made it 'suspect'. Bulmer Hobson (Belfast Quaker) and Countess Constance Markievicz, an influential nationalist from the Gore-Booth family, were the driving forces behind the Irish National Boy Scouts. The scouting movement developed in Ireland quickly and forged an Irish identity. The scouts were the first to fly the Tricolour on parade for instance.

The essay concludes: *those who were not executed or killed became politicians, judges, teachers, writers and activists who would become social changers and the leaders of society in the years that followed. The Scouts influenced every aspect of Irish society at the time, but their real contribution to the years 1912-1922 and after was the dedicated, trained and passionate young men it gave to the nationalist cause,* concludes Callanan.

In Mayo large towns including Castlebar and Westport had scouts by 1914 and Ballyhaunis by 1915. Information on Ballyhaunis is scant but we know from recollections of people such as the late Gerry Dillon that marching to Agloragh took place and 'all the boys joined'.



Felix Murray was in fact the first scout master in Ballyhaunis. No photos exist but a picture of a Westport 'Slua' in 1914 depicts boys with neckerchiefs and wide rimmed hats. All very familiar. As we all know the Civil War split society and organisations and the young scouts of that era were caught in the middle. By the end of 1922 it was all over and this version of Irish scouting was gone... but not for long.

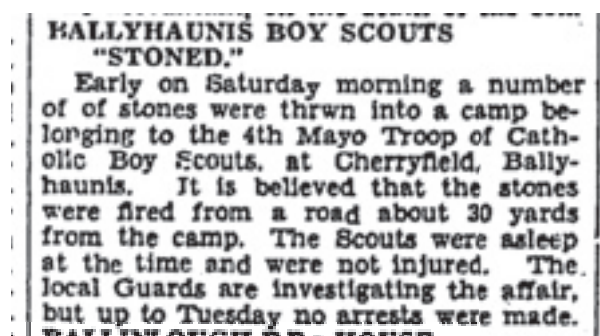


Article in the *Western People* 21 April 1934

The CBSI 4th Mayo Scouts (1931 -1992)

Following the end of the Civil War in 1923 Irish society had to begin the process of defining what it was to be Irish. It is often said that the GAA did much to heal civil war wounds by encouraging former enemies to play on football teams together and thereby creating a spirit of unity where divisions existed only a few short years earlier. Similarly, Fathers Ernest and Tom Farrell, based in Greystones and Dublin, began working with boys of scouting age in 1925. They were instrumental in founding the CBSI in 1927. Troops opened everywhere. Usually, the county town got the honour of being the 1st e.g. Castlebar is the 1st Mayo. In Wicklow Greystones is the 1st Wicklow in recognition of Fr. Farrell's visionary work. In Mayo the 1st Mayo Castlebar was founded in 1929 followed by the village of Robeen. 3rd Ballinrobe. 4th Ballyhaunis and 5th Ballina were the founding five. Robeen being a small village did not have the numbers and did not last long. Westport was originally the 6th but took over the 2nd slot.

As noted by Colm Dunne, Ballyhaunis did not feature in the early newspaper reports in the early 1930s but once we got going there was no stopping us as the various pieces below illustrate. The Dunne report finishes with pictures from various scout activities.



From the *Mayo News* 24 June 1939

Saturday. 27th January 1934.

4th Mayo Troop, Ballyhaunis.

(From Dunne Report)

The annual entertainment of the above troop took place in the Town Hall, Ballyhaunis, on Sunday night, 14th January, before a large audience, every seat and available space in the hall being occupied long before the curtain ascended.

The performance opened with the Nativity play, 'The Star of Christ', in three scenes and received full justice from the youthful actors. Special scenery, costumes and lighting were installed for the occasion.

The first scene showed the journey of St. Joseph and Our Lady to Bethlehem, the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks on the hillside, the appearance of the wondrous Star and the angels announcing their tidings of great joy.

Scene 2 - Returning of the shepherds from the stable spreading the news of the wonderful things they saw and the flocking of people to see the newborn King.

Scene 3 - The visit of the Three Wise Men, who tell their story of how they saw the Wonderful Star and the long journey across the desert and bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The end showed a beautiful tableau of the Crib, the Holy Family, Angels, Shepherds and the Three Wise Men.

Rarely, has such a beautiful tableau been shown in Ballyhaunis, the costumes and scenery being something to be remembered. The scene closed amid great applause.

The following took principal parts: St. Joseph, G. Fitzmaurice; Our Blessed Lady, D. Fitzgerald; Angels: J. Tarpey, A. Campbell, A. Kelly, T. Mulligan, S. O'Connell; Shepherds: J. Waldron, O. Cunningham; J. McDonnell; Three Wise Men - J. Halpin, M. Walsh, T. Buckley; The Prophet: J. Buckley.

Next on the programme came a one-act comedy which had the house in roars of laughter for half an hour. The following Scouts took the lead parts: G. Murray, G. Fitzmaurice, O. Cunningham, J. Halpin, J. Waldron.

The programme concluded with camp-fire songs and humorous recitations, scout Oliver Cunningham bringing rounds of applause for his recitations, 'Kissing Cup', 'The Man with a Single Hair' and 'The Football Match'. Scout J. Buckley delighted the audience with his singing of 'In a Little Green Hollow' and 'Smiling Thro'. Scouts M. Walsh and S. O'Connell got wonderful applause for their singing of 'Schooldays' and 'Something About a Boy Scout. Scout D. Fitzgerald did full justice in his recitation, 'The Fool'."

The audience were kept in great interest by the rousing choruses of the boys. The performance finished up with the Scout Anthem and 'Faith of our Fathers.' Rev. Fr. Prendergast, P.P., in thanking the audience for their attendance, said it showed the great interest they had in the Boy Scout movement. He extended a hearty welcome to visiting Scouts from Castlebar, Westport, Ballinrobe, Tuam and Hollymount. He congratulated the Scoutmaster of the Ballyhaunis Troop on their splendid display and thanked those who were responsible for arranging the programme.

Mrs. Fitzmaurice (piano) and Mr. Edward Murray (violin) treated the audience to a choice selection of music before the performance and during the intervals. The scenery for the occasion was painted by Mr. John Gilmore, Knox St. Ballyhaunis.

This is the group that went on a pilgrimage to Rome a few months later on board the 'Lancastria.'

Saturday, 24th March 1934

Boy Scouts

The Ballyhaunis Boy Scouts who are participating in the Pilgrimage to Rome are evidently enjoying themselves, for their parents have been the recipients of letters and cards from them recounting descriptions of the place and sights, they are at present enjoying (including an audience with Pius XI).

We know from local folklore that the pope took a particular interest in the design of the flag (design by Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, Loughlynn) and commented on it to Jack Halpin who carried the flag. What Jack said to the pope is not known – he possibly asked that Mayo would win Sam soon – and they did in 1936! It's worth noting that the next visit to Rome (and Kandersteg Scout Centre, Switzerland) was in 1950... are you getting my drift dear reader!

There was no stopping these lads... World Two had commenced and the 4th Mayo rose to the challenge by collecting waster paper under the 'Wilful Waste is a Woeful Want' slogan... and then invited French Scouts for a visit in 1946.

Incredibly, and despite all the excitement setting up Troops the 4th Mayo Ballyhaunis was the lone survivor in the county in the early 1940s. Gerry Murray (Clare St.) had taken over from Bill Mulligan as Scout Master with Paddy Forrie (emigrated to Scotland in the 1950s) as assistant SM.

The centenary of the Michael Davitt birth celebration took place in Straide in 1946. Among the speakers was An Taoiseach Eamon De Valera. The 4th Mayo provided the colour party. The scouts at the graveside, while unidentified, are definitely 4th Mayo scouts – photographs show the troop flag as proof.



Fourth Mayo provided the colour party at the Michael Davitt Centenary celebrations in Straide on June 9th, 1946.

Finally, not to be outdone by the exploits of the 1930s scouts (Rome etc.) the 1940s scouts decided to go one better and not only go to Rome, but also headed up to Switzerland to the international Scout Centre in Kandersteg by train – a long overnight journey as the 1975 group know. Conscious of the 1934 connection the 1975 party got up to the crowd barrier and, as Pope Paul VI, was passing in the ‘pope-mobile’ our racket was even louder than the din of St. Peter’s Square. The pope heard us and noticed the flag waving. He turned and gave us his blessing – job done, the link reinforced.

This piece is about the early years of the 4th Mayo. As mentioned earlier the 4th Mayo carried the flag for the whole of the county in the 1940s. Even more incredibly it was the standard bearer for the whole province for a while in the 1950s – including Galway City. The numbers were tiny with fewer than ten scouts and one scoutmaster. There are more leaders than that now with 100 scouts considered normal. Pre Covid registrations in Mayo topped 1000 scouts with groups where there never was scouting before.

The exploits of the scouts from 1914 to 1950 are astounding: that we had World War I, the War of Independence, Civil War, Economic War (‘burn everything British but her coal’), World War II and then the dismal 1950s when mass emigration (including the emigration of many scouts) resulted in the population dropping below three million (1961 census). Only with the change in thinking and the dawn of the now familiar Foreign Direct Investment did towns like Ballyhaunis have a chance.

There is no need to go further than the 50s and onwards. Scouts are all around us still and seem to be in remarkably ‘fine fettle’ – must be all that fresh air! Still, we are mindful of those who are gone to their eternal reward.

So much for the past but what about the present and the (hopefully) future?

4th Mayo Scouting Ireland

The last recorded activity of the 4th Mayo CBSI was a climb of the Ox Mountains by a group of scouts in July 1992 and while it looked as if the scouts never existed in the intervening years until a reawakening in late 2012, they were never really ‘gone’ – a glance at past issues of Annagh Magazine will verify that. For my part, I kept the old flag ‘in view’ by attending some scout events at national and also at local level. I always put the flag back in the drawer in Abbey Street. I told no one – there was no one to tell. A set of flag poles also survived and are still in use. Both flag and flag poles are safely being cared for by the current leaders.

This article is ‘peppered’ with links across the ages and people might think that I am stretching a point. Not

so, as the following will demonstrate. In 2016 at the AGM of Scouting Ireland in the RDS, Dublin, the chairperson of the 1916 Commemoration Committee (a former scout) announced that in recognition of the input of the scouts 100 years ago every scout group in the country would be presented with a standard issue national flag in recognition of the scout movement to the drive for independence. The scouts were the only such group to get this singular recognition in the country. As it turned out the newly reformed 4th Mayo had a substandard flag, so this was especially welcome. As regards the on-going connection with popes, a number of young scouts made it their business to go out to Knock, with their parents, to see Pope Francis so there is an ongoing connection.

So, to conclude, the next time you see (hopefully) the 4th Mayo scouts on parade the colour party should consist of three flags (a) National Flag compliments of the ‘1916’ scouts (b) The 4th Mayo Scouting Ireland Flag along with the World Scout flag all carried on (c) the CBSI flag poles. The 4th Mayo CBSI neckerchief, almost uniquely in Ireland had just one colour – yellow. We are asked if we wouldn’t mind changing – only the chief scout and senior officers wore a single colour! Mindful of the links to the past and taking account of the diversity of Ballyhaunis ‘United Nations Blue’ was added to the yellow. It’s also the Roscommon Colours, the colours of Eastern Gaels GAA club and of the Barony of Costello. Nobody can say the 4th Mayo are not inclusive! I will leave you with this excerpt from the *Connacht Telegraph*, 20th Sept. 1952.

Scouting -

The Scoutmaster of the 4th Mayo troop C.B.S.I Mr. P. Forrie has decided to accept new members. Those who wish to join should do so immediately as preparations are being made to hold an investiture ceremony. We hope that all the young boys not already in the troop will sign up. This is the only branch of scouting in Mayo and is along with Tuam the only two branches in Connacht. A scout camp to the Continent is the aim of the officers next year so hurray and don't miss out boys!

By 1953 Tuam had gone and the 4th Mayo Ballyhaunis stood alone in Connacht for much of the 1950s. When an institution is this long in existence it can be taken for granted that it will always be in existence. Nothing can be taken for granted in these rapidly changing times.

I have made my case - our scouting tradition is older than we realise. The ‘1916’ scouts ceased operations 100 years ago... Onwards and upwards. The links are there ‘hiding in plain sight’.



Top left:

The old Waldron homestead in Derrymore as it was before restoration some years ago.

*Right: Derrymore neighbours.
L-R: Austin Waldron, David Moran,
Walter Waldron, all of Derrymore.*



*Above: Nora Waldron, Derrymore,
née Moore, from Gurrane.*

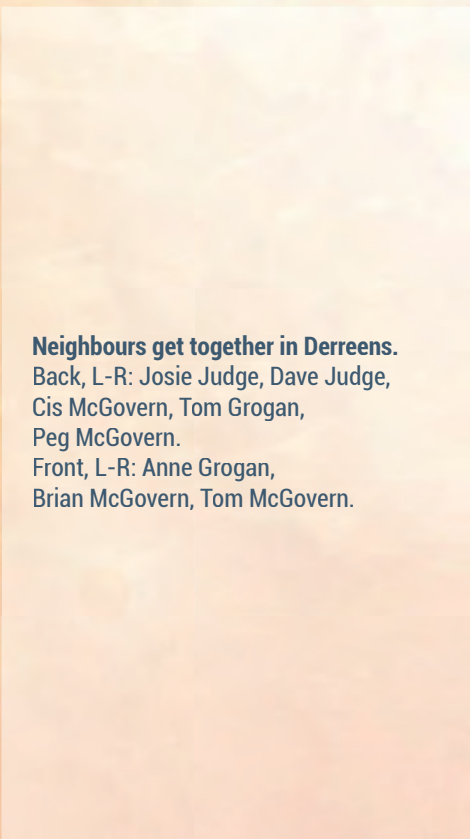


*Right:
Peter Waldron, Derrymore.*



Tom Grogan says farewell to his neighbours in Derreens as he leaves for England in the 1950s. Taken at McGovern's, Derreens.

L-R: Tommy Flatley (taxi driver), Dave Judge, Ned Judge, Jack Judge, Brian McGovern, Lizzie Grogan, Mary Ellen Judge, Tom Grogan, Jack Grogan.



Neighbours get together in Derreens.
Back, L-R: Josie Judge, Dave Judge, Cis McGovern, Tom Grogan, Peg McGovern.
Front, L-R: Anne Grogan, Brian McGovern, Tom McGovern.



Anne and Tom Grogan (Derreens) shearing sheep in the 1950s.

PATRONS

All landlines are (094) prefix, unless otherwise stated.

4-D's Carryout Off-Licence, The Square (Best Value Selection of Wines, Spirits, Beers).	www.fordes.ie
Agri-Spread International, Coolnaha, Ballyhaunis	9631808
Adam Kaczmarek Photographer office@akmediaservices.com www.akmediaservices.com	083 0460755
Álann Cafe & Bar, Riverside Park Centre	9630099
Aleppo Authentic Foods, Main St.	9631533 / 086 2174969
All About You, Beauty Salon, 7A River Park Centre. clare.higgins@live.ie	9632605
Alma's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Clare St.	9630354
Annagh Medical Centre, Doctor's Road. Dr Donal Delaney	9632232 / 9632322
Aoife's Beauty Bliss, Clare St.	087 9888316
APP Kirrane Auctioneering, Main St./Galway. www.daft.ie/kirraneauctioneering	9630240 / 091705555
Avondale B&B and Holiday Homes, Clare St. (Prop. Bridie Levins)	9630345
Ballyhaunis Chamber, Enterprise Centre, Clare Road. www.ballyhaunischamber.ie	9630311
Ballyhaunis Plant & Tool Hire, Abbeyquarter	9630979 / Mob: 087 2548355
Ballyhaunis Rugby Football Club	
Ballyhaunis Sports Injury Clinic	Mob: 086 8741107
Ballyhaunis Transport Services (to and from Dublin)	9630477 / Mob: 087 2549077 / 086 3898535
Ballyhaunis Veterinary Clinic, Main St. Pdraig Hennigan, MVB.	Mob: 087 3781643 / 9630113
BK Engineering Design, Abbey St.	Mob: 087 7743327
Brackloon School & District Reunion Group	
Bridge Club, Clare Court. Thursdays at 8.00pm	
Brookvale Manor Nursing Home, Hazelhill. www.brindleyhealthcare.ie	Tel: 9631555, Fax: 9631655
Byrne, Mike. Local Correspondent, Connaught Telegraph	9631381
Carroll's Bus Hire (Cathal and Cathy)	Mob: 087 2042653
Caulfield Enda, Tiling	Mob: 087 8238788
Caulfield, Kathleen & Helena, Upper Main St.	
Caulfield, Seamus & Aisling, Ballindrehid	
Caulfield, Tommy & Eavan, Annagh, Ballyhaunis	
Claire Fontayne, Womens Fashion Clothing, Bridge St. info@clairefontayne.ie	
Cold Call Refrigeration. Seamus Coffey, Carrowkeel	086 7282800
Colleran's Pharmacy, Bridge St.	9630028
Community School, Knock Rd. www.ballyhauniscs.ie.	9630238
Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Bekan. www.connachtgaa.ie	9630335
Connacht Rigging Services (Georgie Hannan), Drimbane	Mob: 086 2532601
Connacht Scaffolding Ltd., Knock Rd.	Tel: 9630198, Fax: 9630336
Connolly, Kieran, Lecarrow	Mob: 087 2625254
Corrib Oil Filling Station, Devlis	9632999
Cribbin, Cllr. John, Fine Gael	Mob: 087 2920368
Cunniffe Construction, Tooreen	Mob: 087 2612838
Cunningham's Londis Plus, Foodmarket, Abbey St.	9649035 / 9630730 / 9630162
Curley, Pat & Kathleen, Hazelhill	9631827
Curley's Bar, Clare St.	9630077
Curley's Jewellers, Bridge St.	9632799
Curley's Total Health Pharmacy, Main St. curleys@totalhealth.ie, www.totalhealth.ie	Tel: 9630110, Fax 9631191
Dalغان Restaurant, Main Street www.facebook.com/dalغانballyhaunis reservations@dalغانrestaurant.com	9632030
Dara Calleary TD (FF) Clare St., Ballyhaunis & Ballina office	096 77613
Dawn Ballyhaunis, Clare Rd.	Tel: 9632400, Fax: 9630561
Delaney's Ltd., Hardware, Paint, Household, Gifts, Bridge St. and Hazelhill	9630296
Delaney's, Gareth, Select Bar and Lounge, Abbey St.	9630024
De-Luxe Cleaning, Carpets, Upholstery, etc. (Prop. Vincent Higgins)	9630284, Mob: 086 1038288
Dillon-Leetch & Comerford Solicitors, Main St.	9630004
Donnellan's Joinery, Undertakers & Funeral Home, Clare St.	9630045
Dr. Glen Lecky, Old Bank Medical Centre	9630752
Durkan family, Devlis & Abbey St.	
Eagney Insurance Services Ltd., Bridge St.	Tel: 9630793 / 9630794, Fax: 9630795
Emo Burke & Coyne Oil, Coolnaha	9632665
EPS Group Ballyhaunis. www.epswater.ie info@epswater.ie	9633500. Fax: 9630761
Express Scaffolding, Tully, Carrowbehy, Castlerea. kevinwebbexpress@gmail.com	Mob: 087 2898042
Fahy Opticians & Contact Lens Centre, Main Street. jariathfahy@gmail.com	9630212
Farragher, Fr. Stephen, P.P., Parochial House	9630006. Mob: 087 9210305
Fianna Fail Cumann, Dara Calleary T.D. dara.calleary@oireachtas.ie	096 77613
Finn Footwear Specialists (Ballyhaunis & Kiltimagh). finnfootwear@gmail.com	9381970 / 9630141

First Choice Credit Union Ballyhaunis. www.firstchoicecreditunion.ie	9630998 / 9633965
Fitzer's Bar, Knox St.	9631974
Fitzmaurice, Martin & Patricia. www.newireland.ie	Mob: 087 2455989
Flanagan Motors, Tooreen, Car Sales & Repairs. www.flanaganmotors.ie	9649433, Mob: 087 2545950
Fleming, Seamus & Annette, Lavallyroe, B&B	Mob: 087 7643727 / 086 8848333
Forde's Ltd., The Square (The House for All the Family). Embroidery & printing specialists.	9630013
Freyne Family, Clare Road.	
Gavin, Martin, Undertakers, Funeral Home, Headstones & Grave Care, Knox St.	9633448, Mob: 087 6324586
Gem - Costcutters (Newsagents, Toys, Jewellery, Grocery), Bridge St.	9630840
Glynn's Photography, Doctor's Road	9630026 / 9620094 (Castlerea)
Godfrey Mark & Tzyy Wang, Derreens	Mob: 087 9777899
Goulding, Jim & Mary, Doctor's Road.	9631272
Greene, Tony & Pauline, Box 127, Sholola, PA 18458, U.S.A.	Tel: 001-914-4712548
Griffin, John, Orthodontist, Upper Main St.	9630534
Griffin, Mike, Clare St. / Devils.	9630213, Mob: 087 9047466
Grogan, Austin, & Sons, Concrete Products, Cave	9630072
Gurteen Kitchens Ltd., Gurteen. www.gurteenkitchens.com	Tel: 9630797, Fax: 9630751, Mob: 086 8244386
H.E.R. (Photo Supplies Ltd), Kilmannin Business Centre. helenfreeley@gmail.com	Tel: 9633389, Fax: 9633476
Halpin, John & Breege	
Hazelhill Family Practice, Hazelhill. Hazelhillmedctr@eircom.net	9632170 / 9632171
Hazelhill Timber Products Ltd., Europallets. alan@hazelhilltimber.ie	Tel: 9630094 / 9630250, Fax: 9630825
Healthwest Pharmacy, Upper Main St. Ballyhaunis@HealthWest.ie	9630766, Text: 085 2546630
Heneghan's Carpets & Furniture, Main St.	9630770, Mob: 087 2245661
Henry, Anna & Kevin, Ballindrehid	
Herr, Robbie, Ballyhaunis	
Herr, Fred, Grocer, Knox St.	9631305
Higgins, Pat & Sally, Devils.	
Homecare Medical Supplies, Tooraree. www.homecaremedicalsupplies.ie	9633800
Homeland, Cave	9630166
Hopkins' Shop, Upper Main St.	Mob: 087 6375091
J.G.'s Barber Shop, Barrack St.	Mob: 087 2450079
John Higgins Auctioneer, Main St. www.johnhigginsauctioneers.com	9631372, Mob: 086 8292603
Johnston, Christina, Bekan	
Johnston, Margaret, Knox St.	089 9545208
Jordan, Oliver, Annagh	
Jordan's Windows & Double Glazing, Clare St.	9630641
Kay's Beauty Salon, Knox St.	9630065
Keane Kitchens Ltd., Kitchen/Bedroom Furniture, Clare Rd. www.keanekitchens.ie	9630038
Keane, Joe and Marcella, Knox St.	9630751
Keith Revins, Tyres, Batteries, 24hr breakdown service, Clare Rd.	9630573, Mob: 086 2569155
Kelly, Padraic, Bar Furniture Manufacturer, Abbeyquarter	9630089
Kieran Johnston, Agri Services Ltd. (Agri sales & repair), Knock Rd.	9633383 / Mob: 087 9175856
Kieran Whelton Motors, Knock. www.kieranwheltonmotors.ie	9388371
Kilduff, John & Noreen, Derrynacong	
Kirrane Bros., Seamless Gutters, Fascia, Soffitt. Ballyglass, Ballyhaunis.	9646079, Mob: 086 3858922
Knock Laundrette	086 6082005
KPS Colour Print Ltd, Knock. www.kpscolourprint.com	9388231
Lilly, John Joe, Plant Hire, Johnstown	9630352
Loughran & Burke, M.V.B., M.R.C.V.S., Upper Main St.	9630017
Lundon, Séamas www.sketchesbylundy.com	
Lyons, Anne & Gerry, Knockbrack	
Lyons, Michael, Coach & Minibus Hire, Lecarrow. lyonsbushire@eircom.net	9630347, Mob: 086 2338419
MacSiurtain's, Live Music & Sports Bar, Main St. (Prop. Stephen & Nuala Nolan).	9630854, Mob: 086 2457001
Madden, Gerald, Snooker Tables, Gurteen. www.maddensleisure.com	9630228
Main Street Framing. Picture framing service (Prop. Edward Mulligan)	9632692, Mob: 087 6738964
Major Equipment Intl. Ltd. www.major-equipment.com , info@major-equipment.com	Tel: 9630572, Fax: 9630788
Mallee, Sinead, Graphic Designer, Knock. sineadmallee@gmail.com	Mob: 087 2204296
McGarry Development Consultants, Engineers, Architects, Clare St.	9630170
McGarry's Ladies Wear, Main St.	9630084
McGuire, John, Kittredge St., Roslindale, MA, USA	
McHugh's Café, Main St.	087 3978722
McNamara Car Dismantlers, Knockbrack	9630439, Mob: 087 2615828
McNamara, Eamon, Car/Tractor Repairs (24-Hour Service)	9630386, Mob: 086 6061739
Midwest Radio, Clare St. www.midwestradio.ie	9630553 (Ads), 087 9004141 (Text requests)
Mobile Ink Store, Main St.	9633411

Moran Coaches & Minibus Hire, Knock Rd. moranscoaches@yahoo.ie	Tel/Fax: 9630346
Moran, Donal, Gurteen	9630569
Moran, Kieran, Building Services, Knox St.	9630079
Moran, Tommy. Sweets, Ices, Fancy Goods, Fuel Merchants, Main St.	9630493
Morley, Tony. Exterior and Interior Decorators, Pollnacraoghy	Mob: 086 2648673
Mulberry Lodge Guest House, Upper Main Street. www.mulberrylodge.ie	Mob: 086 3858929 / 086 2457001
Mulhern, Edward and Frances	9630249, Mob: 087 6961579
Mulrennan, James & Sons, Ltd., Fitted Kitchens/Bedrooms (Keane Kitchens). mulrenns@gmail.com	Mob: 086 8535661
Murphy & Sons Autosales Ltd., Service Station & Shop, Dublin Rd.	Tel: 9630307, Fax: 9631440, Mob: 0872490634
Murphy Carpentry & Building Services Ltd., Knock Rd.	Mob: 087 6446734
Murphy, Eddie, Menswear/Formal Wear, Main St. www.eddiemurphy.ie	9630651
Murphy, Paddy & Mary, Knock Rd.	Mob: 087 7161335
Murray, Dr Diarmuid C., Medical Practitioner, Knock Medical Centre	9388385
Murren, Eamonn, Hazel Court	
Nestor & Co., Accountants, Dalgan House, Oakmount Ave.	9632000
Nestor's Corner Bar, The Square	9631011
Nico Café, Knox St.	Mob: 087 3979363
Nolan, Madeline & Mike, Derrymore	
Nolan's Supervalu, Newpark, Ballyhaunis	9630359
Noone, Dr. Caroline, Hazelhill Family Practice. hazelhillmedctr@eircom.net	9630091
Noone, Dr. Patrick & Moira, Ardpatrick. hazelhillmedctr@eircom.net	Mob: 085 1580407
Nour Foods, Quality Halal Irish Meats, Clare St.	9632765, Mob: 086 3880017
O'Brien Motor Factors, Knock	9388211
O'Connor, Fr. John O.S.A., Duckspool House, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	
O'Dwyer Solicitors, Bridge St. www.odwyersolicitors.ie	9630011
Order of Malta, Knock	Mob: 087 2515422
Parochial Hall, Main St. Available for Meetings/Events. For bookings contact Mike	Mob: 087 9047466
Paddy's Bar, Clare St.	9630039
Patterson, Moyra, Knock Rd.	
Phillips Clothes Shop, Dalton St., Claremorris	9372020
Phillips Menswear, Main St.	9630368
Phillips Shoes, Main St. www.phillipshoes.com	9630368
Phillips, Eamon. High Class Victualler, Main St.	9630381
Phillips, Paddy. Publican, Main St.	9630118
Post Office, Nolan's Supervalu, Newpark, Ballyhaunis	9630230
Rochford Motors. Main Opel/Seat Dealers, Knock Rd. www.rochfordmotors.ie	9630350 / 9630163
Ruane Dalton Family, Johnstown	
Scoil Íosa Primary School, Abbeyquarter. iosaballyhaunis@gmail.com	9630310
Seven Oaks B&B, Knock Rd. Contact Martina Gallagher. sevenoaksguesthouse@gmail.com	9630605
Supermacs, Main St.	
TC's Fitness	086 0618126
The Clock Tavern, Knox St.	9630344
The Courthouse Accommodation & Val's Bar & Bistro, Main St. www.courthouse.ie	9630068
The iClinic, The Square. Computer and Phone Repairs	9631983
The Old Ground Restaurant, Main St., Knock. (Props: Michael and Thelma Morley)	9388957
The Shop (above Fordes Ltd., The Square). School Books, Novels, Party Balloons, Stationery.	Mob: 087 6475075
Tynan Dillon & Co., Chartered Accountants, Clare St.	9630261
Valerie's Ladies & Gents Hair Salon, Barrack St.	9630681
Vanessa's Nails vanessaegan10@gmail.com	087 4662983
Waldron, Anthony, Excavation Contractor, Clagnagh	Mob: 087 4141462
Waldron, Fr. Kieran, Devlis	
Waldron, Pearse & Paula, Vermont, USA	
Walsh Seamless Gutters, fascia and soffit	Mob: 087 2213553 / 087 2763256
Webb McLeod, Olive, Devlis & Co. Antrim	
Webb, Carole, Devlis & London	
Webb, Edward, Devlis & Dublin	
Webb, Mike & Cait, Main St.	
Webb, Sean, Devlis & Dublin	
Webb Shannon, Marita, Devlis & Kiltimagh	
Western Brand Group Ltd., Knock Rd. www.westernbrand.ie Info@westernbrand.ie	Tel: 9630069, Fax: 9630834
Winston, Gerard (Top Oil), Devlis	Mob: 087 6793990

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Some photographs have had to be reproduced smaller than hoped for, due to poor quality of original image supplied. Regrettably we could not include all photographs submitted due to large volume received.

Some Guidelines for contributors of articles and photographs:

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

Deadline: The deadline for contributions to Annagh 2023 is Friday, 13th October, 2023. 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 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, if it's an original photo. The contributor's name will be omitted only if this is requested. Photographs sent digitally 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. Resolution determines the sharpness / clarity of the image, and low resolution pictures will appear blurry and pixelated when printed. Email photographs directly to info@annaghmag.ie choosing 'actual size' where it asks for the 'image size' (max 3 at a time). For wedding photographs, alternatively, ask your photographer to email it at large file size: 'high resolution for printing'. 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). Hard copy photographs will be returned as soon as possible once the magazine goes to print.

Cover Photographs

Front Cover: Gurteen Sunset.

Photograph by Mary Henry, Gurteen

Back Cover: The Square, Ballyhaunis.

Photograph by Sinéad Mallee

